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The voice of  
young research  
universities in  
Europe



28 March 2022  
UC3M – Link EDU RES

- Who we are
- What we do
- 2021-2025 Strategy



# Who we are

## The Young European Research Universities Network:

- Was founded in 2016
- Brings together like-minded young research universities in Europe
- Currently counts 22 members from 14 European countries
- Has a representation in Brussels
- Represents the voice of young research universities

 **Yerun**  
Young European Research Universities



# What we do

## Policy Advocacy

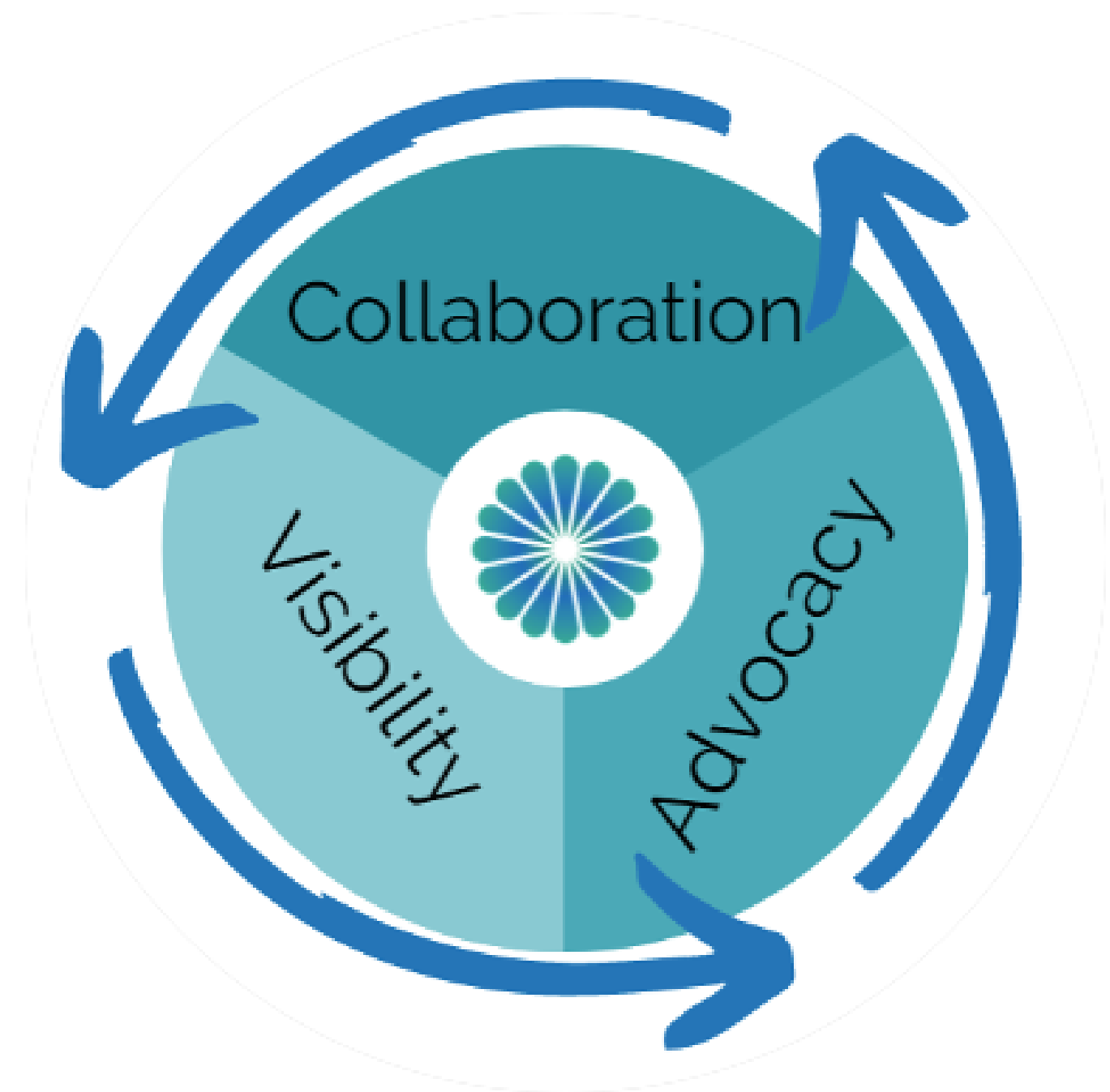
>> We bring the interest of young universities to the attention of EU policy makers

