

# Year in review 2022-2023



Eindhoven

Young Academy of Engineering





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## Preface

Eindhoven, September 2023

We look back on a productive year with many inspiring meetings, and we are happy that our EYAE members have been increasingly invited to join various committees at TU/e to represent the young academic staff at TU/e. We also appreciate our involvement in the discussion on the growth of TU/e, and the interactions we had with the rest of the community via our TU/e wide discussion meeting on how to get funding from industry, and the questionnaire sent out to all assistant and associate professors.

In 2023 we said farewell to our founder, Frank Baaijens, via a nice dinner and by handing over an official EYAE pen. We welcomed our new rector, Silvia Lenaerts, and we look forward to collaborating with her the coming years.

While Max Birk and Karin Smolders joined the EYAE board of the academic year 2022-2023, we unfortunately had to say goodbye to our former secretary Rozemarijn Schalkx who left TU/e in September 2022. Fortunately, Esther de Waard started in January 2023 as the new secretary of the EYAE. In October 2023, Sandra Loerakker will step down as a board member after being in the board for 3 years. We have found a great new board member in Bart Jansen.

Finally, the group of EYAE members who started in 2019 will leave as of September 2023. We would like to thank them for all their valuable contributions over in the last four years.

Sandra Loerakker, chair of the board (2022-2023)

Roy van der Meel, vice-chair of the board

Max Birk, member of the board

Karin Smolders, member of the board

Esther de Waard, secretary to EYAE





## Members and board

### a. New members 2022 and mutations

In April 2022 the application for new members opened. Deans and current EYAE members were specifically asked to ask suitable colleagues to apply. After the summer, Yoeri van de Burgt, Roy van der Meel and KNAW-member prof. dr. Erik Bakkers interviewed all candidates, supported by Rozemarijn Schalkx. Six candidates were accepted as members. They are:

1. Bart Jansen (Mathematics & Computer Science)
2. Olga Mula Hernández (Mathematics & Computer Science)
3. Lenneke Kuijer (Industrial Design)
4. Josefine Proll (Applied Physics)
5. Bas Overvelde (Mechanical Engineering)
6. Alexios Balatsoukas-Stimming (Electrical Engineering)



### 2021 members:

1. Francesca Grisoni (Biomedical Engineering)
2. Maryam Razavian (Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences)
3. Karin Smolders (Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences)
4. Max Birk (Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences)
5. Pim van der Hoorn (Mathematics & Computer Science)
6. Diletta Giuntini (Mechanical Engineering)

2020 members:

1. Federica Eduati (Biomedical Engineering)
2. Bob Walrave (Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences)
3. Johanna Höffken (Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences)
4. Matias Duran Matute (Applied Physics)
5. Danqing Liu (Chemical Engineering & Chemistry)
6. Roy van der Meel (Biomedical Engineering)
7. Antoni Forner Cuenca (Chemical Engineering and Chemistry)

2019 members:

1. Yoeri van de Burgt (Mechanical Engineering)
2. Tugce Martagan (Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences)
3. Yali Tang (Mechanical Engineering)
4. Sandra Loerakker (Biomedical Engineering)
5. Oana Druta (Built Environment)
6. Daniël Tetteroo (Industrial Design)
7. Sofie Haesaert (Electrical Engineering)

And honorary members

1. Tom de Greef (Biomedical Engineering – member De Jonge Akademie)
2. Jim Portegies (Mathematics & Computer Science – member De Jonge Akademie)
3. Liesbeth Janssen (Applied Physics – member De Jonge Akademie)

b. Board

Sandra Loerakker became chair of EYAE in September 2022. Roy van der Meel was vice-chair. Other board members were Max Birk and Karin Smolders who joined the board in September 2022.

## Collaborations with other academies

Almost all Dutch universities now have Young Academies. A few times a year, meetings of the Young Academies in The Netherlands take place. Topics that have been discussed are, amongst others, sector plans, talent recognition and development, recognition and reward profiles.

Tom de Greef, Jim Portegies, and Liesbeth Janssen are members of De Jonge Akademie (DJA) and act as liaison between DJA and EYAE.

EYAE is also a partner within the alliance of TU/e, Utrecht University (UU), University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU) and Wageningen University & Research (WUR) called EWUU: 'Challenging future generations' (<https://ewuu.nl/nl/>). The Young Academies of the four institutions work on addressing pressing societal challenges via the Centre for Unusual Collaborations (CUCo, [www.unusualcollaborations.com](http://www.unusualcollaborations.com)). CUCo gave a presentation to introduce CUCo and explain the different types of CUCo funding during the EYAE meeting of November 22, 2022.

Finally, the 4TU Young Academies wrote a joint statement against the 'Taalwet' in August 2023.

