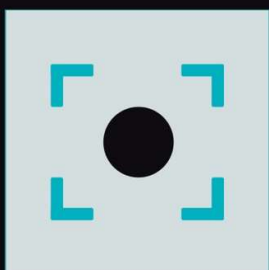


# FilmEU

## Centres of Excellence

### Call for Proposals



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## CoE INTRODUCTION

FilmEU+ brings together 8 European higher education institutions to collaborate around the common objective of jointly promoting artistic research, innovation and educational activities in the multidisciplinary field of Film and Media Arts and, through this collaboration, consolidate the central role of Europe as a world leader in the creative fields. The FilmEU Alliance calls for proposals for **Centres of Excellence** (or CoE) to strengthen R&I excellence, by teaming up, and creating robust linkages between artistic research, academia, stakeholders and civil society. FilmEU+ is focusing this call on strategically supporting **finished Dynamic Research Clusters** of researchers in the FilmEU Alliance to become CoEs. FilmEU clusters facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, enabling the combination of insights from various fields to tackle complex problems and generate innovative solutions. The clusters offer diverse perspectives when collaborating with researchers from different nationalities, cultural backgrounds and expertise. The diversity and fresh perspectives lead to innovative solutions, new approaches, and a more comprehensive understanding of complex issues. FilmEU clusters also expand resources and learning opportunities; pooling resources such as equipment and facilities amplifies artistic research capabilities and learning opportunities amongst FilmEU researchers.

With this call, FilmEU fortifies the expertise built in the FilmEU dynamic clusters and supports their **consolidation in Centres of Excellence** for the duration of the FilmEU+ project. The call also encourages experienced clusters of researchers to expand their cluster to include researchers amongst the different FilmEU+ member HEIs, and secure funding for pilot projects and self-sustainability.

Proposals should be established around a coherent and well-proportioned package of the following **core components**:

1. an interinstitutional joint R&I strategy,
2. a conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots in line with the R&I strategy,
3. accompanying complementary initiatives that promote knowledge transfer, visibility, mutual learning including an action plan for PhD training, and
4. action and investment plans for the implementation of the strategy to ensure the sustainability of the centre of excellence beyond the project's lifetime, leveraging national, regional and European funds.

In this call, the FilmEU Alliance will select **two** centres of excellence to be awarded with first-round funding and involving groupings of its staff and students.

## Centre of Excellence

The FilmEU R&I action plan to support collaboration networks consists within FilmEU of competitive calls for seed funding. The aim of the seed funding initiative is to support the initiation of long-term collaborative activities between the partner HEIs. The seed funding model is designed to target the capacitation of researchers; to promote collaboration and foster joint networks and to support the emergence of more R&I sustainable structures. The team level assumed the form of the Dynamic Research Clusters and the structural level assumes the form of the Centres of Excellence. FilmEU supported dynamic clusters in their goal to strengthen interinstitutional research expertise and excellence within future self-supported centres. A CoE is a specialized team or entity within FilmEU that focuses on developing and promoting best practices, research, and innovation in a specific area of R&I expertise, while breaking down pillars of education and research within the Alliance. CoEs are designed to drive high standards of performance and to act as a hub of knowledge and expertise that can be leveraged across FilmEU.

The key characteristics of a CoE are:

1. **Specialized Expertise.** A CoE brings together experts and resources focused on a specific domain within artistic research. CoEs are involved in cutting-edge research and development, working on innovative solutions and advancements within their area of focus. They develop, maintain, and disseminate best practices, methodologies, and standards to ensure high-quality outcomes across the organization.
2. **Training and Development.** CoEs provide training, mentoring, and support, particularly at PhD level, to enhance the skills and knowledge of the researchers or stakeholders in their area of expertise.
3. **Knowledge Sharing.** They facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing both within the organization and with external partners, such as academic institutions, industry groups, and other CoEs.

The key functions of a FilmEU CoE are:

- to conduct artistic research projects in line with a joint R&I strategy,
- to offer (third cycle) training programs, workshops, and seminars to build competencies and expertise within the consortium,
- to establish policies, standards, and guidelines to ensure consistent and high-quality R&I performance,
- to provide expert advice and support to other work packages or projects within the consortium, and
- to assess and monitor the implementation of best practices and standards to ensure continuous improvement.

