



D 4.3 EUNICE Awards to Reward Out-standing Trajectories



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

PUT	Poznan University of Technology
BTU	Brandenburg University of Technology
UC	University of Cantabria
UMONS	University of Mons
UNICT	University of Catania
UPHF	Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France
UVA	University of Vaasa
ERA	European Research Area
HRS4R	Human Resources Strategy for Researchers
CoARA	Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
ESC	EUNICE Steering Committee

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1 Introduction

This deliverable was developed in the task 4.3 “Research Careers (assessment)”. A part of this task was to deal with the balance in the assessment of academics and their research careers. Another part was to pilot the use of Artificial Intelligence in research assessment. In both field substantial developments took place since the REUNICE project was planned and started. Therefore, we will state on this development in the field of research assessment (see chapter 3) after we explained how this deliverable D 4.3 “EUNICE awards to reward outstanding trajectories” relates to the task 4.3 “Research Careers (assessment)” (see chapter 2). Afterwards, the piloting of the use of Artificial Intelligence in research assessment is described in chapter 4. Finally, the generated EUNICE Awards are described in chapter 5. After description of the awards itself the evaluation process and criteria are explained, together with the procedures of data acquisition for those awards. At the end, a timetable shows the planned schedule for the EUNICE Awards.

2 Relation to the Work Programme

This deliverable D 4.3 “EUNICE awards to reward outstanding trajectories” belongs to the task 4.3 “Research Careers (assessment)”. This task deals with the balance in the assessment of academics and their careers. The assessment needs to be balanced regarding differences in national academic systems, and has to take into account gender equality, diversity, and Open Science aspects. All that contributes towards the European University Transformation Module of development and implementing strategies for strengthening human capital in research and innovation and for enabling balanced brain circulation [1].

To be able to acknowledge outstanding academic trajectories and to promote the excellence in research and innovation in our emerging European University EUNICE, the creation of “EUNICE Awards” were provided in this deliverable D 4.3. These EUNICE Awards not only allow for the acknowledgement and promotion of excellence within EUNICE, they also offer a suitable use cases and application of the assessment procedures for research careers. Furthermore, the offer of a reward also allows to call for applications with a defined set of information which will be submitted by the academics themselves. That ensures the comprehensiveness of the information and avoids data protection issues, because the information/data was assembled for the purpose of research career assessment.

The created EUNICE Awards are also part of the implementation of strategies for strengthening human capital in research and innovation. The awards will guide the measures implemented in REUNICE Task 4.4 “Promoting Talents” (e.g. the network of research and innovation support staff or the coaching and mentoring programmes) in strengthening human capital by focussing on the most promising candidates.

Parallel to the REUNICE project there are very recent developments not only in research assessment, but also in research management. As these recent developments will affect the REUNICE work especially in this task 4.3, we will summarise these developments in the following chapter. We will focus there on aspects which are most important for this deliverable, like research assessment and research management.

3 Recent Development in Research Assessment

After finalising and submitting the Description of Work for this REUNICE project, the European Commission started a process of advancing the European Research Area (ERA) with the Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “A new ERA for Research and Innovation” (COM(2020) 628) in September 2020 [2]. That COM Communication was followed by a Council conclusions on the “New European Research Area” [3] which in November 2021 led to the Council Recommendation 2021/2122 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe [4]. Both contained a list of actions which were later developed into the ERA Policy Agenda [5].

3.1 ERA Policy Agenda and its impact on REUNICE

The ERA Policy Agenda in its recent version from November 2021 comprises of 20 Actions which contributes to the priority areas defined in the Council Recommendation on a *Pact for Research and Innovation* [4]. This agenda covers the period 2022-2024. Many of the 20 actions have an impact on the work done in this REUNICE project. In particular, REUNICE WP4 “Promoting excellence in research and innovation, fostering diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality” has links to many actions. Therefore we decided to screen the 20 actions here for their respective impact on the work done in REUNICE. For each of the 20 actions one or more work packages of REUNICE are mentioned in the following Table 1, which have the highest cross sections with this actions:

