

Nova newsletter



December 2025



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The STARS EU Alliance wishes you a restful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2026.

We are already looking forward to continuing our work with transforming regions and empowering people in the new year.



Successful annual working days in Tenerife

The third edition of the STARS EU working days from November 24-25 have concluded successfully in Tenerife, bringing together colleagues from across the alliance for a truly inspiring and valuable gathering.

There was increased interaction between the Work Packages and the Thematic Interest Groups: a testament to the fact that the framework of the alliance is strong, and now it is time to move on with implementation.

The discussions, meetings and presentations reflected the enormous amount of work that is being done regarding the academic offer, research agenda, campus development, mobility opportunities, sustainable strategies and communication efforts.

Thank you to the University of La Laguna for hosting the event! The next annual conference will be held in Opava in March 2026.

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Rectors sign STARS EU Campus Charter

During the annual working days in Tenerife, the rectors and presidents of the nine partner universities signed the STARS EU Campus Charter.

The Charter is a common commitment to building an integrated European campus that facilitates studying, teaching, research and working together for students, faculty and staff throughout the alliance.

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STARS Talk

ONLINE VIA ZOOM
13.00 CET

TUES
December
16

**Regional Innovation Strategies and
Perspectives on Inter-Regionalisation**
Daniela Naydenova & Diederich Bakker
Hanze University



Upcoming STARS Talk on interregionalisation

STARS EU aims to strengthen cooperation across its nine regional ecosystems by actively bringing together stakeholders from academia, industry, government, and society.

The concept of “interregionalisation” can take many shapes, drawing on diverse theoretical foundations and practical implementations.

In this STARS EU Talk, Daniela Naydenova and Diederich Bakker from Hanze University of Applied Sciences will share their research activities and present their insights into how interregionalisation can be fostered, understood, and leveraged across European regions.

When: December 16, 13.00-14.00 (CET)

Where: Digitally via Zoom

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EDUCATION



Two BIPs focused on digital creativity and sustainable architecture

The Bragança Polytechnic University (IPB) hosted two Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) addressing current challenges through an innovative approach.

More than 60 students from different disciplines and from all over Europe gathered in Portugal to study digital creativity and sustainable architecture through two Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs).

Beyond their academic dimension, both BIPs offered an opportunity to strengthen intercultural exchange, enhance students' digital, creative and transversal skills, and foster international networks among learners and teaching staff.

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From Stage Fright to Standing Ovations

This fall at Silesian University in Opava, the focus was on confidence, creativity, and effective presentation. As a part of STARS EU, the School of Business Administration hosted the second BIP, Mastering the Art of Effective Presentations, alongside the international Student Seminar on Management and Financial Issues.

Twenty-nine students from partner universities from the Czech Republic, Portugal, and Poland trained, practiced, and ultimately wowed the jury with ten-minute presentations on topics ranging from well-being and marketing to AI and original research. With expert workshops, hands-on feedback, and a lively in-person programme, participants left with new skills, fresh confidence, and prizes worth 10,000 CZK.

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STARS EU Traineeship Programme offers new opportunities

The STARS EU Alliance recently launched its Traineeship Programme. Marc Stalman from Hanze University of Applied Sciences is one of the participants in the programme:

"As a Hanze student in the European Master in Sustainable Energy System Management, I needed an international research placement—and STARS EU made it happen. Through their extensive network, they connected me directly with the University of La Laguna in Tenerife, where I am now conducting my internship research on the implementation of Onshore Power Supply Systems."

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Three upcoming BIPs in Portugal

Three Blended Intensive Programmes will be organizing the on-site part of their programmes at the Bragança Polytechnic University (IPB) in January. They are:

- [Business Simulation and Financial Analysis](#)
- [Digital Manufacturing](#)
- [Theories in Translator Training](#)

RESEARCH



"We are entering a new phase of action"

Research that creates regional impact is part of the foundation of STARS EU. Challenge Lab coordinates, develops and monitors the research infrastructure within the alliance. As the leader of Challenge Lab, Gunnar Peterson from University West can see a clear change in the level of activity.

"Halfway through the four-year project, Challenge Lab is now entering a new phase. After having mapped the conditions of regions and partners and, based on this, created different types of programs and orientation documents, these will now be rolled out. So we are now moving from planning to actually making and developing knowledge together", says Gunnar Peterson.

Prioritized actions:

- Joint development within the alliance that is based on our Thematic Interest Groups (TIGs) and our strengths
- Supporting match-making so that researchers can find each other through common interests
- Writing applications and carrying out research studies and projects together
- Finding different ways to support researchers and doctoral students within STARS EU

[ABOUT OUR RESEARCH ►](#)

AROUND THE STARS EU GALAXY



HSB hosts conference on teaching and learning

At the end of October, Hochschule Bremen (HSB) hosted the conference "HEI: Developments in Teaching and Learning" as part of the STARS EU Alliance.

Spanning two days, the event featured inspiring exchanges and presentations focusing on student self-development, lifelong learning, impact research, and the strategic development of universities of applied sciences.

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Living Labs showcased at International Conference

Hanze University of Applied Sciences hosted its International Conference on December 3 and welcomed STARS EU partners from Albania, Czechia, France and Portugal.

The theme of the conference was "Future of Internationalisation: Shaping Sustainable Pathways Together". During the conference STARS EU organized a workshop about the Living Labs. The session showed how multi-stakeholder initiatives help strengthen our regions.

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ULL part of meeting for Spanish members of European Universities Alliances

The first UEUE Forum was recently held in Madrid. The Forum gathered representatives from Spanish universities that are part of European University Alliances. A delegation from the University of La Laguna was present.

During the meeting the participants discussed governance, funding, European degrees, and best practices.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



IPB to host International Conference on Co-Creation Processes in Higher Education

The Bragança Polytechnic University (IPB) will host the International Conference on Co-Creation Processes in Higher Education (In2CoP 2026) from 27 to 29 January 2026.

In2CoP 2026 is dedicated to advancing innovative, future-oriented higher education shaped by strong partnerships among students, educators, regional stakeholders, and STARS EU European University Alliance partners.

The conference welcomes all participants – students, professors, researchers, industry leaders, and civil society representatives.

The **deadline for submission of abstracts is December 12**. Main registration closes on January 22.

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Martin Holi

Moderator: Christian Master Östlund
University West, Sweden

2026 **08 JAN** 05:15-05:45pm 

**Using AI in Teaching
Startup Management
and Business Planning**

ESTiG
Auditório Alcínio Miguel



Open lecture on AI in Business Management

The Bragança Polytechnic University (IPB) is a member of The Applied Management Research Unit (UNIAG). Together with the TIG Entrepreneurship & Innovation within STARS EU, UNIAG is organizing a lecture with Martin Holi from Hochschule Bremen City University of Applied Sciences. The session will be moderated by Christian Master Östlund from University West.

The talk, titled *Using AI in Teaching Startup Management and Business Planning*, will explore various scenarios in which AI tools can be employed in entrepreneurship teaching projects.

The advantages and challenges of using AI will be addressed, as well as providing insights into applications and tools.

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Have something to share?

Do you have some STARS EU news that you would like to share with a wider audience, either through Nova newsletter or our other channels?

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