

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

Call for Proposals

Grants for TVET Triple/Quadruple Helix Models in ASEAN (2026-2027) - Sustainability

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.

At the same time, **Sustainability** and social inclusion are becoming increasingly important priorities. While many national strategies across ASEAN recognise their significance, practical implementation remains limited. Women, youth and marginalised groups continue to be underrepresented in technical and green fields, constraining both equity and economic potential. Inclusive TVET offers a pathway to bridge skill gaps in countries with youthful populations, ensuring a longer period for robust growth. For countries facing stagnating or declining working-age populations, inclusive workforce development is even more critical as it helps extend working life and sustain economic expansion. Building a resilient and future-ready workforce for sustainable growth requires embedding inclusiveness across TVET systems and ensuring that all learners have equitable access to relevant skills and lifelong learning opportunities.

This call is seeking proposals to strengthen ASEAN regional collaboration among vocational education institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders to advance **Sustainability**. The successful applicant will be expected to build capacities and foster collaboration among TVET institutions and TVET stakeholders applying the triple/quadruple helix model (TQHM). Through this approach, the ASEAN TVET system can cultivate the potential of its diverse population, extend economic opportunities, and contribute to a more inclusive, resilient, 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.
- Capacity building activities that strengthen the alignment of TVET curricula, integrating sustainability, green practices, digital competencies, and essential soft skills.

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

- 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

Thematic Area	Sustainability <p>This theme focuses on integrating sustainability principles into TVET systems to build inclusive, resilient, and future-ready workforces. Proposals should aim to develop lifelong learning and reskilling pathways while enhancing educator readiness to deliver sustainability-related content. Special attention should be given to the inclusion of underrepresented groups—such as women, rural youth, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities—ensuring that they benefit equitably from both the green and digital transitions. Activities under this theme may include updating curricula to embed sustainability concepts across disciplines, strengthening instructor capacity through targeted training, and fostering community partnerships that promote social equity and local ownership. By embedding sustainability into the core of TVET systems, proposals are expected to contribute to a more inclusive and resilient ASEAN workforce, capable of driving long-term sustainable growth.</p>
Number of grants	1
Grant Amount	Up to EUR 180,000
Duration	July 2026 to June 2027
Language	The proposal must be submitted in English.
Application Deadline	The proposal must be submitted by 14 March 2026, 11:59 p.m. (GMT+7) .
Eligibility of Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be established and legally registered in any of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). • Apply either as an individual institution or as a consortium of institutions. • Demonstrate a proven ability to collaborate with helix stakeholders, including government, industry, TVET institutions, and civil society. <p>For more details regarding the eligible entities, please refer to Annex 5 (Applicant's Guidebook).</p>

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

Sub-granting	Sub-granting of funds is not permitted under this call.
Contact	Email: scope-he@nuffic.nl

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.

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

- Clear link between activities and resource allocation.
- Alignment with proposed outcomes and expected results.

Application Process

The proposal must be submitted on time and in complete form to the following email address: scope-he@nuffic.nl, with “Sustainability – 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 other 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 [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: https://s.id/074-SCOPE-HE
March 2026	Initial review and shortlisting
April 2026	Online interview
May/June 2026	Result announcement