Table 1: All actions from the ERA Policy Agenda and its impacts on (R)EUNICE

Nr	Title of the Action	Impact on RE-UNICE	REUNICE WPs most affected	Comment
1	Enable the open sharing of knowledge and the re-use of research outputs, including through the development of the European open science cloud (EOSC)	Strong	WP3 (WP2, WP5)	WP3 is directly dealing with Open Science, WP2 develops infrastructure for sharing with other sectors and WP5 deals with sustainable re-use of research output especially in the business and society sector.
2	Propose an EU copyright and data legislative and regulatory framework fit for	Weak	(WP2)	The data platforms developed in WP2 could probably profit from new regulatory framework
3	Advance towards the reform the assessment system for research, researchers and institutions to improve their quality, performance and impact	Strong	WP4	Very relevant for WP4. Finally, the CoARA Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment developed from there. See 3.2 for special impact assessment on REUNICE.
4	Promote attractive and sustainable research careers, balanced talent circulation and interna-	Strong	WP4	Very relevant to WP4, especially for this task 4.3 and this deliverable, as well as for the on-going task 4.4

	tional, transdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility across the ERA			
5	Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness, taking note of the Ljubljana declaration	Strong	WP4	Especially relevant to Task 4.5
6	Deepening the ERA through protecting academic freedom in Europe	Intermediate	WP4	WP4 deals with research assessment and hence has to promote procedures which protect the academic freedom.
7	Upgrade EU guidance for a better knowledge valorisation	Intermediate	WP2, WP5	Knowledge valorisation is promoted in REUNICE via the platform (WP2) and the interaction between business and society (WP5).
8	Strengthen sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA	Intermediate	WP5, WP2	Research infrastructures are compiled by WP5 and access is mediated via the platform (WP2).
9	Promote a positive environment and level playing field for international cooperation based on reciprocity	Weak	WP1, WP2	Probably WP1 can contribute to this by interacting with the other European University projects and the EU Commission. The platform provided by WP2 can be useful, too.
10	Make EU R&I missions and partnerships key contributors to the ERA	Very Weak		
11	An ERA for green energy transformation	Very Weak		
12	Accelerate the green/digital transition of Europe's key industrial ecosystem	Intermediate	WP5	WP5 promotes science and research for business and society and can hence help to accelerate the transition of Europe's industrial ecosystem.
13	Empower higher education institutions to develop in line with the ERA, and in synergy with the European education area	Very Strong		The impact on the complete EUNICE Alliance is very strong, as the European University Initiative itself is a measure to contribute to this action. The other measure, the European Excellence Initiative (EEI), can be supported by EUNICE.
14	Bring science closer to citizens	Intermediate	WP6	Communication as part of WP6 is meant to bring the science in EUNICE closer to citizens.
15	Build-up regional and national R&I ecosystems to improve regional/national excellence	Intermediate	WP5, WP3	WP5 will promote sustainable science towards regional R&I eco-systems, whereas WP3 promotes Open Science for excellence.
16	Improve EU-wide access to excellence	Very Weak		
17	Enhance the strategic capacity of Europe's public research performing organisations	Strong	WP4	The Science Management Initiative related to this actions has direct impact on WP4's tasks to support research careers and promote talents by research and innovation support staff
18	Facilitate a national process or ERA policy vehicle preparation for identification of running or planned measures contributing to the implementation of ERA	Very Weak		
19	Establish an efficient and effective ERA monitoring mechanism	Very Weak		

20	Support to the prioritisation, coordination and direction of R&I	Very Weak		
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From the above shown Table 1, it becomes obvious that 4 of the 20 actions have a strong impact on the proposed work in WP4 of REUNICE. One outcome of **ERA Action 3** was the creation of a coalition of European research funders and research performers who agree on a new approach for research assessment, following wide and inclusive consultations at European and international level. That coalition has been created as “CoARA” and its implications with WP4 of REUNICE and especially this deliverable are described in detail in the following paragraph 3.1 on page 11.

The **ERA Action 4** focusses on improving employment and working conditions for researchers (including HRS4R / task 4.1 of REUNICE), as well as on support measures to improve attractiveness of research careers in academia and beyond. Here contributes REUNICE with its Network of Support Staff (task 4.4), which supports researchers EUNICE-wide in their career development. Furthermore, a pilot with European University alliances, the “European Framework for Research Careers”, is mentioned as an outcome. Implementation of this framework has started in July 2023 (see [6]). At the moment, Member States will discuss the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation, including the new Charter for Researchers, with a view to the final adoption by the Council. The WP4 team will follow the outcome of this policy process and adapt existing or implement new measures in the area of research career support accordingly.

ERA Action 5 is dealing with the promotion of gender equality. All EUNICE partner universities are taking part in Horizon Europe and hence are required to have a Gender Equality Plan in place. Together with additional national regulations it is ensured that measures are in place to ensure gender equality especially in recruitment and to counteract gender-based violence. Via the strong cooperation with the non-academic sector, all EUNICE partner universities will proliferate gender equality measures also into the non-academic sector.

