

Call for participation: setup of a T4EU Junior Lab cooperation

PEDAGOGIES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: Supporting Student Engagement, Identity, and Transitions.

This Junior Lab invites doctoral researchers in education, psychology, sociology, career studies, and other related fields to explore how pedagogical practices can support students throughout their educational journeys and beyond. It will examine how teaching, learning, and assessment influence student motivation, engagement, and achievement, with a focus on promoting success and retention among underrepresented groups.

The discussion will also consider how pedagogical approaches shape students' social and professional identities and support their transitions into the workforce and broader society.

Grounded in relational sociology and guided by principles of equity and inclusion, Junior Lab offers space for interdisciplinary dialogue on how pedagogy can foster belonging, success, and social transformation. Participants are encouraged to share insights from diverse national and disciplinary contexts and to explore opportunities for collaboration within the T4EU network.

An in-person workshop will be suggested during the Matchmaking Event, at Université Jean Monnet in **Saint-Etienne, November 25th-28th**. The exact day and time of the workshop will be communicated shortly.

This Junior Lab is suggested by:

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Gintare Lübeck at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU). Her thesis explores how authentic assessment practices in higher education influence student engagement and academic achievement, with a focus on underrepresented student groups. The study is grounded in situated expectancy-value theory and employs a quasi-experimental, quantitative design.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė

For all interest in this new cooperation, [fill in the contact form](#) and a T4EU representative will reach out to you.

For any questions; contact t4eu@univ-st-etienne.fr

ANNEX: what are the T4EU Junior Labs



T4EU Junior Labs: facilitating international networks and interdisciplinary activities for PhD students

At [Transform4Europe \(T4EU\)](#), we encourage PhD students and their supervisors to cultivate meaningful networks that will support their future academic and professional careers. The T4EU alliance facilitates connections between students at eleven European universities

Through the Junior Labs initiative, T4EU PhD students have the unique opportunity to **establish their own academic groups** — known as Junior Labs — or to join existing ones. These labs provide invaluable hands-on academic experience, developing cooperation across disciplines and institutions, and can culminate in academic work, common communication, organization of activities and participation in T4EU events at the different universities in the alliance.

What Are T4EU Junior Labs?

T4EU Junior Labs are time-limited, student-led academic networks formed by PhD candidates actively enrolled at T4EU partner universities. These labs aim to:

- Develop the international mobility across Europe for the PhD students in the alliance.
- Encourage **interdisciplinary** academic work.
- Facilitate **networking** among PhDs and help them find meaningful academic contacts.
- Promote **international engagement** and provide critical experience to enhance future career prospects.

Each Junior Lab operates over a period of up to two years, led by a project leader who must be registered as a PhD student at a T4EU university throughout the duration of the project. Other participating students must also be enrolled within a T4EU university.

T4EU can provide your network with help in communicating about your activities and with organization of mobility. The alliance can also provide you with advice on T4EU activities adapted for your working group.

When to create or join a T4EU Junior Lab?

Applications for Junior Labs are reviewed by the **Joint PhD Office** to ensure alignment with the T4EU pillars.

- The inaugural call is open from **June 2025**, with a submission deadline **September 30th 2025**.
- Applicants will be notified **latest in November 2025**.

How to get started?

1. **Seek approval** from your academic supervisor and home institution. Make sure your local T4EU representative and supervisor are informed.
2. **Complete the initial [contact form](#)** to engage with T4EU representatives and discuss your first ideas.
3. **Develop your proposal** and assemble a team of participants from at least 3 different T4EU universities. T4EU can help you to arrange a call for participation if you are searching for more members and communicate your idea through the network. You can also use the [Connect4Research](#) tool to find academic contacts within T4EU.

Support documents for starting a new Junior Lab

We encourage you to [first fill in the contact form](#) to start discussing your idea.

Once your project is defined with the other team members you can submit your complete description of your Junior lab as below.

To apply for a Junior Lab set up, the following files are required.

1. Describe the Junior Lab's goals, including:

- the project's current state;
- the team's complementarity;
- the multidisciplinary approach's contribution and the methodology used to accomplish the goals;
- the advantages for Junior Lab members;
- the Junior Lab's purpose and reporting procedures (writing of articles/publication, organization of roundtables, research log, scientific outreach activities, organization of conferences, create awareness on a specific topic, exchanging on best practices in methodology, organize seminars or webinars etc.);
- the advantages for T4EU

2. Junior Lab members' list (name, lab, email address, CV, and thesis project summary; list the person in charge first).

3. Projected timeline (start and finish dates, milestones, maximum of two years).

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who is eligible?**
Doctoral students currently enrolled at any university within the T4EU alliance.
- **How does it work?**
A doctoral student from the alliance can initiate a Junior Lab or join an existing one, fostering international, interdisciplinary networks.
- **Duration?**
Junior Labs are established for a period of two years.