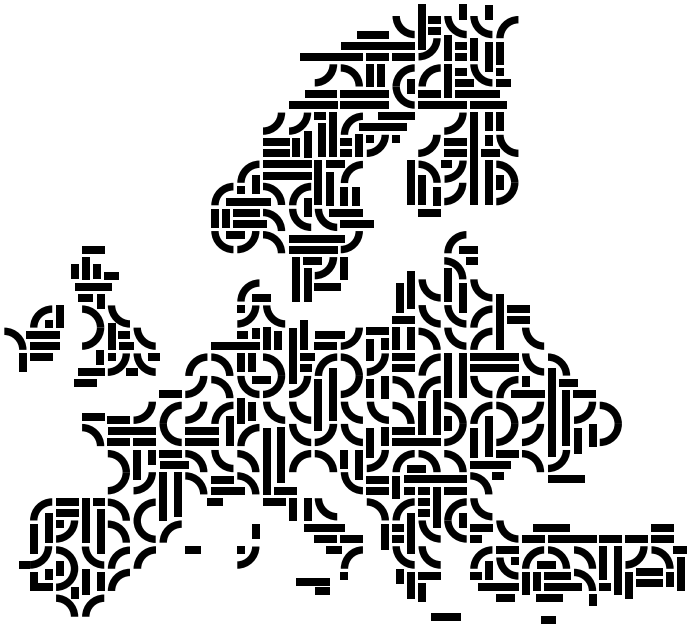

EELISA
European University

APPLICATION CALL

for EELISA Industrial Chair Positions

Issue date: 3 November 2023

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101035811

1 Objective and Role of an EELISA Industrial Chair

1.1 Objective and role of an Industrial Chair

An Industrial Chair, also known as an Industrial Research Chair or an Industrial Professorship, is a prestigious academic position that involves a close partnership between a university or research institution and an industry or a consortium of industrial partners. The primary objective of an Industrial Chair is to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation between academia and industry.

The role of an Industrial Chair typically includes the following elements:

1. Research: an Industrial Chair is responsible for leading and conducting research activities that align with the interests and needs of the industry partner(s). The research conducted by the Industrial Chair may focus on applied research, technological and interdisciplinary development, or addressing specific industry challenges. The aim is to generate new knowledge, develop innovative solutions, and drive advancements in the industrial sector.
2. Collaboration: the Industrial Chair acts as a bridge between academia and industry, facilitating collaboration and knowledge transfer between the two. They work closely with industry partners to identify research priorities, define project objectives, and ensure that the research outcomes have practical applications in the industrial context. This collaboration may involve joint research projects, internships for students, and exchange programs between the academic institution and industry.
3. Knowledge Dissemination: Industrial Chairs play an important role in disseminating their research findings and promoting the transfer of knowledge to industry partners, academic colleagues, and the broader community. They may publish research papers, present at conferences, and participate in industry events to share their expertise. This helps promote the practical application of research outcomes and contributes to the advancement of both academia and industry.
4. Teaching and mentoring: an Industrial Chair may often have teaching responsibilities. They may deliver specialized courses or workshops that integrate academic knowledge with practical industry experience. Industrial Chairs often mentor students, providing them with valuable insights and guidance based on their expertise in the field. This helps prepare students for careers in the industry and fosters a strong connection between academia and the professional world.
5. Academic evaluation processes: an Industrial Chair may be involved in the academic evaluation processes, e.g. as reviewer of diploma works, PhD thesis, in committee of diploma work defenses, public PhD defenses, in committees of scientific or technical contents.

The role of an Industrial Chair combines academic research excellence with practical industry relevance. By establishing strong partnerships between academia and industry, Industrial Chairs drive innovation, facilitate technology transfer, and contribute to the growth and development of the industrial sector.

The specific activities below exemplify how the EELISA Industrial Chair can facilitate hands-on collaboration between academia and industry, involving multiple partner

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institutes to harness their collective expertise and resources for the advancement of research and innovation.

1. Collaborative Hackathons and Innovation Challenges:
   The Industrial Chair can organize hackathons or innovation challenges that bring together teams of students and researchers from multiple EELISA partner institutes to solve real-world industry problems. These events encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and result in innovative solutions.

2. Joint Research Symposia:
   Hosting joint research symposia or conferences that involve researchers and experts from at least two EELISA partner institutes. These events provide a platform for sharing research findings, discussing emerging trends, and exploring potential research collaborations with industry.

3. Teaching activities
   Organising summer schools accessible for EELISA member institutes. Supervision of theses.

4. Cross-Institutional Research Grants:
   Facilitating the creation of research grant programs that require collaboration between researchers from different EELISA partner institutions. These grants can be funded by industry partners, and successful projects can receive financial support for their research endeavours.

