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# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## Joint Interdisciplinary Workshop

## Preparatory Phase of the EUNICoast Doctoral School

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

### 1. Context and Framework

The present Call for Applications is launched within the framework of the EUNICoast European University Alliance, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, under the European Universities Initiative.

The activity forms part of the preparatory phase of the future EUNICoast Doctoral School and aims to pilot joint doctoral training formats, strengthen structured cooperation among partner institutions, and contribute to the progressive development of a shared European doctoral education framework within the Alliance.

This action contributes to the following European priorities of:

- Excellence, innovation and internationalisation in higher education,
- Interdisciplinarity and challenge-based learning,
- Research-based education and early-stage researcher development,
- Inclusiveness, equality and safe learning environments,
- European cooperation and institutional transformation.

## 2. Description of the Activity

The Joint Interdisciplinary Workshop is conceived as an intensive, short-term joint training activity bringing together doctoral candidates and academic staff from EUNICoast partner universities.

The seminar will combine structured learning, practical training, collaborative work and scientific immersion, serving both as a capacity-building action for doctoral candidates and as a pilot initiative to inform the design and implementation of the EUNICoast Doctoral School.

## 3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the Joint Interdisciplinary Seminar / Workshop are to:

- Promote the emergence of a shared doctoral culture within the EUNICoast Alliance.
- Enhance interdisciplinary, international and collaborative research competences among doctoral candidates.
- Provide methodological, transversal and professional skills training aligned with European doctoral education standards.
- Test innovative joint training formats and pedagogical approaches for future integration into the EUNICoast Doctoral School.
- Strengthen networking and long-term cooperation between doctoral candidates and academic staff from partner institutions.

## 4. Programme Content

The programme is structured around complementary modules addressing key dimensions of doctoral education in a European and interdisciplinary context.



## 4.1 Cross-Cutting Doctoral Training Modules

Delivered by EUNICoast partner institutions, as well as invited experts:

- Designing and writing competitive research proposals, with a focus on European funding instruments (e.g. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships).
- Scientific methodology and research integrity, including:
  - Formulation and structuring of research questions
  - Reproducibility, ethics and integrity in research
  - FAIR data management principles
- Doctoral project management, including planning, milestones, monitoring and risk assessment.
- Scientific communication, including:
  - Academic writing (doctoral theses and journal articles)
  - Communication of research to non-academic audiences
  - Thesis pitch techniques

## 4.2 Awareness and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

This mandatory module aims to ensure safe, respectful and inclusive learning and research environments, in line with Erasmus+ horizontal priorities.

The module addresses:

- Forms and mechanisms of sexual and gender-based violence,
- Identification of harassment and misconduct situations in academic contexts,
- Institutional reporting procedures and support services,
- Responsible conduct in international and mobility-related settings.

### **4.3 Research Support and Open Science**

A dedicated session hosted by university librarians introduces doctoral candidates to research support services, including access to scientific databases, research data management tools, open science practices, and guidance on citation, publishing and dissemination.

### **4.4 Practical Workshops and Collaborative Activities**

Small-group workshops focusing on:

- Interdisciplinary and collaborative research approaches within EUNICoast priority thematic areas (health, environment, education, digital transformation, blue economy).
- Development of a short interdisciplinary research project.
- Simulated exercises in abstract writing and short proposal drafting.
- Ethics in international research and fieldwork.
- Time management and productivity tools for doctoral research.
- Researcher identity development and academic visibility.

### **4.5 Scientific Immersion and Networking**

- Laboratory visits and exchanges with researchers and postdoctoral fellows.
- Thematic scientific sessions led by partner institutions.
- Exchanges with coordinators of European research and innovation projects.

### **4.6 Co-Creation and Feedback**

Participants will contribute to the co-creation, evaluation and refinement of future EUNICoast Doctoral School training activities, providing structured feedback in line with Erasmus+ quality assurance principles.



#### 4.7 Final Session and Recognition

- Short oral research pitches by doctoral candidates.
- Feedback provided by a joint jury composed of representatives from partner institutions.
- Award of EUNICoast participation certificates, with the possibility of future recognition as a micro-credential, subject to institutional validation.

### 5. Organisation and Format

- **Type of activity:** Joint intensive doctoral training activity
- **Format:** Blended: virtual component & on-site component
- **Duration:** Virtual component & 5 on-site consecutive days
- **Dates:** Virtual component: 28 May 2026 & on-site from the 8 -12 June 2026
- **Host institution:** University of the Antilles
- **Number of hours / Number of credits:** 25 hours - 3 ECTS
- **Working language:** English
- **Target group:**
  - Doctoral candidates from EUNICoast partner universities
  - Academic staff and invited experts from partner institutions
- **Teaching and learning methods:**  
Lectures, applied workshops, collaborative group work, scientific immersion activities, pitch-based learning and peer feedback.

### 6. Funding

All selected participants will receive financial support to cover their travel expenses.

Additionally, the University of the Antilles will cover the accommodation and board for all selected participants.

## 7. Eligibility Criteria

The call is open to:

- Doctoral candidates from EUNICoast partner institutions.
- Doctoral candidates at any stage of their doctoral studies.
- Doctoral candidates whose research topic is aligned with at least one EUNICoast thematic hub:
  1. Identities, Local Knowledge, and Cultural Heritage in Islands & Coastal Communities.
  2. Blue Circular Economy, Port Logistics, and Sustainable Blue Tourism.
  3. Governance, Planning, Management, and Monitoring of Islands and Coastal Communities.
  4. Health, Biodiversity Protection, Nature-based Solutions, and Sustainable Exploration of Coastal/Marine Resources.
  5. Engineered and Data-driven Solutions for Coastal Infrastructures, Marine Renewable Energy, Marine Safety, and Navigation Systems.

## 8. Call deadlines

- Pre-application: open until 13 April 2026, at 23:59 hours CET.
- Notification of results: 30 April 2026.
- Selected participants' formal acceptance: by 7 May 2026.

## 9. Application Procedure

Pre-applications for the doctoral workshop should be submitted via email to [znanost@unidu.hr](mailto:znanost@unidu.hr) by 13 April 2026.



Applicants must submit, in pdf format, the following documents with their application:

- Motivation letter (maximum 1 page), outlining interest in the activity and expected learning outcomes.
- Description of the PhD research project (maximum 1 page).
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages).

Only complete applications submitted within the deadline will be considered.

## 10. Selection Procedure and Criteria

Applications will be assessed by an Assessment Commission appointed by the EUNICoast Alliance, in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, merit and non-discrimination.

The assessment will be based on:

- Relevance of the doctoral research to EUNICoast priorities.
- Motivation and expected impact for the candidate.
- Interdisciplinary potential.
- Balanced representation of partner institutions and academic disciplines.

## 11. Obligations of Selected Participants

Selected doctoral candidates commit to:

- Participate actively in all scheduled activities.
- Contribute to collaborative workshops and group work.
- Deliver a short oral presentation of their research.
- Authorise the use of photographs and quotations for communication, dissemination and reporting purposes, in compliance with Erasmus+ visibility requirements.

## 12. 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 the Antilles), together with the relevant EUNICoast partner institutions involved in the organisation and implementation of the Joint Interdisciplinary Workshop, 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 issuance of participation certificates and possible micro-credential recognition,
- 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 an application, applicants acknowledge that they have read and understood this data protection notice.

### 13. Acceptance

Participation in this call implies acceptance of all these terms.

### 14. Responsibility

This call reflects the views only of the author, the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of information contained therein.