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Funding educational innovation from within: challenges and opportunities

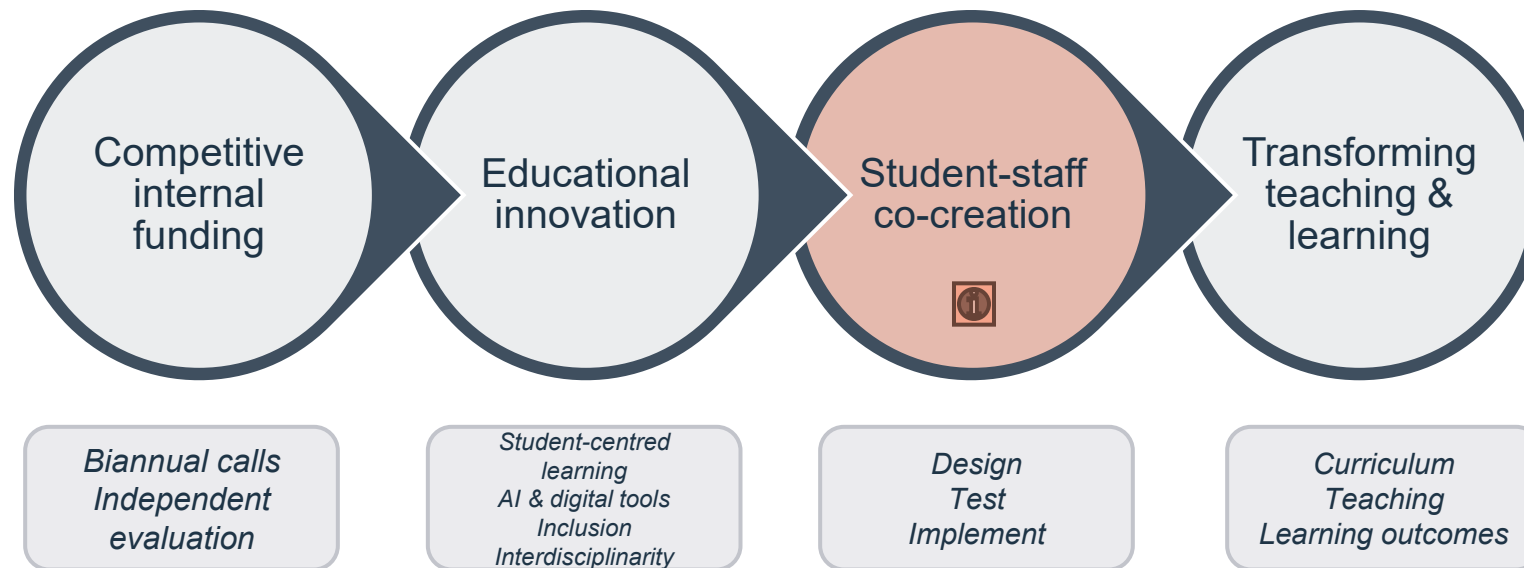
Dayana
Sánchez

*Project Officer at the Institute for Innovative
Teaching and Learning, University of Luxembourg*



The Education Innovation Fund (EIF)

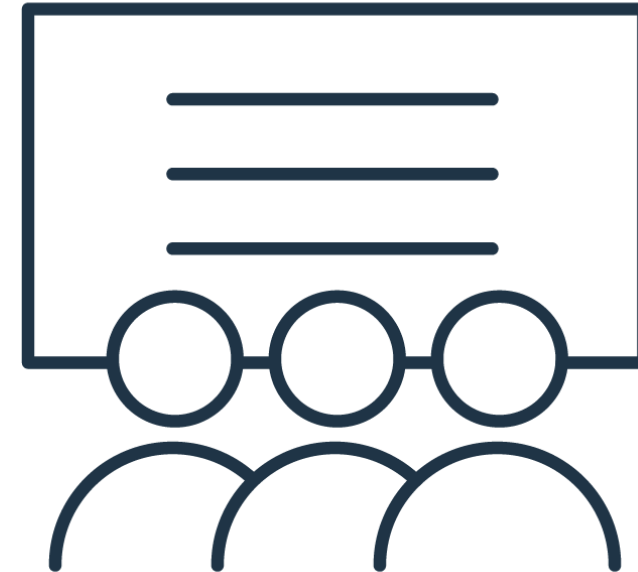
The Education Innovation Fund (EIF) is a competitive internal funding scheme that supports student-centred initiatives transforming curricula, teaching methods, and learning outcomes.



Students as co-creators

A specific feature of EIF is the emphasis on student **co-creation** in the design testing, and implementation of these innovations. At least 50% of all the fund's amount is reserved for projects in which **students co-create**.

A student serves as an evaluator during the proposal review process. A student is also a member of the Institute's Advisory Board, contributing to strategic discussions around the fund.



Students as co-creators

Students are equal partners in the project implementation: they contribute to the strategic development and management of the project alongside the staff.



Consult: students give input.



Participate: students test and contribute.



Co-create: students help shape the challenge and the solution.

Example:

Undergraduate Computer Science students are co-designing and developing an AI-supported tutoring system alongside academic staff.

How the fund works



2 calls per year in Autumn and Spring. Latest call: 10 proposals received | 5 projects funded

External partners



- External partners are welcome as consortium members but **cannot act as project leads**.
- The EIF prioritises strengthening the University's internal capacity for educational innovation while incorporating external expertise to complement and enhance projects.
- For the same reason, funding allocated to external partners is capped, ensuring that the majority of resources support innovation developed within the University.

Strategic priorities of the EIF

STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING

Learning designed around students' needs.

Develop transferable skills for future success.

LLL - CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

Flexible learning for lifelong upskilling and reskilling.

DIGITAL TOOLS & AI

Enhance teaching through digital technologies and AI.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

Connect disciplines to enrich learning.

INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Ensure equitable and accessible learning for all.

PEDAGOGICAL INNOVATION

Design and test innovative teaching approaches.

MULTILINGUALISM

Strengthen learning through multilingual education.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Build educators' pedagogical expertise.

STUDENT LIFE AND PARTICIPATION

Empower students as active university partners.

What the fund makes possible

The EIF continues to evolve through experience and continuous refinement

Bottom-up innovation

- Ideas emerge from those closest to teaching and learning.

Partnership

- Staff and students can shape educational change together.

Interdisciplinary collaboration

- Funding can create new interdisciplinary connections.

Strategic experimentation

- Institutions can test approaches before wider adoption.

From funding projects to learning as an institution

PROJECTS

Test an idea in a real teaching context

COMMUNITY

Share practices, connections and evidence

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING

Learn what enables innovation and what needs to change

Thank you!



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