

Call for Expressions of Interest for EUniWell Champions

1. Introduction

EUniWell, the European University for Well-Being, is an alliance of 12 member universities dedicated to advancing well-being through cutting-edge research, education, and community engagement. Our [Mission](#) is to understand, improve, measure, and rebalance well-being across individual, societal, and environmental dimensions. To achieve these ambitious goals, EUniWell promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, supports researcher career development, and fosters a culture of Open Science across our member institutions.

In the 2023-2027 period, EUniWell will launch two Calls for Expressions of Interest for EUniWell Champions. The EUniWell Champions Scheme is targeted at academics interested in taking on a short-term (i.e. one semester or six-months) leadership role in disseminating well-being research results and advancing the EUniWell Mission both within the Alliance and to external audiences.

This is the second of the two Calls for Expressions of Interest for EUniWell Champions. This call will select 11 senior researchers who will act as ambassadors for our Alliance and help connect our academic communities. Each EUniWell Champion will have a budget of up to €15,000 to support their activities over six months, which do not need to be consecutive (the period is to be defined by the Champion to take place within the September 2026 and July 2027 window).

The EUniWell Champions Scheme is open to senior researchers currently employed at the following EUniWell member institutions:

- University of Cologne
- University of Florence
- Inalco
- University of Konstanz
- Linnaeus University
- Nantes Université
- University of Murcia
- Universidade de Santiago de Compostela
- Semmelweis University
- Medical University of Warsaw

This Call for Expressions of Interest describes (1) the scope of the EUniWell Champions Scheme, (2) the expected roles and responsibilities of the selected EUniWell Champions, (3) the application process and (4) the selection criteria for EUniWell Champions. In all aspects, the EUniWell Champions Scheme aligns with the Alliance's overarching goals and promotes a collaborative and impactful research environment focused on well-being.

2. Concept of a Champion and Responsibilities

The EUniWell Champions Scheme is targeted at senior academics and researchers interested in taking on a leadership role in advancing the EUniWell well-being focused Mission and the [EUniWell 2030: Strategy Framework and Strategy Questions](#) agenda. A EUniWell Champion is envisioned as a leading researcher who commits to serve as an ambassador for our Alliance, to advance well-being, and to help define future directions for EUniWell. The selected individuals will be pivotal in promoting the values and objectives of EUniWell - within their home institutions, throughout the broader academic communities and Associated Partners of the Alliance, and with civil society and policy makers in Europe and beyond. The EUniWell Champions Scheme is focused on well-being; however applicants to the EUniWell Champions Scheme have broad flexibility to design a work plan consistent with their expertise and ambitions. While the term of a EUniWell Champion is six months (not necessarily consecutive) or one semester,¹ it is anticipated that Champions will continue as ambassadors within and for the Alliance in the future.

The expected responsibilities for each EUniWell Champion include:

1. Developing a six-month Work Plan (to be undertaken between September 2026 and July 2027) that advances the EUniWell well-being mission, fosters collaboration, and supports the strategic ambitions of the Alliance as described in EUniWell 2030. This Work Plan should include at least one activity per month (involving mobility) focused on well-being research and dissemination. The proposed activities should contribute to strengthening research collaborations among EUniWell member universities and other external stakeholders. They can include, for example, but are not limited to: participating in scientific conferences or professional fairs, holding seminars with PhD students and Post-docs, teaching extraordinary courses, developing common publications or research projects within the Alliance, meeting with Associated Partners and external stakeholders, discussing the creation of startups, etc.
2. Participating in EUniWell's Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS, see Annex IV) during the period from September 2026 to -July 2027. In particular, Champions will be members of the scientific committee that designs the activities to be developed in the CAS symposia. Each Champion will give a keynote lecture in one of the symposia.
3. Participating in Alliance-wide activities associated, such as those organised by the EUniWell Thematic Arenas during the September 2026-July 2027 period.

As academic and research leaders, EUniWell Champions will contribute to developing the well-being focused future directions of the Alliance. The EUniWell Champion budget (up to €15,000) may be used to support the activities described in the Work Plan mentioned in point 1 above.

¹ *Semester* is here understood as a six-month period without interruption. It does not need to match the academic semesters of each partner institution.

3. Budget and Funds Management

Each selected EUniWell Champion will have up to €15,000 available to support the activities proposed in their six-month Work Plan. From an Alliance perspective, the budget allocation is flexible. However, applicants must:

- Adhere to institutional regulations from their home institutions regarding budget categories and allocation,
- Include sufficient budget to support the mobility activities (including travel, accommodation and *per diem*, and other related expenses) described in the work plan over the EUniWell Champion period and,
- Spend the full budget within their semester-long EUniWell Champions period.

For each selected EUniWell Champion, up to €15,000 will be managed through their home institution. Funds will be disbursed based upon the local internal regulations and policies that govern eligible expenses for grants.

Travel expenses and other costs associated with the Champions Scheme will be eligible in accordance with the internal rules of the respective institution and the provisions of the Erasmus+ Programme.

All queries regarding budgets and eligible expenses - whether in the proposal preparation phase or the active phase of serving as a EUniWell Champion - should be directed to the local EUniWell Office. ²

4. Eligibility criteria

Applicants wishing to be considered for the EUniWell Champions Scheme should meet the following criteria:

1. **Senior researcher profile:** Candidates must be established senior researchers as defined by the [European Research Council](#) (i.e., having completed their doctoral thesis at least seven years before the deadline of this call).
2. **Have a record of significant research experience, accomplishment and recognition** in a research area within one of the five EUniWell Thematic Arenas:
 - [Arena 1: Health and Well-Being](#)
 - [Arena 2: Social Equality and Well-Being](#)
 - [Arena 3: Environmental Change and Well-Being](#)
 - [Arena 4: Culture, Multilingualism and Well-Being](#)
 - [Arena 5: Teacher Education and Well-Being](#)
3. **Be employed as an academic or a researcher** at one of the EUniWell member universities during the entire September 2026-July 2027 period.

² See the list of Institutional Coordinators at the end of this document.

4. **Mobility willingness:** Readiness to engage in flexible mobility within and outside the EUniWell Alliance for research-related and outreach activities. Mobility activities outside the alliance are limited to 20% of total mobility activities.

5. Application Process

We invite senior researchers from the EUniWell member universities identified in Section 1 to submit an application to become a EUniWell Champion. This prestigious role offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the development of EUniWell, to contribute to our well-being research agenda, to collaborate with leading scholars across Europe, and to make a tangible impact on society.

5.1 Proposal Formatting

- All elements of the Application (as described in Section 5.2) must be completed.
- The page limit for each element must not be exceeded.
- Proposals should be submitted in 11 point, Calibri font.
- Any Tables and Figures must be within the prescribed page limits.
- Applications should not include URLs for additional information. Information or documentation beyond that included in the Application will not be used in the evaluation process.
- Proposals should follow accepted academic practice in citing references. References should be numbered sequentially and listed separately as a required attachment to the Application. References should be reported in a standard form and include: the names of all authors; the article or chapter, and the journal title or book title; volume and page numbers; and year of publication, a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) if available.

5.2 Required Elements of the Application

The required elements of the Application are described below.

1. A short CV, in a free format (max. 2 pages), including a (selected) list of up to ten academic products.³
2. A cover letter, in a free format (max. 2 pages), outlining motivation and suitability for the position of a EUniWell Champion.
3. A short proposal (max. 2 pages) that describes (i) the proposed activities as a EUniWell Champion and (ii) the proposed timeline. The proposal should clearly describe how the

³ Products can include: publications, conference papers, websites or other online resources, technologies, inventions or patents, data or databases, or other academic focused products that demonstrate their research record. All products should be clearly described and cited using standard formats (within the 2 page limit).

activities will support EUniWell and its well-being agenda. In addition, it should clearly identify the EUniWell Thematic Arena with which it aligns.

4. A list of references in a standard form (without page limit).
5. A budget description (max. 1 page) that adheres to institutional guidelines.⁴
6. A communication and dissemination plan (max. 1 page).
7. The name of up to 3 reviewers for the application.

