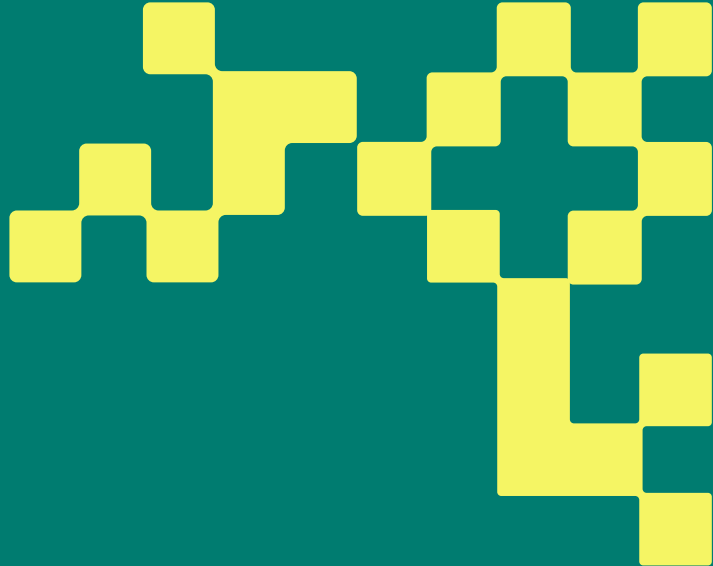




HEROES4REGIONS

Joint Practice-Oriented Scientific Research Hub

**Internal Call for Support for the Preparation of European Project Proposals
within the HEROES Alliance**



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HEROES strengthens the smart regional resilience of people, businesses and nature through quality professional education, impactful practice-oriented scientific research and collaboration between like-minded partners, transforming the talents of committed Europeans into superpowers.

Building on this shared vision, we establish the HEROES4REGIONS practice-oriented scientific research hub. This hub is organised around flexible, living pod networks assembling experts from different thematic areas (agriculture & food; care & wellbeing; circular economy; digital transformation; education, learning & inclusion and regional development). In the spirit of heroism, they mix and match their expertise to pursue shared, challenge-based research and innovation agendas, fortifying the three resilience-oriented priority areas of the alliance: people, businesses and nature. The hub, designed as a nexus of shared infrastructure, support services, and regional knowledge and technology transfer capacity, is a breeding ground for new collaborative research, development, innovation, or valorisation projects empowering our surrounding ecosystems and contributing to the challenge-based learning programme.

1. Objective of the Call

The objective of the internal call is to support the preparation and submission of project proposals to European funding programmes for research and innovation, in particular the Horizon Europe programme and other relevant European programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe, COST Actions, Erasmus KA2, MSCA), in which MENDELU will act as the main applicant/project coordinator in cooperation with partners of the HEROES alliance (Appendix A).

The call supports activities leading to the creation and development of project consortia, preparation of project proposals and their submission.

For more information, please contact:

WP5 coordinator: Petra Coufalova (petra.coufalova@mendelu.cz)

or Heroes Project manager Iris Finger-Donohoe (iris.finger-donohoe@mendelu.cz)

2. Basic Conditions

Basic conditions

- the applicant is a MENDELU employee,
- the project proposal must be prepared for a relevant European call (e.g. Horizon Europe, COST Actions, Erasmus KA2, MSCA), with the submission deadline planned during 2027,
- MENDELU must act as the coordinator/main applicant in the proposal,
- the consortium must include at least two additional partners from the HEROES alliance (Appendix A),
- the supported team commits to submitting the project proposal to the relevant call



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Note

In addition to the full partners, HEROES associated higher education institutions (Appendix C) may also participate.

3. Financial Framework of Support

Within the internal call, the selected project team will be provided with financial support of up to CZK 100,000 for activities aimed at creating and developing a relevant project consortium and supporting the successful submission of a project proposal to the relevant European research and innovation funding programme.

The financial support will be provided retrospectively, after the project proposal has been submitted to the relevant European call and upon provision of evidence confirming the submission. The costs of the supported activities must therefore be covered from other available sources prior to the submission of the project proposal.

Supported activities:

a) Building and development of the project consortium

- travel costs of MENDELU project team members to HEROES alliance partners (Appendix A) for the purpose of discussing and preparing a joint project concept,
- organisation of pre-proposal meetings of the project consortium at MENDELU (including in-person or hybrid meetings).

b) Development of competences for the preparation of European projects

- participation in activities focused on developing competences for the preparation of European project proposals, including trainings and workshops focused on proposal preparation.

Costs for preparation of the project proposal itself, preparation of parts of the project application by a third party, or other services replacing the professional activities of project team members are **NOT considered eligible costs**.

4. Eligibility Conditions

The applicant within the internal call may be a MENDELU employee who is preparing a project proposal for a relevant European research and innovation funding programme and meets the following conditions:

- MENDELU must act as the main applicant/project coordinator in the prepared project proposal.
- The project proposal must be prepared in cooperation with at least two other partner institutions involved in the HEROES alliance.
- The project proposal should be thematically linked to one of the priority areas - PODs (stands for Points of Development) of the HEROES alliance in which MENDELU is involved, in particular (Appendix B):
 - Agriculture & Food,
 - Regional Development,



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- Care & Wellbeing,
 - Circular Economy,
 - Digital Transformation.
- The project proposal must aim at submission to a relevant European call (e.g. Horizon Europe, COST Actions, Erasmus KA2, MSCA) with a submission deadline during 2027.
- The applicant commits to ensuring the submission of the project proposal to the relevant European call.

