

Framework of the two calls for project support

D12

2023, WP10 - Project Development Support for Education,
Research & Innovation

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WP leader: La Rochelle Université

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Executive summary/abstract:

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability has established under the EU-CONEXUS Plus framework a Project Development Support Office composed of expert-staff based in four partner-universities in order to develop EU-CONEXUS SmUCS collaborative projects.

Its objectives are to develop capacity building, knowledge & expertise sharing between partners to influence funding programmes upstream (particularly European programmes) and identify relevant funding opportunities to develop common Education, Research & Innovation projects.

It also aims at increasing mobilisation of EU-CONEXUS community (teachers, researchers, head of departments, directors) in developing common projects either internally or in response to external calls for proposals (resulting in an increase of common projects submitted and strengthening of collaboration among EU-CONEXUS community) as well as proposing to EU-CONEXUS projects' holders a strong expertise to accompany them in their project preparation, project writing and submission in order to improve the quality of projects submitted in response to external calls for proposals and increase their chances of success.

In order to do so, the Project Development Support Office has set up the following framework for the two calls for project support: the EU-CONEXUS Project Development Fund (1) and the EU-CONEXUS Seed funding mechanism (2).



Open call for Project Development Fund

EU-CONEXUS AMBITION

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) is a transnational European higher education and research alliance addressing global and local challenges by tackling coastal environmental, technical, economic and societal needs. EU-CONEXUS is a fully-fledged university. It offers education, training, study programmes, performs research and links with socio-economic actors for supporting innovation.

To find more information, please visit the [EU-CONEXUS Website](#).

EU-CONEXUS Community brings together researchers, teachers and students from the different partner institutions and aims to increase and support the implementation of joint projects between them in the framework of funded collaborative projects by creating a **Project Development Fund**.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

Research & academic teams from EU-CONEXUS partner universities can apply for funding through the **Project Development Fund** in order to **develop collaborative education, research and innovation projects** to be submitted in response to calls for proposals under European programmes that do not exclude the participation of any partner university (for instance, Horizon Europe or Erasmus + programmes).

The project development fund will support the development of these proposals (hereinafter Proposals) and increase the participation of EU-CONEXUS Plus partners in **education, research and innovation calls for proposals** (hereinafter Project proposals) by giving the opportunity to enhance the quality of the proposals **through consultancy support exclusively**.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ✓ At least 3 researchers or academics from 3 different EU-CONEXUS Plus full partner universities must be involved in the project proposal (other organisations cannot be part of this core group).
- ✓ The project leader does not necessarily have to be a EU-CONEXUS partner university.
- ✓ The identification of the European call for proposals and a draft project proposal summary are required.
- ✓ The call must be relevant for the EU-CONEXUS thematic framework of SmUCS (Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability).
- ✓ The project proposal must be submitted to the identified call for proposals. Reimbursement of funds will be asked to the project leader host institution if the proposal is not submitted.
- ✓ Only one application per call can be accepted.
- ✓ The proposals have to be presented to the supervising administrative structures of the project teams of each partner university involved and receive their respective seal of approval. Reimbursement of funds will be asked to the project leader if the proposal is not approved.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposal will be assessed with regards to 3 main criteria:

- ✓ Adequation between project objectives and the call
- ✓ Relevance with regards to EU-CONEXUS, as a European University Alliance
- ✓ Relevance with regards to SmUCS topics
- ✓ Proposals involving more partner universities will be prioritised.

FUNDING CRITERIA

- ✓ Eligible costs are **strictly related to getting the support from a consultant company to enhance the “scientific/specific” quality of the Proposal**. This expertise should be of a real added-value with regards to the expertise provided by the Project Development Support Office*. In order to guarantee procurement principles 3 quotations from 3 different consultant companies must be provided at the application stage. Explanation demonstrating the chosen quotation must be given.
- ✓ The funding is **maximum €3500 per proposal (including VAT)**. A larger amount may be allowed if justified (budget availability or project strategic relevance for EU-CONEXUS Plus). Budget is foreseen for covering 8 projects.
- ✓ Co-funding is allowed whether it comes from the partners' own funds or from public or private funds.
- ✓ The funding of each proposal i.e., the payment of the consultant company is taken in charge directly by EU-CONEXUS.

