EUTOPIA

EUTOPIA Design intrapreneurship program

Call for ideas

1. Introduction

EUTOPIA Alliance has been awarded funding from the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 for the implementation of the EUTOPIA MORE project under the European Universities initiative and the Erasmus+ Program.

Under this project, and its Work Package 2 focused on Facilitating Connectedness, EUTOPIA is launching the intrapreneurship* pilot program "EUTOPIA Design". The aim of this initiative is to develop innovative sandboxes that allow for testing solutions that would be beneficial for EUTOPIA and its university members.

2. Purpose of the call

As part of the initiative EUTOPIA Design, the present call aims at identifying academic staff, technical and administrative staff as well as students interested in working on innovative ideas tackling challenges relevant for EUTOPIA and/or common across EUTOPIA universities.

Applicants are either invited to work on challenges drawn from the Report on the main challenges of the EUTOPIA Alliance (A) or on a challenge they have identified themselves (B).

3. Challenges

This call contains two tracks, therefore applicants can either:

(A) Choose one challenge from the EUTOPIA Alliance report listed below and share their interest, motivation, and ideas on how to address it.
(B) Submit a challenge related to their university, along with an idea on how to address it, ensuring both are relevant to the EUTOPIA Alliance and applicable to its member institutions.

A. The challenges identified in the EUTOPIA MORE WP2 Report on the main challenges of the EUTOPIA alliance are as follows:

- <u>EUTOPIA Challenge 1:</u> Overcoming existing barriers in designing joint educational or research programs.

  The challenge often lies in the significant workload faced by the academic and administrative staff involved, due to the need to establish relationships and negotiate differing positions between the EUTOPIA HEIs. This often includes creating institutional arrangements, addressing the incompatibility of national qualification frameworks and accreditation systems, as well as managing overlapping academic calendars. These factors create additional complexity, making coordination and development of joint educational initiatives more difficult.

  Solutions tackling this challenge are meant to overcome barriers in designing joint educational and research programs.

- <u>EUTOPIA Challenge 2:</u> Transform EUTOPIA and its member universities into more student-centered organisations:

  Students' voices are often not fully integrated into key decisions within the EUTOPIA Alliance. As the need grows for current students to play a more active role in shaping future decisions, it becomes increasingly important to prioritize their involvement.
  One of EUTOPIA's main goals is to place students at the heart of the alliance and its universities, focusing on their development and engagement. The goal of this challenge is to develop innovative solutions that bridge this gap and ensure that students are recognized and given the possibility to participate actively in shaping their student journey.

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Solutions tackling this challenge are meant to contribute to transforming EUTOPIA or its member universities into student-centered organisations.

- <u>EUTOPIA Challenge 3:</u> Foster greater collaboration and impact by increasing connectivity and improving communication

  The challenge focuses on fostering greater collaboration, which is related to the improvement of internal communication and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange.
  Increased connectivity aims at creating better synergy between working groups and university communities, making collaboration more efficient and impactful.
  The impact aspect can be translated in many ways, one of them being the integration of project results into the core activities of the organisations.

  Another way of understanding impact could be related to the involvement of a larger number of relevant stakeholders in EUTOPIA's events and activities.

  Solutions tackling this challenge are meant to enhance communication and collaboration within the EUTOPIA Alliance and/or partner universities.

B. Alternatively, applicants can submit a challenge they have identified themselves as well as an idea to address it:

- <u>Open challenge:</u> We invite applicants to identify and submit an idea on how to address a challenge they would like to work on, which has the potential to be applied across all EUTOPIA universities. We encourge applicants to take this opportunity to be creative and show interest in solving pressing issues.

4. How to apply
Applicants are invited to submit their applications through the following <u>form</u>.

For any question about the call or if you would like to apply to the Open Challenge and you need another team mate to fulfil the requirements for the minimum number of applicants, you can contact:

Pompeu Fabra University
Laia Cotet i Bages
laia.cotet@upf.edu

University of Gothenburg
Andreea Maris
andreea.maris@gu.se

5. Program phases

The objective of the EUTOPIA Design initiative is to contribute to supporting academic staff, administrative and technical staff as well as students in becoming intrapreneurs.

This initiative consists of three phases and contains two selection points:

Phase 1 | CHALLENGES

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The present call is part of the first phase of the process which aims at assessing the interest of participants in working on developing ideas to help solve either the challenges specified above or challenges that they have identified themselves.

Intra-university dissemination of this call will be organized to reach applicants from all partner universities.

→ *1st Selection | At intra-university level*
The initial selection will take place at the intra-university level. Each EUTOPIA member university can nominate up to one candidate per challenge (EUTOPIA Challenges 1, 2, and 3) and one group (min. 2 max. 4 people) for the Open Challenge. These nominations will be submitted to the Task Team, which will oversee that everything aligns appropriately. If there is significant interest in a particular challenge, additional participants may be selected from each university based on the program's needs.

Phase 2 | IDEA DEVELOPMENT

The objective of this phase is to generate, tailor and refine ideas to a level suitable for testing. The intrapreneurs behind proposals will receive training on innovation methodologies to help them shape their ideas with a user-focused approach to ensure they are well-defined and theoretically validated.

