

**STARS EU Annual Conference 2025****March 20-21, 2025, “Aleksandër Moisiu” University, Durrës****FIRST DRAFT PROGRAM*****Research the World  
Reach the STARS***

The STARS EU Alliance drives regional empowerment by connecting academic and non-academic stakeholders to support sustainable social, green, and digital transitions. This year’s conference focus is on research-led initiatives that enhance regional development and explores the role of higher education in catalyzing meaningful, community-centered transitions.

Highlights include updates on STARS EU activities, insights from the European University Initiative (EUI) on regional impact, and perspectives from regional representatives on best practices and collaborative successes. A keynote on the “Impact of the EUI on Regional Development” will set the stage for a panel discussion addressing current challenges and interdisciplinary opportunities in regional advancement. Networking sessions will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among regional leaders, educators, and researchers, reinforcing the Alliance’s commitment to empowered, resilient communities across Europe.

**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

**07:30 – 08:00**      **Meeting point:** *Parking spot near “Restaurant Piazza”, Taulantia Street, close to the Venetian Tower.*  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wkqXmzrkquBbnzMF6>

**Venue:** “Aleksandër Moisiu” University, New Campus, Miqësia Street, Spitallë, Building 1

**09:00 – 09:30**      *Arrival, Registration, and Coffee*

**09:30 – 10:30**      **Welcome addresses**

**Prof. Dr. Shkëlqim Fortuzi**, *Rector of “Aleksandër Moisiu” University.*

**Mr. Dick Pouwels**, *Doctor Honoris Causa UAMD, President of Hanze University of Applied Sciences.*

**H.E. Mr. Edi Rama**, *Prime Minister of Albania.*

**Mrs. Ogerta Manastirliu**, *Minister of Education and Sports, Albania.*

**Anila Troshani**, *Head of Sector EACEA, European Commission.*

**Rima Dijkstra**, *STARS EU Coordinator - State of the Alliance.*

<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Han Polman</b> - State councilor, Council of State, The Netherlands (Former King's Commissioner/ Governor of the province of Zeeland, former Mayor of Bergen op Zoom and Noordwijkerhout)
<b>12:00 – 12:45</b>	<b>Manuel Hector</b> - <i>Align, Act, Accelerate: Research, Technology and Innovation to Boost European Competitiveness</i>
<b>12:45 – 13:00</b>	<i>Group photo</i>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Parallel afternoon sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STARS EU Research Solutions Agenda</li> <li>• STARS EU Impact on Regional Transitions</li> <li>• STARS EU: Innovative Pathways for Students</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>16:30 – 17:30</b>	<i>Impulses from Leaders of parallel sessions and Rima Dijkstra</i>
<b>17:30 – 17:45</b>	<i>Orientation next day</i>
<b>19:30</b>	<i>Gala dinner</i>

## Friday, March 21, 2025

<b>07:30 – 08:00</b>	<p><b>Meeting point:</b> <i>Parking Spot near “Restaurant Piazza”, Taulantia Street, close to the Venetian Tower_</i>  <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/wkqXmzrkquBbnzMF6">https://maps.app.goo.gl/wkqXmzrkquBbnzMF6</a></p> <p><i>Post-conference Working Group sessions</i>  <b>Venue:</b> Aleksandër Moisiu University, New Campus, Miqësia Street, Spitalë, Building 1</p>
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**09:00 – 12:00**      **Visits to Regional Stakeholders: 1. Durrës Port Authority 2. Local Business (To be decided)**

- **STARS EU researchers Meet&Greet!**

**Venue:** Aleksandër Moisiu University, New Campus, Miqësia Street, Spitalë, Building 1

**13:00– 14:30**      **Farewell lunch and Informal networking**

