



# ENLIGHT Future-proof Incubator grants

Call for applications – Spring 2024

## Introduction

ENLIGHT is a European University Alliance to promote equitable quality of life, sustainability and global engagement through Higher Education transformation. ENLIGHT brings together ten comprehensive, research-intensive universities from ten European countries (University of the Basque Country, University of Bern, University of Bordeaux, Comenius University Bratislava, University of Galway, Ghent University, University of Göttingen, University of Groningen, University of Tartu, Uppsala University).

## Aim

Aligning with ENLIGHT's main objective of widening bottom-up engagement in our university communities, ENLIGHT will incentivise the design and upscaling of sustainable **educational initiatives across all three study cycles** addressing societal transition, sustainable future and human well-being, targeting future-proof skills and global competences and connecting learners with societal stakeholders around our [six focus areas](#).

ENLIGHT values inclusion and diversity to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals, free from discrimination. This principle guides the development and implementation of our initiatives. The treasure of 14 languages within our alliance offers a great opportunity to help intercultural awareness, mutual understanding, transformation of our thinking by taking advantage of the different languages.

## Examples of educational initiatives

Educational initiatives refer to sustainable educational activities in various formats with specific and measurable outputs and a sensible timeframe of implementation. Examples include blended intensive programmes, blended mobility, living labs, winter/summer schools, virtual courses, virtual exchange, collaborative online international learning (COIL), joint minors, joint programmes, co-teaching formats for larger groups of students (e.g. 1st semester students), joint courses, ... but other formats are also welcome.

## Funding

ENLIGHT will fund around 10 initiatives in 3 selection rounds, which means around 30 initiatives in total. The total sum available is 1 Mio. EUR. University of Bern funds their own participation. A balance between partner distribution and flagships domains is desired.

Each selected initiative under the current call can apply for a maximum total **amount of 30.000€**.

## Selection procedure

Each educational initiative should apply using an [application form](#) with due attention to the following eligibility and selection criteria:

## Eligibility criteria

The criteria are formulated in line with the [ENLIGHT Competence Framework](#).

1. At least **3 ENLIGHT partners** are involved for physical and blended formats, **2 for virtual exchange** and micro-credential programmes (cluster of programmes); outputs (courses, events) should be open to appropriate staff and students of the involved ENLIGHT partners and disseminated publicly. Involvement entails developing and delivering the educational initiatives.
2. **The scope of the initiative** should refer to the identified [focus areas](#) in our ENLIGHT mission. The focus areas are key determinants for **human well-being and global sustainable development**. These focus areas should not be seen as disciplinary categories.
3. The initiative awards **Transcript of Records** which can be translated into ECTS credits, if applicable for the intended format, or awards another form of recognition (e.g. micro-credentials).
4. Application of **innovative approaches to teaching and learning - challenge-based**, problem-solving, project-based learning, active-learning, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and/or transdisciplinary approaches that are student-centred and that develop a wide skillset. And/or use of **innovative teaching aids and instruments**.

## Selection criteria

Applications are jointly ranked by **quality, feasibility, proposed output** and their **added value** with regard to the objectives of ENLIGHT.

1. Quality (30%). The ambition of the joint efforts should be clearly described, as well as the use of innovative teaching approaches/ tools/ aids and the relation to challenges in the flagship domains.
2. Feasibility (30 %). The proposed initiative must be feasible and sustainable in the long term for the cooperating institutions. The initiative should be embedded in regular institutional processes within a sensible timeframe.
3. Proposed output (20%). In the application form the outputs are clearly stated and aligned with the overarching learning objectives.
4. Added value (20%). From the description of the educational activity and the proposed impact must be clear how the students/staff/institutions will benefit from it. For a better understanding of impact in ENLIGHT and examples, consult [annex 2](#)

## General principles for selection

In ENLIGHT 2.0 there is a strong focus on the **equal participation** and balanced distribution of responsibilities among all partners. For this reason, in the selection process, we take (1) criteria for eligibility, quality, feasibility, output, relevance into account AND (2) equal participation of all ENLIGHT partners.

Steps for selection:

**STEP 1:** Applications are evaluated on **joint formal criteria** (eligibility).

**STEP 2:** Applications are jointly ranked by **quality, feasibility, proposed output and added value** with regard to the objectives of ENLIGHT (selection criteria).

**STEP 3:** Applications are ranked per **coordinating institution**. Applications are evenly distributed among the partners. Hence, (1) each university is involved in an equal (as much as possible) number of projects as coordinator (promotor); (2) each university is involved in an equal (as much as possible) number of projects as partner.

In this phase, we try to **balance between the different flagship areas** as much as possible: we aim for 1 or 2 projects per flagship area, but do not apply this as a rigid criterium.

The selection is performed by one **joint selection committee**, consisting of representatives from all ENLIGHT partners in the framework of the specific WP2 task 2.2. The final selection decision for the Incubator Grants (WP2) is made by the Executive Group.

## Applications

Applications should be submitted by the coordinator of the educational initiative through the online application form /using the pdf forms (see annex I Application Form) at the ENLIGHT central online submission point.

## Timeline 1st call for Incubator grants

Call published	2 April 2024
Applications submitted by	30 June 2024
Selection	July - October 2024
Start of initiatives	November 2024*
1 <sup>st</sup> mid-term report	July 2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> mid-term report	July 2026
End report	1 month after completion or July 2027

\*Initiatives in BIP format must follow the timeline agreed by Mobility officers taskforce, [Annex 5](#)

## Reporting

The coordinating institution is requested to submit the end report within one month after completion of the initiative.

In case of longer implementation, a mid-report by July 2025, 2026, and 2027 is necessary.

Templates in [Annex 3](#), [Annex 4](#).

## Questions and Answers

For any clarification questions you can contact your institutional liaison.