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EUROPEAN HACKATHON

MARCH 2026
Paris - France

1/ General topic: What infrastructure and services can meet mobility needs in low-density areas?

2/ Type of participants (learners): students (Master 1 & 2 levels) from Université Gustave Eiffel and EU Partner Universities.

3/ Priorities addressed: Environment and fight against climate change

4/ Objectives and description:

Objectives:

The ambition of this training programme is to mobilise students from all over Europe to contribute, via a hackathon, to issues on the evolution of mobilities and related needs, services, infrastructures, which is the topic addressed by the Université Gustave Eiffel within its partnership with AFIT France (French Organisation for Investments in Transportation and Infrastructure).

- The Hackathon is a part of an **Erasmus+ BIP programme.** It is dedicated to master students in their 1stor 2nd year. The Hackathon brings together students from the University Gustave Eiffel and its' European partners and takes advantage from their different learning backgrounds.
  The Hackathon programme welcomes between **20 and 40 students from the following 12 partner universities**: TH Köln (DE), LAUREA (FI), University of Zilina (SK), ISCTE-IUL (PT), UniBo (IT), PoliMi (IT), 'Dimitrie Cantemir' Christian University (RO), University Tomas Bata (CZ), University of Huelva (SP), Avans University of Applied Sciences (NL), IuaV (IT)), Bern University of Applied Sciences (CH).
- The duration of the programme is of **5 days of presential learning from 20 to 24 March 2026** (+ an equivalent of 2 days of distance learning before that).

The main objectives for the students are:

- To address sustainable mobility issues in an inter-disciplinary way within working groups mixing groups with different backgrounds;
- To interact and cooperate in English, discuss ideas and confront them to different territorial contexts;
- To improve their knowledge through insights from dedicated experts and mentors;
- To propose and defend innovative projects resulting from the Hackathon week in front of an international jury. Each project is expected to be user centric, sustainable, prototype oriented, viable from an economic point of view.

Description:

The programme is organised in **3 stages.**

Stage 1. Registration of students (from September to October 2025)

Target: a maximum of 40 students appointed by their home university.

The call for participation is open to partner universities in September. To be eligible, students must be Master's student and have a strong interest and motivation to participate. The organisers will define the working groups in such a way as to ensure the diversity of backgrounds (e.g. groups with students from different countries and a mix of disciplinary backgrounds).

The partner universities commit to:

- notify the Université Gustave Eiffel of the names of 3 students selected and 3 students who will be on a complementary list by **14 October 2025** at the latest.
- allocate Erasmus+ grant (or equivalent) to their selected students.

Participating students commit to:

- book their return transport to Paris **before 04 November** and to provide the Gustave Eiffel University with proof so that the latter can book accommodation accordingly.

Université Gustave Eiffel commits to fund:

- **overnight stays in Paris** from Friday March 20 in the evening to Tuesday March 24 in the morning. (any additional night will be the sole responsibility of the student).
- **lunchtime and diner catering** from Friday March 20 to Tuesday March 24.
- the social activities included in the programme.

Stage 2. Active preparation of the Hackathon week (from January to March 2026) at City of Paris Engineering School (rue Rébeval, Paris 19th arrondissement)

This stage is a **distance learning programme** with a double focus: to enhance the knowledge through expert keynotes and to generate ideas to address the sustainable mobility issues.

A first 3-hours webinar **(14 February 10:00-13:00 CET)** is dedicated to present the objectives, methods and expectations, to provide resources and to bring together the teams of Students.

A second 3-hours webinar **(7 March 10:00-13:00 CET)** is focussed on the the presentation by the teams os students of their initial ideas so that they get initial feedback and be prepared for the Paris session.

Between the two webinars, the working teams are expected to work on their first ideas on their own. They will be coached during this process with at **least two one-hour meetings with their coach**.

