

UNITA – CALL FOR ADVANCED TECH TRANSFER GRANTS

Description and regulations

Task 4.1 – Interterritorial Interfaces for Innovation

June 2026

Article 1. Background

The UNITA Universitas Montium Alliance, comprising 12 universities across Europe, promotes collaboration in research, education, and regional development, including support for innovation and research valorization. Within the framework of Task 4.1 – Interterritorial Interfaces for Innovation, the alliance promotes structured support for innovation through Tech Transfer (TT) grants.

This call launches the Advanced Tech Transfer Grants (ATTG) competition – the second instrument in the UNITA TT grants pipeline, designed to consolidate, scale and structure inter-university collaborations that have already demonstrated proof-of-concept potential under the Starting Tech Transfer Grants (STTG) or that build on results obtained under other UNITA-funded initiatives.

Advanced TT Grants are designed to fund the development and demonstration of inter-university innovation initiatives at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4–6. Building on the foundations established by the STTG (TRL 2–3), Advanced TT Grants support teams in moving from validated proof-of-concept to functional prototypes and demonstration in operational environments, with a clear orientation towards open innovation, market validation and partnerships with external stakeholders.

This call directly contributes to the strategic objectives of Task 4.1: harmonizing tech transfer practices across the alliance, accelerating the maturation of joint innovation outputs into marketable innovations, and reinforcing UNITA's positioning as an integrated European innovation ecosystem with strong connections to its regional Smart Specialization Strategies.

Article 2. Goals and Objectives

The objectives of this call are to:

- Support the maturation of inter-university innovation initiatives from proof-of-concept (TRL 2–3) to functional prototypes and demonstration in operational environments (TRL 4–6);
- Strengthen and structure transnational tech transfer collaborations initiated under the STTG, the UNITA Starting Grants on Research, or other UNITA-funded initiatives;
- Stimulate open innovation by anchoring projects in concrete partnerships with external stakeholders (industry, public sector, civil society, incubators, technology transfer offices);
- Encourage the development of credible IP and licensing strategies, supporting the valorization of jointly generated outcomes;
- Foster alignment with regional Smart Specialization Strategies (S3/S4) and the thematic priorities of the UNITA Research & Innovation Hubs;
- Reinforce internationalization and cross-border collaboration across UNITA territories, contributing to the alliance's innovation capacity.

Expected outcomes include functional prototypes or demonstrators, validated value propositions, IP and licensing strategies, business cases and pitch materials, as well as documented engagement with relevant innovation ecosystems at regional and European level.

Article 3. Themes

Proposals must be aligned with regional Smart Specialization Strategies (S3/S4), with preference given to those addressing the thematic areas of the UNITA Research & Innovation Hubs:

- Green energy
- Circular economy and environment
- Cultural heritage
- Digital transitions
- Global health
- Inclusive societies

Projects must additionally demonstrate clear potential for internationalization, sustainable long-term market impact, and a credible pathway from TRL 4 (entry) to TRL 6 (exit) within the implementation window.

Article 4. Glossary

UNITA Full Partner (UFP): Academic institutions from EU countries that serve as either beneficiaries or coordinating institutions in the European project UNITA. The UNITA Full Partners are funded by the European Commission, acting as the Granting Authority (Grant Agreement Project 101124853 — UNITA, Annex 1, Description of Action, Part A, p. 4): UBI, IPG, UPNA, UNIZAR, UPPA, USMB, UNITO, UNIBS, UVT, UTBV.

UNITA Associated Partner (UAP): Academic institutions from non-EU countries that have the role of “associated partner” in the European project UNITA and do not receive funding from the Granting Authority (Consortium Agreement UNITA Universitas Montium – Grant Agreement no. 101124853, 2024, p. 7): HES-SO, CHNU.

UNITA Partners (UP): All institutions that are members of the UNITA Alliance, including UFP and UAP.

Principal Investigator (PI): The coordinator of the project team, who must be a permanent member of the teaching staff or a researcher from one of the UNITA Partners. The PI is responsible for the scientific and operational reporting of the project and serves as the primary point of contact, representing the entire team.

Team Leader (TL): The local coordinator of each UNITA Partner team that composes the project team.

Team Member (TM): A member of the project team other than the Principal Investigator (PI) or Team Leader (TL).

Beneficiaries: Project teams whose proposal has been selected for financing under this call.

Advanced TT Grant: A funding instrument supporting the development and demonstration of inter-university innovation initiatives at TRL 4–6, building on prior research and proof-of-concept results.

Starting TT Grant (STTG): The precursor instrument in the UNITA TT grants pipeline, supporting early-stage proof-of-concept (TRL 2–3) inter-university initiatives, launched in 2025 under Task 4.1.

UNITA Starting Grant on Research (SG): Research-track funding instrument deployed under other UNITA tasks, distinct from the TT grants pipeline.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL): A standardized metric used to assess the maturity level of a technology. For the purposes of this call, TRL 4–6 refers to:

- TRL 4: Technology validated in laboratory environment;
- TRL 5: Technology validated in relevant environment;
- TRL 6: Technology demonstrated in relevant environment.

Article 5. Eligibility

To be considered eligible, a proposal must meet the following criteria:

- Involve participation from at least two distinct UNITA partner universities. UNITA Associated Partners (HES-SO, CHNU) and UNITA Geminae Partners are not eligible to receive project funding under this call; their participation in project teams is possible without funding from the project budget;
- Mandatory cross-border composition: the participating partner universities must be located in at least two different countries. Two partner universities from the same country are not sufficient to meet the eligibility threshold;
- Designate a Principal Investigator (PI) from one partner university and at least one Team Leader (TL) from a partner university located in a different country;
- PI and TLs must be permanent members of the teaching staff or researchers and must maintain their institutional affiliation for the entire duration of the project;
- Each individual is permitted to participate in only one application per call, regardless of the role (PI, TL, or TM);
- The proposal must clearly position itself at TRL 4 at entry and credibly target TRL 6 at exit, with a coherent workplan over the implementation window.

