European Initiatives & Opportunities – Inspiration Session

UNIVERSEH

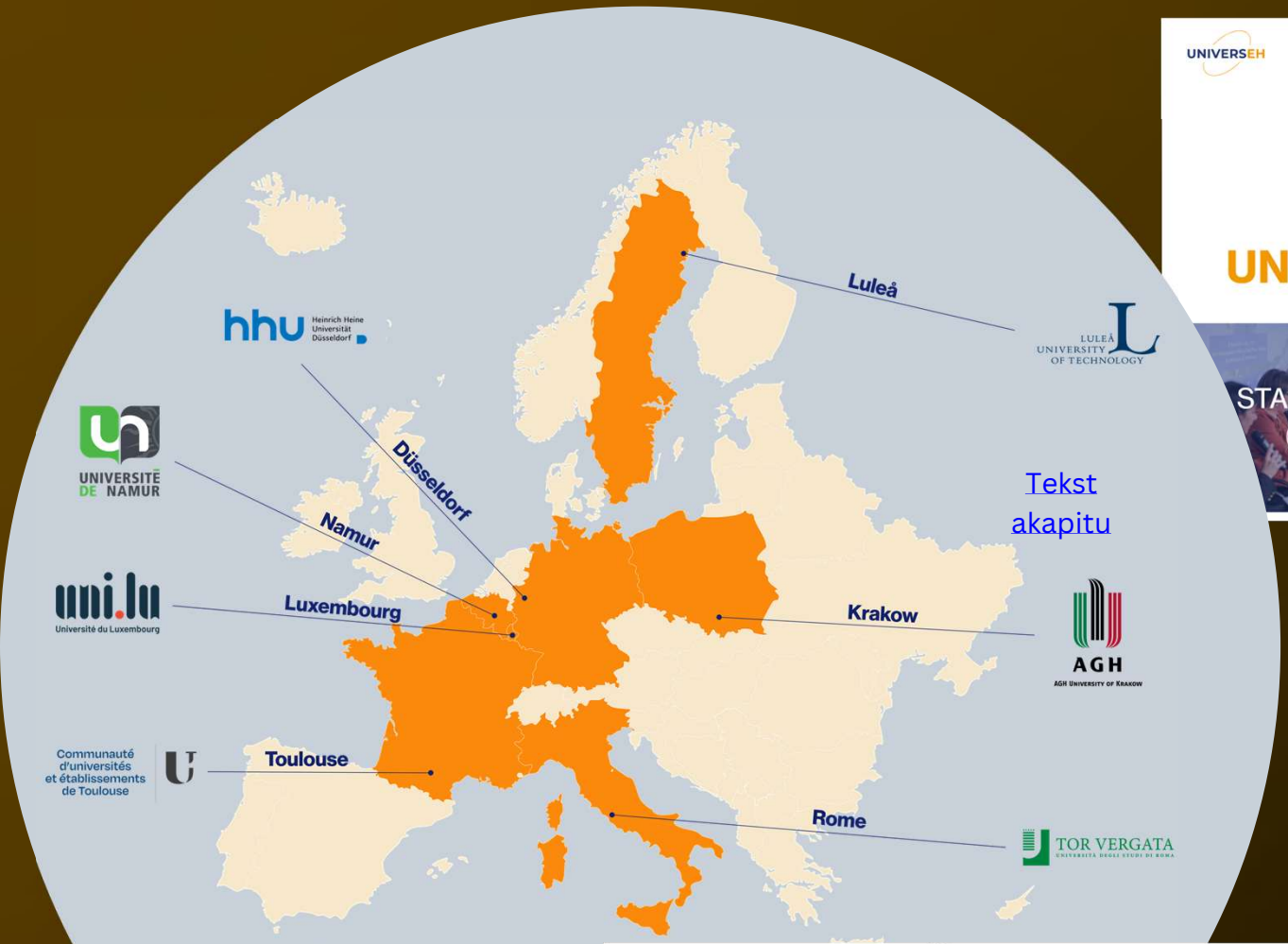
UNIVERSEH



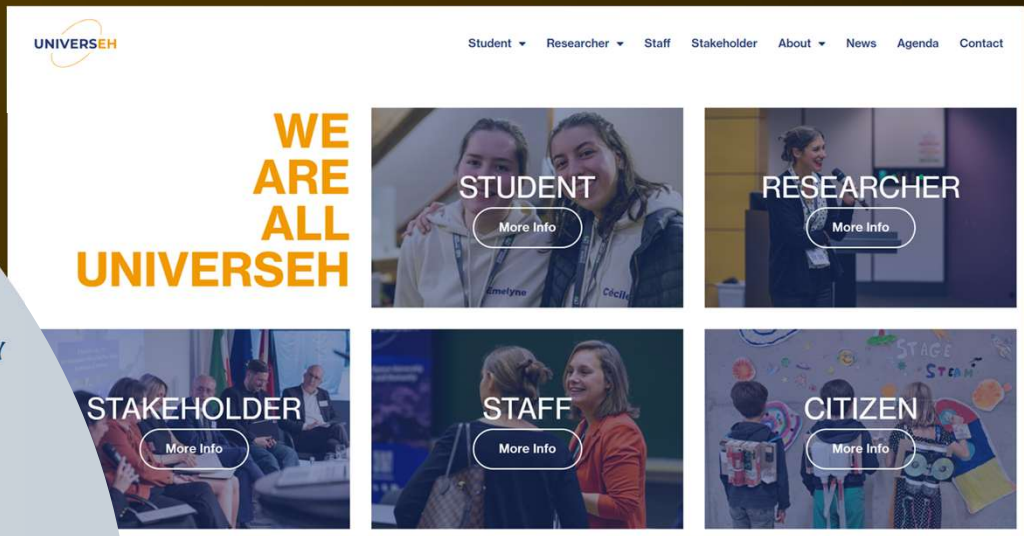
European Space University for Earth and Humanity

Gabriela Opiła
AGH University of Kraków

WHAT IS UNIVERSEH?



Tekst akapitu



https://universeh.e

Communauté d'universités et établissements de Toulouse
AGH AGH University of Krakow
uni.lu Université du Luxembourg