## Members Collaboration

>> We foster collaboration opportunities for our members

## Communication

>> We raise the visibility of our members via dedicated communication activities





**ENABLING  
TALENT TO  
GROW**

# THE YERUN STRATEGY 2021-2025

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Talent  
Development

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Open  
Culture of  
Excellence

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Responsible and  
Engaged  
Universities

# FOCUS AREAS AND PRIORITIES

YERUN establishes the following focus areas as the strategic domains in which to develop its actions. Following a thorough consultation with members, these areas have been identified as the key domains in which universities need to act in order to become the universities of the future. This new strategy will give YERUN members the opportunity to cooperate within macro-areas of interest and the flexibility to carry out different activities to implement the priorities the network will focus on.

# 2021 2025

## OPEN CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

YERUN institutions can achieve maximum impact by collaborating in excellent education, scientific research and innovation and by encouraging the exchange of knowledge. When isolated and not connected to other institutions and sectors, knowledge cannot achieve its full potential. This is why YERUN will strive to create new opportunities to increase collaborations among its members and stakeholders, in an environment supportive of open science.

### Priorities

**Promotion of Open Science** (e.g.: FAIR data, Open Access practices, YERUN Open Science Awards).

**Enhanced European collaboration** (e.g.: increased EU funding opportunities, European Universities Initiative, professionalised research and international support).

**Knowledge circulation across disciplines, sectors and borders** (e.g.: YERUN Research Mobility Awards, YERUN Summer Schools, training and collaborative activities).

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Talent is everywhere, and YERUN members strongly believe in the key role that universities have in creating new opportunities for their students, researchers, academic and administrative staff, leaders and stakeholders, so that everyone can maximise their potential. YERUN's focus will be on increasing the possibilities to learn about the most advanced forms of education, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and boosting the talent of our students and Early Career Researchers as future leaders.

### Priorities

**Innovative teaching and learning pathways** (e.g.: new models of digital and blended education, digital structures, personalised curricula, research-oriented teaching).

**Lifelong Learning** (e.g.: micro-credentials, graduate and postgraduate professional development, research-oriented lifelong learning).

**Career development and leadership in academia** (e.g.: assessment of academic careers, metrics of academic performance and career progression, YERUN teaching awards, mentorship programmes).

## RESPONSIBLE AND ENGAGED UNIVERSITIES

Embedding a true culture of societal engagement throughout the whole university community will contribute to building a better society overall. As universities, we are connectors within the ecosystems we live in: we strive to engage other parts of society as equal partners, with an inclination towards collaboration rather than competition. Universities adapt to ever-evolving challenges by developing agile structures, promoting institutional transformation and encouraging a culture of flexible leadership. YERUN institutions believe in the importance of facilitating a dialogue with other young research universities and with non-academic partners.

### Priorities

**Stakeholders' engagement** (e.g.: Citizen Science, Science Communication, partnerships with other sectors).

**Societal impact** (e.g.: education and research that has real-world impact; contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals).

**Organisational culture & institutional development** (e.g.: benchmarking, inclusive leadership, socially responsible institutions and networks, diversity strategies, digitalisation strategies).

# PRIORITIES UNDER THE NEW STRATEGY

## Talent Development

- Innovative Teaching & Learning Pathways
- Lifelong Learning
- Career Development And Leadership In Academia

## Open Culture of Excellence

- Promotion of Open Science
- Enhanced European collaboration
- Knowledge circulation across disciplines, sectors and borders

## Responsible and Engaged Universities

- Stakeholders' engagement
- Societal impact
- Organisational culture and institutional development



