Third call for application

EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers

Funded by the European Union

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Introduction

The EUTOPIA_HEALTH project, funded by the European Commission's Horizon Europe Programme (European Excellence Initiative) focuses on building research capacity in three universities located in Widening countries: Romania, Slovenia, and Portugal, and aims to support health-related research by offering seed funding and mobility opportunities to researchers. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, the project enhances health-related scientific management and strengthens research and innovation (R&I) capabilities. It provides training and funding opportunities to researchers, while also fostering connections between research, society, businesses, and policymakers to create tailored solutions for societal challenges.

EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers

1 Information about the programme

The EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers offers short-term research opportunities for PhD students and early-career researchers (within 8 years post-PhD) affiliated with Widening universities of the EUTOPIA_HEALTH Consortium[1] (further on Consortium). This programme focuses on transdisciplinary health-related challenges, providing mentorship from leading researchers within the Consortium. The mobility collaborations are research-oriented, with activities carried out at a host institution under the supervision of a senior researcher or group leader.

1.1 Who can apply?

This programme invites applications exclusively from researchers (PhD students and early-career researchers, within 8 years post-PhD) from Widening[2] universities of the Consortium, encouraging a diverse range of proposals across all health-related academic disciplines and topics. These mobility opportunities are designed to establish future collaboration between the participating research institutions within the Consortium. Before applying, researchers should identify a collaborator from a host research lab or center at an Consortium member university that aligns with their research interests. The EUTOPIA_HEALTH Research Map can assist in finding potential collaborators.

1.2 Duration of the mobilities and eligible hosts institutions

The EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers will provide a total of 75 mobility months, aimed at enhancing research capacity and collaboration within the Consortium. Each Widening university in the Consortium offers 25 mobility months. Adjustments to the schedule or the redistribution of any unallocated mobility months may be made during the implementation phase by each Widening University. The duration of a mobility grant can range from 1 to 5 months, allowing the researcher to choose the period that best suits their convenience.

It is strongly recommended that eligible host institutions for the mobility program include non-Widening Consortium members.

The EUTOPIA_HEALTH Research Map (www.partneringtool.eutopia-university.eu/) supports and facilitates the identification of potential partners and collaborators within the Consortium.

[1] For the purpose of clarity, the Consortium consists of the following organizations: Babeș-Bolyai University (UBB), University of Ljubljana (UL), NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Pompeu Fabra University-Barcelona (UPF), CY Cergy Paris University (CY), Ca'Foscari University of Venice (UNIVE), University of Gothenburg (GU), University of Warwick (UW).

[2] The Widening universities of the consortium are: Babeș-Bolyai University (UBB), University of Ljubljana (UL), NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA).

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1.3 The budget for the programme

Accepted mobility collaborations will be financed by the researchers' home Widening university (UBB, UL, NOVA) as outgoing research mobilities. Funding will cover subsistence costs of €2,500 per month (including accommodation and living expenses) and travel expenses up to €500 per mobility. Each funding university will apply its own expenditure policies for these mobilities. The total budget allocated to each Widening university is €62,500, fully funded by the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project.

2 Eligibility criteria, application process and evaluation guidelines for the EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers

2.1 Eligibility criteria

- Both the applicant and the host supervisor must be registered in the EUTOPIA_HEALTH Research Map (link to registration form: forms.office.com/e/syhFiG6tpC).
- The programme is open to PhD students and early-career researchers (within 8 years of PhD completion) from Widening universities (UBB, UL, NOVA). The topic of the research mobility must focus on health-related topics within fields such as Applied Medical Technologies, Diagnostics, Therapies, Clinical or Health Psychology, Health Economics, Life Sciences, Physical Education for Health, Public Health, and similar areas.
- Applicants may submit only one application per annual call, but in case of rejection, they can apply in future calls with a different (or improved) proposal. Once funded, a researcher is eligible for only one mobility opportunity within this programme.
- Applicants should demonstrate a track record relevant to their career stage. Postdocs are expected to have at least three publications as main-authors in peer-reviewed journals.