Connection with prior UNITA-funded initiatives is not an eligibility requirement but is rewarded under the evaluation criteria (see Article 9). Specifically:

- Proposals stemming from a successfully implemented Starting TT Grant (STTG) project may receive up to 10 additional points;
- Proposals stemming from a UNITA Starting Grant on Research (SG) project, whether completed or currently under implementation, may receive up to 5 additional points;
- Merged STTG and/or SG teams – i.e. proposals built on the consolidation of two or more previously funded UNITA initiatives – are admissible. They may benefit from the same continuity bonus (only the highest applicable score will be awarded), without an additional cumulative bonus for merging.

Article 6. Funding and Budgeting

- **Total Budget Available:** €86,800
- **Number of Advanced TT Grants:** 6
- **Maximum Funding per Grant:** €14,466.66 (per project, not per partner)
- **Maximum number of ATTG per university as PI:** 2

Eligible Expenses

Grants may cover the following categories of expenses:

- Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs, which may account for up to 60% of the total grant amount;
- Other eligible costs (maximum 40% of the total grant), aligned with the UNITA Call for Advanced Grants on Research, which may include: dissemination of tech-transfer outcomes (public summaries, case studies, sector briefings; Article Processing Charges for academic research articles are not eligible); event costs, logistical costs and costs of organizing meetings (including coffee breaks and working lunches) hosted in the countries of the UNITA Full Partners; innovation & tech-transfer assistance and student support (costs relating to the hiring of students and/or technical/innovation assistants for the implementation of the project); consumables, excluding all laboratory materials (expenses for reagents, chemicals, lab equipment, etc. are not eligible).

Indicative reference rates (Annex 4) are provided to harmonize budget-building across UNITA TT grant calls. They are aligned with the UNITA Call for Advanced Grants on Research.

Notes

1. The use of existing infrastructure is not an eligible expense, as it is already covered by institutional budgets. Doctoral students are strongly encouraged to apply for Erasmus+ mobility funding through their home institutions to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.
2. Grant-related expenses are not permitted in Switzerland. HES-SO operates under a parallel Swiss funding mechanism in line with national rules; for any clarification, applicants are invited to contact the UNITA Office at HES-SO.
3. For selected projects, the Principal Investigator and Team Leaders from each partner university will contact the UNITA Office of their institution to use the budget in accordance with each university's internal regulations.
4. €14,466.66 is the maximum per project, not per partner. Distribution among partners may vary depending on the project structure and need not be evenly distributed, but must be fully justified in the budget allocation file (mandatory annex – see Article 7).
5. Equipment purchases and laboratory consumables (reagents, chemicals, lab equipment, etc.) are not eligible under this call, in line with the eligibility rules of UNITA under the EUI framework. Where such items are needed for the implementation of the project, they may be complemented from the partner universities' own institutional funds, not from the ATTG budget and not from any other UNITA / European Universities Initiative (EUI) funding line.
6. Innovation & tech-transfer assistance and student support covers costs relating to the hiring of students and/or technical/innovation assistants for the implementation of the project. Permanent staff salaries are not eligible unless permitted under national regulations and/or each university's internal rules for task-specific contracts.
7. New researchers may be added post-award provided this does not alter the project's original selection criteria or budget split. A signed request from the PI, TLs and the new member must be submitted to the coordination team for documentation prior to engagement.
8. Budget Distribution and Institutional Coordination: applicants must provide a detailed budget split between partner universities (mandatory budget allocation file, see Article 7). The coordination team will verify that the financial allocation respects (i) the maximum amount per project, (ii) the indicative ceiling per university, and (iii) the maximum of 2 ATTG per university as PI in this call.

Article 7. Application

Applications open on 15 June 2026 and close at 23:59 (CET) on 12 July 2026. Applications shall be submitted via the dedicated online portal: <https://surveysbg.univ-unita.eu/index.php/988387?lang=en>.

Each application must include the following components:

1. Application form (Annex 1)

Including: project title and acronym; PI and TL contact details; full team composition (PI, TLs, TMs) with role, institution, status (researcher/PhD/student/staff); project description (max. 5 pages) covering:

- Objectives and expected outcomes;
- Background, including continuity narrative if the proposal stems from a previous STTG, SG or merged teams;
- Methodology and workplan;
- Innovation potential and open innovation strategy (inbound and outbound mechanisms);

- Market potential and stakeholder engagement;
- Positioning vs. state of the art;
- TRL trajectory (entry TRL 4 → exit TRL 6) and feasibility;
- Alignment with S3/S4 strategies and UNITA Hub themes;
- Sustainability and leverage effect (next steps, including potential application to competitive international calls);
- Expected deliverables (functional prototype/demonstrator, IP and licensing strategy, pitch/business case).

2. Budget allocation file (mandatory)

Detailed budget split between partner universities, structured by expense category, with a clear justification of each line in relation to project goals.

3. Gantt chart (mandatory)

9-month implementation calendar with project objectives, work packages, milestones and deliverables clearly identified.

4. Letters of commitment from external stakeholders (mandatory – minimum one)

Letters from at least one external stakeholder (industry partner, public-sector entity, NGO, incubator, TTO, technology cluster, etc.) confirming their interest in the project and their commitment to engage during implementation. The maturity and depth of stakeholder engagement is one of the tie-breaking criteria (see Article 9).

5. Curriculum Vitae

CVs of the Principal Investigator (PI) and each Team Leader (TL) – maximum 3 pages each, including relevant academic and innovation experience, major projects, and a list of up to 10 key publications and/or innovation outcomes (patents, spin-offs, licensing, prototypes, etc.).