Finally, **ERA Action 17** wants to enhance the strategic capacities of Europe’s public research performing organisations. The main measure here is to strengthen the management of science by the Science Management Initiative. Several project were funded here to define the role of a European Science Manager and to support the work by providing material for information and training. Those projects are e.g. the CARDEA Project (<https://www.ucc.ie/en/cardea/cardeahub/>) and the RM Roadmap Project (<https://www.rmroadmap.eu/>). Both projects deal with professional development of Research Managers, offers open access to online training resources (e.g. Career Focus, Project Management, Dissemination & Communication), and foster the co-creation of the future of Research Management. Those activities will be incorporated into the work in task 4.4 of that REUNICE work package.

3.2 CoARA and its impact on REUNICE

CoARA, the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment, is a direct result from ERA Action 3 and was initiated in January 2022. More than 350 organisations from over 40 countries were involved. The founding organisations represent a broad diversity of views and perspectives. Involved are e.g. public and private research funders, universities, research centres, institutes and infrastructures, associations and alliances thereof, national and regional authorities, accreditation and evaluation agencies, learned societies and associations of researchers, and other relevant organisations.

The aim of that coalition was to enable a systemic reform of the research assessment of researchers, research projects, research units and research organisations on the basis of common principles within an agreed timeframe. A **Drafting Team** composed of representatives from the European University Association (EUA), Science Europe, the European Commission, and Dr. Karen Stroobants, in her individual capacity as consultant with expertise in research on research, was creating a Draft Agreements. Inputs and comments from **MS representatives** (ERA Forum, ERAC) was used and the draft was iteratively revised by the **Core Group** (18 organisations and 2 young scientists) to create the **Final Agreement**. This Final Agreement “Agreement on reforming research assessment” [7] was released on 20th of July 2022, and can be signed by any interested entity. At the date of this deliverable (end of September 2023) the agreement was signed by the following EUNICE Partner Universities:

- Poznan University of Technology
- University of Mons
- Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France
- University of Vaasa
- Karlstad University

Two self-commitment are connected to the signature:

1. By the end of 2023 or within one year of signing the Agreement the signatories agree to **share** with each other and with their community **how their organisation has started the process or reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes** in line with the core commitments.
2. At an end of 2027 or within five years of signing the Agreement the signatories agree to **regularly demonstrate progress towards reviewing, developing and evaluating criteria, tools and processes** that fulfil the Commitments.

Beside this above mentioned time frame all signatories agree on 3 basic commitments:

- I. To **base their actions** on the Principles for overarching conditions (e.g. comply with ethics and integrity rules, safeguard freedom of scientific research, ensure independence and transparency) and on Principles for assessment criteria and processes (e.g. criteria like quality and impact, diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration).
- II. To **implement the 10 enumerated commitments** like the core commitments (e.g. Recognise the diversity in research, base assessment on qualitative evaluation, abandon

inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index, avoid the use of rankings) and the supporting commitments (commit resources, review and develop research assessment criteria, raise awareness of research assessment reform, exchange practices and experiences, communicate progress made, evaluate practices, criteria and tools).

III. To organise and to operate the Coalition along **organisational principles** like membership, establishment of working groups, internal communication, support of the coalition, etc.

With its proposed principles and especially with its 10 commitments, CoARA has direct impact on the work done in task 4.3 and hence for this deliverable. The creation of awards always requires assessment of the research and the researcher(s). Also, not all EUNICE partner Universities have signed the CoARA Agreement yet, it should be the ambition of our European University EUNICE to comply with the proposed principles and commitments in the CoARA Agreement. First, the proposed criteria in the Description of Work for REUNICE contain indicators for social inclusion, gender equality, diversity, and Open Science aspects and hence are in line with the CoARA Agreement. Furthermore, a detailed check for all proposed awarding criteria for the EUNICE award are given in Chapter 5 below.

4 Piloting Artificial Intelligence in Research Assessment

This work was done in close collaboration with WP3 “Promotion Open Science as result of EUNICE researcher’s collaboration” and is operation on data acquired there. In WP3 a blockchain-based collaborative platform for Open Science was created (see Deliverable D3.2). The platform allows researchers to create profiles and upload their work (e.g. paper, data, monographs ...). All data there will be Open-Access to promote Open Science. As a speciality, and to deeply implement the Open-Science-Idea even in the technical basics of the platform, a blockchain-based database will be used. An example use case of that platform is shown in Figure 1.

