Driving Urban Transitions

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

Joint Call for Proposals for Research and Innovation Projects

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

DRIVING URBAN TRANSITIONS

DUT Call 2026

Co-funded by the European Commission (Grant N° 101069506)

CALL TEXT

IMPORTANT DATES

Opening of the call for pre-proposals: 1 September 2026

Submission deadline pre-proposals: 17 November 2026 at 13:00:00 (CET)

Submission deadline full proposals: 15 April 2027 at 13:00:00 (CEST)

Revisions of the Call text

If the Call text has been updated, the changes are tracked in the table below.

Date	Update in Call text
July 3	Updated NA for CCDRC, added NAs for FFG, CVTISR and SIA
July 27	Updated NAs for BF, DLR, FFG, SNSF, VLAIO, added NAs for AEI, CDTI, ETAg, LMT, NWO, SWEA
August 3	Updated NA for CCDRC, added NAs for ANR, LCS, TA CR and TUBITAK
September 1	Updated NAs for BF, RCN, CVTISR, added NAs for BSNF, PH, FRS-FNRS, FWO, FZJPtJ, GSRI, KAIA, MHESR, Vinnova
September 17	Updated NAs for AEI, LCS, TA CR and UEFISCDI
October 2	Updated NAs for CVTISR, PH
November 2	Updated NA for TUBITAK

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1 Introduction

The aim of this Call for proposals is to support transnational research and/or innovation projects that help cities tackle urban challenges and transition towards a climate neutral and resilient future for all. Projects should contribute to one or more of the three Transition Pathways: the 15-minute City (15mC), Circular Urban Economies (CUE), and Positive Energy Districts (PED). These pathways provide a holistic and systemic approach to tackling urban challenges, fostering innovation and enabling cities to implement sustainable solutions.

It is the fifth Call of the DUT Partnership co-funded by the European Commission (EC) under the Horizon Europe framework programme.

The projects selected within this Call will be funded directly by national/regional Funding Agencies from the following countries: **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, and Türkiye**

Each proposal must involve, at least, three partners from three countries on this list that are eligible for funding by their respective national/regional Funding Agency. At least two of those partners must be from countries eligible for EC Co-Fund (see transnational eligibility rules in section 3.4 for details).

The added value of transnational collaboration should be clearly stated.

Out of the countries listed above, only Funding Agencies from the following countries are eligible for EU Co-Fund (EU Member States and Associated Countries to Horizon Europe): **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and Türkiye**

The Call welcomes cross-sector collaborations and projects are expected to adopt co-creative approaches involving stakeholders such as local communities, civil society organisations and the private sector, particularly SMEs, from the early stage of the project design. The participation of a municipality or local authority in the project consortium is mandatory (see section 3.4 for transnational eligibility rules). Applicants are invited to consider users' needs in the identification of the project goals.

This call puts an extra emphasis on innovation-oriented projects targeted at demonstrating, scaling, and uptake of innovative solutions in cities, districts and neighbourhoods, and in terms of interdisciplinary approaches, it is open to a wide range of scientific disciplines.

This document describes the objectives, scope, and topics of the Call, rules for participation and procedures for proposal development and project implementation.

Further information on this Call (mandatory templates to use when applying, link to the submission platform, etc.) can be found on the DUT Website.

1.1 Structure of the Call text

This Call text is structured as follows:

- Section 2 describes the aims and topics of the Call.
- Section 3 presents the eligibility criteria for an application, as well as the instructions for submission.
- Section 4 covers the assessment and selection procedure and presents the evaluation criteria.
- Finally, section 5 describes the implementation of the project regarding the consortium agreement, project monitoring and programme activities.

1.2 Background to urban challenges addressed through the DUT Partnership

Cities and urban areas are the nexus for the transformations required if the European Union (EU) is to achieve the targets of the European Green Deal (EGD) and to fulfil commitments related to the United Nations (UN)' Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda, the EU Agenda for Cities, the Urban Agenda for the European Union, and the Paris Agreement (COP21). Additionally, they play a crucial role in the implementation of the Horizon Europe Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities (EU Cities Mission) and the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative.

The DUT Partnership aims to address these challenges with an integrated approach to offer decision makers in public authorities including municipalities, companies including SMEs and, more generally, society, solutions to enact and enable necessary urban transformations. Furthermore, the DUT Partnership, through research and innovation (R&I) projects, aims to develop skills and tools (including technology) that facilitate urban change, boost urgently needed urban transformations, and bring existing and new knowledge and evidence into action.

The DUT Partnership accelerates urban transitions through three thematic areas – known as Transition Pathways (TPs), which focus on key dimensions of urban transitions: urban mobility (the 15-minute City Transition Pathway (15mC TP)), urban energy (the Positive Energy Districts Transition Pathway (PED TP)), and urban resources and greening (the Circular Urban Economies Transition Pathway (CUE TP)). While each TP has its distinct thematic focus, they function as interconnected sub-programmes, ensuring that urban transitions are approached in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

- **The 15-minute City Transition Pathway (15mC TP)** addresses challenges of urban mobility, logistics, public space and proximity-based policies to promote implementation of climate neutral, resilient neighbourhoods for all. It draws on research and innovation projects to showcase a diverse mosaic of approaches that drive mobility transitions. The 15mC TP aims to enable analysis, development and testing of ideas, tools and innovations for 15-minute cities within co-creative and transdisciplinary settings.
- **The Circular Urban Economies Transition Pathway (CUE TP)** aims to foster urban places, communities and neighbourhoods that are sustained by circular resource flows and enhance the wellbeing of their inhabitants and ecosystems. It encourages urban planning and design characterised by regenerative urbanism, favouring the combination of circular principles, urban greening, and equal access to urban spaces and resources.
- **The Positive Energy Districts Transition Pathway (PED TP)** aims to develop innovative solutions for planning, large-scale implementation, and replication of PEDs across Europe's urban and peri-urban areas. By combining energy efficiency, renewable energy production, and energy flexibility at the local level, PEDs offer and contribute to affordable energy systems, affordable quality housing, and competitive, resilient and inclusive local economies for cities through energy communities, contributing to European goals such as the SET Plan and the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities.

For the DUT Partnership to maximise impact of European and global policies, these three TPs are to be considered in an integrated manner. Evidence will be created with and for city administrations, municipalities, businesses and society, with an aim to bring forward the innovations and capacity building needed to transform our neighbourhoods and urban areas into climate neutral, liveable, healthy, socially and economically attractive and well-being places.

The DUT Partnership offers a framework for innovation, demonstration and preparation of larger scale translation of innovative and people-centred solutions and approaches into local urban settings. Therefore, these insights and solutions generated by the DUT Partnership might also support the Cities Mission implementation, empowering local authorities and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve the ambitious goal of delivering 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030.

1.3 Available budget and funding scheme

The total available budget for this Call is approximately EUR 49 M of budget committed by the participating Funding Agencies. Additionally, the EC will support this Call through Horizon Europe (co-funded action DUT – Grant Agreement number 101069506) with a co-fund of up to 30% of the eligible Funding Agency budget for the 2026, 2027 and 2028 DUT Partnership Calls.

The national/regional Funding Agencies (outlined in **Annex A**), which are partners of the EC grant under the DUT Partnership project, are ineligible for funding under this Call.

Each national/regional Funding Agency will provide funds directly to their eligible beneficiaries in accordance with the agencies' rules and regulations.

Tables 1 and 2, provided in **Annex A**, give an **essential** overview of the national and regional budgets dedicated to this Call by each Funding Agency and of their positioning on which topics (including the cross-cutting topic), research categories, organisation types, etc. that they can fund.

Table 3, provided in **Annex A**, presents the funding rules and guidelines for each national/regional Funding Agency.

2 Scope and topics of the Call for proposals

2.1 Aims, approaches and recommendations for proposals

Focus on urban areas, in the context of achieving climate neutral and resilient cities

Projects are expected to be **focused on urban areas** (including peri-urban areas) and their **issues and challenges**. Where appropriate, they may also consider the effects and impact on other territories like rural areas or consider urban-rural relationships, so long as the urban focus remains.

Cross-sector collaboration, broad involvement of stakeholders

The complex societal challenges addressed in the DUT Partnership also ask for knowledge on and insight in transition, innovation and implementation processes, acceptance of new systems and services, and insight in mid- and long-term behaviour of stakeholders.

Therefore, collaboration and co-production of knowledge with practitioners and professionals in companies and governments, advocacy groups, citizen and inhabitant groups or NGOs (grouped under the generic name of "stakeholders" below), is highly relevant.

All projects must clearly engage stakeholders and demonstrate user needs relevant to the project goals (see the evaluation criteria in section 4.5).

Stakeholders might, for example, be involved in the choice of the topic of the proposal, in the design and advising on the project and/or in carrying out parts of the work programme. Therefore, consortia submitting proposals to this Call are asked to describe how stakeholders are involved in the project (such as, throughout the various stages of project design, implementation, analysis and dissemination). The extent of involvement may vary according to the context of the project proposed and national/regional regulations of participating Funding Agencies.

Stakeholders may be associated with the project as full partners or as cooperation partners that do not directly receive funding but can contribute to the project in various forms (in steering committees, as advisors, as providers of data, etc.). See **Annex A** for individual funder rules.

Projects are expected to take a transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and preferably co-creative approach from the early project formulation stages.

A systemic approach to urban transitions

Recognising that transformative impact stems from system innovations, DUT emphasises the systemic nature of urban transitions. Cities function as interconnected, complex systems composed of social, environmental, economic and technological dynamics, and identifying leverage points for scalable solutions is crucial to altering the structural conditions that shape urban development. To translate this systemic approach into practice and provide a foundation for systemic urban change and leverage points, DUT defines urban impact through four interdependent impact dimensions. Projects are encouraged to address all or as many of these dimensions as possible:

- Culture and values
- Governance and policy
- Technologies and infrastructure
- Business models and tools

A place-based approach

Transformative change must be locally grounded to be effective. Therefore, a place-based approach is key to DUT's modus operandi, to ensure that the urban transition is rooted in local identities, social needs and ecological benefits. Understood and implemented as a bottom-up strategy place-making empowers

local actors and communities to shape both their environments and broader systemic structures. Applicants are encouraged to acknowledge their project's local contexts, actively engaging diverse stakeholders to co-create on the project.

Inclusion of diversity (including gender dimension) or specific population considerations

Applicants must integrate diversity considerations in submitted proposals, as well as consider underrepresented populations in the planned research (see also the Evaluation Criteria in section 4.5). This includes not only diversity distribution and gender balance in the consortium composition, but also the inclusion of diversity perspectives and analysis in the R&I activities where this is relevant[1].

Transnational benefit

Projects should support collaboration that goes beyond individual national efforts and demonstrates sharing, operationalising and transferring of existing knowledge, resources, and research facilities to mutual, transnational benefit. Clear added value of the transnational consortium should be demonstrated and, if relevant, the added value for national investments.

Connection to earlier transnational European, national, regional, local research and innovation actions

The projects funded in this Call are expected to build on existing knowledge and experience as achieved in earlier relevant transnational European, national, regional and local R&I programmes, pilots, test implementations and field labs[2]. In the proposal, it is necessary to indicate how projects are positioned with respect to the state-of-the-art.

In particular, projects are expected to articulate how they go beyond the current state-of-the-art and leverage results from previous or ongoing transnational European, national, regional and local R&I initiatives, such as relevant projects in the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programme (including Cities Mission calls among others), JPI Urban Europe Calls, NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme, LIFE programme, Climate Adaptation Mission calls, New European Bauhaus, Clean Energy Transition Partnership calls, etc.

Outputs and outcomes of the projects, broader impacts of the proposed activity

The Call Secretariat recommends that establishment of potential long-term partnerships, leveraging of existing knowledge networks and project co-design between project participants and their stakeholders be essential components of the proposed projects.

Additionally, it is recommended that outputs be targeted towards decision-making (including public and private spheres, as well as communities) and innovations as broadly understood in DUT (technological, organisational, institutional, social etc.).

The proposals are expected to present:

- how stakeholders will be engaged and contribute to the project and will be involved in the dissemination and uptake of the results;
- their plan for broadly communicating and disseminating outputs and outcomes, to enhance knowledge transfer of results to end users; and describe their strategy for longer-term uptake and scaling of project outcomes;
- how project measures might support the effective implementation of related urban strategies and action plans, e.g. Climate City Contracts for projects with an EU Mission Label.

[1] A project is considered diversity (or gender) relevant when it concerns individuals or specific groups of people and/or when its findings may affect individuals or specific groups.
[2] This does not necessarily mean earlier projects by one of the applicants, but refers to projects and knowledge in general.

The projects are also asked to contribute to, and through their results, feed into the dissemination and valorisation activities of the DUT Partnership (see section 5.3 - Programme activities).

2.2 Types of research and innovation (R&I) activities to be supported

This Call is open for proposals referring but not limited to strategic urban research, applied urban research, urban innovation (see definitions in the table below). Different Funding Agencies have the possibility to fund different parts of the R&I landscape. Table 1 in **Annex A** indicates the research types that will be funded by each Funding Agency.

The call is open to a very wide range of scientific disciplines and the combination of different research types within one project (with potential differentiation at work package level) is possible. Please consult **Annex A** to find out which disciplines and research types are funded by your Funding Agency.

While some project aspects (purpose, intended impact, roles and level of stakeholder involvement) depend heavily on a project's positioning with respect to R&I activities, it is worth noting that all TPs (and all subtopics except for the crosscutting topic which is for innovation projects only) are open to both the research oriented and the innovation oriented approach. Therefore, the assessment framework accounts for differences between the approaches by applying specific sub-criteria (see section 4.5).

At the program level, DUT aims to establish a balanced portfolio of funded projects covering the R&I landscape. While DUT encourages proposals adopting an innovation-oriented approach (IOA) to maximize real-world impact and solution uptake, applicants are asked to identify and indicate which of the following approaches is the best fit for their project, **depending on the main purpose of their proposal:**

- a more "***research-oriented approach" (ROA) to support projects*** aimed at producing knowledge, analysing data, better understanding and modelling phenomena, and developing expertise and tools that will be useful to stakeholders, practitioners and policymakers. This R&I orientation (called ROA moving forwards) welcomes proposals mainly focused on strategic and/or applied research;
- a more ***"innovation-oriented approach" (IOA) to support projects*** aimed at developing or improving practical, operational solutions for companies, local communities and urban public authorities, as well as piloting, testing, demonstration, scaling and commercialization of such solutions. This R&I orientation (called IOA moving forwards) welcomes proposals mainly focused on applied research and innovation[3].

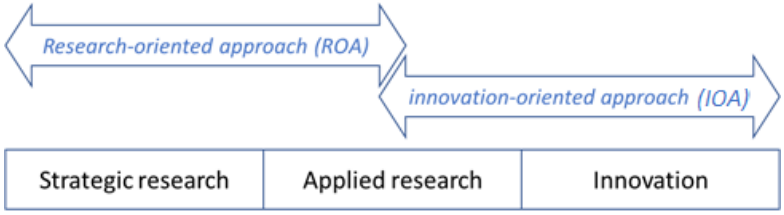


Figure 1: positioning of the ROA and IOA with respect to research and innovation

Note: This figure only applies to the definitions used by the Call Secretariat (which are used to position applications on the Expert Panels, etc.). Specific Funding Agencies may have different definitions/criteria

[3] If this Call was focused on technological research and development (which is not the case), we would have been talking of TRLs between 1 and 4 for ROA and above 4 for IOA.

– therefore, Applicants must familiarise themselves with the National Annexes (see **Annex A**) of the Funding Agencies involved in their proposal.

For proposals combining both research and innovation aspects, the project coordinator must choose the approach that is the most relevant considering the main objective and major novelty brought about by their project. Alignment is expected between the type of activities (ROA/IOA) and the type of partner contribution indicated.

Definitions of strategic research, applied research and innovation (research types)

The key characteristics of the three stages of R&I activities are defined as follows:

- "**Strategic urban research**" is defined as research activities driven by the desire to know, understand, and explain how cities function and interact across domains and sectors. Strategic urban research by this definition encompasses qualitative, as well as quantitative approaches, and examples can be found in any academic discipline. The subject of this type of research can be a specific aspect of a city or a city in its entirety, or even a network of related cities. Strategic urban research can be theoretical, comparative or case specific. For this research approach, the primary goal is to expand on common knowledge about how cities function. In line with this, it places a high value on traditional scientific methods and publication in *peer reviewed journals*. In many cases, this type of research should still have value to end users so they should be engaged where appropriate.

- Understanding of how cities function (within the scope of the Call Topics) is essential to be able to achieve effective (policy) intervention. Achieving this through knowledge creation is often referred to as "**applied urban research**" (corresponding to industrial research in the GBER[4]). Applied urban research in this context is about how city officials, citizens and inhabitants, practitioners and others can influence and interact with a city, with the purpose of improving or adapting it, in some respect. In applied urban research, there is good opportunity to involve citizens and inhabitants, and representatives from non-academic institutions (NGOs, advocacy groups, citizen and inhabitant organisations, companies, public authorities…) in projects, to bring a practitioners' perspective to co-produce knowledge relevant for user stakeholders. Applied urban research is designed to be tangible and applicable to such a degree that the results are likely to have an impact on actual decisions and policy. Apart from publication in peer reviewed journals, knowledge exchange activities such as policy briefings, policy seminars and other events targeted at stakeholders are important, as well as dissemination in popular media.

- While strategic and applied urban research are both focused on producing knowledge, "**urban innovation**" (corresponding to experimental development in the GBER) takes things one step further and promotes the actual creation or advancement towards new policies, practices, services, products or processes – such as integrated systems, tools, services and data – in such a manner that the first impact already takes place during the project phase. Initiatives should therefore have a focus on experimentation, testing, demonstration, evaluating and disseminating results, and are always carried out in close collaboration with stakeholders. Policies, practices, processes, services or products being developed could be of commercial value, but equally welcome is innovation directed at public governance, management and operation (societal value). Urban innovation should be carried out in close collaboration with stakeholders.

[4] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=legissum:0802_4

For more details, see **Annex C**.

The following table provides some key characteristics of the two R&I approaches.

Table 1: Characteristics of the two R&I approaches

Characteristics	Research-oriented approach (ROA)	Innovation-oriented approach (IOA)
Desired impact	Advance towards answering the questions: • "How do cities really function?" in a way that can be generalised and add to the universal body of knowledge about cities and serve as a foundation for future research. • "What works, when attempting to improve cities?" in a way that can be generalised enough to serve as useful knowledge for decision makers and practitioners.	Advance towards the development, implementation, demonstration, testing, evaluation and uptake of approaches for new products, services, policies, practices and processes, with potential for improving economic, social or environmental sustainability in cities.
Importance of generating results fit for publication in reputable academic journals	Very important	Encouraged
Methodological approach	Rigorous scientific method including methodological advancement	Systematic, proven approach
Foundation of work on evaluation and analysis of empirical observations	Encouraged	Required
Involvement of stakeholders	Involved at least as advisors	Directly involved in the workload
Role for applying *Urban Living Labs (see Annex D)*	Welcomed	Encouraged
Role for policy research	Fits well	May fit
Valorisation of project results delivering factual impact (facts and figures)	Provision of insights to an important societal issue, production of useful, impactful knowledge in terms of facts and figures for stakeholders/decision makers/practitioners	Market potential and quantitative impact of the project or capacity to respond to a demand or need (including societal needs)
Interdisciplinary approach	Encouraged	Encouraged
Academic disciplines expected in project	All welcome (especially from social sciences, arts and humanities)	
Preference for qualitative and quantitative methods	Both welcomed	Both welcomed
Background of evaluators for project assessment	Knowledgeable researchers from universities and Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) with topic relevant disciplinary background and expertise, researchers with strong experience on utilisation of research results, representatives of companies, cities and other relevant stakeholders.	

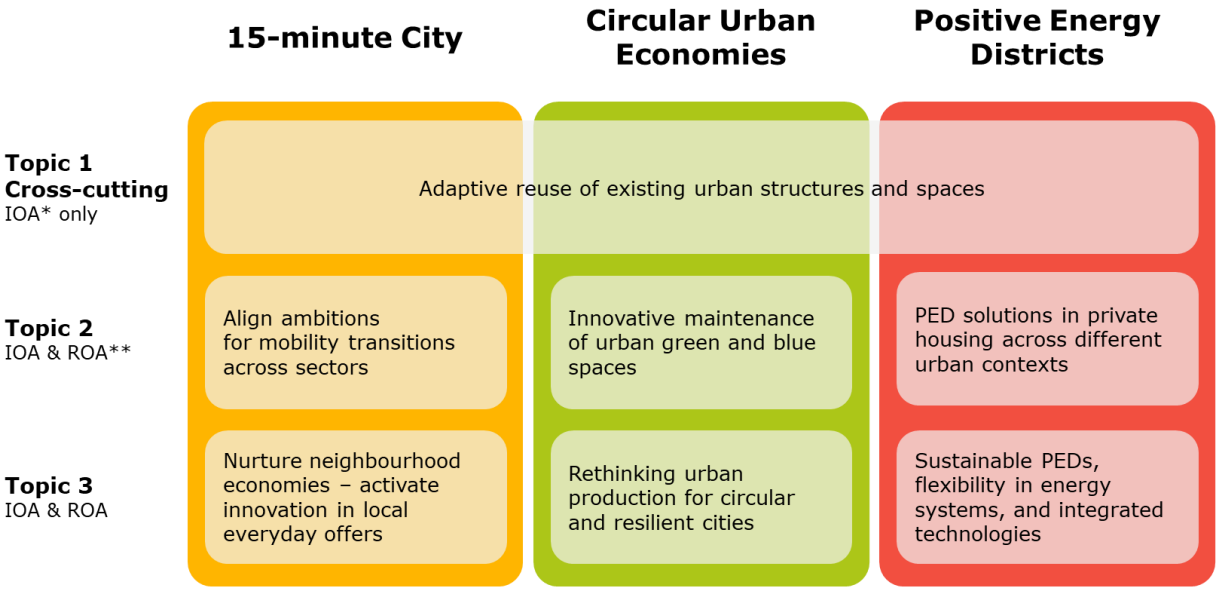
2.3 Call topics

The Call topic descriptions are organized under the three Transition Pathways (TPs): CUE, 15mC, and PED. For each TP, two topics have been identified as focus areas for this year's Call.

As urban transition challenges are inherently interconnected, proposals may address multiple topics across one or more TPs. Therefore, DUT encourages cross-cutting projects that combine aspects from different TPs. However, each proposal must select one primary TP topic, which is most closely aligned with the proposal's core focus and against which it will be evaluated. Additionally, proposals may indicate any additional TP topics addressed, to make sure that cross-cutting aspects will be considered during the assessment.

To further strengthen real-world impact, scaling and accelerate the uptake of solutions, this Call introduces a dedicated cross-cutting topic open to Innovation Oriented Approaches (IOA) only. This topic explicitly spans all three TPs and responds to the need for projects that move beyond conceptual development towards pilots, demonstrations, transformation and implementation in real urban contexts. By focusing this topic exclusively on IOA projects, the Call aims to support initiatives with a high degree of maturity, strong cross-sector collaboration, and clear pathways to deployment, replication, and scaling.

Applicants are therefore invited to carefully select the approach, Research Oriented Approach (ROA) or Innovation Oriented Approach (IOA), that best aligns with their project objectives, and to note that the cross-cutting topic is open for IOA proposals only, with the explicit ambition to maximize impact and solution uptake across European cities.



*innovation-oriented approach
**research-oriented approach

2.3.1 Cross-cutting Topic #1: Adaptive reuse of existing urban structures and spaces

Transformative projects in urban contexts require holistic approaches, and the integration of thematic and organisational layers. The connected level of complexity asks for systemic approaches, balancing

conflicting objectives, and engagement of a diversity of stakeholder groups. For this cross-cutting innovation-oriented topic, we encourage potential applicants to compile inter- and transdisciplinary consortia that go beyond single-sector perspectives and explore combinations of aspects from all DUT Transition Pathways.

Please note that:

- This topic is only open for applications making use of the Innovation Oriented Approach (IOA).
- Beyond the general DUT criteria to include an urban public authority in the consortium, this topic has a specific transnational eligibility criteria to include at least one private sector organisation (see section 3.1).
- For administrative reasons, proposals need to select one main thematic focus / one Transition Pathway (15mC / CUE / PED) in the submission system. However, an integrated approach is expected, combining specific aspects (see below) of at least two of the three Transition Pathways.
- Please consult Table 1 and 2 in Annex A for an overview of which of the Funding Agencies that fund this as well as the TP-specific topics.

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

Across Europe, cities are made of extensive stocks of buildings, infrastructures, streets, industrial sites, green and blue areas; some of them underused, vacant or obsolete. These assets embody large amounts of material, energy, economic, and cultural value, but also spatial potential. At the same time, urban areas face accelerating pressures from risks caused by climate change, energy dependency and energy poverty, social inequality, shortage of affordable housing, mobility challenges, and resource constraints. Continuing to prioritise new construction on green fields over the transformation of existing urban structures risks locking cities into carbon-intensive pathways, increasing land take, and missing opportunities for faster, more inclusive, and cost-effective urban transitions.

Adaptive reuse refers to repurposing an existing building, infrastructure or urban space for new functions while preserving much of its original material. Instead of demolishing buildings or sites, adaptive reuse offers a **powerful lever to reimagine and repurpose existing structures and spaces** to meet present and future needs. When strategically implemented, adaptive reuse can reduce material and energy demand, activate underused urban space, support compact and people-centred urban living, and enable the integration of renewable energy systems and flexible infrastructures.

At the same time, adaptive reuse can generate **latent effects and unexpected outcomes for inhabitants**. These may include shifts in social dynamics, changes in affordability and accessibility, and the potential for both community revitalisation and displacement (e.g., through gentrification). Altered spatial layouts and building characteristics can also influence everyday practices, comfort, and perceptions of place. While adaptive reuse can strengthen local identity and cultural continuity, it may also introduce tensions between preservation and new uses. Understanding these unintended or indirect impacts is therefore critical to ensuring that adaptive reuse contributes not only to environmental and economic goals, but also to socially equitable and inclusive urban development.

Despite its potential, the real-world **implementation of adaptive reuse remains fragmented**. Regulatory barriers, fragmented ownership, misaligned incentives and sectoral silos are some of the aspects that hinder large-scale application. There is a strong need for innovative projects that move beyond individual buildings or isolated interventions and demonstrate adaptive reuse as a **systemic, cross-sectoral urban transformation strategy.** This is at the core of this topic, which invites proposals to tackle the above-mentioned challenges through integrated, place-based, and systemic approaches.

SCOPE

Project proposals submitted under this topic should address one or several of the following questions:

- How can **adaptive reuse** and redevelopment of existing buildings, retail spaces, infrastructures, (semi-)public space, brownfields, or industrial areas and green and blue spaces **be implemented**

as an integrated strategy that simultaneously supports circular resource use, low-carbon energy systems, and a city of short distances?

- How can **underused or mono-functional urban spaces** (e.g. parking areas, motorized traffic-dominated streets, vacant buildings, industrial estates) **be transformed** through real-world pilots into multifunctional, high-density spaces that support sustainable mobility, local production, social services, local energy sharing and community life?
- Which **cross-sector collaboration models** (e.g. between municipalities, housing providers, energy actors, mobility providers, SMEs, business sector and civil society) enable adaptive reuse projects to move from concept to implementation and long-term operation?
- Which participatory methods can be used to enable **community involvement and local ownership**, but also guarantee high sustainability ambitions? How can (small) businesses, local initiatives and associations/NGOs be integrated and actively engaged in local developments and solutions, together with public entities, real estate developers and larger enterprises?
- Which **policy, planning, and governance approaches**, including incentives, regulatory tools, and community engagement mechanisms, most effectively enable implementation of inclusive and socially responsive adaptive reuse projects that enhance individual and systemic resilience?
- How can **proposed interventions address underlying structures**, including governance arrangements, investment logics, regulatory frameworks, behaviours, and cultural norms.
- How can adaptive reuse **overcome regulatory and financial barriers**, as well as obstacles related to fragmented ownership, and what innovative governance, financing, or procurement models can enable replication and scaling?
- How can adaptive reuse projects **integrate high-quality design, aesthetics, and cultural heritage** – in line with the principles of the New European Bauhaus – ensuring that interventions are not only sustainable and functional but also beautiful, inclusive, and reflective of local identity and sense of place?
- How can adaptive reuse interventions **deliver measurable impacts** in terms of emissions reduction, energy performance, resource efficiency, accessibility, social inclusion, and resilience, and how can these impacts be monitored to support uptake?

Specific 15mC aspects

- How can mobility infrastructure and public spaces be made **future-proof and resilient** – capable of absorbing external shocks, remaining flexible under changing conditions and enabling rapid recovery from disruptions? How can **changes to existing mobility infrastructure be implemented** while maximising material reuse, responding to shifting mobility needs and demographic changes, avoiding overreliance on a single dominant transport mode?
- How can **integrated planning instruments** that coordinate construction and maintenance of streets and squares across municipal departments and stakeholders best contribute to resilience, effective adaptation and efficient resource use? Which **tools, conditions and processes** are **required** to make integrated planning the standard practice in urban development?
- What is needed and how can **experimental and temporary mobility arrangements** (e.g. during construction phases) be applied across contexts to test iterative interventions, diversify monofunctional traffic spaces and enable new uses?
- How can **adaptive reuse of outdoor infrastructure** (e.g. vacant lots, parking garages, rooftop spaces, and semi-public areas) be promoted and effectively supported to create healthy, green and socially inclusive spaces?

Specific CUE aspects

- How can adaptive reuse **reduce environmental impacts and support circular urban economies** by extending the lifecycle of buildings, minimizing demolition waste, and prioritizing the reuse of existing resources?
- How can adaptive reuse **balance cultural heritage preservation with contemporary urban needs**, enabling cities to maintain architectural identity while accommodating new functions and uses?

- How can the transformation of underutilised buildings and sites through adaptive reuse address pressing **social and spatial needs**, such as affordable housing, cultural infrastructure, and accessible green public spaces?

Specific PED aspects

- How can adaptive reuse projects **embed Positive Energy District principles**, such as energy efficiency, local renewable energy production, energy flexibility, shared energy systems, or energy communities, within existing urban fabrics and mixed-use neighbourhoods?
- How can mixed-use functions combining industrial, commercial, and community functions be promoted, and how can **synergies between these different uses** be best used in terms of energy production, sharing and flexibility (e.g., coordinated use of waste heat)?
- How can brownfield areas/former industrial areas be transformed into **multi-functional, local/regional energy hubs** with a potentially positive energy balance? How can they be integrated into the overall energy system?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Rather than focusing on isolated technical solutions, projects are expected to address this topic in a systemic way. Project outputs should be both impact- and process-oriented, ensuring they are as concrete and user-centered as possible, and are expected to:

- **Demonstrate** real-world pilot projects showcasing adaptive reuse of existing urban structures and spaces, integrating solutions for energy, mobility, circularity, and spatial transformation.
- **Show** how proposed interventions address underlying systemic conditions, including governance arrangements, investment logics, regulatory frameworks, behaviours, and cultural norms.
- **Deliver** validated implementation models for adaptive reuse that combine spatial redesign, energy system integration, circular resource strategies, and cross-sectoral governance arrangements.
- **Provide** evidence-based insights on the performance, costs, benefits, and trade-offs of adaptive reuse interventions, supporting informed decision-making and de-risking future investments.
- **Develop** replicable frameworks and toolkits enabling cities and urban stakeholders to plan, finance, and implement adaptive reuse projects at neighborhood or district scale.
- **Generate** policy and regulatory recommendations informed by pilots and experiments, addressing barriers related to planning, energy regulation, mobility, ownership structures, and procurement.
- **Establish** participatory approaches and frameworks that enable meaningful community involvement and local ownership, while ensuring significant impact across energy, mobility, space use, and circular resource flows.
- **Outline** strategies for uptake, replication, and scaling, demonstrating how adaptive reuse can be mainstreamed across diverse urban contexts and contribute to long-term urban transition pathways.