6. Signed Participation Declaration

A joint statement signed by the PI and all TLs confirming:

- Participation in only one project proposal under this call;
- Compliance with the eligibility conditions;
- Commitment to remain affiliated with their institutions for the full duration of the project;
- Acknowledgment of all rules of this call.

7. Proof of Affiliation to a UNITA Institution

Official document confirming the employment status of the PI and TLs at one of the UNITA partner universities.

8. Continuity documents (only if claiming bonus points under Article 9)

- If the proposal stems from a previous STTG project: copy of the STTG funding decision communication, the STTG final report and a 1-page continuity narrative explaining how the ATTG builds on the STTG outcomes;
- If the proposal stems from a UNITA Starting Grant on Research: copy of the SG funding decision, the SG final report and a 1-page continuity narrative. For SG projects still under implementation at the application deadline, the requirement may be met by the most recent SG progress report and a 1-page status update; applicants with an ongoing SG must demonstrate, in the continuity narrative and

in the ATTG budget, the absence of any double funding between the ongoing SG and the proposed ATTG;

- If the proposal merges two or more previous STTG/SG teams: continuity narrative covering each merged project (additional to the final reports of the respective STTG/SG).

9. Proof of IP authorship or Knowledge Transfer experience (only if claiming bonus points under Article 9)

- For IP authorship: proof of authorship of a relevant registered or pending intellectual property right (e.g. granted or filed patent, utility model, trademark, registered or pending design). For pending rights, proof must include the official application/filing number and a copy of the filing receipt or most recent communication from the issuing office. The submission must be accompanied by a signed declaration of intent to license it freely to all team members and their institutions as background IP for the project;
- For KT experience: documentation of substantive knowledge transfer activities (incubation/acceleration programs, consultancy contracts, tech transfer cases, spin-off involvement, innovation brokerage).

10. Full list of project team members

Complete list of all members of the project team, with role, institution and contact details.

Article 8. Administrative Review of Applications

Following submission, the Task 4.1 ATTG coordination team, supported by UNITA Office representatives from each participating institution, will review applications for:

- Team eligibility (UNITA partner affiliation, cross-border composition, PI and TL roles);
- Institutional affiliation and employment status;
- Completeness of mandatory documents;
- Budget compliance with the rules in Article 6;
- Participation limits (one application per individual; maximum 2 ATTG per university as PI);
- Connection with previous STTG/SG projects, where claimed for bonus points.

A 5-working-day window will be offered to correct minor administrative errors, in accordance with the timeline in Article 13. Non-compliant applications that cannot be rectified within this window will not be evaluated.

Article 9. Evaluation and Selection

The evaluation process is conducted in two distinct phases:

Phase 1 – Administrative Eligibility Check

Conducted by the Task 4.1 ATTG coordination team in collaboration with UNITA Office representatives, in accordance with Article 8.

Phase 2 – Qualitative Assessment

Eligible applications undergo an independent qualitative evaluation conducted by a jury of three evaluators per proposal, drawn from a pool nominated by the Vice-Rectors for Research & Innovation of UNITA partner universities (one nomination per university). Nominees may be the Vice-Rectors themselves, T4.1 staff members, or external experts drawn from UNITA's ecosystem (Associated Partners, stakeholders mapped in

T4.1 cartography, S3/S4 officials, EIC/EIT-KIC experts, EEN representatives, ENoLL members, and similar innovation networks). Evaluators cannot assess proposals in which their home (or nominating) institution is part of the project team.

A consensus discussion will be convened to ensure score alignment and consistency across evaluations. Where deemed necessary, short interviews (online, max. 30 minutes) may be organized with shortlisted teams to clarify aspects of the proposal.

The qualitative assessment is based on the following weighted criteria, building on the architecture for TT grants agreed in T4.1.

Scoring guidance. All criteria are scored using a common 5-band scale, applied proportionally to the maximum points available for each sub-criterion:

Band	Score (as % of max.)	Meaning
Not addressed	0%	The proposal does not address the criterion, or the content provided is irrelevant.
Poor	25%	The criterion is addressed superficially, with significant gaps, weak evidence or unclear positioning.
Fair	50%	The criterion is partially addressed, with some elements convincing and others incomplete or insufficiently substantiated.
Good	75%	The criterion is well addressed, with credible evidence and a coherent narrative; minor gaps or weaknesses remain.
Excellent	100%	The criterion is fully and convincingly addressed, with strong evidence, clear logic and concrete elements demonstrating ambition and feasibility.

Intermediate scores (e.g. 60%, 80%) are admitted to reflect nuanced judgment between bands. Sub-criteria with a maximum of 5 or 2.5 points use the same percentage bands applied to the corresponding maximum (e.g. for a 5-pt sub-criterion: Poor = 1.25, Fair = 2.5, Good = 3.75, Excellent = 5).

For each sub-criterion, the following descriptors clarify what is being assessed and what an excellent submission looks like. Applicants are expected to use these descriptors when completing the self-assessment (Annex 2); evaluators use them as anchors when scoring (Annex 3).

Criterion	Sub-criterion/ Descriptor	Max. points
1. Innovation and Open Innovation – 40 pts	1.1 Innovativeness: novelty vs. existing market and existing research - The novelty of the proposed solution relative to existing market offerings and to the state of the art in research. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> a clearly differentiated value proposition, substantiated by comparison with existing patents, products or research outputs; the gap addressed is concrete and defensible.	10
	1.2 Open Innovation Strategy: protocols, projects and activities with external stakeholders; human resources dedicated to external collaborations - The maturity of the team's approach to open innovation: documented protocols, projects and activities with external stakeholders, and dedicated human resources for managing external collaborations. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> specific open innovation mechanisms (joint development agreements, co-creation workshops, hackathons, living labs, etc.) are described; dedicated team members or roles are named; prior experience or running initiatives are referenced.	10
	1.3 Inbound Open Innovation: IPR purchasing, partnerships with clients or outside partners, crowdsourcing from customers or suppliers - The team's strategy for	10