5. Industry-Academia Internship Programs:
   Developing internship programs where students from one EELISA partner institution can work on industry projects hosted by another partner institution. This allows students to gain practical experience while promoting cross-institutional collaboration.

6. Joint Technology Transfer Initiatives:
   Establishing technology transfer offices that serve as intermediaries between academia and industry, facilitating the licensing and commercialization of innovative technologies developed by researchers from different EELISA partner institutions.

7. Cross-Institutional Research Labs:
   Creating specialized research laboratories that are jointly operated by two or more EELISA partner institutions, focusing on cutting-edge technologies or industry-specific research areas. These labs provide a shared space for collaborative research.

8. Industry-Academia Networking Events:
   Organizing networking events, such as industry-academia mixers or roundtable discussions, where representatives from industry and academia from different partner institutions can connect, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaboration opportunities.

9. Cross-Institutional Research Clusters:

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Establishing research clusters or consortiums that consist of researchers from multiple EELISA partner institutions, each specializing in complementary areas. These clusters can work on large-scale, multidisciplinary projects.

10. Collaborative Publications and Journals:
    Encouraging joint research publications and the creation of industry-academia journals or publications that showcase research outcomes and promote knowledge dissemination among partner institutions and industry stakeholders.

11. Joint Grant Proposal Workshops:
    Offering workshops and training sessions on grant proposal writing specifically tailored to encourage collaborative proposals involving researchers from at least two EELISA partner institutions.

1.2 Tenure of the EELISA Industrial Chair

The EELISA Industrial Chair nomination process recognizes the importance of flexibility in determining the tenure of the Industrial Chair. Member universities may choose to nominate individuals or entities for a definite time or an indefinite time, with the understanding that the continuity of the Industrial Chair contributes significantly to the long-term success of collaborative initiatives. However, a minimum tenure of two years is required to ensure that the Chair can effectively foster meaningful connections and promote sustained collaboration between the industry and EELISA partner institutes.

1.2.1 Definite Tenure

A nomination for a definite tenure specifies a predetermined period for which the Industrial Chair will serve. This could range from a few years to a specific project duration. The member university should clearly define the duration in their nomination documentation, and the Evaluation Committee will consider this timeline during the evaluation process.

1.2.2 Indefinite Tenure

In cases where a member university opts for an indefinite tenure, the nomination documentation should provide a clear process for periodic review and assessment of the Industrial Chair's performance and continued relevance to the collaborative objectives. This ensures that the Chair's appointment remains aligned with the evolving needs of the industry-academia partnership.

1.2.3 Minimum Tenure Requirement

To promote stability and effectiveness, regardless of whether the tenure is definite or indefinite, the EELISA Industrial Chair must serve a minimum of two years before any reevaluation or potential transition.

The determination of the tenure arrangement should align with the strategic goals and objectives of both the member university and the industry partner. Flexibility in tenure

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allows for adjustments as collaboration matures and evolves over time, contributing to the sustainability and success of industry-academia initiatives within EELISA.

2 Application

2.1 Application procedure

The application material of the EELISA Industrial Chairs are to be sent to Dr. Balázs BOKOR, at bokor.balazs@gpk.bme.hu

2.2 Application Deadline

The deadline of application is 19 November 2023, 23:59 CET.

*The first call for EELISA Industrial Chairs is now closed, but if you are interested in submitting your application to set up an EELISA Industrial Chair, please get in touch with 'Bokor Balázs' bokor.balazs@gpk.bme.hu

3 Nomination Criteria and Requirements

Every year a call for EELISA Industrial Chairmanship is launched and disseminated on various platforms of EELISA (homepage, social media, emails to member universities).

3.1.1 Eligibility Criteria

To maintain the flexibility and adaptability of the EELISA Industrial Chair nomination process, the eligibility criteria may vary depending on the chosen model within each member university. However, certain fundamental principles should be adhered to:

- Nominees should possess expertise, experience, and qualifications commensurate with their role within the chosen model (e.g., industry professional, professor, or representative of a company).
- Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to fostering collaboration between industry and academia.
- For the formalized agreement model, both the university and the company should be willing to actively engage in collaborative initiatives.

3.1.2 Documentation

Each member university must provide clear and transparent documentation outlining their specific model for the Industrial Chair. This documentation should include:

- A description of the chosen model (e.g., industry professional, professor, formal agreement) and the roles and responsibilities associated with it.
- The selection criteria and process for nominating individuals or entities for the Industrial Chair.
- Evidence of the nominee's qualifications and commitment to fostering industry-academia collaboration.

