

Call for Applications: Widening Programme

The European University Institute (EUI) invites applications for collaborative research funding under its own Widening Programme. This initiative, backed by contributions from the European Union and EUI Contracting States, is designed to strengthen internationalisation, competitiveness, and quality in research in the so-called Widening countries, and thus foster a more cohesive European Higher Education and Research area.

The primary goals of this call are to promote research collaborations to create new knowledge, establish and tighten peer-to-peer academic networks, and eventually reinforce a Europe-wide research community in the social sciences and humanities.

Recognising the essential contribution of diverse thoughts and perspectives in advancing research, this call encourages and promotes diversity and inclusion.

Key Details:

Eligibility: Open to full and part-time professors at the EUI at the date of the deadline. Proposals must be co-led by at least two Principal Investigators, one EUI and one from a Widening country.

Partners must be affiliated to a university or public research performing organisation in one of the countries identified by the EUI for its Widening programme. In the European Union: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Outside the European Union: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Application Scope: Proposals should consider using funds as seed money for Horizon Europe applications involving partners from Widening countries. The involvement of Early-Stage Researchers in the research projects is strongly encouraged. Projects involving multiple EUI academic units are also encouraged. As the scheme is likely to be continued in the future, development perspectives beyond 2024 may be exposed by the applicants.

Cost eligibility: All expenses are admissible according to the EUI rules, excluding IT equipment. Funds will have to be committed for expenses by end of November 2024.

Application Process: Applications should be submitted solely through the online application form. Applications submitted in other forms will not be accepted. The application form is lean and concise, including the network and partners, research description and budget.

Deadline for applications: Projects must be submitted not later than **31 January 2024** at midnight.

The selection committee reserves the right to allocate funds progressively as applications are received. Applicants will receive final decisions on their projects by **15 February 2024**.

Selection Committee and Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated by an ad-hoc Selection Committee.

The committee will prioritise academic excellence and innovativeness, focusing on the ability to establish and strengthen networks and effective partnerships, also including Early Stage Researchers. The emphasis will be on enhancing research capabilities in Widening countries through long-term collaborations and the strategic use of funds as seed money for Horizon Europe applications.

For any queries, please write to deanofresearch@eui.eu

We look forward to receiving your proposals.