

8th Joint Call for inter-institutional activities within EELISA Communities: €200,000 total Budget

General objective

The 8th Joint Call aims to promote joint inter-institutional activities within the framework of EELISA Communities. These activities may adopt a variety of formats and should be interdisciplinary, while focusing on transforming higher education by using innovative methods to solve complex societal problems related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This call includes two topics, for which we encourage proposals from both new and existing EELISA Communities that develop formats of cooperation that are sustainable over time and capable of attracting third-party funding in the long run. Topic 1 of the 8th Joint Call focuses on educational activities that support the research and innovation dimensions of EELISA. Topic 2 focuses on student-led training, community building and campus engagement, originating from student-led EELISA Communities. For this topic, initiatives that empower students to take ownership of project design, implementation, and dissemination are especially welcome.

EELISA Communities, activities and Credentials

EELISA Communities are mission-driven, multi-stakeholder (students, teachers, researchers, companies, NGOs, start-ups, and public authorities), interdisciplinary, and international working groups, with members **from at least three different EELISA partners**, from at least two different countries. As in previous Joint Calls, we also warmly welcome participation from our associate partners Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (KNU), University of São Paulo (USP) and Technical University of Moldova (UTM). To fulfil their mission, EELISA Communities carry out diverse types of activities. Participation of different learners in EELISA Community activities is recognised through EELISA Credentials, the academic evidence of the knowledge and skills acquired, and the impact achieved on society in line with the SDGs.

Through Joint Calls, EELISA Communities are invited to organize educational activities using innovative methods to help to boost transnational mobility (physical, virtual, blended or hybrid formats), as well as foster inter-disciplinarity, inter-cultural and inter-institutional cooperation for professors, researchers, non-academic staff and students.

Evaluation criteria

TOPIC 1. Linking education, research and innovation

This topic targets bottom-up proposals for activities arising from collaborations forged within or between EELISA Communities and in line with the EELISA objectives and the SDGs. Proposals will be evaluated by representatives of the work group responsible for the call based on the three categories of criteria that follow (see below and in

proposal application form for Topic 1). In the proposal application form, the maximum length of Section 4 (Activity design) is 5 pages. Information exceeding that page limit will not be assessed.

- **Activity design** (up to 50 points):

This topic aims to align EELISA Communities with [EELISA's strategic research areas](#) (SRAs) —(1) social sciences and humanities; (2) digitalization; (3) culture, creativity and inclusive society; (4) advanced material science and engineering; (5) health; (6) smart industry and space technologies; (7) food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment; (8) climate energy and mobility; (9) artificial intelligence; (10) connectivity; and (11) natural sciences— and attract talent to EELISA, while incentivizing co-funding from partnerships and external stakeholders. Research training activities can integrate interdisciplinary methodologies, such as project-based learning, research-based learning, service-learning or challenge-based learning. Innovation training activities can involve one of the three elements of EELISA's educational path on innovation: a) spark creation/sensitizing for entrepreneurship, b) skill development, or c) community building. The educational offer for both research and innovation can be embedded, for instance, in the context of seminars, lectures, summer/seasonal schools and graduate or undergraduate courses, as well as workshops, hackathons, exchange with role models or prototyping. Open Science is an integral part of this call. Projects are expected to align with [Open Science principles](#) and should include innovative approaches to sharing knowledge, tools, or methodologies openly.

Activities must include components that are online or hybrid (not only with an “in presence” option), to increase participation throughout the Alliance and help decrease the ecological footprint of each activity. Also, the participation of educators (organizers), learners (participants), collaborators (in many cases, the challenge providers) should be balanced, with the aim of considering all EELISA partners and external stakeholders. Challenges will be preferably posed by companies, public institutions or non-profit entities, to be addressed to interdisciplinary student teams linked to teaching units, laboratories or research centres from EELISA partners. Activity proposers should provide guidelines regarding the acceptance criteria for participants, as this will be required for reporting purposes should the proposal be accepted. Once accepted and after participating in the activity, participants must be issued an (citing the SDG(s) involved and the impact levels corresponding to the [EELISA Credential](#) progression of knowledge), which will also be required for reporting. Applicants should also consider assessing the workload of their activity based on ECTS.