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3.2 Requirements of Application Proposal (Portfolio)

3.2.1 For Individuals Acting as Industrial Chair

A portfolio for an EELISA Industrial Chair candidate should showcase their qualifications, experience, and vision for fostering research-based cooperation between industry and academia within the EELISA network. The detailed breakdown of what the portfolio should include is as follows:

1. Cover Letter:
   A concise cover letter introducing the candidate and expressing their interest in the position of EELISA Industrial Chair. This should highlight the candidate's commitment to collaboration, their understanding of the EELISA context, and their vision for advancing industry-academia partnerships.
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV):
   A comprehensive CV detailing the candidate's professional and academic background. This should include:
   - Educational qualifications.
   - Employment history, including industry experience (if applicable) and academic positions.
   - Research publications, patents, and significant achievements.
   - Membership in relevant professional organizations.
   - Awards and honours received.

3. Statement of Purpose:
   A detailed statement outlining the candidate's vision and objectives as the EELISA Industrial Chair. This should address:
   - How the candidate plans to facilitate collaboration among EELISA partner institutes and industry stakeholders. It must explicitly name at least two EELISA partner institutions the chair would collaborate with.
   - Specific activities and initiatives the candidate intends to organize or support.
   - Their commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and equitable collaboration.

4. Research and Collaboration Experience:
   A section highlighting the candidate's experience in fostering research-based cooperation between academia and industry. This should include:
   - Descriptions of past collaborative projects or initiatives.
   - Examples of successful industry-academia partnerships the candidate has been involved in.
   - Evidence of the candidate's ability to bridge the gap between academic and industrial sectors.

5. Portfolio of Collaborative Projects:
   Detailed descriptions of previous collaborative projects the candidate has led or been a part of, including outcomes, impact, and any innovative approaches used to foster collaboration. It should emphasize how these experiences are transferable to the EELISA context.

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6. References:
   Contact information for professional references who can vouch for the candidate's qualifications, expertise, and commitment to collaboration. These references should ideally include both academic and industry contacts.

7. Collaboration Plan:
   A well-defined plan outlining the candidate's proposed activities and initiatives as the EELISA Industrial Chair. This should include:
   - Specific events or programs to foster collaboration (e.g., workshops, research projects, industry-academia partnerships).
   - Strategies for involving at least two EELISA partner institutes in these activities.
   - A timeline for implementing these initiatives.
   - Expected outcomes and measures of success.

8. Recommendation Letter of the University
   The EELISA member university of the applicant to which he/she can be related in the home country has to provide a recommendation letter describing the previous cooperation and experience with the chair applicant.

9. Supporting Documentation:
   Any additional supporting documents, such as letters of support from industry partners, examples of successful collaborative publications, or evidence of successful grant applications.

10. Personal Statement:
    A brief personal statement discussing the candidate's motivation for seeking the position, their passion for collaborative research, and their dedication to advancing the goals of the EELISA Union.

Overall, the portfolio should provide a comprehensive view of the candidate's qualifications, experiences, and plans for the role of the EELISA Industrial Chair, with a strong emphasis on their ability to facilitate meaningful research-based cooperation between industry and academia while actively involving multiple EELISA partner institutes.

3.2.2 For Agreements Acting as Industrial Chair

If the EELISA Industrial Chair is defined as an agreement between a university and a company rather than an individual, the portfolio would take a different form. Instead of showcasing an individual's qualifications and experiences, it would involve the documentation and details of the agreement itself, highlighting the collaborative framework and the intended outcomes. Here's what the portfolio for an agreement-based Industrial Chair should include:

1. Agreement Documentation:

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A copy of the formal agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the university and the partnering company. This should be comprehensive and outline the terms, conditions, and objectives of the Industrial Chair. It must explicitly name at least two EELISA partner institutions the chair would collaborate with.

2. Collaborative Objectives:
   A clear statement of the shared objectives and goals of the collaboration between the university and the company. This should include a description of the intended research areas, innovation targets, and mutual benefits. It must explicitly name at least two EELISA partner institutions the chair would collaborate with.

3. Research Focus Areas:
   Details on the specific research areas or projects that will be addressed through the collaboration. Provide information on the relevance of these research areas to both the academic institution and the industry partner.

4. Roles and Responsibilities:
   Define the roles and responsibilities of each party involved in the agreement. This should include the contributions and commitments of the university, the company, and any other stakeholders.

5. Duration and Renewal Terms:
   Specify the duration of the agreement and any provisions for renewal. This may include conditions for extending the agreement based on achieved milestones or evolving research needs.

6. Financial and Resource Commitments:
   Outline the financial commitments and resource contributions from both the university and the company. This should include details on funding, equipment, personnel, and any other resources allocated to support the Industrial Chair activities. The financial and resource commitments must be coherent with the MoU (i.e. with the tasks, scope, impact).

