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Italy - East Asia Cooperation: from Local Expertise to a Global Outlook – LEGO Empowering the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa - UNITAFRICA

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT – TNE

Call for Applications for Teachers and Researchers mobilities to Asia and Africa

Academic Year 2025 - 2026

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Art. 1 Purpose of the call and general regulations

1.1 Project Overview, Objectives, and Partners

The LEGO - Italy–East Asia Cooperation: from Local Expertise to a Global Outlook (CUP: H71I24000300002) project is a Transnational Education (TNE) initiative funded by the Programme NextGenerationEU. It strengthens educational mobility and cooperation between 12 Italian HEIs and 131 East Asian universities. LEGO spans three areas: Languages and Cultures, Science and Technology for Sustainability, and Management and Economics for Society. It promotes internationalization, innovative teaching, DJDs, and local-global impact. Key goals include boosting PhD training, enhancing Italian HE's global profile, and fostering inclusion. This call concerns WP2, 3, 4 and 6 focused on promoting and supporting the mobility of researchers and teachers to facilitate joint research and teaching ventures within Italian and Asian institutions. The LEGO project runs from September 2024 to March 2026.

The UNITAFRICA – Empowering the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa (CUP: H71I24000300002) project is a Transnational Education (TNE) initiative funded by the Programme NextGenerationEU. It enhances educational cooperation between 21 Italian universities and 93 African institutions across 18 countries. UNITAFRICA focuses on six thematic areas, including sustainability, health, and innovation, through activities like mutual learning, digital platforms, and innovative teaching. Key goals include promoting inclusive, bi-directional mobility, developing joint Master/PhD pathways, and strengthening institutional ties. This call supports WP3 and WP4, which foster academic exchange and advanced training. The UNITAFRICA project runs from October 2024 to March 2026.

Under the present call, research and teaching staff from University of Venice can apply for mobility to partner Universities detailed in art. 2.

1.2 Target Beneficiary

While the LEGO and UNITAFRICA project involve a broad range of partners, they particularly target teachers and researchers mobilities from Ca' Foscari University of Venice (UNIVE) towards the following partner Universities in Asia and Africa to support and facilitate building and running joint research and teaching projects, enhancing international collaboration and cooperation over relevant topics.

Art. 2 Mobility duration and available places (to be carried out by 31st March 2026)

In the following table, the number of places/grants available is detailed in correspondence to specific project actions (column 1). For every action, the number of potential destinations could be equal or higher than the number of available grants. It is possible to apply for more than one destination; in this case every candidate should submit one application for every destination of interest. Anyway the final number of assigned grants cannot be different/higher than the number indicated in the column "N° OF PLACES" for every project action, following the principle 1 grant = 1 destination.

For every destination, priority will be given to candidates proposing a Mobility Programme corresponding to the main objectives of the LEGO and UNITAFRICA TNE projects, as detailed below. In particular, 20% of the maximum score envisaged for the "Proposed Work/research plan" selection criteria for every destination will be reserved to the above-mentioned coherence priority criteria (see below).

In case of destinations with flexible durations, the minimum allowed will be 5 days, excluding travel days.

LEGO_Mobilities

ACTION	COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY	LEVEL/ ACTIVITIES	TARGET AREA OF STUDIES	N° OF PLACES PER ACTION	DAYS	TOT. INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT PER STAFF
WP4 - Chinese Language and DJDs	China	Capital Normal University	Staff for teaching	Languages	1	from 1 to 2 weeks (min. 5 days excl. travel days)	up to €3.600,00
WP6 - Management and Economics - EQUIS	China	Fudan University	Staff for teaching	Management , Business and Administratio n	2	from 1 to 2 weeks (min. 5 days excl. travel days)	up to €3.600,00
	China	Peking University					
	China	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics					
	China	Xiamen University					
	Japan	Waseda University					
	Japan	Kyoto University					