## Finances

EYAE is supported by the TU/e Executive Board who provides a secretary (in-kind) and funds for organizing events and meetings. Total expenses for the period July 2022-July 2023 were € 8507-. The money was mostly spent on the retreat and catering costs for meetings.

## Contributions to our aims

The aims of the EYAE are:

1. *Being a platform for young academics for open discussion*
2. *Providing support for early career researchers at TU/e*
3. *Fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and research*
4. *Fostering excellence in education*
5. *Contributing to valorization (knowledge transfer) and outreach*
6. *Advising on policies regarding scientific research, education, valorization, outreach, and impact both inside and outside TU/e*

Each year we report on the contributions we have made with regard to these aims.

### 1. *Being a platform for young academics for open discussion*

In 2022/2023 we had 9 regular meetings, an inaugural dinner on October 5<sup>th</sup> with Frank Baaijens, and a retreat in November 2022. Regular meetings usually lasted 1.5 hours. After COVID 19, our meetings became hybrid. Although hybrid meetings are not ideal for those who are following the discussions from home, it enables more members to attend so we will keep this setup for now.

We discussed a variety of topics, sometimes with guests. Examples are:

- Getting funding from industrial partners
- Sector plans and Starting and Stimulus Grants
- Scale jump / growth of TU/e
- Workload / time to think
- 'Future University'
- Internationalization
- Research support

- Leadership

Our retreat in November 2022 was dedicated to discussing the growth of TU/e in the context of the Scale Jump. Rector Frank Baaijens and Dean Graduate School Paul Koenraad were invited for discussions. The second day was spent on defining the goals of the working groups for the academic year 2022/2023.

*2. Providing support for early career researchers at TU/e*

The working group on 'Growth of TU/e' developed a questionnaire that was sent to all assistant and associate professors at TU/e to collect their opinions on various aspects related to the growth of TU/e and a potential scale jump. These opinions and worries were shared along with our advice to the executive board regarding the growth of TU/e in September 2023.

*3. Fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and research*

Max Birk is Board Member of CUCo ([www.unusualcollaborations.com](http://www.unusualcollaborations.com)). EYAE-members have been active in 4 unusual collaborations grants. Yoeri van de Burgt is part of the team *Defeating Chronic Pain*. Yali Tang and Toni Forner-Cuenca are part of the team *The Fair-Battery Challenge*. Yali Tang is member of the team *All in the same boat: unusual solutions for cleaner water*.

*4. Fostering excellence in education*

Excellence in education was discussed during EYAE meetings. In March 2023, the TU/e Academy for Learning and Teaching (ALT) gave a presentation to show and discuss their activities to increase the quality of education at TU/e. In May 2023, the 'Future University' (Innovation Space) was discussed with a focus on educational developments in the future.

*5. Contributing to valorization (knowledge transfer) and outreach*

Diletta Giuntini and Alexios Balatsoukas Stimming organized a TU/e wide event with Maarten Steinbuch to discuss opportunities for attracting research funding from industry (March 16, 2023). About 50 people registered, 25-30 attended (a diverse audience ranging from master students to senior staff members).

A questionnaire was sent out to all assistant and associate professors at TU/e to obtain their opinion on various topics that concern the growth of TU/e. This questionnaire was filled in by 157 participants.

Sandra Loerakker gave a speech about the activities of the EYAE during the symposium dedicated to the outgoing rector Frank Baaijens on May 11, 2023.

*6. Advising on policies regarding scientific research, education, valorization, outreach and impact both inside and outside TU/e*

EYAE is seen as an important representation of young researchers. Members are often asked to join committees to improve policies.

- Max Birk, Antoni Forner Cuenca, Matias Duran Matute, Francesca Grisoni, and Pim van der Hoorn provided advice and a reflection on the section model (*Appendix 1*).
- Yoeri van de Burgt and Max Birk joined the Awards@TU/e committee.
- Sofie Haesaert and Karin Smolders joined a project team on pilots 'A Smarter Academic Year'.
- Max Birk, Federica Eduati, Diletta Giuntini, Olga Mula Hernández, Johanna Höffken, Bart Jansen, and Sandra Loerakker provided advice and a reflection on the growth of TU/e to the executive board (*Appendix 2*).
- Sofie Haesaert, Oana Druta, and Sandra Loerakker wrote a letter to the Executive Board regarding the nursing room facilities at TU/e.

Furthermore, Max Birk and Sandra Loerakker attended the KNAW discussion meeting about the advice 'The pandemic academic: how COVID-19 has impacted the research community' in September 2022. In



June 2023, Sandra Loerakker joined rector Silvia Lenaerts at the KHMW dinner on social safety organized by Athena's Angels.

Appendix 1 EYAE's reflection on the section model

Appendix 2 More than 'more engineers': perspectives on TU/e's growth