2.3.2 15-minute City Transition Pathway (15mC TP)

2.3.2.1 15mC Topic 2: Align ambitions for mobility transitions across sectors

CHALLENGE

Extensive commuting to work – predominantly by private car – is a daily reality for millions of Europeans, with significant implications for both individuals and society as a whole. While some companies (e.g. office and shopping centres as well as industrial sites) and large institutions, such as hospitals or universities, are taking steps to support employees and customers in choosing active mobility, public transport and e-mobility as their first and default option, such efforts remain relatively rare, fragmented

and uncoordinated. More coordinated and ambitious action is needed, specifically in times of energy crisis.

This topic therefore aims to align ambitions for shifting towards and building infrastructure for sustainable mobility modes between public authorities and (especially large) private and public organisations. Building on goals and requirements set out in city strategies such as Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) and Climate City Contracts on the one hand, and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)[5] and EU Taxonomy on the other, both sides are obliged to take shared action and increase ambition, effort and output, when it comes to sustainable travel of employees and customers. The challenge is to stimulate effective and scalable forms for collaboration that jointly shape an urban future with sustainable mobility at its core.

SCOPE

In this topic, proposals are encouraged to develop and test **innovative and scalable approaches to corporate mobility management** that support sustainable commuting, work-related and consumer mobility. The focus is on holistic concepts that reduce traffic, costs and emissions while improving employee health, well-being and satisfaction, thereby strengthening companies' social and local responsibility.

At the core are **pathways towards sustainable corporate mobility** that prioritise shared, active and / or non-motorised transport modes (such as public transport, ride sharing, cycling and walking), emission-free vehicle fleets, as well as organisational and digital solutions that reduce resource use. Proposals should build on existing policy instruments and market options, while developing attractive incentives (pull measures), as well as exploring appropriate regulatory or organisational conditions (push measures) to mobilise both companies and employees. The assessment of impacts on employers, employees and the surrounding districts, including co-benefits for climate, health, equity and quality of life, may form an integral part of the analysis and implementation.

Projects should enable private and public organisations to jointly identify and address mobility challenges together with public authorities and mobility providers and further deepen existing efforts. Emphasis should be placed on **building long-term, trust-based partnerships between sectors**, including clear governance, data sharing, capacity building and flexible collaboration models, beneficial for both sides and adapted to different organisational contexts. Such partnerships should be perceived as active contribution to local mobility strategies delivered by organisations, with a clear articulation of their roles and resources, as well as social and territorial responsibilities.

Furthermore, projects are invited to explore the **shared and multiple use of public, private and semi-public spaces and infrastructure**, including parking, (bi-directional) charging, logistics facilities and vehicle fleets, supported by viable business and organisational models. The aim is to stimulate mutual learning on resource and infrastructure sharing and to develop implementation cases that enable such practices, in line with rhythms throughout the day (e.g. coordination and slot management for parking and charging infrastructure, opening private vehicle fleets for general use), to be deployed at scale.

Finally, proposals are invited to examine how **changes in work organisation and location** (e.g. hybrid work, satellite offices, co-working spaces) can reduce frequency of commuting, trip length and peak-hour travel spikes, thus supporting the implementation of 15-minute City concepts and creating opportunities in peripheral or disadvantaged areas. Focus on this topic should include analyses of commuting patterns, governance and cost structures, incentive mechanisms and the impacts of changing work arrangements on cities and urban mobility systems.

Project proposals submitted under this topic may address one or several of the following questions:

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5 As defined in scope 3 emissions on employee commuting in CSRD Directive (EU) 2022/2464 and ESRS Delegated Act (EU 2023/2772).

- How can corporate mobility management be leveraged as a systemic driver for sustainable mobility transitions at urban and regional scale?
- How can corporate mobility strategies be effectively aligned with public mobility policies and long-term urban objectives, including clear governance, responsibilities and accountability?
- What conditions, frameworks and business models are required to scale and mainstream innovative corporate mobility solutions beyond pilots and across diverse organisational and territorial contexts?
- How can durable, trust-based collaboration between companies, public authorities and mobility providers be institutionalised, including data sharing, capacity building and coordinated decision-making?
- How can shared and multi-use of corporate and public mobility-related spaces and infrastructure be strategically enabled and implemented to increase resource efficiency, resilience and inclusiveness in urban mobility systems?
- How can changes in work organisation and location be strategically harnessed to reduce mobility demand and peak-hour travel spikes, support polycentric and 15-minute City development and create opportunities in peripheral or disadvantaged areas?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Rather than focusing on isolated technical solutions, projects are expected to address this topic in a systemic way. Project outputs should be impact-oriented and process-oriented, and therefore as concrete and user-centred as possible. Expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence-based frameworks, methodologies and toolkits that enable companies and public authorities to design and implement corporate mobility management as a lever for systemic urban mobility transformation.
- Pilots and testbeds for creative, innovative and scalable approaches for corporate mobility management that is based on deep understanding of needs and opportunities and builds on testing and assessment of options.
- Practical models for cross-sector collaboration, including data-sharing frameworks, capacity-building approaches and partnership structures that enable sustained cooperation between companies, public authorities, and mobility providers.
- Scalable approaches for shared resource and infrastructure use, supported by viable organisational and governance arrangements.
- Analyses, decision-support tools and pilot approaches that demonstrate how changes in work organisation and location (e.g. hybrid work, satellite offices) can reduce commuting demand, flatten peak-hour travel spikes and reshape mobility patterns.

2.3.2.2 15mC Topic #3: Nurture neighbourhood economies – activate innovation in local everyday offers

CHALLENGE

A functioning mix of commerce, services and production plays a central role in everyday urban life. It enables residents to meet daily needs locally, provides employment opportunities, fosters social interaction and contributes to vitality and resilience in neighbourhoods. Across cities of different sizes and contexts, rising e-commerce and competition from out-of-town shopping centres have weakened traditional district structures. This resulted in high vacancies and increasingly fragile and unbalanced local offers, which in turn drive greater everyday mobility and reduce access to nearby services. Yet being able to satisfy daily needs locally is a key determinant of quality of life and building local resilience, and a cornerstone for 15-minute City concepts.

This topic focuses on neighbourhood economies, understood as systems of diverse local commerce and social exchange, embedded in community relationships. Such systems generate shared wealth by circulating value locally, reducing travel distances and strengthening trust, identity and resilience – while

acknowledging its embeddedness in bigger city-regional systems. Accordingly, the topic invites research and innovation on how to rethink and revitalise neighbourhood economies as multifunctional, pedestrian-friendly centres that integrate commerce, services, workplaces and small-scale production, while also considering key dimensions of urban mobility transitions. All proposals should foresee active engagement of critical local stakeholders needed to fulfil selected themes and laid out objectives.

SCOPE

This topic encourages projects to **explore different pathways that strengthen, stabilise and / or rebuild neighbourhood economies** by enhancing local opportunities, essential services and community wealth. Proposals should address challenges such as gaps in local provision (e.g. food or service "deserts") and analyse how neighbourhood economies evolve over time in response to societal, economic, and demographic change. A **systemic, multi-level perspective** is expected, examining neighbourhood economies from the local to the metropolitan (and where relevant, national) scale.

Proposals should conceptualise **neighbourhood economies as interconnected systems** shaped by business models, legal and regulatory frameworks, financial (dis)incentives, governance arrangements, (public) procurement practices, as well as alliances among public, private and community stakeholders. Understanding how these factors influence the availability, diversity and resilience of local goods and services across different urban and geographical contexts is central to developing effective responses.

Building further on these aspects, proposals should **identify key levers for intervention** in situations of undersupply or unbalanced local offers and **co-create locally embedded solutions**. Potential pathways include the role of anchor institutions in bundling local needs – such as commerce, services and spaces for social interaction – and in supporting collective and community-based initiatives that strengthen social ties. This may also involve initiatives to (re)introduce small-scale production and manufacturing into neighbourhoods, as well as to (re)connect work and everyday life through hybrid models, such as co-working spaces, workshops, repair cafés or makerspaces.

Proposed approaches should **build on existing local assets and resources**, including people, skills, services, alliances and built environment, and explore how these can be mobilised to generate durable local opportunities. Key implementation challenges include mediating between property owners and local users, establishing public-private-community partnerships to close gaps in local supply, scaling effective collaborations and fostering community wealth building. Disadvantaged neighbourhoods but also suburban areas may serve as living laboratories for testing and refining such models beyond inner-city districts. Proposals are encouraged to build on deep understanding of good practices across different urban contexts to develop **actionable strategies** and ensure endurance beyond short-term experimentation.

This topic further invites engagement with **concepts such as foundational economy, community prosperity and neighbourhood economies**, particularly in relation to care, everyday services and local infrastructures that support reproduction of society and enhance a balanced mix of urban functions within built environments.

Finally, proposals are encouraged to investigate how **spatial and mobility-related policies**, such as land-use planning, ground-floor management, pedestrianisation, short-distance mobility and new work arrangements, **interact with local economic dynamics**.

Project proposals submitted under this topic should address one or several of the following questions:

- Which structural, regulatory, financial and governance factors most strongly influence the availability, diversity and resilience of local offers of goods and services, and how do they differ across contexts?
- Which levers for intervention are most effective in addressing gaps, undersupply and imbalances in neighbourhood offers and infrastructures, particularly in disadvantaged or vulnerable areas?
- Which collaborative models between public, private, and community-based stakeholders may enable and stabilise effective initiatives to increase local offers and infrastructures?

- How can anchor institutions, community-based initiatives and hybrid business models strengthen local supply, social ties and community wealth? What is needed to synthesise, translate and scale related existing practices to other contexts?
- Under what conditions can small-scale production, manufacturing and hybrid business models (e.g. co-working spaces, repair cafés, makerspaces) be successfully (re)embedded in neighbourhood economies?
- How do spatial planning and mobility policies interact with neighbourhood economies, and to what extent can they be applied to avoid daily trips or shift to sustainable mobility options, while enhancing local economic vitality?
- How can digital services (such as apps, chat groups, formal and informal neighbourhood platforms) be applied to strengthen neighbourhood economies and local social resilience?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Rather than focusing on isolated technical solutions, projects are expected to address this topic in a systemic way. Project outputs should be impact-oriented and process-oriented, and therefore as concrete and user-centred as possible. Expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence and analytical frameworks to understanding dynamics in neighbourhood economies from a systemic perspective.
- Insights on intervention pathways and co-created, locally embedded solutions, building on effective levers to address gaps and imbalances in local provision.
- "Policy packaging" to strengthen neighbourhood economies that guide interventions in cities of different size and context.
- Governance and collaboration models between public, private and community-based stakeholders that support local supply and community wealth building.
- Strategies for scaling and perspectives to increase durability beyond pilots, building on synergies with existing local initiatives.
- Evidence-based recommendations on interactions of planning and mobility policies and results on neighbourhood economies, reduced travel demand and sustainable mobility.
- Greater readiness for replication and policy uptake of neighbourhood economy approaches.

2.3.3 Circular Urban Economies Transition Pathway (CUE TP)

2.3.3.1 CUE Topic #2: Innovative maintenance of urban green and blue spaces

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION: Urban green, blue, and blue-green spaces, such as parks, gardens, street trees, rivers, ponds, and wetlands, are vital components of city ecosystems. They provide critical services including biodiversity habitat, stormwater management, urban cooling, and recreational and social value. However, the long-term maintenance of these spaces is often undervalued or under-resourced, leading to degraded ecological health and diminished benefits. Conventional maintenance regimes that prioritize neatness or minimal cost can inadvertently harm biodiversity (e.g. over-mowing or removing natural debris) and limit the climate resilience potential of urban nature elements. With climate change intensifying and biodiversity in decline, cities urgently need to reimagine maintenance as a proactive strategy for adaptation and ecological health. European policy developments underscore this urgency: the new EU Nature Restoration Law aims to halt net loss of urban green spaces by 2030 and increase urban nature area in following decades, and it mandates restoring urban ecosystems and ensuring access to quality green space for all residents. This calls for innovative, systemic approaches to maintenance, not just technical fixes, but new governance, financing, and collaborative models, to enhance the biodiversity, climate adaptation capacity, and social value of urban green and blue assets.

SCOPE: Project proposals submitted under this topic should address one or several of the following questions:

- How can routine maintenance practices (such as mowing, pruning, and waterway management) be transformed to boost urban biodiversity and ecological health while preserving functionality and safety in green and blue spaces?
- How can maintenance strategies for urban nature contribute to climate adaptation, for example, by managing vegetation and water in ways that reduce heat, drought and flood risks, and what innovations are needed to adapt upkeep regimes under changing climate conditions?
- What governance models and cross-sector collaborations (e.g. across municipal departments, community groups, and private stakeholders) can ensure the sustainable long-term stewardship of urban green and blue spaces, overcoming silos and engaging new actors in maintenance?
- What innovative financing mechanisms or business models can be developed to fund the ongoing care of parks, waterways and other urban natural areas (for instance, dedicated green maintenance funds, public-private partnerships, or payments for ecosystem services)?
- How can maintenance practices maximize the social value of urban nature, ensuring that green/blue spaces are accessible, safe, and inclusive for all communities, while also enhancing ecological outcomes?
- What are citizens' needs in terms of urban nature? And how can citizens by actively involved in the maintenance of Urban Green and Blue Spaces?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES: Rather than focusing on isolated technical solutions, projects are expected to address this topic in a systemic way. Project outputs should be impact-oriented and process-oriented, and therefore as concrete and user-centred as possible. Expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- Guidelines or toolkits for **biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient maintenance** regimes in various types of urban green, blue and blue-green spaces.
- **Governance frameworks or partnership models** (e.g. community stewardship agreements, inter-departmental coordination mechanisms) for co-managing and maintaining urban natural spaces over time.
- **Innovative financing strategies** (such as dedicated urban nature funds, new municipal budget tools or revenue schemes from circular reuse of green waste) to support the long-term upkeep of urban green infrastructure.
- Decision-support **tools or methods** for planning maintenance activities that optimize ecological and climate adaptation outcomes (for example, dynamic maintenance scheduling informed by weather and biodiversity data).
- **Policy recommendations** for integrating maintenance considerations into urban development and nature restoration plans – ensuring that creation of new green/blue spaces is paired with sustainable maintenance strategies aligned with EU biodiversity and climate goals.

2.3.3.2 CUE Topic #3 Rethinking urban production for circular and resilient cities

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION: In the transition to circular urban economies, cities can reinvent themselves not only as consumers of goods but also as sustainable producers. Urban production activities, ranging from local food cultivation and repair workshops to small-scale manufacturing, makerspaces and creative industries, can significantly shorten value chains and keep resources circulating locally. By localising production, cities can reduce the environmental footprint of goods (through lower transport emissions and less waste) and strengthen community resilience with local jobs, skills and enterprises. Such approaches can also foster economic inclusion by creating opportunities for diverse groups within the urban population. However, most cities today are not structured to support production: industrial activities have often been zoned to the periphery or entirely outside city boundaries, and urban plans and infrastructure typically prioritise housing and services over

manufacturing or agriculture. There is an urgent need for novel strategies and governance to embed production back into urban systems in a sustainable, low-impact way. This means allocating space and facilities for production (from rooftops and brownfields for urban farming to shared workshops for repair and fabrication), enabling the use of urban waste streams as raw materials for new products, and updating policies that currently hinder circular local enterprise (for example, regulations on reuse or permitting of craft industries). Recent global supply chain disruptions and EU policy initiatives (such as the Circular Economy Action Plan and emerging "right to repair" regulations) highlight the importance of rebuilding localised, circular production capabilities. By rethinking urban production, cities can increase their self-sufficiency, reduce environmental impacts, and improve social cohesion and innovation. This topic calls for creative, systemic approaches to integrate production into the urban fabric as a key driver of circularity and resilience.

SCOPE: Project proposals submitted under this topic should address one or several of the following questions:

- How can different forms of **local urban production** (e.g. urban farming, repair cafés and makerspaces, small-scale manufacturing, or creative upcycling industries) be successfully integrated into city environments to strengthen circular resource flows and shorten supply chains?
- What **strategies and infrastructure** are needed for cities to accommodate production activities in a sustainable, low-emission way, for instance, through innovative urban design, multi-use zones, or new technologies, while maintaining a high quality of life for residents?
- How can urban **waste and resource streams** (such as recyclables, organic waste, waste heat or water) be harnessed as inputs for local production, and what circular business models can turn one sector's waste into another sector's raw material?
- In what ways can expanding urban production contribute to **community resilience and social inclusion**, and what governance or support mechanisms (municipal programs, cooperative models, skill-building initiatives, etc.) are needed to maximize these social benefits?
- What **policy and regulatory innovations** at the city level could enable and encourage sustainable urban production (for example, updates to zoning/permitting, incentives for circular businesses, public procurement supporting local products, or public-private collaboration frameworks)?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES: Rather than focusing on isolated technical solutions, projects are expected to address this topic in a systemic way. Project outputs should be impact-oriented and process-oriented, and therefore as concrete and user-centred as possible. Expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- **Frameworks or models** for creating circular production hubs or networks in cities, linking local producers with consumers and recycling/waste management to enable circular resource loops.
- New **spatial planning guidelines or tools** that help city planners designate and integrate spaces for production (workshops, urban farms, repair centers) within dense urban areas in a livable and sustainable manner.
- **Platforms, tools or pilot demonstrations** that facilitate resource sharing and collaboration among urban producers – for example, digital marketplaces for exchanging secondary materials, or shared physical facilities for fabrication and repair.
- **Policy recommendations and governance innovations** (such as model municipal policies, incentive programs or partnership templates) for city authorities to support circular local production and "make & repair" economies.
- **Evidence-based assessments** (case studies, metrics, impact evaluations) of how urban production initiatives affect environmental outcomes (e.g. waste reduction, emissions savings)

and socio-economic outcomes (e.g. job creation, community wellbeing), providing knowledge to guide future urban strategies.

2.3.4. Positive Energy Districts Transition Pathway (PED TP)

2.3.4.1 PED Topic #2: PED solutions in private housing across different urban contexts

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

85% of buildings in the EU were built before 2000, and 75% have poor energy performance. A large share of these buildings is privately owned residential buildings. Considering these numbers, **improving the energy performance of existing buildings is key to saving energy, reducing bills for citizens and enterprises, and achieving a zero-emission and fully decarbonised building stock by 2050**. [6]

Across Europe, housing providers face declining new construction due to rising costs and limited financing, while **renovation activities progress slowly**. Residential construction is projected to reach a ten-year low by 2025, underscoring the urgent need for innovative and scalable refurbishment solutions.[7]

At the same time, cities with 45.000 or more inhabitants are obliged to develop local heating and cooling plans with the aim to decarbonise heating and cooling. The heating and cooling sector represents 80% of all energy consumed by buildings, with 72% of that energy coming from fossil fuels. Decarbonising the heating and cooling sector is therefore essential to achieving the wider objective of a climate-neutral building stock, while also supporting the EU's objectives of competitiveness, strategic autonomy, power grid limitations and reducing (energy) poverty. [8]

The PED concept offers a transformative framework to upgrade existing urban areas by improving energy performance, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting integrated, sustainable approaches. However, deep renovation remains constrained by outdated building stock, structural challenges, cultural, heritage and architectural limitations, and the high costs of both renovation, renewable energy integration and administrative constraints.

SCOPE

Proposals under this topic should accelerate the integration of PED principles into private housing and mixed-ownership urban areas, with a strong emphasis on deep renovation, sustainable heating and cooling (storage) solutions, electrification, power/electricity grid capacities and potential infrastructural limitations. Approaches should enable scalable, cost-effective, and socially just refurbishment strategies and ensure affordability, social inclusion, and protect residents from rising housing and energy costs.

In this context, proposals should explore how PED-driven refurbishment preserves and enhances asset value, reduces regulatory risks, and supports long-term viability for private owners, housing providers, and investors. Solutions must be adapted to the realities of existing residential areas (e.g. post-war housing estates, privately owned apartment blocks, historical settings, and mixed-use neighbourhoods).

To address challenges related to fragmented ownership structures, multi-owner buildings, and mixed public-private property regimes, proposals should consider integrated governance, regulatory and financing approaches. These should enable decision-making, investment, and operation of shared energy systems, clarify stakeholder roles, and overcome administrative barriers. Proposals should also identify

[6] https://www.housingeurope.eu/the-private-rental-sector-and-housing-unaffordability-in-european-cities/

[7] Housing Europe 2025, State of Housing in Europe 2025, Trends in a nutshell

[8] Energy Efficiency Directive (EU/2023/1791)

effective models of public-private cooperation, support mechanisms, and investment practices involving key stakeholders (e.g. real estate developers, and property, asset, and facility managers), supported by evidence-based approaches and city-level science-policy collaboration. This may include testing financing mechanisms that combine public and private funding, reduce upfront investment barriers, lower energy bills, mitigate energy poverty and ensure long-term benefits for residents.

Furthermore, proposals should consider spatial constraints and requirements within existing (dense) residential contexts, as well as the visual and architectural impacts of renewable energy technologies, ensuring compatibility with building design, heritage considerations, and residents' acceptance. Architectural choices should account for property value and market attractiveness. Proposals are encouraged to align and integrate New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles.[9]

Main questions/ objective

- How can PED solutions be integrated and streamlined in private housing in a diverse and complex stakeholder environment, while ensuring affordability and social inclusion alongside decarbonisation?
- How can processes be applied to different urban contexts (refurbishment/new developments, historical/heritage settings, privatised post-war environments, etc.)?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Rather than focusing on isolated technical solutions, projects are expected to address this topic through systems thinking, place-based approaches, and integrated neighbourhood strategies. Project outcomes should be impact-oriented and process-driven, with a strong focus on real-world applicability, affordability, and social inclusion. Projects should clearly define their expected qualitative and/or quantitative outputs (including facts and figures) in relation to the selected challenge questions.

Expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- Development of **scalable and transferable models for embedding PED principles** into **private and mixed-ownership housing, including refurbishment of existing residential stock.**
- **Identify solutions and technical requirements for integrating renewable energy technologies** in existing urban areas, including assessment of spatial, architectural and market-related constraints that influence feasibility and acceptance.
- **Policy and regulatory recommendations addressing fragmented ownership**, multi-owner decision-making (including exploring organisational models such as the potential for implementing Energy Communities), and administrative barriers, alongside inn**ovative and affordable financing mechanisms supporting** PED adoption in private housing.
- Practical **frameworks and guidance for private owners, housing associations, and mixed public-private housing providers** to plan, finance, implement, operate, and monitor PED solutions, including strategies for resident communication and engagement.
- Demonstration of PED solutions **delivering measurable improvements in energy efficiency, local renewable energy generation, energy flexibility, and resilience**, with documented evidence of **reduced energy costs for residents and mitigation** of energy poverty risks.
- Development of **integrated solutions for collective heating and cooling solutions**, electrification strategies, and the integration of digital tools, and smart energy technologies at neighbourhood scale.

9 https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

2.3.4.2 PED Topic #3: Sustainable PEDs, flexibility in energy systems, and integrated technologies

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

Flexibility in energy systems and the integration of energy technologies are core pillars of PEDs, enabling districts to balance demand with variable renewable generation, manage local surplus, and ensure secure and resilient energy supply. However, despite extensive modelling and design efforts, real-world implementation and long-term validation of integrated, flexible energy systems remain limited. Natural fluctuations, combined with user behaviour and infrastructural capacities in renewable energy supply pose significant challenges for grid stability and efficient system operation. The diversity of energy carriers, technologies and stakeholders, combined with fragmented data standards, proprietary protocols and misaligned regulatory frameworks, hinders interoperability and coordinated operation. As a result, there is insufficient evidence on technical performance, economic viability and social acceptance, including user engagement. Addressing these challenges through real-world urban demonstrations is essential to understand behavioural drivers, validate system integration, and support the scalable deployment of flexible, integrated energy solutions.

SCOPE

Proposals under this topic must develop context-sensitive and scalable approaches for integrating energy system flexibility and integrated technologies into PEDs. The objective is to enable PEDs to operate as reliable, resilient, and energy-positive systems by coordinating electricity, heating, cooling, and mobility through multi-carrier flexibility solutions that support local and regional energy systems. Projects should embed, demonstrate and validate integrated technological and digital flexibility solutions, including electrical and thermal storage, demand response, controllable loads, sector coupling (power-to-heat, power-to-X), e-mobility, V2G, and decentralised renewable generation at district scale. Proposals need to explore coordinated operation into the planning, design, implementation, and operation of PEDs, supported by adapted regulatory, market, and data governance frameworks, and demonstrate how energy demand and supply can be aligned with variable renewable generation through smart energy system design, temporal balancing, and coordinated control. This includes smart energy system design, temporal balancing, forecasting, and control strategies that considers for natural supply fluctuations, user behaviour/ consumption patterns and infrastructural constraints. Proposals are expected to explore regulatory, market, data governance, and interoperability adaptations, as well as innovative and blended financing and business models that enable flexible services, de-risk investments, and support scale-up.

PED flexibility solutions must be connected to wider urban and regional energy systems, overall grid services and grid ownership structures, providing solutions for grid congestion and enabling demand response, energy sharing, storage, sector coupling, and participation in flexibility and energy markets, thereby enhancing system efficiency, resilience, grid stability, and climate neutrality. Thus, the specifics of a balancing role of PEDs and local energy solutions in general need further exploration, elaborating on the (positive) impact of not least the overall resilience of European energy systems.

In this context, proposals need to explore the roles of municipalities, utilities, aggregators, grid operators, technology providers, building owners, mobility operators, as well as energy communities and citizens in planning, implementing, operating, and monitoring flexibility-enabled PEDs. Proposals should develop governance, coordination, and market models and demonstrate scalable approaches applicable across diverse urban contexts, PED typologies, and regulatory environments, ensuring fair distribution of costs and benefits. Proposals should consider approaches for strengthening social acceptance and user participation, addressing behavioural drivers, trust and incentives through engagement of residents, energy communities, SMEs, and local stakeholders. Solutions should demonstrate shared local benefits, including improved energy affordability, enhanced system reliability, increased renewable integration, and opportunities for local value creation through flexibility services. Applicants are encouraged to review

the projects funded in 2022 under PED Topic 2, to build upon their results, and to incorporate subsequent advancements in the field.

Questions:

- How can integrated context-sensitive flexibility solutions across energy carriers, sectors, and actors be effectively designed, governed, and validated in real-world PEDs to enable resilient, scalable, and socially accepted sustainable energy systems?
- What governance frameworks, market arrangements, digital interoperability models, and financing mechanisms can enable diverse actors and citizens to co-create, operate, and scale flexibility in PEDs?

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Rather than focusing on individual technologies, projects are expected to adopt systems thinking and place-based approaches that integrate technical, digital, economic, and social innovation. Outcomes should be impact-oriented, evidence-based, and user-centred, supporting the large-scale deployment of flexibility-enabled PEDs.

Projects should clearly define their expected qualitative and/or quantitative outcomes, supported by measurable indicators, facts, and figures. Expected impacts include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinated **operation of electricity, heating, cooling, and mobility systems a**t the district scale, demonstrating improved energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, and system reliability.
- Demonstration on how local flexibility solutions can contribute to mitigate grid congestion challenges and support local and regional grid operation
- Demonstration of **multi-carrier flexibility technologies**, including electrical and thermal storage, demand response, controllable loads, sector coupling, district heating and cooling, and e-mobility/V2G etc., operating as a coherent system.
- Proven **digital and ICT architectures** such as digital twins, agent-based or AI-supported control, interoperable data models, and secure data exchange across urban infrastructures.
- **Evidence-based assessment** of planned versus realised flexibility potential, supported by long-term monitoring of technical, environmental, and economic performance and contributions to grid stability and resilience.
- Scalable approaches for overcoming **interoperability barriers,** including open interfaces, shared communication protocols, and reference architectures applicable across technologies and vendors.
- Validated **local market and governance models,** such as local flexibility markets, peer-to-peer trading, virtual power plants, and energy community frameworks, enabling clear distribution of benefits.
- Improved understanding of **social acceptance and behavioural aspects of energy flexibility**, including user participation, incentives, and trust.
- **Policy, regulatory, and standardisation recommendations**, alongside replicable **PED flexibility concepts and implementation guidelines**, supporting scaling across European cities and regions.

3 Eligibility criteria and guidelines for applicants

This Call includes both a set of **transnational requirements common for all Applicants** (*i.e.* transnational eligibility criteria), as well as **national/regional requirements** for Applicants participating in a consortium (namely ***specific Funding Agency rules*** which apply to Applicants that claim funds

from a specific Funding Agency, see **Annex A** for guidance and agency web links with further information).

All funded partners in this Call will be funded by their national/regional Funding Agencies, in accordance with their respective national/regional eligibility criteria. Please note that a specific national/regional Agency may not be able to fund all types of organisations and/or TPs and/or research activities. Applicants must pay careful attention to the relevant national/regional funding rules indicated in **Annex A** and contact the relevant national/regional contact person with any queries to avoid any issues related to national/regional eligibility.

The term "proposal" is used both for the pre-proposal (first stage of the selection procedure) and the full proposal (second stage of the selection procedure).

3.1 Consortium: who can participate and apply

Definitions: applicants, main applicant, co-applicant, principal contact point

- **Applicants** are defined as **organisations/institutions/companies** (*i.e.* legal entities) that apply for funding. Applicants can be but are not limited to:
    - ***companies and commercial organisations***, including SMEs,
    - ***urban government authorities*** (such as local and regional government institutions, municipalities and municipal organisations, city authorities, urban public administrations, infrastructure and service providers),
    - ***consumers and civil society representatives*** (e.g. local and community organisations, non-governmental organisations, not-for-profit organisations, advocacy and activist groups, citizens' representatives, neighbourhood initiatives, social innovators, social entrepreneurs, etc.).
    - ***research organisations*** (higher education institutions including universities, university colleges; research institutes or other entities with research undertakings),
    - Actors from the ***culture and creative sectors*** (e.g. architects, artists and designers).
- The **Main Applicant** is the entity responsible for coordinating and managing the project (*i.e.* project coordinator). It will be the contact point with the DUT Call Secretariat on behalf of the whole consortium and is responsible for the administrative management of the complete project. The Main Applicant is responsible for overseeing the project activities and ensuring that the work programme is on track.
- **Co-applicants** are Applicants other than the Main Applicant, eligible for funding from a Funding Agency. There may be more than one Co-applicant from any participating country. In some cases where there is more than one Co-applicant from one country, the responsible Funding Agency may require one of them to be identified as the National Contact Point (NCP); this is done by the Main Applicant, by nominating a partner as such.
- **Cooperation Partners** are partners that are ineligible for funding from Funding Agencies directly (e.g. partners from countries not participating in this Call or ineligible for funding by any of the Funding Agencies, or are eligible but want to participate without receiving funding), but may be included in a project as Cooperation Partners if a) they finance their activity from other sources and (b) the consortium in general fulfils the requirements on the number of eligible applicants from participating countries. A clear description/indication of the role and form of engagement of these Cooperation Partners should be included in the proposal. A written commitment (Letter of Intent) from Cooperation Partners, participating with their own funding or with an in-kind contribution should be submitted with the full proposal. It should be noted that Cooperation Partners do not count toward the minimum of three eligible applicants from at least three participating countries outlined in the transnational eligibility rule 1 below.

