

The EUPeace Fund – a Joint Initiative of the EUPeace Universities

Version: September 2025

The EUPeace Fund is a seed funding initiative established by the member universities of the EUPeace Alliance and supported by university resources. Launched in spring 2023, the Fund opened its second call for proposals in Spring 2024, a third call in Autumn 2024, and a fourth call will open in Spring 2025. Starting 2025, only one annual call will be launched.

In the first call for proposals, 10 projects were approved, each with its own timeline, ranging from two-day workshops up to a full year of funding. Of the first-round projects, 9 concluded within the original timeframe, 1 project was granted a no-cost extension until December 2024, and one project was postponed to summer 2025 for organisational reasons.

In the second round of funding, another 10 projects were selected for support. The projects started as early as August 2024, creating a timely overlap with ongoing projects from round one. Projects from the second round are scheduled to conclude no later than August 2025.

With the third call for proposals a total of 7 projects were granted. The possible duration of projects was extended from one year to a maximum of one full academic year. Giving the grantees the opportunity to complete their projects by April 2026.

The fourth call will allow grantees to execute their projects based on the same rule of a maximum of one full academic rather than calendar year.

Information is available online at: <https://www.eupeace.eu/en/activities/eupeace-fund>

Why Fund Projects?

The initial project funding for the EUPeace Alliance comes from Erasmus+ grant money. With this money no seed fund initiatives are covered. The funding is reserved for the completion of set tasks as described in the EUPeace Grant Agreement. To promote collaboration within the Alliance and provide greater flexibility for seed funding, the EUPeace Fund was established. This fund aims to engage the communities at each partner site, raise awareness of collaboration opportunities, and allow researchers, teaching staff, administrators, and students to network and explore partnerships with other Alliance sites. It also supports collaborations not covered by the Erasmus+ grant.

In the long term, the EUPeace Fund aims to build a strong network of collaborations within the Alliance, with seed funding leading to larger funding applications and further expanding collaborative efforts beyond the scope of Erasmus+ funding.

Who is the Target Group?

All internal EUPeace stakeholders are eligible for participation in an EUPeace Fund call, with a focus on encouraging involvement from researchers and students. However, financial regulations limit eligibility to employees of EUPeace universities. Academic and administrative personnel of all status groups are eligible, while students may participate in projects but cannot be primary applicants for funding.

Associated partners of the Alliance may participate in projects, either covering their own costs, or upon the explicit agreement of an EUPeace member university to cover their costs with its own budget. Associated partners can not submit projects on their own.

The EUPeace Fund targets different groups with each call, adjusting to meet the Alliance's evolving needs. The first and second calls were open-ended, aiming to raise awareness and foster networking within the EUPeace community. The third call focused on curriculum development, while the fourth includes both an open component for innovative ideas and a specific focus on seed funding for research.

What is the Procedure?

A project application has to be submitted in collaboration of at least three EUPeace partner universities. The focus and scope of the projects vary widely, aligning with the thematic priorities outlined in the call for proposals. Projects may span a full academic year.

Timeline

- Mid-April – Call opens
- Mid-May – Call closes
- Summer – Review by the Steering Committee (SC) and decision by the Governing Board (GB)
- September – Funding letters are issued and projects can start upon receipt of the letter
- Until the following winter term projects can be completed
- A financial and content report is submitted *at the latest* within 6 months of completion
- The SC reviews reports upon completion of each round and submits a summary to the GB

Financial and Reporting Obligations

Each university is responsible for funding its participants and activities from its own budget, with the amounts varying based on available resources at each site. The available funding may be adjusted with each call.

Each university must allocate the necessary funds for each call and ensure compliance with local regulations. They are also responsible for assisting project teams in securing the granted financial support to execute the proposed tasks. If budget or project plan adjustments – in comparison to the original application – are needed, grantees will be notified of this change via the granting letter, with a copy sent to the local EUPeace Office to ensure proper financial administration. The local EUPeace Office will facilitate coordination between the local finance office and the grantee.

The university that receives the grant will distribute the allocated amount as specified in the granting letter. In some cases, one university may sponsor another if their local budget is depleted, with the sponsoring university handling financial administration for both institutions.

Each university is responsible for local financial reporting and submitting relevant financial information to the main grantee to meet the project's reporting requirements. Upon submission, the financial information is considered reviewed and approved by the submitting university.

The main grantee is responsible for content reporting for the entire project, using a template provided to all grantees. The purpose of content reporting is to qualitatively assess the project's success against its initial aims and goals. The SC is responsible for reviewing the reporting process and adjusting qualitative measures based on the evaluation of each funding round. After having received the written reports for projects of the first round, the SC will conduct qualitative interviews with the main grantee. Adjustments for the next reporting round will be made based on the review outcomes, and the SC will present recommendations to the GB for approval.

Obligation to Promote the Project

Each project is obligated to provide a summary of its project for publication on the EUPeace website. Each project is also obligated to provide regular updates, especially in the form of news items, for the EUPeace website to inform the entire community of its activities. The material is provided to the university in charge of the call for checking purposes. The material will be published by the Coordination Office/team in charge of the website.

Responsibilities

The Coordination Office (CO) is the overarching entity that functions as a contact point for matters pertaining to the EUPeace Fund. Administration and coordination of the Fund application and review process rotate between Alliance members annually. The member in charge of the process prepares the call documents and website text and, in cooperation with the CO, obtains SC and GB approval for the call. The collection of applications and preparation for review by the SC, as well as the preparation of presentation of funding recommendations to the GB, and preparation of the granting letters is prepared by the annual organising team. The granting letters are signed by the Secretary General. The responsibility of the annual organising team ends with the collection of final reports.

For more information contact the Coordination Office at info@eupeace.eu



About EUPeace

EUPeace is the European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies.

Our mission is to provide tomorrow's citizens with the skills, knowledge, and experience to cultivate Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies. We explicitly address all sciences and fields, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural and life sciences as well as engineering, and are inspired by the rebuilt bridge of Mostar – the symbol in our logo – as a testament to how dialogue can overcome conflict.

Philipps-Universität Marburg		Marburg University
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen		Justus Liebig University Giessen
Université de Limoges		University of Limoges
Università della Calabria		University of Calabria
Universidad Pontificia Comillas		Comillas Pontifical University
Západočeská univerzita v Plzni		University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
Sveučilište u Mostaru		University of Mostar
Çukurova Üniversitesi		Çukurova University
Univerzitet u Sarajevu		University of Sarajevo

