

Common Call for Applications

Student mobility grants for participation in EUNICOast's 1st Student Festival

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Introduction

EUNICOast - The European University of Islands, Ports and Coastal Territories.

EUNICOast is pleased to invite students from its member universities to apply for mobility to participate in the 1st EUNICOast Student Festival, hosted by the University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, from the 21st to the 25th of September, 2026. This initiative, launched in line with the objectives of the European Universities Initiative, supports short-term student mobility and brings together students from across Europe for a dynamic programme of collaborative workshops, cultural exchange, and social activities. It aims to foster intercultural dialogue, strengthen European identity, and promote active student engagement, inclusion, and cooperation across partner universities within the EUNICOast Alliance.

The Festival integrates social activities, informal training, and cultural exchanges, while offering inclusive participation through two distinct pathways: physical mobility for students attending from EUNICOast partner universities, and Internationalisation at Home (I@H) for UNISS students. The 1st EUNICOast Student Festival will be a unifying event for the Alliance. EUNICOast encourages all students to take advantage of this opportunity to open themselves to the world and become globally engaged citizens committed to knowledge, diversity, and inclusion, amongst other European values and principles.

1. Context and Framework

The present Call for Applications is launched within the framework of EUNICOast, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, under the European Universities Initiative, with the aim of selecting up to 120 students from EUNICOast's member institutions,

with a maximum of 10 students per institution, to attend the 1st EUNICOast Student Festival.

Through this initiative, EUNICOast reinforces its internationalisation policy and strategy, aimed at promoting academic cooperation, active participation in European education networks, and the continuous improvement of teaching and research quality. The Erasmus+ experience allows students to grow academically and personally, while contributing to the construction of a more inclusive, sustainable and connected European Higher Education Area.

2. Description of the Activity

EUNICOast's Student Festival is conceived as a yearly event gathering 120 students from the different partners of the Alliance for a week of social activities, informal training and exchanges around the host city and surrounding territory, to foster multilingualism and the integration of an EUNICOast identity within its student communities.

The hackathon tracks are conceived as the creative and intellectual engine of the 1st EUNICOast Student Festival, taking place in Sassari from 21st to 25th of September 2026.

The Festival is built around two complementary dimensions that reflect the full scope of what a European University Alliance can and should be. The first dimension encompasses Collaborative Coding and Problem-Solving: structured, challenge-based, innovation work will allow students to engage rigorously with real problems facing coastal and island communities. The second is Cultural and Community Engagement: a space for celebrating diversity, building belonging, and

experiencing firsthand what it means to be part of a genuinely multilingual, multicultural European academic community.

1st Hackathon - Heritage and Waves: Cultural Innovation for Sustainable Maritime Areas. Reimagine the water's edge. Honour the past. Build the future.

Theme: Balancing cultural identity and collective memory of coastal communities with the need for change and innovation

Key questions: Conservation vs. innovation; heritage in sustainable development; culturally sensitive and forward-looking design

Target students: Architecture, urban planning, cultural heritage, anthropology, history, arts, economics

Focus: Intersection of culture, space, and memory

2nd Hackathon - Blue Code: Solutions for Sustainable Seas. Dive deeper. Think wider. Act now!

Theme: Marine and coastal ecosystem degradation – developing scalable, policy-relevant solutions based on data and evidence

Key questions: How can science and responsible design address pollution, overfishing, and climate-driven habitat loss?

Target students: Biology, environmental sciences, data science, engineering, EU law, environmental policy, economics

Focus: Evidence-based, rigorous scientific and technical approaches

3rd Hackathon – Many Voices, One Coast: Multilingualism and Intercultural Innovation in European Maritime Communities. Speak across borders. Listen across cultures. Build something that belongs to everyone.

Theme: Language diversity and intercultural dialogue as tools for building inclusive institutions and shared spaces in coastal and island communities where multiple languages, traditions, and knowledge systems coexist

Key questions: How do language barriers shape access to services and democratic participation in coastal areas? How can institutions be designed to work across languages rather than despite them? Whose knowledge counts and in which language?

Target students: Linguistics, modern languages, translation, communication studies, education sciences, anthropology, digital humanities, law, public administration, psychology and medicine

Focus: Intercultural competence, linguistic inclusion, minority and regional language vitality, participatory multilingual design

4th Hackathon – Tech4Good: Digital Tools for Coastal Futures. Code with purpose. Design with empathy. Deploy with impact.

Theme: Harnessing digital innovation and emerging technologies to address real challenges faced by coastal communities – bridging the gap between technological possibility and social need

Key questions: How can AI and digital tools be designed with, rather than for coastal communities? Who benefits and who is left behind by digital

transformation? How do we ensure technology serves sustainability rather than undermining it?

Target students: Computer science, data science, AI & machine learning, human-computer interaction, digital humanities, communication design, public administration, economics

Focus: Human-centred technology design, responsible AI, digital equity and civic tech

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the Student Festival are to:

- Promote the emergence of a shared EUNICOAST Alliance identity.
- Foster multilingualism and multiculturalism.
- Strengthen networking and long-term cooperation between participating students and academic staff from partner institutions.

