SEED FUNDING/ CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2026

Join us in this AcrossEU adventure!

UNICAEN is the coordinator of the AcrossEU European university Alliance which connects 8 universities across 7 countries, all united by collaboration, diversity, and shared values.

Rooted in different regions of Europe, the network brings together varied cultures and expertise **to work as one interconnected academic community.**

Objective of the seed funding call: foster collaborations between the AcrossEU alliance universities

This scheme offers academic and research staff, as well as students, the chance to develop projects across the alliance and to drive bottom-up initiatives by funding small-scale, time-limited projects.

1.Goals

General
1. Enhance existing collaboration within AcrossEU in education, research and innovation
2. Offer project funding to support the implementation of new ideas across all areas and disciplines
3. Contribute to the long-term sustainability of cooperative efforts

Concrete
1. Drive bottom-up initiatives to firmly embed the alliance within its partner universities
2. Foster academic activities
3. Foster research activities
4. Support increased mobility among AcrossEU universities

2. Activities that can be funded

-proposals can focus on research in any scientific area, academic activities, innovation, citizen science activities
-interdisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged

Examples of Research and innovation activities:
-innovation projects with the objective of developing partnerships with external partners
-collaborative research stays for researchers and doctoral students
-conduct surveys, create a database, develop research materials
- organize workshops or seminars
- exploratory workshops to prepare joint externally funded proposals
Examples of Academic projects:
-organize teaching/learning activity
-development of joint study programs (Bachelors, Masters, PhD programs, PhD schools)
-development and implementation of innovative teaching and learning methods
-creation of innovative research-based teaching material
-organize winter or summer schools
Examples of Student-led projects:
-support student democracy and student engagement in partner universities
-encourage students and young researchers from the Alliance to collaborate without the limitation of their fields, faculties or universities (learning, training activities)
-encourage students to share their experience and ideas, get to know each other, create a strong community
-organize joint educational activities (workshops, soft skill courses, etc.)

Eligibility
-researchers, academics, students affiliated to one of the AcrossEU universities can apply
-proposals are submitted by teams including participants from a minimum of 2 AcrossEU universities
-proposals must have one designated Lead applicant at one of the AcrossEU member institutions

-proposals must have one local project coordinator in charge at each of the participating universities
-the Lead applicant is responsible for the project coordination and monitoring the implementation of the project
-the participation of early stage researchers and students is strongly encouraged.
-the participation of external partners is possible. However, will not be eligible for direct funding under this call.

Proposals must be submitted in English.

4. Selection process

- eligibility check
- evaluation of projects
- communication of results

    The AcrossEU Steering Committee will select the proposals.

5. Selection criteria

- impact on participating universities (what will change thanks to this project);
- project implementation;
- expected results;
- possibility to upscale to more universities of the alliance

6. Budget

The minimum funding per project is **5.000 euros.**
The maximum funding per project is **10.000 euros.**

Eligible costs: travel and subsistence expenses/ costs of hosting seminars, workshops/ publications
Non-eligible costs: equipment costs/ staff costs
Co-financing is favored but nor compulsory.

6. Timelime

Call opens	Call closes	Results	Funding period	Report submitted
15 JANUARY 2026	25 MARCH 2026	15 APRIL 2026	15 APRIL 2026/ 15 APRIL 2027	20 MAY 2027

Duration of project: maximum 12 months

7. Reporting

Lead applicants are requested to submit **a final report 1 month** after the end of the funding period on implemented activities and financial aspects. The report should include a communication for the AcrossEU website and social media.

8. Annexes

Application form /Budget form

9. Contacts

The application must be sent by email to both addresses:

intl.projets@unicaen.fr

Clotilde.nicolle@unicaen.fr