

# Annual Report

2018



## YERUN Annual Report 2018



### YERUN PUBLICATIONS

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We make.

# Annual Report

## 2018

# Acknowledgements

The work presented in this report would not be possible without the strong commitment and involvement of the YERUN teams in each institution. YERUN is just the reflection of what their members are.

Having a small central office, it is paramount that members engage in the activities. YERUN would not be able to achieve any results without the continued support and encouragement of YERUN members themselves.

A special thanks goes to:

1

## The YERUN Coordinators

for ensuring the connections within their institutions and the YERUN Office, for being the soul of YERUN in each of our members and for their versatile role that allows us to find any resource we may need. A list of the YERUN Coordinators is available on our website.

2

## The co-chairs of the YERUN Working Groups

for their expertise and dedication that help us advance and grow in pursuing our strategic actions.

→ **Prof. Tom Van Veen** MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY and  
**Anne Adams** UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP,  
co-chairs of the YERUN WG on EU Policy.

→ **Dr. Eva Mendez** UC3M and  
**Monique Ritchie** BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON,  
co-chairs of the YERUN WG on Open Science.



→ **Prof. Amaya Mendikoetxea** UAM and  
**Prof. Ann De Schepper** UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP,  
co-chairs of the YERUN WG on Joint Programmes.

→ **Prof. Javier Prieto** UC3M and  
**Julia Sievers** BREMEN UNIVERSITY,  
co-chairs of the YERUN WG on Research Mobility Fund.

→ **Prof. Billy Kelly** DCU and  
**Karen Vandeveld** UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP,  
co-chairs of the YERUN WG on Graduate Employability.

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## The YERUN Executive Board

for their strong leadership and timely direction.

→ **Prof. Juan Romo**  
YERUN PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY CARLOS III MADRID

→ **Prof. Martin Paul**  
YERUN VICE PRESIDENT  
MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY

→ **Prof. Corrado Cerruti**  
YERUN TREASURER  
UNIVERSITY OF ROME TOR VERGATA

→ **Prof. Brian MacCraith**  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER  
DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

for further information on our activities, please visit our website  
[www.yerun.eu](http://www.yerun.eu) and follow us on twitter [@YERUN\\_EU](https://twitter.com/YERUN_EU)



# Foreword

Since 2015, we have witnessed a tremendous transformation of our network. At that time, eighteen young research universities decided to formalise their collaboration structures and create the first representation of young research universities in Brussels. We started with a vision that was translated into our strategic plan. Our first public event was the YERUN Launch event at the European Parliament in November 2017 and YERUN presented there its first position paper on the now called Horizon Europe.

Today, making a balance of our achievements, I see a superb team of institutions actively collaborating with our representation in Brussels. The five lines of action our members agreed to focus on, have now established five Working Groups that materialize the strategic plan into concrete actions.

Despite the numerous initiatives in which YERUN has participated this year, two of them have been especially significant. The first one, the YERUN members' commitment to the implementation of Open Science, led by our expert, currently the chair of the European Open Science Policy Platform, Dr Eva Méndez. The second, the preparations and launch of the European Universities Initiative. Both ambitions do not depend solely on our actions and decisions as institutions but they need as well changes in other sectors, as well as legislation and funding mechanisms that support the change and a cultural shift. What is clear is that these ambitions cannot be tackled by individual institutions and the partnerships created within our network are enabling us to thrive in these areas.

Ahead of us, I foresee a network committed to realize its potential and supporting each one of our institutions in order to give the best opportunities to our staff, students and partners, by operating in a truly European environment benchmarking our practices and encouraging us to be better every day.



**Prof Juan Romo**

RECTOR OF UC3M, PRESIDENT OF YERUN



## INTRODUCTION

# Who is YERUN?

The Young European Research University Network (YERUN) is a cluster of highly-ranked young universities in Europe that strengthens and facilitates cooperation in the areas of scientific research, academic education and services which benefit society.

YERUN members are universities with a strong interdisciplinary character, of relatively small-scale and with a flexible structure, which facilitate innovation in their respective research and education fields. Indeed, the dynamic nature of our universities allows us to easily develop inter-sectoral collaborations with business, government and civil society (triple- and quadruple-helix). The members of YERUN believe that an interdisciplinary, collaborative and open approach in research, education and innovation is needed to address pressing global challenges and to anticipate future ones in a timely manner. As young research universities, we bring new perspectives and strengths to the European discussions and, by working together, ensure that our needs are considered within the European agenda to the benefit of individuals and society at large.