WP6 - Management and Economics - Game-based learning	China	Fudan University	Staff for teaching	Management, Business and Administration	2	from 1 to 2 weeks (min. 5 days excl. travel days)	up to €3.600,00
		Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University					
		Soochow University					
	Vietnam	Vietnam National University Ho Chi Min City					
		Hanoi University					
	Japan	Waseda University					
		Kyoto University					
		Keio University					

Priorities per Action/Destination - LEGO

WP4 - Chinese Language and DJDs - China - Capital Normal University: reserved to candidates teaching in the framework of Bachelor's degree in Language, Culture and Society of Asia and Mediterranean Africa (Corso di laurea in Lingue culture e società dell'Asia e dell'Africa mediterranea) and/or of the Master's Degree in Language and Civilisation of Asia and Mediterranean Africa (Corso di laurea magistrale in Lingue e civiltà dell'Asia e dell'Africa) - priority will be given to candidates proposing a Mobility Programme on Chinese language and linguistics; teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

WP6 - Management and Economics - EQUIS - China - Japan: priority will be given to candidates coordinating double or joint degree agreements at Ca' Foscari University, as shown in the mobility programme, and/or to candidates including in their mobility programme also any activity connected to the design and negotiation of a double or joint degree with the host University

WP6 - Management and Economics - Game-based learning - China - Japan - Vietnam: Priority will be given to candidates proposing mobility programmes on Marketing, Human resource management, Organizational design

UNITAFRICA_Mobilities

COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY	LEVEL	TARGET AREA OF STUDIES	N° OF PLACES	DAYS	TOT. INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT PER STAFF
South Africa	Stellenbosch University	Staff for teaching	Languages and Translation	1	15 days	€ 3.967,50
South Africa	Stellenbosch University	Staff for teaching	Languages and Translation	1	21 days	€ 4.954,50

Priorities per destination - UNITAFRICA

South Africa - Stellenbosch University - Priority will be given to candidates proposing mobility programmes on the application of AI-driven tools to educational interpreting and mediation.

Art. 3 Admission requirements

3.1 Staff Status

In order to apply prospective candidates must be:

- “professori di prima e seconda fascia, anche a tempo determinato”;
- “ricercatori universitari e assistenti di ruolo, anche a tempo determinato”;
- “docenti a contratto”;
- “assegnisti di ricerca”.

The selected beneficiaries must hold one of the above-mentioned status at the moment of application and for the whole duration of the mobility period. UNIVE’s International Office must be timely informed of any possible change in their status.

3.2 Language Proficiency

- Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English at the B2 level or higher, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) (<http://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/>).



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- UNIVE accepts valid language certificates or self-declarations as evidence of language skills.

3.3 Incompatibility

- Selected beneficiaries are ineligible to receive concurrent funding from any other European Commission grant for mobility for teaching, training or research during the same period.

3.4 Ineligibility

- If, at any stage in the application procedure, it is established that the information provided by the applicant has been knowingly falsified, the candidate will be disqualified from the selection process.
- Selected beneficiaries who receive the TNE grant will be called to fully or partially reimburse it if they do not complete their planned activities abroad. In case of documented force majeure, UNIVE will evaluate the specific situation as provided by the principles of International Law: the event must be unforeseen, unforeseeable, irresistible and not caused by the Party which was to perform the performance;

Art. 4 Activities

4.1 Scope of Activities

As part of the LEGO and UNITAFRICA projects, the mobilities for UNIVE researchers and teachers aim to foster international collaboration with East Asian and African universities through teaching, training, and joint research.

These mobilities support:

- Professional development in innovative and intercultural teaching methods
- Collaboration in curriculum design and delivery across areas such as language and culture, sustainability, and management.
- Strengthening of Double/Joint Degree programs and mutual academic recognition.
- Promotion of internationalization, reinforcing UNIVE's strategic ties and academic visibility in Asia and Africa.

Implemented under WP2 and WP3 (LEGO) and WP3 and 4 (UNITAFRICA), these activities are framed within a transparent, inclusive, and sustainable mobility system that contributes to long-term academic cooperation.