## Structural funding

The Structural Funding is the competitive infusion of capital that follows the Seminal Funding and Seed Funding phase for FilmEU dynamic clusters and researchers, marking the beginning of substantial growth and development from a dynamic collaboration in a pilot project to a sustainable centre of excellence. The heart of the Structural Funding is aimed at scaling up the research cluster's operations, enhancing its capabilities, and moving from the development phase to a more established operational phase. Structural Funding is crucial for research excellence aiming to transition from foundational research phases to becoming influential entities in their respective fields, contributing significantly to scientific advancement and innovation.

A CoE is awarded **€20,000** Structural Funding for implementation. It is possible for each CoE to propose one or more projects, but the maximum amount of €20.000 per CoE is fixed.

- Structural Funding does not include HR expenses. The CoEs can be staffed by researchers for whom the work packages received HR budget. Please contact your HEI research coordinator about the HR possibilities.
- Structural Funding does not include mobility expenses. The CoEs can be supported by mobility funds the work packages received. Please contact your HEI research coordinator about the mobility possibilities.

## CALL

### CoE eligibility requirements

- Only **dynamic research clusters** funded through previous FilmEU calls are eligible. The clusters will be required to include and strengthen the CoE with researchers from new HEIs;
- the lead researcher(s) should have a **senior profile** in one of the participating HEIs (a senior researcher profile holds a PhD with at least five years of post-PhD research experience);
- the CoEs are announced in December to be implemented starting **January 2025**.

## CoE proposal requirements

1. All proposals should convincingly demonstrate the relevance of the chosen scientific domain in a **joint R&I strategy** statement by its alignment with regional, national and/or European R&I strategies and policy priorities. The R&I strategy should present how the CoE will develop excellence in the chosen relevant R&I domain that will put it at the competitive edge beyond the state of the art enabling future success in competitive calls. Proposals should demonstrate the growth potential and expected socio-economic outreach of the CoE for the benefit of the FilmEU Alliance. Proposals should include a vision for further inclusion of researchers (coming from two extra HEIs) to strengthen the Centre.
2. All proposals should include a conceptual design and pre-planning for **pilots** in line with the R&I strategy. Projects embedded in the CoE should be aligned with the objectives of the CoE and e.g., serve the purpose of developing and testing new methodologies and instruments and/or the integration of new scientific personnel. If preparatory research activity is planned to be carried out, the outline of a respective work plan with an appropriate level of detail should be presented. Proposals should illustrate quantitatively and qualitatively the expected potential impact of the project(s) and its expected results.
3. All proposals should have accompanying complementary initiatives that promote knowledge transfer, visibility, mutual learning and third cycle skills development in the form of a **PhD training school** (called DOCTUS).
4. All proposals should include a **sustainability plan** for the implementation of the joint R&I strategy to ensure the sustainability of the centre of excellence beyond the project's lifetime, leveraging national, regional and European funds.

## CoE expected outcomes

This call is about establishing new centres of excellence to help FilmEU's HEIs to increase their R&I intensity and to attain a competitive position in the European R&I system and globally by becoming drivers of change. The project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Increased scientific capabilities of FilmEU and all member HEIs enabling FilmEU researchers to successfully apply for competitive funding in the European Union and globally;
- Improved the R&I culture of the consortium through centres of excellence as lighthouses and role models;

- Strengthened and mutually benefitting collaboration with partners from leading scientific institutions from abroad;
- Development and promotion of new research strands in relevant domains;
- Developed and enhanced research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- Contribution to the achievement of the specific objectives of the supporting national/regional/EU programme as complementary funding;
- Enhanced co-operation and synergies with other European projects.

### **CoE selection**

The evaluation of the proposals is done by the CoE Evaluation Commission (EC). The EC consists of the 8 HEIs of the Alliance, represented by one member of each HEI with an experienced research status (either as a researchers or research support officer) and uninvolved in any of the proposals. No conflict of interest is ensured by a written and signed declaration of each member.

### **The deadline for applications is 15 November.**

Or contact Lies Van de Vijver (research coordinator at LUCA School of Arts, not part of the Evaluation Commission) for more information; [lies.vandevijver@luca-arts.be](mailto:lies.vandevijver@luca-arts.be).

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