LULEÅ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
hhu Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf
TOR VERGATA UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA
UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR

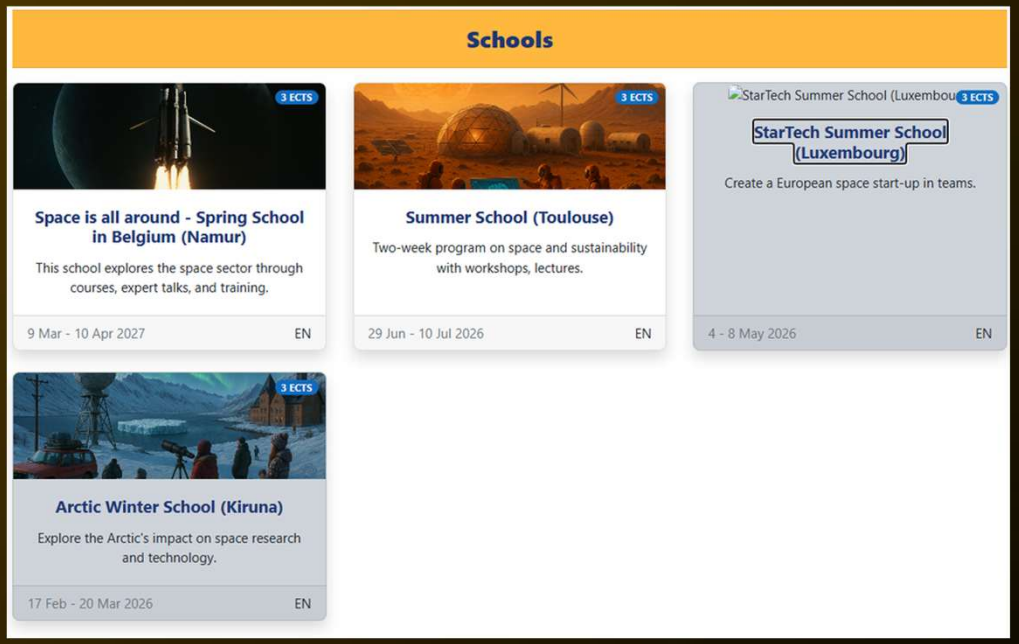
OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Partner courses - short-term training programs for Business and Industry - 2026 edition:

