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MOBILITY STIPEND PROGRAMME (EARLY-STAGE (R1) RESEARCHER MOBILITY GRANTS) Across Alliance

Execution Guidelines and Call for Applications (2026–2028)

I. EXECUTION GUIDELINES

Introduction

The Mobility Stipend Programme, under Task 2.3 is to fund mobilities of R1 researchers (doctoral candidates) and eligible Master's students, with the aim of strengthening networking, knowledge sharing and long-term collaboration within the Alliance. Through short-term mobility periods between partner universities, the programme supports teaching, training and the exchange of expertise in a cross-border academic environment. The initiative contributes to consolidating sustainable links between young researchers, research groups and Across institutions.

For the purpose of this programme, early-stage researchers are understood as R1 researchers according to the European Framework for Research Careers, namely researchers up to the point of a PhD.

All terms used in this document in the masculine grammatical form are intended to be gender-neutral and refer equally to people of all genders and gender identities.

Characteristics of mobilities under this programme

Duration of mobilities is at least one month, subject to the possibility of receiving funding for physical mobility for a maximum of one month's stay at the host institution (periods exceeding one month onsite not financed). Mobilities may be implemented in either physical or hybrid format (partly in-person and partly remote/online). In the case of hybrid mobilities, the physical presence at the host institution must last at least two weeks. Mobility periods shorter than one month may be accumulated, if there is a formally approved commitment (Annex 2) to complete a cumulative mobility duration of one month. Priority shall be given to mobilities with a duration of one month and carried out in a single continuous period, as they are considered to provide a stronger impact on networking, knowledge sharing and institutional collaboration within the Across Alliance.

Budget and contribution

Each Across partner is allocated a total budget of EUR 39,375 for the period 2026–2028.

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The calculation of the contribution shall be based on the applicable Erasmus+ reference rates for travel, accommodation and subsistence as stated in the Programme Guide for Erasmus+. In addition, certain rates have been determined in accordance with the maximum individual financial contribution of EUR 1,250 per month of physical mobility stated in the approved budget of the Across project. Annex 1 includes guidelines and examples for contribution calculations. The unit for planning the stay and for contribution calculation purposes is the week. For hybrid mobilities, the financial contribution shall be calculated proportionally according to the duration of the physical mobility period. The budget shall be managed in a decentralised manner by each partner institution.

Budget Distribution

The distribution per partner is established as follows:

2026: EUR 10,000
2027: EUR 13,000
2028: EUR 16,375

In the event that not all the yearly budget is distributed in either 2026 or 2027, the remaining budget is moved to the subsequent year.

Annual Calls and Implementation Procedure

The Across Mobility Stipend programme should be implemented through annual calls, published under the Across Alliance framework and locally managed by each partner institution. To ensure predictability, transparency and efficient budget absorption, it is recommended that annual calls from 2027 onwards be launched during the first quarter of each year.

As an exception, due to the implementation timeline of the programme, the 2026 call may be launched during the second quarter of the year. Partner institutions should nevertheless ensure sufficient time for dissemination, application preparation and mobility implementation before the end of the corresponding funding period.

Calls should remain open for a minimum period of six weeks, allowing applicants sufficient time to identify host institutions, prepare the mobility programme and obtain the required support and acceptance from the sending and hosting universities. Partner universities may establish internal deadlines and administrative procedures, provided that they remain aligned with the common principles of the Across programme.

Selection results should ideally be communicated within one month following the closure of the call, enabling beneficiaries to organise their mobility periods in a timely manner. Whenever possible, partners are encouraged to maintain reserve lists in order to reallocate unused funds or replace withdrawn mobilities without launching additional procedures.

To facilitate participation and maximise the impact of the programme, partners are also encouraged to disseminate the calls widely through doctoral schools, research groups, Master's programmes and institutional communication channels linked to the Across Alliance.

Each partner sending institution shall be responsible for the local administration of the grants, including selection, contracting, funding, payments, reporting and record keeping.

Selection Process

Each partner shall establish a selection committee composed of at least three evaluators. Applications shall be evaluated and ranked according to predefined criteria. Funding shall be allocated to the highest-ranked applications until the available budget is exhausted.