During this phase, applicants will take part in four training sessions on-site as well as online, each lasting approximately three hours.

Individual applicants for the EUTOPIA Challenges (1, 2, 3) will be grouped during the first training sessions according to the challenge they expressed interest in and will engage in a process of collaboration and co-creation. Please note, therefore, ideas submitted might undergo modifications or might not be the ones further developed.

→ *2nd Selection | At EUTOPIA level*
The second selection will be made by a Selection Committee composed of representatives from each EUTOPIA member university as well as representatives from the EUTOPIA Central Office.
The competences owned by the Selection Committee will encompass the next: knowledge in developing and maturing ideas, validating and verification of ideas, testing and eliminating risks, implementation of new services, procedures and systems within the university.
At the end of Phase 2 (Idea Development), the committee will assess the ideas that have been refined, using the assessment criteria listed below. The aim is to send approximately 10 ideas on to Phase 3, where they will be tested.

Phase 3 |IDEA TESTING

In the final phase, participants will focus on developing a proof of concept, testing it, and refining it through continuous iterations to ensure it truly meets user needs. To support this process, participants will receive hands-on training in agile methodologies. They will work in an iterative and collaborative manner, executing the experimentation plan they have designed during the training sessions, building their proof of concept, and testing it with real beneficiaries, while guided by experts.

6. Participation requirements

We are inviting academic staff, administrative and technical staff and students from the EUTOPIA alliance partner universities to participate in the intrapreneurship program EUTOPIA Design.

Applicants from the 9 full partners of the project are supported through EUTOPIA MORE Erasmus+ Funds. The University of Warwick (UW) is an associate partner and, together with participating members from the Global Partners of the EUTOPIA Alliance, provides institutionally based funds to support participation.

Participation requirements are as follows:

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- Applicants for the EUTOPIA Challenges (1, 2, 3) can submit their applications individually*

*Please note that selected individual applicants will be grouped during the training sessions in Phase 2.

- For the Open Challenge, applicants must apply as part of a group (min. 2 max. 4) ideally composed of members from different universities within the EUTOPIA Alliance.

7. Assessment criteria

The selection of proposals will be done at two stages:

→ **1st Selection** The first selection stage will be at intra-university level. The first selection will be carried out at the end of Phase 1 (Challenges) and applications will be assessed considering:

EUTOPIA Challenge (1, 2, 3) and Open Challenge			
1st Selection	Criteria	EUTOPIA Challenge	Open Challenge
Motivation	The applicant describes their motivation to tackle the chosen challenge.	50%	20%
Knowledge	The applicant describes how their skills align with the requirements needed to overcome the challenge.	30%	20%
Idea	The applicant proposes an idea on how to address the challenge which is relevant for EUTOPIA Alliance* and its member universities.	20%	20%
Open Challenge**			
Relevance of the challenge	The applicant proposes a challenge relevant for the EUTOPIA Alliance* and/or has the potential to be applicable across its member universities.	NA	40%

*Please note that the relevance for the EUTOPIA Alliance that we are looking for in the 1st selection refers to the potential to fulfil the selection criteria grouped as "Alignment with the objective and priorities of the call" in selection 2.

**Please note that the criterion regarding the Relevance of the challenge is exclusive for the Open Challenge. Therefore, if the application is not deemed relevant for the EUTOPIA Alliance and/or its member universities it will be discarded.

→ **2nd Selection** The second selection will be conducted at the end of Phase 2 (Idea development) and the refined ideas will be assessed considering:

Please note that the proposal should be designed so that its development is possible within the technical services of University of Gothenburg and Pompeu Fabra University.

2nd Selection	Criteria	Weight
	The proposal contributes to connectedness with other EUTOPIA universities	10%
Alignment with the objective and priorities of the call	The proposal fosters the aspects of green and digital Europe and inclusiveness.	10%
	The proposal presents a clear description and experience or understanding of the needs.	20%

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	The proposal has clear and realistic objectives addressing needs and goals of the participating organisations and the needs of their target groups.	20%
Potential of the project	The proposal includes concrete and logical steps to integrate the results in the day-to-day work of the problem owners.	20%
	The proposal is cost-effective and presumes an appropriate allocation of resources.	20%

8. Rights and duties of participants

Rights	Duties
• EUTOPIA will cover the costs for building a Proof of Concept of the ideas which entered phase 3 (idea testing), if any, as long as they can be developed within the technical services of University of Gothenburg and Pompeu Fabra University. • Receive training on innovation methodologies. • Benefit from having travel expenses covered to attend in-person events and training sessions throughout the process.Benefit from expert support in developing your idea. • Gain visibility through the exposure provided by the program (e.g EUTOPIA website)	• Actively participate in the training sessions of the EUTOPIA Design program. • Commit to participate in the agile coaching process by attending meetings and completing assigned tasks. • Develop and refine the based on the feedback received. • Complete any required documentation or reporting. • Contribute feedback to the development of the intrapreneurship concept sought after through the implementation of the call.

9. Timeline

The training sessions on Phase 2 (Idea development) are scheduled for these dates, but they are not final and may be subject to modifications

- **Training session 1&2** – 3–4 June 2025 (on site)
- **Training session 2** – 13 June 2025 (online)
- **Training session 3** – 19 June 2025 (online)

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