

Call for Hosting 3 Networking Pilot Events

Build your Network and collaborate on innovative solutions!

The Networking & Communities team of the CHARM-EU Alliance invites proposals from CHARM-EU universities to **host three networking pilot events** from **January through June 2026**.

This is an opportunity to connect with colleagues of a specific discipline across the alliance or explore collaborative opportunities on specific topics and contribute to CHARM-EU's goal of becoming a European University in the truest sense of the word. Here is how former participants evaluated their participation:

“Great interaction with positive energy.”
“New insights from partner universities and very useful design thinking method.”

How do we understand Networking Pilot Events?

In networking events, the following structure has proven to be favourable:

- **Online session of two hours:** Participants and facilitators work together to identify collaboration interests and challenges around a central topic.
- **In-person workshop of two days:** Team-building activities, intercultural networking, and group-based solutions are developed based on the identified interests and challenges.
- **Follow-up sessions:** These sessions allow participants to continue working on projects initiated during the online and in-person workshops.

Agile and participative working methods are used throughout the online and on-site events, for example, Design Thinking – a user-centered method for innovative problem-solving. The supporting CHARM-EU expert team (consisting of trained colleagues involved with the concept of Networking Pilot Events) will facilitate the sessions employing this way of working.

What's involved in hosting?

By hosting a Networking Pilot Event, you commit to:

- **Proposing a topic:** Relevant to your university's strengths and of interest to the alliance.
- **Identifying a local contact person:** Responsible for event logistics at your institution.
- **Choosing Dates:** Propose a date for your event – sometime in the first half of 2026.
- **Providing the venue:** The event will take place at your CHARM-EU university.

Support: CHARM-EU expert facilitators will support event organisation and online/in-person sessions. Applicants are requested to find funding sources to cover possible expenses for meeting venues and catering (e.g., through a Blended Intensive Program. Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the participating universities.

Benefits of hosting a networking pilot event

- **Expand your network** within the CHARM-EU alliance, with the support of expert facilitators.
- **Get inspired** by skills in teaching and learning from other colleagues
- **Tackle your challenges** with the help of fellow CHARM-EU colleagues
- **Learn from previous experiences** within CHARM-EU networking events.
- **Get familiar with the guiding principles for networking & community building** developed by the expert team of CHARM-EU.

- **Embed the European University concept** in daily activities at your institution.
- **Engage in CHARM-EU's strategic work** while building new ties with world-leading universities.

Examples of target audiences and objectives

Past Networking Pilot Events have addressed participants from Engineering Schools, Applied Data Science, and Life Sciences. Objectives included the development of new research collaborations and educational programmes, the inclusion of AI in the curriculum, cooperation possibilities for PhD students, professional development opportunities or joint mobility programmes for students and staff.

How do I submit a proposal?

Proposals can be submitted via [e-mail \(Ines.Mueller-Vogt@hs-ruhrwest.de\)](mailto:Ines.Mueller-Vogt@hs-ruhrwest.de) by October 15, 2025, using the attached template and should include the following:

1. **Title and Description:** A clear and concise title along with a detailed description of the proposed event.
2. **Objectives:** Specific goals and expected outcomes of the event.
3. **Target Audience:** Specify who the event is for (e.g., researchers, educators, students, administrators, etc.) and tell us how and why the topic is of interest as well as to what extent it has preliminary alliance or institutional support and participation commitment.
4. **Format:** A first idea of a structure for the event that references the [CHARM-EU Guiding Principles](#) for networking and community building. The CHARM-EU facilitator team will adapt the format to your needs.
5. **Local contact/organiser:** Who will be responsible for the logistical organisation on behalf of the institution.
6. **Budget:** An outline of the estimated costs and potential funding sources. Please coordinate with your local CHARM-EU manager to assess event feasibility before submitting.
7. **Inclusivity:** Ensure your event is inclusive (see [Inclusivity tips](#)).

Pay special attention to points 1 through 3, as they are crucial for the evaluation of the proposal and for the event itself.

Proposal deadlines:

Please submit **by October 15, 2025**, as events will take place in the first half of 2026. Late submissions cannot be considered.

Selection process:

An expert group will evaluate proposals based on:

- **Potential** to attract active participation and to deliver sustainable networking during and after the event.
- **Feasibility, relevance, and alliance interest** in thematic focus.
- **Clarity and completeness** of the proposal, particularly in the description, objectives, and target audience.
- **Diversity** of participants in terms of institutions, disciplines, and roles.
- **Alignment with CHARM-EU strategy and principles.**

Decisions will be communicated during the first week of November 2025. If your proposal is not selected, you may still receive **facilitator training** to help you implement your idea independently in a **self-guided format**.

We look forward to your innovative proposals and to working together to strengthen the CHARM-EU network!

For further information and submission details, please contact [Ines Müller-Vogt](#), Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences.