

## EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package - Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE)

### Call for Proposals

### Grants for TVET Triple/Quadruple Helix Models in ASEAN (2026-2027) – Digital Transformation

#### About the Grant

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays a vital role in equipping individuals with the skills demanded by today's labour markets. Yet, across ASEAN, curricula often lag behind the rapid pace of industry transformation, leaving many graduates underprepared to meet workforce expectations. These challenges are particularly acute in fast-growing sectors such as green jobs and the digital economy.

**Digital Transformation** is altering how industries operate, driven by artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, data analytics, automation, and digital platforms. These changes are creating new job profiles that demand both advanced and basic digital skills. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digitalisation across ASEAN, yet significant disparities remain in digital pedagogy, online delivery capacity, and equitable access to technology. Without addressing these gaps, TVET systems risk falling behind the needs of a digital economy. To remain relevant and future-ready, TVET must diversify learning modes through digital delivery formats while integrating both basic and advanced digital competencies into training programmes. Capacity-building activities are therefore vital, strengthening institutional governance, enhancing digital and pedagogical competencies, and ensuring the integration of digital skills into curricula.

This call for proposals aims to strengthen the ASEAN-wide collaboration among vocational education institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the **Digital Transformation**. The successful applicant will be expected to enhance capacities and foster collaboration among TVET institutions and stakeholders by applying the triple/quadruple helix model (TQHM). Through this approach, the ASEAN TVET system will be better positioned to respond effectively to rapid technological advancements in technical and vocational fields, while contributing to a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable future.

The objectives of the grants are to:

1. Strengthen institutional and individual capacities across ASEAN to design and implement TVET projects using TQHM.
2. Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships that ensure curriculum relevance and drive innovation in line with the thematic area.
3. Support the integration of TQHM mechanisms within regionally responsive TVET frameworks.

The grant is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- Empowered TVET educators and trainers equipped with up-to-date thematic technical knowledge and practical skills.
- Inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues and collaborations that directly contribute to improving TVET graduate employability.

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- Capacity building activities that strengthen the alignment of TVET curricula, integrating sustainability, green practices, digital competencies, and essential soft skills.
- Enhanced collaboration mechanisms among diverse stakeholders to drive meaningful TVET reform across the region.
- Strengthened regional knowledge exchange fostering cross-border peer learning and collaboration.

### Call for Proposals

<b>Proposal Thematic Area</b>	<b>Digital Transformation</b>  This theme aims to strengthen digital readiness and innovation within ASEAN's TVET systems by expanding access to digital skills and transforming delivery methods. Proposals should address gaps in digital pedagogy, infrastructure, and equity, while ensuring the integration of both basic and advanced digital competencies into training programmes. Key focus areas may include developing blended learning models, strengthening educator capacity, supporting digitally inclusive access for learners in underserved areas, and aligning digital skill training with labour market demands in fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and data analytics. Applicants are encouraged to draw on national and regional digital competency frameworks and promote scalable, inclusive digital solutions that can be adapted across diverse contexts in ASEAN.
<b>Number of grants</b>	1
<b>Grant Amount</b>	Up to EUR 180,000
<b>Duration</b>	July 2026 to June 2027
<b>Language</b>	The proposal must be submitted in English.
<b>Application Deadline</b>	The proposal must be submitted by <b>14 March 2026, 11:59 p.m. (GMT+7)</b> .
<b>Eligibility of Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be established and legally registered in any of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).</li> <li>• Apply either as an individual institution or as a consortium of institutions.</li> <li>• Demonstrate a proven ability to collaborate with helix stakeholders, including government, industry, TVET institutions, and civil society.</li> </ul> For more details regarding the eligible entities, please refer to <a href="#">Annex 5 (Applicant's Guidebook)</a> .
<b>Sub-granting</b>	Sub-granting of funds is not permitted under this call.

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Contact	For further inquiries, email <a href="mailto:scope-he@nuffic.nl">scope-he@nuffic.nl</a>
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### Selection Criteria

All submitted proposals will be evaluated by a panel based on the following criteria:

- 1. Relevance and Alignment (20%)**
  - Clear alignment with the thematic area of this call for proposals.
  - Strong connection to national and ASEAN TVET policies or labour market needs.
  - Demonstrated understanding of gaps in current TVET delivery.
- 2. Technical Soundness and Innovation (20%)**
  - Co-creation of contextually relevant capacity-building and training approaches.
  - Innovative pedagogical approaches and activity design.
  - Integration of future skill sets.
  - Responsiveness to enterprise needs.
- 3. Partnership and Governance (15%)**
  - Demonstrated ability to collaborate with triple/quadruple helix stakeholders.
  - Strong and balanced triple or quadruple helix partnership.
  - Clear roles and responsibilities supported by relevant pools of expertise.
  - Inclusive and participatory governance in activity management.
- 4. Capacity Building and Institutionalisation (15%)**
  - Realistic, high-quality plan for capacity strengthening (e.g., ToT, blended learning).
  - Viable pathways or readiness for institutional uptake and sustainability.
  - Linkages with ASEAN-wide TVET resources and platforms.
- 5. Gender Equality and Inclusive Design (10%)**
  - Demonstrated commitment to inclusion and equity.
  - Identification of barriers for women, youth, rural populations, and persons with disabilities.
  - Proposed strategies and safeguards to ensure participation and outcomes for underrepresented groups.
- 6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (10%)**
  - Clear relationship between the project's objectives, its expected results, and success indicators.
  - Defined methodology for collecting lessons learned and feedback, using gender-disaggregated data.
  - Plan to document and disseminate findings, practices, and tools across ASEAN.
- 7. Budget and cost-efficiency (10%)**
  - Realistic, cost-effective, and transparent budget.
  - Clear link between activities and resource allocation.
  - Alignment with proposed outcomes and expected results.

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### Application Process

The proposal must be submitted on time and in complete form to the following email address: [scope-he@nuffic.nl](mailto:scope-he@nuffic.nl), with “Digital Transformation – Grants for TVET Triple/Quadruple Helix Models – [Entity Name]” in the subject line.

The proposal package must include the following documents, submitted in PDF format:

1. Project Description ([see Annex 1](#)).
2. Detailed Budget ([see Annex 2](#)).
3. Endorsement Letter signed by the management of the Applicant and partners acknowledging the proposal submission ([see Annex 3](#)).
4. Due Diligence Form ([see Annex 4](#))

Changes to the project description, the budget, or any documents submitted or amended after the application deadline, will not be considered. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection process.

For further guidance, including information on expenditure requirements, eligibility criteria, guiding principles, eligible activities, and other related provisions, please refer to [Annex 5](#) Applicant’s Guidebook.

### Selection Process and Timeline

The selection process will be open and competitive, encouraging interested applicants to submit innovative concepts that demonstrate clear alignment with the thematic area. The selection process will involve two stages:

**Stage 1: Proposal Review** – Evaluation of all submitted proposals against the selection criteria.

**Stage 2: Online Interview and Presentation** – Shortlisted candidates will be invited to present their proposals and engage in further discussion and clarification.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Due to the high volume of submissions, individual feedback cannot be provided.

The expected timeline for the selection and contracting process is **March to June 2026**.

3 February 2026 at 2:00 p.m. (GMT+7)	Virtual Information Session. Please register using the following link to join the session: <a href="https://s.id/074-SCOPE-HE">https://s.id/074-SCOPE-HE</a>
March 2026	Initial review and shortlisting
April 2026	Online interview
May/June 2026	Result announcement