4.2 Eligible activities

In the frame of this specific call, mobilities are intended for teaching activities to be delivered in person at the partner University premises.

Teaching assignments may come in various forms and take place as seminars, lectures, and tutorials. Actual teaching in this context should require the beneficiary to be physically present with the students.

There will be no minimum number of compulsory hours of teaching required. However, the actual amount of teaching hours during the mobility must be declared and certified by the Receiving Institution.

4.3 Reporting Requirements

To ensure the effective dissemination and impact assessment of the project results, all beneficiaries are required, upon completion of their mobility period, to submit a final beneficiary report based on the online template provided by UNIVE.

Art. 5 Financial and Administrative Support

5.1 Individual support & Travel

- Beneficiaries will receive an individual support as a contribution to their costs during their mobility, which is specified in the table at art. 2.
- Such individual support is intended to cover travel and living expenses during the mobility, and it will be paid after the end of the mobility upon presentation of all receipts and expenses documentation.

5.2 Mobility Duration

- Mobility durations are specified in the table at art. 2 of the present Call

5.3 Grant Agreement and Compliance

- Upon accepting the grant, selected candidates will receive an official nomination letter outlining their duties and responsibilities.
- Beneficiaries are required to comply with all local admission requirements of the host institution.

5.4 Administrative Assistance

- Support in visa application, housing, and accommodation will be supplied by each host partner university. UNIVE will assist beneficiaries in obtaining such support from the receiving institution.

Art. 6 Admission procedure

6.1 Application Submission

- **Method:** Applications, including the application form and all required supporting documents (detailed in section 6.2), must be submitted exclusively via the e-form available at the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSennyxltVqWdZUmVwGegDvk1cJAWWQSc8OsJmEnK7oXaUH_-Q/viewform?usp=header
- **Deadline:** The strict deadline for submission is **September 29th, 2025, at 23:59 Brussels time**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.
- **Language:** The official language for the application and all supporting documents is English.
- **File Format and Naming:**
 - The application form and all attachments **must be merged into a single PDF document**.
 - The PDF file must be named according to the following convention: `HostAcronym.HostCountry.ApplicantFirstName.ApplicantLastName.pdf`
 - (Example: `UNIVE.Italy.John.Smith.pdf`)

6.2 Required Documentation

Applicants are required to submit the following documents as part of their application package:

- **Mobility Programme:** Completed and signed by the applicant and the Head of the applicant's Department (*Direttore/Direttrice di Dipartimento*), using the template provided on the call's webpage.
- **Language Proficiency:** Copies of official language certifications (if available) or a self-declaration of language proficiency included within the Mobility Programme (refer to section "Language Skills").
- **Letter of interest or e-mail** signed by the prospective academic contact at the host university stating the availability and willingness to host the applicant for his/her teaching programme.

6.3 Contacts at receiving institutions

In case you don't have any direct contact with potential hosting colleagues at receiving institutions, the following contacts will be useful to identify a prospective academic supervisor to provide the letter of interest from the host institution:

Name of the receiving University	Academic contact	Administrative contact
Capital Normal University	/	xieyi_1985@yeah.net
Fudan University	fdsm@fudan.edu.cn	incoming@fudan.edu.cn
Peking University	/	guanghua@gsm.pku.edu.cn
Shanghai University of finance and Economics	dean.cob@mail.shufe.edu.cn	incoming@sufe.edu.cn
Soochow University	/	meilin@suda.edu.cn
Xiamen University	/	sm@xmu.edu.cn
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University	/	studyabroad@xjtlu.edu.cn
Keio University	/	ic-inbound@adst.keio.ac.jp
Kyoto University	/	inbound.exchange@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp
Waseda University	/	wbs@list.waseda.jp
Hanoi University	anhdv@hanu.edu.vn	/
Vietnam National University Ho Chi Min City	/	hsb@hsb.edu.vn
Stellenbosch University	aef@sun.ac.za	sarahvdw@sun.ac.za

