

View Survey Response

Survey: [Proposals from members](#)

Date: Tue, 31 Mar 2026 00:13:28 -0400

Member: Xiangjie Chen

E-mail: xjchen@terpmail.umd.edu

Questions

1. Name of Proponent(s)*:

Xiangjie Chen, Sowmya Ravisandiran, and Tima Gogiyev (ISIE Student Chapter D&I Subgroup)

2. Country(ies)*:

United States, the Netherlands, Norway

3. Title of Proposal*:

Expanding ISIE's Global Footprint: Strengthening Engagement in Underrepresented Regions (Strategic Proposal)

4. * WHAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE PROPOSAL?

This proposal aims to strategically expand ISIE's presence in underrepresented regions, specifically Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, through targeted outreach and inclusive programming. Currently, members from these regions account for less than 8% of total ISIE membership (<https://is4ie.org/about/members/map>), despite these areas facing critical sustainability challenges like rapid urbanization and climate vulnerability.

The central idea involves two main activities:

Targeted University Outreach & Sponsored Membership: We will identify leading academic institutions in these regions and offer 50-100 two-year complimentary memberships to selected early-career researchers to lower financial entry barriers.

"IE Around the World": An online global poster and presentation competition hosted by the Student Chapter. This event will provide a platform for researchers from the Global South to showcase locally grounded sustainability research, encouraging cross-regional dialogue.

5. * WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERS?

This initiative directly benefits the ISIE Society by advancing its mission to become a truly global community and enhancing its intellectual diversity. By proactively creating pathways for scholars in the Global South, ISIE will gain locally grounded perspectives essential for addressing transnational sustainability challenges. It fosters cross-regional dialogue and unique networking opportunities through the "IE Around the World" event. By 2027, we anticipate a measurable increase in diverse membership, greater participation from these regions in ISIE society, and stronger long-term institutional connections with universities worldwide. Ultimately, it strengthens ISIE's legitimacy in global sustainability discourse.

6. * WHO WOULD GOVERN OR OPERATE THE PROPOSAL?

The proposal will be primarily governed and operated by the ISIE Student Chapter Board, specifically the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) subgroup, which includes Xiangjie Chen, Sowmya Ravisandiran, and Tima Gogiyev. We will manage the university outreach, coordinate the sponsored membership distribution, and organize the "IE Around the World" online poster competition.

7. * WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL (e.g. Administrative, Financial, personnel)

Administratively and in terms of personnel, the ISIE Student Chapter Board (D&I subgroup) will dedicate our volunteer time to execute the outreach campaigns and organize the online event. We will leverage our existing academic networks and digital platforms for promotion. We are requesting financial support from this grant to cover the direct costs of the proposed activities—specifically the complimentary memberships and the prize pool for the competition. We will also rely on the ISIE administrative staff for minimal assistance with promotional support through official channels.

8. * IS THIS PROPOSAL DEFINED WITHIN A SINGLE ISIE SECTION OR ACROSS SECTIONS?

This proposal operates across all ISIE sections. Geographic underrepresentation is a society-wide structural challenge that affects every section. The researchers and students we aim to recruit, as well as the research they will present in the online competition, will span multiple domains of industrial ecology—from socioeconomic metabolism to circular economy and life-cycle assessment. By acting at the broader Society level through the Student Chapter, we ensure the benefits of increased diversity enrich all specific sections.

9. EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL (FROM WITHIN OR ACROSS SECTIONS OR REGIONS)

Support for this initiative stems directly from the core mission of the ISIE Student Chapter's D&I subgroup to foster a more inclusive community. The proposal addresses a widely recognized gap evident in the ISIE Member Map, where entire continents have minimal representation. Furthermore, this initiative aligns seamlessly with ISIE's broader strategic goals of expanding global engagement and supporting early-career researchers. As members of the Student Chapter Board, we represent the next generation of IE scholars advocating for this structural change.

10. IF ISIE MEMBER FOR <2 YEARS, PROVIDE NAME OF SUPPORTING ISIE BOARD MEMBER OR SECTION LEADER

Not Applicable

11. APPROXIMATE BUDGET IF APPLICABLE (Financial estimates and explanations)

We are requesting a total budget of up to EUR 2,500. This is allocated into two primary categories: (1) Sponsored memberships: Approximately EUR 1,700 to cover 50–100 two-year complimentary student or young professional memberships for scholars in the targeted underrepresented regions. (2) Competition prize funding: EUR 800 total to incentivize participation in the global event (e.g., 1 First place: EUR 200; 2 Second place: EUR 150 each; 3 Third place: EUR 100 each).

12. OTHER

We thank the ISIE Board for considering this proposal. We believe these targeted actions will help ISIE take a significant step toward becoming a truly inclusive and globally representative society.