

# Erasmus University Research Mission, Vision, and Strategic Priorities 2030

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# Erasmus University

## Research Mission, Vision, and Strategic Priorities 2030

### A. Preamble

Erasmus University Rotterdam has a unique research profile. We are known for our research in the broad range of the social sciences and humanities (SSH – including behavioural, legal, economics & business research) as well as medicine (SSHM), taking place at the EUR campus in Rotterdam and The Hague and in the Erasmus MC, which hosts the largest academic hospital in the Netherlands.

Erasmus University Rotterdam is internationally recognized for the excellent quality of its research. Our research is assessed by independent scientific committees at regular intervals. We value the large diversity of epistemic traditions in which we conduct research, and we are united in advancing research on the basis of our Erasmian values – as socially engaged world citizens who are open-minded, enterprising, and connecting.

The current global and national developments create a climate that raises fundamental questions for academic institutions. Knowledge produced by scientific methods is no longer automatically trusted by society, but rather questioned. Public funding of scientific research is under pressure in the Netherlands and the EU, with drastic budget cuts looming. Innovation and progress thrive in an open, international, collaborative, and connected research environment, while internationalization and core values like diversity and inclusivity are increasingly under pressure. At the same time, there is an ever-increasing need for scientifically grounded answers to societal challenges with both local and global implications.

Against this background – the broad SSHM profile of the EUR, commitment to international standards of research excellence, and trust in science being under pressure – the EUR research community presents its roadmap for Erasmus University 2030. We clarify the mission and shared vision of EUR researchers and identify strategic priorities, which will be translated into actionable points that are fitting to the vision and strategic priorities.

This research strategy has been developed from the bottom up: the vice-deans of research of the EUR faculties have consulted widely within their faculties and we held a university-wide meeting with researchers from all faculties in May 2024, conducted a survey among researchers, and met with key professional service staff responsible for research support at the faculties and the university. The current document is based on and integrates the valuable insights shared during these consultations with the EUR research community.

The research strategy serves as input for the overall EUR strategy 2030, but it also contributes more widely to maintaining and shaping EUR's identity as a research university. It will help keep us focused on realising our research vision and provide guidance in making the necessary choices for our investments in research and research support for the coming years. Ultimately, a research strategy is a necessary condition for the viability of EUR.

### B. Mission

EUR research critically contributes to Erasmus University's mission of creating positive societal impact by developing, cultivating, and applying scientific methods as uniquely suitable ways to generate knowledge and address complex problems.

Our research is based on structured reasoning and the examination of evidential support, and it is internationally recognized as excellent, trustworthy, and reliable. We engage in meaningful and equitable collaboration with a variety of partners and stakeholders. We are committed to training the next generation of researchers. Based on strong disciplinary foundations and diverse epistemic approaches, we promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to address societal challenges and, in this way, positively contribute to the development of societies both locally and globally.



## C. Vision

... In achieving our mission we are guided by a distinct research vision for Erasmus University 2030.

Our research vision for Erasmus University 2030 focuses on the following:

1. EUR researchers share a commitment to academic freedom and are intrinsically driven to address relevant questions and problems. EUR researchers have a trusted and legitimate voice in society.
2. EUR is advancing excellence in research infrastructure, processes, and output. The university is locally, nationally, and internationally recognized for the knowledge its researchers create, the academic quality of its research, and for the future research talent it develops. EUR is committed to supporting existing and emerging thought leadership in specific research fields.
3. EUR is locally, nationally, and internationally recognized for offering the vital perspective of Social Sciences and Humanities and medical research for addressing complex societal challenges and for addressing these challenges as equal partners in strategic collaborations with other scientific domains and societal stakeholders.
4. EUR engagement is strongly rooted in research and education. EUR researchers engage locally and globally with partners and stakeholders. When engaging through research, EUR researchers ensure responsible engagement, utilise participatory methods, are accountable to marginalized communities, and aim to reduce epistemic injustices.
5. EUR is a productive and supportive home base for researchers applying diverse research approaches, including fundamental, problem-, and impact-driven research. Building on strong disciplinary foundations, the EUR is internationally recognised for fostering knowledge creation across disciplinary and institutional boundaries.
6. The principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access are actively lived within the EUR research community and in its core processes around careers, funding, and support.
7. EUR has a diversified and resilient financial basis to support fundamental, problem- and impact-driven research in the long term.



