

Rules of participation in the Student Challenges

Preamble

EUPeace is a European University Alliance uniting nine partner universities across seven countries and 200,000 students - officially created in January 2023. The Alliance was granted for a 4-year project funding on November 1st 2023, by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), an agency delegated by the European Commission. This structure aims to form a strong union around shared policies, strategies and actions in terms of training, mobility, research, campus life and societal dialogue. The EUPeace Alliance promotes strong positions and values in the fields of justice, peace and inclusivity.

Students are the main beneficiaries of the university institution and key players in society in building the world for future generations. EUPeace member universities invite them to participate in the strategic orientations. To this end, a governance student body with an advisory role called Student Council (STC) and a Student Association gathering local student associations, called EUPeace Student Association (EUPSA), have been built. The creation of the **Student Challenges Call** for projects is a clear operational step towards enabling students to set up concrete actions backed up by financial support.

The **Student Challenges** initiated by the European University Alliance EUPeace aims to encourage the creation of projects by students for students. The smooth running of the project requires cooperation between three EUPeace project structures with collaboration between students and administrative staff: the Student Council (STC), the EUPeace Student Association (EUPSA) and the EUPeace workteam focusing on Campus and Student Life (WP5).

Purpose and name of the system

Purpose

This financial scheme is set up by the European Alliance EUPeace, and aims to actively involve university students in a variety of fields in setting up projects, in which they are the direct beneficiaries.

The generic structure of a challenge is expected to unfold as follows:

- 1) Identify any issue, situation or condition on campus that is detrimental to the principles of "peace", "justice", and "inclusive societies" with any type of manifestation. The identification itself is part of the challenge.**
- 2) Get students on campus engaged in devising possible solutions to the issue. It might not be an ultimate solution or a unique one. Inclusivity involves the acceptance of different perspectives on the same issue.**
- 3) Discussion as broad as possible among the student community to arrive at operational guidelines and/or specific actions, if one specific action can solve or mitigate the issue.**
- 4) Disseminating the full array of solutions**
- 5) Reporting about participation and the results.**

One application session is organized before the end of 2025.

Name of the system

This system is called: **Student challenges**.

General Eligibility criteria for Student Challenges applications

From December 2025, the Student Challenges evolve into shared, interconnected projects at the Alliance level. For each project submitted, a minimum of 2 to 3 partners from 2 to 3 different universities is required (2 for the call 2025-2026 and 3 for the call 2026-2027).

Only student associations members affiliated with one of the members of the EUPeace Alliance and/or EUPSA association members are eligible for funding.

Under no circumstances may the scheme subsidize projects that proselytize religious or political views.

Projects must contribute to improving the inclusivity of campus and student life within EUPeace institutions.

Projects must emphasise student involvement, develop student life, and promote the values of peace, justice, and inclusion.

Each year, the STC will vote on a maximum of two themes (to be discussed in advance with WP5 and EUPSA members), which will be used as a strategic focus to fund student projects.

In July 2025, following a previous joint session with WP5 and EUPSA, the STC selected 2 themes for the call for projects 2025-2026:

- **Theme 1:** Strengthening Peace: How students and universities can become active agents of peace through concrete actions



- Theme 2: Student Participation in Social Life: The university as a catalyst for inclusion and civic engagement

These themes are strongly linked to the EUPeace values.

The format of the initiative is open (survey, report, mobility, conference, tool drafting, policy paper, specifications to promote specific purchases, local event, film production, podcast creation, etc.).

Projects must present a balanced, fair and transparent budget.

Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The following are not subsidized:

- Projects relating to the general operation and renovation of association premises.
- Projects aimed at remunerating students.
- Projects for profit or commercial purposes
- Projects already in progress or already completed at the time of submission to the committee.
- Projects relating to the organization of events at the level of the Alliance (specific led-student events call exists in this specific case)
- Research projects for PhDs (specific action)

Administrative procedure

Applications should be submitted to the EUPeace administrative staff in charge of the overall administrative coordination of the Student Challenges call (University of Limoges for 2025-2026 and University of Mostar for 2026-2027).

The EUPeace Student Challenges administrative coordinator is responsible for the administrative processing of applications. In this capacity, she/he examines the conformity of projects and decides whether to accept or reject them.

If the application is rejected for non-compliance, the project cannot be awarded a grant under the Student challenges scheme.

If the application is declared compliant, it is forwarded to the commission.