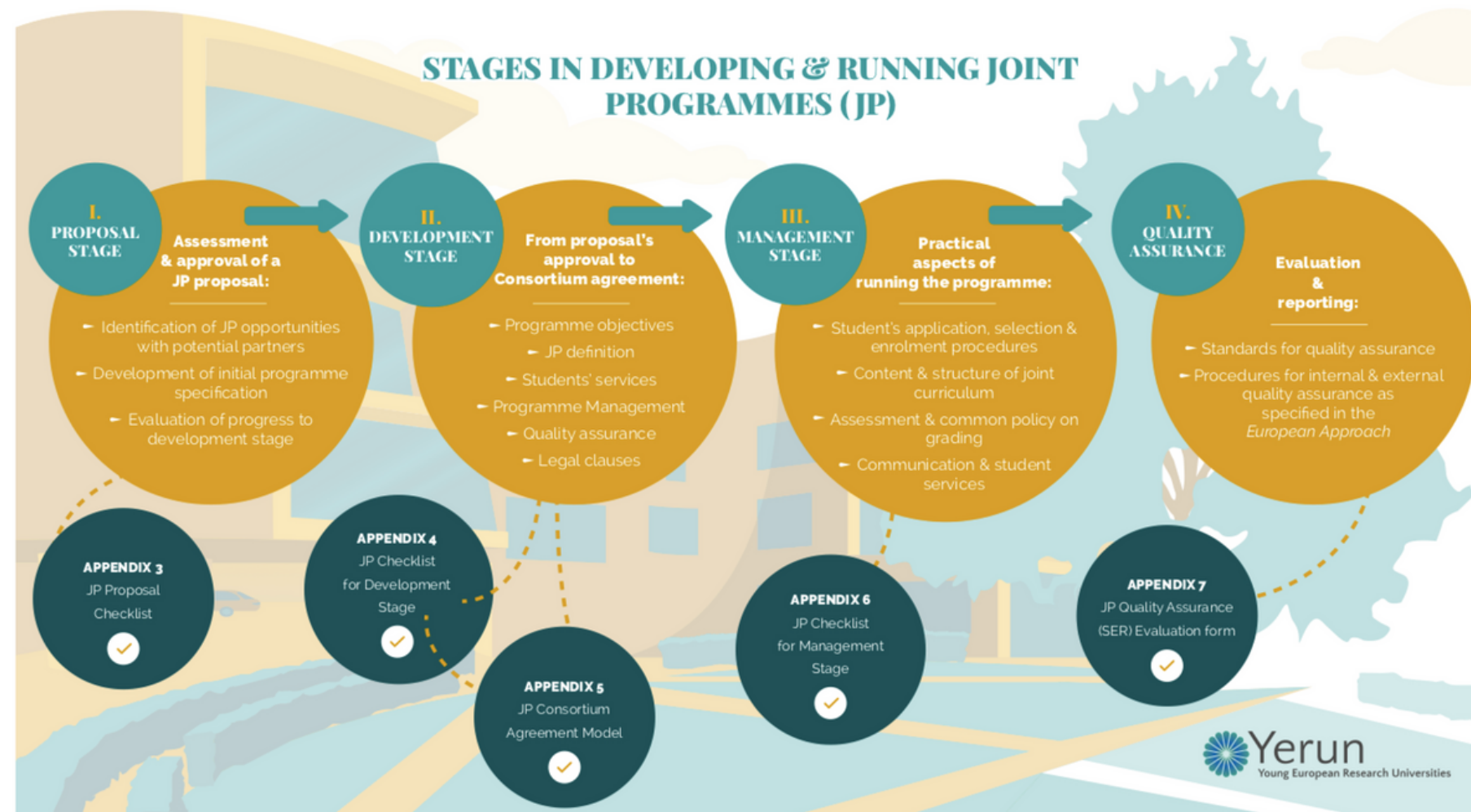
# YERUN Objectives 2016-2020

- Strengthen joint research and teaching activities, maximise mobility and facilitate graduate employability
- Bring the young European Research universities' perspective to the EU debate
- Increasing the commitment of YERUN member institutions to Open Science

# YERUN Working Group on Joint Programmes (2016-2020)

## YERUN JP WG

32 Joint Programmes (2019) -> Bachelor (12)  
Master (19), PhD (1).



# Link EDU-RES



**Joint Programmes at doctorate level**  
*linking education and research*

- Erasmus+ Key Action 2 programme (“Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices”)
- Objective: internationalisation of doctoral education and establishment of collaborative and interactive frameworks.

# POLICY ADVOCACY

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Thank to its representation in Brussels, YERUN is a key stakeholder in the development of EU policies in research, innovation and education. The YERUN Office is regularly invited to formal and informal consultations organised by the European Commission, thereby having the opportunity to co-shape future policies that have an impact on the opportunities for young research universities. In such advocacy work, the YERUN Office is supported by the YERUN Policy Platform, composed of experts from YERUN member institutions.