5. Call Timeline

CALL (2026)

- Launch of the internal call: October 2026
- Deadline for submission of applications: 27 November 2026, 12:00 CET
- Evaluation and selection of supported proposals: December 2026
- Announcement of call results: January 2027
- Period of implementation of supported activities: following approval of the support and until the deadline for submission of the project proposal to the relevant European call in 2027
- Expected deadline for submission of project proposals to relevant European calls: during 2027

6. Application Submission Procedure

Applications for support must be submitted using the internal application form, which constitutes an annex to this call.

The application shall be submitted by the project lead applicant from among MENDELU employees electronically by sending the completed form to the institutional WP5 coordinator of the HEROES alliance at MENDELU (Petra Coufalová; petra.coufalova@mendelu.cz).

The application form must contain, in particular, the following information:

- applicant identification details (name, position, MENDELU workplace/faculty, contact details),
- a description of the research team involved,
- the title and identification of the relevant European call under which the project proposal will be submitted,
- the expected deadline for submission of the project proposal,
- a brief description of the project concept,
- the expected composition of the project consortium, including the involved HEROES alliance partners (Appendix A),
- a description of MENDELU's role in the planned project, including the anticipated coordination role,
- the link to the thematic areas of the HEROES alliance (PODs, Appendix B),
- the strategic importance of participation in the given call for MENDELU,
- the planned use of the requested financial support and a brief justification of the individual activities.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the deadline specified in the timeline of this call.



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7. Evaluation and Selection of Proposals

Submitted proposals will be assessed with regard to their strategic importance for MENDELU, their alignment with the strategic objectives of the HEROES alliance, and their links to the thematic areas and research groups of the alliance (PODs, Appendix B). The evaluation will be carried out by a committee of experts from MENDELU.

The evaluation of proposals will take into account, in particular, the following criteria:

- the strategic benefit of the planned project proposal for MENDELU,
- the alignment of the project concept with the strategic objectives and priorities of the HEROES alliance,
- the relevance of the project concept to the thematic areas and research groups of the HEROES alliance (PODs, Appendix B),
- the quality and readiness of the planned project consortium, including the involvement of partner institutions from the HEROES alliance,
- the relevance of the planned activities for the submission of the project proposal under the relevant European call

Based on the evaluation carried out, the selected proposals will be awarded financial support of up to CZK 100,000 under this internal call.

8. Reporting of Activities

The recipient of the support is required, after submission of the project proposal to the relevant European call, to provide evidence of the activities carried out in relation to the preparation of the project consortium and the submission of the project application.

The documentation of activities shall include, in particular:

- an overview of the activities carried out,
- a description of their contribution to the preparation and submission of the project proposal,
- documents confirming the implementation of the activities in accordance with MENDELU requirements (e.g. invoices),
- Evidence of project submission

The financial support will be reimbursed retrospectively after the project proposal has been submitted and the required documentation, including evidence of project submission, has been provided, in accordance with MENDELU's internal financial rules.

9. Personal Data Protection and Intellectual Property

Activities carried out within this internal call must comply with applicable legislation on personal data protection and with MENDELU's internal regulations.



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During the preparation of the project proposal, the rules concerning the protection of confidential information and the intellectual property of the participating institutions must be respected.

10. Appendices

Appendix A — List of HEROES partner institutions

Institution	Name of the Institution	web
FON	Fontys University of Applied Sciences	https://www.fontys.nl/en/Home.htm
HH	Halmstad University	https://www.hh.se/english.html
IPB	The Polytechnic Institute of Beja	https://www.ipbeja.pt/en/Pages/default.aspx
SeAMK	Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences	https://www.seamk.fi/en/
THD	Deggendorf Institute of Technology	https://www.th-deg.de/en
TM	Thomas More	https://thomasmore.be/en
UCN	University College of Northern Denmark	https://www.ucn.dk/english/
VIKO	Vilniaus Kolegija	https://en.viko.lt/

Appendix B — Institutional contacts

Contact role	Name	email
WP 5 koordinátor	Ing. Petra Coufalová	petra.coufalova@mendelu.cz
POD FACILITATOR Agriculture&Food	Ing. Jakub Pečenka, Ph.D.	jakub.pecenka@mendelu.cz
POD Regional Development	Ing. Jiří Schneider, Ph.D.	jiri.schneider@mendelu.cz
POD Circular Economy	prof. Ing. Mgr. Jitka Janová, Ph.D.	jitka.janova@mendelu.cz
POD Care and Wellbeing	Ing. Hana Dočkalová, Ph.D.	hana.dockalova@mendelu.cz
POD Digital transformation	Ing. et Ing. Michaela Veselá	michaela.vesela@mendelu.cz
HEROES Project manager	Iris Finger-Donohoe	iris.finger-donohoe@mendelu.cz



Appendix C — List of Associated Partners

Higher Education Institutions

1. **Université d’Artois (ART)** – Higher Education Institution – France – <https://www.univ-artois.fr>
 2. **Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU)** – Higher Education Institution – Greece – <https://www.hmu.gr>
 3. **Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU)** – Higher Education Institution – Ukraine – <https://www.ucu.edu.ua>
 4. **“Ismail Qemali” University Vlora (VLO)** – Higher Education Institution – Albania – <https://www.univlora.edu.al>
 5. **Universum International College (UNI)** – Higher Education Institution – Kosovo – <https://www.universum-ks.org>
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