CIVICA
THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

4th CIVICA Call for Thematic Activities

The 4th CIVICA Call for Thematic Activities is now open

Faculty, together with postdoctoral researchers and/or doctoral students in CIVICA universities (Bocconi, CEU, EUI, Hertie School, IE, LSE, Sciences Po, SGH, SNSPA, SSE) are invited to submit proposals for 'thematic activities'.

The call aims to foster collaborative activities, to further existing links or to establish new ones. Activities may include, but are not limited to, **organising CIVICA workshops,** or **small-scale CIVICA conferences** with the involvement of (primarily) CIVICA faculty, postdoctoral, and doctoral researchers.

The application deadline is:
25 January 2027, 23:59 (CET)

The CIVICA Call for Thematic Activities can be used in combination with other CIVICA- and non-CIVICA funded activities but the added value to CIVICA has to be convincingly laid out in the application.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE FINANCED?

These are typically small-scale, CIVICA-branded workshops, or conferences that broadly relate to one of CIVICA's core, interdisciplinary themes (Democracy in the 21st Century, Europe Revisited, Societies in Transition-Crises of Earth, AI & Data-Driven Technologies for the Social Sciences, and Security & Resilience. Applying with management, economic, and finance topics are also welcome.)

For instance, a 2-day CIVICA workshop on the 'transition to green economy', led by permanent faculty, accepting applications from CIVICA faculty, postdocs, and PhDs. The event includes at least 4 CIVICA partners and is completed by 1 June 2028. The application can also be for co-financing an event but the benefit for CIVICA will have to be convincingly laid out. The application can be used to cover hosting-related (a dinner, catering) and travel & accommodation costs for participants already known at the time of submission. Travel & accommodation costs should be budgeted under the participants' home university. Should the event include an open call for abstracts, budget with the potential number of accepted applications per university, and/or accepted CIVICA faculty and postdoc participants can also apply to one of the bi-monthly Calls for Faculty Short Visits.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Thematic activity leaders should be permanent faculty from CIVICA universities, or academic/teaching/research employees with long-term contracts. The duration of the contract must go well beyond the end of the funding period. Postdoctoral researchers and/or doctoral students at CIVICA universities must be involved in the thematic activities. Only CIVICA faculty/postdocs/PhDs can be financed.

HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE EVALUATED?

Submitted applications will be evaluated by the CIVICA Scientific Committee. The SC consists of vice-presidents for research and/or senior faculty of the 10 CIVICA universities. Selected applications will be financed by the sending/home university in accordance with the home university's financial rules and allocated CIVICA budget.

Formal grant decisions are made by each CIVICA partner following the decision of the SC. Rejected applications may only receive informal feedback.
The selection committee evaluates proposals on various dimensions: scientific quality, contribution to CIVICA's effort for integrated research, feasibility, budget, and the diversity of partners.

WHAT IS FINANCED?

All expenses directly related to activities are eligible, provided they are realistic and in line with the expected results and are fundable under Erasmus+ rules. Recurring institutional costs, including personnel costs (overhead, faculty salaries) are not eligible. For details on what specific expenses are eligible, please contact grant units at your respective universities before submitting the application. Adequate supporting documents to prove costs may be requested. Local rules may apply.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

This call is financed from CIVICA Erasmus+, except for LSE which is self-funded. Each CIVICA partner university may have a slightly different budget for this call. Budget plans should detail costs per institutions participating/represented in an activity. Any travel & accommodation costs should be budgeted under the participants home institution as each partner finances their own faculty/postdoc/doctoral student. To find out more on available funding, please contact your local grant coordinating unit before applying. The list of contact persons at each CIVICA partner is attached.

WHAT ARE THE DELIVERABLES FOR WINNING PROJECTS?

For thematic activities, workshops/conferences take place. Daily attendance sheets containing the names, affiliation, faculty/postdoc/PhD/MA status of participants must be submitted to the host CIVICA contact person, listed below after the event. A short report, based on a brief questionnaire, must be filled in ex post by the project lead. The event, if public or university-wide, must be advertised on the CIVICA website. The host university's CIVICA coordinator must be contacted, and the CIVICA's communications team alerted ahead of the event. Public events are also streamed on Zoom.

HOW LONG SHOULD PROJECTS LAST?

