

DUT Call 2026 – Info Day Q&A

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1. Eligibility criteria

Q: My country is not included in the list of participating countries. Can organisations from the my country participate?

A: Partners from countries that do not participate as funding partners this year can be involved as cooperation partners (self-funded) or as subcontractors of funded partners, but they cannot participate as funded partners.

Q: Does the Call support implementing a completely new facility, or must there be an existing facility to scale up or upgrade?

A: This depends on national rules. Please contact your national funding agency.

Q: How is “urban” defined? Is there a minimum population threshold for an area to be considered an urban district?

A: Transnationally, here is no strict minimum population threshold. Please contact your national funding agency in case there are stricter national rules.

Q: Are universities eligible as applicants, and can the creation of new training content be seen as an innovative activity?

A: This depends on national rules. Please contact your national funding agency.

Q: Are civic NGOs with specialists in energy and environment eligible to apply as lead applicants?

A: This depends on national rules. Please contact your national funding agency.

Q: Can applicants apply only to the topics supported by their national funding agencies?

A: Yes. To receive national funding, applicants must choose a topic that is funded by the relevant national agency. If an agency does not cover a particular topic, applicants from that country can only participate in that topic if they apply as cooperation partners (=self-funded). Please contact your national agency if there are any further questions. **Q: If national rules define only universities and research organisations as eligible organisations, can a local government or city participate as a consortium member?**

A: If local governments or cities are not funded according to national rules, they can take part as self-funded cooperation partners or as subcontractors of funded partners, but they cannot participate as funded partners. Please contact your national agency if there are any further questions.

Q: Where can applicants find information about the topics and pathways that are open in their country?

A: You can find this information in Annex A of the Call Text under the relevant country/funding agency (= National Annex).

2. Consortium leadership and composition

Q: Can one organisation or researcher be involved in two different proposals on the same topic without being a PCP? Would this be a disadvantage in the evaluation process?

A: Transnationally, there is no rule against this, as long as the PCP rule is observed. Nationally, the rules might be stricter; please contact your funding agency.

Q: Does the PCP limitation apply to the individual PCP or also to the institution they represent?

A: Transnationally, there is no limit on the institutional level, as long as different individuals are appointed as PCPs. Please note that some agencies might have limits for institutions too, so do not forget to check Annex A.

Q: If I was a co-PCP (formerly PI) in a previous DUT project, can I apply as main PCP this year?

A: Yes, unless there are national rules against this.

Q: Can an unsuccessful proposal from a previous DUT call be resubmitted? Can the consortium partners be changed?

A: A resubmission will be treated as a new proposal, meaning any and all modifications (including partner changes) are possible. Please make sure that the proposal aligns with one or more Call 2026 topics and that all transnational and national eligibility rules are still observed.

3. Thematics and content

Q: What are the specific eligibility criteria for a Research-Oriented Approach (ROA) or an Innovation-Oriented Approach (IOA), including what qualifies as a research actor?

A: Please check the Call Text. If questions remain after reading the Call Text, please contact the Call Secretariat at call@dutpartnership.eu.

Q: For Cross-cutting Topic 1, should all participating cities address one common problem, or can different cities address different but mutually relevant challenges?

A: This depends entirely on what make sense for your proposal. Both approaches are formally eligible on the transnational level.

Q: What is meant by “systemic and locally embedded approaches”?

A: A systemic approach means that a proposal should include, for instance, policy, governance, business models, infrastructure, culture and norms, and technical solutions. Locally embedded refers to the fact that it should be in close contact with its environment. Living labs could be one such example.

Q: For CUE Topic #2, if multiple technical solutions are investigated and packaged into a sustainable management system and presented as a management plan or toolkit, does that meet the expected outcomes? Can techniques and tools be investigated if they can be combined into a system afterwards.

A: Technical solutions can absolutely be part of a project. What is important is that they do not make up the entire project. We strongly advise taking a system perspective on the issue at hand.

Q: Can work be conducted in research-oriented fields, or must it be conducted in living-lab-type environments?

A: Both are eligible transnationally. Please contact your national funding agency to ensure national eligibility. Beyond that, it depends on what makes sense for your proposal.

Q: For PED Topic 3, is the combination of electricity and heat mandatory, or is a focus on electricity also appreciated?

A: Yes, it is also appreciated.

Q: What final Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is expected for PED Topic 3?

A: That depends very much on whether you choose an IOA or ROA and on your national funding agency eligibility criteria. Please check Annex A in the Call Text and contact your funding agency if you have further questions.

Q: Is only Topic 1 reserved for IOA proposals?

A: Yes, the cross-cutting topics in all pathways are reserved for IOA-only, and for Topics 2 and 3 both approaches (IOA and ROA) are possible in all pathways, so long as your national funding agency funds both approaches. Please refer to Annex A in the Call Text.

Q: Can a proposal build on a previous EU project and cover more than one topic from the three pathways?

A: Yes to both questions, as long as this is nationally eligible. Please refer to Annex A in the Call Text.

Q: Is it possible to choose only one primary topic, or is a secondary topic required?

A: It is possible to choose only one primary topic, no further secondary topics are mandatory.

4. Funding, costs and budget

Q: What happens if a proposal is approved centrally but one partner is ranked below the funding line at its national agency? Can the project continue?

A: The project is funded as a whole and is therefore approved by all agencies, so this should not happen.

Q: What is EU co-fund?

A: It is budget given to the Call by the European Commission. Further information can be found in the Call Text.

Q: Where does the remaining funding come from, and what percentage is co-funded by the EU?

A: The remaining funding comes from the participating funding agencies. Up to 30% of the total funding demand is co-funded by the European Commission.

Q: Can start-ups that have operated for fewer than five years be considered co-applicants?

A: This depends on national eligibility rules. Please check in with your national funding agency.

Q: Is there a required own contribution, and how are intellectual-property rights handled?

A: Transnationally, there are no rules for these matters beyond the fact that funded projects are obligated to provide open access to research outputs (Call Text section 5.3.2). Please check Annex A in the Call Text to familiarize yourself with your national funding agency's rules and contact them if you have further questions.

Q: Are costs for computer equipment, such as a server or workstation required for project modelling, eligible?

A: Please check Annex A in the Call Text and contact your national funding agency for further questions.

Q: How many projects are expected to be funded per topic, and what is the estimated success rate?

A: This is difficult to say. Please check the statistics from previous calls for an overview; they can be found on the website by accessing the previous Calls and scrolling down to the documents section, where the document DUT Call Call Statistics / Agenc Results can be found. [Click here](#) for the document from Call 2025.

5. Evaluation and proposal submission

Q: Is the evaluation committee part of the DUT consortium or external?

A: All experts participating in the evaluation committee, including the Chair, are independent, external experts. Please check the Call Text for further details.

Q: Where can project ideas be presented to find potential consortium partners?

A: <https://www.b2match.com/e/dut-call-2026>

Q: Is the project abstract in the submission system the same as the one in the pre-proposal? Are there additional sections to complete in the system besides the proposal template?

A: Yes, the abstract is the same. Yes, there are some sections that are only available in the submission system and must be completed directly in the system.

Q: What are the DUT rules on using AI when writing a proposal?

A: This can be found in the Call Text, Chapter 3.3.

Q: How strictly is the page limit for the pre-proposal applied? May the template be reformatted to fit more content?

A: The page limit is strict and must be observed. If it is exceeded, you will be ineligible. Pre-proposals and full proposals must respect the total number of pages using a standard font size and normal page margins as indicated on the proposal form – the formatting requirements can be found in the template. Reformatting the template will render your proposal ineligible.