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Student Contest Waves of Change Contest regulation

General Information

The University of Sassari, in quality of partner of the EUNICOAST Project – the European University of Islands, Ports and Coastal Territories – launches the 1^o Alliance contest entitled “Waves of Change”.

This contest is included in the EUNICOAST’s strategy of Internationalisation@Home (I@H), which comprises a set of practices enabling students to develop intercultural and international competencies without physically going abroad. The contest’s main objective is strongly linked to the public interest of the Alliance’s academic community, aiming to celebrate the shared coastal and island identity of the academic communities through the universal language of art and within the partner universities participating in the contest.

The public interest objectives of the contest include:

- Promoting the culture of the sea, islands and coastal territories as a shared European identity;
- Fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding among partner institutions through creative production;
- Documenting and disseminating the academic, cultural and community life of EUNICOAST;
- Building a shared audio-visual archive of the Alliance to support institutional communication;
- Actively engaging students in internationalisation activities.

Article 1 – Participating Universities

The contest is open to students from the following partner universities:

- UNISS – University of Sassari, Italy;
- BFU – Free University of Burgas, Bulgaria;
- UIB – University of the Balearic Islands, Spain;
- HOST – University of Applied Sciences Stralsund, Germany;
- ZUT – West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, Poland.
- UPatras – University of Patras, Greece;
- ULHN – University OF Le Havre Normandy, France.

Article 2 – Eligibility

Participants in the contest must be:

- Students regularly enrolled at one of the partner universities listed in Art. 1 of this regulation for the academic year 2025/2026.

Individual or group participation is allowed (of up to 3 persons per group).

Article 3 – Contest Themes

All submitted works must draw inspiration from the mission and identity of EUNICOAST, highlighting the relationship between university, territory, sea and community. Participants may freely choose a theme within the following:

#	Theme	Description
1.	The Territory as a Learning Space	Learning and research in coastal and island contexts. Fieldwork, excursions, outdoor classes.
2.	Cultural Encounters	Moments of cultural exchange, relationships, coexistence and sharing among people from different countries.
3.	Behind the Scenes	The daily life of students: offices, services, classrooms, student support and campus sustainability.
4.	Coastal Identity	Landscapes, harbours, markets, boats, and local architecture as a connection to university life.
5.	Home Away from Home	The experience of feeling welcomed (or welcoming others) at a foreign institution. Stories of arrival, adaptation and integration.

Participants may apply in more than one category, with a maximum of one work per category (e.g. one visual work and one audiovisual work).

Article 4 – Contest Categories and Technical Requirements

The contest categories are divided into two specific categories, depending on whether the work submitted by participants is visual or audiovisual.

The two main categories are:

1) VISUAL WORKS: Photography, illustration and comics

2) AUDIOVISUAL WORKS: Video and music

All works submitted to the contest must be original and unpublished or, if already publicly distributed, not exclusively assigned to third parties and freely usable by the University of Sassari for the purposes set out in Art. 8 of this regulation.

Mandatory metadata for all works submitted: title (max 10 words – if in a language other than English, with a translation into that language), home university from EUNICOAST, date and place of creation, language used in the work (when relevant), brief synopsis/description (max 200 characters – if in a language other than English, provide a translation into that language).

Art. 4.1 Photography, Illustration and Comics (sub-categories)

Art. 4.1.1 – Photography

- Maximum number of pieces: 1 photograph;
- File format: JPG (preferred) or PNG;
- Minimum resolution: 2500 × 1600 pixels;
- Maximum file size: 15 MB;
- Photo montages and AI-generated images are not permitted.

Art. 4.1.2 – Illustration

- Maximum number of pieces: 1 illustration;
- Technique: free (pencil, watercolour, ink, pastel, mixed media, digital);
- Submission format: JPG (preferred) or PNG;
- Maximum file size: 20 MB;

- Original unpublished works only; reproductions or significant digital reworkings of others' works are not permitted.

Art. 4.1.3 – Comics

- Maximum number of pieces: 1 page;
- Length: 1 page (A4 format or equivalent);
- Technique: free (hand-drawn, digital, mixed media);
- Submission format: 1 page, 300 dpi;
- Maximum file size: 50 MB;
- Text language: free. If the comic contains text in a language other than English, an English translation must be provided (replacement text in speech bubbles or a separate translation page).

Article 4.2 – Video and Music (sub-categories)

Art. 4.2.1 – Video

- Maximum number of pieces: 1 video;
- Duration: 30 seconds to 2 minutes;
- Submission format: MP4 Full HD (H.264);
- Maximum file size: 500 MB;
- Language of speech/subtitles: free. If the video contains spoken audio or text in a language other than English, English subtitles are mandatory;
- The following must be indicated: name(s) of author(s), main roles (direction, filming, editing), soundtrack/s with Licence Creative Commons (if applicable).