Applicants whose projects have been administratively accepted must receive an invitation to attend 7 days before the committee meeting date.

At the committee meeting, the project coordinator will be asked to give a 4-minute presentation of their project (any medium that facilitates the presentation is authorized). This will be immediately followed by an interview phase, during which the commissioners will be able to ask questions to clarify their judgments.

Minutes will be kept of each committee meeting, listing the names of the commissioners, the discussions, the votes and the amounts allocated to each project.

Neither the administrative validation of the application nor the convocation of the project owner(s), prejudices the decision of the grant-awarding committee. It may decide not to subsidize the project or to award the requested sum.

The financial support will be up to a maximum of 12,000€ per project with the participation of a minimum of 2 student associations from 2 different EUPeace universities for 2025-2026. The breakdown of the project budget is decided freely within the partnership and needs to be clearly explained.

The commission and the determination of subsidized projects

It will be a single global commission responsible for deciding on the financing of each project. The composition responsible for awarding project grants will be the following:

- 5 representatives of the EUPeace's Student Council. (5)
- As leaders and co-leaders of the work package, UNILIM, UNICAL and SUM will be entitled to 1 staff member each (teacher, administrative or leadership). (3)
- One EUPeace administrative Student Challenges call coordinator. (1)
- One member from the EUPeace Steering Committee. (1)
- One EUPSA representative. (1)

The number of students on the committee must always exceed or be equal to the number of staff and teachers on the committee. In order for the commission to be held, there must be more students than non-students at the beginning of the session.

If a committee member is absent, he or she may appoint a proxy.

Each project must be examined and discussed before voting on whether or not to award a grant. If the vote is positive, then the amount of the grant must be debated and voted on.

Voting is by a show of hands, or by any software that can be used to identify the first and last names of each member of the commission, as well as the institution of which he or she is a member.

The administrative staff in charge of monitoring and facilitating the presentation of files must be neutral and not express personal opinions. They are also responsible for keeping a record of decisions.

Commission members may delegate their powers to another commission member.

No member may be delegated more than two powers.

Powers of attorney must be sent to the EUPeace administrative Student Challenges call coordinator at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Evaluation criteria to allocate funds

The allocation of funds must be as transparent as possible. The evaluation will be considered as a tool for the commission to allocate funds. The criteria are as follows:

- Presentation and understanding of the project: 1 (worst) to 5 (best)
- Consistency between EUPeace student life policy and the project (students involved in organizing the initiative, number of EUPeace students reached, students as target audience, link with the thematic focus(es) of the call, etc.): 1 (worst) to 10 (best)
- Methodology of the implementation (Is the methodology clear and precise?): 1 (worst) to 5 (best)
- Financial indicator: must include a provisional budget, feasibility and co-financing: 1 (worst) to 5 (best)
- Quality of the interview: 1 (worst) to 5 (best)

System registration / System calendar / System registration deadline

The file is available at least on the EUPeace website. It may also be available on the websites of institutional partners.

Download the application form and send it to the dedicated e-mail within the deadline specified on the EUPeace website.

Only the template published on the EUPeace website should be used. Otherwise, the application will be declared non-compliant.

When sending your application, check if you well-received an acknowledgement of receipt.

All documents must be sent at the same time as the completed application.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Acceptance of regulations

Participation in this scheme implies full and unreserved acceptance of these rules and any amendments, which form the contractual law between the parties.

Obligations for the project leader

Once the project has been completed, the project leader must provide, within a maximum of 1 month, an activity report and a financial report to the e-mail contact of the Student Challenges call coordinator indicated in the Application form.

If the project results in the publication of specific material (book, documentary/film or any other medium), this must be supplied with the activity report. All communication media must be supplied too.

The logos of the University, of EUPeace and the European Union Funding must appear on all communication documents, (such as leaflets, posters, websites, etc).

The logos are available on request from the communication departments of the various institutions represented on the committee. They must not be modified.

After a grant has been awarded, and in the event of any changes to the project (date, location, timetable, funding, etc.), the project leader must inform the administrative coordinator as soon as possible.

Failure to comply with these rules may result in the systematic rejection of future projects.

Any project not carried out, or only partially carried out, may result in full or partial reimbursement of the grant awarded.



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
Sveučilište u Mostaru		University of Mostar
Çukurova Üniversitesi		Çukurova University
Univerzitet u Sarajevu		University of Sarajevo

