

# EU-CONEXUS Enables PhD call 2025

## Criteria for selection

Three sections are established to evaluate the subject proposes:

- Quality of the Thesis Subjects - 40 points
- Evaluation of Supervisors' CVs - 30 points
- Adequacy with SmUCS and EU-CONEXUS ENABLES Challenges and Topics - 30 points

The maximum score a proposal can obtain is 100 points.

### 1. Quality of the Thesis Subjects

To ensure the scientific and societal impact of the proposed thesis projects, consider the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Points (weight%)
<b>Relevance to EU-CONEXUS ENABLES objectives</b>	Degree to which the subject addresses at least one key challenge or topic identified by EU-CONEXUS ENABLES <b>using Digital Twins tools</b> (e.g., sustainability, blue economy, coastal development, smart cities, etc.)	<b>8 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Innovativeness and Originality</b>	Novelty of the approach, methods, or questions posed by the thesis project. Projects that address unexplored areas or apply new methodologies should be scored higher.	<b>8 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Scientific and Technical Feasibility</b>	Clarity of the research methodology, availability of the necessary resources (infrastructure, equipment, etc.), and feasibility within the proposed timeline.	<b>8 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Societal and Economic Impact</b>	Potential contribution to socio-economic challenges and societal needs. Projects that have clear benefits to the wider community or industry will be scored higher.	<b>6 pct. (15%)</b>
<b>Ethical and Environmental Responsibility</b>	Proper identification and mitigation of ethical issues, use of sustainable practices, and application of Open Science principles.	<b>4 pct. (10%)</b>
<b>Expected Results and Deliverables</b>	Clarity and relevance of the expected deliverables (publications, tools, prototypes, reports, etc.).	<b>2 pct. (5%)</b>
Total points		<b>40 pct. (100%)</b>

### 2. Evaluation of Supervisors' CVs

The quality of supervision is essential for the success of cotutelle theses, the following criteria are proposed for supervisor evaluation:

Criterion	Description	Points (weight%)
<b>Supervision Experience</b>	Previous experience as a supervisor (number of PhD students supervised to completion, ongoing supervision, etc.).	<b>9 pct. (30%)</b>
<b>Research Expertise and Recognition</b>	Relevance of the supervisor's expertise to the proposed thesis topic (measured by research projects, awards, or notable achievements in the field).	<b>9 pct. (30%)</b>

Criterion	Description	Points (weight%)
<b>Scientific Productivity</b>	Number and quality of publications in indexed journals (h-index, citations, etc.) and contributions to the scientific community (conference organization, reviewer roles, etc.).	<b>6 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Commitment and Availability</b>	Supervisor's commitment to the supervision process (number of ongoing theses and availability for the candidate).	<b>3 pct. (10%)</b>
<b>Open Science Adherence</b>	Evidence of involvement in Open Science practices (FAIR data, open-access publications, etc.).	<b>3 pct. (10%)</b>
Total points		<b>30 pct. (100%)</b>

### Adequacy with SmUCS and EU-CONEXUS ENABLES Challenges and Topics

The measure in which these proposed projects align with the overall strategy and themes of SMUCS and EU-CONEXUS ENABLES. The following sub-criteria can be applied:

Criterion	Description	Points (weight%)
<b>Thematic Relevance</b>	Alignment with one or more key thematic areas of SMUCS and EU-CONEXUS ENABLES, using Digital Twin tools, such as <b>smart and sustainable cities, blue economy, circular economy, and climate-resilient infrastructure</b> .	<b>9 pct. (30%)</b>
<b>Alignment with SMUCS Challenges</b>	Degree to which the subject addresses one or more of the <b>SMUCS priority challenges</b> (e.g., sustainability, smart mobility, energy efficiency, smart grids, etc.).	<b>6 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Contribution to EU-CONEXUS ENABLES Priorities</b>	Degree to which the project addresses priorities specific to <b>EU-CONEXUS ENABLES</b> (Digital Twin tools, sustainability, open science, international collaboration, interdisciplinary research, etc.).	<b>6 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Potential for Societal Impact</b>	Degree to which the thesis subject contributes to societal and economic challenges faced by EU-CONEXUS partner regions (job creation, knowledge transfer, regional development, etc.).	<b>6 pct. (20%)</b>
<b>Co-supervision Potential</b>	Potential for collaboration between the <b>widening partner</b> and <b>non-widening partner</b> . Strong partnerships may strengthen the proposal.	<b>3 pct. (10%)</b>
Total points		<b>30 pct. (100%)</b>