Call for Participation in the EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students 2026 "Cultural Heritage"

Venice, 9 - 12 November 2026

Organised by Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Co-funded by the European Union

1. Overview: Description and Objectives

The EUTOPIA Innovation Challenge for Students is based on the "Open Innovation Challenge" developed in the first pilot project "EUTOPIA 2050" (2019-2022), to enhance opportunities with local and regional business and industry building. EUTOPIA commits to connect and enhance expanded forms of local and regional engagement through collaborative partnerships and challenge-based initiatives, promoting regional collaboration for integration and social cohesion, with a strong focus on civic engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders capitalising on the potentialities of our creative environments and stimulate cross-disciplinary work, enhancing our portfolio of educational and research activities.

The "EUTOPIA Innovation challenges for students" is a hackathon in presence, which aims to promote students' local engagement through collaborative partnerships and challenge-based initiatives with stakeholders from public and private sectors to address real problems, leveraging the potentialities of creative environments to stimulate a cross-disciplinary work. The initiative will gather up to **80** participants from the full partner universities of the EUTOPIA Alliance, namely: Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), Universitatea Babeș-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).

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.

The EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students will be hosted and organised by the Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) from the **9 to the 12 November 2026** and the topic of this edition will be "Cultural Heritage".

2. Admission Requirements

2.1 This call aims to select a total of 8 candidates from NOVA University Lisbon. Applicants must be undergraduate (BA) or graduate (MA) students from all degree disciplines, regularly enrolled at NOVA. Prior knowledge or experience of a specific topic or sector is not necessary.

2.2 The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status at the moment of application and when the "EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges" takes place.

EUTOPIA MORE is co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101089699. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Co-funded by the European Union

2.3 **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 apply using their institutional students account and submit their application using the following application form: the entire application **must be written in English.**

3.2 Applicants must submit a complete application form, together with the following supporting documents, that must be sent via email to novaimpact@unl.pt:

- **CV (ENG)** no longer than two pages.
- **Official English Language Certificate** or auto declaration.

3.3. Video presentation: applicants are required to submit a YouTube video presentation. Such video must be linked in the dedicated section of the application form.
The video must:

- last no longer than **1 minute and 30 seconds**;
- have good audio and video quality, ensuring that the applicant is clearly visible and understandable;
- introduce the candidate's academic and/or personal background;
- explain the motivation for joining the Innovation Challenges;
- Fully in English, no other languages will be accepted.
- describe the specific contribution the candidate intends to bring to the initiative and to their team.

Applicants are encouraged to personalise their presentation and are free to include any additional information they consider relevant to support their application.

Privacy Settings: applicants who wish to limit public access may set the video visibility to "Unlisted". It is admissible to use different platforms than YouTube, if preferred. **Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the link is correct, active and accessible at the time of evaluation**. Videos that cannot be accessed because of broken links or permission restrictions will not be evaluated, leading to the exclusion of the candidate or forfeiture of the corresponding points.

3.4 Incomplete applications, applications missing any of the mandatory components, or files submitted in a format other than specified above will be automatically deemed ineligible.

3.5 Personal data collected through the Google Form will be processed by NOVA University Lisbon as described below in the data protection section.

3.6 Application Deadline: 20th of September 2026, at 11:00 AM (WEST).

4. Selection Process

4.1 Selection Procedure

A selection committee will be formed at NOVA University Lisbon to assess candidates based on their motivation to participate and expected contribution to the activity and to their team. The top scoring eligible candidates might be invited for an interview. The final ranking will be determined by combining the interview score with the CV score and the scores awarded to the video presentation submitted by each candidate. All students will be contacted via email to communicate the result of their application. 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.

4.2 Selection criteria

EUTOPIA MORE is co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101089699. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Co-funded by the European Union

Valid applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by NOVA University Lisbon according to the following procedure:

1. Application Evaluation: candidates will be assessed and scored based on their application materials (video presentation, CV and certification of English proficiency).
2. Interview: If needed, the highest-scoring eligible candidates based on the initial evaluation might be invited to an interview; the interview will provide additional score.
3. Communication of results and Confirmation:
    - Selected students will be notified via email by eutopia@unl.pt and must confirm their participation **according to the established calendar**.
    - All students will be informed via email of the results of their application.
    - Candidates who fail to confirm within the specified deadlines and procedures will forfeit their right to participate.
4. Repechage Procedure: Any places remaining available due to non-confirmations or withdrawals will be offered to subsequent candidates in the ranking through a repechage procedure.

4.3 Selection committees

A Selection Committee, composed by member of the Innovation Office, NOVA Impact, and the Internationalization Office will be established at NOVA to assess candidates' applications. As part of the selection process, the Selection Committee might conduct interviews of a shortlist of eligible candidates.

5. Rights and Obligations of Selected Students

Students selected for the programme must commit to attending and actively engaging in the EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students, to be held in Venice, Italy, 9–12 November 2026.

An introductory meeting with students may take place before the event. If confirmed, attendance is compulsory for all selected participants. Selected students will have the right to have room, board, and travel expenses covered by their home institutions, funded by the EUTOPIA MORE project.

6. Calendar

- Deadline for applications: 20 September 2026, at 11:00 AM (WEST).
- Communication of results: 25 September 2026 (WEST).
- Deadline for acceptation and confirmation of participation: 27 September 2026 at 12:00 PM (WEST).

7. Data Protection

Information relating to individuals (personal data) is collected and processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

NOVA University Lisbon, as the data controller, processes applicants' personal data for the purposes of managing the selection procedure for the **EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students**, which will be hosted by Ca' Foscari University of Venice from 9 to 12 November.

The University collects and processes applicants' personal data, including name, last name, contact details, academic information, and any other information necessary for the selection procedure and the organisation of the event.

Applicants' personal data will be retained for five years from the date of collection.

Personal data is processed exclusively for the purposes of selecting participants for the event. Applicants' personal data will not be transferred to other institutions for organisational purposes but will be processed only by authorised staff and in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

EUTOPIA MORE is co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101089699. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Co-funded by the European Union

8. Contact Information

For any inquiries or additional information on this call please contact:

eutopia@unl.pt / novaimpact@unl.pt

EUTOPIA MORE is co-funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101089699. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Co-funded by the European Union