- 1 ULM UNIVERSITY
- 2 SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET
- 3 UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA
- 4 UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA
- 5 UNIVERSITÉ PARIS DAUPHINE
- 6 UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA
- 7 MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY
- 8 LINKÖPINGS UNIVERSITET
- 9 UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ
- 10 UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND
- 11 UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
- 12 DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
- 13 UNIVERSIDAD CARLOS III DE MADRID
- 14 UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BARCELONA
- 15 UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID
- 16 UNIVERSITÄT BREMEN
- 17 BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON
- 18 UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP





## TIMELINE

## 2018 Key meetings

JANUARY 11,  
2018 BRUSSELS

1

**Meeting with DG Robert Jan Smits on Open Science**

JANUARY  
25-26, 2018  
COLCHESTER

2



**YERUN Research Workshop on Big Data and advanced analytics for the digital economy**

Many YERUN partners are experts in analytics, data storage, managing and curating data; creating innovative data sets; developing new scientific techniques to analyse data and generate knowledge; analysing the impact on business models educating the next generation of data scientists; and applying scientific knowledge to the real world through the understanding of human behaviour.

FEBRUARY 16,  
2018 BRUSSELS

3

**YERUN EU Policy WG on the Future of Horizon 2020**

FEBRUARY 22,  
2018 MADRID

4

**YERUN WG on Joint Programmes**

FEBRUARY 27,  
2018 BRUSSELS

5

**University of Eastern Finland visits the YERUN office**

MARCH 14-15,  
2018 BREMEN

6

**YERUN Staff Week on Graduate Employability**



MARCH 16,  
2018 BREMEN

7

**YERUN General Assembly at Bremen University**

APRIL 25-28,  
2018

8



**YERUN Sports Days in Antwerp**

MAY 29,  
2018 BRUSSELS

9



**Students from Konstanz University visit YERUN**

Students from University of Konstanz (May 29th) dedicated part of their visit to focus on Research Integrity and Ethics. Research Integrity is a part of the Open Science approach and a fundamental aspect when performing research, but it is not always a straight forward concept to apply.

JUNE 12,  
2018 BRUSSELS

10

**YERUN Open Science Working Group**

JUNE 26,  
2018 DUBLIN

11



**YERUN Research Workshop on Migration and Integration**

The workshop builds on the expertise of individual YERUN member universities in researching the social, political & legal aspects of migration & integration, plus the experience of universities in seeking to assist migrant students access education. Areas included intercultural relationships, discrimination & racism, and the inter-generational aspect of migration.



JULY 4-9,  
2018

12



**YERUN Summer School Management Consulting in the Digital Age, Villa Mondragone, Italy**

SEPTEMBER 3,  
2018 LONDON

13

**YERUN Joint Programmes WG**

SEPTEMBER 3,  
2018 LONDON

14

**YERUN Research Mobility Fund Working Group**

SEPTEMBER  
3-4, 2018  
LONDON

15



**YERUN Staff Week on Business Engagement**

SEPTEMBER 5,  
2018 LONDON

16

**YERUN General Assembly at Brunel University London**

OCTOBER 11,  
2018 BRUSSELS

17

**YERUN Graduate Employability WG**



NOVEMBER  
14-16, 2018  
MADRID

18



**YERUN Staff Week on International Doctorates**

The YERUN Staff Week on Best Practices for International Collaboration at Doctorate Level focused on the challenges and the advantages of different forms of "structured mobility" at Doctorate level in the context of the debate on doctoral training in Europe and the role of European university networks in the future European Education Area. With the experiences gathered at the event, the WG will work on the second set of guidelines, now focused on Joint PhDs.

NOVEMBER 22,  
2018 BRUSSELS

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**Maastricht students visit YERUN**

Maastricht University students (November 22nd) focused on the European Parliament and the upcoming elections in 2019 and on macroeconomics discussions with colleagues from the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (European Commission). These visits are extremely important to increase the awareness that a network such as YERUN can offer to students.