6.4 The eligibility check of applications will be based on following criteria:

Applications will be rejected ONLY in the following cases:

- Submission after the deadline set by art. 6.1
- Missing Mobility Programme
- Final evaluation scoring less than 50 points

Applications will be declared not eligible ONLY in the following cases:

- absence of one of the requirements set by art. 3.
- candidate's study area not matching with requirements set by art. 2



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In case of missing signature by the Head of the applicant's Department on the Mobility Programme or missing letter of interest at the closing date of the present Call, the applicant will be considered eligible but automatically positioned at the end of the ranking. In the event that all eligible applicants for a certain destination submit a Mobility Programme without signature by the Head of the applicant's Department, they will be evaluated according to criteria specified in art. 7.2, and the selected candidate will have the possibility to integrate the document after the closing date of the call.

Art. 7 Selection process

7.1 Selection Stages

The selection process comprises the following stages:

1. Eligibility Check: Carried out by administrative staff at UNIVE's International Office to ensure that applications meet all requirements outlined in Art. 3.
2. Evaluation: Performed by UNIVE's Selection Committee for all valid and eligible applications.

7.2 Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed based on the following criteria and point system:

<i>Evaluation Criteria</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Quality of the proposed workplan (as for section 1 of the Mobility Programme)	30 points
Motivation (as for section 2 of the Mobility Programme)	30 points
Impact of the proposed mobility on consolidation and extension of relations between partner universities (as for section 3 of the Mobility Programme)	20 points
Language skills	20 points
Total	100 points

7.3 Cross-cutting Evaluation Criteria

The final selection decision will also incorporate cross-cutting criteria, such as promoting gender balance, ensuring equal opportunities, and encouraging the participation of individuals from less advantaged groups, to ensure a fair and equitable selection outcome.

7.4 Ranking and Reserve List

- Following the evaluation, UNIVE will establish a final ranking list of successful candidates.
- A reserve list will also be compiled, including eligible candidates who may be offered a grant in the event of withdrawals or declined offers from the primary ranked list.
- Should any budget leftovers become available during the project, UNIVE has the right to nominate additional eligible candidates from the reserve list.

7.5 Notification of Results

- All applicants will be formally notified of the selection outcome via email to their provided institutional email address.
- Notification will occur promptly following the conclusion of the evaluation procedure.

7.6 Grant Offer Acceptance

- Selected candidates will receive a formal grant offer.
- Candidates must formally accept or decline the offer via email within three (3) working days of receiving the notification email.
- Should a selected candidate decline the offer or fail to respond within the specified deadline, UNIVE reserves the right to nominate the next eligible candidate from the reserve list.

7.7 Appeal Procedure

- Filing an Appeal: Applicants who believe a procedural error occurred during the evaluation of their application may submit a formal appeal via email to tne.pnrr@unive.it
 - The appeal must clearly explain the reasons for believing a procedural error occurred.
 - The appeal must be submitted no later than two (2) days after the notification of selection results was sent.
- Grounds for Appeal: The appeal procedure is strictly limited to addressing potential errors made by the Selection Committee in adhering to the principles and procedures outlined in this call document. Appeals cannot challenge the evaluators' judgment regarding the quality or merit of the application itself, but only alleged procedural mistakes.
- Inadmissible Appeals: Appeals will not be considered if:
 - The applicant failed to meet all eligibility criteria outlined in Art. 3.
 - The applicant failed to submit all required documentation by the deadline specified in Art. 6.1.
 - The appeal concerns the selection decision outcome rather than a specific procedural error.

Art. 8 Data protection

Information relating to individuals (personal data) is collected and used in accordance with EC Regulation No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals (GDPR), and with the Italian legislation (Legislative Decree no. 196/2003) with regard to the processing of personal data by European institutions and organizations and the unrestricted circulation of such data.

Venice, _____

The Rector

Professor Tiziana Lippiello