# European Strategy for Universities

- Launched on 18 January 2022
- Key objectives by mid-2024:
  - Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research.
  - Support universities as lighthouses of our European way of life.
  - Empower universities as actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions.
  - Reinforce universities as drivers of the EU's global role and leadership.

European Universities alliances

European Degree

Micro-credentials

Diversity & Inclusion

Digital & Green transition

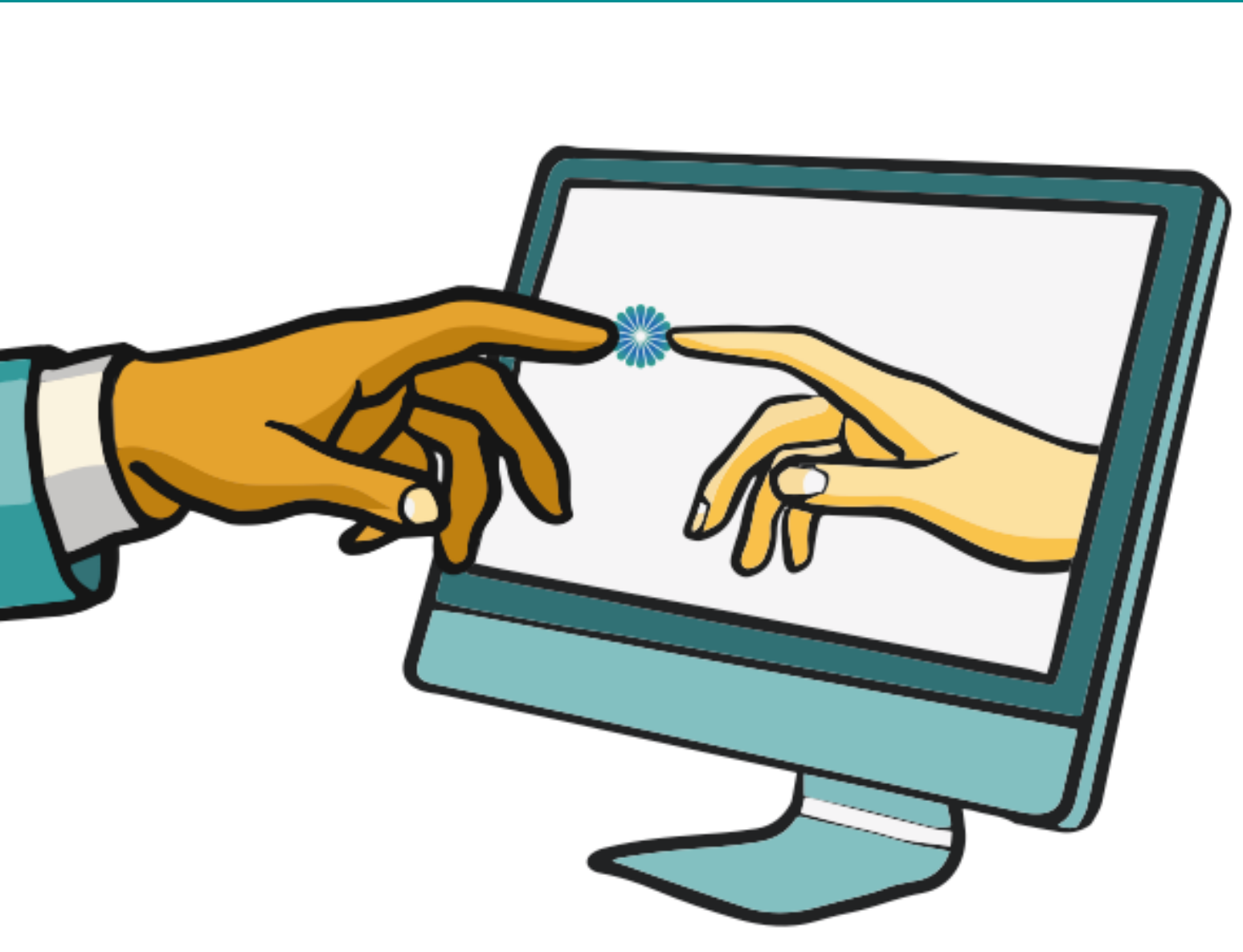
# European Universities Alliances involving YERUN members



# 41 European Universities Alliances



# Get in touch!



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