4. Organisation and Format

- **Type of activity:** Informal training
- **Duration:** 5 on-site consecutive days
- **Dates:** From the 21st to the 25th of September 2026
- **Host institution:** University of Sassari - UNISS
- **Number of hours:** 40 hours
- **Credits:** 3 ECTS

- **Working language:** English B2
- **Target group:** Bachelor, Master & Doctorate students
- **Teaching and learning methods:** Hackathon format

5. Funding

All selected participants will receive financial support to cover their travel and accommodation expenses to attend the Student Festival from their home university. Each university will manage its own Call for the selection of its students. Shortlists of each partner university must include the names of the beneficiaries, plus the list of non-beneficiary students who fulfill the requirements of the calls. **Full shortlists must be sent by each partner to UNISS no later than July 7, 15:00 hours CET.**

6. Eligibility Criteria

The call is open to students who meet the following requirements:

- **a.** Are officially enrolled at one of the EUNICOAST partner universities in a programme leading to an official degree - bachelor's, master's or doctorate – at the time of their application, and during the period of their mobility to attend the Student Festival.
- **b.** Have completed at least 20 credits of the degree in which they are enrolled at the time of application.
- **c.** Meet the language level requirements: English B2 level.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS (DECENTRALIZED SELECTION)

This document is the EUNICOast Central Information Call.

The central EUNICOast governance bodies do not manage student applications or selection.

7.1. MANDATORY LOCAL APPLICATION

To apply for the Student Festival - *Waves of changes* you must contact and submit your application exclusively through the Office managing Erasmus+ mobility projects of your home EUNICOast Partner University.

7.1.2 Local Selection Process

Partner Institutions will publish its own Internal Call for Selection, setting up local requirements and internal deadlines according to their internal regulation. Crucially, each partner institution is strongly encouraged to select a quota of ten students, ideally maintaining a disciplinary balance by nominating students from different studies' courses, to foster the Student Festival's interdisciplinary objectives.

The deadline for Partner HEIs to submit their list of selected students to the University of Sassari is July 7th, 2026.

7.2 Office managing Erasmus+ mobility projects Contacts

Offices managing Erasmus+ mobility projects are the sole point of contact for questions regarding application requirements, documentation, and mobility grants.

EUNICOast Partner Institution	Local IRO Contact Details
University of Le Havre Normandie	[IRO Contact Details]

University of Antilles	[IRO Contact Details]
University of Açores	
Åland University of Applied Sciences	
University of Balearic Island	
Burgas Free University	
University of Dubrovnik	
University of EMUNI	
University of Patras	
University of Sassari	
Stralsund University of Applied Sciences	
West Pomeranian University of Technology (ZUT)	

University of the Faroe Islands	
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8. NOTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The official notification of final acceptance (including shortlisted and reserve students) will be sent by the Administrative Coordinator for incoming students of the University of Sassari to all students nominated by the partners.

The notification will be issued within one month before the starting date of the physical component of the programme, after the University of Sassari has received the official nomination lists from all partners by the 7th of July at 15:00 CET.

8.1 Documentation of Offices managing Erasmus+ mobility projects

The Local Office managing Erasmus+ mobility projects of the sending institution will contact selected students with details of the required processes and Erasmus+ documentation (e.g., Learning Agreement formalisation and grant agreement) for their mobility funding.

9. Selection Procedure and Criteria

As each of the EUNICOAST partners has to run their own Call for selection, applications will be assessed according to their internal regulations, in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, capacity, merit and non-discrimination.

Nevertheless, the assessment must fulfill the required language level indicated in this Common Call, which is B2 English, in order to guarantee an effective and meaningful experience for the selected students.

10. Obligations of Selected Participants

By accepting a place in an EUNICOast Blended Intensive Programme, students commit to participate fully in both the online sessions and the physical mobility elements of the programme.

Selected students commit to:

- Participate actively in all scheduled and planned activities.
- Contribute to collaborative workshops and group work during the hackathons, as well as to present the hackathons' outputs during the final ceremony.
- Authorise the use of photographs and quotations for communication, dissemination and reporting purposes, in compliance with Erasmus+ visibility requirements.
- Notify to eunicoast@uniss.it their withdrawal as soon as possible before the start of the programme, if a student is unable to take their place in the programme.

11. Privacy and Data Protection

Personal data collected in the framework of this Call for Applications will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) and applicable national legislation.

The Host Institution University of Sassari, together with the relevant EUNICOast partner institutions involved in the organisation and implementation of this Student Festival, may act as Joint Controllers within the meaning of Article 26 GDPR.

Personal data will be processed exclusively for purposes related to:

- the management and evaluation of applications,
- the selection and organisation of the workshop,
- the procedures to register in the students' dormitory - if applicable,
- the issuance of participation certificates for recognition of ECTS,
- quality assurance, reporting and dissemination activities linked to the EUNICOast project.

Only data strictly necessary for these purposes will be processed, including identification, contact, academic and professional information provided in the application documents. Photographs or audiovisual materials may be used for communication and dissemination purposes in line with Erasmus+ visibility requirements, subject to applicable legal safeguards.

Personal data may be shared among EUNICOast partner institutions solely for the implementation of this activity and in accordance with the internal data protection arrangements of the Alliance.

Data will be retained only for the period required under Grant Agreement contractual, reporting and audit obligations and the applicable institutional archiving rules.

Applicants have the right to access, rectify or erase their data, restrict or object to processing, and to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority.

Further information on how personal data are processed within the EUNICOast Alliance is available in the **EUNICOast Data Protection and Privacy Policy**,

accessible

at:

<https://eunicoast.eu/protection-policy>

By submitting their application to the Call of the 1st EUNICOAST Student Festival through the individual calls of each partner university of the Alliance, applicants acknowledge that they have read and understood this data protection notice.