

Update version 06.10.2026

(please find the new FAQs added at the bottom of the document)

EUNICE SEED FUNDING PROGRAMME 2026–2027

FAQ & Support Information

1. What is the purpose of the EUNICE Seed Funding Programme?

The programme supports the early stages of international research collaboration within the EUNICE European University Alliance. It funds preparatory activities such as consortium building, networking, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and proposal development for future competitive research calls. It does not fund research activities themselves.

2. Who can apply?

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated with an EUNICE partner university participating in this pilot call. Researchers at all career stages are eligible, although early-career and consolidating researchers are particularly encouraged to apply.

3. What are the consortium requirements?

Each proposal must involve at least three researchers from three different EUNICE universities. One institution acts as the Coordinating Beneficiary and receives the full grant. Additional academic institutions and partners may participate where relevant.

4. What is the maximum funding available?

Projects may receive a lump-sum contribution of up to €10,000 and can run for a maximum duration of 9 months, from November 2026 to September 2027.

5. Which activities are eligible for funding?

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Consortium-building meetings
- Networking workshops
- Researcher mobility and short scientific visits
- Matchmaking events
- Stakeholder engagement activities
- Proposal-development training
- Feasibility studies
- Strategic planning activities
- Development of joint research roadmaps



- Open Science, impact, inclusiveness and gender-related activities

All activities must contribute to future collaborative research projects or funding proposals.

6. Which costs are not eligible?

The programme does not fund:

- Research activities
- Purchase of equipment
- Salaries

The funding is intended exclusively for preparatory collaborative activities.

7. Multiple Applications - Can researchers participate in more than one application under the Seed Funding Programme?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of applications that a researcher may participate in. Researchers may be involved in multiple proposals, provided they are able to make a meaningful contribution to the activities and objectives described in each application.

8. Is subcontracting allowed within the scope of Seed Funding projects?

As a general principle, project activities should be implemented directly by the participating institutions and project partners. The programme is designed to support networking, consortium building, mobility and strategic planning activities rather than outsourced project implementation. [

Where external services are required, applicants should provide an appropriate justification in the budget and ensure compliance with the financial rules of the Coordinating Beneficiary institution. Any such expenditure must support eligible preparatory activities and must not be used for research activities, salaries or equipment purchase.

9. Are external partners limited to those listed in the EUNICE Internships and Research Portal (EIR)?

No. The external partners listed in the EUNICE Internships and Research Portal (EIR) represent a valuable resource containing companies, NGOs, research centres and other organisations that have collaborated with or shown interest in collaborating with EUNICE institutions.

However, the EIR database is not exhaustive. Applicants may involve other external partners that are not currently listed in the portal whenever these partners can contribute to the project's objectives.

10. What is the role of Associated Partners (APs)? Can they receive funding?



Associated Partners are encouraged to participate when their expertise, networks, infrastructure, societal connections or stakeholder engagement capacity can strengthen the proposed project and enhance its impact. Their involvement may improve the project's relevance, interdisciplinarity and long-term sustainability.

However, Associated Partners are not beneficiaries of the Seed Funding grant and therefore do not directly receive funding from the programme. The grant is awarded to the Coordinating Beneficiary, which remains responsible for project implementation and reporting.

Associated Partners, Global Partners and other external partners cannot receive funding directly from the Seed Funding grant.

11. Is involvement of external or associated partners mandatory?

No. Their participation is strongly encouraged whenever relevant to the objectives of the project, but it is not mandatory. However, meaningful involvement of partners can contribute positively to the evaluation, particularly under the criterion concerning Associated and External Partners.

12. How will applicants who expressed interest during the pre-call be able to communicate with each other?

Researchers who submitted expressions of interest during the pre-call phase will be supported through EUNICE communication and networking channels. Information collected through the pre-call may be used to facilitate matchmaking among researchers with compatible interests and complementary expertise (**PARTNER SEARCH DATABASE EUNICE Seed Funding Call 2026**: <https://internships.eunice-university.eu/en/eunice-seed-funding>).