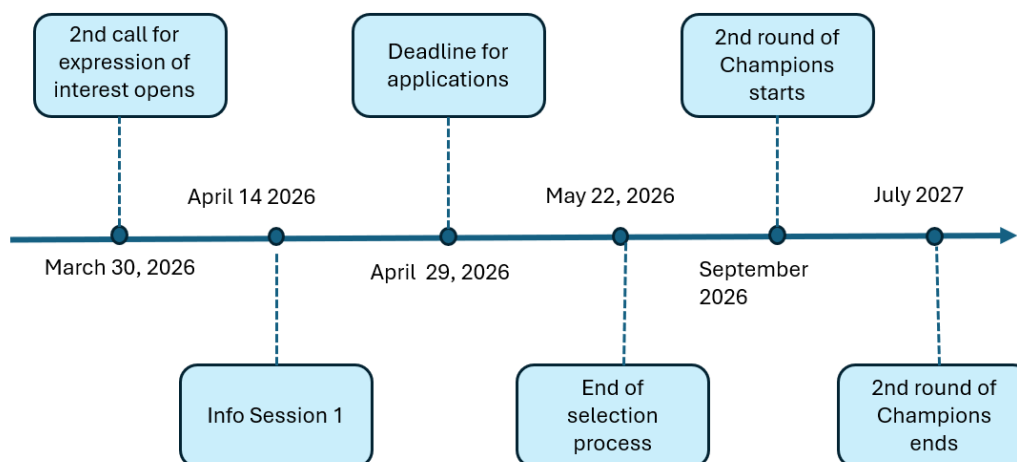
5.3 Submission of Applications

Applications should be submitted via email to euniwell.wp8@usc.gal by 5 p.m. CET on April 29, 2026.

6. Timeline and Important Dates

The figure below shows the timeline and important dates for this Call for Expressions of Interest for EUniWell Champions.

The timeline opens with an online Information Session on April 2026, TBD. Please register for the Information Session at euniwell.wp8@usc.gal. Upon registration, a link will be provided for the session.



Important Dates:

- Applications should be submitted by 5 p.m. CET on April 29, 2026.

⁴ These guidelines are contained in an annex to this call published by every institution participating in the call.

- Following an Evaluation and Selection Process, EUniWell Champions will be announced by May 22, 2026.
- EUniWell Champions should select a semester or six months (not necessarily consecutive) between September 2026 and July 2027 to carry out their proposed activities.

7. Evaluation and Selection of EUniWell Champions

7.1 Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will involve the following steps:

1. Immediately following the deadline for receipt of applications, all submitted applications will be reviewed to ensure that the applicant is eligible and that the application fulfils all the requirements. Applications that do not fulfil all the requirements will be returned without further review.
2. EUniWell will solicit independent expert evaluations for each eligible application. Applications will be evaluated according to the Evaluation Criteria specified in Section 7.2 below.
3. The EUniWell Board will select the EUniWell Champions. The Board will consider the expert evaluations and choose a cohort of Champions that will best advance the EUniWell well-being agenda, one from each participating EUniWell member institution, reflecting gender and arena balance.

7.2 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria, and the weighting of the criteria in the evaluation score, are as follows:

1. **Excellence (40%):** Outstanding research achievements that align with at least one of the five EUniWell Thematic Arenas.
2. **Interdisciplinary and Intersectoral Approach (10%):** Proven experience in interdisciplinary and intersectoral research and collaboration (e.g., co-authored papers with researchers from different fields and sectors).
3. **Engagement and Impact (10%):** A strong record of effective transfer of research findings to both academic and non-academic audiences. This may include the applicability of research through patents, creation of start-ups, publication of handbooks, popular science publications, or collaborations with stakeholders and media responses.