- **Partners** generically refers to Main and Co-applicants and Cooperation Partners.
- The **Principal Contact Point (PCP)** is defined as the **person** who is the lead investigator for an Applicant.

Eligibility rules for the consortia and Applicants

Transnational eligibility rule 1*:* Each proposal must be submitted by a consortium consisting of ***at least three eligible Applicants from at least three different participating countries*** (see **Annex A**). Only Applicants eligible for funding by the participating Funding Agencies[10] from the following countries are eligible to apply as Main Applicant or Co-applicant: **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and Türkiye**. In addition, ***at least two of the eligible Applicants must be from at least two different countries eligible for EC co-funding in this Call. The following EU Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AC) to the Horizon Europe are eligible for EC co-funding in this Call***: **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye**
Note: Countries not eligible for EC co-funding are marked as AP in the National Annex.
All legal entities must be independent from each other to be considered as different applicants[11]. Please pay careful attention to the specific Funding Agencies' rules regarding eligibility of applicants in **Annex A** since not all Funding Agencies can support all types of Applicants. Ineligible Applicants (e.g. from other countries or ineligible to receive funding from a participating Funding Agency) may participate as a Cooperation Partner.
Transnational eligibility rule 2: Consortia must include at least one urban public authority[12] (city, municipality or entity providing key urban services[13], 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)) either as a Main Applicant, Co-applicant, or Cooperation Partner depending on the national/regional eligibility criteria.
Transnational eligibility rule 3: The Main Applicant (project coordinator) must be eligible to be funded and request funding by its national/regional participating Funding Agency.
Transnational eligibility rule 4: A Principal Contact Point (PCP) must only participate in a maximum of two proposals[14], and only once as the PCP of a Main Applicant. **If the DUT Call Secretariat, in charge of checking transnational eligibility, identifies the same person as PCP in more than two pre-proposals, or as PCP of the Main Applicant of more than one pre-proposal, all pre-proposals/full proposals in which they are a PCP, will be declared ineligible.**

[10] see **Annex A**.
[11] For instance, a company located in three participating countries and eligible for funding by the respective Funding Agencies will not be considered as three independent applicants and will count for only one applicant.
[12] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Local_government#:~:text=Local%20government%20consists%20of%20all,agencies%20of%20social%20security%20funds.

[13] Key urban services include sanitation, energy, water, transport infrastructure and transportation, education, health services, emergency services and (public) housing. See also: https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/access-essential-services_en
[14] Some Funding Agencies may impose stricter participation rules, such as no participation in more than one pre-proposal. The potential applicants are invited to read the National Annexes and check this kind of eligibility rule with the Funding Agency's contact person.

Transnational eligibility rule 5: Consortia submitting a proposal in the cross-cutting topic must include at least one private sector organization (industry, company, business, SME, branch/sector organization) as a **funded** partner (Main or Co-Applicant).

Recommendations for the consortia composition

Consortia are strongly encouraged to include at least one representative from civil society, either as a Main Applicant, Co-applicant, or Cooperation Partner, depending on the national/regional eligibility criteria. For the cross-cutting topic, involvement of at least one such representative who receives funding is strongly recommended.

Moreover, consortia may include partners active across several positions within the research and development system (i.e., innovation, applied research, strategic/fundamental research) and across disciplines (natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, engineering, etc.).

Typically, small to medium sized consortia (involving funding requests to 3-5 Funding Agencies on average per proposal), are expected. However, there is no upper limit, and consortia may involve as many partners as necessary for a convincing proposal, ensuring that all participants have a justified role. Each partner within the consortium should clearly add value to the objectives of the proposed project. Depending on the nature of the project, each partner in the consortium must demonstrate how they will exploit the expected results.

Consortia are expected to be balanced between countries, both in terms of number of partners and distribution of budget and no individual Applicant or Cooperation Partner may represent more than 50% of the workload calculated in terms of person-months.

Consortia must integrate gender balance and other diversity aspects in the dedicated section of the proposal (see the Evaluation Criteria in section 4.5).

It is also possible to include "widening" countries, if they are participating in the Call (see **Annex A** for a list of participating Funding Agencies). Please note that all consortium partners should **serve a purpose that enhances the proposal**; therefore, it is only recommended to add a widening partner (or any partner, for that matter) if their tasks provide a clear benefit to the success of the project.

Also, Applicants should consider the budgets and expected number of projects of **all involved Funding Agencies (listed in Annex A of this document)** when building the project consortium. A Funding Agency that receives too many applications will likely encounter budget issues, which may lead to **most of those Applicants being eliminated due to financial constraints**.

3.2 What can be applied for?

This section presents the eligibility rule and the recommendations concerning the duration and funding request of a project.

- ***Transnational eligibility rule 6:*** Project duration: Projects may be funded for **a maximum of 36 months.**

Funding recommendations

Transnationally, there are no fixed minimum or maximum limits for a project size. Please see **Annex A** for limits set by specific Funding Agencies.

In the proposal, a justification of the requested budget is required. The estimated budget must be given in euros only and be tabulated according to the proposal template provided. All costs must be eligible according to the Funding Agencies' rules (see **Annex A**). In case of doubt, Applicants should consult their respective Funding Agencies.

3.3 Preparing and submitting an application

This section presents the eligibility rules and the recommendations for preparing and submitting a pre-proposal/full proposal. It also presents what is not allowed and what may be exceptionally allowed in terms of modifications between the pre-proposal and the full proposal stage.

- ***Transnational eligibility rule 7:*** Language and mandatory forms.
  Pre-proposals/full proposals must be prepared **in English using the designated mandatory proposal form**. Proposals written in other languages will be ineligible.
  The proposal form should be filled in completely.
  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.
- ***Transnational eligibility rule 8:*** Submission.
  Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted on the UEFISCDI electronic submission system, UDiManager[15] (www.uefiscdi-direct.ro), before each associated deadline:
  - the **Call for pre-proposals** is **open until 17 November 2026, 13:00 (CET)**.
  - In March 2027, applicants will be invited to enter the second stage of the procedure: the **Call for full proposals** will **close on 15 April 2027, 13:00 (CEST)**.

An online help document with guidelines for submission will be provided, detailing the procedures and duties of the Main Applicant and of other consortium partners.

It is not possible to resubmit or revise the pre-proposal/full proposal after the submission deadline, unless it pertains to corrections to technical administrative details and is requested by the Call Secretariat.

- ***Transnational eligibility rule 9:*** Only pre-proposals invited to submit a full proposal will be eligible in the second stage of the selection procedure. If a Main Applicant decides to submit a full proposal rejected at the end of the first stage, this full proposal will be declared ineligible.
- ***Transnational eligibility rule 10:*** No fundamental changes initiated by the applicants alone between the pre-proposal and the full proposal will be accepted. Namely:
  - the project objectives stated in the pre-proposal cannot be changed,
  - the Main Applicant (and its PCP) must stay the same, except in case of *force majeure*,
  - the consortium (co-applicants) should stay the same (except for the Inclusion possibilities allowed explicitly by the Call Secretariat, see below in section 4.1),
  - only minor changes on the funding demand per Funding Agency can be allowed (except in the case adding Inclusion Procedure partners).[16]
  - changes in the consortium structure requested as part of the Fallback Procedure (see section 3.7) are considered modifications requested by the Call Secretariat and are therefore exempt from this rule.

The Call Secretariat may allow such modifications in exceptional cases, if duly justified.

Modifications requested by a Funding Agency do not count as changes between the pre-proposal and the full proposal stages.

By submitting a pre-proposal/full proposal, applicants agree that it will be forwarded to all Funding Agencies, which are receiving a request to provide funding for that proposal.

Some Funding Agencies require submission of information on a national/regional level as well (see **Annex A**).

[15] A PIC (Participant Identification Code) number for each Partner is necessary to submit a (pre-)proposal.

[16] Please contact your national/regional Funding Agency

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the Project Consortium to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations.

When preparing a Proposal, Project Consortia are fully responsible for its content, including any parts generated with the support of AI tools and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized in the designated space in the pre- and full proposal templates.

Specifically, Project Consortia are required to:

- Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
- Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool in the designated space in the pre- and full proposal templates. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.
- Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarising someone else's work.
- Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the Proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.
- Follow the European Commission's guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI17 in research
- Ensure that any use of AI (including but not limited to proposal preparation, work within the project, project outcomes, …) observes relevant EC regulations.

3.4 Summary of the transnational eligibility criteria

- Only transnational projects will be funded; consortia must include at least three independent legal entities applying for funding from three different countries that have Funding Agencies participating in the Call. In addition, at least two eligible Applicants within a consortium must be from different EU MS or AC eligible for EC co-funding in this Call (see **Annex A** for a summary). Please note: Proposals which no longer fulfil this rule due to a consortium change requested by the Call Secretariat as part of the Fallback Procedure (see section 3.7) must add a new partner through the Inclusion Procedure (see section 4.1) before the full proposal submission deadline.
- Each consortium must include at least one urban government authority partner, either as a Main Applicant, Co-applicant or Cooperation Partner, depending on the national/regional eligibility criteria.
- Each consortium submitting an application to the cross-cutting topic must include at least one private sector organization (industry, company, business, SME, branch/sector organization) either as a Main Applicant or Co-applicant
- The project coordinator (Main Applicant) must be eligible to be funded by its national/regional participating Funding Agency and request funding.
- One person must only participate in a maximum of two proposals as a PCP, and only once as the PCP of a Main Applicant[18].
- The duration of a project must not exceed 36 months.

17 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2b6cf7e5-36ac-41cb-aab5-0d32050143dc_en?filename=ec_rtd_ai-guidelines.pdf

[18] National/regional rules may be more restrictive regarding this eligibility criterion.

- Pre-proposals/full proposals must be written in English and respect the template form (in terms of overall size, limit of pages and characters). The template form must be filled in completely.
- Pre-proposals/full proposals must be submitted on the UEFISCDI electronic submission system (UDiManager) before the corresponding deadlines indicated in this document.
- Only pre-proposals invited to submit a full proposal are eligible in the second stage.
- No fundamental changes between the pre-proposal and full proposal, initiated by the applicants alone, will be accepted.

3.5 National/regional specific eligibility rules

In addition to the transnational rules and procedures laid out in the previous section, there may be specific Funding Agencies' rules (e.g. Funding Agencies' eligibility criteria for certain organisations, co-funding requirements, national/regional evaluation rules, submission of additional documents or information on a national/regional platform, etc.). Please note that there are also limitations regarding the types of research or innovation activities that different Funding Agencies are able to support.

It is strongly recommended to check these national/regional rules with the contact person at the respective Funding Agency (see **Annex A**) before submitting a proposal.

3.6 Eligibility check

The DUT Call Secretariat will verify the eligibility of the pre-proposals/full proposals according to the transnational eligibility criteria described in the previous section.

The participating Funding Agencies will perform an eligibility check for compliance according to their funding rules.

Both transnational and Funding Agencies' eligibility criteria must be met for a proposal to be declared eligible at either stage.

In the case a Co-applicant(s) is (are) ineligible, the proposal may still be eligible if and when the eligibility criteria are met by the proposal without this (these) partner(s).

If a proposal is "eligible", this does not mean that it will be awarded funding, only that the proposal will be admitted to the evaluation procedure.

3.7 Fallback Procedure

This Procedure is meant to provide an additional means to avoid losing projects due to high oversubscription rates of individual Funding Agencies. It does not replace the already established Inclusion Procedure (section 4.1), but rather works hand in hand with it. The Procedure consists of the following process:

During the Stage 1 Selection meeting, the Call Steering Committee (CSC) will select all pre-proposals that can be invited to the second stage without reaching an **oversubscription greater than 4 (or 3, for Funding Agencies not eligible for EC Co-Funding, see section 1 or Annex A for a summary)** in any Funding Agency, following the recommendation of the Expert Panels. Additionally, as part of the Fallback Procedure, the CSC checks the different ranking lists to select all pre-proposals which have not already been selected for invitation, and which fulfil the following criteria:

- The pre-proposal must be **fundable** according to the Expert Panels (see section 4.5);
- The pre-proposal must include applicants from only one Funding Agency with an oversubscription rate higher than 4 (or 3, for Funding Agencies not eligible for Co-Funding, see section 1 or **Annex A** for a summary);
- **All applicants** from this oversubscribed Funding Agency will be removed from the consortium. The consortium is asked to redistribute the tasks among other consortium partners and/or add consortium partners from a different eligible country;
- These applicants **must not** include the **Main Applicant**;

- The **cumulated** person months contributed by these applicants **must not exceed 25%** of the overall project person months;
- If the removal of these applicants results in a project with funded applicants from less than three countries or less than two EU MS or Horizon Europe AC countries, meaning if the proposal is **no longer transnationally eligible** according to the ***Transnational Eligibility Rule 1,*** the removed applicants **must be replaced** with one or more funded applicants from a different eligible country via the Inclusion Procedure;
- If the pre-proposal proceeds without the removed applicants, the oversubscription rates for all other involved Funding Agencies **must not be higher than 4 (or 3 for Funding Agencies not eligible for Co-Funding, see section 1 or Annex A for a summary)** as well;

All Main Applicants will be informed at the same time, therefore removing (and replacing) the applicants in question will be part of the writing process of the full proposal.

The Fallback Procedure is not mandatory - should a consortium choose that they do not wish to proceed without the applicants in question, they can choose to not submit their revised full proposal. Additionally, depending on any contracts/agreements already signed within the consortium in question, the applicants in question may also refuse to be removed/replaced (which would also lead to the pre-proposal remaining unchanged and being removed from the Call).

After Stage 2 of the Call has closed, the Call Secretariat will examine the affected full proposals as part of the transnational eligibility checks and declare those which **have not removed** the applicants in question **ineligible**. Full proposals which no longer fulfil ***Transnational Eligibility Rule 1*** will also be declared **ineligible**.

4 Assessment and selection procedure

For this Call for proposals, a two-stage procedure will be adopted.

4.1 Pre-proposal stage (stage 1)

In the first stage, consortia are invited to submit **pre-proposals,** highlighting the project's core concept, partnership, and merit.

A pre-proposal includes a description of the partners, concise project description **not exceeding** the page limits indicated in the template (exceeding this limit will render the pre-proposal ineligible for funding), and budget indications with limited details fulfilling national/regional requirements.

Transnational evaluation

The pre-proposals declared to be eligible according to the transnational and national/regional criteria will be assessed by an Expert Panel. The Panel will consist of recognised international experts in relevant fields, including academics and practitioners who can assess both the scientific excellence and the innovative and practical value of the pre-proposals. The Panel will be appointed by the Funding Agencies. No external referees or reviewers will be part of the assessment at this stage.

The Expert Panel will assess the pre-proposals using the evaluation criteria described in section 4.5. Each pre-proposal will be assessed by at least three Expert Panel members. The Expert Panel will meet to discuss all pre-proposals, produce an assessment report for each pre-proposal and ranking lists to advise the Funding Agencies responsible for the selection of pre-proposals.

The outcome of the Expert Panel's work will consist of six ranking lists, corresponding either to one specific TP and one specific R&I approach (ROA or IOA). Applicants should select the approach (ROA or IOA) that best aligns with their project's objectives. The Call encourages proposals adopting the IOA when appropriate to maximize real-world impact and solution uptake. Please note that the cross-cutting topic is open for IOA only (and will therefore be part of the corresponding IOA ranking list).

Table 1: Characteristics of the two R&I approaches

TP	Research-oriented approach (ROA)	Innovation-oriented approach (IOA)
PED TP	Ranking list PED + ROA	Ranking list PED + IOA
15minC TP	Ranking list 15mC + ROA	Ranking list 15mC + IOA
CUE TP	Ranking list CUE + ROA	Ranking list CUE + IOA

Selection of the pre-proposals invited to the second stage

The decision for the invitation to submit a full proposal in the second stage will be conjointly taken by the participating Funding Agencies (acting as a CSC) and will be based on these six ranking lists and the following other criteria that will be used to arbitrate between the ranking lists.

These criteria will aim to ensure that:

1. the invited pre-proposals represent national/regional funding requests that do not exceed 4 times (3 times for Funding Agencies not eligible for Co-Fund, see section 1 or **Annex A** for a summary) the available national/regional budget of each Funding Agency;
2. a maximum of countries participating in the Call are represented in the proposals accepted in the second stage;
3. a good representation (in terms of the number of proposals) of the three TPs and of both types of R&I approaches will be included in the second stage.

Invited consortia will then elaborate their ideas to full proposals (second stage).

An overall assessment of the quality of their pre-proposals will be provided to all consortia that were declared formally eligible in Stage 1. The report can be accessed on the UDiManager (note: only the Main Applicant of each consortium receives a notification when the report is available).

Inclusion procedure

It is possible that invited consortia will be explicitly allowed by the DUT Call Secretariat to integrate, in their full proposal, additional partners requesting funds from specific Funding Agencies, if these Funding Agencies are underrepresented in the proposals invited to the second stage.

Any such addition of applicants must comply with all the national eligibility conditions indicated in the Call Text and the regulations of the respective Funding Agencies (see Annex A).

This inclusion option between the pre-proposal stage and the full-proposal stage shall be conducted in close cooperation with the respective Funding Agencies with the aim of allowing as many countries as possible to be involved in the funding of the transnational projects.

The additional Co-applicants may not effect a significant change to the proposal's original aims, impact and main tasks, but should enhance the original focus.

This possibility does not invalidate the consistency requirements between pre-proposal and full proposal stage outlined at the end of section 3.3.

4.2 Full proposal stage (stage 2)

Transnational evaluation

Full proposals deemed eligible (as described in sections 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6) according to the transnational and national/regional criteria (this includes the page limits mentioned within the proposal template – exceeding these will render the proposal ineligible) will be assessed by an international Expert Panel, as in the first stage.

Each full proposal will be evaluated by at least four independent experts.

The Expert Panel will meet to discuss all proposals, to produce an assessment report for each full proposal and ranking lists of full proposals to be considered for funding by the Funding Agencies.

The outcome of the Expert Panel will again be six ranking lists, as in stage 1, each ranking list corresponding to a specific TP and a specific R&I approach (ROA or IOA).

Decision for funding

Based on the ranking lists made by the Expert Panel and considering the available budgets of the Funding Agencies, the Funding Agencies meeting in a CSC will jointly decide which projects to recommend for funding. The final formal funding decision will be taken by each Funding Agency afterward, following its national/regional procedure.

Taking into account the available budgets of the Funding Agencies, this CSC recommendation will be based on the identification of the optimal choice of projects to be funded, arbitrating between projects from different ranking lists, and also between any projects equally ranked within the same ranking list[19], according to the following objectives:

4. optimising both the total number of projects funded and the total number of participating countries/regions involved in these projects;
5. ensuring both a good representation (in terms of the number of projects) and balanced success rates between the three TPs and between the two R&I approaches;
6. ensuring that the EC co-funding will be used as efficiently as possible but also distributed as fairly as possible among the participating countries eligible for EC co-funding.

A written statement on the evaluation of each full proposal will be sent by the Call Secretariat to the Main Applicants. The Call Secretariat will inform the Main Applicants of projects that have been recommended for funding on the subsequent contracting procedure.

4.3 Right to object a decision, redress procedure

The Main Applicant of a Project Consortium, who considers that the outcome was based on an error in the eligibility checks or selection procedure, can submit a written complaint. This redress procedure covers only the procedural aspects of the evaluation and/or eligibility checks, including the national eligibility checks. The redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgment of appropriately qualified experts.

An eligible complaint must be submitted as a single PDF document, including all relevant documents and written in English, to the Call Secretariat (call@dutpartnership.eu) within 14 days of receiving the outcome (either the eligibility outcome or the selection outcome). Once this deadline has passed, a complaint is no longer possible.

To be eligible, the complaint must:

- be submitted by the Main Applicant to the Call Secretariat as mentioned above;
- indicate which proposal the complaint applies to by stating the proposal code as well as the proposal acronym;
- include a description of the alleged shortcomings of the eligibility or evaluation procedure;
- focus on aspects concerning the outcome on the proposal (e.g. admissibility or eligibility checks, evaluation procedure, etc.), not its merits;
- raise procedural irregularities, factual errors, misuse of powers or a conflict of interests;

[19] No gap will be left in each ranking list. When going down the ranking list, if a project cannot be funded with the available budget, no project ranked below will be funded.

- contain proof that the responsible Agency acknowledges that this complaint is valid if the complaint is related to the outcome of the national eligibility checks

Only one request for review per proposal will be considered in Stage 1 and 2 respectively. If several appeals are received, the last one will be considered. Appeals that do not meet the above conditions or are mere repetitions of the content of the proposal or disagreements with the result or reasoning of the technical evaluation will not be considered.

The request cannot refer to the outcome of proposals submitted by other Project Consortia or under different or previous calls.

An eligible and complete request for review will be referred to a committee convened by the Call Secretariat and comprised of staff who were not involved in the process for transnational eligibility checks or evaluation of the proposal. All requests for review will be treated as confidential but shared with the relevant Funding Agencies.

4.4 Time schedule

Table 3: Time schedule for DUT Call 2026

Date	Description
17 November 2026 (13:00 CET)	Deadline submission of pre-proposals
December 2026	Eligibility check
February 2027	Meeting of Expert Panel to assess pre-proposals
March 2027	Invite applicants to submit full proposals
15 April 2027 (13:00 CEST)	Deadline submission of full proposals
May 2027	Eligibility check
June 2027	Meeting of Expert Panel to assess full proposals
July 2027	Funding recommendation by the CSC
July 2027	National funding decisions and announcement of results to Main Applicants
September 2027 - January 2028	Start of the projects
2028	Kick-off meeting

4.5 Evaluation criteria

Pre-proposals and full proposals will be assessed according to specific evaluation criteria by using a common evaluation form. Some sub-criteria are specific to the R&I approach (ROA or IOA). Each consortium is responsible for choosing the approach that best fits the objectives and positioning of their proposal.

The criteria will be used for both evaluating the pre-proposals and the full proposals. Criteria with asterisk are used only for the evaluation of full proposals.*

Table 4: Evaluation criteria for DUT Call 2026

Excellence – Relevance and Merit	**5 points**

1. Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
2. Credibility of the proposed approach and soundness of the concept
3. Added value of transnational cooperation
4. Clarity and feasibility of the project design and of the proposed methodology*
5. Identification of risks and mitigation plan*

Sub-criteria adapted to ROA:	Sub-criteria adapted to IOA:
• Originality, contribution to new strategic knowledge, progress beyond the state of the art	• Innovativeness of the approach compared to existing solutions and/or business-as-usual

Impact and User Engagement (societal and broader impacts of project results)	**5 points**

1. Relevance to the Call topic(s) (see expected outcomes in each topic description)
2. Integration of diversity and gender perspectives in the project plan and goals when applicable; alternatively, please instead include an explanation as to why it is not applicable to your proposal
3. Engagement of stakeholders (e.g. communities, cities, policymakers, regulators, NGOs, or industry)
4. Effectiveness of the proposed measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of project results (*) both at the transnational and the regional levels

Sub-criteria adapted to ROA:	Sub-criteria adapted to IOA:
• Potential of the project to provide insights to an important societal issue and produce useful knowledge for stakeholders*	• Market potential of the project and/or capacity to respond to a demand or a need*

Quality and Efficiency of Project Implementation	**5 points**

1. Composition, quality and suitability of experience and expertise of the consortium to address the project goals (including interdisciplinarity, cross-sectorial collaboration, and co-creation aspects where relevant)
2. Complementarity and balance of substantial contributions of partners of the consortium
3. Feasibility and appropriateness of timescale
4. Global value for money (costs are realistic and reasonable with respect to the ambition of the project and the expected results and impact)
5. Appropriateness of costs allocation and justification of requested resources (staff, equipment, etc.)*
6. Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and workloads, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role *
7. Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk, quality and innovation management as well as data concerns, for example GDPR risks, risks associated with access to data, etc.*
8. Consideration of regulatory and ethics issues, when necessary*
9. Consideration of data management issues (if applicable to the proposal), such as access to data, data processing, data quality, etc., for example by providing a Data Management Plan*

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of the three main criteria and not for the individual sub-criteria. Sub-criteria are aspects that the experts will consider in the assessment of that criterion.

A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used to evaluate each proposal with respect to each evaluation criterion, using the following definitions for the scores:

Table 5: Scoring system for DUT Call 2026

Points	Explanation
5	**Excellent**. The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion.
4	**Very good**. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.
3	**Good**. The proposal addresses the criterion in question well, but certain improvements are necessary.
2	**Fair**. The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.
1	**Poor**. The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion.
0	**Failure**. The proposal fails to address the criterion in question or cannot be assessed because of missing or incomplete information.

The Expert Panel will have the ability to use half marks in their evaluation.

The **thresholds** for a project to be considered for funding will be **3 for individual criteria** and **10 for the overall score**.

4.6 Conflicts of interest (Expert Panel)

All necessary measures will be taken by the Call Secretariat to ensure the absence of conflict of interests (CoIs) of Expert Panel members with respect to the proposals they will have to assess.

The Expert Panel members (reviewers) will be asked to formally declare that no CoIs exist at any time of their evaluation duty and will sign a non-disclosure agreement concerning all documents and the entire process. In case of breaching the rule of no CoI, the member will be discharged from participation in the Expert Panel.

The Call Secretariat will perform a first check of potential CoIs before sending the proposals to the reviewers. Reviewers are bound to indicate after receiving the proposals whether there is a CoI with any of the consortium partners of the proposals they have been asked to assess. Reviewers will sign a formal declaration that they do not participate in the Call nor have any conflicting interests regarding the consortium partners of the projects that they reviewed.

5 Project implementation

This Call is part of the DUT Partnership that includes various joint programme activities (e.g. knowledge sharing, networking) described in this section.

Projects funded via this Call will become part of the DUT Partnership R&I portfolio. Participants of projects funded via this Call are expected to actively participate in the programme activities and to consider this in the planning of their project proposal by including budget to participate in the programme activities.

5.1 Consortium agreement

Each funded project is required to have a signed consortium agreement (CA) between all partners within six months following the start of the project[20].

For projects involving enterprises, the signature of the CA is needed prior to the start of the project: see Article 27 of the EC Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation.

The CA must address, as a minimum, the following topics:

1. Internal organisation and management of the consortium
2. Sharing of risks and results
3. Dissemination and exploitation of results
4. Intellectual property arrangements
5. Settlement of internal disputes.

Additional national/regional Funding Agencies' regulations concerning the requirement for a CA, including the date of the signature, may also apply.

The DESCA model may be a helpful starting point in designing the CA. Please note that the DESCA model CA was written for Horizon Europe projects with the EC acting as the sole Funding Agency. Thus, several of the paragraphs need to be adapted as DUT Joint Call projects have different Funding Agencies for the respective project parts carried out in the different countries.

5.2 Project monitoring and reporting

Project monitoring and reporting will be in accordance with the respective Funding Agency's rules.

In addition to the Funding Agency's requirements, the consortia are expected to deliver progress reports to the Call Secretariat, in English, on an annual basis, including a description of their transnational cooperation and a publishable summary of the project status. A reporting template will be provided on the programme website.

A detailed survey must be completed by the Main Applicant together with the annual joint reports. This survey includes key performance indicators for project progress and their contribution to the overall aim of the Call.

The Call Secretariat will publish detailed guidelines to assist projects with their transnational reporting duties.

5.2.0 Programme activities

To foster exchange between the projects, dissemination and communication to stakeholders, decision makers and the public, and to refine and identify challenges and objectives for future Calls, the DUT

[20] Some Funding Agencies may have stricter rules; please check your national/regional agency's National Annex.

Partnership has established a multi-layered scheme of mandatory activities, opportunities and support for projects.

Time and budget (including travel expenses) of a maximum of EUR 30 000 should be reserved by the consortium for these programme activities.

5.2.1 Mandatory project events

Three project events are foreseen to foster exchange between all projects of this Call. A project kick-off will be organised in 2027, a mid-term event in 2028 and a final event in 2029/2030. Two of these meetings will be hybrid and we expect 2-3 partners per project to attend on site, while at least one event will be online only. Active participation of the funded projects is mandatory, e.g. by preparing short project presentations and/or posters.

In addition, funded projects should plan to contribute to at least one DUT event per year. Examples of such events includes cross-project meetings to deepen reflections on project results; participation in stakeholder dialogues; workshops to reflect research results; and conference sessions to promote and discuss science policy issues regarding sustainable urbanisation.

Municipalities who are partners in funded projects should plan to take part in the DUT City Panel. The DUT City Panel is a collaborative platform facilitating co-creation, consultation, exchange, cooperation and engagement with cities relating to the strategic priorities of the DUT Partnership. More specifically, the DUT City Panel supports cities in their transition challenges, strengthening existing skills and tools to boost urban change and transformation towards climate neutral, and resilient cities. Involving the experience, needs and requirements of municipalities in DUT through the City Panel is essential to develop challenge driven and innovative solutions. Further information on the DUT City Panel can be found here: DUT City Panel - DUT Partnership.

5.2.2 Reports and summaries for the general public

All consortia of funded projects are expected to prepare regular popular science summaries (on an annual basis) of the project contents and updates for programme activities and publications by the EC and the DUT Partnership (e.g. for brochures, (digital) newsletters, websites).

At the end of each project, projects are expected to submit an additional publishable report, meant for the general public. A template for this report will be provided by the Call Secretariat.

Information on the projects and its partners, including summaries, abstracts, contact information, publishable reports and general information on the project may be published by the DUT Partnership, its partners, the EC or any entity contracted by them. All partners of a consortium grant rights of use to the aforementioned entities.

The Call Secretariat will publish detailed guidelines and templates to assist projects with these duties.

5.2.3 Support for the DUT Knowledge Hub(s)

In order to capitalise on the project results and facilitate their translation and transfer to practitioners, it is required that approved projects participate in the activities of the DUT Knowledge Hub(s). The main objectives of the Knowledge Hubs are to support the projects, to gather a community around a specific theme and to strengthen the links between the different actors (cities, stakeholders, research, innovation).

Each project must be represented by an expert who will spend at least 5 person-months on Knowledge Hub activities.

The experts, together with the management team of the Knowledge Hub(s) and the specific TP programme management, will work on one or more of the following themes and challenges:

- Contributing to the strategic development of the TP;

- Synthesis results, collaboration with other projects;
- Science policy briefs, participation in specific events;
- Communication to the scientific community and stakeholders;

A mandatory work package summarises these standard activities. It remains the responsibility of each project to nominate the expert who will best represent their project, deliver the project outputs and participate in the writing of supporting materials (policy recommendations, white papers, etc.) This expert must be nominated with their name and contact details, and resources (budget and staff) for this role should be indicated.

Description of expected work:

1. Meet and discuss across projects, to find synergies, overlaps, new insights, and inspiration. Achieved by an ongoing exchange between Project Experts and DUT Partner Experts through meetings and online written exchange.