Researchers wishing to promote their expertise and be included in the Partner Search Database can submit their profile through the **Partner Search Form**: <https://internships.eunice-university.eu/en/form/research-partner-search-expressi>

Additional networking opportunities and communication support may be provided through the EUNICE Task Force Research and relevant EUNICE platforms.

13. How can researchers receive support for consortium building?

Several forms of support are available:

- Access to the EUNICE research community and partner universities.
- Use of the [EUNICE Internships and Research Portal \(EIR\)](#) to identify potential external collaborators.
- Matchmaking and networking opportunities organised through **EUNICE Research Radar** (<https://internships.eunice-university.eu/en/research-radar>).
- Guidance from institutional EUNICE contact points and research support offices.
- Support from the EUNICE Task Force Research where available.



Researchers are strongly encouraged to build interdisciplinary and international consortia that demonstrate complementarity of expertise and potential for long-term collaboration.

14. How will proposals be evaluated?

Applications are evaluated by an Alliance-wide Review Committee according to two main criteria:

A. Quality of the Proposal (25 points)

- Contribution to the EUNICE Mission
- Alignment with SDGs and Horizon Europe priorities
- European added value
- Involvement of Associated/External Partners
- Feasibility of the work plan and budget

B. Quality of the Consortium (15 points)

- PI profile
- Complementarity of expertise
- Collaboration experience and potential

Maximum score: **40 points**.

15. Will institutional balance be considered during project selection?

Yes. While evaluation remains merit-based, the Review Committee may consider institutional balance across the Alliance when recommending projects for funding. Where several proposals of comparable quality are coordinated by researchers from the same university, preference may be given to proposals led by different EUNICE institutions.

16. What documents must be submitted?

Applicants must submit:

1. **Annex 1 - Project Description** (maximum 1 page)
2. **Annex 2 - Budget and Implementation Plan** (maximum 1 page)
3. **Annex 3 - Narrative CVs** (maximum ½ page per consortium member)
4. **Annex 4 - Europass CVs** (maximum 4 pages per participant)

Applications must use the templates provided with the [Call](#).

17. When is the application deadline?

Applications must be submitted by **10 October 2026 at 17:00 CET** via email to eunice@unict.it. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.



18. When will results be announced?

Evaluation results are expected to be published by **31 October 2026**. Applicants will be informed through the communication channel indicated in their application.

19. What are the reporting requirements for funded projects?

At the end of the project, beneficiaries must submit a concise final report describing:

- Activities implemented;
- Outcomes achieved;
- Added value for EUNICE;
- Future collaborative funding opportunities identified;
- Follow-up activities and sustainability plans.

20. What are the expected outcomes of a funded project?

Examples include:

- Creation of a new international consortium
- Development of a joint research roadmap
- Identification of future European or international funding opportunities
- Preparation of a collaborative proposal
- Establishment of stakeholder networks
- Researcher exchanges and mobility schemes
- Joint concept papers or publications

Projects should demonstrate clear potential for generating sustainable collaborations beyond the duration of the Seed Funding project.

NEW FAQS ADDED 29.09.2026

21. Can a researcher act as Principal Investigator (PI) in one proposal and participate as a consortium member in another proposal?

Yes. Researchers may participate in multiple applications under the Seed Funding Programme, including acting as Principal Investigator in one proposal and consortium member in one or more additional proposals, provided they can make a meaningful contribution to each project and fulfil the responsibilities associated with their role.

22. Can PhD candidates apply as Principal Investigators?

In principle, the Principal Investigator should hold a research position that allows them to assume responsibility for project coordination, budget management and institutional obligations throughout the project duration. PhD candidates are generally encouraged to participate as



consortium members rather than as Principal Investigators. Eligibility may depend on the regulations of the applicant's home institution.