## EUR Research **Mission & Vision**

## D. Strategic priorities

We identify the following strategic priorities geared towards achieving the research vision for Erasmus University 2030.



### 1. Academic freedom, intrinsic driven research, and a trusted and legitimate voice in society.

- a. Recognizing curiosity-driven research.
- b. EUR processes and systems support research that is open, relevant, reproducible, verifiable, and accessible.
- c. Enabling researchers to effectively engage with society.
- d. Support researchers in cases of unwarranted online or real-life attacks, threats, and abuses.



### 2. Research infrastructure, academic quality, future research talent and thought leadership.

- a. Incentivizing thought leadership and the development of new research methodologies.
- b. Increasing the national and international visibility of research.
- c. Active talent management.
- d. Ensuring a flourishing, safe, and inspiring research culture.
- e. Open and Responsible Science.
- f. State-of-the-art infrastructure.



### 3. Social Sciences & Humanities and medical research in collaboration with other scientific domains and stakeholders.

- a. Sharpening profile around Social Sciences and Humanities and medical research.
- b. National and international research collaborations across disciplines.
- c. Connect SSH disciplines and other domains.
- d. Strong relationships with local stakeholders.



### 4. Responsible engagement strongly rooted in research and education, both locally and globally.

- a. Adopting an array of research methodologies, including participatory methods and reflexive engagement.
- b. Epistemic collaboration, including different practices of citizen science.
- c. Relational accountability towards marginalized and oppressed communities.



### 5. Diverse research approaches, strong disciplinary foundations, knowledge creation across disciplinary and Institutional boundaries.

- a. Foster team science.
- b. Facilitate interfaculty exchanges and collaborations.
- c. Fostering team science.



### 6. Principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access are actively lived within research community and processes.

- a. Ensure diversity among researchers across all hierarchical levels.
- b. Recruit, retain, and promote diverse research excellence.
- c. Build an open and safe research community.
- d. Involvement of the diverse research community in strategic choices.
- e. Invest in physical and digital structures to serve diverse members.



### 7. Diversified and resilient financial basis to support research in the long-term.

- a. As a research-driven university, we invest first-money stream resources in research.
- b. The allocation of first-money stream funds for research is based on a transparent and participatory process.
- c. Second and third-money stream funds form a stable and substantive pillar of income.
- d. Focus on increased acquisition and a high success rate. Both individual researchers and research teams as faculties and university benefit.
- e. EUR Researchers receive adequate pre- and post-award support when acquiring external funds.
- f. Actively seeking to create and shape funding schemes at the national and international level.

We identify the following strategic priorities geared towards achieving the research vision for Erasmus University 2030.