- Earth Observation for Innovation and Business
- **Securing Space: A Multidimensional Cybersecurity course**

UNIVERSEH courses and seasonal schools





https://universeh.eu/news/short-term-training-programs-for-business-and-industry/

https://edu.universeh.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=7351

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Student initiatives such as lectures by the space industry professionals and events aiming to bridge the gap between academic studies and professional opportunities in the space sector





https://universeh.eu/news/liftoff-brings-space-industry-closer-to-students/

StarTech Summer School (Luxembourg)

AT A GLANCE

Key facts

- 3 ECTS credits upon successful completion
- Language of instruction: English (B2 level recommended)
- Travel and accommodation costs largely covered, subject to home university approval (Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme — 2024-1-LU01-KA131-HED-000220536-1)
- Limited to 50 places across 7 UNIVERSEH partner universities

Objectives

- Apply core entrepreneurship tools – business model canvas, customer discovery, value proposition design – to a real space-sector challenge
- Work effectively in international, interdisciplinary teams under real time and resource constraints
- Understand the landscape of the European space ecosystem: its players, regulatory frameworks, funding mechanisms, and market dynamics
- Develop and deliver a structured venture pitch to a professional expert jury
- Build a cross-European network of peers, mentors, and industry professionals in the space sector

Course details:

StarTech Summer School 2026 is an intensive UNIVERSEH blended programme that equips students with the entrepreneurial mindset, practical tools, and cross-border network to conceive and develop a space start-up from the first spark of an idea to a compelling venture pitch.

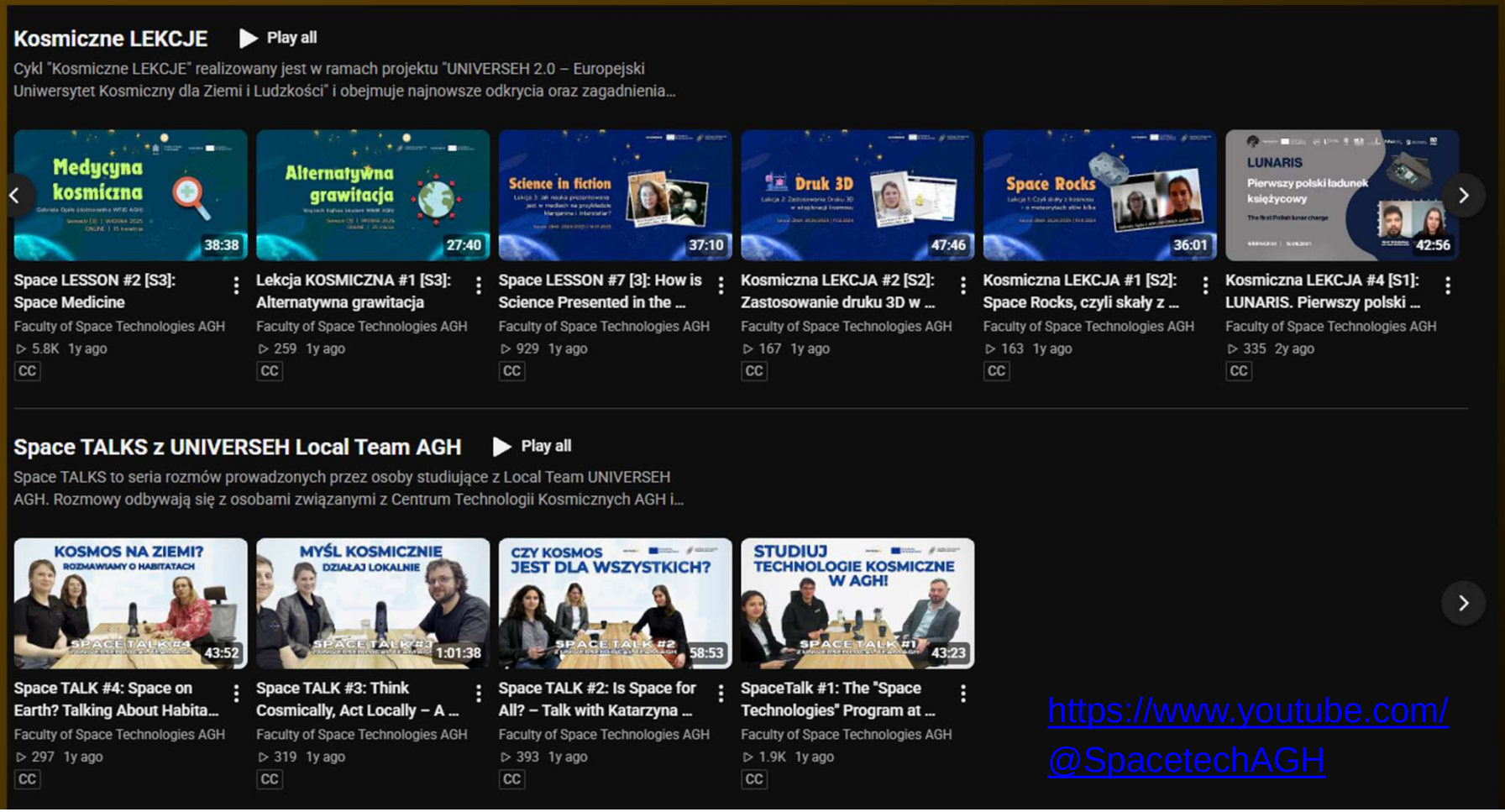
The programme unfolds in three connected phases.

