

## ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS 2023/2024 Call for Submissions from Research Teams

### INTRODUCTION

**ENLIGHT** is a European University Alliance to promote equitable quality of life, sustainability and global engagement through Higher Education transformation. ENLIGHT brings together ten research-intensive universities from ten European countries (University of the Basque Country, University of Bern, University of Bordeaux, Comenius University Bratislava, University of Galway, Ghent University, University of Göttingen, University of Groningen, University of Tartu, Uppsala University).

The ENLIGHT University Alliance has obtained funding from the European Commission in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Programme and more specifically within the Science with and for Society (SWAFS) Work Programme for the ENLIGHT RISE project. ENLIGHT RISE (Research and Innovation agenda with and for society) seeks to strengthen the research and innovation dimension of the ENLIGHT Alliance.

**IMPACT** is at the core of the ENLIGHT mission and, as such, one of its main objectives is to **promote a culture of impact within ENLIGHT Universities**, including the promotion of a model of good practice of impact-driven management and the integration of impact across Higher Education, Research and Innovation activities.

In ENLIGHT we understand **IMPACT** as the **effects of research in the real world**. Impact is the changes we can see (demonstrate, measure, capture), **beyond academia** (in society, economy, environment) which happen because of our research (caused by, contributed to, attributable to). Impact may look and operate slightly differently across disciplines, and for fundamental versus applied research, but ultimately is about connecting academic research to changes in the real world.<sup>1</sup>

### ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS

The **ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS** seek to **recognize and give visibility to RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS** at ENLIGHT universities that are exemplars in planning for and achieving impact.

A maximum of **six ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS** will be made; including, ideally and if possible, one AWARD in each of the six **ENLIGHT flagship domains**:

- Climate change
- Culture and Creativity
- Digital revolution and digitization
- Energy and circular economy
- Equity
- Health and well-being

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<sup>1</sup> For a deeper understanding of the research impact concept, please consult ENLIGHT repository of good practices on research impact: <https://impact.enlight-eu.org/understanding-research-impact>

Applications are invited from research teams at ENLIGHT Universities and **must be nominated by their University through a locally defined internal selection process** (see *selection procedure eligibility and selection criteria sections for further details*). The representatives of the awarded teams will be identified as **ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors** and become members of the ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors Network<sup>2</sup>.

The ENLIGHT Impact Awards will be presented in connection with the **ENLIGHT General Meeting** at the University of the Basque Country (13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024). The ENLIGHT General Meeting will bring together the ENLIGHT community across its ten universities, and will be the setting in which **the ENLIGHT Impact Awards will be celebrated**.

## THE ENLIGHT IMPACT AMBASSADORS

The ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors are the representatives of the impact awarded teams. The awarded teams can be composed of researchers of all levels of seniority (from R1 to R4, according to [EURAXESS definition](#)) and areas of expertise, but also research support staff from ENLIGHT partner universities. Together, in a joint team effort, they should demonstrate having embedded impact in their research pathway and ultimately contributed to bring about change in one (or more) of the six above mentioned [ENLIGHT flagship domains](#).

Independently of their field of expertise, discipline focus, seniority and position at the university, the ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors are enthusiastic and outspoken supporters of impactful-research. Besides their contribution to impactful research, they should show a genuine interest and motivation to commit and be part of the [ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors Network](#). They should be able to communicate effectively and have their voice heard among international peers.

ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors will not have executive tasks or assignments within the Alliance, but will function as **“role models”** and inspiring figures for the research community within and beyond ENLIGHT Alliance. More specifically, and with the support of the ENLIGHT research impact team, the ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors will:

- **Inspire**  
Act as “role models” to other researchers and research support staff; showcasing and giving testimony of their research impact pathway.
- **Reach out**  
Raise awareness of research impact; engaging in outreach activities; participating in mutual learning and exchange of experiences and insights; connecting with ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors Network, ENLIGHT impact team and beyond; contributing thus to improve impact literacy across ENLIGHT and beyond.
- **Promote**  
Promote ENLIGHT research impact work and acting as research impact multipliers across different fields of knowledge and regional, national and international networks; supporting and providing advice to ENLIGHT impact team in the execution of its different tasks (e.g.

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<sup>2</sup> You can meet our ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors here: <https://impact.enlight-eu.org/ambassadors>

identification of sources to the [ENLIGHT research impact repository](#); contribution to the research impact training programmes; etc.)

