



Università
di Catania



E-ELAB2 – PRE-CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EUNICE Entrepreneurship Lab – 2nd Edition (2026–2027)

One-Year Master's-Level Certificate Programme (60 ECTS)

The **EUNICE Entrepreneurship Lab (E-ELAB2)** is pleased to announce the launch of this **pre-call for applications** for the second edition of the **One-Year Master's-Level Certificate Programme (60 ECTS)**¹ in **Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Startup Management**, with the official call expected to open in **September 2026**.

The programme has been **co-designed and co-delivered by the EUNICE European University Alliance** within the framework of **Work Package 4 – Entrepreneurial Mindset**, coordinated by the **University of Catania (UNICT)**, and specifically implemented through **Task 4.2 – Entrepreneurship Lab**. It represents a flagship educational initiative of the Alliance aimed at strengthening entrepreneurial competences, fostering innovation, and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among students across Europe.

The programme offers an advanced, Master's-level learning experience combining academic knowledge, practical entrepreneurial training and international collaboration. It is designed to equip participants with the skills required to identify opportunities, develop innovative business models, manage technology- and knowledge-based ventures, and address contemporary societal and industrial challenges through entrepreneurship.

Based on a **learning-by-doing** methodology, participants will work in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams, engaging with real innovation challenges proposed by companies, start-ups, research organisations and innovation ecosystems associated with the EUNICE Alliance. Throughout the programme, students will benefit from the expertise of academics, entrepreneurs, innovation professionals and industry mentors from the ten partner universities.

The programme is open to **Bachelor's graduates holding at least a first-cycle degree (EQF Level 6 or equivalent)** in any academic discipline, including engineering, natural sciences, economics, business, social sciences and humanities. Applicants must demonstrate a good command of English (**minimum B2 level**). In addition, a limited number of places will be reserved for **Master's and PhD students, as well as recent alumni of EUNICE partner universities**, who may participate through dedicated **EUNICE scholarships**, subject to the eligibility conditions specified in the official call.

The programme carries **60 ECTS** and extends over **one academic year** (October 2026 – September 2027). It is delivered in a **hybrid format**, combining:

¹ This certificate will be released by UNICT in accordance to Article 9 of the University of Catania's regulations on Master's Programmes (Rector's Decree No. 2811 of 30 July 2012, last amended by Rector's Decree No. 2974 of 25 July 2018). Available online here: https://www.unict.it/sites/default/files/files/Regolamento%20master_signed.pdf
The Master's qualification is awarded upon successful completion of the programme, including the acquisition of all required credits and the passing of the final assessment



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

- synchronous online lectures delivered by professors from the EUNICE partner universities;
- interactive workshops, case studies and project-based learning activities;
- a mandatory internship carried out locally at companies or innovation organisations affiliated with each partner university;
- participation in the **EUNICE Entrepreneurship Summer School**, organised at the University of Catania as an Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP);
- the development and defence of a final entrepreneurial project work or applied business plan.

Online teaching is generally scheduled on **Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings**, allowing participants to combine the programme with ongoing academic studies or professional commitments. Participants are required to attend at least 80% of the scheduled activities² The teaching activities are delivered through the EUNICE digital learning environment using **Moodle** and **Microsoft Teams**. The E-ELAB is open both to **full-programme participants** and to individuals wishing to attend **selected modules**.

The curriculum covers the key dimensions of entrepreneurship and innovation management, including innovation management, sustainability, intercultural communication, business model design, Lean Start-up methodologies, intellectual property, data science, entrepreneurial finance, digital transformation and entrepreneurial economics. The programme places particular emphasis on developing entrepreneurial mindsets, leadership, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and communication skills within an international context.

An integral component of the programme is the **300-hour internship**, carried out at local companies, start-ups, public organisations or research and innovation centres identified by each EUNICE partner university. The companies participating to the programme are part of the +200 external partners of EUNICE ecosystem through the **EUNICE Internship and Research (EIR) Portal**. This practical experience enables participants to apply the knowledge acquired during the programme while strengthening their professional network within the European innovation living lab hub.

The E-ELAB2 students (E-ELABbers) will participate to the EUNICE Entrepreneurship Summer School, hosted by the University of Catania in summer 2027. During this intensive international week, participants from all EUNICE universities collaborate on innovation challenges, attend workshops and mentoring sessions, engage with entrepreneurs and investors, and further develop their entrepreneurial projects in an intercultural environment.

This pre-call is intended to provide prospective applicants with advance information on the programme and to encourage interested candidates to begin preparing the documentation required for the forthcoming official call for applications. A maximum number of 40 participants (4 per university) will be selected by the 10 EUNICE partner universities and will be admitted to a full tuition scholarship covering the entire tuition fee (€2.656,00)³. Detailed information regarding the application procedure, selection criteria, scholarships, tuition fees and programme regulations will be published in the official Call for Applications in **September 2026**.

² In accordance with Article 9 of the University of Catania Regulations on Master's Programmes (hyperlink in note 1) UNICT master's programmes have a minimum duration of one academic year, require the completion of at least 60 ECTS credits, include a compulsory internship of not less than 300 hours, and require attendance of at least 80% of the scheduled activities

³ If for any unjustified reason the participants with the tuition free scholarship drop out, a penalty fee of 500 € will be raised.

