



## Call for INGENIUM Joint Research Group Cooperation Proposals

Supervisors and academic staff involved in doctoral training, doctoral students, and Postdoctoral researchers of the INGENIUM universities are invited to submit proposals for the creation and early development of INGENIUM joint groups aimed at designing and delivering research-based training activities for the doctoral ecosystem.

The initiative aims to strengthen long-term interdisciplinary cooperation across the Alliance, support doctoral education and early-career research training, and foster joint activities addressing key competencies. Faculty and research staff from INGENIUM universities can utilize CONNECT, a specialized research matching platform developed at Ud'A, to identify and connect with potential partners. CONNECT is available here: <https://connect.unich.it/>

Deadline for application: **19 April 2026**

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Each proposal should be developed by a research team consisting of members from a minimum of three INGENIUM universities to promote interdisciplinary and inter-institutional cooperation. A lead Principal Investigator (PI) will submit the proposal. Both the lead PI and the PIs at other universities must have a contract with an INGENIUM university at the time of application, submission and throughout the entire project duration. This requirement does not apply to other team members at each university.

Eligible applicants include:

- **Doctoral students**
- **Early-career researchers**
- **Academic staff involved in doctoral training**

## WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

In line with the objectives of the INGENIUM Research School, eligible projects should contribute to strengthening the INGENIUM research and doctoral training ecosystem by enhancing doctoral education and fostering early-career research collaboration across INGENIUM universities. Proposals are expected to include joint training activities for doctoral students and early-career researchers (ECRs) addressing key transversal and professional competencies such as:

- Open Science practices, fostering transparency, reproducibility, and knowledge sharing across the Alliance;
- Ethics in research, including the responsible and critical use of artificial intelligence in academic and scientific contexts;
- Personal scientific branding and research visibility, equipping researchers with the tools to communicate and position their work effectively at European and international level;
- Understanding business and industry contexts, strengthening the connection between academic research, innovation ecosystems, and societal stakeholders.
- Targeted webinars, micro-credentials, and practical training modules on specialised topics within the five INGENIUM research ecosystems

To be eligible, proposals must demonstrate a clear intention to build or strengthen long-term cooperation within the INGENIUM Alliance, with a well-defined description of the activities they intend to develop jointly, the expertise and resources to be shared among partners, and a concrete strategy for attracting additional funding from local, national, or international sources. Activities funded should fit one of the five ecosystems (Artificial Intelligence, Sustainable Development, Natural Sciences, Intercultural Studies, Wellbeing, Health & Technology) or be transversal. Applicants are encouraged to integrate strategic approaches that ensure the sustainability and long-term impact of the collaboration beyond the funded period.

## HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE EVALUATED?

Submitted applications will be evaluated by a panel composed of members from the INGENIUM Research School Board (IRSB) and expert advisors from the INGENIUM universities. In cases where members of the evaluation panel are directly involved in an application, either in their individual or institutional roles, the member in question will abstain from the evaluation of the relevant proposal. Each application will be evaluated by two members of the evaluation panel.

Evaluation criteria will be based on the quality of the proposal (excellence, cooperation arrangements and impact in accordance with the CoARA vision), the interdisciplinary character of the group, the potential involvement of social and industrial partners, the impact of the activities on societal challenges.

## HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

The total grant budget should generally not exceed 10,000 euros. The payment is a lump sum and refers to the total amount allocated for the entire project, to be shared among all partners involved in the project.

## WHAT TYPES OF EXPENSES ARE ELIGIBLE?

The funding is primarily dedicated to supporting activities that foster collaboration, training, and professional development within the INGENIUM research and doctoral community. Eligible expenses may include costs related to the organization and implementation of activities such as structured networking events among doctoral students across INGENIUM partners, joint training events for doctoral students and early-career researchers, transferable and transversal skills courses organized by at least three INGENIUM partner universities, activities connecting doctoral students with industry and societal stakeholders, and the development of open-access digital tools and training materials for PhD students.

**Please note:** funds cannot be used to directly finance research activities (e.g. equipment, consumables, research personnel costs).

## HOW LONG SHOULD PROJECTS LAST?

Projects can officially start on 1 May 2026. The spending deadline is 8 November 2026, at the latest. After this date, the groups can mobilize other funds to continue their work.

## WHAT ARE THE DELIVERABLES FOR WINNING PROJECTS?

Winning projects are expected to contribute to the development of joint training activities and tangible outputs within the INGENIUM Alliance framework. Funded teams should design and pilot at least one deliverable chosen from a broad range of formats, including but not limited to: micro-credentials, workshops, webinars, conferences.

Where micro-credentials are developed, these should be structured around clear and assessable learning outcomes and designed in alignment with emerging European standards and frameworks for the recognition of short-cycle learning.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND MORE INFORMATION

Applications should be submitted by the set deadline: **11:59 pm, 19 April 2026**.

The application must be sent to [irsb@ingenium-university.eu](mailto:irsb@ingenium-university.eu), putting in **cc the INGENIUM email addresses of all partner institutions involved in the project**.

### Partner INGENIUM contact emails:

**UNIOVI-ES:** [ingenium@uniovi.es](mailto:ingenium@uniovi.es)

**MUS-BG:** [ingenium@mu-sofia.bg](mailto:ingenium@mu-sofia.bg)

**UoC-EL:** [ingenium@uoc.gr](mailto:ingenium@uoc.gr)

**HKA-DE:** [ingenium@h-ka.de](mailto:ingenium@h-ka.de)

**XAMK-FI:** [ingenium@xamk.fi](mailto:ingenium@xamk.fi)

**Ud'A-IT:** [ingenium@unich.it](mailto:ingenium@unich.it)

**HIS- SE:** [ingenium@his.se](mailto:ingenium@his.se)

**MTU-IE:** [ingenium@mtu.ie](mailto:ingenium@mtu.ie)

**URN-FR:** [ingenium@univ-rouen.fr](mailto:ingenium@univ-rouen.fr)

**TUIASI-RO:** [ingenium@groups.tuiasi.ro](mailto:ingenium@groups.tuiasi.ro)

**TIMELINE**

**19 April 2026** – Application deadline (11:59 pm)

**30 April 2026** – Announcement of winners on the INGENIUM website

**1 May 2026** – Projects can start

**8 November 2026** – Spending deadline