	absorbing external knowledge and resources: IPR acquisition or licensing-in, partnerships with clients, suppliers or research organisations, crowdsourcing. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> concrete external sources of IP, knowledge or feedback to be integrated during the project are identified, with named partners or channels and a credible activation plan.	
	1.4 Outbound Open Innovation: IPR selling and licensing to external firms, spin-off creation, joint partnerships to co-create new products/services - The team's strategy for transferring project results to external actors: IPR licensing-out, spin-off creation, joint ventures, partnerships to co-create new products/services. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> concrete exploitation pathways post-project are set out; prospective licensees or partners are identified; awareness of the institutional support available (partner TTOs, incubators, accelerators) is demonstrated.	10
2. Market Potential – 20 pts	2.1 Problem dimension and quantification - The magnitude and significance of the problem addressed by the project, supported by quantitative evidence. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the problem is quantified (market size, affected population, environmental impact, cost burden) using cited sources; the geographic and sectoral scope is clearly delimited.	10
	2.2 Unmet need / market pain - The depth of the unmet need and the intensity of the pain experienced by end-users or beneficiaries today. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the current state of solutions is described; specific gaps experienced by users are identified; evidence of the pain is provided (interviews, surveys, market studies, sector reports, stakeholder testimony).	10
3. Positioning – 10 pts	3.1 Place of the project in its context, state of the art - The positioning of the project in its scientific, technological and market context. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> a clear and concise overview of the state of the art and competitive landscape, with relevant references; the project's advance or differentiation is explained.	5
	3.2 Proposed solution - The clarity and credibility of the proposed solution. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the solution is described concretely (technology, product, service, process), with its key features and the mechanism by which it addresses the problem; technical concepts are accessible without sacrificing precision.	5
4. Project – 25 pts	4.1 Feasibility - The realism of the workplan over the 9-month implementation window. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the Gantt chart shows a coherent sequence of work packages with realistic durations; resources (human, financial, infrastructural) are matched to the workload; risks are identified with mitigation actions.	5
	4.2 Impact and scalability - The potential of the project to generate impact beyond its immediate scope and to scale beyond the funded perimeter. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> expected economic, social, environmental and/or scientific impacts are articulated; pathways for scaling (geographic, sectoral, market segment) are identified; the leverage effect on follow-up funding is plausible.	5
	4.3 Maturity (TRL 4 entry / credibility of TRL 6 exit) - The credibility of the TRL trajectory across the implementation window. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the entry TRL is substantiated with evidence from prior work (e.g. STTG outcomes, prototype validation in lab); the exit TRL is supported by a credible validation environment (operational or near-operational); intermediate milestones are clearly identified.	5
	4.4 Alignment with applicable S3/S4 and societal challenges - The degree to which the project aligns with the Smart Specialization Strategies of the partner universities' regions. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the specific S3/S4 priorities of each partner region addressed by the project are identified, with explicit references to regional documentation.	5

	4.5 Alignment with UNITA Hub themes - The fit with the thematic priorities of UNITA Research & Innovation Hubs. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the relevant UNITA Hub(s) are explicitly identified; the contribution of the project to the Hub agenda is described.	2.5
	4.6 Stakeholder and ecosystem engagement (depth and maturity of partnerships with external actors) - The depth and maturity of partnerships with external actors beyond the academic partners. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> active and concrete engagement with external stakeholders is evidenced (letters of commitment, planned joint activities, named contact points); engagement is integrated into the workplan, not appended to it; the maturity of relationships (new vs. established) is transparent.	2.5
5. Team – 5 pts	5.1 Credibility, competences, references - The capacity of the team to deliver. <i>What an excellent submission looks like:</i> the CVs show complementary expertise covering research, technical and tech-transfer competences; the team has a credible track record (relevant publications, projects, IP, spin-offs, KT activities); the distribution of roles is coherent and balanced across partner universities.	5
TOTAL (base score)		100

Bonus criteria (additional points on top of the 100-point base score)

Two independent bonus criteria apply. Within each criterion, only the highest applicable score is awarded; the two bonuses are cumulative across criteria.

Bonus A – Continuity with prior UNITA-funded initiatives (up to 10 pts):

- 10 pts – the proposal stems from a successfully implemented STTG project (evidenced by the STTG funding decision and the STTG final report);
- 5 pts – the proposal stems from a UNITA Starting Grant on Research project, whether completed or currently under implementation (evidenced by the SG funding decision and, respectively, the SG final report or the most recent SG progress report; in the case of an ongoing SG, absence of double funding must be demonstrated);
- Merged STTG/SG teams: only the highest applicable score is awarded; no additional cumulative bonus for merging.

Bonus B – IP authorship or Knowledge Transfer experience (up to 10 pts):

- 10 pts – at least one team member is the author of a relevant registered or pending intellectual property right (e.g. granted or filed patent, utility model, trademark, registered or pending design) and commits to license it freely to the team and their institutions as background IP for the project;
- 7 pts – at least one team member can demonstrate substantive experience in knowledge transfer (documented participation in tech transfer activities, incubation/acceleration programs, spin-off creation, consultancy for innovation, etc.).

Maximum total score achievable: 120 points (100 base + 10 Bonus A + 10 Bonus B).

Selection and tie-breaking

The jury, in coordination with the Task 4.1 ATTG team, will rank proposals by total score and select the highest-scoring proposals up to the available budget. In the event of equal scores, the following tie-breaking criteria will apply, in order:

1. Strength of the open innovation dimension (Criterion 1 sub-scores);
2. Maturity and depth of stakeholder engagement (Criterion 4.6 + supporting letters of commitment);

3. Cross-border diversity (number of partner countries represented);
4. Balanced representation across UNITA Hub themes.

Reserve list

The jury will establish a ranked reserve list of eligible proposals not selected within the budget envelope. In the event of withdrawal of one or more selected teams, projects from the reserve list will be invited to take up the vacated funding, in ranking order, provided this can be accommodated within the implementation timeline.