- **Excellence and impact** (up to 30 points):

Relevance and novelty of the activity or activities, within an academic and social context. Activities should be interdisciplinary and tied with the mission of the Community or Communities involved and aim to have a significant impact on the

discipline and/or society, related to the UN's SDGs. Activities should exhibit a clear potential impact regarding collaboration in research and innovation within the Alliance. Proposals should also explicitly articulate their broader societal impact, including how the activity addresses real-world challenges and contributes to long-term benefits for Communities in line with the UN SDGs.

- **Implementation** (up to 20 points):

Activities should provide a realistic implementation plan as well as a budget. Activities should be disseminated via the EELISA Digital Campus and manage enrolment and recognition through this platform. The proposal should also include a clear communication and dissemination plan outlining the target audiences, outreach activities, and measures to maximise the visibility, engagement, and long-term uptake of the activity and its results across the EELISA Alliance. A final report with mention of emerging research and innovation collaborations will be elaborated at the close of the activity. To maximise the number of learners benefiting from the activities and reduce their ecological footprint, activities must include components that are hybrid (including remote participants, in addition to face-to-face) or online format. While the activity organisers may establish participation requirements and criteria for the selection of participants, participation in the activity shall be open to participants from any EELISA institution.

Please mention whether your activity can be reiterated and refer to its sustainability in the mid- to long-term, both in terms of the partnerships and budget as well as in terms of tangible outputs that will help to strengthen the Alliance. Note that, for this call, activities will have to take place after January 1st, 2027, to enable time to announce the activity and inform potential students, and before August 31st, 2027.

TOPIC 2. Student-led training, community building and campus engagement

This topic focuses on initiatives that empower students from all EELISA partners to take ownership of project design, implementation, and dissemination. Applicants will have the opportunity to access funding to transform their ideas into viable projects, to establish meaningful connections with partner universities, and to gain international visibility through their participation. The term “students” includes active undergraduate, Master or PhD students. Proposals for Topic 2 should be led by a student and include at least one other student as co-leader (as well as three partner universities in total, as in all activities for Joint calls).

Proposals will be evaluated by representatives of the work group responsible for the call (including a member appointed by the student council), based on the three categories of criteria that follow (see below and in the proposal form). In the proposal template, the maximum length of Section 4 (Activity description) will be 5 pages. Information exceeding that page limit will not be assessed.

- **Activity design** (up to 40 points):

Activities should provide innovative ways to bring internal and external stakeholders together, while promoting the acquisition of skills that will boost employability among students and building meaningful connections and networks across EELISA.

Examples of Student-Led Activities

- Student-designed projects in which teams from at least three partner universities collaborate with companies, NGOs, or other societal actors to identify a challenge linked to one of the Strategic Research Areas and the SDGs and design an action plan.
- Student-led events, where students curate the programme, select speakers and facilitate discussions relevant to their academic and professional interests.
- Peer-to-peer learning initiatives, such as student-run training sessions designed and delivered by students for students.
- Student-led outreach and science communication projects, including podcasts, videos, public lectures or exhibitions aimed at translating research into accessible formats for broader audiences.
- Introduction of student governance roles within an EELISA Community project, assigning students responsibility for planning, budgeting, coordination, monitoring, and dissemination activities under light academic or professional supervision.
- Organisation of “student research days”, offering students a platform to present work-in-progress, exchange ideas, and build networks across EELISA institutions.
- Co-creation labs, where students collaborate with faculty and external partners to design solutions, learning materials, or prototypes, with students acting as co-decision makers throughout the process.

These examples are indicative and not exhaustive, so applicants are welcome to propose additional activities, provided they fall within the scope of the call and comply with the evaluation criteria and funding procedures. As in Topic 1, activities must include components that are online or hybrid (not only with an “in presence” option), to increase participation throughout the Alliance and help decrease as much as possible the ecological footprint of each activity. Also, the participation of organizers, learners (participants), and collaborators should be balanced, with the aim of considering all EELISA partners and external stakeholders. Activity proposers should provide guidelines regarding the acceptance criteria for participants, as this will be required for reporting purposes should the proposal be accepted. Once accepted and after participating in the activity, participants should be issued an [EELISA Credential](#) (citing the SDG(s) involved and the impact levels corresponding to the progression of knowledge), which will also be required for reporting.