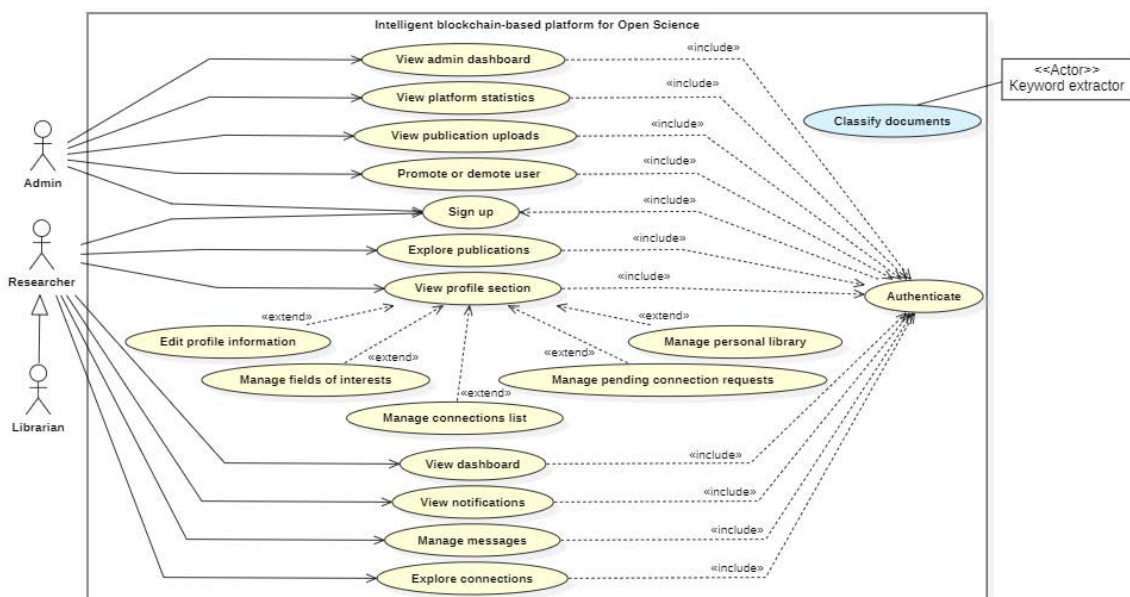
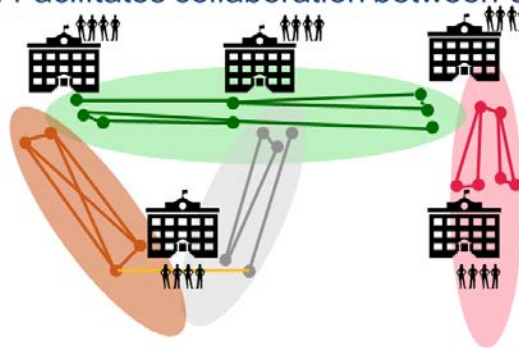


Figure 1: Example of use case for the blockchain-based collaborative platform for Open Science.

In an Action plan regarding collaboration between European Universities alliances in the domain of AI this available data now can be used to access the research done by the researchers which have uploaded their Open-Access publications, data or monographies. The interaction of the researcher on that platform are used as an indicator for possible cooperation and shared interests. AI is used for automated translation, workflow assistance, user profile learning and enhanced search engine (based on a Large-Language-Model (LLM) to define/train).

B. Facilitates collaboration between users



Automated translation, workflow assistance, user profile learning, enhanced search engine (based on a LLM to define/train)

Figure 2: Research assessment using AI facilitates collaboration between users.

With that approach it is possible to create a pilot that enables:

- Clustering of existing projects
- Generating recommendations for researchers to join projects by comparing the similarity level between existing projects
- Generating recommendations for participants that want to fund individual research projects

5 EUNICE Awards

5.1 Why EUNICE Awards?

The task for that deliverable 4.3 was to assess research careers. This is a preliminary work for the next task 4.4 “Promoting talents”: Before talents can be promoted, they must be identified. That is done by assessment of research and researcher careers. After finalising the Description of Work of that REUNICE project a reform of the research assessment was initiated on European level by the ERA Policy Agenda [5] and, more specifically, by the ERA Action 3 and the resulting establishment of the Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment – CoARA [7]. After evaluating this ongoing process (see 3.2) it was clear that it heavily affects REUNICE and the 10 commitments in the CoARA Agreements have to be considered in the work here. Although assessment of research and researcher careers is an important competence for a strategic management process in a European University like EUNICE, and hence is one of the transformation modules for a European University (see [1]), it also needs a use case that is as transparent as possible. A very natural use case for research career assessment is of course to honour outstanding careers with excellent results with an award. As there are always different categories (e.g. individual researchers or research groups) a set of EUNICE awards was created.

