

Nova newsletter



March 2025



See you in Durrës!

We are closing in on the 2025 STARS EU Annual Conference hosted by Aleksandër Moisiu University in Durrës, Albania.

The event brings together academic leaders, policymakers, researchers, and industry representatives to discuss how we can collaborate to shape the future of research and innovation in order to create a sustainable future.

Sessions will focus on the influence of the European University Initiative (EUI) on regional development, highlighting key policy trends and funding opportunities for research collaborations.

Discussions will also address the importance of digitalization, green innovation, and interdisciplinary education in strengthening institutional partnerships.

[READ MORE ►](#)



STARS EU receives award from IPB

The STARS EU Alliance received the prestigious International Medal of Honour from the Bragança Polytechnic University (IPB), one of its partners, during the university's 42nd anniversary celebrations. The award was presented by Fernando Alexandre, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Portugal, and Orlando Rodrigues, President of the IPB.

This recognition highlights the role of the alliance in strengthening the European Higher Education Area, promoting European values and identity, as well as promoting collaboration between institutions across borders.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE AWARD ►](#)



What's in it for students?

Three students from Hochschule Bremen - City University of Applied Sciences recently became members of the STARS EU Student Board. But why did they choose to get involved? And how do they think STARS EU benefits students?

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE ►](#)



STARS EU members attend high-level meeting in Brussels

A delegation from STARS EU led by Dick Pouwels, coordinator of STARS EU and rector of Hanze University of Applied Sciences and Tomáš Gongol, rector of Silesian University in Opava, attended the high-level meeting organised to discuss the future of European Universities.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE MEETING ►](#)



STARS EU presented its strategic plan to the members of the International Advisory Board

It was the first meeting between the alliance's leadership and international experts who will be responsible for providing strategic advice to the STARS EU Commission and the STARS EU Steering Committee.

[READ MORE ►](#)



STARS EU Learning and Teaching Communities

A Learning & Teaching Community (LTC) is a space where education professionals can learn from one another, enhancing their teaching practices, and contributing to pedagogical innovation. They often engage in activities such as workshops, seminars, online discussions, and collaborative development of educational materials.

A handbook on Learning and Teaching Communities in STARS EU has recently been finalized within the framework of the Curriculum Lab. This handbook should be viewed and used as a tool, serving as part of a pathway to promote and enhance LTCs within the STARS EU Alliance.

It's content, particularly the proposed LTC model, is designed to be sufficiently flexible and adaptable, allowing it to accommodate the circumstances and goals of the institutions within the STARS EU Alliance. The handbook also includes a checklist of steps to take in order to create a new LTC or to develop and improve an existing one.

The handbook will be made available on the STARS EU website. For more information please contact Dr. Jan-Eric Bartels at Hochschule Bremen - City University of Applied Sciences.

[CONTACT DR. BARTELS ►](#)

EDUCATION



Hanze hosts BIP on eHealth innovations

Hanze University of Applied Sciences recently hosted a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) on eHealth applications, culminating in the joint presentation of cutting-edge eHealth solutions by students from eight different countries.

Read more [about the BIP here](#), but also from the perspective of participants [from Hochschule Bremen - City university of Applied Sciences](#).



FutureLab: STARS EU students join forces with

Polish municipality to develop tourism

Interdisciplinary teams of students gathered at the Cracow University of Technology (CUT) to work on a joint challenge: develop the tourism potential of the Polish municipality of Zakliczyn.

As part of the FutureLab Camp workshops, 26 students from CUT and partner universities belonging to the STARS EU Alliance worked on various concepts to enhance the Zakliczyn area.

[READ THE FULL STORY ►](#)



BIP on mobile robots brings together students from three partners

Hanze University of Applied Sciences, the Bragança Polytechnic University and Hochschule Bremen - City University of Applied Sciences organized the BIP Embedded Systems for Mobile Robots. During the hands-on week, 27 talented students worked together to assemble small mobile robots and tackle a variety of exciting challenges.

Along the way, they:

- Built and programmed functional robots
- Learned to collaborate effectively in international teams
- Gained expertise in solving complex design problems involving sensing and actuation

For more information, please contact Felipe N. Martins at Hanze University of Applied Sciences.

[CONTACT FELIPE N. MARTINS ►](#)



STARs EU: A World of Opportunities for Teachers and Researchers

Maryvonne Nieboer, a lecturer at Hanze University of Applied Sciences, shares the opportunities for academic staff offered by the alliance.

As a member of the [STARs EU Curriculum Lab](#), Nieboer highlights the relevance of the alliance and the impact it has on the educational community.

