EUTOPIA MORE
"Connected Communities"
Call for Selection – 2nd Round

Art. 1 PURPOSE OF THE CALL AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1 This call aims to establish a total of 10 "Connected Communities" in the framework of the project "EUTOPIA MORE", co-funded by the European Commission in the framework of the "European Universities Initiative".

1.2 As to reach the objective of implementing 30 Connected Communities, the Work Package 3 "Empowering Knowledge" ("WP3") has planned to organise three rounds of the process described below (2023, 2024 and 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 designed on a value adding principle; their implementation starts from identifying existing best practices for challenge-based teaching and research in the 10 home universities of the Alliance and in the Global Partners, namely: Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Vrije Universiteit Brussels (Bruxelles, Belgium), CY Cergy Université Paris (Paris, France), Technische Universität Dresden (Dresden, Germany), Göteborgs Universitet (Gothenburg, Sweden), Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal), Univerza v Ljubljani (Ljubljana, Slovenia), The University of Warwick (Coventry, United Kingdom), Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Venice, Italy) and Monash University (Melbourne, Australia), Université Internationale de Rabat (Rabat, Morocco), Stellenbosch University (Stellenbosch, South Africa), and Kyungpook National University (Daegu, South Korea).

1.4 Academic staff members that are nominated for being the initiator 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.

Art. 2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Applicants must be "Professori Ordinari", "Professori Associati", "Ricercatori", "Ricercatori a Tempo Determinato B", "Ricercatori a Tempo Determinato A" (if supported by a PA or PO) 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** (European and/or Global partners), 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.

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

Art. 3 ADMISSION PROCEDURE

3.1 This Call for selection is published on Ca' Foscari webpage dedicated to EUTOPIA (https://www.unive.it/pag/43372/ and https://www.unive.it/pag/43401/) and on Ca' Foscari "Albo online" (https://www.unive.it/data/30402/).

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: January 31st 2024**, at 1 pm CET** (13.00 Italian time zone). 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 set by art. 3.2;
   ● missing Letter of Commitment.

Art. 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 facilitators in their home universities, under the overall supportive frame of the central WP3 team, can help candidates to gather information and reach out to potential partners across the alliance.

4.1.3 Valid and eligible applications will be evaluated by each partner university. At Ca' Foscari University of Venice a specific Evaluation Committee will be nominated by the Head of the Educational Programmes and Student Services Area and it will be composed of 3 faculty members and 1 administrative staff member.

4.1.4 To create this 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 CC proposal with internal strategic priorities.

4.1.5 The final selection decision at Ca' Foscari University will also consider cross-cutting evaluation criteria such as gender balance, equal opportunities and participation of less advantaged groups providing a more equal and fair selection process.

4.1.6 At the end of the call period, and within February, 29th 2024, Ca' Foscari University will draft a shortlist of a maximum of 3 candidates ("nominees") for nomination.

4.2 Joint Selection of Connected Communities

4.2.1   The shortlist of nominees will be handed over to the EUTOPIA WP3 Lead.

4.2.2   Scenarios for selection will be prepared by the WP3 coordinators and with the advice of curriculum developer and monitor. 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 March, 28th 2024. 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 applied for a scholarship but do not meet the requirements, etc.), 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 his/her own application in line with the principles and procedures described in the call. In other words, the appeal cannot concern the decision itself, but only an alleged error made in the process.

Art. 5 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

5.1 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).

5.2 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 CC.

Art. 6 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.

Venice,

The Rector

Prof. Tiziana Lippiello