2. Extract results and synthesise insights from projects for its translation into support materials and project-specific innovation portfolio cases. The projects' results, learnings and insights will be translated into support materials such as policy briefs, webinars, toolkits, white papers, or similar formats that synthesise learnings, tools, and insights from DUT projects on a specific topic.

3. Transfer insights, learnings and produced materials for internal and external dissemination. The insights, learnings and materials produced will be disseminated to stimulate transfer from science to policy and practice. Each project plays a key role in transferring materials to relevant target groups.

Deliverables and month of delivery:

- 1. Inputs for innovation portfolio (description of innovative solution(s), with relevance for achieving sustainability and liveability in cities, enabled by DUT, and with potential for scaling). (M18)
- 2. Summary of learnings and results from year 1 (one pager) (M12)
- 3. Summary of learnings and results from year 2 (one pager) (M24)
- 4. Summary of learnings and results from year 3 (one pager) (M36)

5.2.4 Support for Mission Innovation "Urban Transitions Mission" participation

The DUT Partnership, helping co-lead the Mission Innovation "Urban Transitions Mission" (MI UTM), aims to support the internationalisation and integration of DUT-funded projects in the international city knowledge and learning hub. MI UTM delivers urban pathways to net-zero enabled by clean energy and systemic innovation across all sectors and in urban governance.

MI UTM facilitates the dissemination and communication of project results at international level, while providing a platform for cities to exchange and have interactive learning together. The main aims of this opportunity are to support the projects on global collaboration and capacity building, gather a community around a specific topic and enhance the links between the different actors (cities, stakeholders, research, innovation).

Within this Call, projects are invited to participate in the activities and formats of the MI UTM, by nominating at least one city representative to act as the project representative for MI UTM.

The projects are invited to allocate project budget to the participation in MI UTM activities. We estimate that two person-months should be sufficient for this role.
The city representatives acting as project representative in MI UTM could work on one or more of the following topics and formats:

- Engaging in knowledge-transfer and capacity building opportunities with UTM cities to accelerate their journey to net-zero, resilient and inclusive futures through dedicated tailor-made trainings

and knowledge sharing offers in seven main research clusters (Transport, Energy, Water, NBS, Governance, Finance, Data & Scenarios).
- Access and engage in an online global platform for knowledge exchange (the UTM Centre), that provides cities with direct access to good practices, expert advice, integrated solutions, peer-learning opportunities and guidance for each step of their city climate journey.
- Co-creating and co-hosting of thematic sessions in the framework of international events; contributing and participating in an annual UTM Global Innovation Summit

By joining the UTM cohort cities can also access:

- A globally designed framework helping cities to strengthen their own climate plans and strategies, prioritise actions, and reap the benefits of systemic approaches to reach their net-zero target.
- Direct support to identify needs-based solutions in partnerships with the UTM Global Innovation Alliance of partners, including national policymakers, private sector, financial institutions and international organizations.
- Pilot opportunities to apply innovation, test and scale up solutions in partnership with the UTM's Global Innovation Alliance.
- Curated access to technical assistance, signposting of funding and investment, and blended finance, through a dedicated helpdesk.

5.3 Publications and dissemination

5.3.0 Communication Strategy

To ensure efficient communication and dissemination of results and outcomes, it is encouraged that all proposals include communication activities in connection to final results and deliverables from each of the project work packages (WPs).

A communication plan is a mandatory deliverable in year 1. Thus, each project shall have dedicated budget and personnel for communication, with at least one person assigned as the ambassador for communication activities (such as a WP leader). Communication activities may include, but are not restricted to, promotion of the project activities (events, webinars, seminars, publications), speaking at external events, writing key messages targeting the project's audience, and sharing results with the wider DUT community. Templates and guidelines for the communication plan will be provided by the Call Secretariat/DUT communication team at the kick-off event.

It is up to the consortium to implement these activities in a way that best fits their proposal. Please note that not all Funding Agencies may fund communication costs (meaning it might be reasonable to exclude certain project partners from this work) – please check **Annex A** for national/regional rules.

5.3.1 Acknowledgements

Projects must ensure that all outcomes (e.g. publications) of transnational projects include a proper acknowledgement of DUT Partnership, the EC DG Research &Innovation, and the respective Funding Agencies.

Guidelines and information on requirements can be found here: https://dutpartnership.eu/information-projects

5.3.2 Open science practices, data management and data sharing

The DUT Partnership strongly promotes open science and communicating the open science principles to the research community, as well as to other stakeholder communities (FAIR principles).

DUT encourages funded projects to openly share research data and digital outputs to stimulate new approaches to the collection, reuse, analysis, validation and management of data and information, thus, increasing the transparency of the research and innovation process and robustness of the results.

However, the DUT Partnership also recognises that not all data can be shared openly, and that there will be legitimate reasons to constrain access. For detailed information on the requirements regarding data management within this Call, please see **Annex B**.

Wherever possible, funded projects are expected and obliged to provide open access to research outputs (e.g., publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows) through deposition in trusted repositories.

Projects are expected and obliged to share either a link to a trusted repository or the files themselves of their research outputs with the Call Secretariat.

Costs of open access publications are eligible costs for many Funding Agencies involved in this Call and therefore sufficient budget should be reserved for open access publications where eligible. Details on whether these costs are eligible can be found in the respective Funding Agencies' National Annex (see **Annex A**).

5.4 Personal data protection

The provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) shall be complied with by the Call Secretariat and the Funding Agencies participating in the organisation of this Call with respect to the processing of personal data. Depending on the country and the participating Funding Agency, different national laws might apply, and different electronic systems will be used regarding the processing of personal data.

By submitting an application, the Applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their personal data[21], in accordance with article 6.1 (e) & (c) of the GDPR (2016/679) and for the purposes of:

1. processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;
2. administering any subsequent funding award;
3. managing the relationship between the Applicants and the Funding Agencies;
4. analysing and evaluating the Call;
5. providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses on the funded projects;
6. and complying with audits that may be initiated by the Funding Agencies and the EC (or its agencies).

In addition, by submitting an application, the Applicants agree to share their personal data with funders based outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and with reviewers (some of which may be based outside the EEA) in relation to the above activities.

Funders and reviewers may link the data that Applicants provide in the application with national, bibliographic or external research funding data which is available through public subscription-based databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science, etc.) or other national/open datasets.

5.5 "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle

[21] Last name, first name of the persons involved, date of birth, professional contact information, degree(s), position (current and previous), fields of activity, place of work, organisation, address(es), curriculum vitae, ORCID number, name and reference of projects, pre-proposals, full project proposals (scientific document, administrative and financial appendix).

The R&I activities and projects funded within the DUT Partnership are obliged not to support or carry out activities that make a significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives as defined in Article 17 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (EU Taxonomy Regulation).

6 Contact details and other information

General information on the Call

Updated information on this Call and all relevant documents/templates are published on the DUT Partnership Website.

If you have questions on the general Call process and proposal submission, please contact the Call Secretariat.

DUT Call Secretariat

Elena Simion (UEFISCDI – Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding), **Amina Ghorbel** and **Pascal Bain** (ANR - Agence Nationale de la Recherche), **Maria Rachele Nocera** (MUR - Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca)

Email address of the Call Secretariat: Call@dutpartnership.eu

Contact points of participating Funding Agencies

For questions regarding specific Funding Agencies' rules and additional forms please check **Annex A**: Specific Funding Agencies' Budgets and Rules of Eligibility" first. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the indicated national contact persons at the participating Funding Agencies.

Annex A: Specific Funding Agencies' Budgets and Rules of Eligibility

The following tables are presented to give some guidance to the applicants when considering the consortium building process and to make it easier to read the specific Funding Agencies' rules.

Please consult Table 3 for the detailed eligibility criteria for each Funding Agency.

Table 1: Participating Funding Agencies: budget, RDI activities, topics and organisations eligible for funding

Country / Region	Funding agency	total budget [M EUR]	15minC	CUE	PED	Types of RDI activities eligible for funding	Maximum funding per project/project applicant/main applicant [K EUR]	Indicative mean or range of funding demand per project expected [K EUR]	Duration of contracting phase (months)	Anticipated number of projects	Universities and research organisations	Municipalities	Business organisations and companies	NGOs and similar
Austria	FFG	3.7	1,7	1	1	- Applied research - Innovation	400k for Applied Research 500k for Innovation	400-500k	3	15-18	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium / Flanders	FIO / VLAIO	0.8M€	YES	YES	YES	- Applied research - Innovation	550k€	Indicative maximum: 499k€, prior contact with VLAIO is necessary if higher is needed	2-3 months after decision at DUT-level	-	NO	YES only if in collaboration with at least 1 Flemish business organisation	YES	YES if economic activities
Belgium / Flanders	FIO / VLAIO	0.6M€	YES	YES	YES	- Practice oriented research -	440k€	300k€	2-3 months after decision at DUT-level	2	YES for specific university college and integrated universoity educations	NO	NO	NO
Belgium / Flanders	FWO	0.75M	YES	YES	YES	- Basic research / Strategic research	250K EUR	/	1	3-4	YES	NO	NO	NO
Belgium / Wallonia-Brussels Federation	F.R.S.-FNRS	0.3	YES	YES	NO	- Fundamental research	300 K EUR/ project	300 K EUR	1	1	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bulgaria	BNSF	0.9 M €	YES	YES	YES	- Basic research -	300 K EUR	300 K EUR	36	3	YES	NO	NO	NO
Croatia	HRZZ	0.4M	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	200K	200K	12	2	YES	NO	NO	NO
Czech Republic	TA CR	0.6M	YES	NO	YES	- Applied research - Innovation	150K	130-150K	4	3-4	YES	YES	YES	YES
Denmark	IFD	2,26M (pending final approval)	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	300 per partner 500 per project	200-500	3-4	8-10	YES	YES	YES	YES
Estonia	ETAG	0.3	NO	YES	NO	- Strategic research - Applied research	150 per project or 300 per project if Estonian partner is Main Applicant	N/A	2	1	YES	YES	YES	YES
Finland	Business Finland (AP)	3 M€	YES	YES	YES	- Applied research - Innovation	N/A	200-500K€	N/A	4-6	YES	NO	YES	NO
France	ANR	3.00	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research	500	200-350	3 (indicative)	8-10	YES	YES	YES	YES
Germany	DLR	3.2	Yes	No	No	- Strategic research - Applied Research - Innovation	500/350/400	100-500	4	6-9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	FZJ-PtJ	0.67M	NO	NO	YES	- Applied research - Innovation	330/330/330	100-330	3	1-2	YES	YES	YES	YES
Greece	GSRI	1M	YES – except for Topic #3: Nurture neighbourhood economies – activate innovation in local	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	- up to **180K EUR** per project - up to **220K EUR** per project if Greek partner assumes the project coordination	N/A	Up to 24 months	4-5	YES	YES – only under specific conditions, please see (a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria	YES	YES

Country / Region	Funding agency	total budget [M EUR]	15minC	CUE	PED	Types of RDI activities eligible for funding	Maximum funding per project/project applicant/main applicant [K EUR]	Indicative mean or range of funding demand per project expected [K EUR]	Duration of contracting phase (months)	Anticipated number of projects	Universities and research organisations	Municipalities	Business organisations and companies	NGOs and similar
			every day offers											
Hungary	NKFIH	1 M EUR	X	X	X	- Strategic research - Applied (industrial) research – - Innovation/Experimental development - Feasibility Study	300 000 EUR /project 150 000 EUR /partner 200 000 EUR /partner if the Hungarian partner is the main applicant	0-300	3-4 months from the submission cut-off date of the national call	3-6	YES	yes, as partner of a main applicant	YES	YES
Korea, Republic of	KAIA	0.6M	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	200K	150K-200K	3	3	YES	YES(non fundable)	YES	NO
Latvia	LCS	0,6 M	No splitting Cross-cutting theme not funded			- Research and innovation only	100.000 EUR per year per Latvian partner	300.000 EUR per project partner(if 36 month), 200.000 EUR for a 2-year project. Max 2 partners per project	3	2	Yes	No	**Yes**	No
Lithuania	LMT	0.3M	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research	250	150-250	1-2	1-2	YES	yes, as partners of main applicant	yes, as partners of main applicant	yes, as partners of main applicant
Netherlands, Kingdom of the	NWO	4	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research	400	50-400	-	10	YES	NO	NO	NO
Netherlands, Kingdom of the	SIA	1.2	YES	YES	YES	- Applied research - Innovation	300 per project or 325 per project if Dutch UAS is the Main Applicant (coordinator of the transnational consortium)	200-325	3	4-6	YES, Universities of Applied Sciences	YES, but only as partner of applicant (UAS)	YES, but only as partner of applicant (UAS)	YES, but only as partner of applicant (UAS)
Norway	RCN	2,26 M€	NO	YES	NO	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	450 K EUR	400-450 K EUR	36-38	5-6	YES	YES	YES	YES
Philippines/Asia	PH (AP)	1.06M Euro (Php 75M)	Yes	Yes	No	- Applied research - Innovation	350K EUR	280K – 350K EUR Php 20M – 25M	2 -3 mons	3	Yes	No	No	Yes
Poland	NCBR	2.65M	0.88M	0.88M	0.88 M	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	- up to 250 K EUR per project if a single applicant from Poland (research organisation or enterprise) applies for funding - up to 450 K EUR per project if a group of entities from Poland applies for funding	n/a	3-6	approx. 5 to 10	YES	YES (only as a part of group of entities)	YES	YES (only as a part of group of entities)
Portugal - Centro region	CCDR Centro	0.5M	NO	Only Topic 3 (ROA)	Topic 2 and Topic 3 (ROA)	Project type of partner contribution: - Strategic research - Applied research	200 000,00€ (if the regional entity is the main applicant of the international project); 100 000,00€ (if the regional entity is a project applicant in the context of the international project)	100.000 € – 200.000 €	12	3-5	YES	YES (only if in cooperation with an ENESII)	NO	NO
Romania	UEFISCDI	1M	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	200k EUR for Romanian participant(s) as partner(s) in a consortium; 250k for the Romanian participant(s) – if the project is	200k	36	5	YES	YES* under national conditions	YES	YES

Country / Region	Funding agency	total budget [M EUR]	15minC	CUE	PED	Types of RDI activities eligible for funding	Maximum funding per project/project applicant/main applicant [K EUR]	Indicative mean or range of funding demand per project expected [K EUR]	Duration of contracting phase (months)	Anticipated number of projects	Universities and research organisations	Municipalities	Business organisations and companies	NGOs and similar
							coordinated by a Romanian entity							
Slovakia	CVTI SR	0.8M	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	The funding amount per Slovak partner in international projects is 400k	100K-400k	18	2-4	YES	YES	YES	YES
Slovenia	ARIS	0.45	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research	165	165	3	2-3	YES	NO	NO	NO
Spain	AEI	1,012	NO	YES	NO	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	175-362,5 (see national annex)	(see national annex)	Final trimester of 2027	7-8	YES	NO (see national annex)	NO (see national annex)	NO (see national annex)
Spain	CDTI	0.6	YES	YES	YES	- Industrial Research - Experimental development	-minimum 150k	225k	4-6 months	3-4	NO	NO	YES	NO
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)	3,25 M Euro (35 M SEK)	NO	YES	NO	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	300k Euro per project (400k Euro per project if the Main Applicant is Swedish).	300k Euro per project (400k Euro per project if the Main Applicant is Swedish).	4	7-9	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sweden	SWEA	1.5			YES	- Applied research - Innovation	N/A	N/A	-	5-6	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sweden	Vinnova	1.175	YES	NO	NO	- Applied research - Innovation	300K	Approx. 250–300 K	3	4-6	YES	YES	YES	YES
Switzerland	SNSF	1.8 Mio CHF	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research	400 kCHF	300 kCHF	3	4-6	YES	NO	NO	NO
Tunisia	MHESR	0.7	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	100	100	3	1-7	YES	NO	NO	NO
Türkiye	TUBITAK	1	YES	YES	YES	- Strategic research - Applied research - Innovation	-230 per project (excluding PIP&OC), -Per partner -Higher education institutions, training and research hospitals and public institutions and organisations (including city, metropolitan and district municipalities) (excluding PIP&OC) 100 -Private entities: 230 * *PIP&OC: Project Incentive Payment and Overhead costs*	230	4-6	5-6	YES	YES	YES	NO

Table 2: Transition Pathways and topics coverage (X) by the Funding Agencies
Please note: The cross-cutting Topic 1 is reserved for **IOA proposals only**.

Country / Region	Funding Agency	15mC	CUE	PED	15mC		CUE		PED	
		Crosscutting Topic (Topics 1)			Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 2	Topic 3
Austria	FFG	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Belgium / Flanders	FIO / VLAIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belgium / Flanders	FWO				X	X	X	X	X	X
Belgium / Wallonia-Brussels Federation	F.R.S.-FNRS				X	X	X	X		
Bulgaria	BNSF				X	X	X	X	X	X
Croatia	HRZZ	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Czech Republic	TA CR	X		X	X					X
Denmark	IFD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Estonia	ETAG						X	X		
Finland	Business Finland (AP)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
France	ANR				X	X	X	X	X	X
Germany	DLR				X					
Germany	FZJ-PtJ									X
Greece	GSRI	X	X	X	X	NO	X	X	X	X
Hungary	NKFIH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Korea, Republic of	KAIA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Latvia	LCS	NOT FUNDED			X	X	X	X	X	X
Lithuania	LMT				X	X	X	X	X	X
Netherlands, Kingfom of the	NWO				X	X	X	X	X	X
Netherlands, Kingfom of the	SIA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Norway	RCN		X				X	X		
Philippines/ Asia	PH (AP)						X		X	X
Poland	NCBR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portugal - Centro region	CCDR Centro							X	X	X
Romania	UEFISCDI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slovakia	CVTI SR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slovenia	ARIS				X	X	X	X	X	X
Spain	AEI		X				X	X		
Spain	CDTI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sweden	FORMAS		X				X	X		
Sweden	SWEA			X					X	X
Sweden	Vinnova	X								
Switzerland	SNSF				X	X	X	X	X	X
Tunisia	MHESR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Türkiye	TUBITAK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Table 3: List of Funding Agencies for DUT Call 2026

Country	Funding Agency
Austria	Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Belgium / Flanders	VLAIO
Belgium / Flanders	FWO
Belgium / Wallonia-Brussels Federation	F.R.S.-FNRS
Bulgaria	BNSF
Croatia	HRZZ
Czech Republic	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR)
Denmark	IFD
Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAG)
Finland	BF (AP)
France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)
Germany	DLR
Germany	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH – Projektträger Jülich
Greece	GSRI
Hungary	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
Korea, Republic of	Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA)
Latvia	LCS
Lithuania	LMT
Netherlands, Kingdom of the	Dutch Research Council (NWO)
Netherlands, Kingdom of the	SIA
Norway	RCN
Philippines/ Asia	PH (AP)
Poland	The National Centre for Research and Development (Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju) NCBR
Portugal, Centro region	CCDR Centro, I.P.
Romania	UEFISCDI
Slovakia	CVTI SR
Slovenia	ARIS
Spain	AEI
Spain	CDTI
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)
Sweden	Swedish Energy Agency - Energimyndigheten (SWEA)
Sweden	Vinnova
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
Tunisia	MHESR
Türkiye	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

Austria – Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Teresa Losek (PED, general enquiries) E-mail: teresa.losek@ffg.at Tel: +43 (0)5 7755-5075 Linda Lackner (PED, general enquiries) E-mail: linda.lackner@ffg.at (PED, general enquiries) Tel: +43 (0)5 7755-5049 Dietrich Leihs (15minC) E-mail: dietrich.leihs@ffg.at Tel: +43 (0)5 7755-5034
Funding commitment	EUR 3,700,000 (EUR 1,700,000 for the 15mC Transition Pathway, EUR 1,000,000 for the PED Transition Pathway, EUR 1,000,000 for the CUE Transition Pathway)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start of contracting phase: August or September 2027 Duration: 3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	October – November 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	15-18
Maximum funding per awarded project	Applied research (Kooperatives F&E-Projekt der Industriellen Forschung): maximum EUR 400,000, minimum EUR 100,000 per project Innovation / Implementation (Kooperatives F&E-Projekt der Experimentellen Entwicklung): maximum EUR 500,000, minimum EUR 100,000 per project
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	In general, universities, research institutes, SMEs and large companies, cities, municipalities and NGOs (legal entities) are eligible for funding. The complete eligibility criteria and definitions may be found in the national guidelines.
Eligible topics	- 15mC Transition Pathway: topics 1 and 3 ○ Applications in 15mC topic 2 will **not** be fundable! - PED Transition Pathway: all topics - CUE Transition Pathway: all topics
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied research (Kooperatives F&E-Projekt der Industriellen Forschung; TRL 2-4), innovation / implementation (Kooperatives F&E-Projekt der Experimentellen Entwicklung; TRL 5-8)
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	National application via eCall is mandatory: • Submission deadline pre-proposals: November 19th, 2026 at 12.00 (CET) • Submission deadline full proposals: April 20th, 2027 at 12.00 (CEST)
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	All Austrian partners in one project must select the **same research type**. For the research types "Applied research" and "Innovation/Implementation" **at least one business enterprise that receives funding is mandatory as a partner** in any transnational consortium involving Austrian partners. It is not mandatory for this enterprise to be located in Austria. Participation (as the main applicant, a co-applicant or a cooperation partner) of an **Austrian municipality or municipal (directly or indirectly owned) company is desirable (though not mandatory)**. In case of a cooperation partner, an LoI must be submitted (via eCall) in the full proposal stage. For consortia that do not yet have an established connection to such a partner, the Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung & Wohnen (SIR) offers to put applicants in contact **with city administrations** of the Austrian pioneer cities and pionier small and medium cities. For this purpose, SIR provides an information sheet, which

	must be completed and sent to the following contact persons by September 30, 2026: • Tabea Klier (tabea.klier@salzburg.gv.at, +43 5 7599 725-35) Consortia that are already in contact/cooperating with a communal partner **do not have to** contact SIR and should instead contact this partner **directly**. At least **one** Austrian partner **must** actively partake in the learning environment, provided in the framework of the *„Pionierstädte*" programme. The costs for this activity (approximately €2,000 per project year) are fundable.
Eligible costs	• Personnel costs • Overhead costs (flat rate) • Use of R&D infrastructure • Costs of materials • Third-party costs • Travel costs • Costs for participation in the *„Pionierstädte*" programme learning environment For detailed information see the "Kostenleitfaden" on the FFG website linked below.
Website with additional information	https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibungen/dut2026
Additional information	Further details may be found in the national call text, which can be found on the FFG website linked above. For projects awarded funding, scientific and financial reporting via eCall on an annual basis is mandatory. We highly recommend to contact us during the preparation of the proposal.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	55%	35%
Medium Enterprises	N/A	70%	50%
Small Enterprises	N/A	80%	60%
Universities, public research organisations	N/A	85%	60%
Public authorities	N/A	80%	60%
Associations without economic activities, NGOs	N/A	80%	60%
Large Enterprises	N/A	55%	35%

Belgium / Flanders – FIO / VLAIO

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Veerle Desmet veerle.desmet@vlaio.be +32 2 432 43 02
Funding commitment	800.000€ (business organisations & municipalities) and 600.000€ (university colleges)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: July 2027 Duration: 2-3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	September 2027 Projects are allowed to start without a signed contract, but at own risk
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	4-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	Indicative <500.000€ (business organisations & municipalities, prior contact with VLAIO is necesssary if a higher funding is required) and 440.000€ (university colleges)
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Eligible partners are Flemish enterprises and non-profit organisations (with legal entity, economic activities and valorisation in Flanders). Scientific partners can be involved as subcontractors in these project. Applicants should demonstrate their viability and financial soundness regarding their own contribution to the project. NEW since 2023: Eligibility for local authorities IF the project is in cooperation with at least 1 Flemish enterprise, check conditions https://www.vlaio.be/nl/media/2361 NEW since 2024: Eligibility for university colleges, and for integrated university educations specifically targeted at enterprises and non-profit organizations, check conditions https://www.vlaio.be/nl/vlaio-netwerk/tetra Applicants need to provide a sound plan to reach the own contribution to the project (7.5%) from private partners.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied research, experimental development; practice-oriented research; TRL 3-7
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Yes, a national (online) submission is required already at pre-proposal phase. The additional templates to be completed can be found on the VLAIO website. These templates are mandatory to check the national eligibility and must be submitted online on the same date of the call deadline. **There will be an online information session (in Dutch!) on September 8th at 2 p.m., please check www.vlaio.be for further details.**
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Please note that in the context of DUT VLAIO does not allow multiple funding; the principal investigator should clearly state how the proposed project differs from other granted projects. There are additional templates to be completed by Flemish applicants. A consortium agreement will be needed 4 months after project starting date. We strongly advise the consortium to prepare a draft consortium agreement sooner. **We strongly recommend Flemish applicants to get in contact with VLAIO as soon as possible and ultimately 2 weeks before the deadline to check the eligibility aspects.**
Eligible costs	- Staffing costs - Overhead costs (max. 25k€ per FTE) including travel costs - Operational costs - Third-party services

	- Investment costs
Website with additional information	www.vlaio.be
Additional information	- Industrial development projects: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject - Industrial research projects: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject - Local authorities in cooperation with a Flemish enterprise: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/media/2361 - University colleges, and integrated university educations: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/vlaio-netwerk/tetra

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	50-65%	25-40%
Medium Enterprises	n/a	60-70%	35-50%
Small Enterprises	n/a	70%	45-60%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	92.5%	92.5%
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	As subcontractor/ research partner with an eligible Flemish partner	As subcontractor/research partner with an eligible Flemish partner
Public authorities	n/a	80%	80%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	Only as subcontractor with an eligible Flemish partner	Only as subcontractor with an eligible Flemish partner

Belgium / Flanders – FWO

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Toon Monbaliu (FO and general) Tel: +32 (0)2 550 15 70 Kristien Peeters (SBO) Tel: +32 (0)2 550 15 95 E-mail: europe@fwo.be
Funding commitment	0.75M
Start and duration of contracting phase	The formal FWO Governing Board decision takes place at the end of September 2027. As such, the start of the contracting phase does not take place before the end of September 2027. The contracting phase takes approximately 1 month.
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	1 November 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	3 - 4
Maximum funding per awarded project	250K EUR
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	FWO participation and funding in this call are open to both the Fundamental Research ('FO') and Strategic Basic Research ('SBO') funding channels, which means that projects may be funded under either FWO channel. It should be strongly emphasised that the choice of funding channel depends on the type of research project to be carried out, i.e. whether it is more fundamental/exploratory in nature or has strong economic/societal valorisation potential. Failure to comply with the specific requirements of the relevant funding channel may result in ineligibility. The scope and eligibility of institutions and their researchers can be verified in the regulations of the relevant funding channel, which can be consulted on the FWO website: - FWO Research Projects (FO) - Strategic Basic Research (SBO) or by contacting the FWO contact points mentioned above.
Eligible topics	**The FWO does not fund the cross-cutting Topic 1.** **Innovation Oriented Approach projects (IOA) in general are not eligible in this call. Researchers applying for the IOA route will be declared ineligible. The FWO only funds Research Oriented Approach (ROA) projects.** All transition pathways within topics 2 and 3 are eligible, if they fit the integrated FWO funding channels (i.e. 'FO' or 'SBO').
Eligible type of research and TRL	Basic/strategic research --> TRL range: from 1 to 5 (end TRL)

Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	**!! IMPORTANT !!** Applicants for FWO funding must submit a mandatory administrative application via the personal FWO e-loket of the main PI from Flanders. - For fundamental research projects (FO) select the application type: 'Research projects – European programme fundamental research'. - For strategic basic research projects (SBO), select the application type: 'Research projects – European programme strategic basic research'. If the consortium includes more than one partner requesting funding from FWO, a single online form should be submitted by the main PI (promoter-spokesperson), containing all relevant information for the different Flemish partners. The deadline to submit this administrative application to the FWO is identical to the deadline of the joint transnational call (pre-proposal stage). To ensure the eligibility of the proposal, it is recommended to consult the FWO administration at least one week in advance. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in ineligibility.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	- **The FWO does not fund topic 1, nor does it fund IOA projects/consortia in this call.** - Participation in this call does not interfere with the regular/national project submission framework and is therefore not considered when calculating the maximum permitted number of new applications and ongoing projects combined. However, researchers can only participate in two different international consortia in this call. - Projects aiming at the development of a spin-off company are not eligible in this context. A potential 'spin-off route' should therefore not be mentioned in the FWO pre-registration form. - The project duration is limited to 36 months, which implies that the funding must be budgeted and spent accordingly. Automatic prolongation and the use of positive financial balances after the end date are not applicable in this framework. As such, Article 28 of the FWO Research Projects and Article 14 of the Strategic Basic Research (SBO) regulations do not apply here. - The PI of each participating institution applying for FWO funds must hold **an eligible appointment that fully covers the duration of the research project.** In connection with the above, Article 10, §7 of the FWO Research Projects regulations (FO) does not apply to this call. **This means that supervisors/spokespersons or coordinators/consortium partners who are granted emeritus status during the calendar year in which the project application is submitted, or during the project execution period, are not eligible.**
Eligible costs	The FWO has allocated a budget of 0.75M EUR, which guarantees funding for at least three projects. The respective funding channel regulations apply (see the links to the national rules above, under 'Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution'), and both are capped at 250K EUR per project/consortium (including overhead, for which the calculation method differs per funding channel – see explanation below). For the overhead calculation, fundamental research projects (FO) and strategic basic research projects (SBO) use the same approach. A structural overhead rate should be applied to the project costs, with an overhead rate of 6% for 'FO' projects and 17% for 'SBO' projects.