## YERUN aims to

- 1 To **advise policies in Europe**, in particular, under the EU funding programmes for Research and Innovation, Education and Open Science → **WG on EU Policy**
- 2 To **promote research collaboration** in fields of common interest with social and/or economic impact and especially within the scope of EU Research and Innovation Programmes. → **WG on Research Mobility Fund (RMF)**
- 3 To **promote education collaboration** through teaching collaborations, innovation, enhancement activities, academic exchange between staff, and students and the development of dual, multiple or joint international degrees within the framework of the EU's academic partnerships and mobility programmes. → **WG on Joint Programmes and Joint PhDs.**
- 4 To **promote knowledge exchange** sharing **best practice** in university governance and organisation, notably research support and international affairs, and in the implementation of Open Science → **WG on Open Science**
- 5 To **promote graduate employability** and business engagement, and be an advocate for universities delivering high-quality, high-value learning, within the wider setting of Europe's cultural, social and economic needs. → **WG on Graduate Employability**

"It is fantastic to see how YERUN has developed in the last years and particularly in 2018. It has really become a strong network with activities in all dimensions relevant for shaping the future of research-oriented young European universities.!"

### Joachim Ankerhold

Vice-President for Research, University of Ulm



2018

# Highlights

**YERUN steps are guided by our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 that outlines the values and mission of the members. Towards these priorities, YERUN has established five Working Groups (WG) that are implementing activities in light of fulfilling YERUN's objectives.**

1

## WG on EU Policy

This group has facilitated the articulation of the various position papers YERUN published during 2018. Their main activity has focused on the next framework programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, and the future of the EU Budget 2020-2027. The group followed as well the developments of Erasmus+ and participated in the design of the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027.

2

## WG on Research Mobility Fund

This WG focused on the one hand, the development, monitoring and evaluation of the call of the YERUN Research Mobility Awards (explained in detailed in the next section) and on the other hand, the preparations for the development and organization of the research workshops. The research workshops are a vehicle for YERUN partners to exchange research ideas, gain a better understanding of complementary expertise in the thematic research priorities identified within the network (currently e.g. Health and Ageing, Big Data, Digital Humanities, Migration, and STEM), and to develop ideas for new research projects, collaborations and future research priorities.

Two research workshops have been organised this year, namely on Big Data and on Migration & Integration. The group has provided guidance to the members in order to organise workshops that are similar in style and format, and enable a framework for bottom up collaboration among members on given areas.

"In 2018 YERUN has expanded its activities across the different Working Groups and has brought meaningful opportunities such as the Researcher Mobility Awards (RMA's), the YERUN Joint Programmes Guidelines and the YERUN Summer School to students and staff members across the network. At Maastricht University (UM), we look forward to continuing the good work done in 2019 and to further strengthen the voice of Young research universities across the European continent and beyond."

### Jan Hupkens

Policy Advisor Internationalisation,  
Maastricht University

## WG on Joint Programmes

This WG delivered the first YERUN Guidelines on Joint Programmes for Bachelor and Master levels. The guidelines were based on the concrete examples of YERUN members when establishing themselves these joint programmes. Since the start of the collaboration among members, a total of 31 Joint Programmes (12 at Bachelor, 19 at Master and 1 at PhD levels) have been developed. The WG continues providing support to the members interested in getting started and will develop the second YERUN guidelines that will focus on Joint PhDs.

3







**Monique Ritchie (Brunel University London) at a Frontiers event**  
Brussels, 29 November 2018

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## WG on Open Science

YERUN members considered Open Science an important development for universities and academia but this year, they decided to put a special focus on its implementation in order to enable concrete changes. This WG supports members to first analyse the state of play in each institution, enable the collection of good practices and concrete action in any of the eight streams of Open Science implementation (new generation metrics, publishing models, FAIR data, European Open Science Cloud, rewards system, research integrity, citizen's science and education and skills), and foster the collective alignment of our members of their activities in Open Science. It is also the vehicle for the development of policy statements and positions on related topics (YERUN Position Statement on Plan S; YERUN response to the EOSC Public Consultation).

**Eva Méndez,**  
Chair of the Open Science  
Policy Platform  
UC3M



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## WG on Graduate Employability

Is there a relation between young research universities and the employability of their graduates? Which policies and actions our universities have a clear impact and could be exported to other contexts? Some graduates are highly sought after and others struggle to jump-start their professional career. The majority of early stage researchers will not end up pursuing an academic career. Therefore it is fundamental that our institutions reflect on their practices and analyse the opportunities they are giving. This WG is facilitating the collection of practices and lessons learnt on this area, and is working on developing a common understanding on what employability means for young research universities.