### *Level of engagement*

It is envisaged that the time commitment of the ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors to the ENLIGHT over the course of the 2023/2024 period will be limited but can vary depending on the Impact Ambassadors' availability and the time that they are in the position to dedicate. A typical commitment over the course of a year could be as follows:

- **1-2 online meetings** a year to support/advice ENLIGHT impact team in its activities;
- **1-2 international workshops/ conferences** a year to reach out and promote ENLIGHT and its universities research impact approaches. These workshops/conferences could be identified by either the awarded ENLIGHT impact ambassadors or ENLIGHT impact team. ENLIGHT payment of workshops/ conferences attendance is conditional on prior consent by the ENLIGHT impact team;
- **Give feedback on ENLIGHT research impact activities and outputs.**

### **WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU?**

Each ENLIGHT Impact Award recognises the exemplar impact work of the successful research team awardees. More concretely, it provides:

- **Increased visibility** to your research impact approach, pathway and project, through the [ENLIGHT website](#), [ENLIGHT Repository of Good Practices on Research Impact](#) with the Ambassadors' Impact Stories, [ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors webpage](#), ENLIGHT social media, international workshops and conferences (e.g. [ENLIGHT Impact Conferences](#));
- **Support to attend relevant international workshops/ conferences.** These workshops/conferences could be identified by either the awarded or ENLIGHT impact teams. ENLIGHT payment of workshops/ conferences attendance is conditional on prior consent by the ENLIGHT impact team and valid for one representative per awarded team over the course of the 2023/ 2024 period;
- The possibility of being part of a **wide-reaching networking** of other ENLIGHT universities research impact ambassadors, in close contact with the ENLIGHT impact team and with the possibility of connecting also with other impact networks where ENLIGHT is represented (e.g. FOREU2 thematic sub-group on impact led by ENLIGHT, AESIS network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science, etc.);
- The possibility of knowledge and good practices **sharing and mutual learning**;
- The opportunity to **support and influence** ENLIGHT impact work.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The selection procedure is organised in two phases. First, each ENLIGHT RISE partner university is asked to submit **at least one, and a maximum of three applications**, from its institution to be considered for the ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARD (internal selection process). Then,

the awarded teams, and subsequent Impact Ambassadors, **will be chosen by a jury, comprised of external experts and members of the ENLIGHT Research Impact team, out of all nominations submitted by the ENLIGHT universities.**

Ideally, an ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARD will be made in each of the 6 flagship domains; however, depending on the submissions and the conclusion of the assessment process, not all of the ENLIGHT flagship areas will necessarily be represented in the AWARDS.

### ***Internal process***

The internal procedure for identifying candidate research teams at each ENLIGHT university is at the **discretion of each institution separately and not standard across the ENLIGHT Alliance.**

Besides ENLIGHT Alliance dissemination means<sup>3</sup>, each university is asked to circulate this announcement to all research groups/labs who could potentially be nominated, and to identify possible candidate teams through processes that are transparent and inclusive.

In order to facilitate the internal selection process, the ENLIGHT Research Impact team puts at disposal of ENLIGHT universities an example of **expression of interest** that could be useful to make a first pre-selection of the three potential applicants per university (annex 1). This **expression of interest** is based on the experiences of a few ENLIGHT universities who used it in the 2022 ENLIGHT Impact Awards call. Its internal use is **not compulsory.**

## **ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selected research teams of each ENLIGHT RISE partner university should apply using an **application form**<sup>4</sup> (annex 2) with due attention to the following eligibility and selection criteria:

### ***Eligibility Criteria:***

- Research teams of ENLIGHT RISE Partner Universities, involving at least 3 researchers.
- The time scope of the research undertaking should have been launched and/or implemented in the last 5 years period (January 2019-December 2023).

### ***Selection Criteria:***

- **Joint team effort**, involving senior and early career researchers. The participation of different research groups/labs from different fields of expertise and the involvement of research support staff will be valued positively. (10/100)
- **Contribution to addressing ENLIGHT flagship related challenges** (climate change, culture & creativity, digital revolution and digitization, energy and circular economy, equity, health and well-being)<sup>5</sup>. (10/100)
- **Societal stakeholder**<sup>6</sup> **engagement.** Role of societal stakeholders throughout the research life-cycle (design, implementation, communication, exploitation and use of research results) and pathway to impact. (30/100)

<sup>3</sup> ENLIGHT website, ENLIGHT Think Tank and ENLIGHT R&I Support Group, among others.

<sup>4</sup> See Annex 1.

<sup>5</sup> For further details, please consult <https://enlight-eu.org/university-about-us/flagship-domains>

<sup>6</sup> By societal stakeholders we understand business organisations, policy makers and public administration, civil society organisations, citizens, etc.