APPLICATION

- ✓ The project leader has to send the **completed application form** (Annex 1) to the EU-CONEXUS Project Development Support Office at the following email address: projects@eu-conexus.eu
- ✓ Applications to the Project Development Fund can be submitted continuously. European project proposals must be submitted to the identified European call before until **October 31st, 2026** or until the funds are exhausted

SELECTION RULES

- ✓ A two-step-evaluation will take place:
 - The first step evaluation will assess the conformity to the call and technical eligibility by the Project Development Support Office that will prepare a recommendation for funding.
 - Then, applications will be validated by Research or Academic Councils' members during their regular meetings.
- ✓ Response will be provided to project leader by the Project Development Support Office in a maximum of one month.
- ✓ A copy of the submitted project proposal will be sent to the Project Development Support Office.

*The Project Development Support Office established in the framework of EU-CONEXUS Plus is in charge of managing the Project Development Fund. For any question you can contact the team of project officers at the following address: projects@eu-conexus.eu.

The Project Development Support Office missions are to:

- 1) Manage the Seed Funding & Project Development Fund,
- 2) Provide support to projects' holders for preparation and submission of projects in response to external calls for proposals (this includes: advice on relevant calls, advice on project structuration, support for finding partners, administrative support, budget preparation, proof-reading, support for project submission...).

MORE INFORMATION

Contact: projects@eu-conexus.eu

More information on the [EU-CONEXUS website](#)

Information about the partners involved in the Project proposal	
EU-CONEXUS Plus project leader:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ Partner University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other staff involved (<i>if applicable</i>):	
Coordinator of the project <i>(If different from the EU-CONEXUS project leader)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University/Institution ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other partners of the Project proposal Partner 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ Partner University ✓ Research Unit / Department Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Partner 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ Partner University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Partner 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ Partner University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other partners if relevant (add as many lines as additional partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University/Institution ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Information about the Project proposal	
Title and acronym of the Project proposal:	
Name of the funding programme:	

Reference number of the call for proposals + website link:	
Deadline of the call for proposals:	
Project Summary	
Relevance with regards to the call & SmUCS topic	
State of project preparation before the deadline and next step before the deadline	
Budget and funding request to the Project Development Fund	
Funding request (maximum €3500 including VAT):	
Estimated cost: xxxx €	✓ 3 quotations from 3 consultant companies (including an explanation of the choice made and a short presentation of the chosen company (link to the website) and the service that will be provided)
Co-funding if relevant: xxx €	✓ Origin of co-funding
Date and signature of the project leader:	



Open call for Seed Funding

EU-CONEXUS AMBITION

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) is a transnational European higher education and research alliance addressing global and local challenges by tackling coastal environmental, technical, economic and societal needs. EU-CONEXUS is a fully-fledged university. It offers education, training, study programmes, performs research and links with socio-economic actors for supporting innovation.

To find more information, please visit the [EU-CONEXUS Website](#).

The EU-CONEXUS community brings together researchers, teachers and students from the different partner institutions and aims to foster internal collaboration between them by offering **Seed Funding**.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEED FUNDING

The overall objective of the Seed Funding is to enhance collaboration between EU-CONEXUS partners in **education, research and innovation on SmUCS topics**.

Therefore research & academic teams from EU-CONEXUS partner universities can apply for funding through the **Seed Funding** in order to **develop small-scale internal collaborative education, research and innovation projects in the field of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS)**.

