**ENLIGHT Application for Future-proof Incubator grants  
Strand A: Joint study programmes[[1]](#footnote-2)**

**1. Title and basic information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of the initiative |  |
| Disciplinary field (Inter-/Multi-, if applicable) |  |
| Bachelor’s level, (EQF 6) or Master’s level (EQF 7) |  |
| Number of ECTS credits of the envisaged joint study programme (indicative) |  |

**2. To which ENLIGHT flagship domains/**[**focus areas**](https://enlight-eu.org/index.php/university-about-us/flagship-domains) **does the proposed initiative relate?**

*Please select one or several ones in order of relevance (1 most relevant-5 least relevant). For further information, please consult https://enlight-eu.org/university-about-us/flagship-domains.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Health and Well-being |
|  | Digitalization |
|  | Climate Change |
|  | Energy and Circular Economy |
|  | Equity |
|  | Culture and Creativity |
|  | Other, please specify: |

**3. Coordinator and partners**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Coordinating university,  faculty/-ies and department(s),  names and contacts |  |
|  |
| Partner university,  faculty/-ies and department(s),  names and contacts |  |
|  |
| Partner university, faculty/-ies and department(s),  names and contacts |  |
|  |
| Partner university, faculty/-ies and department(s),  names and contacts |  |
|  |

*Please, copy the above table as many times as needed*

**4. Description of the initiative**

4.1.Please describe the **overall goals and general objectives** of the envisaged joint study programme.   
4.2. Please describe the **rationale for the design** of a new joint study programme. The proposal should be based on a genuine and adequate **needs analysis** that identifies issues/gaps/challenges the initiative aims to address in **academic terms**, and with regard to **societal and labour market needs**.   
4.3. Please describe the **innovativeness** of the envisaged joint study programme, as compared to existing offers of Bachelor and/or Master programmes.  
4.4. Please describe the **expected role** of each participating organisation, the **added value** of their collaboration, and the **complementarity** of partners.

-> Max. two pages.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**5. Budget plan.** Please provide here the sum you are requesting and describe a rough division of finances among partners and the expenditure types.

**Educational Initiative Budget per University**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Amount |
| University 1 |  |
| University 2 |  |
| University 3 |  |
| University 4 |  |
| TOTAL AMOUNT |  |

*Please, add information for each partner involved.*

**6.** Please describe the planned activities and corresponding **timeframe** for the development of the envisaged joint study programme. Please incorporate the minimum expected deliverables, as listed in Annex II of the application form).

-> Max. one page.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**7.** Please describe the expected **impact and ambition** of the envisaged joint study programme, including the appeal to students and professors (individual level) and partner organisations (institutional level). See also: [https://impact.enlight-eu.org/](https://impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impacthttps:/impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impacthttps:/impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impacthttps:/impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impacthttps:/impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impacthttps:/impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impact)

-> Max. one page.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**8. Sustainability of the initiative**

8.1 Please describe the envisaged **steps to successfully launch/implement the joint study programme**, including institutional endorsement and embeddedness. Has the proposal been discussed with the Faculty/institutional administration/management? Which steps are to be taken for formalization of the planned joint study programme, also in the light of accreditation?

8.2. Please describe the foreseen measures to ensure the **sustainability** of the new joint study programme.

-> Max. one page.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**For support at the application stage, please contact your local ENLIGHT coordination office.**

(University of the Basque Country - [enlight@ehu.eus](mailto:enlight@ehu.eus))  
(University of Bern - [enlight@unibe.ch](mailto:enlight@unibe.ch))  
(University of Bordeaux - [enlight@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:enlight@u-bordeaux.fr))   
(Comenius University of Bratislava - [enlight@uniba.sk](mailto:enlight@uniba.sk))  
(University of Galway - [enlight@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:enlight@universityofgalway.ie))  
(Ghent University - [enlight@ugent.be](mailto:enlight@ugent.be))  
(University of Göttingen - [enlight@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:enlight@uni-goettingen.de))  
(University of Groningen - [enlight@rug.nl](mailto:enlight@rug.nl))  
(University of Tartu - [enlight@ut.ee](mailto:enlight@ut.ee))  
(Uppsala University - [enlight@uu.se](mailto:enlight@uu.se))

**Annex I.** Glossary of terms[[2]](#footnote-3)

**Joint study programme**

“An integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different higher education institutions and leading to a joint degree or double/multiple degrees.”

The joint study programme should lead to new jointly developed programme-level learning outcomes, but can be based on existing and/or newly developed course offer at the respective participating institutions.

**Possible outcomes in degree-awarding upon successful completion of the joint study programme**

**Joint degree**

“A single document awarded by higher education institutions offering the joint programme and nationally acknowledged as the recognised award of the joint programme.”

**Double/multiple degrees**

“Separate degrees awarded by higher education institutions offering the joint programme attesting to the successful completion of the joint programme. If two degrees are awarded by two institutions, this is a ‘double degree’.”

**Annex II.** Overview of minimum expected outputs

**Jointly designed programme-level learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes indicate which knowledge, skills and attitudes, or an integration of them in competences, a student should obtain throughout the programme. They are the minimum requirements for students graduating in a specific study programme. The learning outcomes of the joint study programme are jointly designed and jointly agreed upon by the participating institutions.