Evaluation Criteria

- Quality, feasibility and expected impact of the networking, teaching, training and knowledge-sharing programme (0–10 points), considering:
    - Scientific networking and academic quality of the proposed activities (0 - 3 points)
    - Potential contribution to long-term collaboration within the Across Alliance (0 - 2 points)
    - Expected impact on the applicant's academic and professional development (0 - 2 points)
    - Added value for participating research groups and institutions (0 - 2 points)
    - Interdisciplinary and cross-border cooperation dimension, where relevant (0 - 1 point).

- Duration of mobility (0–5 points). Continuous mobilities of one month, either physical or hybrid, shall receive the maximum score of 5 points. Hybrid mobilities must comply with the minimum physical presence requirements established in the programme. Shorter or cumulative mobilities shall be evaluated proportionally. Indicative evaluation scale:
    - 1-month continuous mobility: 5 points
    - 3 weeks continuous mobility: 4 points
    - 2 weeks continuous mobility: 3 points

II. CALL FOR MOBILITY GRANTS

Objective

The Across Alliance invites eligible applicants from the University of Nova Gorica to submit applications to the Across Mobility Stipend Program, aiming to fund Early-Stage (R1) Researcher mobilities to be awarded within the Alliance framework in 2026. The programme aims to strengthen networking and collaboration among researchers within the Alliance, promote cross-border academic exchange, and support the learning and professional development of early-stage researchers.

Scope

- Mobility must take place at another Across partner institution.
- The applicant may not undertake mobility in their country of permanent residence or in the country of the sending institution.
- The duration of the mobility shall be at least one month, but the grant programme will cover up to one month of physical mobility.
- The mobility may be implemented in hybrid format. However, the physical presence at the host institution must be at least two weeks.
- Several mobility periods of less than one month may be accumulated, provided that the applicant commits to reaching a cumulative duration of one month.

Funding

The grant covers travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related exclusively to the physical component of the mobility. No financial contribution shall be granted for the online component of the mobility.

The calculation of the contribution shall be based on the applicable Erasmus+ reference rates for travel, accommodation and subsistence as stated in the Programme Guide for Erasmus+. In addition, certain rates have been determined in accordance with the maximum individual financial contribution (EUR 1,250) per month of physical mobility stated in the approved budget of the Across project (See Annex 1 for contribution purposes and examples). The unit for planning the stay and for contribution calculation purposes is the week. For hybrid mobilities, the financial contribution shall be calculated proportionally according to the duration of the physical mobility period. Total contributions of cumulative periods must respect the maximum individual contribution. In cases of accumulative mobilities it is particularly important to be aware of this restriction, since travel support can only be granted once.

Eligibility

Applicants must be the student or employee of the University of Nova Gorica or individually collaborating with the University of Nova Gorica under a civil law contract. The call is addressed exclusively to doctoral candidates and R1 researchers, as well as students enrolled in the final year of a Master's programme who are currently undertaking their

Master's thesis or are formally expected to begin it during the implementation period of the mobility.

Application Procedure

Under this call for proposals, applicants may submit proposals for mobility activities that will be carried out and completed by June 30, 2027.

Applicants wishing to apply for this call for proposals must submit the following:

- The application form for the call for Early-Career Researcher Mobility (R1), which is attached to this call;
- a statement of commitment in the case of split mobility programs on the forms provided in the annex to this call, together with the required supporting documents.

Each application must include information related to selection criteria and in particular:

- Description of the duration, modality, and identification of sending and hosting units
- Detailed description of the knowledge sharing and scientific and research networking activities
- Detailed description of teaching and training activities to be carried out during the mobility.
- Applicants shall include the description of how the mobility helps the applicant in her/his career, how to strength the links between the sending and hosting research groups or units and between universities.

Only complete applications shall be considered; incomplete applications will be rejected.

Submission of applications
Applicants are invited to submit applications under this call **from 15 October to 26 November 2026** to across@ung.si

An application is considered timely if it is received at the designated email address by 11:59 p.m. on November 26. Applications received after the deadline for submission will be rejected.