Conflict of interest and confidentiality

To safeguard the impartiality of the evaluation, all jury members must sign a Conflict of Interest (CoI) and Confidentiality Declaration (Annex 5) before being granted access to any proposal. The declaration covers the following categories of CoI:

1. Institutional affiliation — current employment at a university participating in the proposal, or employment at such a university during the past 3 years;
2. Personal relationships — family ties, civil partnership, marriage, or close personal relationship with the Principal Investigator, any Team Leader or any Team Member;
3. Professional relationships — current or former PhD supervisor/supervisee relationship (no time limit); co-authorship of publications in the past 3 years; joint participation in a research or innovation project (e.g. STTG, SG, Horizon Europe, national grant) in the past 3 years;
4. Financial or commercial interest — board membership, consulting agreement, equity participation, licensing relationship, or any other financial interest in the applicant team or in an external stakeholder named in the proposal;
5. IP-specific overlap — the evaluator is the author of, or holds rights over, an IP asset that the team intends to license, acquire or rely upon as background IP for the proposed project, or is involved in a competing IP claim;
6. Any other circumstance that could reasonably be perceived as compromising the evaluator's impartiality.

By signing the declaration, evaluators also commit to strict confidentiality. The content of all proposals, the identity of applicants, and the discussions of the jury must not be disclosed, reproduced or used for any purpose other than the evaluation, including after the evaluation is closed.

Should a conflict of interest emerge during the evaluation (e.g. upon receiving the list of applicants or upon reading the team composition of a proposal), the evaluator must immediately notify the Task 4.1 ATTG coordination team and abstain from the corresponding evaluation. The relevant Vice-Rector(s) for Research & Innovation will be requested to nominate one or more additional evaluators, from the existing jury pool or as new nominees, to replace the conflicted evaluator for the affected proposal.

Signed CoI and Confidentiality Declarations are collected by the Task 4.1 co-leads (UBI and UPNA) and stored on the UNITA Datacloud, with copies shared with UVT (ATTG Call Coordinator) and HES-SO (ATTG Co-Coordinator). Records are kept in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) for the duration of the call cycle, the implementation of selected projects, and any subsequent audit period required by Task 4.1 reporting obligations.

Article 10. Obligations of the Beneficiaries

Implementation Timeline: Projects must be implemented between 1 September 2026 and 31 May 2027, with a maximum duration of 9 months. The end of eligibility for project expenses is set for 31 May 2027. Extensions are not foreseen, in order to maintain consistency across the alliance and the reporting timeline of Task 4.1.

Reporting: A final report, using the official template provided by the coordination team, must be submitted by 31 August 2027. The reporting period (June–August 2027) is dedicated to consolidating outcomes, finalizing deliverables, and feeding into the Task 4.1 sub-task reporting cycle.

Mandatory deliverables: Selected teams are expected to produce, by the end of the project:

- A functional prototype or demonstrator at TRL 6 (or with a documented credible pathway to TRL 6, with justification);
- An IP and licensing strategy document covering ownership, licensing options, and exploitation pathways for the project outputs;
- A pitch / business case suitable for presentation to potential investors, public funding bodies, or industrial partners (max. 10 slides + 1-page executive summary);
- A short public summary for publication on the UNITA RDI website.

Visibility: All dissemination and communication materials must explicitly acknowledge the support of UNITA and the Erasmus+ programme, and use the corresponding logos.

Public output: A project summary will be published on the UNITA Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) website. Beneficiaries also agree to present their work in the event a UNITA results showcase event is organized.

Eligibility of expenses: Beneficiaries are required to confirm, in their final report and supporting financial documentation, that (i) all costs charged to the ATTG correspond to tech-transfer activities (TRL 4–6 prototyping, validation and demonstration) and not to research activities per se; (ii) no cost is double-funded by another source; (iii) ATTG funds are not used to cover the preparation of future grant applications. This is consistent with the eligibility rules of the UNITA Erasmus+ European Universities Initiative grant under which this call is financed.

Please note:

5. Task 4.1 and/or UNITA Offices may request interim updates throughout the implementation period.
6. No direct contract is signed with UNITA as a condition for awarding the grant. The positive outcome of the evaluation and the formal communication allowing the launch of project activities are sufficient to initiate implementation. Where intellectual property is jointly generated during the project, partners are expected to follow the recommendations outlined in Article 11 regarding IP arrangements.
7. There are no strict formal procedures for interim reporting deliverables. Teams are encouraged to keep their UNITA Offices and the T4.1 ATTG coordination team informed of progress throughout the project.

Article 11. Intellectual and Industrial Property

By submitting a proposal, applicants certify the originality of their proposed work and confirm that the project does not infringe third-party intellectual property rights. Where applicable, applicants remain responsible for any third-party claims related to industrial property rights and copyrights, in accordance with the law applicable in their respective country.

If new intellectual property (foreground IP) is generated during the project, an appropriate inter-institutional agreement must be established between the partner universities to govern its ownership, use, and exploitation. The IP and Licensing Strategy required as a project deliverable (Article 10) must reflect this agreement and serve as its operational summary for the purposes of project reporting.

The adoption of Creative Commons licenses for disseminating non-protected project outputs is strongly encouraged where applicable.

