

## YERUN is looking for a Policy Officer (Research & Innovation) to start in September/October 2026

### About us

YERUN is a dynamic Brussels-based network representing Young European Research Universities at EU level. The network highlights and promotes the distinctive contribution of young research universities, facilitates collaboration among its members and supports their engagement in European policy developments in education, research and innovation.

For more information about YERUN's activities and priorities, please visit our [website](#).

### What we are looking for

We are looking for a committed and proactive professional with solid experience in European research and innovation policy, a sound understanding of the higher education landscape in Brussels, and experience in NGOs, membership-based organisations, university associations or international organisations.

You will be part of a highly efficient team of six people working closely with EU institutions, stakeholders and, most importantly, YERUN member universities and experts.

As part of a small Brussels-based team, you should be flexible, proactive and able to adapt quickly to the evolving needs of the network. You will also be expected to support colleagues, when needed, across different tasks and areas of activity to contribute to the successful running of YERUN.

### Main tasks & Responsibilities

- Monitor and analyse EU policies and initiatives in the fields of Research & Innovation, relevant to the university sector, provide strategic advice, and contribute to the positioning of the network.
- Lead and coordinate the development of YERUN's positions on R&I policies and initiatives related to the network's priorities. You will focus, but not exclusively, on: the next Research and Innovation Framework Programme (FP10), European Competitiveness Fund and other relevant R&I Regulations, ERA Forum and ERA Actions, Research Careers, Academic Assessment, MSCA, Open Science, Research Security, dual-use research, etc.
- Draft and develop YERUN's policy papers and policy documents, briefings, reports and other advocacy output, such as statements and press articles.
- Ensure the preparation, coordination, moderation, and follow-up for the implementation of various YERUN groups.
- Support and contribute as appropriate to all governance meetings (General Assemblies, Executive Board, Coordinators meetings, etc.) as well as assisting in organising YERUN events and meetings as required.
- Contribute to designing surveys, data analysis and reports based on internal consultations with members (reports of best practices, data analysis on members' participation in EU funding programmes, internal initiatives, etc.).
- Contribute to and, when required, lead project management activities for EU-funded projects in which the network is involved (e.g., Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, etc.).

- Establish and maintain contact with relevant representatives of the European Institutions and networks related to research and innovation in Brussels.
- Attend relevant events in Brussels (and from time to time abroad) to represent YERUN, identify important information and liaise with relevant stakeholders.
- Assist and support any other activities related to the network's objectives and daily operations.

### **Skills & Education**

- Master's degree, or Bachelor's degree with demonstrable relevant professional experience.
- At least 2-3 years' experience in R&I policy, advocacy and/or membership-based organisations.
- Strong knowledge of EU policy-making processes and EU funding programmes, including Horizon Europe and Erasmus+.
- Experience with EU projects and project management.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English, with strong analytical skills and the ability to present complex information clearly across formats.
- Ability to work independently, proactively and under tight deadlines, while contributing to a collaborative team environment.
- Strong interpersonal and networking skills (familiarity with Brussels-based R&I networks is an asset).
- Flexibility and willingness to work in a small, international and multicultural team, supporting a broad range of activities.

### **Applicants must be eligible to work in Belgium.**

The position reports directly to the YERUN Secretary General. The position also involves travel, mostly within Europe. Although not a requirement, we highly welcome applications from graduates from our member universities.

### **What we offer**

- 1-year full-time contract with the possibility of renewal into a permanent contract (under Belgian legislation). **The position requires you to be based in Brussels.**
- Competitive salary based on experience, lunch vouchers, compensation for teleworking and transport, and possibility for occasional teleworking from abroad (3+ weeks/year).
- A dynamic and motivating workplace with possibilities to further develop your career.

If you are interested, send us your CV (1 page) and a cover letter (1 page) to [recruitment@yerun.eu](mailto:recruitment@yerun.eu) with "**R&I Policy Officer – YOUR NAME**" in the **subject**, clearly explaining your relevant professional experience, motivation and interest to join us.

**Deadline for applications: 2 August 2026 (EOD).**

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

We will start contacting candidates before the deadline if profiles match our needs.

Interviews will be scheduled in the second half of August.

**Expected start date: September/October 2026.**