	Some practical examples: FO: if the sum of all costs (personnel, consumables, travel, subcontracting, etc.) amounts to €200,000, the overhead will amount to €12,000 (6% of €200,000), and the total requested cost will be €212,000. This total requested cost may never exceed the maximum available amount of €250,000. SBO: if the sum of all costs (personnel, consumables, travel, subcontracting, etc.) amounts to €200,000, the overhead will amount to €34,000 (17% of €200,000), and the total requested cost will be €234,000. This total requested cost may never exceed the maximum available amount of €250,000. Overhead should be included in the DUT budget tables but should not be included in the national/regional FWO pre-registration form on the FWO E-loket (see 'Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level').
Website with additional information	https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/european-framework-programme/horizon-europe-cofund-partnerships/
Additional information	**It is strongly advised to approach the FWO contact points mentioned above, in order not to jeopardise any research projects/consortia.**

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Medium Enterprises	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Small Enterprises	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%--> only SBO and in collaboration with an additional eligible research institute from Flanders.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Universities, public research organisations	100%	Not applicable	Not applicable
Public authorities	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Belgium / Wallonia-Brussels Federation – F.R.S.-FNRS

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Dr. Florence Quist – international@frs-fnrs.be - +32 2 504 9351 Mr. Joël Groeneveld – international@frs-fnrs.be - +32 2 507 9270
Funding commitment	300.000 EUR / project
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start upon formal announcement of the results by the DUT call secretariat. Duration : 1 month
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	01/09/2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	1
Maximum funding per awarded project	300.000 EUR
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Universities, public research organisations
Eligible topics	Only Research Oriented Approach (ROA) 15mC topics 1, 2 and 3 CUE topics 1, 2 and 3
Eligible type of research and TRL	Basic research TRL: 1-3
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Applicants to F.R.S.-FNRS funding must provide basic administrative data by submitting an administrative application on e-space within 5 working days after the general deadline of the DUT call to be eligible. Please select the "PINT-MULTI" funding instrument when creating the administrative application. Proposals invited to the second stage will be able to complete the pre-proposal form and provide information for the full proposal upon validation by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	N/A
Eligible costs	• Personnel costs • Small equipment • Operational costs • Subcontracting All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI regulations. For "overhead" costs: Operating expenses: up to 1% within the budget granted. This percentage should be included in the requested operating budget. Personnel: up to 2% outside of the granted budget. This percentage will be paid upon reimbursement of expenses to institutions by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
Website with additional information	https://frs-fnrs.be/fr/financements
Additional information	

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises			
Medium Enterprises			
Small Enterprises			
University colleges, and integrated university educations			
Universities, public research organisations	100%		
Public authorities			
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities			

Bulgaria – BNSF

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Milena Aleksandrova +359 884 171 363 aleksandrova@mon.bg Bulgarian National Science Fund Al. Stamboliyski Blvd., 239 B, 1309 Sofia Bulgaria
Funding commitment	900 000 EUR
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	September 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	Up to 3
Maximum funding per awarded project	300 000 EUR
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Universities and research organisations
Eligible topics	n/a
Eligible type of research and TRL	TRL 1-4
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Applicants must submit an application form for national eligibility when submitting the proposals. The formulier should be filled and electronically submitted in both Bulgarian and in English at: https://eumis2020.government.bg
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Other additional eligibility rules are specified in National requirements and eligibility conditions of Bulgarian National Science Fund available at: https://bnsf.bg/wps/portal/fond-izsledvaniq/home
Eligible costs	Eligible costs are specified in National requirements and eligibility conditions of Bulgarian National Science Fund available at: https://bnsf.bg/wps/portal/fond-izsledvaniq/home **Direct eligible costs** Personnel costs Travel costs Costs for external services, directly connected with the implementation of the project Costs for materials, consumables and other eligible costs Costs for equipment and immaterial assets from the main budjet **Indirect eligible costs** Costs for administration of the project by the applying and partner organizations Costs for financial audit of the project
Website with additional information	https://bnsf.bg/wps/portal/fond-izsledvaniq/home

Additional information	Each PI is obliged to send an annual report for the BNSF-funded project. BNSF provides templates and guidelines

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Croatia – HRZZ

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Iva Spoljar Saric E-mail: iva@hrzz.hr Tanja Lukanovic, E-mail: tanja@hrzz.hr
Funding commitment	EUR 400,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	*when will the contracting phase start if the Call decision is reached in July 2027? how many months does it approximately take until your proposals have their contracts? e.g: Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	January 2028. Projects are allowed to start without a signed contract, by national payment cannot be made before January 2028.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	2
Maximum funding per awarded project	EUR 200,000
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Private and public higher education institutions and research institutes.
Eligible topics	Strategic and applied research, innovation
Eligible type of research and TRL	Basic and applied research (TRL 1-4)
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Croatian applicants do not need to submit (pre)proposals at the national level. However, they are strongly recommended to contact the HRZZ at the pre-proposal and full proposal stage.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Eligible applicants are: ▪ Higher education institutions ▪ Scientific institutes ▪ Other research-oriented institutions that employ at least five PhD holders under employment contracts lasting more than one year.
Eligible costs	Eligible costs according to the national rules outlines in the Guidelines for Applicants to the Calls of the Croatian Science Foundation in 2025. These include: 1. Research costs, 2. Equipment costs, 3. Dissemination, training and collaboration costs, 4. Open Access publication costs, 5. Indirect costs and 6. Salary costs for senior assistants employed on the project.
Website with additional information	https://hrzz.hr/programi/medunarodna-suradnja/

	https://hrzz.hr/wp-content/uploads/Upute-za-prijavitelje-na-natjecaje-Hrvatske-zaklade-za-znanost-u-2025.pdf
Additional information	-

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises			
Medium Enterprises			
Small Enterprises			
University colleges, and integrated university educations			
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100%	100%
Public authorities			
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities			

Czech Republic – TA CR

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Ondřej Kusbach Email: ondrej.kusbach@tacr.cz Tel.: +420 770 127 549
Funding commitment	EUR 600 000 (PED: EUR 300 000, 15mC: EUR 300 000, financial allocation can be transferred from one transition pathway to another if needed and available)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: August/September 2027 Duration: 4 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	September 2027 Projects are allowed to start upon the receival of the "Rozhodnutí o poskytnutí podpory"
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	3-4
Maximum funding per awarded project	EUR 150 000 per project
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	• Universities • Research institutes • SME's and large companies • NGOS • Municipalities TA CR excludes the disbursement of individual aid to an enterprise: • against which a recovery order has been issued which is unpaid • meeting the definition of an "undertaking in difficulty" • which has not met the obligation to publish the financial statements for the years 2022, 2023, 2024 in the respective register - the so-called "Veřejný rejstřík" • which has not disclosed its ownership structure in the so-called "Evidence skutečných majitelů"
Eligible topics	Cross-cutting topic – 15mC and PED 15mC – topic 2 PED – topic 3 Projects with Czech applicants have to be submitted into 15mC and PED Transition Pathways (i.e. 15mC or PED have to be the main Transition Pathway, including the cross-cutting topic). Czech applicants which will submit the proposal with CUE being the main Transition Pathway will be considered as not eligible for TA CR funding.
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied research and innovation (industrial research and experimental development) TRL: 3-9
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Mandatory forms to be submitted The Czech applicants are requested to submit: • A Sworn statement of the applicant • Completed "TACR Application Form" Excel file (submitted by the main Czech applicant only)*

	• if the applicant plans to achieve the "N" type of result, the "Confirmation of the Certification authority for N (NmetS, NmetC, NmetA) results" needs to be attached* • if the applicant plans to achieve the "O - patent application" type of result, patent search must be substantiated* • Sworn statement of the composition of the consortium (submitted by the main Czech applicant only if there is Czech enterprise in the project consortium). All mandatory documents to be found on TA CR website. Deadline for submitting all documents is the same as the deadline for submitting pre-proposals. All documents proving the eligibility of the Czech partner stated above shall be submitted via the TACR data box (TACR data box ID: **afth9xp**). *Applicants who will not submit this mandatory form (if relevant) via databox before the deadline will be considered as **not eligible** for TA CR funding. Project start and end Please note that following national legislation, Czech applicants shall start within 120 days from the funding decision being communicated by the Call Management (60-day period to enter into a contract + 60-day period to start the project).
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Eligible projects for TA CR • the project meets the definition of applied research • the research results correspond to the national rules and are applicable / exploitable. (The project proposal has to include a clear description of the exploitation plan and results.) • the aim of the project has to be relevant to the overall aim of the funding programme SIGMA • the declared share of industrial research and experimental development corresponds to the activities of the Czech partner described in the project proposal • the requested funding meets the national regulations for aid intensity Supported results Projects that achieve at least one of the following types of results can be supported in this Call. The type of the result has to be clearly described in the project proposal: • G - technically realized results - prototype, functional sample • Z - pilot plant, proven technology • R – software • F - results with legal protection - utility model, industrial design • *N - Certified methodologies and practices, treatment, conservation methods, procedures and specialized maps with professional expert content • O – Miscellaneous • O – patent application • O – Hkonc result candidate • O – Hneleg result candidate *For these types of results and related research data, "open access" must be ensured in the international call. For other types of results where access is technically easy (a chapter in a professional book, etc.), open access is especially welcome and recommended. Intellectual Property Rights The applicants are required to enter into a contract with their foreign partners (sign the so-called Consortium Agreement) which will define the conditions of cooperation on the project where, among other things, they specify the method of allocating rights to the research results, as well as adjustment and management of

	the rights imported or created during the project's implementation, which are necessary to address the project. Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national/regional level Czech beneficiaries must follow the rules of TA CR for reporting on the project (i.e., submission of interim and final reports and reports on the implementation of the results). Publicity obligations While promoting the project and its results Czech beneficiaries must follow the publicity rules of TA CR.
Eligible costs	Eligible costs are: • personnel costs (including scholarships) • subcontracting costs (max. 20% of total eligible costs throughout the whole project period) • other direct costs (write-offs, protection of intellectual property, operating expenses, travel costs, consumables) • indirect costs (overheads) - full cost/flat rate Specific categories of eligible costs are defined under Article 18 of the General Terms & Conditions.
Website with additional information	ERA-NET Cofund Scheme on TA CR website (in Czech) ERA-NET Cofund Scheme on TA CR website (in English) National research programme SIGMA (in Czech)
Additional information	"Guide for Czech applicants" and all mandatory forms will be available on TA CR website (in Czech).

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	50-65%	25-40%
Medium Enterprises	N/A	60-75%	35-50%
Small Enterprises	N/A	70-80%	45-60%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	N/A	up to 100%	up to 100%
Universities, public research organisations	N/A	up to 100%	up to 100%
Public authorities	N/A	same as enterprises	same as enterprises
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	N/A	same as enterprises	same as enterprises

Denmark – IFD

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Mathias Holm Tveen E-mail: mathias.holm.tveen@innofond.dk Tel: +45 6190 5073 General mailbox: international@innofond.dk
Funding commitment	MEUR 2
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: August 2027 Duration: 3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	1 October 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	8-10
Maximum funding per awarded project	**The maximum requested funding amount** per Danish partner is 300.000 €. The maximum requested funding amount per project, if the project has more than one Danish partner, is 500.000 €. **Maximum requested funding rates** between 25-90% apply, according to the Guidelines for International Collaborations.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	All Danish organizations directly involved in activities in the projects are eligible as applicants to Innovation Fund Denmark. Projects must include at least one IFD-funded Danish or Greenlandic partner that is a company, public authority, hospital, GTS institute, end-user or stakeholder organisation, or national cluster organisation.
Eligible topics	All topics are eligible.
Eligible type of research and TRL	All TRL levels are eligible.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Approximately 2-4 weeks after the deadline for pre-proposals, Danish applicants will be directly invited to submit the project proposal with annexes to the national e-grant system. At that point, non-public organizations will also be requested to submit additional financial declarations. You can find more in advance about these declarations as well as the templates on our website, under 'Documents'. • All non-public organisations will be requested to upload a 'No undertaking in difficulty' declaration and a "Financial and legal declaration". • In addition, SME's will also be required to upload an 'SME declaration'. • Only if requesting *de minimis* funding, then a '*de minimis* aid compliance form' is required.

Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	All Danish applicants must be registered as legal entities based in Denmark. Foreign entities not funded by their national authorities can be subcontractors to Danish partners after approval by IFD. Legal entities established in Greenland may be eligible for funding by IFD, provided that at least one other Danish partner in the project receives funding from IFD. Eligibility is contingent on prior written approval from IFD. Greenlandic applicants must obtain such approval before submitting an application. Projects must include at least one IFD-funded Danish or Greenlandic partner that is a company, public authority, hospital, GTS institute, end-user or stakeholder organisation, or national cluster organisation. Applicants do not need to submit anything to IFD by the initial call deadline. Submissions to IFD only take place after the applicants receive an invitation to the e-grant platform.
Eligible costs	• Salaries • Travel • Subcontracting • Materials • Communication and knowledge sharing • Other expenses • Any overhead, if applicable For more details see IFD's Guidelines for International Collaborations.
Website with additional information	For general information, FAQ, etc., please visit: Innovation Fund Denmark - International Collaborations Website For the full rules and conditions from Innovation Fund Denmark, please see: Guidelines for International Collaborations
Additional information	GTS institutes performing non-economic activities can apply using a funding rate of 60% and salaries are multiplied by the GTS cost factor. GTS institutes performing economic activities can apply using the rates for enterprises.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	GBER: 65% De minimis: 50%	GBER: 40% De minimis: 25%
Medium Enterprises	N/A	GBER: 75% De minimis: 60%	GBER: 50% De minimis: 35%
Small Enterprises	N/A	GBER: 75% De minimis: 60%	GBER: 50% De minimis: 35%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	N/A	90%	90%
Universities, public research organisations	N/A	90%	90%
Public authorities	N/A	90%	90%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	N/A	Rates for enterprises	Rates for enterprises

Estonia – Estonian Research Council (ETAG)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Priit Kilgas priit.kilgas@etag.ee +372 5909 4883
Funding commitment	EUR 300,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: August 2027 Duration: 1-2 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	September 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	1
Maximum funding per awarded project	EUR 150,000 if Co-applicant or EUR 300,000 if Estonian partner is the Main Applicant (Project Coordinator)
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	1. **Project Participants** 1.1. **The Host Institution** may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. Restrictions to eligible institutions and applicants may however be stated in the general call conditions which also apply to Estonian participants. The Host Institution (the final recipient) is the institution to which the grant will be allocated. After the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, after the preproposal deadline) and upon the notice from the Funding Organisation, the Host Institution must confirm to the Funding Organisation in writing that the Estonian sub-project can be carried out on their premises in Estonia and that they will employ the Principal Investigator during the sub-project, should the project receive funding. If the Host Institution is an undertaking, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account. 1.2 **The Principal Investigator (PI)** is a researcher who acts as the Estonian team leader in the project proposal. He/she will be responsible for how the grant is used and how the Estonian part in the project is executed. The PI must be clearly identified in the proposal. The Principal Investigator: 1.2.1 must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline); 1.2.2 must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline) at the latest; 1.2.3 must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply

	with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, prior to the preproposal deadline). Patents are equalled with publications specified under Clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS Clause 2.1) is equalled with three publications specified in Clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or fewer. If the applicant has been on maternity, paternity, or parental leave, in compulsory military service, or if there have been other exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness), they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time. If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Centre or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report. If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.
Eligible topics	CUE Topic 2: Innovative maintenance of urban green and blue spaces CUE Topic 3 Rethinking urban production for circular and resilient cities
Eligible type of research and TRL	• Strategic (basic) research • Applied research TRL: 1-6
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	No
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	In case of a positive funding decision the Host Institution, the Principal Investigator and the Funding Organisation will enter into a trilateral agreement.
Eligible costs	2. **Budget** 2.1. The budget contains costs directly related to the implementation of the project (direct costs) and indirect (overhead) costs. The direct costs must be used to carry out the project and be separately identifiable. 2.2. **Direct costs:** 2.2.1. **Personnel costs** are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution. 2.2.2. **Other direct costs** are: - travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel Insurance. - consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project; - publication and dissemination of project results; - organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs); - fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project; - patent costs; - all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project (e.g. translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, postage costs etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project. 2.3. **Indirect costs (overhead)** are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g.,

	phone bills, copy service, printer) should be covered from the indirect costs. **Indirect costs are 15% of the personnel costs** of the Estonian sub-project. 2.4. **Subcontracting costs** are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. **Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs** of the Estonian sub-project. 2.5. **Double funding** of activities is not acceptable (i.e. the same cost item may not be reimbursed from different funding sources). 2.6. If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution per proposal of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the call documents.
Website with additional information	ETAG webpage
Additional information	3. **State Aid** If the Host Institution is an undertaking, EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding. An undertaking is any entity, be it a natural or a legal person, engaged in an economic activity (i.e. activity consisting in offering goods and services on a market), regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed. See the National Eligibility Criteria on ETAG website for further details: ETAG webpage 4. **Grant Agreement** If a positive funding decision is made, the Funding Organisation enters into a grant agreement with the Host Institution and Principal Investigator. Information on the transnational project must be entered into ETIS once the agreement has been signed. The Consortium Agreement should be signed six months after the grant agreement has been signed at the latest. If one year has elapsed and the CA has not been signed, the next instalment of funding will not be paid out. 5. **Research Involving Human Subjects or Animal Testing** If human research or animal testing are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorisation Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Funding Organisation by the start of the relevant activities. 6. **Nagoya Protocol** By applying for funding by the Funding Organisation, the applicants commit to consider the relevance of the Nagoya protocol for their research, and to submit the Due Diligence Declaration, if applicable.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	100%	100%	n/a
Medium Enterprises	100%	100%	n/a
Small Enterprises	100%	100%	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%	100%	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100%	n/a
Public authorities	100%	100%	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	100%	100%	n/a

France / ANR

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Name: Pascal Bain Head of the SPICE Scientific Department Pascal.bain@anr.fr Name: Amina Ghorbel Scientific Project Manager amina.ghorbel@anr.fr Name: Wassim Sebai Scientific Project Manager wassim.sebai@anr.fr
Funding commitment	3 000 000 €
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months (indicative)
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	January 2028 (indicative)
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	8 to 10
Maximum funding per awarded project	500 000 € per project as a maximum in exceptional and highly justified cases. However, ANR expects typical funding requests per project to range between 200 000 and 350 000 €, depending on the number of ANR-funded partners involved and whether the coordinator of the project is funded by ANR or not.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Please consult the ANR Funding regulations (“at actual costs” version) and the Appendix for applicants to ANR on the ANR website for detailed information: https://anr.fr/DUT-2026 Within this framework, public research organisations (such as Universities, EPST or EPIC) as well as private entities (such as companies, NGOs and foundations) and public authorities may be eligible (provided

	that at least one French public research organisation requesting funding to ANR is involved in the consortium).
Eligible topics	Positive Energy District (PED) 15-minute City (15minC) Circular Urban Economy (CUE)
Eligible type of research and TRL	ANR funds basic research and applied research projects. Experimental development and innovation activities, if not excluded, should be minor activities compared to basic and industrial research activities.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	No for the pre-proposal stage. For the full-proposal stage, partners requesting funding from ANR will have to submit the proposal also on the ANR submission platform.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	A project proposal cannot be similar in whole or in part to another proposal submitted for a call currently being evaluated by ANR (all calls for proposals and evaluation stages considered) or already funded by ANR. The similarity between two projects is established when these projects (in their entirety or in part) describe identical main objectives or result from a simple adaptation. The minimal funding per partner by ANR is 15 000 €. Companies with economic difficulties are excluded from ANR subventions. To test if you do not fall in this category, you can use the Excel tool available at https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/2021/Simulation-financement-ANR-EED-2021.xls Partners, whether legal entities or natural persons, who are subject to sanction(s) imposed by the institutions of the European Union are excluded from this call. The ANR will declare ineligible any Partners requesting funding from the Agency who are, within the submitted project, associated with Partners subject to a sanction measure. As of the publication date, these exclusions concern in particular Partners from the following countries: Russia and Belarus; as well as Partners located in Ukrainian territories not under the control of the Ukrainian government. This list is not exhaustive and may evolve should new sanctions be adopted by the European Union.
Eligible costs	ANR funds basic, industrial research and experimental development activities. The eligibility of costs and rates of funding depend on types of partners, consortia composition and types of research activities. See ANR funding

	regulations (“at actual costs” version) for more details: https://anr.fr/fr/rf/
Website with additional information	A specific web page on the ANR web site is published at the opening of the Call, with details for potential applicants to ANR.
Additional information	It is highly recommended to contact the national contact persons during the preparation of the project. Depending on the consortium composition, a Consortium Agreement may be mandatory for ANR at the funding stage for successful applications. Please refer to the ANR funding regulations (“at actual costs” version) for more details: https://anr.fr/fr/rf/ A DMP (Data management plan) must be transmitted to ANR and updated during the course of the project. Please refer to the ANR funding regulations for more details: https://anr.fr/fr/rf/ If applicable, Declarations of Due Diligence for the financed projects (Nagoya Protocol) must also be transmitted to ANR in due time. In keeping with the French “PPST” policy (Protection of the national scientific and technological potential), applicants to ANR should consult their local “FSD” (security and defense officer) regarding their project before applying. Applications to ANR may be forwarded to the HFSD of the French Ministry of research and higher education for screening. A negative appraisal by the HFSD will cause ANR to reject the proposal. The above-mentioned terms and conditions are only summarized translations of those entailed in the ANR Funding regulations and in the Appendix “Modalités”. In case of updates or inconsistencies, the terms of the ANR Funding regulations and the Annex shall prevail. Please consult these documents for more details.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	30 %	30 %	25 %
Medium Enterprises	60 %	60 %	35 – 50 %
Small Enterprises	60 %	60 %	45 – 60 %
Universities, public research organisations	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/
Public authorities	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/

Associations without economic activities, NGOs	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/	see ANR funding regulations https://anr.fr/fr/rf/

Finland – Business Finland

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	dut@businessfinland.fi Kaisa Holma Sini Uuttu
Funding commitment	EUR 3 000 000
Start and duration of contracting phase	The processing of national applications for projects selected for funding will begin in August 2027. The decisions will be made by the end of the year. An applicant who has received a positive decision must confirm the funding decision and the terms and conditions of funding within the time period mentioned in the decision (in general, within one month of the decision).
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	Projects are allowed to start without a signed contract on applicants' own risk. Costs for a Business Finland funded project are eligible from the date on which Business Finland has received the national funding application, unless otherwise stated in the funding decision or terms and conditions. Preferably not before 1.11.2027.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	4-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	No maximum amount. Business Finland is indicatively prepared to grant funding from EUR 200,000 to EUR 500,000 per Finnish sub-consortium. Granted funding is based on the funding rates specified below.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Eligible beneficiary partners are: • Companies of any size and research organisations domiciled in Finland Companies can also participate as self-financed cooperation partners with their own R&D project • All partners, incl. self financed company cooperation partners must register their participation and their project costs in the DUT Submission Platform UDiManager. in accordance with the instructions. • If Finnish research organisations participate as beneficiaries, the consortium shall include at least two Finnish export-oriented companies with their own R&D project. • The public sector's share of the total costs of the Finnish sub-consortium of the joint project may not exceed 60%. The total eligible costs shall include the budgets of Finnish sub-projects, including R&D projects carried out by self-financed cooperation partners. Accordingly, at least 40% of the total eligible costs of the Finnish sub-consortium shall consist of companies' R&D projects. • Beneficiary partners applying for funding need to fulfil Business Finland general funding criteria. The following Business Finland funding services are applied under this call:

	– Research and Development funding for individual participating companies: https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/research-and-development-funding/ – Co-Innovation funding for projects involving two or more companies, as well as for joint consortia consisting of research organisations and companies: https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/cooperation-between-companies-and-research-organizations/co-innovation/ Following criteria are applied to companies: • Finnish business ID, genuine business activities in Finland and created value accumulates in the Finnish company • Versatile expertise and team, employs at least two persons full-time in Finland • Has secured the total financing for the project duration, • Has the capabilities to implement an ambitious R&D project • Aiming to grow in the international market • Aims to develop significant international business, competitive edge on the international market and sufficient export potential through the project • Project budget must be significant in relation to the applicant's business. For SMEs, the minimum project budget is EUR 100,000. • If the company has previously received funding from Business Finland, the project applied for must not endanger the intended objectives of previously funded projects. In addition, the granting of further funding must be appropriate considering the company's demonstrated progress and stage of development. Funding cannot be granted in cases where Business Finland's funding obstacles apply, see: https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/guidelines-terms-and-forms/firm-in-difficulty/ Business Finland general funding criteria as well as general terms and conditions are applied: https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied research, experimental development, research together with companies TRL: 3-8
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Stage 1: Submission not required to Business Finland. Stage 2: A Project Consortium invited to submit a full proposal must submit a national funding application using Business Finland online service by the same deadline as for DUT Submission Platform UDiManager. Applicants failing to comply with this requirement are considered not eligible for funding.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Business Finland general funding criteria as well as general terms and conditions are applied: https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/funding-services/

	Funding awarded is grant. Under this call, companies may, on an exceptional basis, be granted a grant covering eligible costs also for experimental development/innovation projects. Stated funding rates are maximums. The funding rates for companies will be assessed and defined during application processing based on the share of industrial research costs of the project budget.
Eligible costs	According to Business Finland general funding terms and conditions for research organisations and companies' R&D projects, eg. • Salaries and wages • Indirect personnel costs • Overheads • Travel expenses • Equipment, materials and supplies • Purchased services
Website with additional information	https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/services/funding/calls/2026/dut-funding-call-2026/
Additional information	For further information please check national funding call information on Business Finland webpages. Please contact Business Finland for guidance as early in the process as possible.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	Max 50%	Max 40%
Medium Enterprises	n/a	Max 60%	Max 50%
Small Enterprises	n/a	Max 60%	Max 50%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	Research organisations 80%	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	80%	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Germany – DLR

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Dr. Konstanze Ameskamp E-Mail: konstanze.ameskamp@dlr.de Tel.: +49 228 3821 2608 Dr. Carmen Richerzhagen E-Mail: carmen.richerzhagen@dlr.de Tel.: +49 228 3821 2090
Funding commitment	EUR 3,200,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: August 2027 Duration: 4 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	January 2028
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	6-9
Maximum funding per awarded project	EUR 500,000 A maximum of two German partners per project will be funded. Maximum funding per awarded project partner (project applicant): EUR 350,000. Maximum funding per awarded project coordination (main applicant): 400,000. For universities this includes 20% lump sum ("Projektpauschale"). Minimum funding per project partner: EUR 100,000
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Proposals may be submitted by Germany-based universities, non-university research institutes, civil society organisations, public authorities, municipalities, commercial companies.
Eligible topics	15-minutes City Pathway topic 2
Eligible type of research and TRL	strategic (basic) research applied research experimental development
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Preproposals (Projektskizzen): No submission at national level. Proposals (Projektantraege): Submission via national application system "easy-online" (applicants selected for submission of a proposal will be contacted by DLR).
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	
Eligible costs	Personnel costs (Personalausgaben / -kosten) Operational costs (Verwaltungsausgaben / -kosten) Indirect costs (Gemeinkosten) Subcontracting (Vergabe von Aufträgen)

	Travel costs (Dienstreisen) Investment costs (investive Maßnahmen)
Website with additional information	Applicants are strongly advised to consult the BMFTR guidelines on eligible costs (Richtlinien für Zuwendungsantraege (AZA/AZK).
Additional information	Participation (as the main applicant, a co-applicant or a cooperation partner) of German non-academic organisations, e.g. municipalities, business organisations and companies, NGOs and similar, is desirable (though not mandatory). All informations on the German funding within the DUT Partnership can be found on the website https://www.fona.de/de/massnahmen/foerdermassnahmen/DUT.php Projects will be funded under the BMFTR funding strategy "Research for Sustainability".

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	50-65 %	25-40 %
Medium Enterprises	N/A	50-75 %	25-50 %
Small Enterprises	N/A	50-80 %	25-60 %
University colleges, and integrated university educations	Up to 100 %	Up to 100 %	Up to 100 %
Universities, public research organisations	Up to 100 %	Up to 100 %	Up to 100 %
Public authorities	N/A	Up to 100 %	Up to 100 %
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	N/A	Up to 100 %	Up to 100 %

Germany – FZJ-PtJ

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Markus Bastek Tel: +49 2461 61 85437 Dr. Isabelle Loll Tel: +49 2461 61-85255 Email: ptj-dut@ptj.de
Funding commitment	EUR 670,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	*when will the contracting phase start if the Call decision is reached in July 2027? how many months does it approximately take until your proposals have their contracts? Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	December 2027 Before the project is approved, comments must be provided on the current state of the Consortium Agreement and confirmation must be given that, at the start of the project, the consortium has already reached agreement on the following points: - Organisation and management of the consortium, - Intellectual property arrangements, - Procedures for resolving disagreements within the consortium.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	1-2
Maximum funding per awarded project	A maximum of **two German partners per project** will be funded: • **Maximum** funding per awarded **project partner**: EUR 330,000. • **Minimum** funding per **project partner**: EUR 50,000. • **Maximum** funding per awarded project (for the maximum of two project partners together): EUR 330,000. The distribution of funds between the two partners is left up to them. **Minimum** funding per awarded project (for the max. two project partners together): EUR 100,000.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Proposals may be submitted by Germany-based universities, non-university research institutes, SME's and large companies, public authorities, NGOs and similar (Please note: Institutions eligible for funding under the current Energy Research Programme).
Eligible topics	Only applications for the topic 3 of the PED Pathway will be eligible (topics can be combined. Contributions by German project partners must relate exclusively to Topic 3): • Sustainable PEDs, flexibility in energy systems and integrated technologies
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied research and experimental development TRL: 6-8 at the end of the project
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	No submission of preproposals (Projektskizzen) at the national level. Submission of proposals (Projekt-Anträge) via the national application system easy-online (Applicants selected for submission of a proposal will be informed about the direct link for submission)

Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	The projects must fit thematically compatible with the mission and programme objectives of the area "Quartiere" (chapter "Quartiere") of the currently effective Energy Research Programme of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE). The concept paper of the funding scheme of the area "Quartiere" specifies the specific objectives and criteria for submitting proposals, as outlined in the current Energy Research Programme. Municipal relevance and their recognisable project participation are further requirements and eligibility criteria. Local authorities and public administration bodies are eligible to apply (Please note: institutions eligible for funding under the current Energy Research Programm). Proposals must provide sound cost calculations break-downs and clear exploitation plans. Proposals must show significant progress on state of the art and science and compared to nationally funded projects.
Eligible costs	• Personnel costs • Operational costs • Equipment and instruments costs • Additional overheads and other operating costs • Subcontracting • Travel costs Applicants are strongly advised to consult the BMWE guidelines on eligible costs (Richtlinien für Zuwendungsanträge (AZA/AZK).
Website with additional information	https://www.energieforschung.de/de/foerderung/foerderangebote/
Additional information	Shorter deadlines apply to the notification for the conclusion of the cooperation agreement. Instead of after 6 months, notification of this must be provided after only 4 months. Applicants may refer to the contact point at PTJ Projektträger (see above) for further advice. We recommend that applicants regard the BMWE strategy: actual Energy Research Programme of the Federal Government

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	up to 50 %	up to 50 %	up to 25 %
Medium Enterprises	up to 50 %	up to 60 %	up to 35 %
Small Enterprises	up to 50 %	up to 70 %	up to 45 %
University colleges, and integrated university educations	up to 100 %	up to 100 %	up to 100 %
Universities, public research organisations	up to 100 %	up to 100 %	up to 100 %
Public authorities	up to 100 %	up to 100 %	up to 100 %
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	up to 100 %	up to 100 %	up to 100 %

Greece – GSRI

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	**-Dr Anna Rosenberg** International S&T Cooperation Directorate Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Department 14-18, Mesogeion Ave., GR-115 27 Athens, Greece Tel.: +30 213 13 00 095 E-mail: a.rosenberg@gsri.gov.gr **-Ms Aliki – Maria Argyri** International S&T Cooperation Directorate EU and International Organizations Department 14-18, Mesogeion Ave., GR-115 27 Athens, Greece Tel: +30 213 1300101 E-mail: a.argyri@gsri.gov.gr
Funding commitment	1.000.000,00€
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: estimation January 2028 Duration: approx. 6 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	Projects are allowed to start without a signed contract. Eligible costs can be claimed retroactively.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	4-5
Maximum funding per awarded project	Upper limit of the total public funding will be **180.000 € per project** (including indirect costs). Please note that this amount can be increased to **220.000 € per project if Greek partner assumes the project coordination.** The exact state aid intensity will be calculated according to the provisions of the European state aid rules and regulations in force (type of research activity, size of the participating enterprise, collaborative research).
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	GSRI potentially supports private and public legal entities namely: private enterprises (such as SMEs, large-companies etc), research organizations, higher education institutions, and other public organizations with R&D activities, associations without economic activities, NGOs. Individuals as well as individual enterprises are **not** eligible under this scheme. Besides natural persons, the following categories of undertakings are also **not** eligible: • An "undertaking in difficulty" (according to art.2 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014*).