Minimum content of the IP and Licensing Strategy: The IP and Licensing Strategy submitted as a project deliverable, and the underlying inter-institutional agreement to which it refers, must address as a minimum the following clauses. Teams remain free to adapt the form and depth of each clause to the specific

configuration of their project and to the internal regulations of each partner university's Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent), provided that all items below are explicitly covered:

1. **Background IP and ownership at entry:** identification of pre-existing IP (patents, software, data, know-how, registered designs, copyrights) brought into the project by each partner, with confirmation of ownership and of the conditions under which it is made available to the project;
2. **Foreground IP allocation rules:** principles governing the ownership of IP generated during the project, such as joint ownership, sole ownership, attribution criteria (inventive contribution, financial contribution, infrastructure provided), and the procedure to register joint IP;
3. **Access rights during the project:** terms under which each partner can use background and foreground IP for the purposes of carrying out the project's innovation and tech-transfer activities;
4. **Exploitation rights after the project:** terms governing post-project use of foreground IP, including licensing (exclusive, non-exclusive, sub-licensing), assignment to third parties, and conditions for spin-off creation;
5. **Commercialisation and revenue-sharing principles:** high-level rules for the distribution of revenues generated from exploitation of foreground IP between partner universities, including treatment of inventors' shares according to each institution's internal rules;
6. **Publication and dissemination clearance:** procedure for review and clearance of publications, theses, conference presentations and other dissemination activities that may disclose foreground IP, with a defined notification period prior to disclosure;
7. **Dispute resolution mechanism and applicable law:** agreed mechanism for resolving disputes between partner universities (e.g. escalation to PI and TLs, mediation by UNITA Offices, arbitration), and the law applicable to the agreement;
8. **Termination and survival clauses:** conditions under which the inter-institutional agreement can be terminated, and identification of clauses that survive termination (notably ownership, confidentiality and revenue-sharing obligations).

UNITA Offices, Task 4.1 co-chairs and the ATTG coordination team are available to provide guidance on the elaboration of these clauses. Teams are strongly encouraged to engage their respective Technology Transfer Offices early in the project to ensure consistency with each institution's standard practice. Where partners have an existing inter-institutional framework agreement (e.g. from a previous STTG or other UNITA-funded initiative), the IP and Licensing Strategy may build upon it and reference it explicitly, in which case the clauses above should be revisited and updated as needed for the ATTG project.

Article 12. Omissions and Additional Information

Any situations not explicitly addressed by this call will be reviewed and resolved by the Task 4.1 ATTG coordination team in collaboration with the relevant UNITA Offices.

For further information or clarifications, applicants are encouraged to contact their local UNITA contact points or reach out to the coordination team:

- **UVT (Call Coordinator):** unita@e-uvt.ro / inovare@e-uvt.ro
- **HES-SO (Co-Coordinator):** unita@hes-so.ch
- **UPNA and UBI (T4.1 Co-Leads):** through their respective local UNITA Offices

Frequently asked questions received during the application window via unita@e-uvt.ro / inovare@e-uvt.ro will be consolidated and published as a living FAQ document on the call page.

Webinar

One public webinar will be organized on 22 June 2026, 13:00–14:30 CET, during the application window to present the call, the evaluation criteria, and the application process, and to answer questions from prospective applicants. The webinar recording will be made available on the UNITA website. Link to webinar: <https://datacloud.univ-unita.eu/index.php/apps/bbb/b/4XS6PsLYxZxg4tXF>

Article 13. Timeline

Activity	Deadline
Launch of the call	15 June 2026
Application period	15 June 2026 – 12 July 2026 (23:59 CET)
Webinar (mid-window): https://datacloud.univ-unita.eu/index.php/apps/bbb/b/4XS6PsLYxZxg4tXF	22 June 2026, 13:00–14:30 CET
Administrative eligibility check	13 July 2026 – 20 July 2026
Window for correction of minor administrative errors	3 days within the administrative eligibility check window
Qualitative assessment (technical evaluation)	20 July 2026 – 27 July 2026
Optional interviews with shortlisted applicants	27 July 2026 – 30 July 2026
Consensus meeting	30 July 2026
Notification of results	by 31 July 2026
Project start (start date for eligibility of expenses)	1 September 2026
Project implementation period (max. 9 months)	1 September 2026 – 31 May 2027
End of eligibility of expenses	31 May 2027
Reporting period (final report submission)	1 June 2027 – 31 August 2027

Annexes

- Annex 1 – Application form
- Annex 2 – Self-evaluation form
- Annex 3 – Evaluation form
- Annex 4 – Budget setup indicative reference rates
- Annex 5 – Evaluator Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Declaration

Annex 1 – Application Form:

UNITA – Starting Tech Transfer Grants (Task 4.1 – Interterritorial Interfaces for Innovation)

Submission Deadline: July 12th, 2026 (midnight CET)

Submission Platform: <https://surveysbg.univ-unita.eu/index.php/988387?lang=en>

Section 1 – Project Identification

- Project Title:
- Project Acronym:
- UNITA Hub theme(s) addressed:
- S3/S4 priorities addressed (one per partner region):
- Total budget requested (€) – max. €14,466.66:
- Total project duration (max. 9 months):

Section 2 – Team Composition

Principal Investigator (PI):

- Full name:
- Institution and country:
- Role and academic position:
- Email and phone:

Team Leaders (one per participating partner university):

- For each TL: full name, institution, country, role, contact details.

Team Members:

- Full list with name, institution, role (researcher/PhD/student/innovation staff), and confirmation of consent to participate.

Section 3 – Project Description (max. 5 pages)

- Background and continuity narrative (link with prior STTG/SG, if applicable);
- Objectives and expected outcomes;
- Methodology and workplan (with work packages, milestones, deliverables);
- Innovation potential and open innovation strategy (inbound and outbound mechanisms);
- Market potential, problem dimension and unmet need;
- Positioning vs. state of the art and proposed solution;
- TRL trajectory: TRL 4 entry → TRL 6 exit, with justification;
- Alignment with S3/S4 strategies and UNITA Hub themes;
- Stakeholder engagement and partnerships beyond academia;
- Sustainability and leverage effect (next steps; potential application to competitive international calls);
- Expected deliverables: functional prototype/demonstrator, IP and licensing strategy, pitch/business case.