	Vision	Strategic priorities
1.	EUR researchers share a commitment to academic freedom and are intrinsically driven to address relevant questions and problems. EUR researchers have a trusted and legitimate voice in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recognizing curiosity-driven research as an important research approach at EUR.</li> <li>b. EUR processes and systems support research that is open, relevant, reproducible, verifiable, and accessible.</li> <li>c. Enabling researchers to effectively engage with society through e.g., science communication, training, legal support.</li> <li>d. Support researchers in cases of unwarranted online or real-life attacks, threats, and abuses.</li> </ul>
2.	EUR is advancing excellence in research infrastructure, processes, and output. The university is locally, nationally, and internationally recognized for the knowledge its researchers create, the academic quality of its research, and for the future research talent it develops. EUR is committed to supporting existing and emerging thought leadership in specific research fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Incentivizing thought leadership and the development of new research methodologies.</li> <li>b. Activities geared towards increasing the national and international visibility of EUR research.</li> <li>c. Active talent management, including high-quality graduate training and mentoring, as well as a university placement service and culture for junior academic talent.</li> <li>d. Ensuring a flourishing, safe, and inspiring research culture.</li> <li>e. Ensuring that Open and Responsible Science (ORS) principles are fully integrated into core EUR research processes and training.</li> <li>f. Maintaining, updating, and creating state-of-the-art infrastructure to carry out leading research.</li> </ul>
3.	EUR is locally, nationally, and internationally recognized for offering the vital perspective of Social Sciences and Humanities and medical research for addressing complex societal challenges and for addressing these challenges as equal partners in strategic collaborations with other scientific domains and societal stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sharpening the EUR research profile around stronger advocacy for use-inspired, ground-breaking Social Sciences and Humanities and medical research.</li> <li>b. Incentivizing and supporting EUR researchers to take leading roles in national and international research collaborations across disciplines.</li> <li>c. Incentivizing and supporting EUR research and researchers that connect and integrate insights across SSH disciplines and those from other domains.</li> <li>d. Building and maintaining strong relationships with local stakeholders, such as the city and the port of Rotterdam.</li> </ul>
4.	EUR engagement is strongly rooted in research and education. EUR researchers engage locally and globally with partners and stakeholders. When engaging through research, EUR researchers ensure responsible engagement, utilise participatory methods, are accountable to marginalized communities, and aim to reduce epistemic injustices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Emphasizing the importance of the EUR approach of adopting an array of research methodologies, including participatory methods and reflexive engagement in terms of defining questions, concepts, and ideas, for addressing societal challenges.</li> <li>b. Identify new EUR strategies for epistemic collaboration, including different practices of citizen science.</li> <li>c. Adopting a strategy for relational accountability towards marginalized and oppressed communities.</li> </ul>

	Vision	Strategic priorities
5.	EUR is a productive and supportive home base for researchers applying diverse research approaches, including fundamental, problem-, and impact-driven research. Building on strong disciplinary foundations, the EUR is internationally recognised for fostering knowledge creation across disciplinary and institutional boundaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developing structures and processes to support, recognize, and reward EUR researchers in the different epistemic traditions, including fundamental and/or problem-driven research.</li> <li>b. Developing structures and processes to facilitate interfaculty exchanges and collaborations across the strong and unique EUR schools.</li> <li>c. Developing structures and processes that actively link EUR problem-driven and fundamental research, fostering team science.</li> </ul>
6.	The principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access are actively lived within the EUR research community and in its core processes around careers, funding, and support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensuring that EUR researchers across all hierarchical levels are diverse in terms of gender, ethnic background, and other diversity attributes.</li> <li>b. Ensuring that EUR HR practices help recruit, retain, and promote research excellence among a diverse set of members.</li> <li>c. Support EUR researchers in building an intellectual and social community that allows for safe and open participation of all of its members.</li> <li>d. Developing structures and processes to ensure – through bottom-up approaches – the involvement of the diverse research community in strategic choices and initiatives, openly and transparently.</li> <li>e. Invest in physical and digital structures that are accessible to and serve a diverse set of members and facilitate their collaboration.</li> </ul>
7.	EUR has a diversified and resilient financial basis to support fundamental, problem- and impact-driven research in the long term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Research is at the heart of a research-driven university and of vital relevance to ensure quality academic education. This is reflected in the allocation of first money stream funds.</li> <li>b. The allocation of first-money stream funds for research is based on a transparent and participatory process with a strong voice of the research communities.</li> <li>c. Second and third-money stream funds form a stable and substantive pillar of income that can strengthen our quality research in the long term.</li> <li>d. Our strategies to acquire external funds focus on achieving increased acquisition while maintaining a high success rate, strengthening our profile as an SSH- and medical science-focused university, and ensuring that the acquisition of funds benefits both the individual researchers/research teams and the faculties/university at large.</li> <li>e. EUR Researchers receive adequate pre- and post-award support when acquiring external funds.</li> <li>f. We actively seek to create and shape funding schemes and calls at the national and international level.</li> </ul>