Selection Criteria

All complete applications will be evaluated through a review process according to the evaluation criteria and indicative scoring scales as follows:

a) Quality, feasibility and expected impact of the networking, teaching, training and knowledge-sharing programme (0–10 points), considering:
- Scientific networking and academic quality of the proposed activities (0 - 3 points)
- Potential contribution to long-term collaboration within the Across Alliance (0 -2 points)

- Expected impact on the applicant's academic and professional development (0 - 2 points)
- Added value for participating research groups and institutions (0 - 2 points)
- Interdisciplinary and cross-border cooperation dimension, where relevant (0 - 1 point).

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b) Duration of mobility (0–5 points). Continuous mobilities of one month, either physical or hybrid, shall receive the maximum score of 5 points. Hybrid mobilities must comply with the minimum physical presence requirements established in the programme (2 weeks in total). Shorter or cumulative mobilities shall be evaluated proportionally. Indicative evaluation scale:

- 1-month continuous mobility: 5 points
- 3 weeks continuous mobility: 4 points
- 2 weeks continuous mobility: 3 points

If the number of applications exceeds the available funding, the committee will compile a list of candidates for funding allocation in order of the points they have earned. Among applications with the same score, priority will be given to those beneficiaries who are applying for the first time, then if still necessary to those with a higher score based on criterion "Scientific networking and academic quality of the proposed activities". If it is still not possible to determine which of the evaluated applications is selected, the application with the higher score based on criterion "Potential contribution to long-term collaboration within the Across Alliance" will be selected.

The committee will draw up a reserve list for the purpose of reallocating unused funds or replacing cancelled mobility projects without additional procedures

Communication of results

The selected and non-selected mobility applicants will be communicated by e-mail to the beneficiaries within one month following the closure of the call. Results will be published on the Across website of each partner.

Contact

Additonal information:
UNG Across office
e-mail: across@ung.si

Nova Gorica, 13. 10. 2026

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MOBILITY STIPEND PROGRAMME APPLICATION FOR EARLY-STAGE (R1) RESEARCHER MOBILITY

Planned period of the physical mobility: from *[day/month/year]* to *[day/month/year]*
Duration of physical mobility (days) – excluding travel days: ……
If applicable, planned period of the virtual component: from *[day/month/year]* to *[day/month/year]*
**In case of split mobility plan, describe planned periods (number of physical and online weeks for year 1: number of physical and online weeks for year 2)*

The Participant's data

Last name (s)		First name (s)	
Email		Telephone number	
Address (street, house number, city, postal code, country)			
Level of study	Master student /PhD candidate	Nationality	
Sex [*M/F/Undefined*]		Academic year	20../20..
E-mail			

Brief description of research topic / Master's or PhD's thesis topic

Research field	
Research topic	
Additional information	

The Sending Institution

Organisation name	

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Department / Research Group / Laboratory			
Thesis supervisor / Research group leader first and last name		Thesis supervisor / Research group leader e-mail / phone	

The Receiving Organisation

Organisation name			
Faculty/Department			
Host supervisor / Contact person first and last name		Host supervisor / Contact person e-mail / phone	

I. PROPOSED MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Language of the mobility: ……

Overall objectives of the mobility and networking activities:
Description of planned scientific networking activities:
Description of academic proposed activities (including the obligatory teaching component - minimum 45 minutes- and the virtual component, if applicable):
Expected impact on the applicant's academic and professional development:
Added value of the mobility for participating research groups and institutions:
Potential contribution to long-term collaboration within the Across Alliance:
Interdisciplinary and cross-border cooperation dimension, where relevant:

II. COMMITMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED

By signing this document, the participant, the sending institution and the receiving organisation confirm that they approve the proposed mobility agreement and consider it highly beneficial for the applicant's academic development and for strengthening research networking, knowledge-sharing and collaboration between the participating institutions and research groups within the Across Alliance.

The hosting institution commits to providing the necessary academic environment and institutional support for the implementation of the proposed mobility activities.

The sending institution supports the mobility as an activity aligned with the objectives of the mobility scheme, including networking, teaching, training and exchange of expertise activities relevant to the participant's field of study and/or research.

The participant will share their experience, in particular its impact on their academic development and on the sending institution, as a source of inspiration to others.

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The participant and the beneficiary organisation commit to the requirements set out in the grant agreement signed between them.

The participant and the receiving organisation will communicate to the sending institution any problems or changes regarding the proposed mobility programme or mobility period.

By completing, signing, and submitting the application for the call for proposals, the participant consents to the collection, processing, storage, and transfer of their personal data provided in this application for the purposes of implementing and monitoring Across mobility, for the purposes of state authorities or public bodies and European Community institutions.

The participant

Name:

Signature: Date:

The sending institution

Thesis supervisor / Research group leader

Name:

Signature: Date:

The receiving institution

The Host supervisor

Name:

Signature: Date:

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Annex 1_ Across Mobility Stipend Programme– grant rates overview

Travel financial support

Participants receive travel financial support depending on the distance band and means of travel (Green travel top-up available, eligibility criteria for green travel top-up should be in line with the institutional regular E+ guidelines). Distance between sending and receiving universities will be calculated using an online tool: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/hu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator.

Travel financial support		
Distance	Green Travel	Standard travel
10–99 km	56 EUR per participant	28 EUR per participant
100–499 km	285 EUR per participant	211 EUR per participant
500–1,999 km	417 EUR per participant	309 EUR per participant

In case of accumulative mobilities including two physical components, travel support can be granted only once.

Subsistence financial support

Subsistence financial support		
Duration of physical mobility	Receiving country:	
	Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia, Spain
2 weeks rate	400 €	430 €
3 weeks rate	500 €	535 €
1 month rate	600 €	670 €

Inclusion support

Participants with fewer opportunities (eligibility criteria for inclusion top-up should be in line with the institutional regular E+ guidelines) undertaking physical mobility receive a top-up to the basic individual grant of **€100** for the physical mobility activity lasting up to 2 weeks, and **€150** for the physical mobility activity lasting longer than 2 weeks (up to 1 month).

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Examples:

1) Type of participant: regular
   Sending institution: TUC
   Receiving institution: UNIBL
   Mobility duration: 2 weeks
   Main means of travel: plane

Travel allowance (Chemnitz-Banja Luka distance 745.31 km; standard travel): 309 €
Living allowance (2 weeks, rate for Bosnia and Herzegovina): 400 €
Total grant amount: 709 €

2) Type of participant: fewer opportunities
   Sending institution: UR
   Receiving institution: UdG
   Mobility duration: 1 month
   Main means of travel: bus

Travel allowance (Ruse-Girona distance 1889.17 km; green travel): 417 €
Living allowance (1 month, rate for Spain): 650 €
Fewer opportunities top-up: 150 €
Total grant amount: 1217 €

3) Type of participant: fewer opportunities
   Sending institution: BUT
   Receiving institution: UNIUD
   Mobility duration: 18 days (2 weeks + 4 days)
   Main means of travel: train, bus

Travel allowance (Bialystok-Udine distance 1060.78 km; green travel): 417 €
Living allowance (2 weeks, rate for France + 4 additional days not financed): 430 €
Fewer opportunities top-up: 100 €
Total grant amount: 947 €

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Annex 2_ COMMITMENT DECLARATION Across Mobility Stipend Programme

Date: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Commitment to Complete a Cumulative One-Month Mobility Period

The undersigned:

Applicant:
[Full name of the applicant]
[Sending Institution]

and

Thesis Supervisor / Research Group Leader:
[Full name]
[Position]
[Department / Research Group]
[Sending Institution]

hereby declare and commit that the mobility period proposed under the Across Mobility Stipend Programme, with a duration shorter than one month, forms part of a broader mobility plan intended to reach a cumulative duration of one month in accordance with the programme guidelines.

The applicant and the supervisor confirm that mobility periods shorter than one month may be accumulated only if there is a clear commitment to complete a cumulative mobility duration of one month;

Signatures

Applicant	Thesis Supervisor / Research Group Leader
First and last name:	First and last name:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:

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