Art. 4.2.2 – Music

- Maximum number of pieces: 1 composition;
- Duration: 1 minute to 2 minutes;
- Audio submission format: MP3 320 kbps (preferred) or WAV;

- Maximum file size: 50 MB;
- For works with lyrics: provide the full text as an attachment. If in a language other than English, attach an English translation;
- The following must be indicated: name(s) of author(s) (lyrics and music), instruments or voices used, musical genre.

Article 5 – How to Apply

Applications must be submitted exclusively via the online application form available at the following [link](#), active from 18 June 2026.

The application form requires the following information:

- Acknowledgement of having read and understood the personal data processing informative (see Art. 10);
- Declaration of ownership of rights to the work and authorisation for use by the University of Sassari, as indicated in the application form (see Art. 8);
- Personal details of the participant(s) (first name, surname, email address);
- Home university partner of EUNICOAST (as listed in Article 1);
- Type of participation: individual or group;
- Names of all students in the case of group participation (max 3 persons);
- Link with which works have been shared through Google Drive and to the account **festival_eunicoast@uniss.it**;
- Upload of works with mandatory metadata and compliance with technical requirements as indicated in both Art. 4 and subsections 4.1 and 4.2.

Participation is free of charge and voluntary.

Article 6 – Selection and Jury

Eligible works will be assessed by an International Jury chaired by the University of Sassari (UNISS), whose members are to be appointed by the EUNICOAST's Work Package 5 – Mobility and Internationalisation (WP5), and which may draw on experts appointed by UNISS.

The Jury is composed of at least:

- Three UNISS representatives;
- At least one WP5 EUNICOAST representative;
- One or more external experts in visual and audiovisual arts (up to a maximum of five), with experience in cultural or academic settings, appointed by UNISS;
- Two EUNICOAST student representatives, appointed by WP5 upon proposals from the Alliance's Student Council.

The Jury Chair is designated by UNISS and has the final vote in case of equal number of votes from the jury. Jury members cannot apply to the contest.

Evaluation criteria:

Criterion	Description	Weight
Thematic Relevance	Coherence with the chosen theme and EUNICOAST missions	20%
Technical Quality	Sharpness, composition, lighting; editing, audio, rhythm	20%
Originality and Creativity	Innovative approach, visual narrative, personal perspective	30%
Communicative Impact	Ability to convey the concept of I@H and the	30%

	value of European coastal diversity and identity	
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The Jury's decisions are final and definitive. Results will be communicated by email to participants by 15 September 2026 and published on the official website www.uniss.it on the contest page. Alliance partners participating in the contest (as indicated in Art. 1 of this regulation) can freely disseminate results through their official channels (institutional website and social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube).

Article 7 – Prizes

The award ceremony will take place during the opening ceremony of the 1° EUNICOAST Student Festival to be held at the University of Sassari on 21 September 2026.

Winners may collect their award in person at the ceremony in Sassari during the Student Festival or delegate a representative using the appropriate form provided by UNISS at the time of the announcement of winning works on 15 September 2026.

Art. 7.1 Photography, Illustration and Comics

Prizes for the top three entries from this category are the following: EUNICOAST plaque/medal, official certificate, publication on the UNISS website and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube), personalised EUNICOAST merchandise.

2 Special Mentions for distinguished works will be awarded, which will include the following: official certificate, publication on the UNISS website and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube).

Art. 7.2 Video and Music

Prizes for the top three entries from this category are the following: EUNICOAST plaque/medal, official certificate, screening during the Student Festival, personalised EUNICOAST merchandise.

2 Special Mentions for distinguished works will be awarded, which will include the following: official certificate, publication on the UNISS website and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube).

All works, whether awarded or not, can be used by UNISS in communication campaigns and published on www.uniss.it. UNISS, as the data controller and rights holder, can share works solely for the purposes indicated in this regulation with the EUNICOAST Alliance and partner universities, who may in turn use them for promotion and dissemination purposes on their official websites and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube).

Article 8 – Privacy and Personal Data Processing

Personal data provided by participants will be processed by UNISS in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Data will be used exclusively for: managing the Contest; communicating results; publishing works with the author's name, year of creation and title; UNISS, Alliance and partner universities' promotion and dissemination campaigns; use at institutional events of UNISS, the Alliance and

partner universities (as set out in Art. 8 of this regulation). Data will not be transferred to third parties for commercial purposes.

The personal data processing notice and copyright authorisation will be available on the online application form for the acknowledgement and understanding from the participants.

Please refer to Annex 1 for the privacy notice regarding the processing of personal data. Acknowledgement of the privacy notice by the participant(s) will be obtained through the online application form.

