Seed Funding
Special edition: DIGITALIZED!

Call for Applications

Context

Una Europa is launching a special edition of its seed funding initiative. This special edition forms part of the the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange NAWA-funded DIGITALIZED! project, carried out by Jagiellonian University under the "Academic International Partnerships" programme. The special edition is exclusively targeting young researchers from Una Europa universities interested in collaborating on digital technologies for society.

Goals of the call

The overall aim of the Una Europa Seed Funding Initiative is to support the initiation of collaborative activities among the academic community of the partner universities. The broad **thematic scope for this call is how digital technologies shape societies**. More concretely, the financed projects should fall under one of the following topics:

1. **Digital mind**: mind - machine interaction; extended mind; the influence of digital technologies on the functioning of the human mind; digital tools to aid research on brain & mind; new algorithms to aid decision-making; related ethical and legal issues.
2. **Digital communities**: the influence of digital technologies on communities; the nature and dynamics of online communities; virtual and blended spaces for communities; alienation in the digital age; digital communication; related ethical and legal issues.
3. **Digital governance**: the role of digital technologies in all levels of governance; e-democracy; values in the digital world; law and Artificial Intelligence; the legal status of autonomous machines; legal regulations of digital technologies.
4. **Digital economy**: the 4th industrial revolution; digital technologies and circular economy; digital technologies and sustainability; economic decision-making in the digital era; digital tools to aid economic policy-making; related ethical and legal issues.

This thematic scope is to be interpreted broadly, inclusively and in an inter- and transdisciplinary way.

The outputs of the projects may include, but are not limited to, joint publications, joint research grant proposals, developing (virtual and physical) institutional frameworks for research collaboration, business-academia cooperation, cooperation with social institutions, science-based citizen-engagement actions, innovative science communication formats.

Eligibility

Seed funding projects must be coordinated by an early-stage career researcher from one Una Europa university and must involve early-stage career researchers from at least an additional two Una Europa universities. In addition, the

participation of other university staff is possible. An early-stage career researcher is defined by having obtained a PhD degree and having less than 8 years of research experience after obtaining the PhD.

Third parties may participate in the proposed activities; however, this will be at their own cost.

The seed funding should not duplicate funding that is otherwise available.

The scheme is open to all academic disciplines taking into account the thematic scope.

Funding and financial procedures

Applicants are invited to apply for funding according to the following maximum levels:

- For projects involving 3 Una Europa partners: up to 11.000 EUR
- For projects involving 4 Una Europa partners: up to 14.000 EUR
- For projects involving 5 Una Europa partners: up to 17.000 EUR
- For projects involving 6 Una Europa partners: up to 20.000 EUR
- For projects involving 7 Una Europa partners: up to 23.000 EUR
- For projects involving all 8 Una Europa partners: up to 25.000 EUR.

The total budget for the DIGITALIZED! Call for Applications is approx. 150.000 EUR.

The distribution of budget to successful projects will be carried out in the form of lump sums.

The following costs are considered eligible for seed funding:

- Travel costs, accommodation, daily allowance and organizational support (These maximum costs are automatically calculated via the provided budget template.)
- Funding of temporary staff/subcontracting costs to support the project if these resources are not available within the consortium
- Purchase of software and hardware that is clearly demonstrated to benefit the project and partnership as a whole
- Open access publications when relevant and within the timeframe of the project

In the context of the post-Corona crisis and to promote sustainability - applicants have the freedom to develop a budget plan for projects which include little or no physical mobility.

The following costs are considered ineligible for seed funding:

- Permanent staff costs
- Proofreading/translation costs
- Conference fees
- Activities duplicated by funding that is otherwise available.

Please note that for this specific call Una Europa acquires non-exclusive intellectual property rights to the proposals and reporting. This will be outlined in detail in the grant agreement.

Evaluation of applications

A selection committee consisting of members of all Una Europa universities will rank proposals for funding on a competitive basis. Particular attention will be given to the following criteria:

Quality (30 points)

- Quality, clearly formulated plan and goals of the envisaged project
- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach

- Strength of the team

Contribution to the goals of Una Europa and the thematic scope of the call (30 points)

- Capacity to contribute to goals of deepening cooperation between the Una Europa universities
- Contribution to the thematic scope of the call

Impact (20 points)

- Capacity to attract external funding and involve external stakeholders
- Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Application of Open Science principles

Implementation (20 points)

- Potential to transform a well-structured budget into a realistic working plan.

The final decision-making for the funding of projects lies with the Secretary-General and the Jagiellonian member of the Board of Directors of Una Europa vzw. In case of equal ranking, funding will be granted to the project with the highest number of points under the Quality criterion.

Submission and deadlines

Proposals for the Una Europa seed funding initiative should be submitted by the project coordinator in English via the online application form. The application consists of an application form with upload fields for the timeline, budget and endorsement letters of the respective Dean or Faculty Head declaring support for the envisaged project. The project description should be short and concise and should include a clear description of the proposed activities.

The duration of a proposed activity can be up to 8 months. The proposed activities should be conducted between February 2022 and September 2022.

Applicants can access the online application form here and templates for endorsement letters and the budget on the Una Europa website here.

The deadline for proposals to the DIGITALIZED! call is 1 December 2021, at 17:00 CET.

Reporting on projects

Beneficiaries will be requested to submit a short project and financial report by 30 September 2022. Successful applicants will be provided with a template for reporting.

About Una Europa

Una Europa mission

Una Europa brings together eight leading research universities with global reputation and reach. Our mission is to create a truly European inter-university environment, where outstanding research is continuously linked to transnational learning and innovative, critical thinking.

Una Europa partners

The Una Europa partners are Freie Universität Berlin, Alma Mater Studiorum – Universitá di Bologna, University of Edinburgh, Helsingin Yliopisto, Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, KU Leuven, Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Together, we will create a university of the future, where our students, researchers and staff will address the challenges of the future.

Una Europa projects

Una Europa was selected among the first prestigious 'European Universities' pilots funded by the Erasmus+ programme. Our 1Europe pilot was launched in December 2019 and aims to create a single education eco-system through the development of more than 20 Joint Innovative Formats for education and mobility, covering Bachelor, Master, Doctorate and Continuous Education.

Through top-up funding from the Horizon 2020 programme, Una Europa has launched Una.Resin in February 2021, a new pilot to take the first steps towards creating a single research and innovation eco-system.

About NAWA

The Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange is set up to coordinate national activities driving the process of internationalization of Polish academic and research institutions. The mission of NAWA is to foster the development of Poland in the area of science and higher education.

The Agency promotes long-term policy to support academic mobility and quality-oriented internationalization of Polish universities. It implements strategic policy concerning the support of individual academic mobility aimed at increasing the potential of teaching and research.

About the DIGITALIZED! project

The Call is financed from the DIGITALIZED! project funded by NAWA - Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. Developing new forms of intensive cooperation between European universities is an urgent need in a globalizing world, especially in the context of changes brought about by the digital revolution. Therefore, the DIGITALIZED! project has two objectives: on the one hand the development of new forms and intensification of cooperation between Una Europa universities and on the other conducting scientific research, popularization, educational activities and projects in the socio-economic environment related to the impact of the digital revolution on the social world.