

Common call for applications

Waves of change

Student mobility grants for participation in the 1st EUNICOast Student Festival

Introduction

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

EUNICOast is pleased to invite students from its partner universities to apply for mobility to participate in the 1st EUNICOast Student Festival *Waves of change*, hosted by the University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, from 21 to 25 September 2026. This initiative, launched in line with the objectives of the European Universities Initiative, supports short-term blended student mobility (online + in-person), 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 *Waves of change* 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 100 students from EUNICOAST's partner institutions, at least 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 Student Festivals are conceived as a yearly event gathering 100 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 *Waves of change*, taking place in Sassari from 21 to 25 September 2026.

Part of the hackathon sessions and final presentations may be recorded and published on the EUNICOast Virtual Campus as Open Educational Resources (consent collected from participants). A Replication Guide for future host partners will be drafted by UNISS by 31 October 2026. The next editions of the EUNICOast Student Festivals will be held at the Universities of the French Antilles, in 2027, and at the Åland University of Applied Sciences, in 2028.

The 1st EUNICOast Student Festival *Waves of change* 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:** short-term blended mobility (online + in-person)
- **Duration:** 1 online meeting and 5 on-site consecutive days
- **Date virtual component:** to be defined
- **Dates physical component:** from 21 to 25 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

Mobility grants, funded through different sources, cover travel and accommodation costs for all selected students from all 12 partner universities. Calls for applications and grants are to be managed by each office managing the Erasmus+ and other student mobility projects at partner universities, in accordance with applicable grant tables.

Shortlists of each partner university must include the names of the selected students, plus students on the reserve list who fulfill the requirements of the calls.

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.** Meet the language level requirements: English B2 level.
- c.** Applicants from island and remote coastal territories are especially encouraged to apply.

7. Application process (decentralised selection)

This EUNICOast common call has been designed in order to give each partner the core general information related to the 1st EUNICOast Student Festival to be held in Sassari, 21-25 September 2026. Each partner will manage its own call for applications for its students.

The EMO - EUNICOast Mobility Office does not manage student applications or selection.

7.1. Mandatory local application

To apply for a place to attend the Student Festival *Waves of change*, interested students must contact and submit their application exclusively through the office managing the Erasmus+ and other student mobility projects at their home university.

When applying, candidates must identify 2 hackathons of reference as a priority list for those in which they are wishing to participate. Following the reception of the nominations from the partner universities, UNISS reserves the possibility of redistributing selected students across the hackathons (which can allocate up to 25

students maximum), when possible following their priority lists. If not, selected students will be redistributed in the hackathons with available places. In all cases, the four hackathons have been designed to allow students coming from different fields and disciplines to fully participate in all of them.

7.1.2 Local selection process

Each partner institution will publish its own internal call for applications, 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 degree programmes, to foster the Student Festival's interdisciplinary objectives.

The deadline for partner universities to submit their list of selected students to the University of Sassari is 7 July 2026, 15:00 CET (to be sent to aselis@uniss.it and in cc festival_eunicoast@uniss.it) by filling in the file provided by the hosting university (attached to this common call).

7.2 Contact information

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

EUNICOAST Partner Institution	Contact Details
University of Le Havre Normandie	Karine Bruban karine.bruban@univ-lehavre.fr Pierre Barthélemy dri@univ-lehavre.fr
University of Antilles	Magali Favard magali.favard@univ-antilles.fr

<p>University of Açores</p>	<p>Érica Semedo erica.p.semedo@uac.pt</p> <p>Graça Cavaco reitoria.gre@uac.pt</p>
<p>Åland University of Applied Sciences</p>	<p>Carina Söderlund and Lena Nyman-Wiklund international@ha.ax</p>
<p>University of the Balearic Islands</p>	<p>Francina Amengual Francina.amengual@eunicoast.eu/ Francina.amengual@uib.cat</p> <p>Ricardo Sagrera ricardo.sagrera@eunicoast.eu / ricardo.sagrera@uib.es</p>
<p>Burgas Free University</p>	<p>Gergana Kirova gkirova@bfu.bg / Gergana.Kirova@eunicoast.eu</p>
<p>University of Dubrovnik</p>	<p>Maria Pendo and Sandra Memunic international@unidu.hr</p>
<p>University of EMUNI</p>	<p>Daša Zvonar erasmus@emuni.si / dasa.zvonar@emuni.si</p>
<p>University of Patras</p>	<p>Prof. Barbara Myloni myloni@upatras.gr</p> <p>Mariza Charalambopoulou lp.incoming@upatras.gr</p>
<p>University of Sassari</p>	<p>Antonella Selis aselis@uniss.it</p> <p>General address for the Student Festival festival_eunicoast@uniss.it</p>

Stralsund University of Applied Sciences	Christine Tokaji outgoing@hochschule-stralsund.de
West Pomeranian University of Technology	Agata Bruska international@zut.edu.pl

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.

8.1 Documentation for selected students

The local office managing the Erasmus+ and other student mobility projects of the sending institution will contact selected students with details of the required processes and 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 its 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 for a short-term blended mobility (online + in-person) in the 1st EUNICOAST Student Festival, students commit to the following:

- Participate fully in both the online sessions and the physical mobility elements of the programme.
- Attendance verification for the online session will be monitored through the attendance list available in the platform MS Teams. Records retained for Erasmus+ audit purposes.
- Attendance verification for the physical sessions will be monitored through a signed attendance list. Records retained for Erasmus+ audit purposes.
- 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.
- Complete the standardised EUNICOAST survey provided by the hosting institution on the last day of the event, 25 September 2026.
- Authorise the use of photographs and quotations for communication, dissemination and reporting purposes, in compliance with Erasmus+ visibility requirements.
- Notify **festival_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.

Personal data will be processed exclusively for purposes related to:

- the management and evaluation of applications,
- the selection and organisation of the event,
- the procedures to register to access students' services,
- 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.

30/04/2026

EMO - EUNICOAST Mobility Office