7. Reporting and Evaluation Framework:
   Describe the mechanism for reporting progress and evaluating the effectiveness of the collaboration. Include timelines for progress reports, periodic reviews, and performance metrics.

8. Intellectual Property and Publication Policies:
   Address intellectual property rights, publication policies, and any agreements related to patenting, licensing, or sharing of research outcomes.

9. Ethical and Legal Considerations:
   Include any ethical considerations or legal obligations that need to be adhered to during the collaboration. This may include compliance with research ethics, data protection, and confidentiality agreements.

10. Monitoring and Oversight:

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Explain how the collaboration will be monitored and overseen, including the establishment of a governing body or committee responsible for ensuring the agreement's successful implementation.

11. Collaboration Impact:
    Provide a section that discusses the expected impact of the collaboration on both the academic institution and the industry partner. This can include anticipated outcomes, such as research publications, technology transfer, and workforce development.

12. Success Stories and Case Studies:
    If available, include any success stories or case studies from previous collaborations between the university and the company. These examples can demonstrate the potential benefits of the Industrial Chair.

13. Contact Information:
    Include contact information for key personnel from both the university and the company who will be responsible for managing and coordinating the agreement.

14. Agreements
    A written agreement must be written between the chair and the responsible staff of the teaching spaces / teaching resources / infrastructures / facilities / labs to be used.
    The agreement with the company must follow the legislation of the country of the partner/s involved. Since the activities of the chair must involve other EELISA partners, for their involvement the following ways are possible:
    - either the company / company's local offices sign bilateral agreements with each partner involved,
    - or that there is a “main” university that can sign a master agreement - according to the local law- and subcontract the required activities to the other partners involved.

This portfolio should serve as a comprehensive reference document that outlines the terms, objectives, and framework of the Industrial Chair agreement between the university and the company. It should be clear, well-structured, and designed to facilitate effective communication, collaboration, and oversight throughout the duration of the agreement.

3.3 Proposal for Evaluation and Approval Process Protocol

3.3.1 Nomination by Host University

Every candidate for the EELISA Industrial Chairmanship must provide an official recommendation letter issued by the host university.

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3.3.2 Evaluation Committee

The evaluation of the Industrial Chair nominations is the task of the Advisory Council for Research and Innovation (ACRI). ACRI will assess each nomination according to the criteria and documentation provided by the member university.

3.3.3 Flexibility in Evaluation

The Evaluation Committee will exercise flexibility in evaluating nominations, taking into account the unique characteristics and requirements of each member university's chosen Industrial Chair model. It will also consider the overarching goal of fostering collaboration between the industry and EELISA partner institutes.

3.3.4 Reporting and Monitoring

EELISA will establish a framework for reporting and monitoring the activities of the Industrial Chair, irrespective of the chosen model. This framework will ensure that the objectives of fostering collaboration between the industry and EELISA partner institutes are being met.

To ensure the EELISA Industrial Chair effectively fosters research-based cooperation between industry and academia and actively involves at least two EELISA partner institutes, consider implementing the following monitoring mechanisms:

1. Review Meetings:
   Conduct every second year review meetings between the Industrial Chair, ACRI, and representatives from EELISA partner institutes to assess the Chair's performance and alignment with goals. Discuss plans for the upcoming two years.

2. Cross-Institutional Engagement:
   Ensure that the Industrial Chair actively involves at least two EELISA partner institutes in their initiatives. Track the extent of cross-institutional engagement and collaboration in their activities.

3. Industry-Academia Partnerships:
   Monitor the establishment and growth of industry-academia partnerships initiated by the Chair. Evaluate the impact of these partnerships on research and innovation.

4. Knowledge Sharing:
   Encourage the Industrial Chair to regularly share knowledge and best practices with EELISA partner institutes through workshops, seminars, or publications.

5. Public Yearly Activity Report
   The EELISA Industrial Chair has to prepare a yearly activity report which is later uploaded to the EELISA webpage.

Conducting the evaluation monitoring procedure is the task of the EELISA member institute which hosts the industrial chair.

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By implementing these monitoring mechanisms, the ACRI and EELISA can ensure that the EELISA Industrial Chair remains effective in their role and continuously works to strengthen research-based cooperation between industry and academia while actively involving multiple EELISA partner institutes.

EELISA embraces diversity and innovation among its member universities and their respective models for the Industrial Chair. By allowing for various interpretations and implementations, the nomination procedure outlined in this section encourages a dynamic and evolving approach to industry-academia collaboration. The ultimate goal remains steadfast: to facilitate and strengthen the relationship between the industry and EELISA partner institutes, promoting mutual growth and knowledge exchange.

As the current deliverable is a part of the InnoCORE project which ends in May 2024, this procedure has to be adjusted to EELISA 2 to make the continuation of the EELISA Industrial Chairs possible.

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