5.2 Description of the awards

The awards are designed to “to reward outstanding trajectories of scientists and groups/departments”. First, that implies that generally 2 types of awards had to be designed: Awards on the individual level (for single researchers), and awards on a group level (for research groups). Second, an “outstanding trajectory” not only rewards straight-forward in research or teaching, it also should include participation in the academic society as well as societal impact of the work that is honoured by the awards. Third and last, it is always very difficult to decide for only one award when the work comes from very different disciplines, which have to be compared. Therefore we decided to award three categories (EUNICE Gold award, EUNICE Silver award, and EUNICE Bronze award), and a special EUNICE Young Talent Award for young researchers (for Career Stages R1 – R2). Those three properties of the EUNICE Awards are summarised in the following bullet points:

- A) Awards will be on individual level (for single researchers), and on group level (for research groups)
- B) Awards will recognise achievements in research, teaching, participation in academic societies, and the societal impact of the work
- C) The EUNICE Awards will be rewarded in 3 categories, Gold, Silver and Bronze plus a special EUNICE Young Talent Award for young researchers in Career Stages R1 – R2

The first two properties of the EUNICE Awards will determine the evaluation criteria, which are summarised in the following Evaluation Matrix in Table 2. Evaluation criteria

are given for the individual level and group level, separately. Additionally, those evaluation criteria are checked to match the CoARA Principles.

Table 2: Evaluation matrix for the EUNICE Awards including comparison to the CoARA principles.

Achievements in:	Individual Level (single researcher)	Group Level (research groups)	Underlying CoARA Principles
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition by external funding or prizes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition by external funding or prizes 	Quality and impact: Focus research assessment criteria on quality. Basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications 	Consider full range of research outputs (e.g. scientific publications, data, software, models, methods, theories, algorithms, protocols, workflows, exhibitions, strategies, policy contributions, etc.) and reward research behaviour underpinning open science practices.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International partnerships and consortia 	Recognise the diversity of research activities and practices, with a diversity of outputs, and reward early sharing and open collaboration.
Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and innovative teaching formats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent and quality of teaching offers 	Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research (activities including teaching, leadership, supervision, training and mentoring).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching in different languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching in different languages 	Consider the diversity of contributions, Value diverse outputs (FAIR data sets, replication studies, registered reports ³² , pre-prints) in different languages in accordance with the Helsinki initiative.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision of students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkage between research and teaching 	Diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration: Consider tasks like peer review, training, mentoring and supervision of Ph.D candidates, etc.
Participation and involvement in academic society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities in e.g. Open University, committees, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in regional clusters with academic and non-academic partners 	Diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration: reward research behaviour underpinning open science practices such as early knowledge and data sharing as well as open collaboration within science and collaboration with societal actors where appropriate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in knowledge and technology transfer (transfer formats, spin-offs, patents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of young talents and junior researchers 	Diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration: Use assessment criteria and processes that respect the variety of scientific disciplines, research types (e.g. basic and frontier research vs. applied research), as well as research career stages (e.g. early career researchers vs. senior researchers), ...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in EUNICE activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in EUNICE activities 	Diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration: Use assessment criteria and processes that ... acknowledge multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary as well as inter-sectoral approaches, when applicable.

Societal impact and value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of European and global values (incl. Open Science) Support SDGs and sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of European and global values (incl. Open Science) Support SDGs and sustainability 	Diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration: Consider also the full range of research outputs, such as ... strategies, policy contributions, etc., and reward research behaviour underpinning open science practices such as early knowledge and data sharing as well as open collaboration within science and collaboration with societal actors where appropriate.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering social inclusion, gender equality and diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering social inclusion, gender equality and diversity 	Diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration: Ensure gender equality, equal opportunities and inclusiveness. Consider gender balance, the gender dimension, and take into account diversity in the broader sense (e.g. racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, socio-economic, disability) in research teams at all levels, and in the content of research and innovation.

