

Blended Intensive Programme: PORTATHON 2026

Information for partner universities

BIP number		2025-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000317966-4
Timetable & place	Virtual part	<p>11 September 2026: on-line training The role of Seaports in Global Shipping Decarbonisation: Contributors and Enablers</p> <p>15 September 2026: on-line training Pitch Perfect: A Workshop on Creating Compelling Presentations.</p>
	Physical part	<p>23 September 2026: Introduction. A guided boat tour of Klaipėda Seaport. Cultural event.</p> <p>24 September 2026: Introduction to the KU research base, its ongoing research and projects.</p> <p>25–27 September 2026: Hackathon, development and presentation of solutions, announcement of winners.</p>
Description	General description (content)	<p>Portathon 2026 is a challenge-based hackathon focusing on cutting-edge solutions for the ports of the future. Students from a variety of academic backgrounds participate in the event alongside specialists and technology enthusiasts from different fields. With the support of mentors, they develop solutions to the challenges facing shipping and seaports. Relevant topics include cybersecurity, artificial intelligence adaptation, sustainability solutions and technological development issues in the port city ecosystem, all of which are important for the shipping and port sector, which is undergoing decarbonisation and digitalisation. The teams that generate the most original solutions are awarded solid prizes and provided with free practical and theoretical knowledge, as well as experience and contacts with scientific, business and field-specific specialists. Most importantly, the solutions immediately attract the attention of potential investors, including ports and companies operating in the region.</p> <p>As this BIP will involve international students from a variety of disciplines, the following preparation activities have been planned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An introductory online workshop on ports and their role in shipping, and a pitching workshop to help participants learn how to present their solution to the commission in a compelling and concise way. 2. In Klaipėda, there will be study visits to the port area and specialised KU research laboratories, as well as a seminar dedicated to analysing port challenges, and a cultural event.
	Marketing text	<p>Portathon 2026 offers the chance to familiarise yourself with the challenges facing ports in their transition towards decarbonisation and digitalisation. It provides an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals interested in similar technologies, collaborate with people from various fields, gain real technological experience, win prizes, deepen your</p>

		<p>knowledge, develop your teamwork skills, present solutions to specific challenges, create products or services, receive professional feedback and immediately attract the attention of potential investors.</p> <p>Preparation for the hackathon includes an introductory online workshop about ports and their role in shipping, as well as pitching training. In Klaipėda, there will be study visits to the port area and specialised KU research laboratories, as well as a seminar dedicated to analysing port challenges and cultural events.</p>
	Objectives	<p>After listening to introductory workshops and getting acquainted with the challenges presented by the maritime business, create solutions and defend them before the PORTATHON 2026 commission.</p> <p>Learn to work effectively in an international team when developing complex solutions for the ports of the future</p>
	Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the role of the port in the global shipping system and its organisational structure, the environmental impact of shipping as well as the characteristics of its activities. Knows the structure of the Klaipėda Seaport, its most important objects, their functions, readiness to serve shipping undergoing energy and digital transformation • Knows the opportunities and problems of port digitalization, is able to analyze interdisciplinary issues of seaport terminals and know effective ways to solve them. • Has knowledge of the most important research for maritime transport and ports, stationary and mobile laboratory equipment and methods, understands how research teams work in international projects. • Able to work effectively in an international team, create solutions, holistically understand the impact of solutions on society and the environment, communicate with a specialist and non-specialist environment by exchanging knowledge, and present their opinion in a reasoned manner. Acquiring entrepreneurial skills.
	Methodology & mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual workshop and training as an introduction to port types, infrastructure, activities, responsibilities and development trends as well as pitching ideas to the commission in a compelling and concise way. • A boat tour of the Klaipėda port area with a guide providing narration, as well as questions and answers and a discussion. • Visits to KU research laboratories, familiarisation with ongoing research and projects, and conversations with scientists. • PORTATHON 2026 - a hakathon for the creation under supervision of experts and presentation of innovative ideas that meet the challenges.
Language of classes		English
Coordinating & Host HEI		Klaipėda University, Lithuania
Contact to coordinating HEI		erasmus@ku.lt
Partner HEIs, sending professors		
Number of ECTS		3

Target audience	This BIP is primarily aimed at Bachelor's programme students.
Minimum number of students	20
Maximum number of students accepted	40
Requirements	English level B2
Selection process	Internal – students apply internally at their universities, and their own university accepts/rejects them.
Nomination information and deadline	<p>Please send your students nominations by 14-08-2026, to erasmus@ku.lt including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students' name • Students' last name • Students' Bachelor programme • Students' email address <p>Students will be required to complete the upload the following documents by 01-09-2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copy of Passport or Identity Card - Insurance(s) covering*: (all needed in English or Spanish) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Health Insurance card • Travel Insurance* (including damage or loss of luggage) • Accident and serious illnesses* (including permanent or temporary incapacity) • Personal Liability Insurance¹ • Repatriation insurance • A Passport sized picture (for your student's card) <p>¹The Personal Liability Insurance is a personal insurance that covers the possible damages caused by the student to a third person or objects.</p>