Article 9 – Exclusions and Incompatibilities

Works are excluded from participation in the following circumstances:

- Contain offensive, discriminatory, violent or sexually explicit content;
- Feature minors;
- Infringe third-party rights (copyright, trademarks, personal rights);
- Have been generated or significantly altered by artificial intelligence;
- Have been published and awarded in other contests before the deadline of this regulation;
- Do not include the mandatory metadata specified in Art. 4;
- Do not comply with the technical specifications set out in subsections 4.1 and 4.2;
- Do not follow the submission instructions set out in Art. 5.

Members of the International Jury and their relatives up to the second degree are not eligible to participate in the Contest (in accordance with the Italian Anti-Corruption Act).

Article 10 – Copyright and Use of Works

Please refer to Annex 2 for image rights, releases and liability regarding the submitted works. The aforementioned authorisation by the participant(s) will be obtained through the online application form.

By submitting the application form, participants acknowledge the following:

- Sole and individual authorship of all submitted works and their components; participants are solely responsible for obtaining consent from any co-authors;
- Sole ownership of all rights to the works, including image rights of any persons depicted, in compliance with both Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and applicable national law;
- Non-exclusive assignment of rights over the works to third parties;
- Non-infringement of others' works and rights (copyright, personality rights, trademark rights);
- Non-exclusive use of artificial intelligence for the creation of works.

By submitting their applications and works, participants grant UNISS a non-exclusive, royalty-free, indefinite licence to use the works for the following purposes of public interest:

- Publication on the institutional website www.uniss.it ;
- Publication on the Alliance's institutional website www.eunicoast.eu and on partner universities' official websites;
- Publication on the University of Sassari's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube);
- Publication on EUNICOAST's and partner universities' social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube);
- Exhibition during the University of Sassari Student Festival in 2026;
- Exhibition during subsequent EUNICOAST student festivals;

- Use in promotion and dissemination campaigns by UNISS, EUNICOAST and its partner universities;
- Use for the creation of communication and promotional materials of the University of Sassari, the Alliance and/or project partners (brochures, reports, presentations);
- Archiving of works by UNISS, for non-commercial, non-exclusive use.

When works will be used, their authorship, the year of creation and the title will always be acknowledged.

Article 11 – Timeline

Fase	Data	Note
Publication of regulation and Opening of applications	18 June 2026	Institutional website and UNISS social media channels + EUNICOAST website and social media + partner universities' channels
Submission deadline	31 July 2026, 23:59 CET	Without extensions
Technical pre-selection	1–7 August 2026	Verification of technical and formal requirements
Appointment of Jury members	7 August 2026	Appointment decree issued by UNISS (published on its institutional website)
Submission of shortlisted works to Jury members	by 28 August 2026	Links to selected works attached to the list
Jury evaluation	1–8 September 2026	Review of materials by Jury members
Joint Jury meeting	8–11 September 2026	Ranking of awarded works

Communication winners	to 15 September 2026	Official notification by email from UNISS to winners
Award ceremony	21 September 2026	Opening ceremony of the EUNICOAST Student Festival in Sassari

Article 12 – Contact Details at partner institutions

For information and enquiries regarding the contest – UNISS: festival_eunicoast@uniss.it

Contest coordinators at participating partner universities, as indicated in Art. 1:

University	Name of the Referent	E-mail address
UNISS, University of Sassari, ITALY	Team EUNICOAST UNISS	festival_eunicoast@uniss.it
BFU, Free University of Burgas, BULGARIA	Gergana Kirova	Gergana.Kirova@eunicoast.eu
UIB, University of the Balearic Islands, SPAIN	Francina Amengual	francina.amengual@eunicoast.eu
HOST, University of Applied Sciences Stralsund, GERMANY	Carmen Opoloski Magdalene Weber	Carmen.Opolski@eunicoast.eu Magdalene.Weber@eunicoast.eu
ZUT, West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, POLAND	Agnieszka Kobylak	Agnieszka.Kobylak@eunicoast.eu
UPatras – University of Patras, GREECE	Georgia Dimopoulou	Georgia.Dimopoulou@eunicoast.eu
ULHN – University of Le Havre Normandy, FRANCE	Aleksandra Provost	Aleksandra.Provost@eunicoast.eu

Article 13 – Final Provisions

Participation in the Contest implies full acceptance of the provisions set out in this regulation and its attachments. UNISS reserves the right to modify, suspend or cancel the contest in cases of force majeure, providing timely notice through institutional channels.

Matters not addressed in this regulation are governed by Italian law and the provisions of the European Union Erasmus+ Programme.

Article 14 – Information and Communications

The coordinators of this regulation, both at UNISS and at the participating partner universities (as listed in Art. 1), are available to provide participants with information and support for submitting applications and works.

Official communications to participants will be sent exclusively through the email address **festival_eunicoast@uniss.it**. Participants are expected to check their email accounts regularly.

Submission deadline: 31 July 2026, 23:59 CET