Expected outcomes of the projects must be tangible: possibility to work together on a bigger project, joint research, joint participation in a conference, preparation of a joint publication, joint study programme, etc.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ✓ Eligible beneficiaries are the nine EU-CONEXUS partner universities. Other organisations can participate but do not receive any funding.
 - ✓ A project proposal must be submitted.
 - ✓ The project proposal subject must be in the field of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS).
 - ✓ At least 2 researchers or academics from 2 different EU-CONEXUS partner universities must be involved in the project (other organisations cannot be part of this core group).
- The proposed projects can be funded for up to maximum 12 months.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposal will be assessed with regards to 3 main criteria:

- ✓ **Scientific excellence:** Relevance of the project with regards to the societal challenge of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, Scientific contribution and innovation of the proposed project, Appropriateness, completeness and clarity of the methodology
- ✓ **Impact:** Impact of proposed activities and results, in particular for EU-CONEXUS, Expected outcomes
- ✓ **Quality & efficiency of implementation:** Work plan, Organisation, Budget coherence with regards to project ambition, Deliverables

Proposals involving more partner universities will be prioritised.

FUNDING CRITERIA

- ✓ Eligible costs are: consumables, conference fees, publication fees, travels, equipment, etc. (no personnel costs are eligible). A detailed budget must be provided.
- ✓ The funding is **maximum €4400 (VAT included) per project.**
- ✓ Co-funding is allowed whether it comes from the partners' own funds or from public or private funds.
- ✓ The expenses related to each project are taken in charge directly by EU-CONEXUS.
- ✓ There is funding available for approximately 15 small-scale projects in total distributed within the 3 calls (around 5 projects supported per call).

APPLICATION

- ✓ The project leader has to send the **completed application form** (Annex 1) to the following email address: projects@eu-conexus.eu
- ✓ **Deadline for applications is October 31st, 2023 at the latest** (two follow-up calls will be launched in January 2024 and January 2025).

SELECTION RULES

- ✓ A **two-step-evaluation** will take place:
 - In a first step the Project Development Support Office will assess the conformity of the application to this call and its technical eligibility. Applications will be anonymised.
 - In a second step, anonymised applications will be evaluated by a rotating committee composed of 3 representatives from 3 partner universities (committee members will come from EU-CONEXUS Plus Work Package in charge of setting up the Project Development Support Office). For this first call, the committee members will come from University of Rostock, Agricultural University of Athens and Frederick University. A ranking of the projects will be provided by the committee and approximately 5 proposals will be selected for funding.
- ✓ The projects selected will be presented to the Research or Academic Councils depending on the field covered by the projects.
- ✓ A report will be requested at the end of each project.

The Project Development Support Office is in charge of managing the Seed Funding. For any question you can contact the team of project officers at the following address: projects@eu-conexus.eu.

The Project Development Support Office missions are to:

- 1) *Manage the Seed Funding & Project Development Fund,*
- 2) *Provide support to projects' holders for preparation and submission of projects in response to external calls for proposals (this includes: advice on relevant calls, advice on structuring projects, support for finding partners, administrative support, budget preparation, proof-reading, support for proposal submission...).*

MORE INFORMATION

Contact: projects@eu-conexus.eu

More information on the [EU-CONEXUS website](#)

Information about the partners involved in the project proposal	
EU-CONEXUS project leader:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ Partner University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other staff involved (<i>if applicable</i>):	
Other partners of the Project proposal Partner 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Partner 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Partner 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other partners if relevant (add as many lines as additional partners or remove the empty ones)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
General information about the project proposal	
Title and acronym of the project:	
Main project objective:	
Project Description (half a page max.)	

Scientific Excellence

(2 pages max.)

Impact

(2 pages max.)

Quality and efficiency of implementation

(2 pages max.)

Budget

Balanced budget (list of expenses & resources indicating the amount requested to Seed Funding and co-funding if relevant)

Expenses in Euros (including VAT)		Resources in Euros (including VAT)	
Item xxxxxx	Xxxxx €	Seed Funding	Xxxxx €
Item xxxxxx		Origin of the funding	Xxxxx €
TOTAL	Xxxx €	TOTAL	Xxxx €

Add as many lines as necessary

Date and signature of the project leader: