

Call for UNITA infrastructures grants

Version_June 30th 2025

Introduction

The UNITA Alliance is pleased to announce a call for grants to support the use of shared research infrastructures and resources among its member institutions.

This initiative aims to foster collaboration, enhance research capabilities, and promote scientific training within the alliance.

This call is launched within the UNITA Alliance Erasmus + funding (2023-2027).

Table of contents

Call for UNITA infrastructures grants	1
Introduction	1
1. Background	2
a. UNITA	2
b. Research in UNITA	2
c. Shared infrastructures	2
2. Objectives	2
3. Eligible Applicants	3
4. Activities to be Funded	3
5. Budget management	3
a. Global budget framework	3
b. Eligible expenses	3
6. Conditions of Use	4
7. Calendar	4
8. Selection criteria	4
9. Reporting	5
10. Acknowledgement	5
11. Applications	5

1. Background

a. UNITA

The UNITA Alliance, established during its first phase (2020-2023), has initiated a significant transformation in its member universities. This transformation will continue through the second phase (2023-2027) and beyond, integrating new and associated partners. Our long-term vision is to revolutionize cooperation, education, research, innovation, and societal engagement within the European Higher Education Area.

b. Research in UNITA

The scientific identity of the UNITA Alliance is centered around six core thematic areas:

- Circular economy and environment;
- Cultural heritage;
- Digital transition;
- Global health;
- Green energies;
- Inclusive societies.

Our goal is to develop these themes into future European research institutes, fostering collaboration based on shared strengths and resources.

c. Shared infrastructures

Building on the Re-UNITA project (2021-2024), the UNITA Alliance aims to pool research and innovation resources. This includes all types of research equipment, infrastructures, services, and resources. A catalogue of shared resources and local contact points has been established to facilitate this initiative.

Access the UNITA catalog of shared research resources and infrastructures here: <https://re-unitaresearchinfrastructure.i3a.es/>

A formal strategic agreement was signed on October 30, 2024, by UNITA rectors to support this initiative.

2. Objectives

This call aims to:

- Enhance technical and scientific training on specific research resources.
- Enable community building and academic staff work on multi-partners projects
- Address gaps in infrastructure
- Make proposals for long term solutions
- Co-fund the access to infrastructures and resources hosted by other UNITA institutions

3. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be academic staff belonging to one of the UNITA institutions during the planned activities. Priority will be given to early-stage researchers.

4. Activities to be Funded

- **Use of Equipment/Infrastructure for community building:** Academic staff can use resources available at other UNITA institutions either face-to-face or remotely.
- **Collaborative dimensions must be integrated into the proposed activities.** Projects that promote mobility will be prioritized, including activities such as technique introductions, job shadowing, scientific and technical discussions to establish collaborations, etc. The option to send samples without physical mobility can also be considered. Priority will be given to application with on-site mobility.
- **Scientific and Technical training:** Training dedicated to the use of specific resources, known as "Scientific and technical job shadowing."
- Priority will be given to projects connected to the HUBs.

5. Budget management

a. Global budget framework

The total budget available for the two calls, one per year, is distributed as below.

Maximum budget of 60% is allocated to the first call.

Institution	Funding available
UNITO	29 000 €
USMB	18 000 €
UNIZAR	29 000 €
UBI	21 000 €
UVT	24 000 €
UPPA	18 000 €
UNITBV	21 000 €
UNIBS	18 000 €
IPG	9 000 €
UPNA	15 000 €
TOTAL	202 000 €

Each institution manages its own budget to support its staff to use equipment in other universities.

b. Eligible expenses

Note: The maximum amount per application is €2,500.

- **Operating costs:** Cover the costs for equipment/platform use. They are managed by the university owning the instrument/platform;
- **Technical training costs:** Cover expenses related to training activities;

- Travel and accommodation costs are eligible
- Co-financing would be a plus, especially to cover travel and accommodation costs
- Salaries of people who come to use the equipment are not eligible.

6. Conditions of Use

Applicants must ensure compliance with the specific conditions of use for each equipment, infrastructure, or resource, as provided by the hosting institution.

7. Calendar

Two application periods are scheduled. These calls for projects will operate on a rolling basis throughout the designated period.

- **First period:** Opening on June 2025 and closing on May 2026*;
- **Second period:** opening on June 2026 and closing on May 2027.

Projects are reviewed during the team meetings of Task 4.3, which includes representatives from each UNITA institution. Applications will be evaluated on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, and applicants will receive a response (positive or negative) shortly thereafter.

**If the 60% threshold (i.e. the maximum budget allocated for the first call period) is reached before May 2026, the second call period may be launched earlier.*

8. Eligibility and Selection criteria

Applications must involve at least two different partners from the UNITA alliance to be eligible for funding. The scientific added value of the project must be clearly explained. The project should include a detailed schedule for experiments and mobility planned.

The selection of eligible applications will be based on the following criteria:

- added value;
- collaboration prospects;
- grant amount requested in accordance with the planned activity;
- connection with the UNITA core scientific thematic (six hubs).

Before submitting the project, a technical feasibility assessment of the planned activities must be requested from the shared infrastructure manager listed in the database. This validation should be included with the application file.

Selection will be made during monthly meetings of the UNITA Task team 4.3, including at least one representative from each UNITA institution. Applicants will receive a response (positive or negative) shortly thereafter.

9. Reporting

Any project that has received funding must submit a final report (1 to 2 pages maximum) including the following elements: key results, future collaborations, involved persons, and expenses.

This report must be sent to the co-leaders of task T4.3 and UNITA Offices. A template will be provided.

10. Acknowledgement

Funded activities must acknowledge UNITA funding in all related communications, including scientific publications. The following statement should be included:

“Supported by the UNITA Alliance Infrastructures grants and the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union.”

The inclusion of the UNITA and European Union logos is also required for any oral communication or poster presentation.

11. Applications

Applications should be submitted through this form: <https://surveysbg.univ-unita.eu/index.php/572135?lang=en>

In case of questions, you can contact:

Scientific coordinators of this call:

- Isabelle Le Hécho (UPPA) : isabelle.lehecho@univ-pau.fr
- Monica Szeles (UNITBV) : monica.szeles@unitbv.ro

UNITA OFFICES:

UBI: unita.office@ubi.pt

IPG: unita@ipg.pt

UPNA: unita@unavarra.es

UNIZAR: unitacontact@unizar.es

UPPA: unita@univ-pau.fr

USMB: unita.office@univ-smb.fr

HES-SO: unita@hes-so.ch

UNITO: unita@unito.it

UNIBS: unita.office@unibs.it

UVT: unita@e-uvt.ro

UNITBV: unita@unitbv.ro

CHNU: unita@chnu.edu.ua