**WG meeting**  
Bremen, 14 March 2018

**Bremen Staff Week on  
Employability and Entrepreneurship**  
15 March 2019





YERUN

# Research Mobility Awards

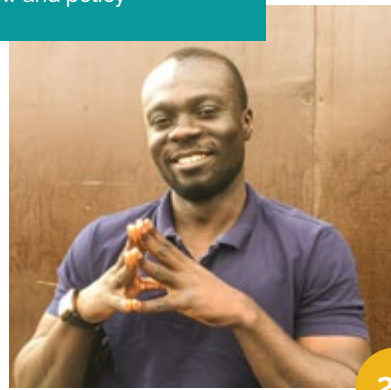
The year 2018 is being special because for the first time, YERUN awarded the Research Mobility Awards (YRMA) to 26 researchers from the YERUN network. The YRMA are competitive awards for researchers that support them to collaborate with other researchers within the network. During this year, the successful applicants of the first call had the opportunity to visit and advance their research projects at other members' institutions. This has proven to be a truly enriching experience for both, the applicants and the host teams. Researchers could advance their work using complementary infrastructure and knowledge and this exchange helped them realise the large amount of future opportunities for collaboration laying ahead.

Some of the visits made in 2018..



President M. Paul with the U Maastricht winners of the award.

Nana Asare (University of Eastern Finland), field renewable energy law and policy



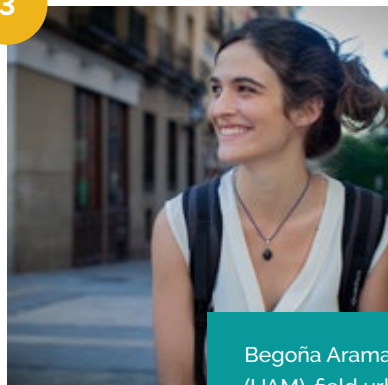
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Katharina Heintz (DCU) with colleagues from Ulm University, field chemical sciences, "solar fuels"



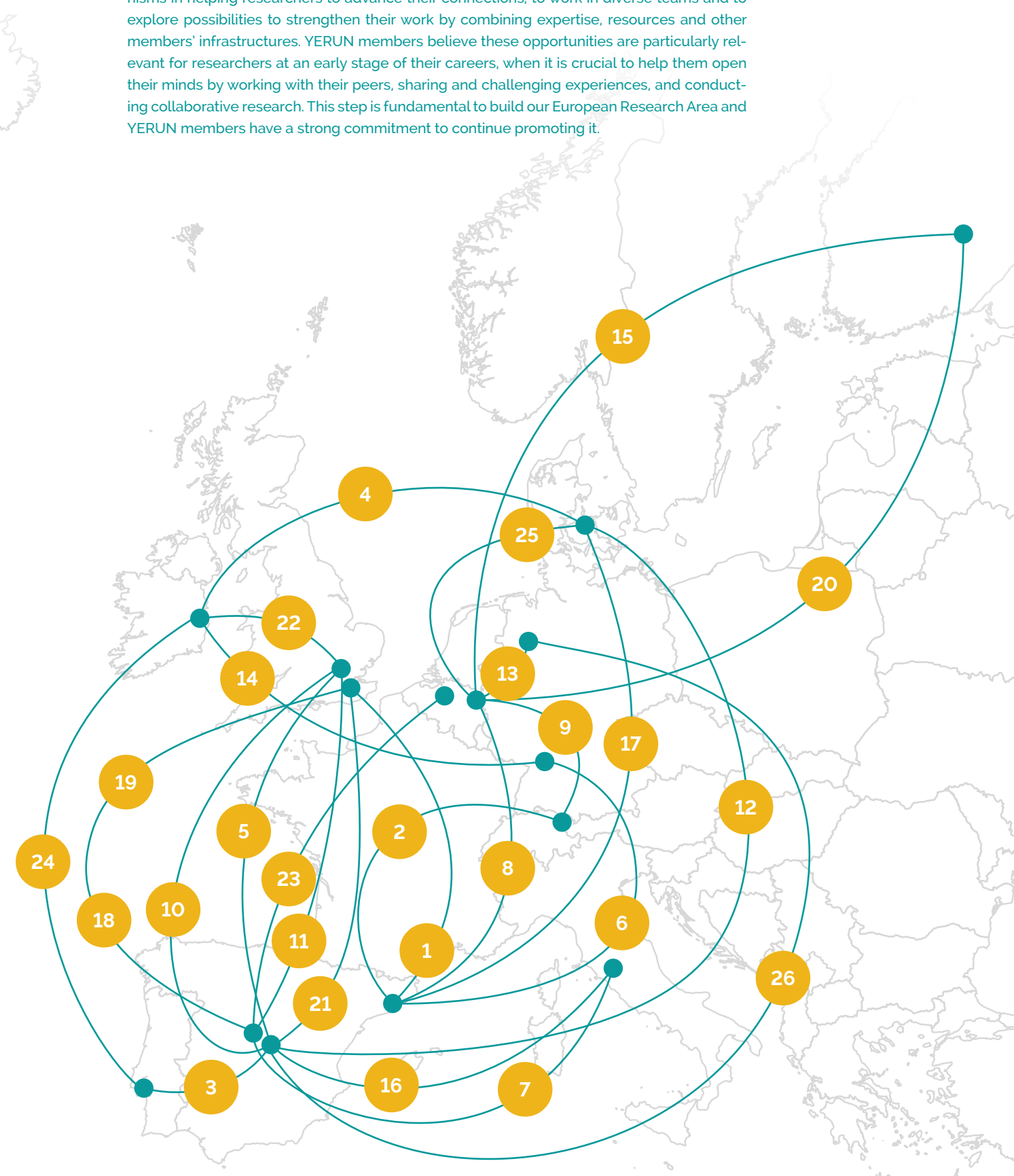
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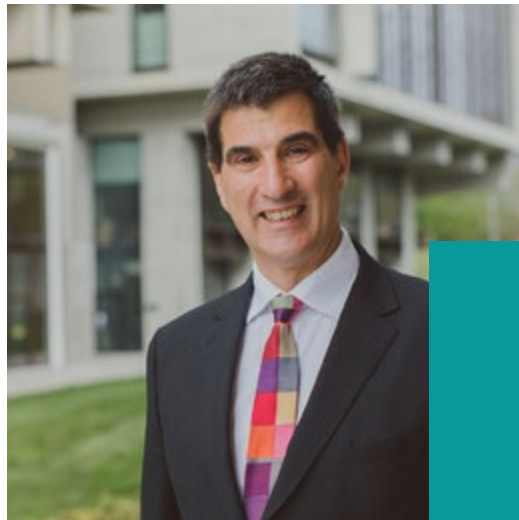


