



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

eUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities

EUTOPIA MORE Connected Communities

Call for selection - 3rd Round

PREAMBLE

EUTOPIA is a challenge-led, student-centred, inclusive alliance of 10 like-minded universities. Our mission is to connect communities across our campuses to transform our universities into open, inclusive, diverse, and innovative enablers for outreach impact on societies. Our approach fosters emergence and innovation, and our shared commitments provide the coherence of our common efforts to ensure that EUTOPIA is geared towards the challenges of the future.

1. PURPOSE OF THE CALL AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 1.1 This call aims to select 1 (one) Connected Community led by Ca' Foscari University of Venice.
- 1.2 In the framework of the Erasmus+ KA2 project EUTOPIA MORE, Work Package 3 "*Empowering Knowledge*" (WP3) aims to establish 30 Connected communities, planning three rounds of selection (2023, 2024, 2025). In each of these rounds, 10 new Connected Communities will be started up allowing each partner university to take the lead for 3 new Connected Communities during the whole project period.
- 1.3 Connected Communities are integrated thematic networks where teachers, researchers, and students cooperate in cross-campus knowledge activities. They do not impose change but aim to strengthen existing good practices in challenge-based learning and research by creating inter-university connectedness at a European scale. Connected Communities are designed on a value-adding principle; their implementation starts from identifying existing best practices for challenge-based teaching and research in the home universities of the Alliance.

The members of the EUTOPIA Alliance are: Babeş-Bolyai University, **Romania**; Ca' Foscari University of Venice, **Italy**; Vrije Universiteit Brussel, **Belgium**; CY Cergy Paris Université, **France**; Technische Universität Dresden, **Germany**; University of Gothenburg, **Sweden**; University of Ljubljana, **Slovenia**; NOVA University Lisbon, **Portugal**; Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, **Spain**; The University of Warwick, **United Kingdom** (associate partner). Global partners: Kyungpook National University, **South Korea**, Stellenbosch University, **South Africa**, Monash University, **Australia**, Université Internationale de Rabat, **Morocco**, Arizona State University, **USA**, Universidade de los Andes, **Colombia**.

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- 1.4 Academic staff members who are nominated for being the initiators of a Connected Community take the responsibility, with the support of the central education and research team, for building a cross-campus thematic network with their colleagues in other EUTOPIA partner universities. Gradually they then start to share resources, exchange expertise, and move to cross-campus activities involving their teaching and research team/s, students, and stakeholders in society. Staff and students participating in the cross-campus activities stay embedded with respect to their status and registration in their home universities, whilst profiting from the inclusion in an international network.

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Applicants must be Full Professors (“Professori/esse Ordinari/e”), Associate Professors (“Professori/esse Associati/e”), “Ricercatori/trici a tempo indeterminato”, “Ricercatori/trici a tempo determinato B”, “Ricercatori/trici a tempo determinato A” (if supported by a Full or Associate Professor), or “Ricercatori/trici a tempo determinato in tenure track” (if supported by a Full or Associate Professor) at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, having responsibilities as well for Teaching (BA or MA level) as for Research and Development.
- 2.2 The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status at the moment of application. The EUTOPIA Unit must be informed timely of any possible change in their status.
- 2.3 Candidates support their commitment by reaching out to potential EUTOPIA partners for their thematic network in at least 2 EUTOPIA partner universities (other than their home university). These preparatory contacts will facilitate the starting up of the community and enable them to apply for EU funding in a range of calls. In a later phase after being nominated and selected the leads and partners of the Connected Community can open up to supplementary partners in other EUTOPIA universities or in Global partners of the alliance.
- 2.4 Applicants are asked to give an overview of the teaching and research activities defined in their mandate and highlight those activities that will be at the heart of their engagement for a Connected Community. Specifically, applicants identify existing credit-bearing learning formats and research activities that could serve as a conduit for connecting partners and research activities.
- 2.5 Ineligibility: if, at any stage in the application procedure, it is established that the

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information provided by the applicant has been knowingly falsified, the candidate will be disqualified from the selection process.

3. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- 3.1 This Call for selection is published on Ca' Foscari webpage dedicated to EUTOPIA ([ITA/ENG](#)) and on Ca' Foscari [Albo online](#).
- 3.2 Applicants must submit their application form (Letter of Commitment – Annex I) through [this form](#). They are also encouraged to send a copy to eutopia@unive.it.
- 3.3 Deadline: 31st January 2025, at 23:59 (CET). Any application received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- 3.4 Applications will be rejected ONLY in the following cases:
 - submission after the deadline;
 - missing Letter of Commitment.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The process of establishing Connected Communities combines the strengths and strategic interests of all EUTOPIA MORE universities. It is organised in 3 phases: nomination, selection, and development.

