



2nd call of the T4EU seed funding initiative – Q&A info session – PhD focus

18 Aug 2025

T4EU SEED-FUNDING FOR...

- ✓ the creation of seamless mobility schemes,
- ✓ enhancing vertical mobility,
- ✓ developing new joint study offers,
- ✓ establishing micro-credentials,
- ✓ joint PhD programmes,
- ✓ PhD tracks,
- ✓ Lifelong Learning offers

→ Transforming Curricula toolbox available for download

FUNDING LINES – 2ND CALL

Topic	Submission deadline	Implementation	Grant amount
A. Explore teaching and learning collaboration in all 3 study cycles and LLL	30 September 2025	From December 2025 (project runtime 12–14 months)	€ 96,000
B. Develop teaching and learning collaboration in all 3 study cycles and LLL			€ 192,000

FUNDING LINES – 2ND CALL – A FOCUS ON PHD LEVEL

A) “Explore collaboration”

1. Explore and establish contacts for teaching & learning collaboration/consortia:

- List of contacts in the different partner universities
- Describe joint topics and fields for collaboration

2. Define collaboration ideas for the next steps towards the creation of sustainable educational or training offers:

- Describe the offers (e.g., jointly offered courses, PhD Tracks or joint PhD programmes) and how they will be organized, number of ECTS (where applicable – NB: for some partners PhD activities are not tied in with ECTS; it is recommended that a recognition scheme be devised).
- Describe in which (existing or future/new) study or training programmes the future offers can be integrated, and how. If possible, name the number of students that will benefit from the offer(s).
- Define a roadmap of next steps with timeline and responsible persons to implement the collaboration ideas.
- Describe the potential for developing them further in the future.

FUNDING LINES – 2ND CALL – A FOCUS ON PHD LEVEL

B) “Develop teaching and learning collaboration”	
<p>1. <u>Develop educational and/or training offers, e.g.:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blended/joint/collaborative courses for PhDs (courses can be developed as part of PhD tracks and / or joint PhD programmes),• PhD tracks,• Joint PhD programmes. <p>Envisage to have the necessary agreements signed and course curricula and teaching materials (where relevant) finalised by completion of the project.</p> <p>2. <u>Clearly define the path towards a Joint Programme (double, multiple or joint degree):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the Joint PhD Programme (academic field(s) & focus, orientation, target group(s), general and specific skills developed.• Define a roadmap incl. timeline, responsible persons, necessary formalities at the partner universities involved.• Describe the potential for development and for synergies with research.	<p>Or:</p> <p><u>Develop a Joint Programme</u> that is ready for submission to be accredited by the partner universities involved, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum (where relevant) / list of mandatory and elective courses or activities (where relevant)• Enrolment requirements• Roadmap for implementation and accreditation• Potential funding programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have the necessary framework agreements signed, prepare model co-tutelle agreements, model application documents, model individual study plans by the end of the project. <p>NB: The PhD Tracks and joint PhD programmes can be based on existing accredited PhD programmes at the partner universities.</p>

→Funding line B is aimed at developing in-person, hybrid, and/or purely digital formats.

→Sample documents from the established joint PhD programmes are available for download.

SEED-FUNDING – BUDGET

Funding lines	Maximum grant amount (= 80% of the total project costs)
A) Explore teaching and learning collaboration	€ 10,000
B) Develop teaching and learning collaboration	2 participating universities: € 15,000, 3 or more participating universities: € 22,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only a maximum of 50% of the budget can be allocated to one partner.• Funds are expected to be managed through local T4EU teams.	

SEED-FUNDING – WHAT IS ELIGIBLE

- Applications must include academic staff or teaching units from **at least two T4EU member universities.**
- Partners beyond the alliance can be included, but not as beneficiaries.
- All applicants involved in the proposal must be registered in **connect4research.**
- Educational offers developed are expected to **bear ECTS credits**
- Proposal must clearly state in what way the funded activities are *additional* to ongoing activities
 - The seed fund **cannot be used to fund ongoing activities.**
 - The seed fund **cannot be used to fund research activities.**