The prizes will be awarded on a EUNICE General Assembly (GA) and will comprise mainly by EUNICE-internal measures to further support the research topics of the laureates. Therefore vouchers for consulting services and participation on mentoring programs will be awarded. Additionally, an International Student Club (a measure proposed in the follow-up project EUNICE4U) will be offered to the winners. All prizes are shown in the following Table 3:

Table 3: Prizes for each EUNICE Award

EUNICE Award Category	Individual Researcher	Research Group
Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation at award ceremony at the GA by the rectors of EUNICE Founding of an international student club on the same or related Topic Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 20 hours Participation in the mentoring programme (Task 4.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 40 hours
Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation at award ceremony at the GA by the rectors of EUNICE Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 10 hours Participation in the mentoring programme (Task 4.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 20 hours
Bronze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation at award ceremony at the GA by the rectors of EUNICE Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 6 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 12 hours
Young Talents Award (R1 – R2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation at award ceremony at the GA by the rectors of EUNICE Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 10 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher for consulting service of EUNICE University of 20 hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility voucher (400€) for one EUNICE Partner University • Participation in the coaching programme (Task 4.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility voucher (800€) for one EUNICE Partner University
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5.3 Evaluation

Like mentioned in award property C) there will be three categories, Gold, Silver and Bronze plus a special EUNICE Young Talent Award for young researchers in Career Stages R1 – R2. For evaluation of all candidates the acquired data (see 5.4 Data acquisition) will be given to a jury, together with the evaluation criteria listed in the evaluation matrix of Table 2. Each of the four main criteria for achievements (Research, Teaching, Participation and involvement in academic society, societal impact and value) will be evaluated with points on a scale from 0 to 15. A threshold of 8 points will be applied to each main criterion to ensure sufficient contribution to every criterion. The jury will consist of EUNICE-internal and external experts appointed by the EUNICE Steering Committee. The jury shall consist of 10 persons, from each country of the EUNICE consortium one person. That shall ensure the balancing of the different national academic systems. Additionally, the jury shall be composed of experts from different scientific fields to be able to cover a broad range of proposals.

The jury will generate two lists of candidates ranked by the sum of the points awarded for each main criterion. The first list will contain all individual researchers and the second list will contain all research groups. The first three candidates of each list will be rewarded by the EUNICE Award in the category Gold, Silver and Bronze plus the first researcher / research group leader of each list with the Career Stages of R1 or R2 will be awarded the Young Talents Award.

5.4 Data acquisition

The acquisition of the needed data for the evaluation (see evaluation matrix in Table 2) is sensitive for two reasons. First, openly available data from e.g. publication indexes, teaching databases and websites is often not complete in the sense of the evaluation matrix. A research for the missing data would be necessary, and data from different (closed) databases need to be aggregated and linked to the openly available data. That leads to the second issue with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): It cannot be assumed that the openly available data were meant to be linked to other data. Hence, a new confirmation declaration for data linkage must be obtained. Those two reasons led us to believe that a competition with an active application by the candidates themselves is the best solution. The required data will be collected via an online form. We used the self-hosted survey tool LimeSurvey for that purpose and programmed a survey to meet the evaluation criteria from Table 2. Screenshot of the survey are shown here. The (not yet active) survey can be viewed directly at <https://www.b-tu.de/umfragen/index.php/899173?lang=en>.



EUNICE Award for Researchers PHO

The survey is designed for you to enter your individual (research) data and thus participate in the EUNICE Award 2024. The survey is addressed to all individual researchers of all EUNICE universities. If you are interested in the EUNICE Award for Research Groups, please use the other open survey, which can be found on the EUNICE web pages.

The EUNICE award is an activity based on the project REUNICE, work package 4-3 - research career (assessment). The aim is to identify the best researchers (including the fields of research, teaching, non-university engagement, social and societal impact) at EUNICE universities.

The EUNICE Award winners will not only receive the recognition of all researchers and students of EUNICE universities, but also have the chance to win the following prizes:

- Participation in the General Assembly in Cottbus, Germany
- Creation of a Student Research Club on the specific topic of the winner
- Vouchers for consulting services of the EUNICE universities
- Participation in coaching and mentoring programs
- Voucher for mobilities / travels to EUNICE universities and research departments
- [please add further prizes if necessary/possible]

An overview of all prizes and categories in each category can be found here: [EUNICE website]

Dear Researcher,

Thank you for your interest in the EUNICE Award. Our goal is to award the best researchers of the EUNICE university alliance and to promote joint research projects, innovation in teaching, participation in and beyond academia, and to promote social activities. The following questionnaire is divided into five sections:

- Basic Questions
- Topic 1 - Research
- Topic 2 - Teaching
- Topic 3 - Participation and involvement in academia and beyond
- Topic 4 - Societal Impact and values

Each topic is equally weighted and you can collect a maximum of 15 points in each category. Not all questions or categories need to be answered. If you do not find answers to individual points, you can of course skip the question. However, in total 60 points are possible. There is a separate award for junior researchers.

