

The European Dual Studies University

Open Call for Associated and Collaborating Partners

OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURE

Subject: Invitation to Join the European Dual Studies University Alliance

The European Dual Studies University is thrilled to announce an open call for new associated and collaborating partners of the Dual Centre of Excellence. As part of our strategic expansion initiative, we are committed to strengthening our educational network, boosting research productivity, and creating broader opportunities for students, staff, and institutions across Europe.

1. Our Expansion Goals

Strengthening the Network:

Our alliance seeks to broaden its academic and institutional network to enhance collaborative initiatives. We believe that welcoming new partners will introduce innovative approaches, diverse perspectives, and advanced methodologies, creating a mutually beneficial relationship that strengthens the overall alliance.

Enhancing the Quality of Dual Education Programs:

One of our key goals is to strengthen the quality of dual study programs by aligning them with industry needs and European standards. We seek partners who can help ensure our programs remain cutting-edge and relevant to the evolving demands of the workforce.

Increasing Recruitment Capabilities:

To maintain the sustainability of our joint Masters and PhD programs, we are keen to collaborate with partners that have strong recruitment capabilities beyond their own institution. Expanding our reach to attract a diverse student body will help ensure the long-term viability of our programs, making them more dynamic and adaptable to changing educational needs.

Enhancing Research Impact:

We are looking for institutions with substantial research capabilities. Through collaborative efforts, we aim to significantly increase our collective research output and amplify the global impact of our lighthouse research initiatives. Partners with specialized expertise will help drive innovation and foster interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Expanding Mobility Opportunities:

A key goal of this initiative is to enrich the mobility of students and staff by partnering with institutions that offer robust exchange programs, internships, and international project collaborations. The inclusion of more mobility opportunities will provide students with enriching cross-cultural experiences and professional growth.

Developing Microcredentials and Lifelong Learning Programs:

In line with the growing demand for flexible learning paths, we are particularly interested in partners who can support the development of microcredentials and lifelong learning programs. These initiatives will allow students and professionals to gain relevant skills and certifications that align with the evolving demands of today's job market.

2. Scenarios for Collaboration

Universities and Associations can join the EU4DUAL Alliance as Associated Partners, contributing to specific projects and accessing learning opportunities, or as Collaborating Members of the Dual Center of Excellence, offering a more flexible approach to collaboration beyond the established models of the European University Alliance. Both scenarios offer the potential for universities to transition to full partnership in future expansions of the alliance.

2.1. Integration of New Universities and Associations as Associated Partners

Participation in Governance and Management Bodies:

As an associated partner, your institution will actively contribute to the alliance's activities through participation in Work Package (WP) teams. While associated partners do not hold seats on the Governing Board, Rectors Council, or Academic Council, your involvement in WP teams ensures that your expertise is recognized and utilized in various projects and initiatives across the alliance.

Exclusion from Future Legal Entity:

Associated partners will not be included in the future legal entity of the alliance, which may limit your influence on high-level strategic decisions. However, your contributions to specific activities and projects will still be valued.

No Direct EC Funding:

Associated partners are not eligible to receive direct funding from the European Commission (EC) through the alliance.

Participation as Mobility Partners in Joint Programs:

Your institution can participate as a mobility partner in the alliance's joint programs, facilitating student and staff exchanges without taking on leadership roles. This allows you to expand mobility opportunities for your institution without the responsibility of program coordination.

Collaboration in Research Projects:

Associated partners are eligible to participate in research projects within the alliance supporting ongoing research efforts within Lighthouse Research Initiatives (LRI).

Access to Microcredentials and Learning Opportunities:

Your institution will have full access to the alliance's microcredential programs and other learning opportunities, offering valuable development pathways for your students and staff, even with a limited governance role.

Research, Innovation, Training, and Certification Services in Dual Education:

As an associated partner, your institution will benefit from the alliance's research, innovation, training, and certification services in dual higher education. This can enhance your educational offerings and research capabilities, helping you remain at the forefront of dual studies education.

2.2. Integration of New Universities and Associations as Collaborating Members of the Dual Center of Excellence

Participation in Governance and Management Bodies:

While collaborating members of the DCE do not hold seats on the Governing Board, Rectors Council, or Academic Council, your institution will contribute to the development of the Dual Center of Excellence (DCE) by participating in its activities.

Exclusion from Future Legal Entity:

Collaborating members of the DCE are not part of the future legal entity of the alliance, meaning your institution will not have a formal governance role in the alliance's overall decision-making process.

No Direct EC Funding:

As a collaborating member of the DCE, your institution will not receive direct European Commission funding through the alliance.

Research, Innovation, Training, and Certification Services:

While collaborating members contribute to the alliance's research, innovation, training, and certification services in dual higher education, they are not directly involved in research projects that focus on the alliance's Grand Challenges.