	• whose affairs are being administered by the court, who have entered into an arrangement with creditors, who have suspended business activities or who are in any analogous situation • An undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market. **Large enterprises are eligible to receive funding under the condition that a Greek SME participates in the consortium.** **Municipalities are eligible to receive funding only under the following schemes:** • **Through the municipality's development company (Anaptyxiaki etairia) or** • **As a subcontractor** **Municipalities may also participate as cooperation partners (i.e. no public funding requested).** Applicants may submit, if they are enterprises, **up to two (2) proposals from the same enterprise** in the current call, and for Public research Institutes and Universities **up to two (2) proposals at the level of the same Laboratory or School or Institute or Department**.
Eligible topics	**All topics except for Topic #3: Nurture neighbourhood economies – activate innovation in local everyday offers**
Eligible type of research and TRL	**TRL3-8** in compliance with the (COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, page 3, article 13)
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	At national level, only eligibility check is conducted and not a full peer review at pre-proposal and full proposal stages. We rely on the evaluation made by the Call Evaluation Committee and external reviewers. **Submission at the national level is required at a later stage. A national procedure will follow for the approval for funding of the successful, at the transnational level, proposals only. For more information please contact the NCPs.**
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	
Eligible costs	***Aid intensity:*** **Public research Institutes and Universities**: the aid intensity can reach up to 100% for performing non-economic activities in accordance with point 19, article 2.1.1 of the «Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation» (2014/C 198/01). **Private Sector:** (a) 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research; (b) 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development; (c) 50% of the eligible costs for feasibility studies.- The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased up to a maximum aid intensity of 70% of the eligible costs as follows: (a) by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises; (b) by 15 percentage points if one of the following conditions is fulfilled: **(i)** the project involves effective collaboration: — between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or — between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results;

	(ii) the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software. -The aid intensity for feasibility studies may be increased by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises. ***Foreseen cost categories:*** (a) **personnel costs**: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff employed on the project (b) **costs of instruments and equipment** to the extent that is necessary for the project and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible (c) **costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents** bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project. (d) **additional general costs and other operating expenses**, including costs of materials, supplies, travel expenses, organization of meetings, dissemination/publicity costs, audit costs, incurred directly as a result of the project implementation (e) **indirect costs** = flat rate of 25% of direct costs (except subcontracting costs). Indirect costs are eligible for all legal entities and include costs that do not incur directly as a result of the project implementation (e. g. administrative and management costs, utility costs) In compliance with the (COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.
Website with additional information	• General Secretariat for Research and Innovation • COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 • COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1237
Additional information	

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	-	50%	25-50%
Medium Enterprises	-	60%	35-60%
Small Enterprises	-	70%	45-70%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	-	-	-
Universities, public research organisations	100%	-	-
Public authorities with R&D activities	100%	-	-
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	-	Large 50% Medium 60% Small 70%	Large 25-50% Medium 35-60% Small 45-70%

Hungary – NKFIH

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Ms. Barbara Kiss ncp@nkfih.gov.hu +36 1 795 9500
Funding commitment	EUR 1,000,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	3-4 months from the submission cut-off date of the national call. Cut-off dates for 2027 will be announced in 2026 Q1
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	Contracting is expected in 2028 February. Applicants are entitled for reimbursement of costs from the start of the international project.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	3-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	300 000 EUR / awarded project (max. 150 000 EUR/partner, if the Hungarian partner is the main applicant 200 000 EUR)
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Universities, research institutions, enterprise-based research organizations, enterprises (non-research type), non-profit research organizations, urban/local authorities (as partners of research-oriented main applicant) Please check the national call.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	All types of research: strategic (basic) research, applied research, experimental development/innovation. TRL: 1-9
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Not required. Applicants have to submit their applications to the national call after the international funding decision is made.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	When preparing the international proposal, all Hungarian applicants should check the national call for participation eligibility, cost eligibility and other administrative criteria of participation.
Eligible costs	Personnel (temporary, permanent), subcontracting and services, including travelling, consumables, equipment, coordination, travel, communication and dissemination, overhead, overhead for travel related activities. Please check the national call.
Website with additional information	National call: https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas Information on the partnership: https://horizonteuropa.nkfih.gov.hu/fokuszteruletek/gazdasag-zold-atmenete/dut
Additional information	

(b) Funding rates:
Please check the national call.

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	100%	65%	40%

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Medium Enterprises	100%	75%	50%
Small Enterprises	100%	80%	60%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%	100%	100%
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100%	100%
Public authorities	n.a.	65%	40%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	up to the organisation's type	up to the organisation's type	up to the organisation's type

Korea, Republic of – KAIA

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Yoo Choi yoochoi@kaia.re.kr +82 31 389 6540 Jeri Lee global@kaia.re.kr +82 31 389 6496 Heewon Lee global@kaia.re.kr +82 31 389 6585
Funding commitment	EUR 600,000 (1,200,000,000 Korean Won)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	September 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	3
Maximum funding per awarded project	EUR 200,000 (400,000,000 Korean Won)
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	In general, universities, research institutes, SME's and large companies, non-profit organisations founded according to the civil law are eligible for funding. The complete eligibility criteria and definitions may be found in the National Research and Development Innovation Act and the relevant enforcement decree in the following website: [Korean Law Information Center]
Eligible topics	15minC Transition Pathway: all topics (1-3, including crosscutting topic) CUE Transition Pathway : all topics (1-3, including crosscutting topic) PED Transition Pathway : all topics (1-3, including crosscutting topic)
Eligible type of research and TRL	• Strategic research : TRL 1-2 • Applied research : TRL 3-5 • innovation / implementation : TRL 6-8
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Official Submission to DUT : • Submission deadline pre-proposals: November 17th, 2026 at 13:00 (CEST) • Submission deadline full proposals: April 15th, 2027 at 13:00 (CEST) Korean applicants (only for full proposal) will be invited to upload the International Application along with the standard required documents and evidences to the Korean national R&D management system(IRIS) Submission deadline full proposals to Korean R&D system (IRIS): April 30th, 2027 (Korea Standard Time)
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Please check the [Korean National R&D Innovation Act and the relevant manual] found at the Korea Agency for Infrastructure Technology Advancement (KAIA) website.
Eligible costs	• Personnel costs • Operational costs (Research activities) • Indirect costs (according to the defined rate) • Others

	Cost items shall be allocated in compliance with the Korean National R&D Innovation Act and the relevant manual
Website with additional information	KAIA website Driving Urban Transitions Call 2026
Additional information	Korean applicants should begin their projects by September 2026, regardless of the start date of their consortium, and the project duration for Korean institutions is limited to a maximum of two years.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	Up to 50%	Up to 50%	Up to 50%
Medium Enterprises	Up to 70%	Up to 70%	Up to 70%
Small Enterprises	Up to 75%	Up to 75%	Up to 75%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%
Universities, public research organisations	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%
Public authorities	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	N/A	N/A	N/A

Latvia – Latvijas Zinātnes padome (LCS)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Name: Maija Bundule E-mail: Maija.Bundule@lzp.gov.lv Tel: +371- 26514481 Uldis Berkis E-mail: Uldis.Berkis@lzp.gov.lv Tel.:+371-29472349
Funding commitment	0,6M EUR
Start and duration of contracting phase	Usually in 3 months Contracts are concluded if the project start is decided, and not more than 3 months in advance
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	No limitations Shall start January 2028 at the latest
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	2-3 partners
Maximum funding per awarded project	100 000 EUR per beneficiary per year = grant of 0.3M for a 3-year project, 0.2M for a 2-year project to a benenficiary Maximum 2 Latvian beneficiaries per project
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Only the following legal entities can participate: Research institutions registered in the Latvian Registry of Scientific Institutions, e.g. - Research Institutes - Universities And must have the status of Research and knowledge dissemination organization (Regulation EC 651/2014) 2) Business enterprises entered into the Latvian Commercial registry as companies, assumed they are eligible to do the specific research and have specific capacity and resources to do the research in Latvia and have their main activity in Latvia. Limitations to support intensity of EU legislation apply (Regulation 651/2014) together with financial reporting requirements, this is state aid. Two previous statements with sworn auditor's approval should be provided and they must reflect the correspondence to the regulation as well as prove the evidence of previous scientific activity and presence of capacity. Enterprises not having closed two annual financial periods are not eligible.
Eligible topics	Crosscutting Topic are **not funded** Standard 15minC , CUE , PED topics are eligible

Eligible type of research and TRL	• TRL9 is not funded • Normally TRL1-4 is preferred stage • Experimental development is associated with limitations
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	No national phase
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Support is provided according to Provisions Nr 259, 26.05.2015 of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers http://likumi.lv/ta/id/274671-atbalsta-pieskirsanas-kartiba-dalibai-starptautiskas-sadarbibas-programmas-petniecibas-un-tehnologiju-joma These provisions should be respected without exceptions. Annual financial and scientific reporting is mandatory. To receive funding by LCS, Consortium agreement duly signed should be presented (latest in 6 months). Application for the state aid must be submitted before the start of the project which is stated in the consortium agreement. Recipient of funding must operate through an account opened at a Latvian bank
Eligible costs	Personnel costs incl. taxes; • Consumables; • Subcontracts (up to 25% of direct costs), needs detailed justification, includes all external services, project core activities cannot be subcontracted; • Equipment (only depreciation costs during project directly attributable to project tasks); • Replaceable and fully consumable during project elements of equipment; • Travels (according to travel plan); ○ Indirect costs (up to 25% of direct costs excluding subcontracting). For state aid indirect costs must be also underpinned by accounting registries
Website with additional information	www.lzp.lv
Additional information	Support is provided according to Provisions Nr 259, 26.05.2015 of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers http://likumi.lv/ta/id/274671-atbalsta-pieskirsanas-kartiba-dalibai-starptautiskas-sadarbibas-programmas-petniecibas-un-tehnologiju-joma These provisions should be respected without exceptions. The maximum hourly rates should respect the Provisions. The requirements in the provisions to specific applicant groups must be respected. Latvia cannot fund implementation support, nor training activities. Applicants for State aid must send before the call deadline (both 1st and 2 nd stages) to the e-mail address lzp@lzp.gov. lv, stating the acronym and the title of the project, applicant name and registration number, the following document: a certification that the applying entity does not correspond to the criteria laid down in laws and regulations to be subject to insolvency proceedings at the request of the creditor. It must be electronically signed by valid legal representative (s). Upon request applicants for State aid must provide all requested documents to evaluate the financial situation

	and financial viability. Undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for funding. (Regulation 651/2014) In case of State aid the undertakings are assessed for eligibility at each of the application stages and at the conclusion and during execution of the contract with LCS for project funding. If the eligibility criteria are not fulfilled, project funding can not be approved or continued.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	According to the Regulation 651/2014. Enterprises must demonstrate capacity and correspondence to the specific research type		
Medium Enterprises			
Small Enterprises			
University colleges, and integrated university educations	Funded are only Universities/public research institutions which are entered into the Registry of Scientific institutions and are Research and Knowledge dissemination organisations. Structural units are not funded as separate entities.		
Universities, public research organisations	Up to 100 %		
Public authorities	Not funded		
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	Not funded		

Lithuania – LMT

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Name: Asta Aleksandraviciene E-mail: asta.aleksandraviciene@lmt.lt Tel: +370 676 18 297
Funding commitment	0.30 M Euro
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration:1- 2 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	December 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	1-2
Maximum funding per awarded project	0.25 M Euro
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	The proposal must be submitted by the main applicant - an eligible Lithuanian higher education and research institution (which is listed in the Register of Ministry of Education, Science and sports of Republic of Lithuania). A legal entity of Lithuania can be a partner of the main applicant.
Eligible topics	15mC – Topic 2 and Topic 3, CUE – Topic 2 and Topic 3, PED – Topic 2 and Topic 3
Eligible type of research and TRL	Type of research (strategic (basic) research, applied research) TRL: 1-6
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Not required
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	The applicant who intends to act as a principal investigator (PI) has to be a scientist (researcher holding at least a Ph.D. degree). A person may submit only one proposal for the same Call as PI or other primary project implementer. Work scope of each primary project implementer within the project must be at least 20 hours of project time multiplied by the duration of the project in months. For more information about Lithuanian conditions for funding, please consult the call text in Lithuanian and the national contact point.
Eligible costs	Only costs generated during the lifetime of the project, related to project are eligible: personnel, travel, consumables, subcontracting, equipment, overheads (up to 20 % from direct costs).
Website with additional information	https://lmt.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/mokslo-finansavimas/tarptautinio-bendradarbiavimo-priemones/europos-partnerystes-era-net-ir-kitos-koordinavimo-veiklos/dut/
Additional information	n/a

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	*	*	n/a
Medium Enterprises	*	*	n/a
Small Enterprises	*	*	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	*	*	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	100	100	n/a
Public authorities	*	*	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	*	*	n/a

Netherlands, Kingdom of the – NWO

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Siebert Wielstra, programme officer, (+31) 70 349 46 67 Silke Heijma, programme officer, (+31) 70 344 06 56 dutp@nwo.nl
Funding commitment	€ 4,000,000 The budget for this Call for proposals is made available by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.
Start and duration of contracting phase	Granted consortia receive their grant award letter from NWO circa September/October 2027.
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	Granted consortia can formally start their project as soon as all conditions in the NWO grant award letter are met.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	10
Maximum funding per awarded project	€ 400,000
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	NB For national main applicants from Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS), please refer to annex A of Taskforce for Applied Research SIA. An application for funding from NWO may consider the following roles: • National main applicant (mandatory): the national applicant who leads the application to NWO and is the foreseen national project leader, in case a project is granted. • National co-applicant (optional): national applicants in addition to the national main applicant with an active role and responsibility in realising the project and requesting funding from NWO. A researcher may only request NWO funding for one project (part of a European consortium) in this Call for proposals, either as a national main applicant or a national co-applicant within an application for NWO funding. **National main applicant** To be eligible to submit a proposal, researchers must be employed for an indefinite period (with the associated employment contract) or have a tenure track agreement at any of the following research organisations: • universities as referred to in paragraphs a, b, h and j, of the Annex to the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW; Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek) and universities listed in the Policy Rules for Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands; • university medical centres, as described in Article 1.13, paragraph 1 of the WHW; • KNAW institutes and NWO institutes; • TO2 institutions[22]; • Netherlands Cancer Institute; • Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen; • Naturalis Biodiversity Center; • Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL); • Princess Máxima Center.

[22] The TO2 Institutions are Deltares, NLR, TNO, WUR and MARIN.

	Researchers employed at a TO2 institute may also submit as a national main applicant if they have at least a salaried position for a limited period of time. Individuals with a zero-hour or fixed-term employment contract (other than a tenure track appointment) cannot submit a proposal. Applicants with a part-time appointment must ensure adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested. It may be that the national applicant's tenure track employment contract ends before the intended completion date of the project for which grant funding is being requested, or that the national applicant's tenure agreement ends before this date due to their reaching retirement age. In such cases, the proposal must include a statement from the employer. In this statement, the research organisation in question guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding is being requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project. **National co-applicant** All requirements regarding the employment contract described under 'National main applicant', also apply to national co-applicants. National co-applicants must be affiliated with: 1) a research organisation eligible as a national main applicant (see above) or; 2) a university of applied sciences, as referred to in Article 1.8, paragraph 1, of the WHW or; 3) other research organisations as described in Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 that comply with the following cumulative conditions. The organisation must: • be established in the Netherlands; • be a foundation, organisation or legal entity established and governed by public law (in Dutch: publiekrechtelijke rechtspersoon) (all other legal forms, including private and public limited companies, are excluded); • have as its primary goal the independent conduct of its own fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or widely disseminating the results of those activities through teaching, publications or knowledge transfer; • be able to state that the organisation keeps separate accounts regarding economic/non-economic activities and that undertakings with decisive influence on the organisation do not enjoy preferential access to the organisation's results. **Note**: Prior to submission of a pre-proposal or, if possible at that stage according to the Call for proposals, full proposal, NWO will assess whether an organisation complies with Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and is thus eligible to participate as national co-applicant based on the above conditions. This assessment also helps to ensure NWO's compliance with regulations prohibiting state aid. To enable the assessment to be carried out, the intended national co-applicant's organisation must submit the following documents by email to dutp@nwo.nl no later than 20 working days before the submission deadline of the pre-proposal(i.e. by 20 October 2026, 14:00:00 CEST): • a recent extract from the Chamber of Commerce; • a deed of establishment and/or current articles of association; • the most recently available annual accounts, including an audit report[23]; • a completed Research Organisation Statement, which is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals. Other relevant documents may also be included. NWO may also request additional information if the above documents do not allow for adequate determination of the

[23] No audit report is necessary for organisations not legally required to have their annual accounts audited. However, such organisations must be able to provide proof of exemption from this legal requirement.

	organisation's eligibility to act as national co-applicant. If in a full proposal national co-applicants are added to the consortium who are not affiliated with any of the research organisations listed above, these new national co-applicants must be assessed based on the same conditions. Again, the intended national co-applicant's organisation must submit at least the above-mentioned documents by email no later than 20 working days before the submission deadline of the full proposal (i.e. by 17 March 2027, 14:00:00 CET) If the intended national co-applicant's organisation has already been assessed and found to comply with these conditions as part of a different NWO programme, please contact NWO at the above email address well before the applicable deadline to determine whether further assessment is necessary. If the intended national co-applicant's organisation fails to submit the documents required for assessment on time, NWO will not accept the organisation as national co-applicant. If a research organisation was already assessed and approved as a national co-applicant for this Call for proposals prior to submitting the pre-proposal, there is no need to have it assessed again for the submission of the full proposal.
Eligible topics	CUE 2 – Innovative Maintenance of Urban Green and Blue Spaces CUE 3 – Production in the City 15mC 2 – On-board organisations to the urban mobility transition 15mC 3 – Nurture neighbourhood economies – activate innovation in local everyday offers PED 2 – PED solutions in private housing across diverse urban contexts PED 3 – Sustainable PEDs, flexibility in energy systems, and integrated technologies
Eligible type of research and TRL	Strategic research, applied research.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	This is not necessary.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	- An application for NWO funding has one national main applicant, responsible for research and financial management. National co-applicants within an application for NWO funding are allowed. - Researchers employed at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or a research organisation, as referred to in Article 1.1, first paragraph, subparagraphs c to h, of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 may not apply for a scientific or post-doc position for themselves. - PhD positions cannot be applied for in this call, due to the maximum project duration of 3 years. - Overhead costs are not eligible for NWO funding.
Eligible costs	The available budget modules are: ***1. Personnel:*** Salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: *1.1 Postdoc*: at least 1 position, for at least 12 months, for at least 0.5 fte, according to UNL or UMCNL rates, a benchfee is available; *1.2 Non-scientific personnel (NWP)*: according to UNL or UMCNL rates; *1.3 Research leave*: max. 10% of the grant amount, according to UNL or UMCNL rates. *1.4 Personnel at universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes and other organisations:* using the Government Tariff Manual (HOT), Table 2, under 2.2 'average total salary cost per salary scale', column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT'. ***2. Materials:*** For project-specific material costs, up to 25% of the grant amount. Subsequently, up to 50% of the material budget can be used for work by third parties.

	Engagement of students may be included here according to the usual internship fee or HOT rates[24]. ***3. Knowledge utilisation***: For activities that promote the use of knowledge from the research, mandatory and at most 20% of the grant amount. ***4. Project management:*** Up to 5% of the grant amount. It is recommended to use the NWO budget template in the pre-proposal stage to confirm eligibility of budget items and correct use of tariffs. For full proposals, it is mandatory to submit the NWO budget form for the funding requested at NWO at the time of the transnational deadline to dutp@nwo.nl. A detailed "Explanation of budget modules and indexing" can be found on the NWO funding page of this Call for proposals. Do not hesitate to contact the national contact point in case of questions, for example for a preliminary review of a draft budget form or the eligibility of national main and/or co-applicants prior to the application deadline. Please do so well in advance.
Website with additional information	www.nwo.nl/dut
Additional information	The NWO Grant Rules 2024 and the Approval of Funding for Scientific Research are applicable to all applications for NWO funding. Any arrangements made regarding the grant from NWO must comply with all applicable rules and legislation, including but not limited to the conditions set out in the grant award letter, the NWO Grant Rules 2024, and the European legislation on state aid. As stipulated in the NWO Grant Rules, Article 3.2, paragraph 2, the project cannot start until the conditions set out in the grant award letter regarding the start of the project are met. Please note, these conditions will include a signed Consortium agreement by all partners in the transnational project. Once proposals are recommended for funding on a transnational level, the consortia will be notified by the DUT Call Secretariat and subsequently, the national granting process will be initiated by NWO. Under the Dutch General Administrative Law Act, any interested party has the right to lodge an objection to the decision taken by NWO within six weeks of the date of the decision letter. Further information about the objection's procedure can be found on the NWO website: https://www.nwo.nl/en/lodging-an-objection. NWO will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of personnel costs when awarding a grant. The current UNL/UMCNL/HOT rate on the national decision date applies. Please refer to the "Explanation of budget modules and indexing" on the NWO funding page, for more information on indexing. Submission of financial and scientific reports at national level is required in accordance with the rules of NWO. Granted consortia will be informed.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	n/a	n/a

[24] All activities included in this budget module must fit the European Commission definition of 'knowledge transfer activities' in the State aid framework for research and development and innovation (OJ 2022, C 414).

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100% **Note**: NWO only funds applied research	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Netherlands, Kingdom of the – Taskforce for Applied Research SIA (Regieorgaan SIA)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Hanneke Jansen, +31 6 51 01 63 89 Marcus van Leeuwen, +31 6 12 25 32 27 dutp@regieorgaan-sia.nl
Funding commitment	€ 1.200.000
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration: 2-3 months, no longer than 6 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	November 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	4-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	€ 300.000 if Dutch university of applied sciences is co-applicant in the transnational project € 325.000 if Dutch university of applied sciences is main applicant, coordinator of the transnational project.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	National main applicant: **Only** Universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8 and paragraph g, of the annex to the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW), can act as national main applicant. The national main applicant is the applicant who leads the application to SIA and is the foreseen national project leader, in case a project is granted. Consortium partner receiving funding: other partners (than UAS), like SMEs, public authorities and/or NGO's based in The Netherlands may be funded within the project, but only as consortium partner of the Dutch University of applied sciences. Large enterprises may not receive funding as a consortium partner. NB: For Dutch research organisations other than UAS, please refer to Annex A for the national eligibility requirements of NWO.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied research, practice-oriented research and innovation.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	This is not necessary, however please note applicants are required to submit a mandatory SIA budget form in the Full Proposal stage, as well as a de minimis form for each funded consortium partner, unless they classify as a research organisation as defined in article 1.1, paragraphs 1 and 4, of the NWO Grant Rules 2024. This budget form and the de minimis form will be made available on the callpage of Regieorgaan SIA before the full proposal phase. The forms must be submitted by e-mail to dutp@regieorgaan-sia.nl by the submission deadline for Full Proposals.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	The board of the UAS has to be informed about the submission of this proposal and needs to agree with its content. Participation of a cooperation partner based in The Netherlands in the transnational consortium is mandatory. A minimum of 20% in-kind contribution of the requested subsidy, by the UAS or its partners based in the Netherlands, is required.

	As a researcher, you may only be involved as Principal Investigator (PI) for your University of Applied Sciences once in this Call for proposals. All funded consortium partners, meaning consortium partners that are to receive subsidy from SIA through the main applicant are subject to the de minimis regulation (Regulation (EU) no. 1407/2013 of the European Commission of 18 December 2013), unless they classify as a research organisation as defined in article 1.1, paragraphs 1 and 4, of the NWO Grant Rules 2024. Based on the de minimis regulation, consortium partners may receive a maximum of €300,000 in government support over a period of three years. By completing the de minimis statement, consortium partners declare that in the event of the award of a grant by SIA, they will not exceed the de minimis threshold. If a consortium partner finds that the de minimis threshold will be exceeded with the grant from SIA (and other possible de minimis aid), this consortium partner cannot receive funding from SIA through the main applicant. The main applicant must take this into account when drawing up the application budget, and must therefore check for each funded consortium partner whether the subsidy amount applied for does not exceed the de minimis threshold. The de minimis statement, completed separately by each consortium partner, forms part of the full proposal.
Eligible costs	**Personnel costs** Funding for Universities of Applied Sciences: no limit on number of positions, rates based on the most recent version of Handleiding Overheidstarieven (HOT), Table 2 under 2.2 "Gemiddelde totale kosten per salarisschaal CAO Rijk", column "Uurtarief productieve uren, ex btw", costs for the participation of students and material costs. The most recent HOT tariffs must be applied for the entire duration of the project. Higher tariffs than HOT are not allowed. ***Other partners*** Other partners (than UAS), like SMEs, public authorities and/or NGO's based in The Netherlands may be funded within the project. Large Enterprises cannot be funded. For other educational institutions, TO2 institutions, governments and other government-funded institutions, the same rates apply as for universities of applied sciences. For organisations that do not use a comparable collective agreement (cao), the following salary scales from HOT table 2 under 2.2, columns productive hours apply. Project assistant scale 6. Junior scale 10. Medior scale 12. Senior scale 13. Director scale 16. In total the maximum allowed funding for other consortium partners, excluding the universities of applied sciences, is 25% of the funding by SIA. ***Participation of students*** It is allowed for students, connected to the university of applied sciences, to work within the project. If the students contribute as part of their curriculum, the rate according to the usual internship fee of the college or university applies. For students employed as student assistants, the rate according to Handbook of Government Rates (HOT), Table 2 under 2.2 "Gemiddelde totale kosten per salarisschaal CAO Rijk", column "Uurtarief productieve uren, ex btw", scale 1, applies. **Material Costs** Material costs include consumables, test setups, open access publications, hiring third parties, citizen science, (inter)national travel and accommodation costs (economy class), access to major (inter)national facilities and costs for permits, software licenses, conferences, fieldwork, guest researchers and data management. Not eligible are costs that fall under organizational infrastructure and overhead, such as a fully functioning workstation, office automation, depreciation other than those mentioned above, housing, insurance, administration and provisions for archiving.

	Investments It is possible to claim costs for investments in equipment, infrastructure and other research resources that retain economic value or can be reused after the project has ended. Labour costs for staff who prepare the equipment, infrastructure and other research resources for use are not considered part of the investment. Only the depreciation costs of investments are eligible for funding. Depreciation rates are calculated based on the purchase price excluding financing costs, a straight-line depreciation method and an actual useful life. Depreciation costs relating to investments made abroad cannot be claimed. A maximum of 20% of the subsidy amount can be budgeted for investment costs. **In-kind contribution** A minimum in-kind contribution of 20% is required. The in-kind contribution may be delivered by the UAS or its Dutch partners. The in-kind contribution may exist of either personnel or material costs. Do not hesitate to contact the national contact person in case of questions.
Website with additional information	More information about this call for Universities of Applied Sciences can be found at the website of Regieorgaan SIA.
Additional information	The NWO Grant Rules 2024 are applicable to the part of the project's budget covered by Regieorgaan SIA. Under the Dutch General Administrative Law Act, any interested party has the right to lodge an objection to the decision taken by Regieorgaan SIA, within six weeks of the date of the decision letter. Further information about the objections procedure can be found on the SIA website. Regieorgaan SIA will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of personnel costs when awarding the grant. The HOT rate at the time of the decision date applies and the date on which the rates take effect is used for this purpose.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	100%	100%
Small Enterprises	n/a	100%	100%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	100%	100%
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	100%	100%
Public authorities	n/a	100%	100%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	100%	100%

Norway – RCN

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Ida Ulleberg Jensen E-mail: iuj@rcn.no Tel: +47 92012143
Funding commitment	EUR 2,260,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	August 2027 Duration: 3-5 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	N/A
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	5-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	EUR 450,000
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Universities, research institutes, SME's and large companies, public authorities, NGOs. Apply for funding (forskningsradet.no)
Eligible topics	Circular Urban Economies
Eligible type of research and TRL	Basic research, Industrial/Applied research, Experimental development/Innovation. TRL: all.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	No
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	None
Eligible costs	For budget information see: Budget (forskningsradet.no) The budget applied for shall be stated in Euro. Conversion from Euro to Norwegian kroner is based on the official exchange rate per application date for preproposals – 17 November 2026. The official exchange rate can be found here: InforEuro, the exchange rate of the Euro currency (europa.eu) Support from the Research Council constitutes state aid when it is awarded to an "undertaking", i.e. an actor that carries out an economic activity consisting of offering products or services in a given market. Applicants defined as an undertaking must be aware that their funding will be given within the limits set by the State Aid Rules: State aid (forskningsradet.no) State aid awarded by the Research Council is granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid, Article 25: Aid for research and development projects. To ensure that support is awarded in compliance with the state aid rules, the Research Council asks all applicants selected for conditional allocation of funding to provide supplementary information. The Project Owner must be able to document that

	its own institution and all its partners (all recipients of state aid) are eligible to receive state aid.
Website with additional information	The Research Council of Norway (forskningsradet.no)
Additional information	After funding decision, the Norwegian part of funded projects must register through the RCN portal. Further information will be provided to the relevant partners. Norwegian project partners will have to report to RCN on an annual basis following RCN guidelines and deadlines. The participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for Research projects or for R&D Projects. Depending on the volume of submitted and eligible projects, up to 25 % additional funding may be allocated to the call to fund additional projects on the ranking list.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	50 %	25 %
Medium Enterprises	N/A	50 %	35 %
Small Enterprises	N/A	50 %	45 %
Universities, public research organisations	100 %	100 %	50 %
Public authorities	100 %	100 %	50 % (national), 75 % (regional/local)
Associations without economic activities, NGOs	100 %	100 %	100 %

Philippines/ Asia – PH

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Rachel R. Habana rrhabana@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph Grace F. Estillore gfestillore@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph | picu@pcieerd.dost.gov.ph
Funding commitment	Maximum of Php 75 Million (Approximately 1.06M Euro)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Announcement of the decision will be released in July 2027. The administrative process will run approximately 2-3 months.
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	The approved projects can start on the 4th Q of 2027.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	Three (3) projects
Maximum funding per awarded project	Php 25.0 million (Approx. 350k Euro) per project
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Any Filipino, public, or private entity with proven competence may apply for funding support if project/s fall under the specific research areas of the Call. However, the Filipino researcher/s should be connected with public or private universities and colleges and/or Research and Development Institutes
Eligible topics	• CUE Topic 2: Innovative maintenance of urban green and blue spaces • PED Topic 2: PED solutions in private housing across different urban contexts • PED Topic 3: Sustainable PEDs, flexibility in energy systems, and integrated technologies
Eligible type of research and TRL	Applied and Innovation research (TRL 4-7)
Submission of the concept (pre)proposal at the national level	The call will be published on the DOST-PCIEERD website: https://www.pcieerd.dost.gov.ph. Filipino researchers/applicants must submit their pre- or concept proposal online through the DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS), https://dpmisv2.dost.gov.ph/ from **14 September 2026 until 17 November 2026 (Tuesday)**, 5:00PM (PHST). It will not be possible to submit an application after the deadline or beyond 5:00PM. Applicants shall register and create an account in the DPMIS.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Those with approved pre- concept proposals, will be invited to submit its full-blown proposal from **February 2027 – 15 April 2027 until 5:00PM (PHST)** using the DPMIS. Applicants are encouraged to leave enough time for proposal inputting in the DPMIS before the closing date. Email/physical submissions **will not be considered**. When submitting application, please follow these steps: 1. Log in to your DPMIS account 2. Select Type of Proposal: **2026 DUT Call for Proposals** 3. Select Classification: New Proposal Application should include the following documents: I. DOST Proposal Forms i. Annex D: DOST Form 4.A. Detailed Project Proposal ii. Annex G: DOST Form 5. Project Work Plan iii. Annex H: DOST Form 6. Project Line-item Budget II. Endorsement of Head of Agency III. Gender and Development (GAD) Score Sheet IV. Technology Pathway (from technology development to adoption/commercialization)

	V. Supplementary Files Filipino applicants are advised to closely coordinate with their counterpart partners to meet the application requirements and deadline set by the consortium and DUT.
Eligible costs	100% of the project cost shall be covered under the Grant while the applicant's organization shall provide at least 15% counterpart funding, in cash/in-kind, except for projects involving public good. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for counterpart fund and/or in-kind contribution (ex. utility costs, office space rental, etc.), as determined by DOST-PCIEERD. The proposal must describe how the applicant will provide the counterpart fund/in-kind contribution and the role that the Grant will play in the overall project. The requested budget shall be itemized following the DOST Form 6: Project Line-Item Budget. The grant may cover the partial or full cost of the project, both direct and indirect costs which shall include personnel services, maintenance and other operating expenses, and capital outlay that are an integral part of the project. All expenditure items shall be in accordance with the Unified Account Code Structure (UACS) and relevant provisions as shown in the DOST Memorandum Circular No. 003, Series of 2025, Revised Guidelines for the Grants In-Aid Program of the DOST and its Agencies, Section IV.C.2. Detailed Breakdown of the Required Fund Assistance. Capital or infrastructure expenditure is not an eligible cost under the Grant as well as fees and/or stipends associated with Master and PhD studentships.
Website with additional information	https://www.pcieerd.dost.gov.ph.
Additional information	**Duration:** The projects to be funded for this pilot call for proposals will have a duration for a maximum of 36 months **Reporting:** The Program/Project Leader shall submit periodic accomplishment reports to DOST-PCIEERD following DOST Memorandum Circular No. 003, Series of 2025, Revised Guidelines for the Grants In-Aid Program of the DOST and its Agencies, Section IV.G. Technical and Financial Monitoring. All reports must be duly endorsed by the Head of the Implementing Agency.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A
Small Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A
University colleges, and integrated university educations	N/A	100%	100%
Universities, public research organisations	N/A	100%	100%
Public authorities	N/A	N/A	N/A
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	N/A	100%	100%

Poland – The National Centre for Research and Developmen (NCBR)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Name: Magdalena Guziejko E-Mail: magdalena.guziejko@ncbr.gov.pl Tel. +48 664 032 123
Funding commitment	2 650 000 EUR
Start and duration of contracting phase	1. Submitting the national application forms: July-August 2027; 2. Assessment of national application forms and issuing grant decisions: September 2027-December 2027; 3. Signing grant agreements: Start: December 2027 Duration: approx. 3-6 months Polish participants shall submit to NCBR a copy of signed international consortium agreement before signing the grant agreement with NCBR.
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	December 2027; projects may start before signing the contract, based on the official funding decision
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	approx. 5 to 10
Maximum funding per awarded project	• up to 250 000 EUR per project if a single applicant from Poland (a research organisation or an enterprise) applies for funding • up to 450 000 EUR per project if a group of entities from Poland applies for funding
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	• Research organisations (research and knowledge-dissemination organisations); • Enterprises - SME and Large; • Groups of enterprises composed of at least two enterprises; • Groups of entities composed of at least two research organisations or research organisation and enterprise. Aforementioned group of entities may additionally include other types of entities established as legal persons in Poland (other than enterprises) such as: - local government units, - non-governmental organisations, - inter-municipal cooperations, - associations of local government units. **Other types of entities than enterprises and research organisations may apply for funding only as a part of group of entities composed of at least two research organisations or at least one research organisation and one enterprise from Poland. The leader of the group of entities is research organisation or enterprise.** A condition for the participation of a group of entities as the Applicant in the call is its formal existence on the date of submission of the pre-proposal, confirmed by its members concluding, at least conditionally, agreement on the creation of a group of entities.