Your data is of course subject to data protection. For more information please take a look to the data protection information. There are 18 questions in this survey.

To continue please first accept our survey privacy policy.

[Show policy](#)

Basic information

Please answer the following questions and insert basic information about your person.

Name

Title

Given name

Surname

Affiliation

Name of your university

Department / Institution

Subject

How long have you been working at your respective EUNICE university?

Please indicate the year you started your career at EUNICE University.

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Are you also applying for the "Young Talents Award" category?

Young talents must be under 40 years old and belong to the D1 (First Stage Researcher) or D2 (Recognized Researcher) group of researchers. (Only researchers in Europe according to career development/training/research profiles description). Of course researchers below 40 are eligible for the general category as well.

EUNICE Award Survey: Starting page (left) and Basic Information page (right).

Topic 1 - Research

Indicators related to the success in research.

Please indicate here your five greatest successes in attracting third-party funds.

The acquisition of third-party funds is, among other aspects, an important indicator of the success of scientific research. Successful third-party funding must be no more than ten years old. If possible, please also indicate the amount of third-party funding acquired. The exact amount of third-party funds acquired is only one factor.

Please list your top five publications.

Scientific publications are an important indicator of successful research. Your stated publications should not be older than ten years. Please list your most important scientific publications here. Publications or contributions with social or political impact should be integrated in later answers.

Quantitative factors of their publication success (if known)

Your track record should be based on your entire career (up to the last five or ten years).

Only numbers may be entered in these fields.

Number of publications (peer review)

Of which number of Open Access publications (peer review)

Number of citations

Please list your major international partnerships and the type of collaboration here. Available references and associations with the EUNICE university alliance should be placed in later answers.

Partnerships could include e.g. research collaborations, applied research partnerships with the industry or partnerships with the Global South in the field of development cooperation.

Topic 2 - Teaching

Indicators related to the success and innovation in teaching.

Which new and innovative approaches, methods, practices, and courses do you offer to your students?

We do not offer descriptions of new and innovative teaching offers in sufficient. Please consider the different scientific disciplines of the job and avoid too many factors at a time.

Please indicate how many of your courses are open to international students and how many are offered in English or not in the national language of your university.

Only numbers may be entered in these fields.

Number of courses open to international students

Percentage of courses open to international students

Number of courses offered in English or a language other than your national language

Percentage of courses offered in English or a language other than your national language

Junior researcher development is an important pillar of research and career promotion. Please indicate briefly how you support students, doctoral candidates and young scientists in your research and activities.

How many theses have you supervised in the last 5 years.

If you do not know the absolute number, please estimate very accurately.

Only numbers may be entered in these fields.

Number of supervised bachelor students

Number of supervised master students

Number of supervised PhD students

EUNICE Award Survey: Question for research part (left) and teaching part(right).

Topic 3 - Participation and involvement in academia and beyond

Indicators related to the involvement and participation in academia and beyond.

Please enter here your involvement, engagement, dedication or participation in non-university committees and associations.

• This may include, but is not limited to, associations, federations, schools, open university initiatives, policy advocacy, or other activities. Please limit yourself to the five most important activities.

1) Non-university activity or involvement:

2) Non-university activity or involvement:

3) Non-university activity or involvement:

4) Non-university activity or involvement:

5) Non-university activity or involvement:

Third mission of universities and research institutions:
Please list your greatest successes in the field of knowledge and technology transfer (e.g. workshops, transfer formats, startups, university spin-offs, patents, collaboration with the industry/society).

• As the third pillar of academia, knowledge and technology transfer is deeply rooted in universities. Please limit yourself to the max. five most successful activities.

The European University for Customized Education (EUNICE) and the REUNICE (Research with and for Society) sub-project have become permanent elements of our universities.
Please list your max. five most important engagements/projects with EUNICE / REUNICE. These may include joint courses, workshops, research collaborations, processing of university internal rules and regulations, or other activities.