TOOLS

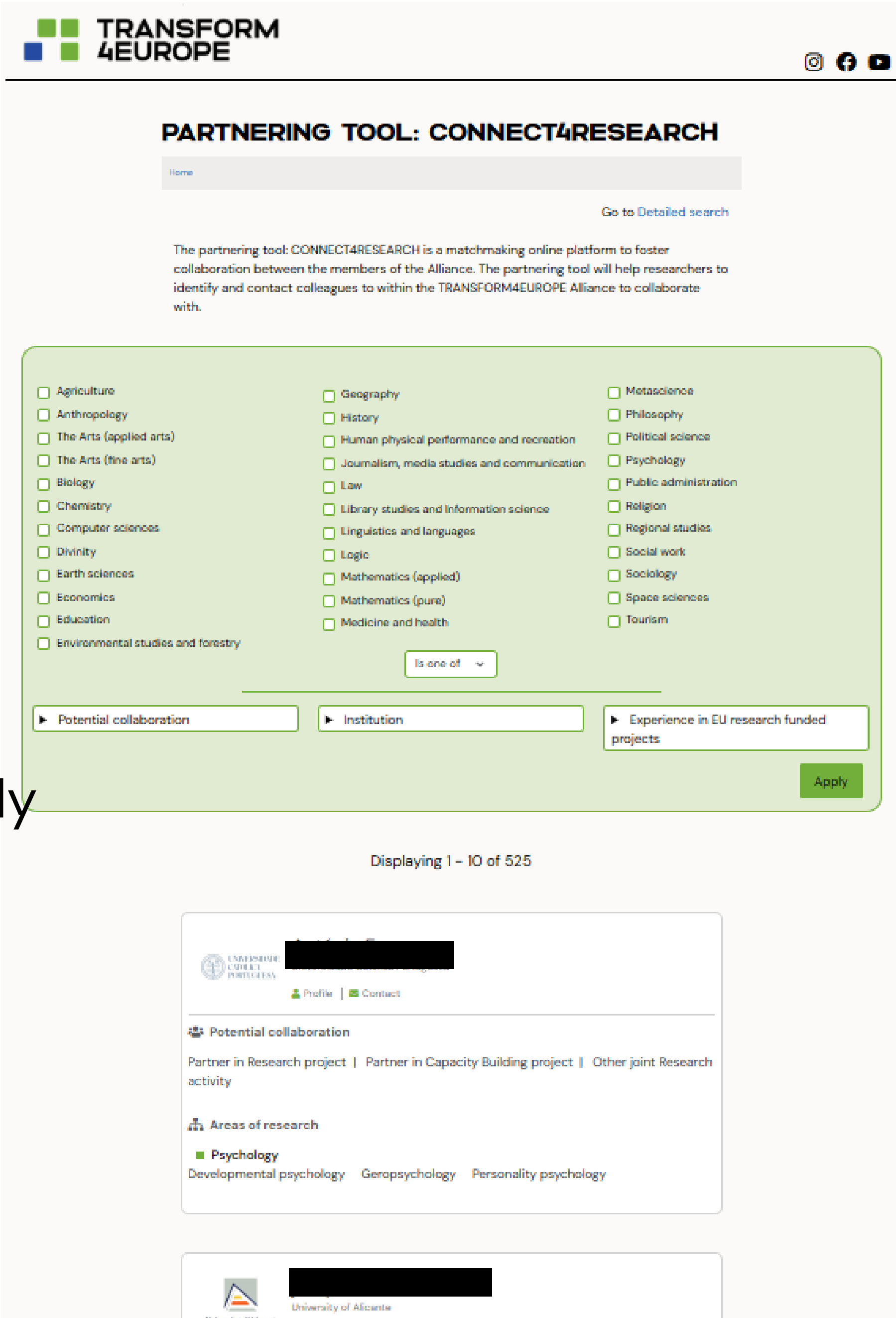
- ✓ Connect4research
- ✓ Matchmaking events – upcoming:

MATCHMAKING EVENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRIMORSKA

Heritage – Research and practices in a rapidly changing world
4–5 September 2025 | University of Primorska, Slovenia

MATCHMAKING EVENT AT JEAN MONNET UNIVERSITY

Strengthen academic cooperation and develop a joint study offer at the Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD levels.
25–28 November 2025 | Jean Monnet University, Saint-Étienne, France



CREATING A COMPELLING PROPOSAL

1. Relevance and Impact

- ✓ Contribution to the expected results of the T4EU initiative
- ✓ **Number of students** / lifelong learners benefitting from the offer
- ✓ **Sustainability**: Integration into the institutions' regular study offer
- ✓ **Transferability** to other study programmes and / or disciplines
- ✓ **Alignment** with the T4EU key areas (digital, environmental, societal transformation + knowledge entrepreneurialism)
- ✓ Alignment with T4EU values (multilingualism, interdisciplinarity)

CREATING A COMPELLING PROPOSAL

2. Quality of the proposal – project design and implementation

- ✓ Realistic and thought-through planning
- ✓ Clear description of the path towards a long-term offer
- ✓ Adequate personnel resources available
- ✓ Reasonable budgeting

BACKGROUND

- The Joint T4EU Doctoral Programmes offer flexible contents allowing doctoral students to design their own research path, collaborate with experts in the area from all Transform4Europe universities following their co-supervisors' advice and research leadership. They embrace openness, inclusiveness and cooperation and conform to the European Charter and Code for Researchers.
- Each programme is open to doctoral applicants who will simultaneously be enrolled in two Transform4Europe universities which offer the respective programme through bilateral agreements of co-supervision.
- The doctoral students who have successfully completed their studies and have defended their PhD theses will be awarded a joint or double doctoral degree from these two universities as detailed in the respective co-supervision agreement.
- They will also be awarded a Transform4Europe Alliance Certificate certifying that the PhD degree obtained is under the framework of the *Transform4Europe* European University Alliance.

