

DUT Call 2025 – Info Day Q&A

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1. Eligibility criteria

Q: Can municipalities be funded partners?

A: This depends on the funding agency that you are intent to apply for funding from - further details on who is fundable or not can be found in the National Annex (Annex A of the Call Text).

Q: Does every participating country need to have a municipality or local authority? For example: one city in Austria, one city in Germany and one in Estonia. Or is one city as a partner enough for the project submission?

A: Transnationally, one municipality/local authority is enough.

Q: As a municipality, do we need to co-fund with for example 50%?

A: This depends on your funding agency.

Q: Do we need to get a collaboration letter from a municipality or local authority? We are 5 countries and all five countries need to have a local municipality as a partner or collaborator? All five partners are universities/higher education centres.

A: Yes, if your municipalities are participating as cooperation partners, you must put them in the funding system as such (explanation regarding the funding system will follow) and get a LoI from them.

Q: Could you please clarify what exactly qualifies as a 'local authority' in this context? For example, does it strictly mean a municipal government, or could public agencies, utilities, or community organisations such as energy cooperatives also count?

A: This can be found in the Call Text: (city, municipality or entity providing key urban services, so long as this entity is owned by a local government (confirmation of this by the local government may be requested by the Call Secretariat).

Q: Are transportation companies like ÖBB eligible to be a cooperation partner or do we only need municipalities?

A: This depends on your funding agency.

Q: Are cooperation partners limited to Europe, or can they be from anywhere in the world?

A: Cooperation partners can be from anywhere in the world.

Q: Do port areas also count as city areas and hence can we apply for projects in our port area? Our port is located in/close by the city.

A: Yes, generally you can focus on port areas as urban (transformation) areas.

Q: Considering that we are talking about urban transition, can a peri-urban protected area be an implementation partner in DUT call?

A: If the partner is supposed to receive funding, it also depends on the responsible funding agency's rules – these can be found in Annex A of the Call Text. There is no transnational rule against this.

Q: Can local authorities participate in the programme as a leader or as a partner of another organisation?

A: This depends on the funding agency that you are intent to apply for funding from – further details on what is fundable and what isn't can be found in the National Annex (Annex A of the Call Text).

2. Principal Investigator (PI) and project leadership

Q: Is it possible to have co-PIs in a project (from the same institution) or should the project have only one PI?

A: Each funded partner nominates one PI (so one proposal, which has to have at least 3 funded partners, will have at least 3 PIs). It is not possible to have co-PIs within the same organisation.

Q: For the Principal Investigator role, does it have any criteria (thinking about leading roles in SMEs as co-applicants)? For example, PhD degree?

A: Transnationally, there are no such rules. Nationally, there might be. Additionally, the expert panel will check the PI's qualifications.

Q: Hello! Any rules regarding participation of researchers who are PIs in the DUT call 2023 in projects to be submitted to the DUT call 2025?

A: Transnationally, no.

Q: Hi, I am the post-doc of a PI, and am responsible for managing the project. With this experience, I plan to be the PI at a different university but to continue this project. Is this possible?

A: Please check in with your national agency regarding this.

Q: Hello! Is it possible to have two main applicants in a consortium?

A: No, one main applicant per project.

Q: Could you please confirm whether a newly established non-profit organisation is eligible to act as Main Applicant in the DUT call, and whether there are any additional requirements or limitations we should be aware of?

A: There are no transnational limitations. If this is OK for your funding agency, the Call Secretariat will not have any objections as long as the PI rule is observed.

3. Consortium composition

Q: For the pre-proposal submission, can one (research) institution be part of two different submissions, in two different consortia?

A: As long as the responsible funding agency has no rule against this, yes.

Q: Is it allowed to be a partner of two consortia?

A: As long as the responsible funding agency has no rule against this, yes.

Q: Can a university submit several proposals (for example different departments/chairs)?

A: Transnationally, yes, as long as the PI rule is observed.

Q: Can we form a consortium to address different sub-topics that are only partially supported by the respective local funding agencies?

A: Please get in touch with the responsible funding agencies.

Q: Is a consortium possible where the project lead is only eligible for one pathway (Sweden, CUE) and one of the other partners only for the other pathways (Austria, 15mC and PED) if the proposal manages to cover both pathways adequately?

A: The consortium lead must coordinate the entire project, therefore they will most likely do at least a little bit of work in the pathway their agency does not cover. Therefore, it is very possible that the agency does not consider this eligible. Additionally, the expert panel evaluating the proposal may not find it convincing. Overall, it is recommended to nominate a consortium lead who can cover all involved topics and pathways.

Q: Is it possible to have two members of the consortium from the same country?

A: Transnationally, yes.

4. Thematic and content

Q: Since topics 1 and 2 in the 15-minute City are closely linked, is it possible to submit a proposal addressing both topics?

A: Yes, it is possible to add multiple topics – however, you must specify which topic is your primary choice.

Q: Can the 15-minute City topic be focused on a single type of mobility, such as walkability, or is it necessary to combine it with other types?

A: This year, we are specifically interested in innovative and effectful combinations of modes. Walking has definitely a strong place here, but it should be connected to a wider context and in combination with other modes of transport.

Q: Another question about the living labs: I had a look at Annex D in the call text. It describes what is meant by a "living lab". Is there also a list of existing living labs somewhere (related to ongoing or previous projects)?

A: Unfortunately, we do not have this overview of ULLs in DUT-projects publicly available. A great source of information on European living labs is the webpage of ENoLL: <https://enoll.org/>, which might be a repository to check out further.

5. Funding, costs and budget

Q: I have a question about eligible costs – is it possible to cover some construction works costs under the category of costs 'costs of subcontracting'?

A: That depends entirely on the Funding Agency responsible for funding the partner which will have those costs – further details on what is fundable and what isn't can be found in the National Annex (Annex A of the Call Text). You can also ask your Funding Agency in today's breakout sessions.

Q: Hello, it is expected to have a municipality/local authority on board to ensure an impactful research project for the local community. However, since municipalities are not research organisations, I believe they cannot access DUT co-funding. Is there a minimum financial contribution required from the municipality as a project participant?

A: Some Funding Agencies do fund municipalities. If this is not the case for your agency, it is also possible for the municipality to be a cooperation partner (=self-funded).

Q: Hello. We are preparing a proposal and would like to involve an independent expert (a 'Critical Friend') who would provide critical reviews of our methodology and results. This expert is based in a different country than our core consortium partners, and we would like to compensate them for their time. How should we do this?

A: This depends on the involved funding agencies, as they may have different rules regarding third-party funding – please get in touch with them.

Q: My national agency funds only SMEs. I work at the university, how can I receive funds?

A: Please check in with your national agency regarding this.

Q: Is there a minimum budget per partner?

A: Transnationally, no.

6. Co-fund and country participation

Q: What is a co-fundable country?

A: A cofundable country is a country participating in the DUT Call which is able to generate EU Co-Fund. You can find the list in the Call Text and on the slides.

Q: Why were some countries not able to generate EU cofunds?

A: Because they are either not part of Horizon Europe (yet) or they chose to opt out of that possibility (for now).

Q: Does it have any implications if a country did not generate EU co-funds apart from the composition of the consortium?

A: For applicants, no.

Q: My country is not involved in this year's call, are you expecting this to change in the upcoming calls?

A: Please contact the respective agencies directly regarding any future participation as they will have more insight into this topic.