- **Excellence and impact** (up to 40 points):

Activity proposals should explain the impact on participating students in terms of new skills obtained (which skills are targeted) and how they may impact on real world problems. Activities should be interdisciplinary and tied with the mission of the Community or Communities involved and aim to have a significant impact on the UN's SDGs. Proposals should also explain how the activity contributes to building or consolidating an EELISA Community (by attracting new members, establishing recurring formats, or creating cross-campus student networks) and how it can empower students (leadership roles, shared decision-making, continuity across cohorts).

- **Implementation** (up to 20 points):

Activities should provide a clear and realistic implementation plan as well as a budget. Activities should be disseminated via the EELISA Digital Campus and manage enrolment and recognition through this platform. The proposal should also include a clear communication and dissemination plan outlining the target audiences, outreach activities, and measures to maximise the visibility, engagement, and long-term uptake of the activity and its results across the EELISA Alliance. A final report will be elaborated at the close of the activity.

Activities must be delivered in hybrid (including remote participants, in addition to face-to-face) or online format. While the activity organisers may establish participation requirements and criteria for the selection of participants, participation in the activity shall be open to participants from any EELISA institution.

Please mention whether your activity can be reiterated and refer to its sustainability in the mid- to long-term, both in terms of the partnerships and budget as well as in terms of tangible outputs that will help to strengthen the Alliance. Note that, for this call, activities will have to take place after January 1st, 2027, not before that date, to enable time to announce the activity and inform potential students, and before August 31st, 2027.

Dimensions of financial support

The total budget for the 8th Joint Call is €200,000, with €120,000 for Topic 1 and €80,000 for Topic 2. **The maximum funding per activity is €12,000.** Proposals with a budget exceeding this limit will be rejected. The total cost of participant mobilities should be covered by the budget of the activity (€12,000), except if proposers can confirm supplementary funding from other sources, which should be clearly indicated in the Implementation section of the proposal, to verify that there is no double funding.

Funding for activities can be allocated into two overall areas:

- **Organisational costs**, which include four components: travel and accommodation for organisers, travel and accommodation for external (non-

EELISA) contributors to the activity (max. € 1,000 euros), personnel costs for organisers (max. €1,000), and other costs (catering, reserving spaces, communication and dissemination).

- **Participation costs**, which include travel and accommodation for people who will attend the activity, but do not participate in the organization of the activity (i.e., learners). These funds are to be exclusively used for EELISA students (i.e., students enrolled in one of the partner universities of the EELISA Alliance). Student participation from other Universities that are not full partners of EELISA is allowed as long as they are not supported by the budget of the activity (onsite participation at own cost or online). As the origin of the participants (among the different EELISA partners) is not always known in advance, activity proposers should provide an overall estimation, or participation limits, to help calculate the proposed budget, differentiating between in-presence and virtual participants.

Application process and templates

Please design your proposal using the application template and send it in **Word format** to communities@eelisa.eu by 31 October 2026 23:59 CET.

- [Proposal application form \(Topic 1\)](#)
- [Proposal application form \(Topic 2\)](#)
- [Implementation guidelines for Activity Organizers](#)
- [Activity report template](#)

To facilitate partner matching, EELISA has set up a **Call for Interest Form** where members may post short, high-level ideas and identify potential partners prior to submitting a proposal. This tool is optional and intended solely to support networking; it is not part of the evaluation process.

- **Access the Call for Interest Form** [here](#)
- **Access the Responses Database** [here](#)

Important dates

- **Call publication:** 01 September 2026
- **Information session with Q&A:** 25 September 2026 (12:00 CET)
- **Submission deadline:** 31 October 2026
- **Announcement of results:** The leaders of winning proposals will be contacted by email by 23 November 2026. The final results of the call will be publicly announced approximately two weeks thereafter.

Implementation period

- Earliest initiation of activities: **1 January 2027**
- Latest completion of activity: **31 August 2027**
- Mandatory submission of final report: within 6 weeks after the conclusion of each activity.

Communication Guidelines

All activities funded by this call will be subject to a series of communication guidelines. These guidelines, provided at the time of funding acceptance, will detail instructions on how to consistently incorporate the EELISA branding, the EELISA European University logo and give visibility to the EU funding into all communication and dissemination materials.