2.2 Application process

The EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers supports research mobilities that promote transdisciplinary collaborations across health-related fields within the Consortium. The programme is open to all health-related academic disciplines.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents electronically at health.eutopia@ubbcluj.ro, eutopia.health@uni-lj.si, or nova.research@unl.pt, in line with the timeline outlined in the call:

- Application form (max. 4 pages): Jointly developed with the host collaborator, outlining the mobility's objectives, activities, and alignment with the host's research. The topic of the proposal should be inter/transdisciplinary and follow the guidelines provided in the application form (Annex 1).
- Letter of acceptance from the Host Institution (1 page): Signed by the host collaborator, confirming the institution's ability to provide research conditions and office space.
- Letter of support from the Home Institution (1 page) signed by a relevant academic personality from the applicant's home universty.

The application form (Annex 1) provides detailed guidelines for submission and will be available with the call announcement.

Evaluation guidelines

A single submission of the full proposal will be followed by a one-step evaluation conducted by a panel of experts from the Widening universities of the Consortium, ensuring no conflicts of interest, and in line with national and internal regulations.

Each application will be evaluated (see Annex 2) based on the following main components:

- Applicant's background and expertise in health-related research: The evaluation will consider the applicant's research track record, including publications, fellowships, conference participation, skills and experience that are crucial for the success of the proposed project, and innovative and inter/transdisciplinary approaches.
- Research & Innovation proposal: Proposals will be assessed for the clarity and relevance of the research mobility's aims and objectives, taking into account the current state of knowledge, scientific concept, originality, and transdisciplinary approach of the proposal. Additionally, the feasibility of the research plan and methodology, its alignment with the Host institution's focus, and the anticipated outcomes and contributions to the field will be also considered.The expertise of the host institution's supervisor will also be taken into account.

At the end of the evaluation process, proposals will be scored and ranked by the panel based on their overall strengths. Applicants will be informed via email about the outcome of their application (funded/not funded), determined by their final scores.

2.3 Responsibilities of the Host Institution and Visiting Researcher

Host Institution Responsibilities:

- Provide workspace, grant access to research facilities, and offer guidance throughout their stay. Collaborate with the visiting researcher in developing a detailed activity plan for the mobility period.
- Issue a letter of acceptance to the researcher before the application process.

Visiting Researcher Responsibilities:

- Follow the host institution's rules and guidelines, including those related to safety, facility usage, and conduct. It's encouraged that the visiting researcher maintains regular communication with the host supervisor to foster ongoing collaboration beyond the mobility.
- Share insights and updates with their home institution during and after the visit, focusing on the research work carried out during the mobility.
- For mobilities longer than three months, an interim report is expected after three months, with a final report and presentation required, two weeks upon return. For shorter stays (1–3 months), only the final report and presentation are needed.
- All reports should be signed by the host supervisor. Final report must be submitted within two weeks of the researcher's return.

2.4 Calendar of the call for EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers*

Action	Timeline
1st call for applications	CLOSED
Pre-Launching of the 2nd call	23 September 2025
Application submission period	1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026
1st evaluation period (for applications received **until** 31 December 2025)	5 January 2026 – 31 January 2026
2nd evaluation period (for applications received **after** 31 December 2025)	1 April 2026 – 30 April 2026
Launching of the 3nd call	13 October 2026
Application submission period-continous	13 October 2026 – 31 July 2027

Evaluation period	Applications shall be evaluated by the end of the month following the month in which they are submitted.
Submission deadline	31 July 2027 (or earlier if funds are exhausted)

**Adjustments to this schedule (calendar modification) or the redistribution of any unallocated mobility months may be made during the implementation phase by each Widening University.*

3 Reporting

Midterm (in case of 4/5 mo. Mobilities) and final reports (in case of 1/2/3/ mo. Mobilities) will provide detailed analyses of the progress made toward the proposed objectives, ensuring alignment with the project's goals. Dissemination activities through conference participation and publications are highly encouraged, with the acknowledge the funding from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project.

4 Contact details

The local contacts for the EUTOPIA_HEALTH Cross-University Mobility Programme for Young Researchers, responsible for managing the application process and addressing practical questions about the programme, are:

Babes-Bolyai University (Romania) - health.eutopia@ubbcluj.ro

University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) - eutopia.health@uni-lj.si

NOVA University Lisbon (Portugal) - nova.research@unl.pt

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