4.1 Nomination

- 4.1.1 Candidates initiating a Connected Community are invited to write a Letter of Commitment. In this letter, they indicate how they respond to the prerequisites/criteria for leading a Connected Community, and they present a first overview of outcomes expected from transnational cooperation for education and research with their EUTOPIA partners.
- 4.1.2 The Local Facilitator of each partner university (Local Facilitators act as the interface between the central EUTOPIA team and the participants - staff and students - in the Connected Community), under the overall supportive frame of the central WP3 team, can help candidates gather information and reach out to potential partners across the alliance.
- 4.1.3 Each EUTOPIA partner will evaluate valid and eligible applications submitted to their home university. At Ca' Foscari University of Venice, an Evaluation Committee will be

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nominated by the Rector and will be composed of 3 faculty members and 1 administrative staff member.

4.1.4 At the end of the call period, and by 28th February 2025, Ca' Foscari University will shortlist a maximum of 3 candidates for nomination ("nominees").

4.2 Joint Selection of Connected Communities

4.2.1 The shortlist of nominees and their Letters of Commitment will be handed over to the EUTOPIA WP3 Lead.

4.2.2 Scenarios for selection will be prepared by the WP3 coordinators. These scenarios are intended to find a good balance between the thematics/disciplines involved as well as making sure that a maximum of applicants and their partners will participate in the overall process.

4.2.3 A WP3 meeting will be scheduled for discussion and decision by WP3 representatives resulting in the final unappealable selection of 10 Connected Communities, expected on 23rd April 2025. This meeting serves as an opportunity to hear the preferences from each home university representative, as well as provide a space for dialogue informed by the scenarios described above. By lack of consensus, the final selection decision resides with the representatives from the home university.

4.2.4 All applicants will be notified by e-mail to their institutional e-mail addresses of the selection results as soon as the evaluation procedure has been concluded.

4.3 Appeal Procedure

4.3.1 Rejected applicants who feel that a mistake has been made in the process or that their application has not been fairly evaluated can file a complaint to eutopia@unive.it not later than 2 days after the notification e-mail, explaining their reasons.

4.3.2 Complaints from applicants who have failed to satisfy all the eligibility criteria (e.g. who have not produced the required documentation), or have failed to satisfy them within the established timeframes, will not be taken into consideration.

4.3.3 The appeal procedure can only come into play if a candidate feels that the Selection Committees have not handled their application in line with the principles and procedures described in the call. In other words, the appeal cannot concern the





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decision itself, but only an alleged error made in the process.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 To create the shortlist, the representatives for education and research in each university take into account the following elements:

- the quality of the “Letter of Commitment” (Annex I),
- the overall merit and contribution to learning and research,
- the effort for connecting with EUTOPIA partners (minimum 2, other than the home University),
- the alignment of the Connected Community proposal with internal strategic priorities.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

6.1 Connected Communities require an incubation period of 30 months from inception to integration. This incubation period covers:

- the selection and identification of leads and partners (3 months);
- the exploration of shared resources and possible enlargement of the partnership (3 months);
- the testing and delivery of cross-campus activities for learning and research (2 academic years = 24 months).

6.2 Each selected Connected Community is seed-funded with the amount of up to 10.000 Euro as a starting point for mobility and to be able to organise different formats to stimulate exchange and collaboration (WP3 coordination will propose suggestions/guidelines making use of these funds and complementary tools/resources at alliance and EU level). The amount of 10.000 Euro is allocated to the lead of the community and will be spent considering the joint needs/priorities of all partners in the Connected Community. Applicants must be aware that the use of the seed funding is subject to specific rules (for further information, please contact the EUTOPIA Unit at eutopia@unive.it).

DATA PROTECTION

Information relating to individuals (personal data) is collected and used in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) n. 2016/679 of the European Commission, with regard to the processing of personal data by European institutions and organisations and the unrestricted circulation of such data.

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MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Responsible for the procedure

Dr. Mauro Cannone, Manager of Educational Programmes and Student Services Area, is responsible for the procedure, according to Law n. 241/1990.

For further information, please contact the [EUTOPIA Unit](#) at Ca' Foscari University of Venice: eutopia@unive.it

Venice,

The Rector
Prof. Tiziana Lippiello