3. Benefits and Opportunities for New Partners

Joining the European Dual Studies University Alliance offers a range of valuable benefits and opportunities for prospective partners:

Access to Enhanced Collaboration:

As a member, your institution will benefit from collaboration with leading European universities, gaining access to new perspectives, cutting-edge research, and innovative teaching methodologies. This collaborative network will enrich your institution's academic offerings and foster interdisciplinary partnerships.

Improved Quality of Dual Higher Education and Research:

By joining the alliance, your institution will have the opportunity to adopt and share best practices in dual education and research, enhancing the quality of your programs and contributing to the overall academic excellence of the alliance.

Expanded Mobility Opportunities:

Membership provides increased opportunities for your students and staff to participate in cross-border exchanges, internships, and collaborative projects. These experiences enhance international exposure, cultural understanding, and professional development.

Strengthened Industry Connections:

As part of the alliance, your institution can leverage the existing industry partnerships within the network. These connections can help in designing more industry-relevant curricula, providing internships for students, and fostering research collaborations that align with market needs.

Increased Influence and Visibility:

Becoming part of a larger, influential network will elevate your institution's visibility at national and European levels. This increased presence can lead to greater influence on educational policy and attract attention from policymakers, industry leaders, and the public, further raising the profile of your institution.

Long-Term Sustainability and Growth:

Membership in the alliance supports your institution's long-term sustainability by diversifying its collaborative opportunities and resources. Being part of a dynamic, forward-thinking network ensures that your institution remains at the forefront of dual studies and research developments across Europe.

4. Eligibility Criteria

For Associated Partners:

Relevance to Dual Studies:

Potential partners must demonstrate a clear connection to dual higher education, whether through offering apprenticeships, internships, or contributing industry expertise aligned with dual study models.

Industry Involvement:

Partners should actively engage with educational institutions and students, showcasing a commitment to collaborate on dual study programs.

Regional and Sectoral Diversity:

We encourage applications from institutions across diverse regions and sectors to enhance the diversity, inclusiveness, and comprehensiveness of the alliance.

Resources and Support:

Prospective partners will be evaluated on the resources and support they can offer to dual study programs and students, including mentorship, infrastructure, or financial backing.

Quality of Apprenticeships and Internships:

If offering apprenticeships or internships, partners must ensure high-quality, curriculum-relevant experiences with appropriate duration and learning outcomes for students.

Networking Opportunities:

Partners should have strong networks and be able to offer valuable connections to students, industry leaders, and other educational institutions within the alliance.

Innovation and Adaptability:

We seek partners open to innovation and able to adapt to the evolving needs of dual studies, contributing to the future development of dual education models.

Ethical Considerations:

All associated partners must uphold ethical principles such as integrity, transparency, and respect for intellectual property rights in their activities and partnerships.

For Collaborating Members of the Dual Center of Excellence:

Strategic Alignment:

Collaborating members must align with the strategic objectives and mission of the European Dual Studies University Alliance, contributing to the shared goals of advancing dual higher education.

Collaborative Potential:

Prospective members should demonstrate a willingness and capacity to actively collaborate with other members of the alliance on joint initiatives and projects.

Compatibility:

Partners will be assessed for cultural, organizational, and operational compatibility to ensure effective collaboration and the smooth functioning of joint activities.

Capacity Building:

We seek members with the potential for mutual capacity building, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and institutional growth within the alliance.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Collaborating members should have the ability to engage with key stakeholders, including industry partners, policymakers, and community representatives, to ensure relevance and broad support for dual education initiatives.

Ethical Considerations:

Collaborating members are expected to adhere to ethical guidelines, ensuring that all activities are conducted with integrity, transparency, and respect for all stakeholders.

5. Application Process

Interested institutions are encouraged to submit an expression of interest. Submissions should include:

- A brief overview of your institution and its capabilities.
- An explanation of how your institution aligns with the goals outlined above.
- Proposed areas for collaboration.

6. Timeline

- Application Deadline: 10th January, 2025.
- Interviews: 13-22th January, 2025.
- Final Selection: 3rd February, 2025.

We are excited to welcome new partners who share our vision for an innovative, collaborative, and inclusive educational environment. Together, we can continue to enhance the quality of education, research, and mobility across Europe.

For inquiries and submissions, please contact: Jon Altuna – Coordinator of the EU4DUAL Alliance (jaltuna@mondragon.edu)

Join us in shaping the future of dual higher education in Europe!



About the EU4Dual Project

EU4Dual is the global top-quality reference for Dual Education. We form the largest integrated Dual- Education institution in the world – a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary institution, committed to close integration between academia, industry and regions. We use our collective expertise to help solve global challenges of industry to society – using Dual Education to make Europe greener, more equitable and more economically successful.