



Create Change at your University

The ENHANCE Diversity Seed Fund

(Last Updated September 16, 2024)

Overview and Objectives:

The ENHANCE Diversity Seed Fund is a new initiative supporting student-led projects at ENHANCE member universities to address inclusion and diversity. With a budget of around 30,000 Euros, we aim to foster grassroots engagement and inspire impactful local initiatives that align with the ENHANCE vision of diversity and inclusion.

Thematic Areas

The list is not exhaustive, out-of-box ideas and multidisciplinary activities are welcome!

- Raising awareness/ facilitating dialogue around inclusion and diversity
- Fostering allyship and support for minorities
- Enhancing the inclusivity of existing university activities
- Hosting workshops, campaigns, and events
- Promoting gender equality and combatting gender-based violence
- Encouraging study abroad for students facing barriers
- Promoting multilingualism and intercultural skills
- etc.

Budget Allocation:

- Total budget: Approx. €30,000
- Funding per project: From €250 up to €1,500 can be requested per project for the first round
- A second round is planned for 2025, with details to be shared later, subject to available funds.

Who Can Apply for Funding?

The ENHANCE Diversity Seed Fund welcomes applications from individuals and groups comprising students and staff members of ENHANCE member universities. Specifically:

Students

Any student enrolled at an ENHANCE member university can apply individually or as part of a group. The lead student must be enrolled during the project period. Groups may include staff, though it's optional.

Staff Members

Staff from ENHANCE universities are encouraged to support student-led projects with their expertise, but staff involvement is not required for funding eligibility.

Apply here



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The ENHANCE Diversity Seed Fund

Requirements and Selection Process

Group Composition:

In group applications, the main responsible student must clearly indicate all group members' identities such as students and staff members. Group members may be from different ENHANCE universities. We welcome diverse project groups. You can think of gender balance and members from different ENHANCE universities.

By opening funding opportunities to both students and staff members, the ENHANCE Diversity Seed Fund aims to promote diversity, collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity across the ENHANCE community. Individuals, such as alumni, from universities outside the ENHANCE network are not eligible for funding application. You can of course involve them in your project as well. But we want to see the impact within your university, not outside.

Application Process and timeline:

September 2024: Call opens for project submissions
 14 October at 4 pm: Information event for interested applicants
 8 Jan 2025 Deadline to submit projects for the 1st round
 13 Jan at 10-13 2025: First selection round
 February 2025: Projects from the first round begin
 June 2025: Second selection round

Projects must start within three months after the selection and be completed within one year, with the last projects finishing by September 2027.

Selection Process:

The projects will be selected based on the ranking (Max. 100 points). The funding will be allocated to as many as possible ENHANCE universities in order to avoid that the funding is spent only in one university. The Assessment Committee comprises members from the ENHANCE Diversity Office and ENHANCE university representatives. Successful applicants sign an agreement "Declaration of Acceptance" with RWTH Aachen University and start their projects.

Criteria for Funding (Max. 100 Points are possible)

Relevance (30 Points)

- The proposed project must be in line with the objectives of the Diversity Seed Fund. With this small-scale funding, the Diversity Seed Fund aims to foster bottom-up engagement and inspire impactful local initiatives to promote diversity and to increase inclusivity in ENHANCE Alliance.
- The project must be in line with the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy of the involved institution(s) in ENHANCE.

Project team and their motivation (30 Points)

- The seed fund can be requested by students of any ENHANCE Member University individually or as group. During the application, the main responsible student (project leader) must indicate who is part of the project team. The student can also involve a staff member of their university. We welcome this. The project leader must be a student at one of the ENHANCE universities during the project period. The project leader will receive the payment from the RWTH Aachen University after signing the "Declaration of Acceptance". It is possible that the members of the project group come from different ENHANCE Universities. We welcome this. Individuals (such as Alumni) from outside ENHANCE Universities are not eligible for funding application. Of course, you can involve them but we want to see the impact of your project within ENHANCE Alliance.
- The project leader clearly describes their motivation to implement this project in the application form.
- We welcome students to involve staff members as well as we believe that this increases the impact. But it is not a must.
- The project team members are actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the project.
- A Project leader from the 1st round can apply for continuation in the 2nd round. We plan to launch a 2nd round in 2025.

Impact (40 Points)

- The local project must bring an added value for increasing the level of inclusion and diversity awareness at least in one of the ENHANCE universities (Projects can involve also more ENHANCE universities)
- The expected project impact must be described realistically with an appropriate implementation plan how to carry out the project.
- Project owners must inform and involve also the Diversity Office* of their own universities to increase the synergies and the potential impact. (*: Diversity Office is used as a general term as the ENHANCE Universities have different structures such as Equal Opportunities Office, Diversity and Inclusion Office, D&I Representatives, Ombudspersons etc.)
- The Assessment Committee pays attention that the universities are funded in a balanced way.
- The funding cannot be used to support inclusion of only one individual (for example: To buy a wheelchair). The project activities must aim at having a positive impact on the local university community affected by any barrier(s).
- It is important that the project owners develop a dissemination plan how to make bigger waves with their project and its results.
- It is important that the project owners present how the impact of the project could sustain after the project lifetime. What will stay for longer time?



Contact

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