



EIT HEI INITIATIVE Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education

**Inno4YUFE – Towards a Pioneering European
University that Powers a New Generation of
Student Entrepreneurs and Innovators**

Inno4YUFE



Participating partners

Maastricht University
(Lead partner)
NETHERLANDS

Nicolaus Copernicus University
POLAND

Tor Vergata University of Rome
ITALY

University Carlos III de Madrid
SPAIN

University of Antwerp
BELGIUM

University of Bremen
GERMANY

University of Cyprus
CYPRUS

University of Eastern Finland
FINLAND

University of Essex
UNITED KINGDOM

University of Rijeka
CROATIA



Max. funding Phase 1

€400,000

Max. funding Phase 2

€800,000

Project description

Selected as one of the first European University pilots, the [Young Universities for the Future of Europe \(YUFE\) Alliance](#) brings a radical change by creating a young, student-centred, non-elitist, open and inclusive European university based on cooperation between higher education institutions, the public and private sector, and citizens. YUFE is set to become a fully-fledged European university by 2025, dedicated to contributing to a more cooperative, innovative and cohesive Europe.

Inno4YUFE's vision is for YUFE to become a pioneering and truly entrepreneurial European university by 2030, uniting innovation ecosystems across Europe and powering hundreds of student entrepreneurs and innovators that will generate breakthroughs to tackle global challenges.

Building on the partners' HEInnovate self-assessments and YUFE's established pilot portfolio of educational and entrepreneurial initiatives, Inno4YUFE presents an ambitious yet achievable innovation vision action plan (IVAP) to put its long-term vision into practice. Inno4YUFE aims to remove barriers to student entrepreneurship and reinforce the role of higher education institutions (HEIs) as launchpads towards entrepreneurial career pathways. Over the course of two defined phases, Inno4YUFE will support 400 entrepreneurial students and 80 HEI academic staff and professionals, and create sustainable partnerships with a minimum of three EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and 10 ecosystem stakeholders.

This will be realised via the following six actions:

- add a novel innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) dimension to the 'YUFE Virtual Campus' to create a seamless and open collaboration platform for student I&E, with digital technologies as key enablers for the IVAP;

- roll-out a 'YUFE Flipped Knowledge Transfer Office,' acting as the champions league of I&E and designed to foster community-driven student entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer;
- build sustainable collaborations with knowledge triangle stakeholders and selected EIT KICs, centred around entrepreneurial education and support, leading to a pan-European network of innovation communities;
- leverage existing educational resources and introduce a novel 'Research & Entrepreneurship Training & Mentoring Programme' to enhance the I&E mindset of YUFE students and staff;
- launch a YUFE-wide 'Entrepreneurial Internship Programme,' aimed at providing entrepreneurial students with unique know-how on innovation processes, start-up implementation and entrepreneurial skills;
- create a hybrid 'YUFE International Start-up Community and Acceleration Programme' to boost HEI support for student start-ups.

Overall, the Inno4YUFE IVAP will create a scalable model of a European university to support the I&E potential of students, staff and innovators from both inside and outside the Inno4YUFE and EIT ecosystems. This will extend beyond the project duration.

Pilot Call Timeline



About the EIT's HEI Initiative

The EIT's HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education was launched by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#) (EIT) and is led by EIT RawMaterials – one of the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities.

The initiative is part of the EIT's [2021–2027 EIT Strategy](#), and it aims to help higher education institutions to build the capacity to innovate and to teach innovation and entrepreneurship. More specifically, the initiative aims to encourage these institutions to look at their own practices and develop concrete actions to increase their impact on their ecosystems.

In March 2020, the HEI Initiative launched a Pilot Call for Proposals, inviting higher education institutions to design activities that will improve their entrepreneurial and innovation capacity. We are pleased to announce the results of this Pilot Call. To stay updated on the latest developments, visit the initiative website (<https://www.eit-hei.eu/>) and subscribe to our newsletter.