



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

eUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities

EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Researchers

May 5-9, 2025

NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal

PREAMBLE

EUTOPIA is a challenge-led, student-centred, inclusive alliance of 10 like-minded universities. Our mission is to connect communities across our campuses in order 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; student-centred and student-empowering; committed to the principles of openness and inclusion; at the service of society. The other partners of the EUTOPIA Alliance are: Babeş-Bolyai University, **Romania**; 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** (associated partner).

PURPOSE OF THE CALL AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. This call aims to select **2 researchers** from Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The “**EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Researchers**” will be held in person from **May 5-9, 2025**, hosted by **NOVA University Lisbon**, Portugal (hereinafter: “NOVA”).
2. The official language of the event is English.
3. The “**EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Researchers**” is a 5-day program organised in the framework of the Erasmus+ KA2 project “EUTOPIA MORE”. The event aims to support the transformation of researchers and universities into actors of societal change, fostering international and regional collaboration with public and private partners. It will enhance opportunities for establishing bridges between academic research and industry entities of different sizes, from established institutions to start-ups and small companies.
4. The “EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Researchers” at NOVA will explore the theme **Ocean: Industry-Driven Solutions for a Sustainable Blue Economy**. The researchers will be working in multidisciplinary teams created at the kick-off and will be guided through Design Thinking sessions by NOVA Mentors Network.

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5. The event is intended for Phd candidates and Researchers who are interested in engaging with external partners (industry and extra-academia institutions), working on one of the challenges they will propose and collaborating with colleagues from different universities, possibly different research fields and diverse backgrounds.
6. Within the macro topic of the Ocean, NOVA identified 4 verticals/subtopics where the challenges proposed by industry partners will focus on:
 - Vertical 1: Protection and Regeneration
 - Vertical 2: Maritime Transport and Ports
 - Vertical 3: Water Management
 - Vertical 4: Blue Biotechnology

The topic is intended to have a broad scope. Researchers who aren't focusing their research on the Ocean but are interested in collaborating with colleagues on the topic are also welcome to apply.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be: researchers already involved in a EUTOPIA initiative (e.g., [Connected Research Communities](#), [EUTOPIA YLA fellows](#)), senior or early career researchers (“Ricercatori/trici a tempo indeterminato”, “Ricercatori/trici a tempo determinato B”, “Ricercatori/trici a tempo determinato A”, or “Ricercatori/trici a tempo determinato in tenure track”), or PhD candidates.
2. The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status, both at the moment of application, as well as when the event will take place. The EUTOPIA Unit at Ca' Foscari University of Venice must be informed timely of any possible change in their status.
3. The entire application and all its annexes shall be written in English.
4. Applicants shall submit a full application, composed of the following mandatory documents:
 - 4.a. the Application form (Annex 1): applicants must indicate the sub-topic they are most interested in and write a motivation letter (maximum 200 words in total) including:
 - their motivation to attend the “EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for researchers”;
 - what they hope to receive out of their participation;
 - what skills they want to develop.
 - 4.b. detailed academic CV, written in English;
 - 4.c. certificate of English language: any certificate can be accepted, including self-certifications.



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5. Applications shall be saved as a single PDF document (including the academic CV, the language certificate, etc.) and named as follows:
InnovationChallenges_Surname_Name.pdf
6. Ineligibility:
 - 6.a. if, at any stage in the application procedure, it is established that the information provided by the applicant has been knowingly falsified, the candidate will be disqualified from the selection process.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Applicants must submit their application form (see Annex I) at the following link: <https://forms.gle/4FcvXKc94aLWbfx79> using a valid institutional account (@unive.it). Personal data collected through the online application form will be processed by Ca' Foscari University of Venice as described below in the data protection section.
2. Deadline: **March 25th 2025**, at 23:59 (CET). Any application received after the deadline will not be considered.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Selection

A Selection Committee will be established at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The final ranking will be published on Ca' Foscari website, and selected candidates will be contacted via email by eutopia@unive.it to confirm their participation according to the calendar established. Candidates who fail to confirm according to the deadlines and procedures forfeit the right to participate. A repechage procedure shall be scheduled for any places still available.

2. Calendar

- Deadline for applications: **March 25th, 2025**.
- Publication of selected candidates: by April 11th, 2025.
- Deadline for acceptance and confirmation of participation: according to the deadline indicated by email (approximately 24 hours after the official publication of the final ranking).

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Ca' Foscari University of Venice Selection Committee will select researchers according to the following criteria:
 - Motivation of the candidate: up to 15 points
 - CV and Suitability of the candidate: up to 15 points



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OBLIGATIONS OF SELECTED CANDIDATES

1. The selected candidates will need to attend the event in person from May 5-9, 2025, at NOVA (Lisbon, Portugal) and actively participate in the working groups on the following topic: **Ocean: Industry-Driven Solutions for a Sustainable Blue Economy**.
2. Selected candidates must ensure they hold a valid residence permit (“permesso di soggiorno”) as of the publication date of the eligible candidates' shortlist.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. Ca' Foscari University of Venice will cover accommodation and travel (travel tickets, accommodation and meals, based on its own regulations). All these costs will be covered by Ca' Foscari using the EUTOPIA MORE funds.

DATA PROTECTION

1. Data protection information - Selection procedure

Ca' Foscari University of Venice (protocollo@pec.unive.it, Dorsoduro n. 3246, 30123 Venice), in its capacity as data controller, provides the applicants with information on the processing of their personal data collected to carry out the selection procedures for the “EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for researchers” (“Event”). The event will be held at NOVA (NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal) on May 5-9, 2025. The University collects applicants' personal data, such as name, surname, contact details, academic experiences and other relevant information. Applicants' personal data will be stored for 5 years from the time of collection. Personal data is collected and processed to select the candidates who wish to take part in the Event. **Only personal data of selected candidates will be shared with NOVA as it is necessary for the organisation of the event.** Once the candidates have been selected, NOVA will be responsible for managing both the data and image rights of all participants in the activity.



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MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

1. 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: eutopia@unive.it

Venice,

The Manager of Educational Programmes
and Student Services Area
Dr. Mauro Cannone