

Nova newsletter

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STARS EU

December 2024



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As 2024 winds down we can look back on an eventful year in the STARS EU galaxy with many positive steps in developing our education and research.

The STARS EU Steering Committee wishes you a restful Christmas holiday and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2025!



Productive meeting in Bremen

130 people from all nine members of STARS EU met at Hochschule Bremen on 5 and 6 of November, in order to review the advances made so far by the eight work packages, the Thematic Interest Groups (TIG), the Students Board and the Steering Committee.

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Want to give a STARS Talk?

Do you work at a STARS EU partner university as a researcher, teacher or administrative staff? Would you like to contribute to the goals of the STARS EU Alliance and the development and dissemination of new knowledge?

Giving a STARS Talk helps spread awareness about the innovative research, education and collaboration with the alliance, while simultaneously fostering important dialogue regarding societal challenges.

We are currently looking for topics for the STARS Talks programme in the spring of 2025. Contact Gunnar Peterson at University West in Sweden if you are interested.

[CONTACT GUNNAR PETERSON ▶](#)

What's in it for students?

How can students get involved in STARS EU? What are the benefits on a personal level as well as for your education and future professional career?

[In an interview](#), Jula Eichhorn, currently the

Chair of the STARS EU Student Board, answers these questions and more.

And don't forget to listen to her STARS Talk on December 18 at 13:00 (CET): [**"STARS EU for students: What's in it for me?"**](#)



A promotional graphic for the new STARS EU website. At the top left is the STARS EU logo with a stylized sunburst icon. To its right is a blue square with the European Union flag and the text 'Co-funded by the European Union'. Below this, the text 'We're live now!' is displayed. The central part of the graphic features the words 'NEW WEBSITE' in large, bold, white letters, with 'Check out our new website' in a smaller, italicized font below it. To the right is a graphic of a network of white dots connected by lines, set against a dark blue background with small white stars. Below this central text are three devices showing the website: a computer monitor, a tablet, and a smartphone. The monitor shows a 'GET TO KNOW US' section with a photo of hands. The tablet shows a 'DECEMBER, 2024' section with an event for 'HEALTHY AGEING TIG MEETING AT'. The smartphone shows a 'STARS EU in figures' section with a chart. At the bottom, there is a search bar with the text 'www.starseeu.org' and a microphone icon.

New website has launched!

The new website for the STARS EU Alliance is now live! It features a new design but, more importantly, new functionality and a clearer focus on the various target groups for STARS EU.

The goal is that students, researchers and collaborative partners will be able to find the information they are looking for faster and easier.

[VISIT THE STARS EU WEBSITE ▶](#)



Building bridges for growth

On November 21, 2024, at University "Aleksandër Moisiu" Durrës, welcomed Mr. Jan Jacob Hilberdink, Director of the Dutch Export Association, in a fruitful meeting with representatives of the STARS EU Alliance. This meeting was a significant step towards strengthening economic cooperation and trade exchanges between the Netherlands and Albania through the university's research tools and capacities.

Representatives of STARS EU and members of the working groups from UAMD provided an overview of our work within the Alliance and discussed opportunities for new projects and international synergies. Mr. Hilberdink emphasized the importance of building collaborative bridges between Dutch and Albanian enterprises, identifying key areas for economic growth and successful exchanges.

This meeting marks another step forward on our path toward internationalization and regional cooperation, opening doors for new projects within the STARS EU Alliance.

Course catalogue is live!

The course catalogue is now live on our newly launched STARS EU website! This marks a significant step in our alliance's mission to provide seamless access to the academic opportunities across our 9 partner universities.

Explore the diverse range of courses available and discover how STARS EU opens doors to a world of learning and collaboration. Dive into our academic offer (in English and in 9 native languages) and begin your educational journey with STARS EU today!

[VISIT THE COURSE CATALOGUE ▶](#)



BIP: Mastering the Art of Effective Presentations

From October 29 to November 15, students from Silesian University in Opava and Polytechnic Institute of Bragança took part in the inaugural Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) titled Mastering the Art of Effective Presentations at the School of Business Administration in Karviná.

The event was designed to sharpen students' presentation skills with a main focus on: The Path to a Successful Presentation, Intercultural Communication and Presentation Skills, Mastering Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication, Crafting Visually Engaging Presentations.

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BIP: Business start-up and social entrepreneurship

About 30 students and lecturers from five STARS EU partner universities took part in a one-week intensive course on founding socially oriented entrepreneurship at the University of La Laguna (ULL) in Tenerife in mid-November 2024.

The overall coordination of this Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) was the responsibility of Prof. Dr Stephan Form and Prof. Dr Martin Holi from Faculty 1 - Economics at Hochschule Bremen (HSB). The event, which is based on a combination of online and face-to-face events, took place for the second time.

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BIP: Heritage and video games highlights the intersection of culture and technology

The Blended Intensive Programme Heritage & Video Games, hosted by the Polytechnic University of Bragança (IPB) invited students and from across Europe to explore the use of digital games in preserving and disseminating cultural heritage.

Participants reflected on UNESCO's concept of cultural heritage, encompassing both tangible and intangible elements, and developed projects that leverage games to document, celebrate, and protect cultural legacies.

