



**EUNICOAST**

The European University of Islands,  
Ports and Coastal Territories

# WP3 WEBINARS

## *Bridging R&I among Coastal Regions*

[eunicoast.eu](https://eunicoast.eu)

T&R Hub 1, October 8<sup>th</sup> 2026



Co-funded by  
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## INTRODUCTION

**EUNICOast, the European University of Islands, Ports, and Coastal Territories**, is a European University Alliance funded by ERASMUS+ under the European Universities initiative and is constituted by a diverse group of coastal universities spread across European seas, encompassing both mainland and island members. It focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities of members regions, blending sustainability, education, research and innovation, and community engagement.

EUNICOast aims to (1) contribute to the next generation of students and citizens who are engaged, aware and willing to contribute to sustainability; (2) Foster a multicultural, multilingual and inclusive European education, research, and innovation environment; and (3) Enhance the consortium joint capacity to better respond to the societal and environmental challenges faced by island and coastal communities.

To achieve this, the EUNICOast universities are collaborating with each other under the different workpackages tasks, namely by establishing mechanisms for internal and external researchers networking. One aim of this collaboration is to define new research activities and develop new research proposals based on the five predefined EUNICOast Teaching and Research Hubs (T&R Hubs), which EUNICOast has identified as key domains critical for tackling the sustainability development of maritime and coastal regions. Therefore, this joint webinar series will present ongoing research strands and projects from each T&R Hubs, in order to subsequently identify potential new research projects to address societal challenges and facilitate joint research projects under Horizon Europe calls (or other funding instruments) aligned with the identified research areas.

Information about the EUNICOast T&R Hubs:

### **1. Identities, Local Knowledge, and Cultural Heritage in Islands & Coastal Communities:**

Focus on preserving cultural identities and traditional knowledge to enhance community resilience and maintain cultural heritage.

### **2. Blue Circular Economy, Port Logistics, and Sustainable Blue Tourism:**

Promote sustainable economic models that optimize resource use and reduce environmental impacts, particularly in port logistics and tourism sectors.

### **3. Governance, Planning, Management, and Monitoring of Islands and Coastal Communities:**

Aim to improve governance structures and policy frameworks to manage coastal resources effectively and sustainably.

### **4. Health, Biodiversity Protection, Nature-based Solutions, and Sustainable Exploration of Coastal/Marine Resources:**

Prioritize health and biodiversity conservation through sustainable practices and the adoption of nature-based solutions.

### **5. Engineered and Data-driven Solutions for Coastal Infrastructures, Marine Renewable Energy, Marine Safety, and Navigation Systems:**

Develop advanced engineering and data-driven solutions to enhance the safety and sustainability of maritime infrastructures and navigation systems.

| Contact Name for potential collaborations                                                  | Contact Details                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Prof. Dr. Pilar Damião</b><br>(T&R Hub 1 Coordinator)<br>University of the Azores - UAc | pilar.sl.medeiros@uac.pt             |
| <b>Prof. Dr. Maja Pucelj</b><br>Euro-Mediterranean University - EMUNI                      | maja.pucelj@emuni.si                 |
| <b>Dr. Georgia Dimopoulou</b><br>University of Patras - UP                                 | gdimopoul@upatras.gr                 |
| <b>Prof. Dr. Frédéric Lefrançois</b><br>University of the Antilles - UA                    | frederic.lefrancois@univ-antilles.fr |

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T&R Hub 1 Online Webinar

**AGENDA**

October 8<sup>th</sup> 2026, 13H00 CET time



Teams

**13h00 – 13h25**

**Digital Ethics and Democratic Resilience: Trust, Participation and Electoral Integrity in Coastal and Island Communities**

**Prof. Dr. Maja Pucelj**, Euro-Mediterranean University - EMUNI

**13h25 – 13h50**

**Carrying Stories Across the Sea: Women, Memory and Coastal Communities**

**Dr. Georgia Dimopoulou**, University of Patras - UP

**13h50 – 14h15**

**Memory as a Market Asset: Bridging Coastal Heritage and Creative Industries**

**Prof. Dr. Frédéric Lefrançois**, University of the Antilles - UA

**14h15 – 14h30**

**Q&A and Networking for potential cooperation**

**OUR SPEAKERS:****Prof. Dr. Maja Pucelj, Euro-Mediterranean University - EMUNI**

Maja Pucelj is Head of Research, Development and Innovation at EMUNI University, Assistant Professor, and Director of the Master's programme in Digitalisation and Human Rights. She holds two doctoral degrees, two master's degrees, and qualifications in public administration and management, specialising in human rights and international studies. Her professional experience spans policing, banking, risk management, marketing, auditing, higher education, and public administration. She previously advised Slovenia's Minister of Education, Science and Sport and led preparation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for the education sector. Her research focuses on human rights, digital ethics, social responsibility, and gender equality. In 2024, she received an award for outstanding PhD research on human rights.

**Dr. Georgia Dimopoulou, University of Patras - UP**

Georgia Dimopoulou is a philologist and theatre scholar specialising in Ancient Greek literature and drama. She holds a PhD in Philology and completed postdoctoral research at the University of Patras on emotions in the female choruses of Euripides' tragedies. Her research focuses on ancient drama, theatre semiotics, and the reception of Greek theatre. She has published in academic journals and edited volumes, including a chapter on collective emotions in Euripides' Trojan Women. She also contributes to international research and educational initiatives concerning culture and ancient theatre.

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Frédéric Lefrançois is Associate Professor in visual and performing arts at the Université des Antilles (Martinique), where he is affiliated with the CRILLASH research laboratory (UR6\_2 / CNRS UAR 2999). His work connects artistic practice, memory and heritage in Caribbean and Atlantic contexts. He coordinates the Tides of Memory proposal, an international consortium on equitable creative alliances for coastal and island cultural resilience, and is a member of the EUNICOAST consortium.

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