- **Online foundation lectures** (15-30 April 2026), where you and your interdisciplinary team build shared knowledge across space systems & technology, space economy & entrepreneurship, and space law, regulation & IP.
- **An immersive onsite week** (4-8 May 2026) at the SKIP Pavilion, University of Luxembourg, Belval Campus. Five days of team ideation, mentoring loops and expert-led sessions culminating in a **final pitch to an international jury**.
- **A debrief session** (2 hours) in late May 2026, where you reflect on the journey and consolidate your learning.

https://edu.universeh.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=7351

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Space Lessons and Space Talks



https://www.youtube.com/@SpacetechAGH

2026-2027 MENTORING PROGRAMME

- Preceeded by successful SpaceTech Career Mentoring 2026 lead by AGH, where there were 4 mentors
- Open to students from universities part of the UNIVERSEH Partner Universities.
- Open to Bachelor's, Master's, Engineering and PhD students from all academic disciplines connected to the space sector.
- Support and guidance for your academic, research, entrepreneurial or career projects and aspirations.
- Meetings can be conducted in-person, online, or in a hybrid format and may be held in a common language.
- At least 9 individual mentoring meetings from October 2026 to October 2027.
- 12 mentors taking part



https://universeh.eu/news/new-universeh-mentoring-programme-2026-2027/

2026-2027 MENTORING PROGRAMME

- Experience of the mentors includes:
  - satellite remote sensing
  - space law
  - aerospace engineering, artificial intelligence, strategic innovation, and entrepreneurship
  - physics, astrophysics and atmospheric science
  - humanities, management and innovation
- The students will have opportunity to gain insights and guidance for their careers in the space field



GATKOWSKA Martyna
EO Expert; Partnership Development Director, IAC 2027 Local Organising Committee, PhD

Martyna Gatkowska is a satellite remote sensing expert with 15 years of experience in the space sector. She served as the European Space Agency's Business Ambassador to Poland and as an EO Expert at the Executive Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture. Her interests revolve around EO data applications for agriculture, insurance, natural hazards management, etc. She specializes in obtaining funds for research and innovation projects from the European Space Agency and the European Commission, as well as business model and pitch deck preparation.

