

Smile

SMILE Diversity Award 2023

Announcement

The SMILE Diversity Award 2023 is a recognition given to the most innovative and transferable initiatives in Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education (HE) in Europe. The Award will be conferred as part of the SMILE project, with the aims to:

- find inspiring and innovative solutions to help institutions to implement or improve their current Diversity and Inclusion strategy
- showcase the best Diversity and Inclusion practices
- highlight the excellence of existing projects and initiatives
- spread the awareness about Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, innovative solutions, tools or approaches, among HEIs, Policy makers and Civil Society

By highlighting and publishing best practices in Diversity and Inclusion, the SMILE Diversity Award 2023 helps bring about a positive change in attitudes and practices in HE.

SMILE is looking for the **most inspiring initiatives** that can help higher education institutions (HEIs) to improve their internal Diversity and Inclusion arrangements. Selected initiatives will have the opportunity to present their practices during the SMILE Final Symposium in Barcelona, where three finalists will be announced and awarded a certificate in the plenary session as the most innovative pieces of work.

The three finalists will be also invited to write a short paper presenting their case and submit it by 12 December 2023. Papers approved by the editorial board of the European Journal of University Lifelong Learning – EJULL, will be published in issue 8(1) of the journal, planned for May 2024. The winning papers will be widely published through the SMILE project's communication channels, and photographs of the award ceremony will be used for publicity of the project¹.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts to be considered for the award is **15 September 2023** (follow the QR code to enter to the platform and submit your work).



¹ Submitting an abstract implies acceptance of the described conditions. The SMILE project reserves its rights to use the winning cases as part of its publicity strategy.



Evaluation criteria

All abstracts will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria:

1. **Relevance:** The work described should be directly connected to diversity and inclusion (30%)
2. **Transferability:** The initiative, tool or approach explained should show elements that allow transferability to other institutions or countries. The abstract must point out the elements with potential for transferability (30%)
3. **Impact:** The abstract should mention the impact in terms of results, changes in processes, impact on the organisation, impact on the staff, impact on the candidates, etc. that the initiative, tool or approach has demonstrated (20%)
4. **Sustainability:** The abstract should mention how the initiative, tool or approach has planned its sustainability and/or how it is integrated into existing structures or processes (20%)

Why should you participate?

- By presenting your experience, you are publicly valuing your institution, its staff and any stakeholders for diversity and inclusion that you have
- The best practices will be showcased in the SMILE website, under resources
- The three best initiatives will be awarded recognition during the SMILE Symposium
- Contributing with your experience in the SMILE final event will be an opportunity to exchange and network with professionals across Europe
- The best cases will be invited to write a full paper that, if accepted by the Editorial Board, will be included in the EJULL² publication, vol 8 no 1 in May 2024
- Participation is free and easy

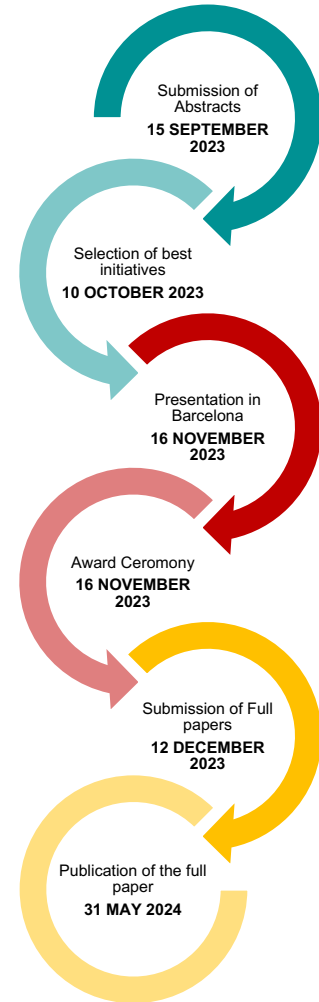


Figure 1 Graphic timeline of the SMILE Diversity Award 2023

Who can participate?



Higher Education Institutions, but also are welcomed experiences from civil society organisations, NGOs, VET providers, public authorities, institutions of lifelong learning and any other stakeholder that HEIs could have. Good luck!

Staff from the SMILE consortium are invited to submit abstracts but these will not be eligible for the SMILE Diversity Award 2023.

² <https://eucenstudies.eucen.eu/ejournal/>