**Study programme and corresponding student mobility trajectories**

Develop the academic study programme / curriculum / course offer of the joint study programme, including the (physical and/or virtual) mobility trajectories[[3]](#footnote-4) for all enrolled students.

**Joint admission requirements**

Develop the principles and requirements for candidate-students to apply for, be selected to and participate in the joint study programme. Include academic requirements, language requirements and – if applicable – additional/document requirements.

**(Progress on) a draft partnership agreement**

Institutional commitment of all participating institutions takes the form of a partnership agreement, which must be signed by all partner institutions upon implementation of the joint study programme. The partnership agreement covers all academic, operational, administrative and financial aspects related to the implementation of the joint study programme.

**Annex III.** Principles to align the envisaged ENLIGHT joint study programme with (upon further development).[[4]](#footnote-5)

1. ENLIGHT joint study programmes **align with the strategic and academic priorities of the ENLIGHT alliance**. […]
2. ENLIGHT joint study programmes **draw upon excellence and competence** in the relevant academic fields across the ENLIGHT university alliance, building upon **synergies and complementarities**.
3. ENLIGHT joint study programmes are **relevant to society and working life**, and should engage with the **complex societal challenges of the 21st century**. They strengthen **research-based teaching, collaboration on research** and development projects, while seeding **interdisciplinarity**. […] The educational purpose should **link with ENLIGHT focuses**, such as key determinants of societal transitions, well-being, sustainable cities and communities.
4. ENLIGHT joint study programmes **enable transfer and sharing across all universities** of ENLIGHT, bringing together the best **learning modalities and innovative approaches** across the ENLIGHT partners. They stimulate increased transparency between the ENLIGHT academic communities and increase competence through reciprocal learning outcomes.
5. ENLIGHT joint study programmes stimulate increased **student and staff mobility** including **teacher mobility** across the entire ENLIGHT network as well as **attract European and international students** to ENLIGHT universities.

**Annex IV.** European degree (label) initiative and corresponding criteria for joint study programmes – Version 27/03/2024 (subject to change, expected in May 2025)

In 2021, the European Commission launched a new initiative **to further the establishment and implementation of transnational, integrated joint study programmes** at Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral level, along with the awarding of joint degrees. It aims to create a level-playing field through the implementation of a ‘European degree (label)’.

The **European degree** is to be a new type of degree/qualification/title awarded after transnational joint Bachelor, Master or doctoral study programmes and delivered at national, regional or institutional level. The European degree is to be based on **a set of common criteria** agreed upon at European level and with which the joint study programmes must comply to be able to award said degree to its graduates.

In March 2024, a **‘Blueprint’ for a European degree** was published by the European Commission as a main pillar of the EC’s ‘higher education package’. The ‘blueprint’ includes the idea for EU Member States to choose either for a ‘full-blown’ European degree that can be awarded to students graduating from joint study programmes that meet the common criteria, or for a European degree **label** to be obtained by joint study programmes that meet the common criteria. By creating two entry points in the roadmap, the European Commission aimed to cater for differences in higher education systems across Europe. The European degree (label) remains a **voluntary policy instrument** initiated by the EU but to be integrated in national or regional regulatory frameworks.

In addition to the blueprint for a European degree, the higher education package included a proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education (still under discussion) and a proposal for a Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education (adopted under the Hungarian presidency in Nov. 2024). The **common criteria that are to form the basis of the European degree (label) were included** as Annex II to the proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education, after a round of co-creation through a number of pilot projects (in one of which, i.e. EDLab, ENLIGHT was represented).

The European degree (label) initiative, corresponding procedures and the underlying common criteria to be met by the joint study programmes are **still much under development** and are currently being discussed by the EU Member States in the Council of the EU. Nevertheless, the common criteria for the European degree (label) in their draft form may already serve as a **source of inspiration for the development of ENLIGHT joint study programmes, also with a view to possible future funding calls**. Further developments at EU level, a.o. related to the (approval of the) common criteria, are expected in May 2025.

Further information:

* [EC higher education package of March 2024 and Blueprint for a European degree](https://education.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-presents-a-blueprint-for-a-european-degree)
* [EC info page working towards a European degree](https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-degree/working-towards-a-european-degree)
* [Annex II draft set of European criteria for a European degree (label)](https://education.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-03/Annexes-to-proposal-for-Council-Recommendation-on-European-quality-assurance-and-recognition-system-mar24_en.pdf) (as part of the annexes to the proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education)
* [FAQ on the blueprint for a European degree](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/72864ead-bdcb-11ef-91ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en)

1. Annex I. Glossary of terms

   Annex II. Overview of minimum expected outputs

   Annex III. Principles to align the envisaged ENLIGHT joint study programme with (upon further development)

   Annex IV. European degree (label) initiative and corresponding criteria for joint study programmes [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.eqar.eu/kb/joint-programmes/definitions/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Be aware that with a view to potential future funding and/or labelling applications for the implementation of the joint study programme, these applications may be bound to specific student mobility conditions, such as the Erasmus Mundus Action or the European degree (label). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Extract from the ENLIGHT1.0 deliverable (D26. ‘Joint programmes: overview of desired learning outcomes’) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)