Section 4 – Budget and Justification

Total requested amount (€) – max. €14,466.66 per project.

To be presented in the table below, supplemented by a detailed budget allocation file (mandatory) showing the per-partner split:

Expense category	Estimated cost (€)	Justification
Travel, accommodation, subsistence (max. 60% of total)		
Dissemination & communication (within max. 40% other costs)		
Event logistics (within max. 40% other costs)		
Innovation & tech-transfer assistance and student support (within max. 40% other costs)		
Consumables – excluding laboratory materials (within max. 40% other costs)		
Other goods/services (within max. 40% other costs)		
TOTAL		

Reminder: the per-partner budget split must respect (i) the project ceiling of €14,466.66, (ii) the indicative ceiling per university derived from the available ATTG budget envelope, and (iii) the maximum of 2 ATTG per university as PI in this call. HES-SO partners follow the parallel Swiss funding mechanism and cannot incur expenses in Switzerland from the project budget.

Eligibility confirmation: By submitting this budget, the applicants confirm that all costs charged to the ATTG correspond to tech-transfer activities (TRL 4–6 prototyping, validation and demonstration) and not to research activities per se; that no cost is double-funded by another source (Erasmus+ or other UNITA / European Universities Initiative funding line); and that ATTG funds are not used to cover the preparation of future grant applications.

Section 5 – Supporting Documents

To be uploaded together with the application form:

- Detailed budget allocation file (mandatory);
- Gantt chart (mandatory);
- Letters of commitment from external stakeholders (mandatory – minimum one);
- CVs of PI and each TL (max. 3 pages each);
- Signed Participation Declaration;
- Proof of Affiliation to a UNITA Institution;
- Continuity documents (only if claiming Bonus A under Article 9): STTG/SG funding decision + final report(s) — or, for SG projects still under implementation, the most recent progress report and a 1-page status update demonstrating the absence of any double funding — + 1-page continuity narrative;
- IP authorship documentation or KT experience evidence (only if claiming Bonus B under Article 9);
- Full list of project team members.

Consent to Data Processing (GDPR)

By submitting this form, I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice below:

“Your personal data (e.g., name, institutional affiliation, contact details, and uploaded documents) will be collected and processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your application for the UNITA Advanced Tech Transfer Grants (Task 4.1). Data will be processed by authorized personnel within the UNITA alliance and stored

securely, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). You may request access, correction, or deletion of your data at any time by contacting unita@unavarra.es".

Do you consent to the processing of your personal data as described?

- Yes
- No

Annex 2 – Self-evaluation Form

Section A – Eligibility self-check

To be completed by the applying team before submission.

Criterion	Yes / No	Comments / Justification
At least two different UNITA partner universities involved		
Mandatory cross-border composition (partners from ≥ 2 countries)		
PI and at least one TL clearly designated, from partner universities in different countries		
PI and TLs are permanent staff/researchers, with affiliation maintained throughout the project		
Project addresses one or more UNITA Hub themes		
Aligned with applicable S3/S4 strategies		
Project positioned at TRL 4 entry, with credible TRL 6 exit		
Feasible 9-month implementation plan		
Budget complies with funding limits (€14,466.66 max per project) and 60%/40% ratio		
Budget allocation file, Gantt chart and letters of commitment attached		
All required supporting documents attached		
All participants involved in only one proposal in this call		
No more than 2 ATTG submitted with the same university as PI		
Continuity documents attached, if claiming Bonus A		
IP / KT documentation attached, if claiming Bonus B		

Section B – Self-scoring against the evaluation rubric

Applicants are invited to self-score their proposal against the evaluation criteria of Article 9, using the scoring guidance and descriptors set out in that article. The self-scoring is part of the submission package; it supports the team's reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal before submission and helps the team identify where additional justification or evidence may be needed.

The self-score is **not binding on the jury**. Evaluators conduct an independent assessment based on the same rubric. Significant divergence between the self-score and the jury's evaluation is not penalised, but excessive over-scoring without supporting evidence may be noted during qualitative assessment.

Instructions

1. For each sub-criterion, refer to the descriptor in Article 9;
2. Identify the band that best reflects the content of your proposal: Not addressed (0%), Poor (25%), Fair (50%), Good (75%), Excellent (100%). Intermediate values are admitted;
3. Apply the band to the maximum points of the sub-criterion to obtain your self-score (e.g. 75% on a 10-pt sub-criterion = 7.5 pts; 75% on a 2.5-pt sub-criterion = 1.875 pts).

4. Provide a brief justification pointing to the section of the application form where the criterion is addressed.

Base score self-assessment (max. 100 points)

Criterion / sub-criterion	Max pts.	Self-score	Justification (with reference to the application form section)
1.1. Innovativeness	10		
1.2. Open Innovation Strategy	10		
1.3. Inbound Open Innovation	10		
1.4. Outbound Open Innovation	10		
2.1 Problem dimension and quantification	10		
2.2. Unmet need/ market pain	10		
3.1. Place vs. state of the art	5		
3.2. Proposed solution	5		
4.1. Feasibility	5		
4.2. Impact and scalability	5		
4.3. Maturity (TRL 4 entry, TRL 6 exit)	5		
4.4. S3/S4 alignment	5		
4.5. UNITA Hub alignment	2.5		
4.6. Stakeholder and ecosystem engagement	2.5		
5.1. Team credibility	5		
BASE SCORE TOTAL	100		

Bonus self-assessment (max. 20 points) - Within each bonus criterion, only the highest applicable score is awarded; the two bonuses are cumulative across criteria.