[LISTEN TO THE FULL INTERVIEW ►](#)

Upcoming Blended Intensive Programmes

- [Norm-Consciousness and Health - Healthcare equity and diversity \(April-May\)](#)
- [Circular Bioeconomy - courses on circular economy and sustainability \(April-May\)](#)
- [Sustainability and ESG - Focus on ESG and sustainable business \(April-May\)](#)
- [Strategic Career Planning - PhD career planning in work-integrated learning \(April-June\)](#)
- [Cybersecurity \(April-June\)](#)
- [Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Best Practices \(May-June\)](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT BIP:S ►](#)

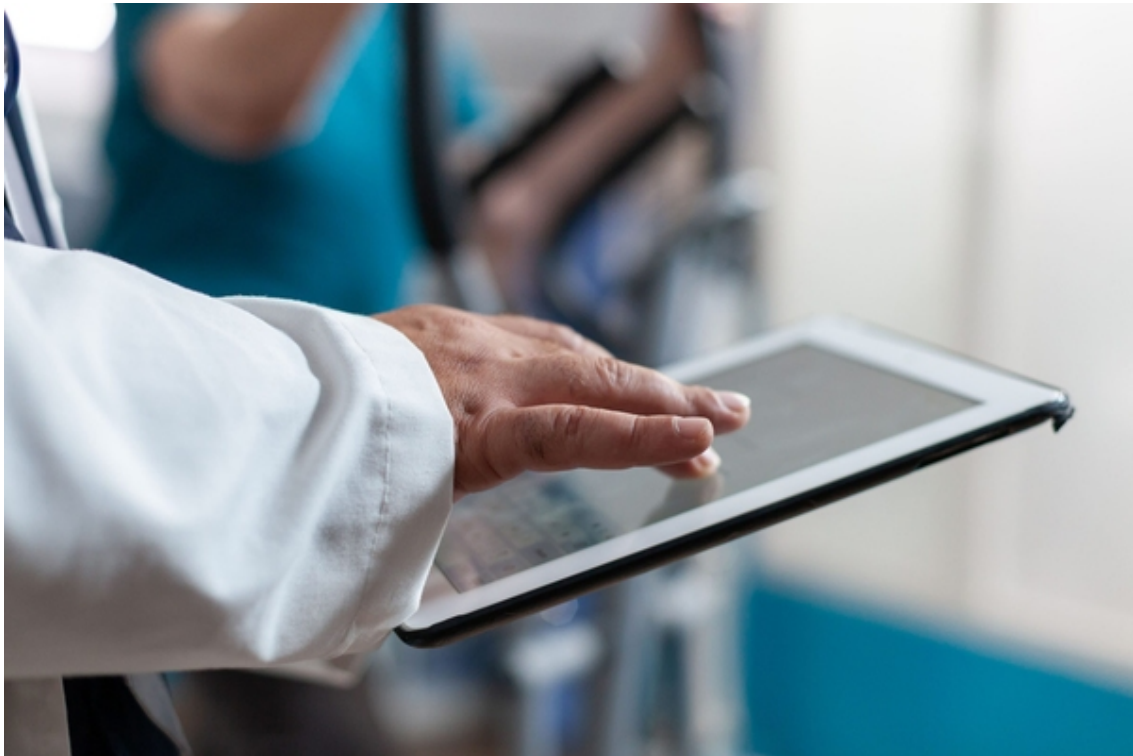
RESEARCH



New TIG charts a bold future

The STARS EU universe was recently expanded with the introduction of a new Thematic Interest Group in Sustainable Industry. Representatives from all nine STARS EU partners met at University West in Sweden to draw up a strategic plan for the coming years.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE NEW TIG ►](#)



STARS-Health focuses on older patients with lower health and digital literacy

A new STARS EU research project will focus on improving the capacity of older patients with lower health and digital literacy. The initiative, called STARS-Health is led by Hanze University of Applied Sciences together with University of La Laguna, University West, Silesian University of Opava and the Bragança Polytechnic University.

STARS-Health will seek to help older patients to understand and use digital services in order to prevent and manage health conditions, empower patients and improve communication with their caregivers.

[READ MORE ABOUT STARS-HEALTH ►](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

IPB hosts conference on AI in teaching

The International Conference on Teacher Education returns for its 9th edition in May of 2025. This year's conference in Bragança will reflect on the challenges and opportunities of integrating artificial intelligence into education, fostering dialogue and knowledge sharing.

[READ MORE HERE ►](#)



Silesian University organizes Staff Week focusing on STARS EU

Silesian University in Opava will organize the 5th edition of its International Week in Karviná, Czechia. The conference will be held from 12 to 16 May 2025. The program is geared toward the Steering Committee, STARS EU officers, Regional Transition Accelerator (WP2), Curriculum Lab (WP3), Co-creation Campus (WP5), Entrepreneurship and Innovation (TIG) and Digital Transformation (TIG).

Read more and register using the link below.

[READ MORE AND REGISTER ►](#)



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STARS EU



University West announces event focusing on norms in health care

Welcome to NormDay - an event dedicated to enhancing awareness and increased understanding of societal norms and their profound impact on health and healthcare.

The primary aim of NormDay is to promote critical analysis and reflection on social norms, encouraging participants to engage in introspection, innovation and dialogue.

The event will be held at University West in Trollhättan, Sweden on May 15. There is no registration fee.

[READ MORE ABOUT NORMDAY ►](#)

AROUND THE STARS GALAXY

Exciting developments at Hochschule Bremen - City University of Applied Sciences

- Prof. Dr. Silke Eckardt appointed new Vice-president for Research and Transfer. [Read more >>](#)
 - New core facility that provides scientists with exceptional capabilities for fundamental research analyses launched. [Read more >>](#)
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LINKS

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