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 1 November 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 Alliance (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 co-operation 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 in a variety of fields university students 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 which 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 organised each academic year based on one or two strategic thematic focuses.

The Student Challenges will take place in two distinct phases:

- The first call will occur in 2025, and funding will be available for site-specific "Challenges" to guarantee the inclusion of all communities at the local institutional campus sites;

- In 2026 and 2027, this will evolve into shared interconnected projects at the Alliance level.

Name of the system

This system is called: **Student Challenges**

General Eligibility criteria for Student Challenges applications

Only student associations members affiliated with one of the institutional partners of the EUPeace Alliance are eligible for funding.

Under no circumstances may the scheme subsidise projects that proselytise 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.

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.

Phase 1:

During the first year of Student Challenges introduction (2025), funding will be available only for site-specific "Challenges" to initiate the inclusion of member communities at the local institutional campus sites.

Based on the proposal of WP5 students also involved in the EUPSA setting up, the STC decided to select the thematic focus of Social and Solidarity Economy for the 2025 call (voted in the session of November 2024). This theme is strongly linked to the EUPeace values and combines the opportunities already identified for EUPeace students to get involved in 2025 (events, lobbying, projects with external stakeholders).

The following initiatives are not eligible for subsidy:
- 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 organisation of events at the level of the Alliance (specific student-led events call exists in this specific case);
- Research projects for doctoral candidate (specific action).

Phase 2:

In years 2026 and 2027, the Student Challenges evolve into shared, interconnected projects at the Alliance level. For each project submitted, a minimum of 3 partners from 3 different universities is required.

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- 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 organisation of events at the level of the Alliance (specific student-led events call exists in this specific case);
- Research projects for doctoral candidate (specific action).

Administrative procedure

Phase 1:

Applications should be submitted to the local EUPeace administrative staff representative selected by each institution and communicated locally.

The administrative staff of each EUPeace institution member is responsible for processing applications. In this capacity, they examine projects' administrative conformity (all items filled in) and decide 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 Student Challenges Commission.

The Commission may decide not to subsidise the project or award the desired sum to a maximum of 1000€ per project.

Phase 2:

Applications should be submitted to the EUPeace administrative staff in charge of the overall administrative coordination of the Student Challenges call (mentioned with the 2026 call opening).

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 15 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 authorised). 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), prejudges the decision of the grant-awarding committee. It may decide not to subsidise the project or to award the requested sum.

The financial support will be up to a maximum of 12000€ per project with the participation of a minimum of 3 EUPeace universities.

The commission and the determination of subsidised projects

Phase 1:

During phase 1 of the project, the commissions selecting the funded projects will be set up at each university. Each university is free to choose its representatives. However, the commission composition must comply with the following rules:

- At least, 1 student representative from the STC of EUPeace;
- At least, 1 student representative from a local body;
- At least, 1 student member of EUPSA;
- At least, 1 administrative staff member of the EUPeace project local team;
- At least, 1 staff (teacher or administrative) of the local University.

The number of students on the committee must always exceed or be equal to the number of staff and teachers on the committee.

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 project proposals 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 local administrative staff at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Phase 2:

During phase 2 of the project, there 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:

- 1 representative of the EUPeace's Student Council from each university (9);
- As leaders and co-leaders, UNILIM, UNICAL and SUM will be entitled to 1 staff member each (teacher, administrative or politics) (3);
- 1 EUPeace administrative Student Challenges call coordinator (1);
- 1 member from the EUPeace Steering Committee;
- 1 EUPSA representative (president or representant).

The number of students on the committee must always exceed or be equal to the number of staff and teachers on the committee.

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 school 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 (only during the phase 2):

- Presentation and understanding of the project: 1 (worst) to 5 (best);

- Consistency between EUPeace student life policy and the project (students involved in organising 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).

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 email 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 email contact address of the WP5 administrative staff representative listed in the table.

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 EUPeace and of the EU must appear on all communication documents (such as leaflets, posters, websites, etc.) as per the EU funding rules.

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, time-table, 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.

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Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen	🇩🇪	Justus Liebig University Giessen
Université de Limoges	🇫🇷	University of Limoges
Università della Calabria	🇮🇹	University of Calabria
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Západočeská univerzita v Plzni	🇨🇿	University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
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