- **Impact pathways.** Approach and efforts deployed by the research team for promoting impactful research. Evidence of achieved outcomes and impact are not compulsory, but will be valued positively. (30/100)
- **Interest and motivation** of the research team to commit and be represented at the ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors Network. (10/100)
- **Impact pitch.** In a 3 minutes pitch, ENLIGHT Impact Awards Nominees are invited to introduce the impact story of their research initiative/ project to the ENLIGHT community and a panel of international impact experts. Specific support by coaches will be given to the ENLIGHT Impact Award Nominees in order to prepare for the impact pitch. The exact dates of the support sessions and the Impact Pitches event will be communicated in due time. (10/100)

## APPLICATIONS

Applications by each ENLIGHT institution should be sent by the **ENLIGHT RISE University coordinator** (see contacts list below) to ENLIGHT research impact team ([impact.enlight@ehu.eu](mailto:impact.enlight@ehu.eu)) using the above-mentioned form in pdf (annex 2).

## TIMELINE

Call for nominations published	1 December 2023
ENLIGHT Universities internal selection procedure	December 2023 – March 2024
<b>Deadline for nominations by ENLIGHT universities</b>	<b>15 March 2024</b>
Evaluation and selection	18 March- 15 June 2024
Impact pitch support to nominees	May-June 2024
ENLIGHT General Meeting. Award Ceremony	14-15 June 2024

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For any clarification question you can contact either ENLIGHT research impact team ([impact.enlight@ehu.eu](mailto:impact.enlight@ehu.eu)) or your ENLIGHT RISE University coordinator at:

- University of the Basque Country: [enlight@ehu.eu](mailto:enlight@ehu.eu)
- Comenius University of Bratislava: [enlight@uniba.sk](mailto:enlight@uniba.sk)
- University of Bordeaux: [enlight@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:enlight@u-bordeaux.fr)
- University of Galway: [enlight@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:enlight@universityofgalway.ie)
- Ghent University: [rise@ugent.be](mailto:rise@ugent.be); [enlight@ugent.be](mailto:enlight@ugent.be)
- University of Göttingen: [enlight@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:enlight@uni-goettingen.de)
- University of Groningen: [wiebe.zijlstra@rug.nl](mailto:wiebe.zijlstra@rug.nl)
- University of Tartu: [enlight@ut.ee](mailto:enlight@ut.ee)
- University of Uppsala: [enlight@uu.se](mailto:enlight@uu.se)

## ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS 2023/2024 Call for Submissions from Research Teams

### ANNEX 1 – Expressions of Interest Template

This template for expressions of interest should be used as a **supporting document ONLY, to be used as reference by ENLIGHT partner universities** in their internal selection process of the applicants to the ENLIGHT Impact Awards. Few universities have used google forms and other online surveying tools to collect their research teams Eol. The use of the Eol is not mandatory. **The ENLIGHT Impact Research Team only considers the full applications using the Application Form in Annex 2.**

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - SUBMISSION FORM

Expressions of Interest are invited from [UNIVERSITY NAME] Research Teams to be considered for nomination for the ENLIGHT Impact Awards 2023/2024.

The ENLIGHT Impact Awards seek to recognise and give visibility to research endeavours that are exemplars in planning for and achieving societal impact.

Awardees will receive a small bursary to attend relevant international workshops or conferences to further increase the impact of their work. Awardees will also be recognised as an ENLIGHT Impact Ambassador.

The deadline for receipt of complete Expressions of Interest is [INTERNAL DEADLINE].

For more information about the ENLIGHT Impact Call Awards, please consult this [page](#) or [INTERNAL EMAIL ADDRESS]

#### 1. Team Representative

(please enter the name of the team representative applicant)

#### 2. Contact of the Team Representative

(please enter the contact email of the team representative applicant for future correspondence)

#### 3. The Team

(please provide a short description of the composition of the team that contributed to the research project/initiative that you wish to be considered)

#### 4. Title of the Research Project/Initiative

(please provide a short title for the research project/initiative that you wish to be considered)

## 5. Alignment with the ENLIGHT Flagship Domains

*(which of the following ENLIGHT Flagship Domains is the work most closely aligned to? Please refer to <https://enlighteu.org/university-about-us/flagship-domains> for a full description of the domains)  
(multiple choice option)*

	Climate change
	Culture and Creativity
	Digital revolution and Impact of digitization
	Energy and Circular economy
	Equity
	Health and Well-being
	None of the above

## 6. The Societal Impact

*(please describe the approach and efforts deployed by the research team for promoting impactful research, including a list of key societal impacts you plan or have achieved)*

## 7. Societal Stakeholder Engagement

*(please list the 3rd party, end user and/or civil society stakeholder groups who were included or will be engaged in the project/initiative and how)*

## ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS 2023/2024 Call for Submissions from Research Teams

### ANNEX 2 - Application Form

The completed application form should be sent to **your university ENLIGHT RISE project representative** on the deadline announced by the university. Please ensure that this form is saved in PDF format. Please read carefully the regulations of the ENLIGHT IMPACT AWARDS – 2023/2024 Call for Submission from Research Teams.