Stage 3. Hackathon week (March 20-March 24)

The students travel on Friday (Morning) and Tuesday (afternoon)

Organised on the premises of the university in the heart of Paris, this week, will be mainly dedicated to mature their innovative projects with following steps:

- Day 1: from the idea to the value proposition
- Day 2: from the value proposition to a first approach of a sustainable business model
- Day 3: crash-test and refining of the projects
- Day 4: preparation of the content and presentation of the pitch, rehearsals
- Day 5: final rehearsals and presentation to the jury

During the 5 days, students will be provided with tools and methodological advice to guide their work. Experts will attend some sessions to provide their expertise and feedback.

5/ Detailed schedule of the Hackathon week:

Friday 20 March 2026:

AM: Arrival of students, welcome at 12:00 PM and kick-off
PM: Team work (2pm - 6.30pm)
Evening: Dinner at EIVP

Saturday 21 March 2026:

AM: Team work (9am - 12.30pm)
PM: Team work and discussions with mentors (1:30pm - 6:30pm)
Evening event planned

Sunday 22 March 2026:

AM: Team work (9:30am - 12.30pm)
PM: Tours of Paris
Free evening

Monday 23 March 2026:

AM: Team work (9am - 12.30pm)
Afternoon and evening: rehearsals (13:30pm - 7:00pm)
Evening: Dinner at EIVP

Tuesday 24 March 2026:

AM: last rehearsals + final presentation in front of the jury and prize-giving ceremony (8:00am - 1pm)
PM: cocktail - Official closure and departures

Students will therefore attend approximately 30 hours of classroom training + 8 hours of distance learning (6 hours of webinars + 2 hours of individual coaching per team), i.e. approximately 38 hours.

6/ The learning team

Learning coach(es): provides students with resources, tools and methods to reach the expectations.

Experts: Different experts are involved the programme. Their provide feedback and advice on the ground of their experience. They may be researchers or professionals in the field the fields of engineering/social science expertise on sustainable mobility and/or hab background in innovation, industry or entrepreneuship.

Organisers: they ensure the logistics during the venue of the students (hosting, catering, etc.).

Each participating student organises traveling with their respective university.

7/ Methods and outcomes:

Methods:

The main learning method is **an active problem solving method**. Students are encouraged to be pro-active with their dedicated team, to organise themselves effectively, to research and to take feedback from experts and mentors.

At the heart of the programme is an in-person hackathon. The preparatory stage (2) is distance learning. Students will be provided lessons from expert professors to get an insight into the current sustainable mobility issues. To generate their first ideas, they will be provided with specific tools and methodology inspired from innovation management and design thinking methods.

During stage 3, the working group sessions, which form the main part of the programme, will alternate with short method sessions (presentation of tools) inspired by the university of Laval (CA) methods on sustainable business model canvas and discussion with experts who will provide feedback and advice.

The preparation of the presentations will be guided by the rules of pitches with a focus on problem/solution/how to make it happen approach. As mentioned before, each project is expected to be user centric, sustainable, prototype-oriented and economically viable.

Outcomes:

The intended learning outcomes are to enhance capacity to:

- Design an original/innovative project;
- Position and address the issue in its complexity, including all the determinants of mobility;
- Questioning the application of the recommendations / solutions proposed (appropriation by the actors; existing sector; existing skills);
- Work in a new team with students from different backgrounds
- Deliver a relevant presentation with good rhetoric and elocution

Field of education: 1041 Transport services, 0413 Business and administration
Level of study: Master's
Physical start date: Friday 20 March 2026

Physical end date: Tuesday 24 March 2026
Virtual component timetable: from Feb 14 & March 7 for on-line sessions, with group work in between
Virtual component duration: 2 days
Virtual component description: see description of stage 1.
Country of venue: France
City of venue: Paris, premises of the Université Gustave Eiffel at the EIVP
Main teaching/training language: English
Number of ECTS Awarded: 3
Accommodation: at the student residence in Paris