

# EUNIC ast

The European University of Islands, Ports and Coastal Territories

## WP3 WEBINARS

### *Bridging R&I among Coastal Regions*

T&R Hub 3, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2026



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

## INTRODUCTION

**EUNICoast, the European University of Islands, Ports, and Coastal Territories**, is a European University Alliance funded by ERASMUS+ under the European Universities initiative and is constituted by a diverse group of coastal universities spread across European seas, encompassing both mainland and island members. It focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities of members regions, blending sustainability, education, research and innovation, and community engagement.

EUNICoast aims to (1) contribute to the next generation of students and citizens who are engaged, aware and willing to contribute to sustainability; (2) Foster a multicultural, multilingual and inclusive European education, research, and innovation environment; and (3) Enhance the consortium joint capacity to better respond to the societal and environmental challenges faced by island and coastal communities.

To achieve this, the EUNICoast universities are collaborating with each other under the different workpackages tasks, namely by establishing mechanisms for internal and external researchers networking. One aim of this collaboration is to define new research activities and develop new research proposals based on the five predefined EUNICoast Teaching and Research Hubs (T&R Hubs), which EUNICoast has identified as key domains critical for tackling the sustainability development of maritime and coastal regions. Therefore, this joint webinar series will present ongoing research strands and projects from each T&R Hubs, in order to subsequently identify potential new research projects to address societal challenges and facilitate joint research projects under Horizon Europe calls (or other funding instruments) aligned with the identified research areas.

Information about the EUNICoast T&R Hubs:

### **1. Identities, Local Knowledge, and Cultural Heritage in Islands & Coastal Communities:**

Focus on preserving cultural identities and traditional knowledge to enhance community resilience and maintain cultural heritage.

### **2. Blue Circular Economy, Port Logistics, and Sustainable Blue Tourism:**

Promote sustainable economic models that optimize resource use and reduce environmental impacts, particularly in port logistics and tourism sectors.

### **3. Governance, Planning, Management, and Monitoring of Islands and Coastal Communities:**

Aim to improve governance structures and policy frameworks to manage coastal resources effectively and sustainably.

**4. Health, Biodiversity Protection, Nature-based Solutions, and Sustainable Exploration of Coastal/Marine Resources:**

Prioritize health and biodiversity conservation through sustainable practices and the adoption of nature-based solutions.

**5. Engineered and Data-driven Solutions for Coastal Infrastructures, Marine Renewable Energy, Marine Safety, and Navigation Systems:**

Develop advanced engineering and data-driven solutions to enhance the safety and sustainability of maritime infrastructures and navigation systems.

| Contact Name for potential collaborations   | Contact Details                             |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Dr. Ulf WIKSTRÖM / Prof. Alessandra CASU (T&amp;R Hub 3 Coordinators)</b><br/> Åland University of Applied Sciences – AUAS<br/> University of Sassari – UNISS</p> | <p>ulf.wikstrom@ha.ax / casual@uniss.it</p> |
| <p><b>Prof. Niki GEORGIADOU</b><br/> University of Patras - UPatras</p>   | <p>ngeorgiadou@upatras.gr</p>               |
| <p><b>Prof. Joanna HERNIK</b><br/> University of West Pomerania - ZUT</p>   | <p>Joanna.Hernik@zut.edu.pl</p>             |
| <p><b>Prof. Marco CALARESU</b><br/> University of Sassari - UNISS</p>   | <p>mcalaresu@uniss.it</p>                   |
| <p><b>Dr. Inês do Carmo Alves Martins</b><br/> University of Azores UAc</p>   | <p>ines.ca.martins@uac.pt</p>               |

## ***Bridging R&I among Coastal Regions***

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T&R Hub 3 Online Webinar



### **AGENDA**

April 9<sup>th</sup> 2026, 13H00 CET time

 Teams

**13h00 – 13h30 Coastal Areas and Islands in the Anthropocene**

**Prof. Dr. Alessandra CASU**, University of Sassari  
**Prof. Dr. Niki GEORGIADOU**, University of Patras

**13h30 – 14h00 Policies for Sustainable Development of Islands**

**Prof. Dr. Joanna HERNIK**, West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin  
**Prof. Dr. Marco CALARESU**, University of Sassari

**14h00 – 14h15 Smart Environmental and Social Monitoring**

**Dr. Inês do Carmo Alves Martins**, University of Azores

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**OUR SPEAKERS:****Prof. Dr. Alessandra CASU, University of Sassari**

Associate Professor of Urban Sustainability and Theories and History of Planning, she also is Vice-Rector for Sustainability and infrastructures of the University of Sassari. She has worked in several research programmes and as consultant for several Governmental bodies, for topics related to Energy and Climate, Housing, Urban Regeneration, Landscape, Urban and Regional inclusive Planning. She was teacher and Steering Committee member in the MEHMED Erasmus KA2 program and worked in research and teaching activities in several Universities in Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal), Asia (Turkey, China, Nepal) and Africa (Tunisia, Morocco).

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**Prof. Dr. Niki GEORGIADOU, University of Patras**

Associate Professor at the Department of Management Science & Technology of the University of Patras. Her research interests focus on internet legal issues, personal data protection, labor relations in the digital environment, digital governance regulation. She has produced 43 peer-reviewed publications and authored three books. She has teaching experience in Higher Education Institutions from 2003 at undergraduate level and since 2017 at postgraduate level. She is the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the University of Patras, also member of the Working Group for the application of AI at the University of Patras, and Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Program “Digital Innovation and Administration.”

**ORCID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3362-0930>

**Prof. Dr. Joanna HERNIK, West Pomeranian University of Technology**

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and founder of Hinker Training Hub, specialising in international training for university staff. Her work focuses on marketing, international economics, and business management, particularly digital marketing and marketing research. She has held key leadership roles, including Deputy Dean, Head of the Marketing Department, and Rector’s representative for international cooperation, and has coordinated Erasmus programmes. She has authored over 130 publications and participated in international teaching and research, including visiting professorships in Spain, Germany, and the United States.

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**Prof. Dr. Marco CALARESU, University of Sassari**

Associate Professor of Political Science at the Department of Law of the University of Sassari, where he teaches Political Science and International Relations. His research focuses on public policy analysis, urban governance, policy evaluation, and the politics of security in comparative perspective. He has been Visiting Scholar at New York University and Erasmus Visiting Professor at Cardiff University. He is author of *The Quality of Territorial Policies in Europe's Periphery* (with Mauro Tebaldi, published by Springer Nature).

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**Dr. Inês do Carmo Alves Martins, University of Azores**

Senior scientist at the Institute of Marine Sciences "Okeanos", she is an ecotoxicologist with a Marine Biology background. Her research interests focus on: identifying the molecular mechanism behind the regulation and the detoxification of metal ions in deep-sea organisms; monitoring contaminants and evaluate the nutritional potential of commercial seafood; anthropogenic impacts on cold-water corals; impact of microplastics as contaminants vectors in marine environments; scientific communication among general public and young audience.

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