Bonus criterion	Max. pts	Self-score	Justification & supporting document(s) attached
Bonus A – Continuity with prior UNITA-funded initiatives	Up to 10		
proposal stems from a successfully implemented STTG project (STTG funding decision + STTG final report attached)	10		
proposal stems from a UNITA Starting Grant on Research project (SG funding decision + SG final report — or, for an ongoing SG, the most recent progress report and a 1-page status update demonstrating absence of double funding — attached)	5		
Bonus B – IP authorship or Knowledge Transfer experience	Up to 10		
at least one team member is the author of a registered or pending IP right relevant to the project, with signed commitment to license it freely to the team and their institutions as background IP	10		
at least one team member has documented substantive experience in knowledge transfer activities	7		
BONUS TOTAL	20		
GRAND TOTAL (=BASE SCORE + BONUS SCORE)	120		

Annex 3 – Evaluation Form

To be completed by the Evaluation Jury.

- Project Title:
- Project Acronym:
- Evaluator Name:
- Institution / Role:
- Date of evaluation:

Section A – Administrative Eligibility (verified by Task 4.1 ATTG team + UNITA Offices)

Requirement	Compliance (Yes/No)	Comments
Involvement of ≥ 2 UNITA partner universities		
Cross-border composition (≥ 2 countries)		
PI and TL designation valid (permanent staff/researcher; affiliation duration covered)		
All mandatory documentation complete		
Budget limits respected (€14,466.66 max; 60%/40%)		
Single-project participation per individual		
Maximum 2 ATTG per university as PI respected		
Continuity documents valid (only if claiming Bonus A)		
IP / KT documentation valid (only if claiming Bonus B)		

Section B – Qualitative Assessment (weighted scoring)

Evaluators use the scoring guidance and descriptors set out in Article 9.

Criterion	Max. points	Score	Comments
1.1 Innovativeness	10		
1.2 Open Innovation Strategy	10		
1.3 Inbound Open Innovation	10		
1.4 Outbound Open Innovation	10		
2.1 Problem dimension and quantification	10		
2.2 Unmet need / market pain	10		
3.1 Place vs. state of the art	5		
3.2 Proposed solution	5		
4.1 Feasibility	5		

4.2 Impact and scalability	5		
4.3 Maturity (TRL 4 → 6)	5		
4.4 S3/S4 alignment	5		
4.5 UNITA Hub alignment	2.5		
4.6 Stakeholder/ecosystem engagement	2.5		
5.1 Team credibility/competences/references	5		
BASE SCORE TOTAL	100		
Bonus A – STTG continuity (10) / SG continuity (5)	10		
Bonus B – IP authorship (10) / KT experience (7)	10		
GRAND TOTAL (max. 120)	120		

Section C – Overall Recommendation

- Recommend for funding
- Recommend for reserve list
- Do not recommend

Justification (brief narrative – max. 10 lines):

Suggested interview (Yes / No) and key questions to address:

Annex 4 – Budget Setup Indicative Reference Rates

The following indicative rates are provided to harmonize budget-building across UNITA TT grant calls and are aligned with the UNITA Call for Advanced Grants on Research. They are reference rates; institutional financial regulations of each UNITA partner remain authoritative.

Logistical costs / meetings / events

- €50 / participant / day (organization, local travel within event city, meals, working materials, etc.)

Travel – international travel reference rates (per traveller, per round trip)

Distance band (one-way)	Indicative rate (round trip)
Less than 500 km	€500
500 – 1,999 km	€700
2,000 – 2,999 km	€1,000
3,000 – 3,999 km	€1,200

Per diem (accommodation + meals)

- €150 / day

Reminders

- Travel + accommodation + subsistence: max. 60% of the total grant amount.
- Other eligible costs (innovation & tech-transfer assistance and student support, dissemination, logistics, consumables, other goods/services): max. 40% of the total grant amount.
- No expenses can be incurred in Switzerland from the project budget. HES-SO operates under a parallel Swiss funding mechanism.
- No salaries for permanent staff already employed by a UNITA partner university, unless permitted under national regulations and/or institutional rules for task-specific contracts.
- Equipment purchases and laboratory consumables (reagents, chemicals, lab equipment, etc.) are not eligible from the ATTG budget. Where such items are needed for the project, they may be complemented from the partner universities' own institutional funds, not from any UNITA / European Universities Initiative (EUI) funding line. Article Processing Charges for academic research articles are not eligible. ATTG funds do not cover the preparation of future grant applications.

Annex 5 – Evaluator Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Declaration

I, the undersigned, **[Full name]**, affiliated with **[Institution / role]**, nominated by **[Vice-Rector / institution]** to act as evaluator under the UNITA Advanced Tech Transfer Grants call (June 2026), hereby declare the following:

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Upon receipt of the list of applicants and proposals to be evaluated, I shall examine each proposal against the categories below and declare any conflict of interest in writing to the Task 4.1 ATTG coordination team. Where a conflict applies, I will not participate in the evaluation of the affected proposal.

Category	Applies (Yes/No)	If yes, specify (proposal title / applicant / nature of relationship)
(i) Institutional affiliation — current employment, or employment in the past 3 years, at a participating university		
(ii) Personal relationships — family, civil partnership, marriage, or close personal relationship with PI, TL or TM		
(iii) Professional relationships — PhD supervisor/supervisee (any time); co-authorship in past 3 years; joint project in past 3 years		
(iv) Financial or commercial interest — board, consulting, equity, licensing, etc., with applicant team or named stakeholder		
(v) IP-specific overlap — authorship of / rights over IP claimed as background IP; competing IP claim		
(vi) Other circumstances that could reasonably be perceived as compromising impartiality		

2. Confidentiality Commitment

I commit to:

- treat as strictly confidential the content of all proposals, the identity of applicants, the discussions of the jury, and any information accessed in the course of the evaluation;
- not disclose, reproduce or share, in whole or in part, any information from the proposals or the evaluation process with any third party;
- not use any information from the proposals for any purpose other than the evaluation under this call, including after the evaluation is closed.

These commitments survive the end of the evaluation process.

3. Signature

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____