	Entities must be established as legal persons under Polish law and conduct their business, R&D or any other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register (if applicable). For enterprises it is strongly advised to state in the pre-proposal application form the KRS number of the enterprise and the size of the enterprise (micro/small, medium, large). **Definitions**: **Research organisation** - an entity as defined in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, and in Article 37(1) of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1170 as amended), in conjunction with Article 7(1)(1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 6b, 8) Act of 20 July 2018 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1571 as amended). **Enterprise** - as defined in Article 1 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. **Local government units** shall mean "commune" ("gmina") or "district" ("powiat") in accordance with Polish local government acts: the Act of 8 March 1990 on commune local government (ustawa z dnia 8 marca 1990 r. o samorządzie gminnym) or the Act of 5 June 1998 on district local government (ustawa z dnia 5 czerwca 1998 r. o samorządzie powiatowym). **Inter-municipal cooperation** refers to a legally established framework for voluntary collaboration among local government units such as: a) **inter-communal union** ("związek międzygminny") established under Article 64(1) of the Act of 8 March 1990 on commune local government (ustawa z dnia 8 marca 1990 r. o samorządzie gminnym), b) **inter-district union** ("związek międzypowiatowy") established under Article 65(1) of the Act of 5 June 1998 on district local government (ustawa z dnia 5 czerwca 1998 r. o samorządzie powiatowym), c) **commune-district union** ("związek powiatowo-gminny") established under Article 72a(1-2) of the Act of 5 June 1998 on district local government (ustawa z dnia 5 czerwca 1998 r. o samorządzie powiatowym). **Association of local government units** ("stowarzyszenie jednostek samorządu terytorialnego") refers to a Polish association registered in the Polish National Court Register (KRS) established under Article 84 of the Act of 8 March 1990 on commune local government (ustawa z dnia 8 marca 1990 r. o samorządzie gminnym) or Article 75 of the Act of 5 June 1998 on district local government (ustawa z dnia 5 czerwca 1998 r. o samorządzie powiatowym) in conjunction with relevant provisions of the Act of 7 April 1989 - Law on Associations (ustawa z dnia 7 kwietnia 1989 r. Prawo o stowarzyszeniach). **Non-governmental organisation** refers to a Polish legal person established under provisions of the Act of 24 April 2003 on public benefit and volunteer activities (ustawa z dnia 24 kwietnia 2003 r. o działalności pożytku publicznego i o wolontariacie). **Legal person** – a legal entity other than a natural person, capable of having and amending legal rights and obligations under a certain legal system, such as entering into contracts, suing, and being sued.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	Type of research: • Basic research (the eligible costs of fundamental research may comprise a maximum of 10% of total eligible costs of the project) • Industrial/Applied research, • Experimental development, TRL: 1-9

	We advise potential applicants to read and use 'A Guide To The Classification of Tasks In Socio-Economic R&D Projects': A GUIDE TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF TASKS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC R&D PROJECTS - The National Centre for Research and Development - Gov.pl website (English version) or Podręcznik kwalifikowania zadań w projektach B+R o charakterze społeczno-ekonomicznym - Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju - Portal Gov.pl (Polish version)
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Polish Participants will be informed and invited to submit Polish full proposal (national application form) once the international evaluation and the ranking list of full proposals will be established. Only projects recommended for funding will be asked to submit a national application form. All eligible entities, invited to submit Polish full proposal are obliged to use the rate of exchange of The European Central Bank dated on the day of opening the call. If more than one Polish entity participates in the project, the national application is submitted by a consortium (group of entities) of all Polish entities. In justified cases, the composition of group of entities may be changed before the funding decision is issued by NCBR. Any changes must meet the call's eligibility criteria and be approved in advance by the international project consortium, the call secretariat, NCBR, and any other funding institutions involved. Changes must also respect the principle of equal treatment of applicants.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	n/a
Eligible costs	**For research organisations:** 1. **Personnel Costs** 2. **R&D equipments, infra-structure use** 3. **Costs of materials** 4. **Sub-contracting, third-party costs** – used exclusively for the research activity; this cost category shall not exceed 70% of all eligible costs of a project 5. **Travel costs** 6. **Overhead costs** – incurred indirectly as a result of the research project. That costs should account 25% of all eligible direct costs and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs for research organizations, excluding subcontracting (5); It means 6 = (1+2+3+5)x25%. **For enterprises**: 1. **Personnel Costs** 2. **R&D equipments, infra-structure use** 3. **Sub-contracting, third-party costs** – used exclusively for the research activity; this cost category shall not exceed 70% of all eligible costs of a project 4. **Overhead costs** – incurred indirectly as a result of the research project. That costs for enterprises include costs related to consumables, travel and other direct costs. Additional overheads costs should account 20% of eligible direct project costs and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs; It means 4 = (1+2+3)x20%.

	For more details on eligible costs, applicants are advised to check cost eligibility guide (*przewodnik kwalifikowalności kosztów*) in the call announcement on NCBR webpage.
Website with additional information	www.ncbr.gov.pl
Additional information	All proposals must be aligned with national regulations, inter alia: • The Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1571 as amended); • The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1170); • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development (Polish Journal of Laws 2025, item 783 as amended), which is in line with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation); • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 17 September 2010 on the detailed mode of performance of tasks of the National Centre for Research and Development (Polish Journal of Laws 2010 No. 178, item 1200 as amended); NCBR may enter into a project contract provided that the participating entity: 1) is not excluded from applying for funding on the basis of: a) Article 207(4) of the Act of 27 August 2009 on Public Finance (Polish Journal of Laws 2025, item 1483 as amended); b) Article 12(1)(1) of the Act of 15 June 2012 on the consequences of entrusting work to foreigners staying illegally in the territory of the Republic of Poland (Polish Journal of Laws 2025, item 1567 as amended); c) Article 9(1)(2a) of the Act of 28 October 2002 on the liability of collective entities for acts prohibited under penalty (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1822 as amended); 2) is not an entity subject to an obligation to repay aid because the European Commission has declared such aid unlawful and incompatible with the internal market, 3) is not in arrears with payments of public dues or with social security and health insurance contributions, 4) is not an undertaking in difficulty[25] within the meaning of EU state aid rules and is not under receivership, 5) is not subject to exclusion from applying for funding due to sanctions.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	Up to 50+5/15/25 (max. 75%)	Up to 25+5/15/25 (max. 50%)
Medium Enterprises	n/a	Up to 50+10+5/15/25 (max. 80%)	Up to 25+10+5/15/25 (max. 60%)
Small Enterprises	n/a	Up to 50+20+5/15/25 (max. 80%)	Up to 25+20+5/15/25 (max. 70%)

[25] The definition of an undertaking in difficulty is set out in Article 2(18) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
University colleges, and integrated university educations	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%
Universities, public research organisations	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%
Public authorities	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	Up to 100%	Up to 100%	Up to 100%

Funding quota of Polish participants may be up to 100% for research organisations and other types of entities (as defined in point 'Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution') other than enterprises (i.e. local government units, non-governmental organisations, inter-municipal cooperations, associations of local government units).

In case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company and type of research/development under Section 2 of the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

In any case only Industrial Research, Experimental Development and Basic Research will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) cannot be included into separated task.

The eligible costs of **basic research** may comprise **a maximum of 10% of total eligible costs of the Project. Funding for basic research may be granted only to research organisations and other types of entities than enterprises (i.e. local government units, non-governmental organisations, inter-municipal cooperations, associations of local government units) in cases justified by the specificity of the Project**.

For entrepreneurs independently undertaking projects at the national level (meaning there is no Polish group of entities or Polish group of enterprises), there is no possibility of increasing the intensity of state aid for industrial research and experimental development based on the condition of effective cooperation between entrepreneurs or between entrepreneurs and research organisations.

Portugal / Centro Region of Portugal – Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro, I.P. (CCDR Centro, I.P.)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Sophie Patrício // Carlos Silveira E-mail: ccdrc.projects@ccdrc.pt Tel: +351 239 400 100
Funding commitment	500 000 €
Start and duration of contracting phase	Once the DUT Call decision (at international level) is known, the beneficiaries from Centro region will have to apply to the Regional Programme Call **Centro2030-2025-35** (SACCCT - Projetos de Ciência em Contexto Europeu), until 6pm (local time) of October 27th 2027. Contracting should take approximately 3 months. **The activities of all partners from Centro region have to be concluded before December 31st, 2029**.
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	September 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	3 - 5
Maximum funding per awarded project	200 000,00€, if the regional entity is the main applicant of the international project; 100 000,00€, if the regional entity is a project applicant in the context of the international project. If more than one regional applicant participates in the same international consortium applying for CCDR Centro's funding, the combined funding demanded by all the regional applicants must not exceed the maximum financial threshold established above.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Eligible entities – Regional non-entrepreneurial entities from the Research and Innovation System (ENESII), namely: a) Higher education institutions, their institutes and R&D units; b) State laboratories, associated or international laboratories based in Centro Region; c) Private non-profit institutions whose main purpose is R&D activities, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab) and Technology and Innovation Centres (CTI); d) Other public and private non-profit institutions that carry out or take part in research activities. These are eligible only if partnering up with one (or more) regional institutions from the typologies listed above. To be considered an eligible partner, all applicants must comply with the requirements established in Call **Centro2030-2025-35**. **Only entities from NUTS II Centro can apply to CCDRC's funding.** The maximum funding rate to be considered is 85%. All applicants contact CCDR Centro (through the Contact Point information) before applying to the international DUT call.

Eligible topics	Types of research and innovation (R&I) activities to be supported: Research-Oriented Approach (ROA) Project type of partner contribution to be supported: Applied Research Topics to be supported: CUE: Topic 3 PED: Topic 2; Topic 3
Eligible type of research and TRL	Only Applied Research based activities in the context of Research-Oriented Approach (ROA) projects will be considered eligible. The activities performed by regional stakeholders, within the projects, must: i) Incorporate activities of experimental development or industrial research, according to the concepts presented in r) and y) of article 3.º of the Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital; ii) Fit the scope of the following types of operations: a. Scientific Research and Technological Development (R&D); b. Proofs of Concept; according to a) and b) of article 136.º of the Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital. To all other criteria and conditions not explicit in this annex, please consult Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital (https://data.dre.pt/eli/port/103-a/2023/p/cons/20240808/pt/html).
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	When applying to the transnational call, all regional stakeholders must fill in and sign a Declaration: https://ris3.ccdrc.pt/index.php/ris3-documentacao/declaracao-decompromisso-saccct/viewdocument. The Declaration must be sent within 10 working days after the submission of the proposal to ccdrc.projects@ccdrc.pt.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	The activities performed by regional stakeholders, within the projects, must: I. Incorporate at least one activity of experimental development or industrial research, according to the concepts presented in r) and y) of article 3.º of the Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital; II. Fit the scope of the following types of operations: - Scientific Research and Technological Development (R&D); - Proofs of Concept; according to a) and b) of article 136.º of the Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital. To all other criteria and conditions not explicit in this annex, please consult **Centro2030-2025-35** or Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital (https://data.dre.pt/eli/port/103-a/2023/p/cons/20240808/pt/html).
Eligible costs	The eligible costs of operations are financed under a simplified cost model, based on a unit cost of €4,684 per FTE/Month. To be considered eligible, all expenses must be executed until the 31st of December of 2029.
Website with additional information	https://ris3.ccdrc.pt/index.php/iniciativas/109-iniciativas-dut/174-parceria-dut
Additional information	-

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Medium Enterprises	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Small Enterprises	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
University colleges, and integrated university educations	85%*	85%*	N.A.
Universities, public research organisations	85%*	85%*	N.A.
Public authorities	85%*	85%*	N.A.
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Romania – Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Elena Simion elena.simion@uefiscdi.ro +4021 307 19 93
Funding commitment	EUR 1,000,000
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: November 2027- January 2028 Duration: 4-5 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	November 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	4-5
Maximum funding per awarded project	200.000 EUR for Romanian participant(s) as partner(s) in a consortium; 250.000 for the Romanian participant(s) – if the project is coordinated by a Romanian entity
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Legal entities established in Romania are eligible to get funding - public and private accredited universities, national R&D institutes, other research organisations, SMEs, large industrial enterprises, according to the national requirements.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	UEFISCDI will fund strategic (basic) research, applied/industrial research, experimental development implemented by research organisations and/or SMEs, according to the national rules and to the State Aid legislation.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Not required
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	N/A
Eligible costs	The following categories of expenses are eligible: A. Staff costs (researchers, technicians and support staff, including all corresponding state and social contributions; these contributions are subject to national regulations in force); B. Consumables (materials, supplies or similar); C. Equipments (in full compliance with state aid regulations), no more than 30% of the total funding from the public budget; D. Subcontracting (max. 25% of the total funding from the public budget); E. Travel expenses (in Romania or abroad, only for project teams' members); F. Overheads (calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, travel expenses and logistics costs - excluding capital costs). Indirect costs will not exceed max. 25% of direct costs, excluding subcontracting. Expenses are eligible if incurred after signature of the contract. To EU countries: no To Non-EU countries: no

	Subcontracting special tasks (i.e. IT services, etc): Yes, expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25 % of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work.
Website with additional information	https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene
Additional information	It is strongly advised to contact UEFISCDI before submission, in order to verify the eligibility of the researchers and avoid ineligible projects/research consortia.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial/Applied Research	Experimental development/Innovation
Large Enterprises*	100%	up to 65%	up to 40%
Medium Enterprises*	100%	up to 75%	up to 50%
Small Enterprises*	100%	up to 80%	up to 60%
Universities, public research organisations*	100%	100%	100%
Public authorities*	up to 100%		
Associations without economic activities, NGOs*			

* Please check the national rules to confirm beneficiary eligibility for the requested form of support and funding rate

Slovakia – CVTISR

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Juraj Fukatsch juraj.fukatsch@cvtisr.sk +421 917 366 290 Martina Slivková martina.slivkova@cvtisr.sk Erika Jankajová +421 904 859 228 erika.jankajova@cvtisr.sk
Funding commitment	800 000€
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: July 2027 Duration: 18 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	July 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	2-4
Maximum funding per awarded project	The maximum funding amount per Slovak partner in international projects is 300,000 € (if the Slovak partner is the main applicant – 400 000€). The maximum funding amount per project for all Slovak partners, if the project has two or more Slovak partners, is 500,000 €. Contact CVTI SR, if higher allocation is needed.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Legal entities established in the Slovak Republic, such as public or private research and academic institutions, higher education institutions, SMEs, public sector entities, and other relevant organizations actively involved in research, development, and innovation. - Private sector entities (entrepreneurial/business sector) - Research institutions (e.g. the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes) - Academic sector (e.g. universities and higher education institutions) - Public administration bodies and organizations established by them - Non-governmental non-profit organizations - Cluster organizations
Eligible topics	• 15minC Transition Pathway: all topics (1-3) • Circular Urban Economies Transition Pathway: all topics (1-3) • Positive Energy Districts Transition Pathway: all topics (1-3) The proposed project activities must be in line with the priorities defined in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), which serves as the strategic framework for research, development and innovation investments in Slovakia. All Slovak entities must have their contractual financial matters settled with CVTI SR by the end of 2029. The proposed research activities must be carried out in Slovakia, and their results must be applicable and utilized within the Slovak Republic's environment.

Eligible type of research and TRL	All Slovak applicants must ensure that their proposed activities are in accordance with the national strategic framework, specifically the: Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Proposals are to be submitted according to the regulations of both DUT and CVTI SR, including the specific requirements of Programme Slovakia and other applicable national rules. Submission of pre-proposal and full proposal to the DUT 2026 Call Secretariat only. Submisison of full proposal: After having been informed about the international funding decision, CVTI SR will require also submission of separate application for national funding into the national submission platform.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	General eligibility rule: All expenditures incurred by Slovak project participants must comply with: - Programme Slovakia, specifically Priority 1P1 Science, Research and Innovation, Specific objective RSO1.1: Development and enhancement of research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies, Measure 1.1.3: Support for international cooperation in the field of research, development and innovation - The provisions of the State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia; - Slovak subjects are required to deliver at least one of the following key outcomes: the submission of a Trademark and Design Application, the filing of a Patent Application, or the publication of research findings in a high-impact, indexed scientific journal. - Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027
Eligible costs	• Personnel costs: salaries of researchers, technicians, and support staff employed by the beneficiary. These must be directly involved in the project. Also eligible are salaries of project management staff and key positions needed for the project's implementation and coordination. • Costs of instruments and equipment are included. • Costs of contractual research, technical know-how, and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under market conditions, as well as costs of consulting and equivalent services used exclusively for the purposes of the project. Ineligible expenses: • overhead costs • flat-rate expenses Regarding the eligibility of expenses, we recommend that you thoroughly familiarize yourself with the Guide to Eligibility of Expenses under the Slovakia Program, as the planned co-financing (if the project is approved) will be provided through this program. We also recommend that research costs account for at least 30% of the total budget of applicants from Slovakia.
Website with additional information	www.cvtisr.sk
Additional information	All Slovak applicants are strongly advised to contact the CVTI SR's contact points before submitting their proposals. As previously mentioned, after having been informed about the international funding decision, CVTI SR will require also submission of separate application for national funding into the national submission platform. The final formal funding decision is made by CVTI SR and only after the project was recommended for funding by the Partnership. All funded Slovak entities must ensure that their proposed activities are in accordance with the national strategic framework, specifically the Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027. Relevant national documents:

	Programme Slovakia, Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia. Useful links: Programme Slovakia SK RIS3 2021+ Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	50%	50%	40%
Medium Enterprises	70%	70%	60%
Small Enterprises	70%	70%	60%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%	100%	100%
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100%	100%
Public authorities	100%	100%	100%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	100%	100%	100%

* The funding rates are in accordance with the national strategic framework, specifically the: Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027

Slovenia – Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Name: Dr. Suzana Seaptefrati E-Mail: suzana.seaptefrati@aris-rs.si Tel: + 386 1 400 5911
Funding commitment	0,45 M€
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: October 2027 Duration: 3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	1 October 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	2-3
Maximum funding per awarded project	0.165 M€ per project
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Eligible beneficiary institutions (higher education institutions and research institutes) need to be registered at the ARIS register of research organizations and shall not be business sector entities. Business sector entities and NGOs may apply; however, they need to ensure their own funding for participation. Eligible beneficiary institutions may participate in the consortium as Main Applicant or Co-Applicant. The Principal Investigator (i.e. project leader of the Slovenian team) shall be a researcher holding a PhD degree who: - meets the ARIS requirements for a project leader of a basic or applied research project; - is registered at the ARIS register of researchers; - is employed at the Slovenian research organization (applicant) or will be employed when signing the grant contract at the latest. All participating researchers need to be registered at the ARIS register of researchers and must have available research hours according to the applicable ARIS rules.
Eligible topics	All topics within all three Transition Pathways are eligible with the exception of the crosscutting topic.
Eligible type of research and TRL	ARIS will only fund strategic (basic) research.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	All Slovenian applicants at the pre-proposal and full proposal stage are invited to contact ARIS as the applicant eligibility and proposed budget should be examined by ARIS prior to official submission (preferably at least 7 working days before the deadline for the official submission). The budget approved by ARIS should not be modified when submitting the pre-proposal and full proposal.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	-

Eligible costs	Eligible costs for Slovenian partners are: - personnel costs (including social security, health, pension and other contributions according to national legislation); - material costs (travel and meeting costs, consumables, dissemination and knowledge exchange costs, other costs); - depreciation costs. Slovenian teams will be financed as price category A, B, C or D projects. The total sum of research hours is calculated by dividing the total grant sum by the value of research full time equivalent for the chosen price category of the project (A, B, C or D) in accordance with the national regulation concerning the funding of research activities from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia. Overhead is calculated up to 25% of all eligible costs calculated at the level of the chosen project category (without subcontracting costs) being a consistent part of the total grant sum. The calculation of overhead thus lowers individual category of eligible costs in a proportional manner. Overhead costs are used for covering the running costs of the research organisation related to the implementation of the project.
Website with additional information	http://www.aris-rs.si/sl/medn/ http://www.aris-rs.si/sl/akti/
Additional information	Financial reporting is carried out on an annual basis according to the national rules. Mid-term and final progress reports are to be submitted according to the national rules.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Universities, research organisations	100%	n/a	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Spain – AEI

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

<table>
<tr><th>Information type</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Contact Point</td><td>Severino Falcón, Irene Carlos
urban@aei.gob.es</td></tr>
<tr><td>Funding commitment</td><td>1 012 000 €</td></tr>
<tr><td>Start and duration of contracting phase</td><td>Start: Autum 2027
Duration: 2-3 months</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)</td><td>December 2027. Projects funded by the AEI under this call must start during 2027.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner</td><td>7-8</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum funding per awarded project</td><td>Please refer to the document "General Conditions for Participation in the Transnational Open Call: European Partnerships", available at: https://www.aei.gob.es/colaboracion-internacional/convocatorias-internacionales

The following funding limits of direct costs are considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible.
<table>
<tr><th>Maximum funding per project</th><th>Maximum Direct Costs (€)</th><th>Indirect Costs (25%) (€)</th><th>TOTAL (€)</th></tr>
<tr><td>One AEI applicant</td><td>140.000</td><td>35.000</td><td>175.000</td></tr>
<tr><td>One AEI coordinator</td><td>220.000</td><td>55.000</td><td>275.000</td></tr>
<tr><td>One AEI coordinator and one other AEI applicant</td><td>260.000</td><td>65.000</td><td>325.000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Additional funding for substantial experimental tasks (per project)</td><td>30.000</td><td>7.500</td><td>37.500</td></tr>
</table>

Only ONE applicant asking funding for AEI is allowed per proposal as partner.
Two AEI applicants are allowed in the same proposal if one of them is acting as coordinator.
These amounts refer to 3 years projects. In case of shorter projects, the amount will be adjusted accordingly.
Additional € 30.000 (direct costs) can be granted for the entire proposal if the work plan includes substantial experimental tasks.

To establish the final funding amount, the AEI will consider the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration and the financial resources available.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</td><td>Please refer to the document "General Conditions for Participation in the Transnational Open Call: European Partnerships", available at: https://www.aei.gob.es/colaboracion-internacional/convocatorias-internacionales</td></tr>
</table>

Eligible topics	CUE Topic 1, CUE Topic 2, CUE Topic 3 The projects funded by the AEI must be aligned with the main objectives described in the *Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica, Tecnica e Innovación*.
Eligible type of research and TRL	Please refer to the document ***"General Conditions for Participation in the Transnational Open Call: European Partnerships",*** available at: https://www.aei.gob.es/colaboracion-internacional/convocatorias-internacionales
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	The AEI's funding instrument for this call is "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional" (PCI). Applicants are encouraged to check their eligibility with the National Contact Point prior to the submission. Please refer to the document ***"General Conditions for Participation in the Transnational Open Call: European Partnerships",*** available at: https://www.aei.gob.es/colaboracion-internacional/convocatorias-internacionales **Submission of proposals at the AEI**. Within one week after the CETP pre-proposal submission, the Spanish Principal Investigator PI must submit the Spanish pre-proposal to the AEI. The PI must submit the pre-application to the AEI through the following link: Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future Partnership | Agencia Estatal de Investigación The pre-application should include a copy of the international scientific proposal (memoria técnica), submitted by the consortium coordinator through the international submission platform, the CETP application and the "Declaración responsable del investigador principal" (Word document available at Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future Partnership | Agencia Estatal de Investigación) duly signed by the Spanish principal investigator. Deadline for the AEI pre-application is one week after the deadline of the international call. Failure to comply with the AEI submission will be considered a breach of the eligibility conditions, and the proposal shall be deemed as not submitted. If the project is selected for funding under this call, the Principal Investigator (PI) will be required to submit the corresponding direct-award application to the relevant PCI.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Please refer to the document ***"General Conditions for Participation in the Transnational Open Call: European Partnerships",*** available at: https://www.aei.gob.es/colaboracion-internacional/convocatorias-internacionales
Eligible costs	**Eligible Costs:** Please refer to the document ***"General Conditions for Participation in the Transnational Open Call: European Partnerships",*** available at: https://www.aei.gob.es/colaboracion-internacional/convocatorias-internacionales
Website with additional information	Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future Partnership | Agencia Estatal de Investigación
Additional information	**Data Protection**: By submitting a grant application to the AEI, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical, statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights. **Open Access and Open Data policy**: Applicants should comply with Open Access/Open Data specified in the respective PCI call or equivalent. The results of the funded research actions, including both the results disseminated through scientific publications and the data generated in the research, must be available in open access, with the exceptions indicated in the PCI call or equivalent. **Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle**: The projects granted under this call must comply with the DNSH criteria

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medium Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A
Small Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs
Universities, public research organisations	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs
Public authorities	N/A	N/A	N/A
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities: **ONLY non-profit entities whose primary activity is scientific research and whose statutes/articles of association reflect such activity.**	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs

Spain – CDTI

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Milvia Soumbounou Tel: +34 91 581 0579 /55 00 E-Mail: milvia.soumbounou@cdti.es; partenariadosHE@cdti.es
Funding commitment	600.000€
Start and duration of contracting phase	The contracting phase is likely to start during the first quarter of 2028 Start: 1st quarter 2028 Duration: 4-6 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	It is anticipated that projects will be able to commence at a national level during the first half of 2028, once the national contracting phase has been completed.
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	3-4
Maximum funding per awarded project	Please see funding rates below according to companies' size. If there is national budget available, the grant could be increased to up to 70% for all companies
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	For-profit enterprises (large or SMEs) established and carrying out R&D activities in Spain. Other entities such as Universities, Public Research Institutions, Technological Centres, and other not-for-profit private institutions are not eligible.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	TRL 4-7 Industrial research and/or experimental development activities, in accordance with the definitions of the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, with a strong technological component The activities and tasks related to preparation for entry into the market, commercialisation, industrial-scale trials and registration of industrial property are not eligible for funding.
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Each Spanish company participating in a project and requesting funding from CDTI, must apply via CDTI´s electronic submission system. CDTI´s application process consists of completing an online application form which is accompanied by a short technical report written in Spanish. The report must focus on the activities (and associated budget) that the company will assume in the project (please check "Eligible Type of research" and "Types of cost to be funded" sections in this table). Deadline to complete CDTI´s application process: same as per the international call Please note that failing to comply with the national application process by the deadline, will deem the company ineligible to participate in the call.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	• Projects should support transnational collaboration; therefore, no single participant or country can exceed 70% of the total project costs. • The Spanish applicant's activities must be carried out in Spain and represent a high scientific-technical quality and a relevant innovative nature. • It is recommended a minimum budget of 200.000€ The funding will be implemented in the modality of grants.