4. **Leadership (10%):** Proven leadership qualities as evidenced by, for example: links with decision-making bodies; coordination of research projects, groups, institutes, or networks; participation in executive committees of prestigious scientific organisations; and involvement in policy-making activities.
5. **Action Plan (30%):** A compelling action plan that aligns with the ambitions of the EUniWell Champions Scheme, advances the EUniWell well-being agenda, and includes:
 - Mobilities: Complete six mobilities within a semester or six months (not necessarily consecutive). A maximum of two mobilities can be virtual. Mobility activities outside the alliance are limited to 20% of total mobility activities.
 - Stakeholder interaction: Meet and interact with regional stakeholders within and beyond the alliance (e.g., EUniWell Associated Partners, industrial partners, civil society organisations, policy makers, etc.) who could boost the creation of multi-disciplinary research proposals and knowledge transfer activities.
 - Dissemination and communication activities: design and implement a dissemination and communication plan to maximise the impact of the actions and activities, increase EUniWell visibility and reach a wide audience (researchers, stakeholders, etc.). Further guidance is provided in Annex I.

8. Monitoring Plan

During the implementation phase, internal administrative and budgetary monitoring of Champions will be the responsibility of the home institution. Each Champion will be expected to submit a final report to the management of the EUniWell Champions Scheme at the conclusion of their term.

Annex I: Guidance on dissemination and communication activities

The communication and dissemination plan should address the following elements: (i) the purpose of the activity; (ii) the messages to be disseminated or communicated; (iii) the key target audiences; (iv) the media/channels to reach audiences; (v) the specific timelines for each activity; and (vi) the anticipated evaluation process to assess the impact and reach of the activities (e.g., number of views, interactions and engagement on social media channels, media coverage, participation in events, etc.). A significant emphasis should be placed on leveraging the networks and communication channels that EUniWell already has in place.

Examples of communication and dissemination activities that could be implemented to maximise the impact of the actions, reach a broad audience, and enhance the visibility of the Champions' activity. This is a non-exhaustive list that includes actions the candidate could propose to launch or organise, as well as activities in which they might choose to participate.

- Participation in conferences
- Contributions to the EUniWell blog
- Roundtable discussions
- Informative newsletters
- Articles in non-specialised media
- Workshops and seminars
- Social media campaigns
- Video series
- Community engagement events
- Podcasts
- Training and teaching materials
- Specific social media profiles
- Dedicated project website
- Press releases
- Audiovisual content (e.g., short videos)
- Webinars and online discussions
- Events
- Brochures and other promotional materials
- Infographics and visual storytelling
- Live streaming
- Online challenges or Q&A initiatives

Annex II: Global Timeline of the EUniWell Champions Scheme

Two Calls for Expressions of Interest for EUniWell Champions will be issued by October 2027.

The current Call opens in March 2026 and the second group of Champions will have flexibility to implement their Work Plan and activities in any six months between September 2026 and July 2027. The selected candidates must carry out their Champion activities between September 2026 and July 2027, considering that a minimum of six mobility activities must be completed during those months.

Annex III: The EUniWell Center for Advanced Studies

The EUniWell Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS) is envisioned as a focal point for new inter- and transdisciplinary ideas, projects, encounters, and dialogue on well-being. The CAS will bring together EUniWell and external experts to develop foresight activities on topics at the forefront of societal challenges and well-being. Its primary mission is to facilitate well-being focused research and innovation collaborations and leverage the capacity of the EUniWell Alliance members.

The EUniWell CAS will organise two symposia on critical topics per year. EUniWell Champions are envisioned as key participants in these symposia.

Annex IV: Institutional Coordinators

Below, the contact details for Institutional Coordinators at each EUniWell member institution participating in this Call for Expressions of interest for EUniWell Champions.

UoC: Ruth Möhlig-Falke (ruth.moehlig-falke@uni-koeln.de)

Unifi: Niccolo Del Buono (niccolo.delbuono@unifi.it)

Inalco: Jules Leconte (direction-international@inalco.fr)

UKON: Daniela Kromrey (daniela.kromrey@uni-konstanz.de)

Lnu: Camilla Andersson Lundqvist (Camilla.Lundqvist@lnu.se)

UMU: Jorge Piernas (corinter@um.es)

NU: Maxence Boutet (maxence.boutet@univ-nantes.fr)

USC: José María Miranda Boto (euniwell.coordinacion@usc.gal)

SE: Fanni Matyasovszki (matyasovszki.fanni.sarasmelweis.hu)

MUW: Olga Rostkowska (olga.rostkowska@wum.edu.pl)