23. Can PhD candidates participate in a project consortium?

Yes. PhD candidates may participate as consortium members and contribute to project activities whenever their expertise is relevant to the proposal.

24. Is a staff member with a PhD working in an administrative role eligible to participate?

Yes. For the purposes of this call, staff members holding a PhD may be considered eligible researchers provided they are engaged in research-, innovation- or project-development-related activities within their institution and meet any institutional eligibility requirements.

25. Can researchers employed under fixed-term contracts participate?

Yes. Researchers employed under fixed-term contracts may participate in Seed Funding projects. However, the Principal Investigator should normally have an appointment covering the implementation period of the project. Other consortium members may participate even if their contracts do not cover the full duration of the project, provided their planned contribution can realistically be achieved during their period of appointment and institutional rules permit their participation.

26. Do all three minimum consortium members need to come from EUNICE universities?

Yes. The minimum eligibility requirement is the participation of at least three researchers from three different EUNICE universities. Associated Partners, Global Partners or other external institutions are welcome to participate but cannot replace the minimum requirement of three EUNICE universities.

27. Can additional researchers from the same EUNICE university participate in the proposal?

Yes. Once the minimum requirement of three researchers from three different EUNICE universities is met, additional researchers from the same institution may also participate and contribute to the project where relevant.

28. Can external academic institutions participate in the consortium?

Yes. External academic institutions may participate whenever they are relevant to the project objectives. However, they do not count towards the minimum consortium requirement of three researchers from three EUNICE universities and cannot receive funding directly from the Seed Funding grant.



29. Can EUNICE Associated Partners, Global Partners or other external partners receive funding under the EUNICE Seed Funding Scheme?

EUNICE Associated Partners, Global Partners and other external partners may participate in the proposed activities as collaborating partners. However, they cannot receive funding directly under the Seed Funding Scheme. Funding is allocated to and managed by the participating EUNICE beneficiary institutions, and no grant funding may be transferred to these external partners.

30. What documents are required from Associated Partners or External Partners?

Associated and external partners do not need to submit separate application forms. If their participation is relevant to the proposal, applicants should clearly describe their role and expected contribution in the application. Additional supporting information may be provided where appropriate.

31. Must researchers from external institutions provide Annex 3 and Annex 4 CVs?

Annex 3 (Narrative CV) and Annex 4 (Europass CV) should be provided for researchers formally included as consortium members in the proposal. For associated or external partners who are not part of the core consortium, submission of CVs is generally not required unless specifically justified by their role in the project.

32. Are conference participation and conference presentation costs eligible?

Conference-related travel and participation costs may be considered eligible only when they are directly linked to consortium building, networking, partnership development or preparation of future collaborative proposals. Activities that primarily serve research dissemination purposes should not constitute the main objective of the Seed Funding project.

33. Are overheads eligible?

Seed funding in this call is designed to cover direct costs only. Overheads are not foreseen, as the purpose of this scheme is to maximise the resources available for early stage collaborative activities rather than administrative or institutional charges. If national or institutional rules require a specific overhead rate, applicants should consult their institution's research support office before submitting a proposal.

34. Is proof of approval by the Head of Department required at application stage?

No formal proof of departmental approval is required as part of the application package. However, applicants are responsible for complying with the internal procedures and approval requirements of their own institution before submission.



35. Where can I find the application templates?

The application templates (Annexes 1-4) are provided together with [the Call for Applications](#).

36. Can the list of ongoing consortia or applicants be shared?

No. The list of emerging consortia is not publicly shared. Researchers seeking partners are encouraged to use the [EUNICE Research Radar](#) and the [Eunice Seed Funding Partner Search Database](#)

37. Will there be future editions of the Seed Funding Programme?

The current initiative is a pilot programme. Future editions will depend on the outcomes of the pilot phase and decisions taken by the EUNICE Alliance. Information on any future calls will be communicated through official EUNICE channels.

