

ENLIGHT Application for Future-proof Incubator grants

Strand A: Joint study programmes¹

1. Title and basic information

Title of the initiative ACRONYM	
Title of the envisaged joint study programme	
Disciplinary field (Interdisciplinary/Multi-disciplinary, 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. Coordinator and partners

Please fill in all contact information; a correctly completed application form is a condition of eligibility criteria.

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

¹ Annex I. Glossary of terms

3. To which ENLIGHT flagship domains/focus areas 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:

4. Relevance

4.1. Please describe the **overall aims 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 preliminary **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 offer of bachelor or master programmes.

-> Max. 2 pages

5. Quality of the project methodology

5.1 **Project work plan**. Please describe the **planned activities** and corresponding **timeframe** for the development of the envisaged joint study programme. Please incorporate the **minimum expected deliverables** (see the Annex II to the application form), to be aligned with the overall aims and objectives of the initiative.

-> Max. 0,5 page

5.2 Budget plan

Please provide the amount you are requesting and describe a rough division of finances among partners and the expenditure types.

Include a brief description on **how the budget contributes** to the activities described and the **type of costs** considered.

<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>University 1</i>	<i>University 2</i>	<i>University 3</i>	<i>University 4</i>
<i>Personnel</i>	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...
<i>Travel</i>	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...
<i>Purchase costs</i>	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...
<i>Organization</i>	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...
<i>Other goods /Services</i>	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...
	TOTAL	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...	€ ...

Please, add information for each partner involved.

6. Quality of partnership and cooperation.

6.1. Please describe the **expected role** of the participating organizations, the **added value** of the collaborative nature, and the **complementarity** of partners.

-> Max. 0,5 page

6.2. 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 at each of the partner institutions?

-> Max. 0,5 page

7. Impact and sustainability

7.1. Please describe the expected **impact and ambition** of the envisaged joint study programme, including the appeal to future students and professors (individual level) and partner organizations (institutional level). See also guidelines on impact in [Annex V](#).

-> Max. 0,5 page

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

-> Max. 0,5 page

- Annex I. Glossary of terms
- Annex II. Overview of minimum expected deliverables
- Annex III. Principles to align the envisaged ENLIGHT joint study programme with (upon further development)
- Annex IV. Joint European degree label initiative and corresponding criteria for joint study programmes
- Annex V. Impact in ENLIGHT [Annex V Impact ENLIGHT.docx](#)

Annex I. Glossary of terms²

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’.”

² <https://www.eqar.eu/kb/joint-programmes/definitions/>

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 trajectories³ 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.

³ Beware 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 joint European degree label.

Annex III. Principles to align the envisaged ENLIGHT joint study programme with (upon further development).⁴

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.

⁴ Extract from the ENLIGHT1.0 deliverable (D26. 'Joint programmes: overview of desired learning outcomes')

Annex IV. European degree (label) initiative and corresponding criteria for joint study programmes – Version 30/01/2026 (subject to change, awaiting the operational guidelines)

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 'joint European degree label'.

The **joint European degree label** is to be considered as a quality hallmark for the **jointness and Europeanness** of the joint programmes. The label is awarded by the awarding body⁵ to joint programmes that are assessed as **compliant with a set of commonly defined European criteria**. These common European criteria alongside a roadmap for the furthering of the label initiative have been adopted by the Council of the EU in May 2025⁶. The operationalisation of the criteria and label awarding procedures are currently **still under development** and ultimately to be decided upon by the EU Member States. The label initiative is expected to be fully launched, welcoming applications for the label by consortia of joint programmes by **Spring 2026**.

Awaiting formal procedures, the common criteria for the joint European degree label as approved by the Council in May 2025 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**.

With a view to 2029 and upon evaluation of the label initiative and a feasibility study, the European Commission aims to propose specific next steps towards the introduction of a **joint European degree**. A joint European degree is expected to become a new type of degree/qualification/title that can be awarded by higher education institutions to students graduating from joint study programmes that meet the common criteria.

The joint European degree label and a possible future joint European degree remain **voluntary policy instruments** initiated by the EU but to be integrated in national or regional regulatory frameworks.

⁵ Either an EQAR-registered quality assurance agency or by a HEI in the case the consortia only include self-accrediting HEIs (option)

⁶ [Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education. Council Resolution on a joint European degree label and the next steps towards a possible joint European degree.](#)