#### 1. THE TEAM

##### 1.1. Team Representative<sup>1</sup>

Full Name	
Position	
In case of academics/ researchers please specify your profile <sup>2</sup> :	<input type="checkbox"/> First Stage Researcher (R1) (Up to the point of PhD)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognised Researcher (R2) (PhD holders or equivalent who are not yet fully independent)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Established Researcher (R3) (Researchers who have developed a level of independence)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Researcher (R4) (Researchers leading their research area or field)
Research Group/ Lab Department	
Faculty (where applicable)	
University	
Email	

<sup>1</sup> In alignment with the call specifications, the proposed team representative will be the one to be proposed for becoming ENLIGHT Impact Ambassador.

<sup>2</sup> See Euraxess research profiles descriptors for further details:

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>



## 1.2. Other team members<sup>3</sup>

Full Name	
Position	
In case of academics/ researchers please specify your profile <sup>4</sup> :	<input type="checkbox"/> First Stage Researcher (R1) (Up to the point of PhD)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognised Researcher (R2) (PhD holders or equivalent who are not yet fully independent)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Established Researcher (R3) (Researchers who have developed a level of independence)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Researcher (R4) (Researchers leading their research area or field)
Research Group/ Lab Department	
Faculty (where applicable)	
University	

Full Name	
Position	
In case of academics/ researchers please specify your profile <sup>5</sup> :	<input type="checkbox"/> First Stage Researcher (R1) (Up to the point of PhD)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognised Researcher (R2) (PhD holders or equivalent who are not yet fully independent)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Established Researcher (R3) (Researchers who have developed a level of independence)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Researcher (R4) (Researchers leading their research area or field)
Research Group/ Lab Department	
Faculty (where applicable)	
University	

<sup>3</sup> In case the team includes more members, please repeat the tables as many times as necessary.

<sup>4</sup> See Euraxess research profiles descriptors for further details:

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>

<sup>5</sup> Idem.

## 2. THE RESEARCH PROJECT/ INITIATIVE

Title

Start date	
End date (or estimated date if unknown)	

## 3. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE TEAM

Please describe briefly the collaboration between the different team members and their contribution to the research impact pathway<sup>6</sup>. (max. 100 words)

*Insert text here*

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<sup>6</sup> An impact pathway is the process (i.e. a simplified causal chain of events and interactions) that connects the research activities to effects in and on society.

#### 4. CONTRIBUTION TO ADDRESSING ENLIGHT FLAGSHIP RELATED CHALLENGES

Which of the following ENLIGHT Flagship Domains is the work most closely aligned to? Please refer to <https://enlight-eu.org/university-about-us/flagship-domains> for a full description of the domains (multiple choice option).

	Climate change
	Culture and Creativity
	Digital revolution and Impact of digitization
	Energy and Circular economy
	Equity
	Health and Well-being
	None of the above

#### 5. SOCIETAL STAKEHOLDER<sup>7</sup> ENGAGEMENT

Identify the key stakeholders that were engaged during the lifecycle of the project (design, implementation, communication, exploitation and use of research results). (max. 250 words)

*Insert text here*

<sup>7</sup> By societal stakeholders we understand business organisations, policy makers and public administration, civil society organisations, citizens, etc.

## 5. IMPACT PATHWAY(S)

*Please describe the approach and efforts deployed by the research team for promoting impactful research. When applicable, please describe the impact(s) achieved by the project, describing briefly how the impact pathway(s) underpinned or made a contribution to the [ENLIGHT flagship related challenge\(s\)](#), outlining the main impacts and giving an indication of the reach and significance of the work described. What was the effect/benefit and why was this important, supported by concrete evidence, qualitative/ quantitative indicators of achieved outcomes and impact. (max. 500 words)*

*Insert text here*

## 6. INTEREST AND MOTIVATION

*Please describe briefly the interest and motivation of the research team to apply, commit to and be represented at the ENLIGHT Impact Ambassadors Network. (max. 150 words)*

*Insert text here*

**THANK YOU!!!**