Begoña Aramayona (UAM), field urban studies and planning

YERUN members are extremely pleased to support the strong interest in research collaboration within the YERUN network. They also acknowledge the limitations of existing mechanisms in helping researchers to advance their connections, to work in diverse teams and to explore possibilities to strengthen their work by combining expertise, resources and other members' infrastructures. YERUN members believe these opportunities are particularly relevant for researchers at an early stage of their careers, when it is crucial to help them open their minds by working with their peers, sharing and challenging experiences, and conducting collaborative research. This step is fundamental to build our European Research Area and YERUN members have a strong commitment to continue promoting it.



## A word from former members of the YERUN Executive Board



### Prof Anthony Forster

University of Essex

"As a Founding Board Member of YERUN, I am absolutely delighted that a group of 18 globally oriented universities who are very similar in terms of age, outlook and values has formed the Young European Research Universities Network. Our close collaboration is based on promoting an inclusive transformational education - and undertaking research which focuses on making the world a better place.

For younger European universities, where age does not play such a prominent role in our reputation and global league table position, challenging the status quo is in our DNA. The University of Essex's membership of YERUN offers an exciting opportunity for disruptive innovation in higher education.

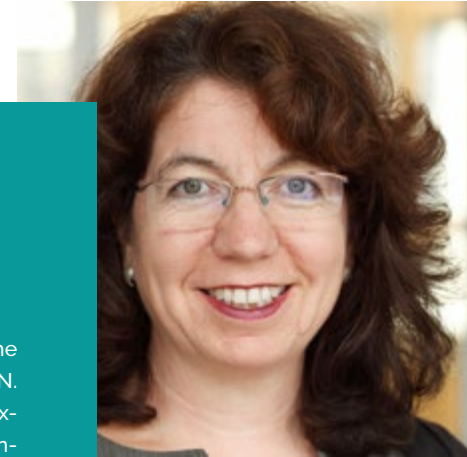
As a result of Brexit, it remains a key moment for the University of Essex to nurture our links with European universities - the UK's strength in science is because of our links with EU - not in spite of it."