LUPA Michał
Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Space Technologies, AGH; Principal Data Engineer, Spyrosoft – PhD

Michał Lupa is the Head of the Remote Sensing Research Group at the Faculty of Space Technology, AGH University of Krakow. He has over 15 years of experience in designing and delivering advanced IT systems based on Earth Observation (EO) data. During his career, he has led projects for key national and international institutions, including ESA, UK Space Agency, Ordnance Survey (UK), the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography (Poland), the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute (Poland), the Geospatial Commission (UK), and UK Research and Innovation. His work focuses on satellite data analysis, machine learning, and geospatial technologies.

O'DONNEL Scarlet
Senior Space Law Consultant at BHO Legal, International Institute of Space Law (IISL) Director

Scarlet is a specialist in international space law. She worked with the German Space Ag Mentoringency (DLR) as a Scientific Advisor, including a secondment by DLR to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). She also worked as a consultant for UNOOSA under the Space Law for New Space Actors Project, advising States on national space law and policy. She's currently a Senior Space Law Consultant at BHO Legal and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) Director.

Mentors list – By Alphabetical Order

BRETSCHNEIDER Sonja
Project Manager for UNIVERSEH

A teacher of over 20 years experience on three continents, Sonja has started her own business teaching presentation and writing skills, as well as other soft skills. She is currently using her networking skills as her university's stakeholder manager and manages the innovation initiatives for UNIVERSEH.

BRETSCHNEIDER Timo
Former Academic & Innovation Professional, PhD

Timo did his PhD on remote sensing, was a professor for computer engineering at NTU in Singapore, and then the manager for Airbus' innovation centre in Southeast Asia, as well as Singapore's lead public sector agency for science, technology, and research.

CRUZ Eduardo
Country Manager & Business Developer at AIRMO – MBA

Eduardo Cruz is an experienced leader in the space sector, combining technological expertise, business development, and international management. Currently Country Manager & Business Developer at AIRMO, he previously worked at the University of Luxembourg, GomSpace, CGI, and the European Space Agency. His career has taken him from software engineering to senior leadership roles, managing teams, complex projects, and international customer relationships. With an MBA and a strong background in computer engineering and space systems, Eduardo brings extensive expertise in leadership, innovation, negotiation, and technology transfer.

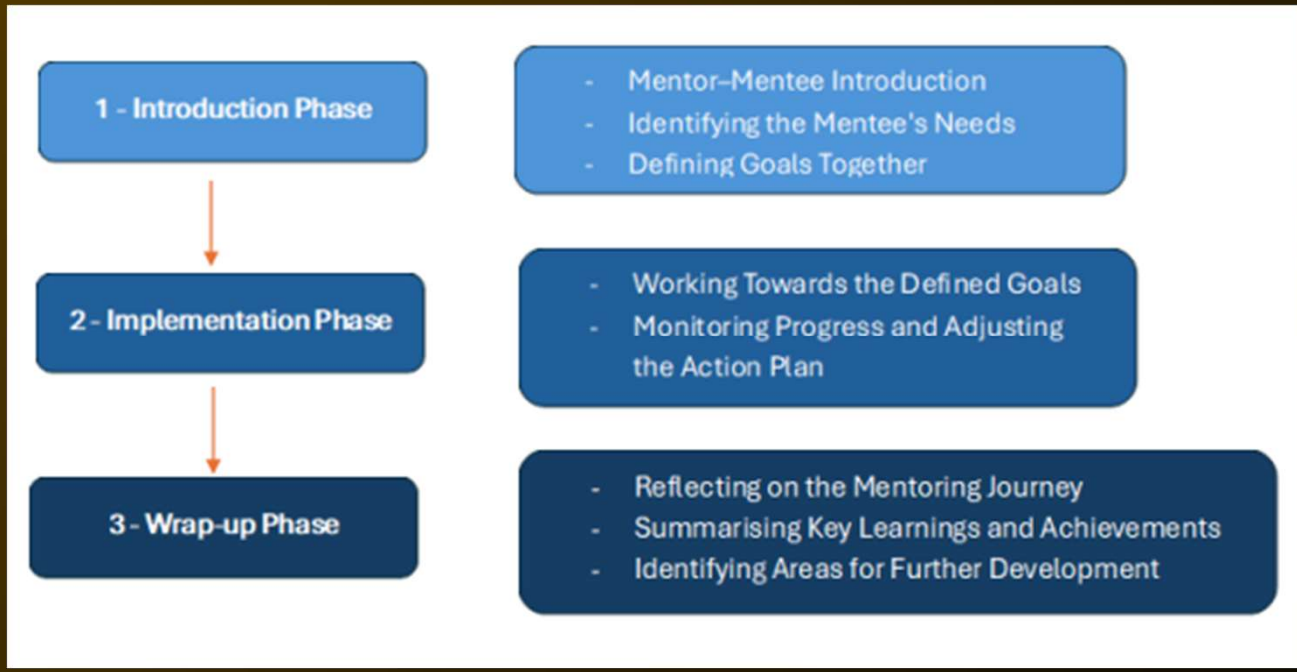
https://universeh.eu/news/new-universeh-mentoring-programme-2026-2027/