BACKGROUND

- All the PhD courses offered within the Transform4Europe programmes are taught in English unless doctoral candidates can follow courses offered in other languages at the universities in which they are enrolled. The PhD thesis is to be written and defended in English or in one of the languages of these universities as indicated in the agreement between the relevant authorities of the two co-supervising universities. A 20–30 pages summary in English must be provided if the thesis is not written in English.
- The duration of studies is specified in the respective bi-lateral agreements
- The Joint T4EU PhD Frameworks are open to all T4EU members

BACKGROUND

General application procedures

- Doctoral candidates of different academic backgrounds as detailed in the respective T4EU doctoral framework can apply if they are
 - ✓ Enrolled at the respective home university as PhD students
 - ✓ Willing to do independent interdisciplinary research
 - ✓ With a specific area of research within the scope of the PhD programme in mind
 - ✓ Ready to submit a PhD Thesis project.

General application documents

- 1. Dissertation/thesis project focusing on the theme of research, main research questions, envisaged methodological or theoretical approach, provisional bibliography (max. 60 entries)
- 2. Cover letter
- 3. CV
- 4. Reference letter by (potential) supervisor/supervisors
- 5. Documents proving enrolment as PhD students at home universities
- 6. Other documents as detailed in the specific requirements of the respective university.

T4EU DOCTORAL PRGROAMME IN SOCIETIES ON THE MOVE (T4EU-DOC-MOVE)

Change in identities and identifications in the European area and beyond as manifested in:

- Studies of existing and emergent social groups and identities
- Intercultural communication studies
- Cultural and literary studies
- Heritage studies
- Diaspora studies
- Digital humanities
- Human rights studies
- Studies in social inclusion policies: actors, institutions, coordination mechanisms and governance modes
- Gender and diversity studies

Education as transformation with reference to:

- Internationalization in and of education
- Human rights and democratic citizenship education
- Education in a context of diversity
- Inclusive education for disadvantaged groups

- Education for migrants and immigrants
- Diversity of leadership within higher education transformations
- Resilience in vocational and professional education contexts
- Dropouts in diversity of educational levels and contexts: school, vocational training, and higher education
- Creativity and talent in diverse contexts

Language studies and linguistic change as drivers and symptoms of societal change:

- Multilingualism and plurilingualism
- Language policies and language education policies
- Translation, and translanguaging
- Intercultural and democratic competence
- Perceptions and attitudes to 'foreign' people
- Natural language processing and language technologies

FIELDS OF RESEARCH

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ACADEMIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Knowledge and understanding of setting up and conducting independent research.
- Familiarisation with socially and publicly significant knowledge and solutions leading to societal transformation.
- Application of interdisciplinarity in research and innovations.
- Experimentation with scientific processes based on openness, inclusiveness and cooperation.
- Established open collaboration with stakeholders.
- Understanding of the different traditions of academic writing within the international peer-network.
- Enhanced expertise to promote and discuss academic research topics and results, to provide new perspectives on one's research toward wider international audiences.
- Ability to provide extensive number of academic teaching hours and various teaching approaches in order to provide valuable educational experience to BA/MA students.

TRANSVERSAL SKILLS

- Acquired and consolidated plurilingual competences for work in an academic environment.
 - Enhanced awareness of own and others' cultures and acquired intercultural competence.
 - Developed skills to participate actively in personal learning networks and research networks.
 - Accomplished active societal engagement.
 - Acquired and consolidated time management skills and skills to meet deadlines.
 - Upgraded digital skills for learning, conducting and sharing research, and building a public profile.
 - Project writing skills for preparing competitive proposals in relevant research and employment spheres.
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- The future T4EU DOC-MOVE Joint PhD candidate would be able to benefit from the expertise of all T4EU universities and their academic cultures, linguistic diversity, work, and collaboration approaches, teaching methods, as well as their professional, research and stakeholders' networks.

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES COLLABORATING UNDER THE T4EU-DOC-MOVE WITH SIGNED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

- Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria and Saarland University, Germany
- Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria and Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
- One PhD student currently being enrolled in the programme to receive 2 diplomas from the home and host university

2. SEED-FUNDING CALENDAR

Call n°	Launch	Topic	Submission deadline	Implementation	Grant amount
2	June 2025	A. Explore teaching and learning collaboration in all 3 study cycles and LLL	September 2025	From December 2025 (project runtime 12-14 months)	€ 96,000
		B. Develop teaching and learning collaboration in all 3 study cycles and LLL			€ 192,000
3	December 2025	A. Explore teaching and learning collaboration in all 3 study cycles and LLL	Mid-March 2026	From May 2026 (project runtime 12-14 months)	€ 48, 000
		B. Develop teaching and learning collaboration in all 3 study cycles and LLL			€ 144,000
4	May 2026	C. Explore and/or further develop (existing) collaboration in teaching and learning, Integrate one (or more) additional partner(s) into an existing collaboration:	Mid-July 2026	From October 2026 – May 2027 (project runtime 6-8 months)	€ 40,000

POINTS OF CONTACT

Saarland University	T4EU local project manager
<p>Central contact for all questions regarding seed-funding</p> <p>→ Distribution of questions in case they're too specific / relating to internal matters</p>	<p>First contact point for general enquiries about T4EU</p> <p>Financial "monitoring" in line with internal financial regulations at each university</p>