The program brought together students from IPB, STARS EU universities like University West (Sweden) and Université de Franche-Comté (France) and also from Kajaani University of Applied Sciences (Finland).

Visiting professors from University West and Université de Franche-Comté mentored the students throughout the week, offering guidance during project development.

New Blended Intensive Programmes

Smart Grids

The Smart Grids BIP, aimed at science and engineering students, will address topics on generation, both renewable and distributed, its relevance in industry 4.0, sensorization and

energy communities, as well as the importance of IoT in the energy sector.

Partners: CUT, Hanze, IPB and ULL from STARS EU. Partner outside STARS EU is University of Žilina from Croatia.

Dates: 10th February to 30th May 2025 (second term)

Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in STEM

The Polytechnic University of Bragança will host a BIP focusing on Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EEDI) in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) research. This BIP aims to provide participants with a deep understanding of key EEDI concepts in STEM research, and also discuss best practices for promoting inclusion in recruitment, retention, and career advancement, as well as explore inclusive pedagogical methods that foster a diverse learning environment.

Partners: IPB

Dates: December 6, 2024 to January 14, 2025

Theories in Translator Training

This program aims to provide students with a solid theoretical foundation to support their professional practice in the field of translation, promoting a critical approach to the dynamics of the sector. Over the 10 weeks of the course, participants will explore theoretical concepts and connect these insights with their research work.

Partners: IPB and Silesian University of Opava from STARS EU. Partners outside STARS EU are University of Kaunas (Lithuania), University of Salamanca (Spain), and other higher education institutions from Poland and Slovakia.

Dates: January 27-31, 2025 (face-to-face week at IPB)

RESEARCH



TIG in Sustainable Industry to hold meeting

The Thematic Interest Group (TIG) in Sustainable Industry is planning to have a work meeting at University West in Trollhättan, Sweden between the 15th and 16th of January. The main agenda is to work on the strategic plan of the TIG on both short-term (for 2025) and long-term (2025-2027) actions.

During the meeting, topics connected to both education and research will be discussed. Within research, the discussions will focus on funding opportunities for Sustainable Industry as well as joint research applications. Within education, the meeting will address BIPs in Sustainable Industry and the possibilities of a double degree program. We will also visit the campus and look at the facilities available at University West for researchers and students.

For additional information, please contact Mikael Ericsson at University West.

[CONTACT MIKAEL ERICSSON ▶](#)



Project days at the HSB focused on international health data

As part of the STARS EU alliance, the two international degree programmes Nursing and Midwifery at Hochschule Bremen (HSB) – City University of Applied Sciences maintain a close cooperation with the School of Health Care Studies at the Hanze Hoogeschool (Hanze) in Groningen. On 14 and 15 November 2024, two interdisciplinary project days were held jointly in Bremen.

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[UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES](#)



Save the date: Annual conference in Albania

The next STARS EU Alliance Annual Conference is planned for March 19–21, 2025. The conference will be held in the beautiful coastal city of Durrës, Albania and hosted by the University "Aleksandër Moisiu" Durrës.

Dive into insightful discussions, innovative research, and impactful collaborations. Join us in Durrës as we "Research the WORLD – Reach the STARS"

More details will be posted on [the STARS EU website](#) as they become available.

UNIAG open lectures

As part of the activities organized by the [Applied Management Research Unit \(UNIAG\)](#) and the School of Technology and Management (ESTiG) at the IPB, and the Entrepreneurship & Innovation TIG of STARS EU, a group of researchers is sharing technical, scientific, and professional experiences through open lectures.

The sessions, lasting 20 to 25 minutes, focus on topics related to applied research in business sciences. The initiative started in October and will run until January 2025.

Participation is open to the public, available both in person and online [via this link](#) with certificates provided to attendees.

Upcoming open lectures:

Javier Mendoza, ULL

"The use of IAG in research, practical applications"

December 12, 17:15 - 17:45 (GMT+0)

Nuno Moutinho, IPB

"Applied research: Main methods in finance and accounting"

January 9, 17:15 - 17:45 (GMT+0)

Roberto Vaz, IPB

"How to write scientific papers and posters?"

January 23, 17:15 - 17:45 (GMT+0)



STARS EU Staff Week

STARS EU Staff Week organized by the Silesian University in Opava takes place from **May 12th to 16th, 2025**, registration opened from January 2025. This event provides unique opportunities for professional development, workshops, and networking within the STARS EU alliance. The program is structured around key areas of university administration and strategic development:

- Steering Committee
- STARS EU Officers
- Communication Managers
- Regional Transition Accelerator (WP2)
- Curriculum Lab (WP3): Joint courses, joint BIPs, joint degrees, and joint microcredentials
- Co-creation Campus (WP5)
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation TIG
- Digital Transformation TIG

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Hochschule Bremen looking to fill PhD position

The PhD position is allocated to the Centre for Teaching and Learning (Zentrum für Lehren und Lernen, ZLL) at the Hochschule Bremen (HSB) - City University of Applied Sciences, but can be placed at the Hanze University in Groningen, which is main partner of the international comparative research project “Strategic Alignment of Universities of Applied Sciences in Studies, Teaching and Further Education – Developments and Governance Approaches in International Comparison”, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

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LINKS

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