THE PROGRAMME AIMS TO ENCOURAGING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY PROVIDING A SPACE TO DEVELOP THEIR IDEAS AND RECEIVE ADVICE ON THEIR PROFESSIONAL PATHS

2026-2027 MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Programme aims in particular to:

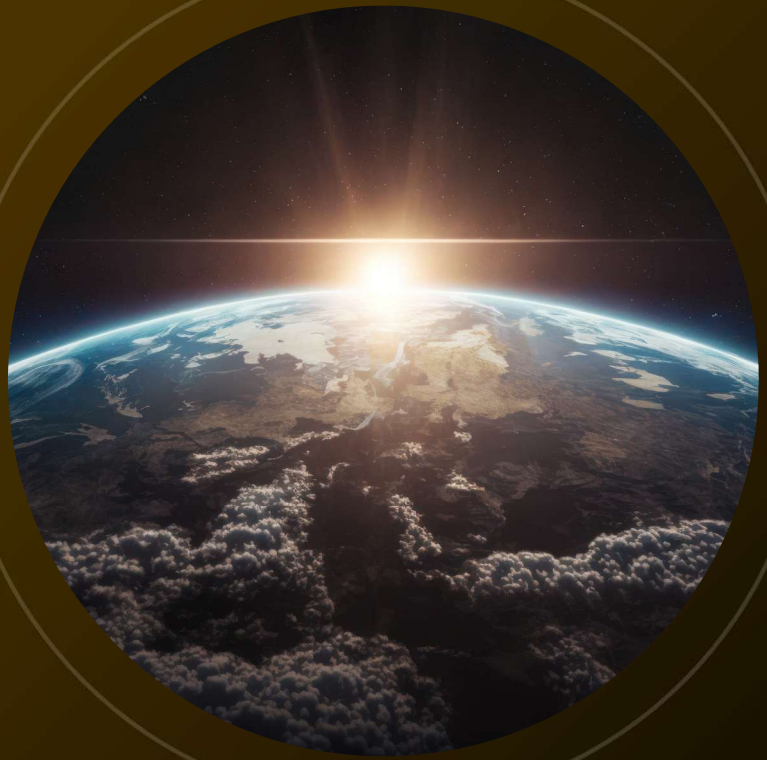
- develop industry-, academia- or entrepreneurship-relevant and technical competencies,
- support career planning in the space sector,
- facilitate contact with industry professionals and experts,
- support the development of technological projects and business ideas,
- increase students' readiness to enter the job market, start a business or continue in academia.



https://universeh.eu/news/new-universeh-mentoring-programme-2026-2027/

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- UNIVERSEH provides a platform and community for space-themed courses, seasonal schools with practical activities, and events
- Opportunities to meet with professionals from the space sector help the students **concretise their career path**, formulate their goals
- Regional employers can show off their businesses during the events, lectures, etc., and recruit their future employees
- By helping develop the courses and taking part in the programme as mentors, representatives of the space industry can show the students the ways they can aim for joining such companies and let them know about the skills necessary



THANK YOU