Eligible costs	• Costs of the personnel performing R&D tasks and project management. • Overheads (up to 25% of all direct costs, excluding subcontracting and travel expenses). • Instruments, equipment, materials, supplies, and similar products incurred directly as a result of the project (to the extent that they are used and for the duration of the project). • Contractual research, knowledge, and patents. • Subcontracting a consultancy firm (up to 8.000€). • Subcontracting costs cannot exceed 50% of the participant's eligible costs. • Travel expenses (up to 8.000€). • Costs of communication, dissemination and publication of the project results (up to 15.000€). • Audit reports (up to 2.000€ per financial year). Other operating expenses are not eligible for funding. Only the costs incurred during the project duration (since the project start date to the project end date) are eligible for funding.
Website with additional information	CDTI https://www.cdti.es/partenariados-cofinanciados-pilar-2
Additional information	Please note that failing to comply with the national application process by the deadline will deem the company ineligible to participate in the call.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	40%	40%
Medium Enterprises	n/a	50%	50%
Small Enterprises	n/a	60%	60%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sweden – The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Björn Svensby Kurling, bjorn.svensbykurling@formas.se Björn Wallsten, bjorn.wallsten@formas.se Maria Rogell, maria.rogell@formas.se
Funding commitment	3,2 m euro (34,5 m SEK)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: November 2027 Duration: 4 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	November 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	Approx. 8-10
Maximum funding per awarded project	300k Euro per project (400k Euro per project if the Main Applicant is Swedish).
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Universities, research institutes, private companies (small, medium and large), private and public organisations that engage in economic activity[26], public authorities, and NGOs. The applicant must be a Swedish legal entity (have a Swedish organisational number).
Eligible topics	Formas funds activities by Swedish partners in projects that address any of the three CUE topics.
Eligible type of research and TRL	Basic research, Industrial research/Applied research, Experimental development/Innovation (in accordance with Article 25 in GBER).
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Swedish applicants that have been recommended for funding in the DUT Call 2026, after evaluations in stage 1 and stage 2, will be allowed to submit their proposal to Formas's system Prisma. Projects recommended for funding will receive an email with information about how to submit relevant information to Formas. This email will be sent out after the final meeting of the Call Specific Consortia, in July 2027. Formas's system Prisma will be open for submitting proposals between the end of July and September 15. Swedish applicants in the same project consortium who are invited to submit a full proposal, must make one single project application in Prisma. The invitation to Formas's system Prisma will be sent to the Swedish National Contact Point in the international consortia. If a Swedish applicant with economic activity wants to be classified as a small or medium sized company, they need to submit the document "Model Declaration",

[26] Economic activity is generally defined as any activity consisting of offering goods or services on a given market. If an organisation falls in the economic activity category, then state aid rules apply. More here: State aid regulations – for private and public organisations that engage in economic activity - Formas

	completed with asked for information about the relevant company. This document needs to be submitted to Prisma as a part of the full proposal. If a Swedish applicant wants to receive de minimis funding, they need to submit a "de minimis declaration" completed with asked for information about the entity. This document needs to be submitted to Prisma as a part of the full proposal.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Companies (both privately and publicly owned) that want to be classified as small or medium sized companies need to submit a "Model Declaration" certifying their size. This declaration can be found here: Model Declaration relating to the qualification of an enterprise as an SME. Applicants for de minimis aid must provide proof of how much aid of this type they have received over a specific period of time, here: Formas intyg om försumbart stöd.docx (only in Swedish). For multi-party projects, the project parties must certify that they will carry out the project according to Formas' decision: Projektparts godkännande (only in Swedish). Research institutes and so-called research organisations, which carry out both economic and non-economic activities, may be asked to provide a separate certificate: Intyg gällande separerad verksamhet eller underordnad ekonomisk verksamhet.docx
Eligible costs	Formas funding is limited to costs eligible under the applicable legal basis for the aid. Within this scope, the following categories of costs are typically considered eligible for research and innovation projects: • Personnel costs: Salaries (plus statutory social contributions) for staff and PhD students directly working on the project. • Equipment, land and buildings: Purchase and depreciation of equipment, as well as premises costs, to the extent used for the project. • Other direct costs: Expenses such as consultant/contractor fees, software licenses, consumables, travel and conferences, publication costs, etc. • Indirect costs: Overhead costs according to Formas' rules (see below). Note: As of 2025 Formas has updated our General Terms. For example, the previous SEK 500,000 cap on equipment has been removed. Indirect costs are now tiered by organisation type: for example, higher education institutions use their full cost rates as before, state linked research organisations may claim up to 45% of eligible personnel costs (for non-economic projects), and all other beneficiaries may claim up to 30%. For complete rules on eligible costs and overheads, consult Formas Terms and Conditions for Grants. Please note that there are two versions of the Terms and Conditions for Grants: • Terms and Conditions for Grants, for projects with only one Swedish partner (Formas generella villkor 2026 - enpartsprojekt.pdf) • Terms and Conditions for Grants, for projects with more than one Swedish partner (Formas generella villkor 2026 - flerpartsprojekt.pdf) Note that VAT should not be included in the budget figure. Projects that are granted funding must report all costs in EUR in the international platform (UDiManager) and in SEK in Formas' national system (Prisma). For exchange rates in this call, use the historical EUR/SEK exchange rate from the pre-proposal deadline, as published by Sveriges Riksbank.
Website with additional information	Formas can grant state aid and de minimis aid according to a number of legal bases in the EU's state aid rules. The provisions enabling Formas to provide funding to organisations are contained in the Swedish Government's Ordinance (2017:195) on state aid for research and development and innovation in the environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning. This is based on the European Commission's General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) 651/2014 Article 25 and De Minimis Regulation 2023/2831. Further information is provided via the links below:

	- Terms and Conditions for Grants - State aid rules
Additional information	All scientific publications resulting from projects funded by Formas must be published using immediate open access (OA): Stricter requirements for immediate open-access publication - Formas Reports are to be submitted according to the regulations of both the DUT Partnership and Formas.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	100 %	50% (65%)	25% (40%)
Medium Enterprises	100 %	60% (75%)	35% (50%)
Small Enterprises	100 %	70% (80%)	45% (60%)
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100 %	100 %	100 %
Universities, public research organisations[27]	100 %	100 %	100 %
Public authorities	100 %	100 %	100 %
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	100 %	100 %	100 %

The higher figures between brackets are applicable if certain terms are met. Please see page 4-5 in the following document for an explanation of these terms: Stödnivåer enligt Formas stödordning.pdf (only in Swedish)

c) Funding rates according to De Minimis

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	100 %	100 %	100 %
Medium Enterprises	100 %	100 %	100 %
Small Enterprises	100 %	100 %	100 %

[27] In order for Formas to grant a research organisation a grant with the support basis "Not State aid" (i.e. 100% funding), the research organisation as a general rule needs to submit a certificate to this effect. For more information, please contact Formas contact person.

Sweden – SWEA

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Emina Pasic E-mail: emina.pasic@energimyndigheten.se Mob: +46 165 442 189
Funding commitment	1.5 MEUR
Start and duration of contracting phase	*when will the contracting phase start if the Call decision is reached in July 2027? how many months does it approximately take until your proposals have their contracts? e.g: **Start: September 2027** Duration: 4 months* Sept-Dec 2027
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	*please note that this must be January 2028 at the latest! If the contracting phase takes longer but projects are allowed to start without a signed contract, please also mention this here!* **Dec 2027**
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	5-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	N/A
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Universities, research institutes, SME's and large companies, public authorities, NGOs, civil sector. Specifications: The applicant must be a Swedish legal entity.
Eligible topics	PED Transition Pathway, topics 1(CC), 2, 3;
Eligible type of research and TRL	Industrial/Applied research, Experimental development/Innovation
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Swedish applicants involved in awarded PED (1,2,3) projects will be invited to submit a national application to SWEA (via Mina sidor). Information about the submission will be provided in the invitation and by the contact person.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	N/A
Eligible costs	For information regarding eligible costs and the Swedish Energy Agency legislation see the Swedish national call text. ☐ See Instruction in EU Regulation, GBER, 651/2014 CL2014R0651SV0020010.0001_cp 1..1 (europa.eu), and also ☐ Swedish legistation – Förordning 2018:761 Förordning (2008:761) om statligt stöd till forskning och utveckling samt innovation inom energiområdet Svensk författningssamling 2008:2008:761 t.o.m. SFS 2018:1036 - Riksdagen The proportion of a company's level of support is determined partly based on which research category the various activities in the project are deemed to correspond to and partly based on the size of the company in receipt of the support. Viable Cities criteria:

	Co-financing rate for innovation projects should be at least 50% of the total project costs. The co-financing rate for demonstration projects should be at least 75% of the total project costs. The national project consortium shall consist of at least three independent organisations from at least two of the following stakeholder groups: ☐ universities or research institutes; ☐ companies ☐ public sector ☐ civil society organisations
Website with additional information	For full information see the Swedish national call information for this call at the webpages: ☐ SWEA webpage: Utlysningar ☐ SWEA website Hem - Viable Cities
Additional information	The Swedish Energy Agency is leading the energy transition into a modern and sustainable, fossil-free welfare society – applying our credibility, a comprehensive approach and courage. The Swedish Energy Agency funds research and innovation on new and renewable energy technologies, smart grids, vehicles and transport fuels of the future as well as smart, sustainable cities receives funding from us. We also support business development that allows commercialisation of energy-related innovations, and ensure that promising clean-tech solutions can be exported. Viable Cities is a Swedish Strategic Innovation Programme with a focus on climateneutral and sustainable cities. The programme's mission is to speed up the transition to climate-neutral cities by 2030 with a good life for everyone within the planet's boundaries. The programme is supported by Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas, where the Swedish Energy Agency is the principal authority. The Viable Cities programme brings together about 130 members in business, academia, civil society and public organisations. The Viable Cities Programme is affiliated partner to SWEA in the DUT Partnerships Programme.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	100 %	50 %	25%
Medium Enterprises	100%	60%	35%
Small Enterprises	100%	70%	45%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%	100%	100%
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100%	100%
Public authorities	100%	100%	100%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	100 %	100%	100%

Sweden – Vinnova

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Johanna Johansson Johanna.johansson@vinnova.se +46 8 473 30 75
Funding commitment	Approx. 1 125 000 EUR (13 000 000 SEK)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	December 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	We expect to fund 4-6 projects
Maximum funding per awarded project	300 000 EUR
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	• universities, • research institutes, • private companies (small, medium and large), • public authorities, • associations without economic activities • NGOs; Applicants must be Swedish legal entities (the entity must have a Swedish organisational number)
Eligible topics	15 Min C, Topic 1
Eligible type of research and TRL	• Industrial/applied research • Experimental development/innovation
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Swedish applicants involved in proposals recommended for funding after stage 2 will be contacted by Vinnova with further information on how to submit their proposal and relevant information to Vinnova's E-services. If a consortia member wants to submit a "Model declaration" or a "De minimis declaration", these need to be emailed to the Vinnova contact point at the same time as the full proposal is submitted. For questions about Model declaration or De minimis declaration, please contact the Vinnova contact point.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	Costs for consultancy services and licences may not exceed 20% of an organisation's budget. Companies (both privately and publicly owned) and NGOs that wants to be classified as small or medium sized companies must submit a "Model declaration" certifying their size. Small companies and/or NGOs applying for de minimis funding from Vinnova must complete, sign and submit a declaration of previously received de minimis aid. A template is found under the section Minor Support on Vinnovas webpage. For questions about Model declaration or de minimis declaration, please contact the Vinnova contact point.

Eligible costs	For information on eligible costs, applicants should consult Vinnova's guidance on eligible costs, available under the section "Eligible costs" in Vinnova's General Terms and Conditions for Grants.
Website with additional information	Rules for funding
Additional information	Please read Vinnova's General Terms and Conditions for Grants for projects with several participants, available on Vinnova's website. **Applicable funding in this call is based in the following regulations:** ***Private companies:*** For private companies, funding can be granted via GBER art. 25, (Industrial research or Experimental development). The rates in table (b) below are explained here. Small companies (according to the current EU definition) can also be granted de minimis funding. In order to be able to obtain de minimis funding, a declaration of other received de minimis funding must be submitted to Vinnova. A template is found under the section Minor Support on Vinnovas webpage. Companies that wish to be definied as small or medium sized companies must submit a "Model declaration" to confirm their size. **Universities:** Universities can be granted funding as non state aid. They can receive 100 % funding. **Research organisations/institutes:** Research organisations and institutes can be granted 100 % funding as non state aid if they can confirm their status as a non economic entity. **Public authorities:** Public authorities can be granted funding as non state aid. They can receive 100 % funding. Publicly owned companies are considered to be involved in economic activity, and can recieve funding on the same term as private companies, i.e. GBER art 25 (Industrial research or Experimental development). Publicly owned companies, even if classified as small, cannot receive de minimis funding. **Associations without economic activities** Associations without economic activities can recieve non state funding (100 %) if they clearly can confirm that they do not have economic activities. If you are an association without economic activities, it is recommended that you contact Vinnovas contact person to discuss relevant funding levels. **NGOs:** If an NGO has economic activities, it is still possible that it can receive non state funding if it can be confirmed that economic and non-economic activities are kept apart in the organisation's budget. In such cases, it is recommended that you contact the Vinnova contact point to discuss the matter before submitting an application. If an NGO has economic activity, GBER art. 25 (Industrial research or Experimental development) applies. Organisations that wish to be definied as small or medium sized companies must submit a "Model declaration" to confirm their size.

	NGOs can also be granted de minimis funding. If an NGO intends to apply for de minimis funding, a de minimis certificate must be submitted to Vinnova. The template for the certificate can be found under section Minor Support on Vinnovas webpage.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	50/65 %	25/40 %
Medium Enterprises	n/a	60/75 %	35/50 %
Small Enterprises	n/a	70/80 %	45/60 %
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	100 %	100 %
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	100 %	100 %
Public authorities	n/a	100 %	100 %
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	100 %	100 %

(c) Funding rates according to de minimis

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Enterprises	n/a	100 %	100 %
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	100 %	100 %

Switzerland – SNSF

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Clémence Le Cornec / email: dut@snf.ch
Funding commitment	1'800'000 CHF (about 1'900'000 EUR, depends on the exchange rate)
Start and duration of contracting phase	Duration: 1-3 months
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	01.09.2027 - 01.01.2028
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	4- 6
Maximum funding per awarded project	The SNSF provides a **minimum grant of 100 000 Swiss francs per project**. The SNSF provides a maximum of 400,000 Swiss francs per applicant for a 3-years project (or maximum of 266'667 CHF per applicant for a 2-years project). The SNSF provides a **maximum of 400'000 Swiss francs per applicant** over 3 years.
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	Applicants must comply with the SNSF Funding Regulations and be eligible to SNSF project funding.
Eligible topics	All
Eligible type of research and TRL	**The SNSF exclusively funds research conducted for purposes that are not directly commercial.** Pursuant to the Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA) and the legal framework of the SNSF, no research grants are awarded if the relevant research is conducted for directly commercial purposes or if the persons involved in the research work are not scientifically independent. TRL: 1 to maximum 4
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	**Mandatory, parallel submission of pre- and full-proposal via mySNF** Swiss partners must submit pre-proposals and full proposals **via *my*SNF** at the same submission deadline of the consortium application. These submissions are mandatory and do not replace the submission of the consortium application to the Call Secretariat. **Pre-proposal** forms are created by selecting "Projects: Partnership: DUT: Pre-proposal". **Full-proposal** forms are created by selecting "Projects: Partnership: DUT: Full proposal" and are to be linked to the pre-proposal by selecting its number in the data container "Relation to pre-proposal". **In case of multiple Swiss partners participating in the same consortium**, only one application is to be submitted on *my*SNF, whereby one Swiss partner must act as "corresponding applicant" and the other Swiss partners are to be listed as "other applicants". **International partners of the consortium** applying for funding at different funding agencies from the SNSF cannot be declared as "project partners" in the sense of article

	11.2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations. For the submission via *my*SNF, they are to be declared as "consortium partners" instead and must apply for their funding at their respective research funding organisation.
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	**Participation of Swiss partners requesting financial support from the SNSF is restricted to one project** (Art.7.3, SNSF Regulations on project funding). They may, however, participate in other consortia projects as self-financed partners. **Proposals with overlapping funding periods with ongoing SNSF projects** are only approved if the research projects pursue different goals (Article 17 of the SNSF Funding Regulations)
Eligible costs	**Eligible costs** are outlined in the SNSF Funding Regulations (Art. 28) and the SNSF General Implementation Regulations (Section 2). **Project overhead costs** cannot be applied for. They are calculated on the basis of the research funding acquired by eligible institutions under eligible funding schemes. Overhead contributions are paid in retrospect at a flat rate to the institutions of the SNSF awardees.
Website with additional information	Information available at: - SNSF Funding regulations - General Implementation Regulations - SNSF Regulations on Project Funding
Additional information	**Data management plan (DMP)** Applicants will have to complete the DMP on the SNSF Portal once the project is approved, regardless of whether a DMP is requested by the consortium. The DMP has to cover the research data, which are collected, observed, generated or reused in the Swiss part of the project and has to comply with the SNSF Open Research Data Policy. **Consortium agreement** Before the release of the funds, the SNSF requests the submission of a copy of the consortium agreement signed by all the partners. **Grant management** Grants will be managed according to standard SNSF rules described in SNSF Funding Regulations. Yearly financial reports for the use of SNSF funds must be submitted via the SNSF Portal. As a final scientific report, the SNSF requests the submission of the final scientific report submitted to the DUT Call Secretariat. No other scientific report is requested.

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%	100% for applied research, 0% for industrial research	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100% for applied research, 0% for industrial research	n/a
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Tunisia – MHESR

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Hayet Souai: Hayet.Souai@mes.rnu.tn Saida RAFRAFI FARHAT : saida.rafrafi@mesrs.tn;
- **Funding commitment**	0.7 M Euro
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: September 2027 Duration: 3 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	November 2027
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	7
Maximum funding per awarded project	100k Euro per project
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	- Tunisian public institutions of higher education and scientific research and public research centers. - The coordinator/ Principal Investigator (PI) should be full professor or associate professor (maître de conférences). - The coordinator or Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated with a public research laboratory that is part of the partner institution involved in the project. - The critical mass of each research team involved must be composed of a minimum of five (5) statutory researchers (corps A and B), including at least two members with the rank of professor, associate professor, or equivalent rank.
Eligible topics	All Call Topics of DUT are eligible for the MHESR:
Eligible type of research and TRL	TRL 3-7
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	No
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	*
Eligible costs	- Travel and daily allowances, - Small equipment, logistics, and consumables (The acquisition of computer and office equipment is an ineligible expense) - service Contracts and research contracts (only for non-permanent staff), - Organization and participation in scientific events and meetings. - Publication and filing fees (required for scientific publications and patent filing), - Expenses for conducting analyses and processing samples.
Website with additional information	www.mes.tn
Additional information	

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Enterprises	n/a	n/a	n/a
University colleges, and integrated university educations	n/a	n/a	n/a
Universities, public research organisations	n/a	100%	100%
Public authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	n/a	n/a	n/a

Türkiye – TUBITAK

(a) National/Regional information and eligibility criteria:

Information type	Details
Contact Point	Name: Serhat MELİK / Arzu Ipek YILMAZ UCUNCU E-mail: dut@tubitak.gov.tr Tel: +903122981863 / +903122981787
Funding commitment	EUR 1.000.000
Start and duration of contracting phase	Start: July 2027 Duration: 4-6 months*
Approximate earliest possible starting date (nationally)	January 2028
Anticipated number of projects to be funded by the funding partner	5-6
Maximum funding per awarded project	• EUR 230.000 per project (excluding Project Incentive Payment and Overhead costs), • Per partner O Higher education institutions, training and research hospitals and public institutions and organisations (including city, metropolitan and district municipalities) -EUR 100.000 (excluding Project Incentive Payment and Overhead costs) O Private entities: EUR 230.000
Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution	• Higher education institutions, • Training and research hospitals, • Public institutions and organisations (including city, metropolitan and district municipalities), • SMEs and large companies established in Türkiye
Eligible topics	All topics of all transition pathways
Eligible type of research and TRL	Type of research: strategic (basic) research, applied research, experimental development TRL: 1-8
Submission of the (pre)proposal at the national level	Electronic application is required via: https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/
Additional eligibility criteria for the funding agency	National ”1071 Programme - Support Programme for Increasing Capacity to Benefit from International Research Funds and Participation in International R&D Cooperation” Programme will be implemented. Applicants should carefully read the file containing all National Criteria named: “DUT 2026 Çağrısı İki Aşamalı Süreç Dökümanı” Further information and the related document will be published on https://ufukavrupa.org.tr/

Eligible costs	Personnel, travel, equipment/tool/software, consultancy and service procurement, consumables are eligible for funding.
Website with additional information	Further information will be announced on https://ufukavrupa.org.tr/
Additional information	

(b) Funding rates:

Organisation type	Basic research	Industrial / Applied Research	Experimental development / Innovation
Large Enterprises	60%	60%	60%
Medium Enterprises	75%	75%	75%
Small Enterprises	75%	75%	75%
University colleges, and integrated university educations	100%	100%	100%
Universities, public research organisations	100%	100%	100%
Public authorities	100%	100%	100%
Associations (and NGOs) without economic activities	-	-	-

Annex B: Data Management

Why the DUT Partnership requires Data Management Plans (DMPs):

The DUT Partnership wishes to promote open, transparent and robust urban and global change research and innovation/implementation by encouraging more open sharing of research data, leading to wider data analysis, more data reuse, and the combination of datasets from multiple sources. The DUT Partnership believes that an increased emphasis on the open sharing of research data has the potential to stimulate new approaches to the collection, analysis, validation and management of data, and to the transparency of the research process. However, DUT also recognises that not all data can be shared openly, and that there will be legitimate reasons to constrain access, for example the risks to the privacy of individuals must always be considered where data arise from, or are derived from, personally identifiable data.

The DUT Partnership considers that the production and implementation of a project specific data management plan (DMP) is an essential requirement to enable the sharing of research data. Research data includes:

- digital information created directly from research activities, such as experiments, analysis, surveys, measurements, instrumentation and observations;
- data resulting from automated or manual data reduction and analysis including the inputs and outputs of simulations and models.

Project specific DMPs should be in accordance with relevant standards and community best practice, which may vary by subject and disciplinary area. Research data should normally be open by default, unless there are legitimate reasons to constrain access, and the data must be made available with minimum time delay, including being discoverable through catalogues and search engines. Data with acknowledged long-term value should be preserved, protected from loss and remain accessible and usable for future research in sustainable and trustworthy repositories.

To enable research data to be discoverable and effectively reused by others, including those outside the discipline of origin, sufficient metadata should be recorded and made openly available to enable other researchers to understand the research and reuse potential of the data. Published results should always include information on how to access the supporting data and other research materials. Researchers should ensure that metadata created to support research datasets retained for the long-term is sufficient to allow other researchers a reasonable understanding of those datasets and thereby minimise unintentional misuse, misinterpretation or confusion.

Data Management Plan Requirements

A DMP describes the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed and/or generated by a research project funded within this Call. As part of making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR), a DMP should include information on:

- the handling of research data during and after the end of the project;
- the types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be collected, processed and/or generated during the project;
- the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with proposed solutions or remedies);
- policies for broad access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;
- policies and provisions for reuse, redistribution, and the production of derivatives;

- plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of access to them via an institutionally supported repository.

Annex C: Definitions of strategic and applied research and innovation

Eligible Topics for Strategic Research: Topics 2 and 3 for all Transition Pathways.

Eligible Topics for Applied Research: All topics.

Eligible Topics for Innovation: All topics.

Characteristics	Strategic research	Applied research	Innovation
Desired impact	Advance towards answering the question "How do cities really function?", in a way that can be generalised and add to the universal body of knowledge about cities and serve as a foundation for future research.	Advance towards answering the questions: • "How do cities really function?" in a way that can be generalised and add to the universal body of knowledge about cities and serve as a foundation for future research. • "What works, when attempting to improve cities?" in a way that can be generalised enough to serve as useful knowledge for decision makers and practitioners.	Advance towards the development, implementation, demonstration, testing, evaluation, and uptake of approaches for new products, services, policies, practices, and processes, with potential for improving sustainability in cities.
Importance of generating results fitting for publication in reputable academic journals	Highest importance	Very important	Encouraged
Methodological approach	Rigorous scientific and experimental method including methodological advancement	Rigorous scientific and experimental methods including methodological advancement	Systematic, proven approach
Foundation of work on evaluation and analysis of empirical observations	Encouraged	Encouraged	Required
Involvement of stakeholders	Involved at least as knowledge co-creators/co-designers	Involved at least as knowledge co-creators/co-designers	Directly involved in the workload

Characteristics	Strategic research	Applied research	Innovation
Role for applying *Urban Living Labs (see Annex D)*	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged
Role for policy research	Encouraged	Fits well	May fit
Valorisation of project results	Provision of insights to an important societal issue, production of useful knowledge for stakeholders	Provision of insights to an important societal issue, production of useful knowledge for stakeholders	Market potential of the project or capacity to respond to a demand or need
Background of Expert Panel for project assessment	Knowledgeable researchers from universities and RTOs with topic relevant disciplinary background and expertise, representatives from commercial actors in industry and business, government authorities, civil society organisations and innovators, and other relevant stakeholders		

Annex D: Urban Living Labs

Projects may employ the approach to R&I called Urban Living Labs (ULL).

The DUT Partnership uses this notion to describe methods, approaches and projects that involve a high level of stakeholder participation, co-creation, co-production, learning-loops, and experimental approaches to improve urban life. It is hence an umbrella notion for methodological tools when the challenge at hand is understood to benefit from or even require experimental approaches and substantial co-creation between stakeholders and urban actors. Participants in ULLs shoulder the role of co-creators to explore, examine, experiment, test and evaluate ideas, scenarios, processes, systems, concepts and creative solutions in complex everyday life settings. When more societal functions are involved in a project, it is aimed to ensure a robust knowledge creation. If successfully implemented, an ULL helps promote capacity building through close collaboration between researchers, politicians, business and civil society in response to challenges in urban settings. As a multi-stakeholder and innovative approach, it offers different actors the opportunity to influence and change current urban settings through research and explorative activities that involves interaction and learning processes. In this way, sustainable urban development can be concretised, tested and translated into everyday life situations, and includes how to best achieve sustainability objectives. The typical outcome of ULLs tend to be processes, services, systems or products employing working methods that integrate inhabitants and other actors into the entire development process.

Over the recent decade, ULLs have become common to tackle urban challenges in Europe, offering the opportunity to research and innovate on a wide variety of issues in everyday settings as well as to test hypotheses and elements to pathways towards urban sustainability and liveability transformations.

An ULL will typically run for the length of a project (usually three years) - although there are also examples of longer-term lab settings to which a DUT-project might be connected. After this period data is collected, knowledge is shaped, results are drawn together, and learning occur whereby, in some situations, changes in the wider urban context happen. Systematic integration of the outcomes in urban governance might be key to assure long-term impact and contribution of the ULL to sustainable and liveable urban transformations in cities and urban areas.

In general, the ULL concept is applied to urban areas to institutionally densify the urban innovation ecosystems that deal with the multidimensional challenges in urban areas. All DUT Calls also encouraged the implementation of ULLs. Here are some of their characteristics:

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

From the point of view of academic research, an ULL is transdisciplinary and profoundly integrates expertise not just from several academic disciplines but more widely from stakeholders in their everyday urban settings. Stakeholders here are those who are or would be affected in an everyday life situation, with all their experience and expectations available and made useful in the project. Note that this goes far beyond what might be achieved by adding a reference group or panel of so-called users to a traditional research project. In an ULL, stakeholders are deeply and actively involved from the early stages of the project, and the research is by its design open for surprises and learning that originates from the stakeholders involved. ULLs go beyond occasional and periodic consultation and workshops: the research process is designed not only to add the results from the various disciplines, but also to connect them together to form cycles of learning and feedback. This enables more learning for all parties involved, including non-academic partners, than the simple serial connection of a process from one discipline being followed by a process from another discipline. An ULL hence involves partners representing more than one sector of society other than academia, e.g. a municipal government, private companies and non-governmental organisations. It is a forum for research and discovery, that by the DUT Call Text design is open for learning and exploration in any direction, between any combination of participants who consider participation mutually beneficial and where the terminology adopted is inclusive

and understandable. The learning outcomes should aim to contribute to capacity building on tackling urban challenges. This is one of the ways in which ULLs aim for long-term value creation and sustainability after project funding ends.

PURPOSE

The purpose of ULLs is not necessarily to produce new and original knowledge, but to respond to challenges, create value and explore ways to shape synergies out of urban challenges and achieve sustainability goals. This may include the recycling or adaptation (i.e. implementation) of already existing knowledge and innovations and collaboration with its change makers and initiators: scaling across and capacity building rather than scaling up by streamlining with successfully realised or ongoing projects.

METHOD FOR INNOVATION

While embracing the flexibility, the openness to serendipity, and the iterative nature of working across disciplines, organisations and sectors, an ULL maintains the rigour and orderliness characteristic for scientific method. Constituted by the appropriate methods, knowledge and expertise, the methods applied facilitate the creation of knowledge which is translatable to new contexts. An ULL may contain activities representing all areas of an urban innovation ecosystem. The ULL method is in this sense response attentive, and challenge driven; processes and initial targets may change depending on participant feedback or external circumstances.

LOCATION

An ULL is located right where the process and challenge being addressed take place, in everyday urban life, typically but not exclusively on a neighbourhood scale. In this way, the outcomes can demonstrate a clear practical outcome. There are ethical considerations as to when to apply it and how. If the ULL involves digital tools, the reasons for this needs to be carefully evaluated and thought of in relation to context.

Annex E: Glossary

Term	Description
Co-creation	An approach where heterogeneous actors collaborate to produce knowledge, instruments, technology, artefacts, policy, know-how, etc.
Innovation	A process in which new ideas (technologies, designs, procedures, etc.), and combinations of them, bring about changes in (sub)systems like supply chains, markets, urban regions, etc. This process can be incremental, radical or even disruptive.
Interdisciplinarity	A collaboration spanning multiple disciplines (e.g. natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, engineering sciences, technological sciences, medical sciences) and involving the application of complementary methodologies to more innovatively and comprehensively tackle a common problem than would otherwise be possible.
Open data	Data that can be freely used, reused and distributed by anyone.
Smart City	Refers to cities in which ICT is increasingly pervasive and ubiquitous. Cities whose knowledge economy and governance are being progressively driven by innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship; and in which digital technologies can be used to efficiently and effectively run cities and the services provided by them.
Sustainability	A multifaceted property that describes the extent to which social, economic and environmental objectives are in balance; that economic activity is not declining, that non-renewable resource throughputs are minimised and that society has high capital and is cohesive, equitable and inclusive.
Transdisciplinarity	A collaboration spanning multiple partners, both academic and non-academic, to solve a common problem. Non-academic partners may include city officials, (non-) governmental agencies and offices, charitable organisations, companies, civil society, grassroots movements etc.
Urban innovation ecosystems	Relational assemblages of stakeholders, researchers and initiatives which together make up an integrated effort for implementation and validation of approaches and solutions.
Urban area	From a morphological perspective: an area encompassing one or more cities plus its built-up environs, irrespective of local body administrative boundaries, often subject to a minimum built up density threshold and a minimum population size (e.g. clusters of contiguous grid cells of at least 300 inhabitants per km^2 and a minimum population of 5 000). From a functional perspective: a continuous area including one or several urban centre(s) and all population settlements in which a significant proportion of the employed population works in the urban centre(s) or in localities connected to the urban centre(s).
Urban Living Lab	A forum for innovation, applied to the development of new products, systems, services, and processes in an urban area; employing working methods to integrate people into the entire development process as users and co-creators to explore, examine, experiment, test and evaluate new ideas, scenarios,

Term	Description
	processes, systems, concepts and creative solutions in complex and everyday contexts.