

EU GREEN – Procedure to leverage joint research and Innovation activities - 2026

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1. General information

Through top level education, research, innovation and engagement, EU GREEN, the European University for Sustainability, aims at addressing sustainability from the periphery and for the periphery in Europe. EU GREEN partners aim to place societal responsibility at the heart of their mission, as a guiding principle that defines the way we teach, engage and focus our research and innovation. Since 2023, EU GREEN has established a yearly joint procedure for proposals to stimulate collaborative research, conference organization, mobility and internship among our 9 universities.

For this 4th call, any academic or research support staff from EU GREEN partner universities can submit proposals for joint research and innovation activities. None of the tasks included in the application should have been already covered by previously funded projects.

The applications must aim at a short-, medium- or long-term impact on **the research, innovation, engagement and/or educational offer** of our institutions. This procedure, implemented between the transition between EU GREEN 1 (i.e., from WP3 Structuring research-based learning through Excellence Clusters) and EU GREEN 2 (i.e., from WP4 Building Bottom-up Communities of Research and Innovation), is intended to. intended to leverage cooperation between our academic communities and create new or consolidate existing scientific relationships within EU GREEN and also in EU GREEN regions, thus enhancing the quality of our education, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Its vision is to build robust communities and strong research-based learning among the EU GREEN universities and to advance EU GREEN impact in our regions.

This call is open to the entire scientific community of our universities; and inclusive of all research disciplines. It is not restricted to EU GREEN clusters. The proposals must highlight the links to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The applications should support concrete exploratory collaborative activities with single or multiple disciplines that put forward the complementarity of competences and approaches to develop or reinforce collaboration. Those activities could facilitate travel and networking, information sharing, gaining access to data, writing EU GREEN coauthored publications, on research outcomes, lead to the application to higher-impact projects or to the creation of new sub-groups, include EU GREEN Associate Partners and other regional stakeholders etc.

The total budget available at Alliance level represents **an average of 20 incentive for collaborative research projects, as well as 6 scientific conferences and 54 individual mobilities.**

2. Application

The applications must be submitted through [this online form](#). Within this form; you will have to upload:

- Annex 1 (list of participants, carbon footprint, budget)
- Annex 2 (choose your key pillar)

3. Calendar

Call closes	November 4th, 3 pm CET
Selection and announcement of the laureates	November – December 2026
Laureate projects start from	January 1 st 2027
Laureate projects end	September 30 th 2028

This call supports 3 key pillars:

Incentive for
collaborative
research projects

EU GREEN
Scientific
conferences

Researcher
Mobility Program

4. Evaluation

The applications will be evaluated by the members of the Joint Research and Innovation Committee. First-time applicants will be prioritized. Threshold at 10 points.

Incentive for collaborative research projects and scientific conference

Criteria	Max score
Relevance of the project for EU GREEN mission and vision. Link with the Sustainable Development Goals.	0: no relevance 1: limited relevance 2: relevant 3: very relevant
Leverage potential and sustainability of the collaboration. Potential impact of the action	
Participation of Early Career Researchers.	
Quality and credibility of the proposed workplan. Clarity and pertinence of the objectives of the project	
Relation to at least on the of priority areas within the EU GREEN alliance: • Joint program and pedagogical innovation development; • Flexible learning pathways for sustainability and digital competences • Cross-campus cohesion and societal transformation	
Involvement of regional external partners (i.e. public entities or private companies) to deal with common territorial challenges	0: reached 1: not reached
Gender parity	
Number of participating universities	0: if less than 3 partner universities participate in the activity 1: if 3 or more than 3 universities participate in the activity
TOTAL	20 points

Researcher Mobility Program

Criteria	Max. score
Detailed programme of the activities to be developed during the visit.	5 points
Expected outcomes of the mobility visit, and next collaboration steps planned after the visit (i.e. visits regarding application to competitive funding)	6 points
Early career researchers (PhD and Postdoc)	4 points
TOTAL	15 points

5. Details of the key actions

a) Incentive for collaborative research projects

This action should support specific exploratory collaborative activities with single or multiple disciplines that put forward the complementarity of competences and approaches to build other

bigger projects. Those activities could facilitate travel and networking, information sharing, gaining access to data, preparing high impact publication on research outcomes, lead to the application to high-impact projects or to the creation of new sub-group etc.

The projects must:

- Include at least three EU GREEN partners,
- Be completed within 20 months or less,
- Not exceed a total budget **€10,000** for the whole project,
- Respond to sustainability challenges at the European or global level,

Each proposal must have one unique designated Principal Investigator (PI) from one of the EU GREEN partner universities.