Thematic activities can take place between 1 March 2027 and 1 June 2028.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND MORE INFORMATION

The application form needs to be submitted electronically to research@civica.eu by the deadline:

23:59 (CET) – 25 JANUARY 2027

TIMELINE:
21 October 2026 – Call for Thematic Activities announced

25 January 2027 – Application deadline
26 February 2027 – Announcement of winners on the CIVICA website
1 June 2028 – Thematic activities completed

LIST OF CONTACT PERSONS AT EACH CIVICA PARTNER:

Bocconi:	Claudia Piccioni	civica@unibocconi.it
CEU:	Daniel Izsak	izsakd@ceu.edu
EUI:	Zeineb Mazouz	zeineb.mazouz@eui.eu
Hertie School:	Sarah Lawton-Gorlach	lawton@hertie-school.org
IE:	CIVICA at IE University	civica@ie.edu
LSE:	Aygen Kurt-Dickson	a.s.kurt-dickson@lse.ac.uk
Sciences Po:	Elsa Bedos	elsa.bedos@sciencespo.fr
	Marinela Popa-Babay	marinela.popababay@sciencespo.fr
SGH:	Lukasz Skrok	lskrok@sgh.waw.pl
SNSPA:	Gabriel Viiu	gabriel.alexandru.viiu@snspa.ro
SSE:	Jelena Angelis	jelena.angelis@hhs.se

(B) The Application Process

Applying for CIVICA grants consists of the following steps:

Step 1 – Applying team members are to contact their respective CIVICA coordinators in the planning stage of the application to enquire about funds available for CIVICA partners at each university, and about formal requirements and eligible expenses. **Costs should be calculated for each involved institution separately**. (See list of contact persons at each CIVICA partner in the call description.)

Step 2 – Applying teams are required to prepare **one single joint application (including the separate cost calculations)** and submit it to research@civica.eu before the deadline. **The project must have an acronym. The submitted file must be named the project acronym** (e.g. "EUFUTUR.doc" or "EUFUTUR.pdf").

Through a Single Review Process, the CIVICA Scientific Committee (SC) will select projects on merit and inform the grant units in universities concerned. The SC will also check whether the application meets the formal criteria set in the application guidelines. If one CIVICA partner finds that its part of the budget does not meet the criteria, applicants are consulted to fix any error.

Step 3 – Following the decision by the SC, grant coordinators at partner universities will formally decide on the financial aspects, in line with the decision of the SC and within the limits of their available CIVICA funds.

Step 4 – Grant units of CIVICA partners inform the SC. The SC announces winners. Members of winning consortia contract with their respective universities for funding.

(C) APPLICATION FORM

CIVICA Partners are invited to submit proposals under the 4th Call for Thematic Activities jointly executed by CIVICA partner universities.

BASIC INFORMATION

Which priority area(s) does your activity pertain to (if relevant)? *(You can select several)*

1. ☐ Democracy in the 21st Century
2. ☐ Societies in Transition, Crises of Earth
3. ☐ Europe Revisited
4. ☐ AI & Data-Driven Technologies for Social Sciences
5. ☐ Security & Resilience
6. ☐ None of the above (specify which area your project is in)

Activity/Project title (mandatory):	
Acronym (mandatory):	

THEMATIC ACTIVITY TEAM

Please list all the known participants in the thematic activity and their affiliation. (For thematic activities, this does not include participants that are to be selected in an open call for abstracts, for instance.)

Project team leader - PI (must be a permanent faculty with one of the CIVICA Partners – responsible for submitting the application and reporting for both thematic activities)

Name:	CIVICA institution:	Unit:	Position:	Email:	Gender[1]:

Add rows as necessary!

Team members

Name:	CIVICA institution:	Unit:	Position:	Email:	Gender[1]:

Add rows as necessary!

Designated contact person for administration and budget (Each participating institution needs to name one person responsible administering the institution's part of the budget)

Name:	CIVICA institution:	Unit:	Position:	Email:

Add rows as necessary!

DETAILED INFORMATION

Expected Duration

Please specify when your proposed event/activity would take place OR when your research project would start and end.

[1] This data is collected purely for statistical purposes. Please choose of the following options: "Man", "Woman", "Non-binary", "Prefer not to say".

Start date:		End date:	

Brief Description
Please briefly describe your planned thematic activity (e.g workshop/conference), and expected results (max 300 words)

Extended description
Please describe the project in more detail, including: state of the art in the respective area of work or research; contributions and roles of the faculty members in the team; the methodology; the added value of your project for developing CIVICA as the European University of Social Sciences, and the anticipated outputs, deliverables, impact, and beneficiaries (target audience/end users within CIVICA and outside of it). For thematic activities: max. 2000 words.

Work plan (for research proposals only)
Please describe the main activities of your project, the envisioned timeline, and the most important outputs/deliverables.

Activity	Timeline	Expected results

BUDGET

Please list the proposed expenses of your project (add/delete rows as required). Please be reminded that in thematic activities each participating institution needs a budget line; for research projects, each team member needs to fill out their own budget plan. Please give subtotals for each institution.

Type of COSTS	Description and justification of COST	*EUR*	Project team member/Institution
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
Choose an item.			
TOTAL:			

Signature (or typed name) of the project leader/person in charge of submitting the proposal:

_____

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO:
RESEARCH@CIVICA.EU
BY 25 January 2027, 23:59 (CET)

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union