

Call for Participation in the “Beyond the Lab: From Research to Impact” EUTOPIA Innovation Challenge Week for Researchers

Cluj-Napoca (Romania), 23-27 November 2026

Organised by UBB TechTransfer



Co-funded by
the European Union

1. Overview: Description and Objectives

The “Beyond the Lab: From Research to Impact - EUTOPIA Innovation Challenge Week for Researchers” is designed to tackle real business and technology challenges proposed by companies from Cluj-Napoca and the wider Transylvania region. The challenges span STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) with support from company mentors, technology transfer experts and business mentors.

The Event is an opportunity to apply participants’ expertise to real company needs, learn from people outside their disciplines and develop a proposal in direct collaboration with industry. Throughout the week, participants will build practical skills and professional connections that could lead to future research partnerships.

The initiative will gather up to **20** participants from the full partner universities of the EUTOPIA Alliance, namely: Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Vrije Universiteit Brussels (Bruxelles, Belgium), Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (Venice, Italy), CY Cergy Université Paris (Paris, France), TUD Technische Universität Dresden (Dresden, Germany), Göteborgs Universitet (Gothenburg, Sweden), Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal), Univerza v Ljubljani (Ljubljana, Slovenia).

The Event will be hosted by Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and organised by UBB TechTransfer from the **23rd to the 27th November 2026**.

Participants from EU institutions are supported through EUTOPIA MORE Erasmus+ Funds. The University of Warwick (UW) is an associate partner and, together with participating members from the Global Partners of the EUTOPIA Alliance, provides institutionally-based funds to support participation.



2. Admission Requirements

- 2.1 This call aims to pre-select a total of **2** candidates from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, across **STEAM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)** who are curious about applying their scientific expertise beyond academia and working with colleagues from different backgrounds on company challenges.
- 2.2 Applicants must be **Postdoctoral researchers / 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") with a valid contract with Ca' Foscari University of Venice or **PhD candidates** regularly enrolled at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.
- 2.3 The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status at the moment of application and when the "Summer School" session takes place. The EUTOPIA Unit at Ca' Foscari University of Venice must be informed timely of any possible change in their status.
- 2.4 **Ineligibility**
- 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.
- Applicants already in a mobility abroad financed by any EU-funded programme at the moment of the implementation of the activity, and candidates not regularly enrolled / without a valid contract, cannot be considered eligible.

3. Application Procedure

- 3.1. Applicants must log in using their institutional account (account@unive.it) and submit their application using the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/dF9BsVeEiGZ887Waa>. The entire application **must be written in English**: applications in other languages will be rejected.
- 3.2. Applicants must submit their application form, including the mandatory information (Incomplete applications will not be considered)
- CV (ENG) possibly no longer than two (2) pages
 - Information on professional or entrepreneurial experience
 - Motivation Letter
 - Optional: Information on: (i) patents owned by the applicant (as an individual), and (ii) patents owned by Ca' Foscari University of Venice in which the applicant is listed as an inventor.
- 3.3 Personal data collected through the Google Form will be processed by Ca' Foscari University of Venice as described below in the data protection section.
- 3.4 **Application Deadline: 25th October 2026, at 11:59 PM (CEST)**. Applications received after this deadline will be rejected.

4. Selection Process

4.1 Selection Procedure

Each partner university conducts its own internal selection process based on given criteria and selects **2 candidates**.

4.2 Selection criteria

Valid applications will be assessed based on:

- **Academic background and research profile (max. 20 points)**. Assessed based on documented academic and research achievements, including relevance of the candidate's field to the programme topics, quality of research outputs (e.g. publications, projects), and any experience related to applied research or collaboration with non-academic stakeholders.
- **Motivation and interest in innovation, knowledge transfer, and entrepreneurship (max. 20 points)**. Assessed based on the clarity and specificity of the motivation statement, demonstrated understanding of innovation

and research valorisation processes, and any relevant experiences (e.g. courses, projects, initiatives, or entrepreneurial activities).

- **Potential to contribute to interdisciplinary and international teamwork (max. 10 points).** Assessed based on prior experience in interdisciplinary and/or international contexts, evidence of teamwork and communication skills, and ability to effectively collaborate in diverse teams.

4.3 Selection committees

A Selection Committee will be established at Ca' Foscari University of Venice to assess candidates' applications. As part of the selection process, the Selection Committee may decide to conduct online interviews of a shortlist of eligible candidates. In such a case, further information regarding the schedule, procedure, scoring and final ranking will be published on the EUTOPIA page of Ca' Foscari website.

4.4 Publication of Results

The results of the selection will be published on Ca' Foscari website. Selected candidates will be contacted via email by eutopia@unive.it to confirm their availability. 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.

5. Rights and Obligations of Selected Researchers

Selected participants are expected to:

- actively participate in all programme activities
- contribute to team-based work on innovation concepts
- take part in the final presentation / pitch

Selected participants will have the right to:

- attend all academic and practical programme elements
- have room, board and travel expenses to participate in the event covered by the EUTOPIA MORE Project, in compliance with Ca' Foscari University's internal regulations.

6. Calendar

- Deadline for applications: **25th October 2026, at 11:59 PM (CEST)**
- Publication of the final ranking of selected candidates or, if interviews are held, of the shortlist of eligible candidates invited to the interview (including schedule, procedures, and evaluation criteria): within 10 working days after the application deadline.
- Deadline for appeals: 3 working days after the publication of the selected candidates.
- Deadline for acceptance and confirmation of participation: 3 working days after the appeal deadline

7. 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 organizations and the unrestricted circulation of such data.

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 "Beyond the Lab: From Research to Impact - EUTOPIA Innovation Challenge Week for Researchers" ("Event"). The event will be hosted and organised by ("UBB"), from the 23rd to the 27th November 2026. The University collects applicants' personal data, such as name, surname, contact details, academic experiences and other relevant information.

Applicants' data will be stored for 5 years from the time of collection.

Personal data is collected and processed to select the participants who apply to take part in the Event. **Only personal data of pre-selected candidates will be shared with UBB, as it is necessary for the organisation of the event:** once the participants have been selected, UNIVE will be responsible for managing both the data and image rights of all participants in the activity.

8. Contact Information

Responsible for the procedure

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

For any inquiries or additional information on this call please contact: eutopia@unive.it

Signature

Venice, October 2026



Firmato digitalmente da
MAURO CANNONE
Data: 09.10.2026
08:47:38 CEST
Organizzazione:
UNIVERSITA' CA'
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The Manager of the Educational Programmes and Student Services Area

Dr. Mauro Cannone

