

Freiburg, 19.03.2026

## Call for projects in the field of Research, Innovation and Transfer – 2026

**Please note: this document has been translated to the best of our ability, but only the German and French versions are binding.**

1

The EGTC Eucor – The European Campus is a network of tertiary institutions comprising the universities of Basel, Freiburg, Haute-Alsace and Strasbourg and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. The network sees itself as a leader in the field of science in the Tri-national Metropolitan Region Upper Rhine, and aims to become a regional scientific research hub without borders, and with international outreach.

Eucor – The European Campus is launching a call for projects to award start-up funds for cross-border projects at its member universities that are characterised by high academic quality, originality and relevance to the European Campus.

Within the framework of this call for projects, two streams of funding are envisaged. The first stream, “Research, Innovation and Transfer” includes programmes for doctoral training. The second stream supports projects in the field of “Teaching”. A total of 300,000 euros is available for the 2026 call.

### GOALS

The Seed Money funding “Research, Innovation and Transfer” aims to promote and deepen the existing cooperation between the member institutions of Eucor – The European Campus. By using the specific strengths and competences of the member universities, the attractiveness, visibility and competitiveness of Eucor – The European Campus shall be increased.

The Seed Money for “Research, Innovation and Transfer” – including doctoral training programmes – offers start-up funding primarily for cross-border project consortia in need of short-term support while preparing a major application for funding to a national or European research funding institution (examples include the bilateral calls for proposals between the DFG and the ANR, the EU Framework Programmes, the funding within the framework of INTERREG Upper Rhine or International Research Training Groups of the DFG with corresponding partner institutions).

The externally funded joint research projects envisaged may involve basic research, applied research or a combination of both.

**Start-up funding up to 60,000 EUR per project may be granted. The maximum project duration is 24 months. The earliest project start date is 1 February 2027.**

## REQUIREMENTS

Researchers (corresponding to at least the career level "R2 Recognised Researcher" of the European Commission) of the member universities of the European Campus are eligible to apply provided they are employed at the respective university.

2

The project consortium envisaged must actively involve members of at least two universities of Eucor – The European Campus from at least two countries in the project. Project consortia with three partners or more are explicitly encouraged. **The maximum funding amount of 60,000 EUR is only available for project consortia consisting of at least three partner universities.**

The participation of other research institutions, or companies, authorities or other non-scientific institutions, especially from the Upper Rhine region, is possible and encouraged, but their participation must be at their own expense.

The project preparation funded with the Seed Money call must be carried out within member universities of Eucor – The European Campus. Funding of researchers at institutions outside the member universities of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus is not possible.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE AND FORM OF SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted by the leader of the project consortium **until 24 September 2026, 17:00 (Brussels time)** to the Secretariat of Eucor – The European Campus in electronic form via the online application form.

Applications can be written bilingually in German / French or in English. Please refer to the instruction sheet for projects in the field of Research, Innovation and Transfer in Eucor – The European Campus.

Early contact with the Research Services of the member universities of Eucor – The European Campus is recommended.

Project funding begins on 1 February 2027 at the earliest. The maximum project duration is 24 months.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Funding can be provided for expenses for personnel, including student assistants (however, not for the applicant's own position), expenses for material costs, for travel, as well as for conferences and workshops, for the use of university-owned service facilities, provided that they directly serve the project goals or the preparation of the targeted third-party funding application.

**Expenses for construction and furnishing measures, for rent, operating and maintenance costs, for general institute equipment (such as IT equipment, office furniture, instruments, protective clothing), for the acquisition, replacement or repair of equipment, for postage, telephony and office supplies are not eligible.**

For national specifics on the group of persons eligible to apply and on eligible expenses, please refer to the Seed Money guidelines for the use of funding.

The Seed Money guidelines for the use of funding are integral part of the grant. By accepting the granted funds, the applicants undertake to comply with these conditions.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

The funding decision is made in a two-stage selection process.

In the first step, all proposals submitted are evaluated for their scientific quality by an ad-hoc commission of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus with equal representation of researchers from the member universities. The commission forwards up to ten positively evaluated applications to the Commission of Vice-Presidents of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus.

In the second step, those applications receiving a positive assessment will be evaluated by the Commission of Vice-Presidents of Eucor – The European Campus in terms of their strategic relevance. The Assembly of the Presidents and Rectors of the member universities of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus will make the final decision on the allocation of funds.

There is no legal entitlement to a grant.

The final funding decision will be announced in December 2026.

The following evaluation criteria are applied in the selection of the funded projects:

- the scientific quality, originality and relevance of the project in relation to the state of research
- the relevance for the scientific community and for society
- the scientific qualification, competence and visibility of the applicant consortium

- The feasibility in the targeted funding period and the prospect of subsequent funding by third parties
- the contribution of the project to the sustainable networking of the member universities
- the relevance of the project for strengthening the profile of the European Campus in research, innovation, transfer and doctoral training
- increasing the visibility of the European Campus.

#### EXCLUSION FROM THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

4

By submitting the application, applicants confirm that the expenses for which funding is requested do not form part of other funding applications submitted in parallel to one or more other funding organisations.

Should such an application be submitted, the applicants undertake to inform the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus immediately upon submission.

Follow-up funding of projects already funded by Seed Money of the EGTC Eucor – The European Campus is not possible.