### Prof Yasemin Karakasoglu

Universität Bremen

"It was exciting for me to take part in the foundation and development of YERUN. The mapping of research interests, the exchange on governance issues and the understanding of the prominent role universities should play in society to find answers for urgent global as well as local problems shows that YERUN is on its way to constitute a strong and convincing platform to make the voice of successful young research universities in Europe heard and to advocate for their interests."



### Prof Alain Verschoren

University of Antwerp

"Another network? What was the start of YERUN?"

Well, when we founded YERUN, we started from the observation that, in Europe, there exists a whole bunch of really strong and active young universities (at my age, young means: less than fifty). These universities score very well within the different rankings, but can, of course, not really be compared to the well-known dinosaurs: a lot of top universities exist for ages, have a very good reputation, are well known, can hire Nobel prize winners, etc (all of these being criteria for high rankings).

On the other hand, young universities are flexible, innovative, original and may more easily facilitate collaborations, another boost towards even better quality. The fact that they are young, extremely dynamic and still evolving makes them "different" and attractive.

Just as our present students are our future professors, I consider our young top universities as "the next generation". In times where some universities are becoming mega-enterprises and academic values sometimes seem secondary, where students become clients instead of participants, "another network" like YERUN can make the difference. And yes, if one considers different recent international initiatives, it is clear that Europe wants and needs strong networks, preferably of different type and with different aims.

At this moment in its existence, I think YERUN's main question should be: where do we want to stand in ten years from now? I, too, am very curious about what the next decade will bring us."





# We are YERUN

## General Assembly meeting

Brunel University London, 5 September 2018



"As a relative young institution founded in 1973, NOVA University Lisbon aims to collaborate and interact with similar institutions with a strong research-driven motivation. As a network, YERUN provides the natural collaborative setting between peers with the same research and innovative spirit, allowing for the development of strategic alliances among like-minded higher education institutions.."

## João Amaro De Matos

Vice-Rector, Universidade Nova De Lisboa

"The past couple of years have clearly shown that YERUN is an exceptional network: The strategic aims of YERUN are not empty words but instead, in YERUN all of us are determined to translate the aims into concrete actions. Different activities run throughout the calendar year engaging the YERUN community into a close collaboration for the benefit of us all. It has been a personal honor to serve as a YERUN Coordinator of the UEF also in 2018!"

## Riitta Keinanen

Director International Office, UEF

"We are glad to see UPF staff and researchers getting more and more involved in the YERUN activities, which is the best signal of interest trickling down. This brings real value to UPF participation in YERUN."

## Sara López Selga

Director of International Relations, UPF

"YERUN as a network of young research universities is the driver towards new possibilities. YERUN has already proven itself in being the backbone of new initiatives. Our realizations are also proof of the dynamics of the people behind the network as there are the rectors, presidents, secretary-general, staff, students, etc. The engagement and the trust between the partners makes it worthwhile and makes YERUN very special. So I am honored to work with all the colleagues and hope we all can "grow" again in 2019."

## Joelle Pletinckx

Policy Advisor Rector, University of Antwerp

"The future of European universities should be envisaged from the diversity in visions and traditions. YERUN enables this scenario to work on issues such as Open Science, Multilingual Studies, New Degrees, etc., whose solutions can only be collaborative"

## Maite Paramio

Professor, UAB

"YERUN represents in Europe everything that SDU represents in Denmark: innovation, civic engagement and the breaking of barriers. YERUN is all about thinking ahead while all the time being relevant in the present – just like SDU. SDU could find no better forum to promote its ideas all the while being inspired by like-minded. It is a great match."

## Karina Højgaard Jensen

International Coordinator, SDU.

"Our University's active participation in YERUN is important now more than ever given the Brexit context. We have really started to see the practical positive impacts of our YERUN collaborations in recent years. I have personally enjoyed working with YERUN partners and seeing joint initiatives develop, and I look forward to more of our students and staff engaging and really feeling part of our European University network."

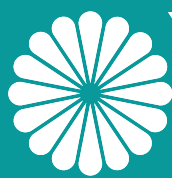
## Monica Illsley

Chief of Staff, University of Essex









# Yerun

Young European Research Universities

for further information on our activities, please visit our website

[www.yerun.eu](http://www.yerun.eu) and follow us on twitter [@YERUN\\_EU](https://twitter.com/YERUN_EU)