38. Are institutional authorisations required at the application stage?

The Seed Funding Programme does not require the submission of formal institutional authorisations as part of the application package. However, applicants are responsible for complying with the internal procedures and approval requirements of their own institution. For example, at some universities, participation in externally funded projects may require prior involvement or approval of the relevant Department or research support structures.

39. Who must sign the application?

The application should be submitted by the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Coordinating Beneficiary. No additional signatures from consortium members are required unless foreseen by the internal procedures of the participating institutions.

40. Is a letter of commitment or signature required from Associated Partners or External Partners?

No formal letter of commitment, declaration of support or signature is required from Associated Partners or External Partners. Applicants should clearly describe the role and expected contribution of these organisations in the proposal.

41. Does it provide an advantage if an organisation is already an EUNICE Associated Partner?

The participation of Associated Partners and External Partners is encouraged whenever relevant to the project objectives. However, organisations that are not EUNICE Associated Partners may also participate in proposals as external partners where their contribution is relevant to the project.

NEW FAQs ADDED 06.10.2026

42. Can administrative staff contribute to project activities?



Yes. Administrative staff may support the implementation of project activities under the coordination and responsibility of the participating researchers, where permitted by the internal rules of the institution concerned.

However, Seed Funding cannot be used to finance salaries or staff costs.

43. How can travel and subsistence costs for researchers from partner institutions be managed?

The Seed Funding grant is awarded exclusively to the PI/Coordinator Beneficiary, which is responsible for managing the budget and implementing the approved activities.

44. Can researchers from partner universities receive funding for travel and participation in Seed Funding activities?

Yes. Travel, subsistence and other eligible participation costs are admissible. The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for managing the project budget according to the Project Budget presented.

45. Can scientific stays be organised at partner universities that are not the PI / Coordinating Beneficiary?

Project activities may take place at different institutions whenever this is feasible and compliant with the financial and administrative rules of the Coordinating Beneficiary. Applicants should ensure that the proposed arrangements are compatible with the budget management procedures of the institution providing the grant and with any applicable reimbursement rules.

46. Who must provide Annex 3 (Narrative CV) and Annex 4 (Europass CV)?

Annex 3 (Narrative CV) should be completed for each consortium member identified in the proposal. Annex 4 (Europass CV) should be provided for each participant as requested in the application package. Applicants should follow the definitions and requirements set out in the Call documentation when determining which individuals must be included.

47. Must a specific Europass template or version be used?

Any CV generated using the official Europass format is acceptable, provided that it includes the information requested in the Call documentation.

48. Should Europass CVs be included within the application template or submitted as separate files?

Europass CVs should be attached to the application package as Annex 4 in accordance with the submission instructions provided in the Call documentation.

49. Should the proposal be submitted in PDF or Word format?

Both format are accepted.



50: How are project funds managed within the consortium?

Each Coordinating Beneficiary (Principal Investigator) manages the budget allocated to its own institution in accordance with the project budget plan and institutional rules and procedures.

51: Can meetings, scientific stays or short research visits take place at different participating universities?

Yes.

52. Can the estimated budget be modified during project implementation?

Yes. If properly justified

53. Must all budget categories listed in the budget table be use?

No.

54. Should accommodation, meals and travel costs related to research mobility be included under “Research mobility/short visits” or under “Travel and subsistence”?

Applicants should allocate costs to the budget category that best reflects the nature of the expenditure.

Support and Contacts

Email: eunice@unict.it

Subject: *EUNICE Seed Funding Programme 2026–2027 – Application – [Acronym]*

Research Portal: <https://internships.eunice-university.eu/en/research-radar>

Eunice Seed Funding Call 2026- Partner Search Database: <https://internships.eunice-university.eu/en/eunice-seed-funding>

Eunice Seed Funding Call 2026 - Partner Form: <https://internships.eunice-university.eu/en/form/research-partner-search-expressi>