Special attention during the selection process will be given to proposals:

- Involving the participation of early career researchers¹
- Preparing the ground for larger-scale projects funded through Horizon Europe or national programmes, etc.
- Synergies with other EU GREEN activities, namely:
 - Joint program and pedagogical innovation development (WP2)
 - Flexible learning pathways for sustainability and digital competences (WP3)
 - Cross campus cohesion and societal transformation (WP5)

b) EU GREEN scientific conferences

This action should support the organisation of scientific conferences. These funds can be used to either cover operating costs or support the travel of lecturers and/or participants from EU GREEN universities. As a result, indexed conference proceedings will be asked.

The conferences must:

- Include at least three EU GREEN partners,
- Not exceed a total budget **€10,000 Euros** for their organisation.
- The conference should be organised in one of the EU GREEN universities except for the Atlantic Technological University, the University of Parma, or the University of Gävle. The application should forecast a detailed communication plan.

c) Researcher Mobility Program

The program finances outgoing mobility towards EU GREEN universities. It is expected from the research visits to either launch or reinforce research cooperation between EU GREEN institutions on an individual (researchers), intermediate (teams/medium scale projects) or institutional level (research centres/large scale projects, PhD schools etc.). A maximum amount of **€2,000 per person and per mobility** will be granted to cover travel, accommodation and food costs during the mobility period (around a week).

¹ Early career researchers are understood as follows: master students, PhD students, those who finished their doctoral thesis less than 8 years ago.

The mobility must comply with internal regulations at each partner university. Mobilities will be funded only towards EU GREEN universities and for participation in project activities. Both the visiting fellow and the host researcher shall be actively implicated in the project's realisation during the visit. The support of the project by a host researcher and host research centre is mandatory.

d) Expected outputs

Funded activities should contribute to one or more of the following outputs:

- Strengthened collaboration between research, innovation, and education communities across the alliance.
- Development and implementation of doctoral training activities.
- Creation and delivery of EU GREEN summer schools.
- Establishment of sustainable academic and research networks among alliance members.
- Development of applications to European research calls.
- Training of young researchers.

e) Rules of funding

At the application stage, a detailed budget must be filled in the provided template. The maximum budget allocated per activity, based on the real costs declared in the detailed budget, will be split between involved partners. Each university will finance the expenses of its own participating researchers. The activity may include external partners, but they will be non-eligible for direct funding. Examples of eligible activities are:

- Organizational fees (conference or workshop)
- Master secondment, when locally eligible
- Mobility, in group or individual

The co-funding of activities from other sources is possible and encouraged. But the PI should pay attention to avoid European double funding (i.e. the same expenditure cannot be allocated twice to European funds). For example, the beneficiary cannot benefit from this program and from Horizon Europe or Erasmus+ funds for the same activities.

The eligible costs should be related to the structuring of research. **No research per se cost will be allowed** (i.e. research consumables, research materials or equipment or publications are not allowed). Specific financial and economic rules can be included in each University. That's why **it is requested to share the budget distribution with each internal EU Green office from each university before submission.**

The contacts for the budgetary follow-up in each university are:

University of Angers, France	eu-green@univ-angers.fr
University of Parma, Italy	eugreen@unipr.it
Atlantic Technological University, Ireland	eugreen@atu.ie

Otto von Guericke Magdeburg University, Germany	Katrin Thiel-Tegtmeier katrin.thiel-tegtmeier@ovgu.de
Högskolan i Gävle, Sweden	Pr. Asifa Iqbal asifa.iqbal@hig.se
University of Evora, Portugal	eugreen@uevora.pt
University of Oradea, Romania	Pr. Sanda Filip, Vice-Rector for Research Management sfilip@uoradea.ro
Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland	Paulina Zaweracz, EU GREEN project manager paulina.zaweracz@upwr.edu.pl
University of Extremadura, Spain	eugreen_uex@unex.es

6. After the project

a) Technical and financial report

A final report must be submitted within 15 days after the end of the activity and at the latest on the 15th of October 2028. A template is available [here](#). The reports will be submitted by email at the following address: eugreenwp3@univ-angers.fr which will then disclose the reports for a general assessment of the initiative.

b) Results

Ownership or joint ownership of results, the transfer of results, the dissemination of results and the access rights are governed by the EU GREEN Grant Agreement and the EU GREEN Consortium Agreement.

c) Communication

The EU GREEN logo and “funded by the European Union” logo must appear in the communication materials of your activity. Contact your local communication team for more information.