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unite! | University Network for Innovation,
Technology and Engineering

Unite! Seed Fund Initiative

Objectives of the initiative

The Unite! Seed fund is envisioned to provide financial support to innovative, co-creative and collaborative ideas in–**Teaching and learning, Scientific research, and Student activities**–across the Unite! alliance. The seed fund intends to support exploration and development of attractive and diverse activities and projects, to help secure either additional funds for a project or to carry out cooperation on joint, ambitious and innovative ideas within the alliance.

Funding Line: "Unite! Seed fund for Student Activity"

Funding initiative for promoting innovation and collaboration in Student Activities within Unite alliance.

Funding overview

The aim of Unite! is to be an innovative, collaborative, inclusive and sustainable alliance. Through its ambition to realise excellence in education, research, and innovation by creating new opportunities, Unite! University alliance invites students and student associations to send proposals of collaborative projects for its first round of Seed funding. The funding is open to all subjects and extracurricular topics.

Award information and Timeline: Basic Data

Seed Fund Programme Line:	Student Activity (see also calls for the Seed Fund Programme Lines "Teaching & Learning" and "Research and PhD")
Budget of each proposal in this call:	**Up to 20,000€**
Deadline for proposals:	**15 May 2023** Next call (for academic year 2024-25) is foreseen to be published September 2023
Decision will be taken:	**By mid-June 2023**
Funding period for this call:	**July –December 2024 (Project periods can be up to 18 months)**

Objectives and Purpose

- Activate Unite! students to **jointly pursue new activities**, e.g., joint projects, exhibitions, events, excursions, competitions, hackathons, in areas such as innovation, sports, career, language, education, communication, outreach or any other promising idea.
- Stimulate **collaboration and exchange** from bottom-up
- Support **student initiatives** financially for a limited period of time (from the seed fund)
- Enable them to **develop joint follow-up** activities, thus initiating activities well beyond the seed finances

Budgetary guidance

Eligible costs that can be funded:

- Personnel cost only for staff employed in university for organisational tasks and student assistants, honorary contracts with sufficient explanation of their necessary inclusion
- Travel expenses (sustainable modes of travel preferred; Erasmus+ mobility schemes should be used wherever possible)
- Other costs that can funded include material resources, research consumables, on-site/blended workshops, external service providers (e.g., moderators, language services).

The seed fund cannot be used for student grants or remuneration.

Requirements and Deliverables

- Applications must comprise of **at least students or student organisations from two UNITE! Member universities.** Partners beyond Unite! can be included, but not as beneficiaries.
- **If beneficial for the project, the Unite! Metacampus should be used as part of the project** and its intended use should be specified in the seed fund proposal. Metacampus (as part of the UNITE! digital campus) is the central learning management platform for all unite! members and can be used e.g. training, workshops, teaching and lectures. For any questions, please contact the Metacampus support (metacampus@unite-university.eu).
- A written report to the Unite! secretariat on the progress and results of the project is due two months after the project ends **(28 February 2025 at latest).** Templates will be provided to successful applicants.
- Only a max. of 50% of the funding can be allocated to one partner in the project.

Evaluation Criteria

The review quality criteria are:

- Expected added value of Unite! activity for students and student organisations/associations
- Adequate inclusion of students and student organisations of the Unite! alliance (at least students/ organisations/associations from two Unite! member universities involved)
- Realistic work plan and clearly defined outputs
- Likelihood and potential benefit of follow-up joint activities (e.g., broadening participation, scaling-up)
- If applicable: Potential for outreach and external dissemination of Unite!
- Adequacy of the funding requested.

Application Procedure

- Applications can be submitted **until 15 May 2023** via email to: seedfund@unite-university.eu or can be uploaded on the Metacampus.
- **Kindly contact your university's <u>Student Liaisons Officer</u> for Unite! alliance for application guidance on ideas and regulations.** Inquiries can also be emailed to: seedfund@unite-university.eu
- **Eligible to apply:**
    - **Under- and Postgraduate students (including PhD Students)**
    - **Student organisations/associations**
    - **Units and service centres of Unite! Universities** (such as sports unions, language centres etc.)
- The evaluation of applications will be made by the Unite! Academic Forum (UAF) and selection decisions will be confirmed by the Unite! Steering Committee. Results are **expected by 15 June 2023.**
- The funding can only be transferred to institutional units/organisations/departments etc. and not individual students.
- **Complete Application form** including project outline (max. 3 A4 pages, signatures additional sheet) to be submitted as PDF, which also shows how the proposed objectives will be achieved and the funding criteria fulfilled. The budget allocation excel sheet should be filled out and submitted together with the form.
- Supporting documents by the student organisations, Department/Unit heads wherever deemed necessary.