1) Engagement activity with EUNICE/REUNICE:

2) Engagement activity with EUNICE/REUNICE:

3) Engagement activity with EUNICE/REUNICE:

4) Engagement activity with EUNICE/REUNICE:

5) Engagement activity with EUNICE/REUNICE:

Topic 4 - Societal impact and values

Indicators related to the societal impact and values of your research and engagement.

Please describe how do you promote European and Global values in your research, teaching, and other activities.

• This could include, but is not limited to human rights, democracy, rule of law, and open science. Please limit yourself to your top five initiatives.

Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations:
Please describe your max. five most significant activities and initiatives in the area of sustainability and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

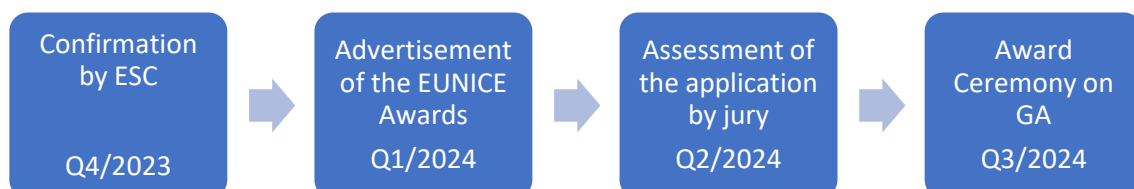
• The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations are playing an increasingly important role in the field of science as well. Your activities may include research activities and results, but may also be in the area of teaching or non-university activities.

Fostering social inclusion, gender quality, and diversity are not only important priorities for our universities, but also part of EUNICE/REUNICE. Please list your max. five most important activities and contributions in this area.

EUNICE Award Survey: Question for Participation and involvement in academic society (left) and for Societal impact and value (right).

5.5 Time table

With delivery of the EUNICE Awards the awards can now be confirmed by the EUNICE Steering Committee and the awarding process can be started afterwards. The awarding process will be started by activating the surveys, accompanied by advertisement the EUNICE Awards. A time span of 3 month for advertisement and submitting the application seem to be reasonable. The assessment of the jury will take another 3 month so that the awarding ceremony is expected to take place on a General Assembly in the 3rd quarter of 2024.



6 Summary

In this Deliverable, we created EUNICE Awards, which rewards single academics as well as research groups and which takes care of the balancing of the different national academic systems, and acknowledges of the independence and individual qualities and ambitions of academics and their team performances. The EUNICE Awards have to be affirmed by the EUNICE Steering Committee. Then an application process will start, which was developed for this deliverable. The awarding ceremony is foreseen in the 3rd quarter of 2024 at the end of the REUNICE project.

Furthermore, a pilot for the use of Artificial Intelligence in Research Assessment was initiated together with WP3 of REUNICE. With that pilot it is possible to cluster existing projects, to generate recommendations for researchers to join projects by comparing the similarity level between existing projects, and to generate recommendations for participants that want to fund individual research projects.

Additional work was invested into the evaluation of recent developments in Research Assessment on European level. The ERA Policy Agenda as well as the CoARA Coalition that emerged from the ERA Policy Agenda were developed after the proposal of the REUNICE project. Both have a reasonable impact on the work done in the REUNICE project. Therefore, we evaluated the impact on the REUNICE project for all ERA Action and summarised it in Table 1. We will discuss the table with all REUNICE work packages in the near future. The impact of the CoARA Coalition is most relevant for this deliverable and is discussed in paragraph 3.2.

7 Literature

- [1] Horizon2020 Programme Guidance Document on the Support for the Research and Innovation Dimension of European Universities, p.6, Version 1.0, 26th of March 2020, The EU Commission, https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/other-doc_h2020-iba-swafs-support-1-2020_h2020-iba-swafs-support-2-2020_en.pdf
- [2] Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “A new ERA for Research and Innovation” (COM(2020) 628), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A628%3AFIN>
- [3] Council conclusions on the New European Research Area (13567/20), <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13567-2020-INIT/en/pdf>
- [4] Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/2122 of 26 November 2021 on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021H2122>
- [5] European Research Area Policy Agenda – Overview of actions for the period 2022-2024, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, November 2021, https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-11/ec_rtd_era-policy-agenda-2021.pdf
- [6] New initiatives to empower research careers and to strengthen the European Research Area, Press release of the EU Commission, 13 July 2023, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3807
- [7] Agreement on reforming research assessment, 20th of July 2022, https://coara.eu/app/uploads/2022/09/2022_07_19_rra_agreement_final.pdf