Dr Jan F. Klaassen

EU Project Management & Development | Erasmus+ · Horizon Europe · MSCA | Advisory, Review & Compliance

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Political scientist (PhD) with seven years' experience across the full lifecycle of EU-funded projects – from proposal development and consortium building to implementation, reporting and compliance. Managed a portfolio of 150–200 research and education projects (~€10M annually) at Jacobs / Constructor University Bremen under Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, MSCA and various national programmes. Co-coordinator of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges project YouthTeamUp and its successor YouthTeamUpPlus (€500,000 each), personally bringing a Ugandan partner and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) on board. Combines detailed knowledge of programme objectives and award criteria with an advisory approach and an established network across Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. Currently Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam and Adjunct Researcher at Constructor University Bremen.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Proposal development & consortium building
- EU project management & partner coordination
- Grant management, budgeting & financial reporting
- Compliance, audit readiness & risk analysis
- Review of proposals, deliverables & reports
- Funding advisory for researchers & organisations

Programmes: Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, MSCA and national programmes (e.g. DFG, BMBF); ERC applications support

KEY EU PROJECTS

- **YouthTeamUp –** Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges; 7 partners, 4 countries, €500,000. Co-coordinator responsible for consortium management, budget steering, reporting and quality assurance.
- **YouthTeamUpPlus –** Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges successor project; €500,000; grant agreement in preparation, starting 2027. Co-coordinator and proposal writing lead. Consortium extended by full partners from France and Uganda and by the associated partner AUDA-NEPAD; the Ugandan partner and AUDA-NEPAD were brought in personally.
- **University funding portfolio (EU and national) –** Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, MSCA, DFG and BMBF; 150–200 projects and ~€10M per year. Compliance oversight, financial reporting and review of proposals and reports.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Lecturer Sep 2026 – present

University of Dar es Salaam – College of Social Sciences

- Teaching social science courses
- Contributing expertise in EU and international research funding, proposal development and research management
- Building research and education cooperation with European partners

Adjunct Researcher Mar 2026 – present

Constructor University Bremen – School of Business, Social & Decision Sciences

- Co-coordinating the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges project YouthTeamUp
- Co-coordinating the successor project YouthTeamUpPlus (€500,000, starting 2027); led the proposal writing

Project Controller / Funding Compliance Apr – Aug 2026

Education Y e.V. – Operations Hub

- Set up EU-compliant grant management structures: governance, internal controls, audit-ready documentation and monitoring processes
- Conducted regulatory risk analyses and advised management on compliance, reporting obligations and corrective measures

Independent Consultant – EU Project Development Apr 2025 – Mar 2026

Self-employed, Bremen

- Developed international funding proposals end to end: partner identification, consortium formation and proposal writing
- Led the strategic expansion of YouthTeamUp, bringing in AUDA-NEPAD and a partner from Uganda
- Advised organisations on Erasmus+ application strategy, programme fit and proposal quality

Research Project Manager May 2019 – Mar 2025

Jacobs / Constructor University Bremen – Research & Transfer Services

- Managed 150–200 national and international research and education projects per year (~€10M) under Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, MSCA, DFG and BMBF: budget planning, financial reporting and administrative coordination; additionally supported ERC applications
- Co-coordinated YouthTeamUp (Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges; 7 partners, 4 countries, €500,000): consortium management, budget oversight, reporting, deliverable review and quality assurance
- Designed and led the Funding Laboratory, a university-wide participatory format in which researchers from all faculties developed and sharpened research ideas towards fundable projects
- Advised principal investigators, coordinators and senior leadership on EU funding rules, project governance and reporting; reviewed proposals and interim/final reports against award criteria and eligibility rules
- Built international partnerships with institutions across Europe and Africa

EARLIER ACADEMIC & INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record – Jacobs / Constructor University Bremen Feb 2022 – Aug 2024

Designed and taught the interdisciplinary module Global Africa – Perspectives, Challenges, Solutions

Visiting Researcher – Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Nigeria 2015 – 2016

Field research on security governance (approx. four months, 25 expert interviews), working with political, governmental and academic institutions in West Africa

Doctoral Researcher – University of Reading, UK 2012 – 2016

Doctoral study and research on international security governance; PhD subsequently completed at Constructor University Bremen

University Lecturer – Freie Universität Berlin, Otto-Suhr-Institut Apr 2011 – Sep 2012

Undergraduate and graduate seminars in political science

Further positions: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Ghana · Deutsches Technikmuseum, Berlin

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science 2026

Constructor University Bremen – School of Business, Social & Decision Sciences

Dissertation: *Global Bourdieu and Nigeria – Studying African Perspectives on (In)Security*

Recent talks: DVPW working group “Kritische Sicherheitsstudien”, Heidelberg (invited, 2026); 19th EISA Pan-European Conference on International Relations, Lisbon (2026)

Diploma in Political Science (equiv. MA) 2008

Freie Universität Berlin – Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft

LANGUAGES & DIGITAL SKILLS

Languages: German – native · English – proficient (C2) · Spanish – basic

Digital: European Commission grant management platforms; MS Office (advanced Excel for budgeting and controlling); design of LLM-based tools for documentation and quality assurance

Bremen, October 2026