



# FUNDING FOR AIRPORT REGIONS

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# A word from the President



## **Dear ARC Members,**

As the President of Airport regions Council, I am proud to introduce to you the publication of “Funding for Airport Regions”.

We live in a strange time: post-pandemic period has hit the aviation sector the most and it might take decades to recover. Understandably, having an airport in the region brings a significant economic benefit to the local government as well as the community living around. However, the “new normal” is unknown. While I hope that your regions are doing well and are economically safe, it is clear that now it is essential to explore all the funding opportunities your region is eligible to get.

This is how this publication was re-initialised. As some of you may remember, a publication like this was released in 2011. Today, you are presented with the second edition of “Funding for Airport Regions”. Our goal with this report is to give you a short and clear guide to every funding opportunity, which sometimes may seem impossible to understand.

I must mention that ARC supports and encourages its members to participate in EU funded projects as well as calls for tenders. We are glad to see our members so active in this process and we are open to join forces and create a project together.

Please use this guide to get to know the funding programmes better, and, hopefully, it will encourage you to participate and improve your airport region even more. May you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Best of luck to all!



*Erich Valentin, ARC President*

# A word from the author



## Dear ARC Members,

We, the ARC team, are proud to present this document for you, which, we hope, will be very helpful.

We know that some of you are experienced in European projects and you regularly participate in them. However, we also understand that some of you, while you are interested in the idea of participating, might not have had this experience before. This document will be your base and your guide for EU presented funding opportunities in these main areas: research and innovation, territorial cooperation, environment and climate change, transport and urban transport and finally, urban development. These are ARC set priorities for the matters regarding EU funded projects and we hope that your region and your local government are interested in these topics as well.

As you will read in the publication, some of the funding programmes already have their project calls published. For other kinds of funding opportunities, you are only aware of the main topic of the project and you should send an application form on your own, without the need of a certain call. Finally, as some of the opportunities have closed with the beginning of 2020, there are certain programmes, which are still in the process of creating a successor. In this case, ARC will keep an eye on particular programmes and keep you informed about any new opportunities or project calls.

With this report, we hope to encourage you to participate in EU funded projects, inspire you to develop innovative ideas on how to overcome sustainability challenges in your region and finally, introduce you to some funding opportunities which you can use already from now!

Lastly, if you feel like you lack knowledge or practice, do not hesitate to contact ARC Secretariat. As we are now focusing a lot on new projects, we will gladly share with you our experience and help you whenever we can.

Make sure to take this opportunity and receive funding for your project and your region!



*Gabrielė Dačkaitė,  
Communication Officer*

# Research & Innovation



## HORIZON EUROPE



### What is Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is the successor of Horizon 2020 programme and will start on 1 January 2021. The total budget for this programme is €100 billion.

The European Commission has now begun a strategic planning process. The result of the process will be set out in a multiannual Strategic Plan to prepare the content in the work programmes and calls for proposal for the first four years of Horizon Europe.

The strategic planning process will focus in particular on the Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar of Horizon Europe. It will also cover the Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area part of the programme as well as relevant activities in other pillars.

### Mission

**Five mission areas have been identified, each with a dedicated mission board and assembly.** They will help specify, design and implement specific missions in Horizon Europe.

- Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation;
- Cancer;
- Climate-neutral and smart cities;
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters;
- Mission area: Soil health and food.

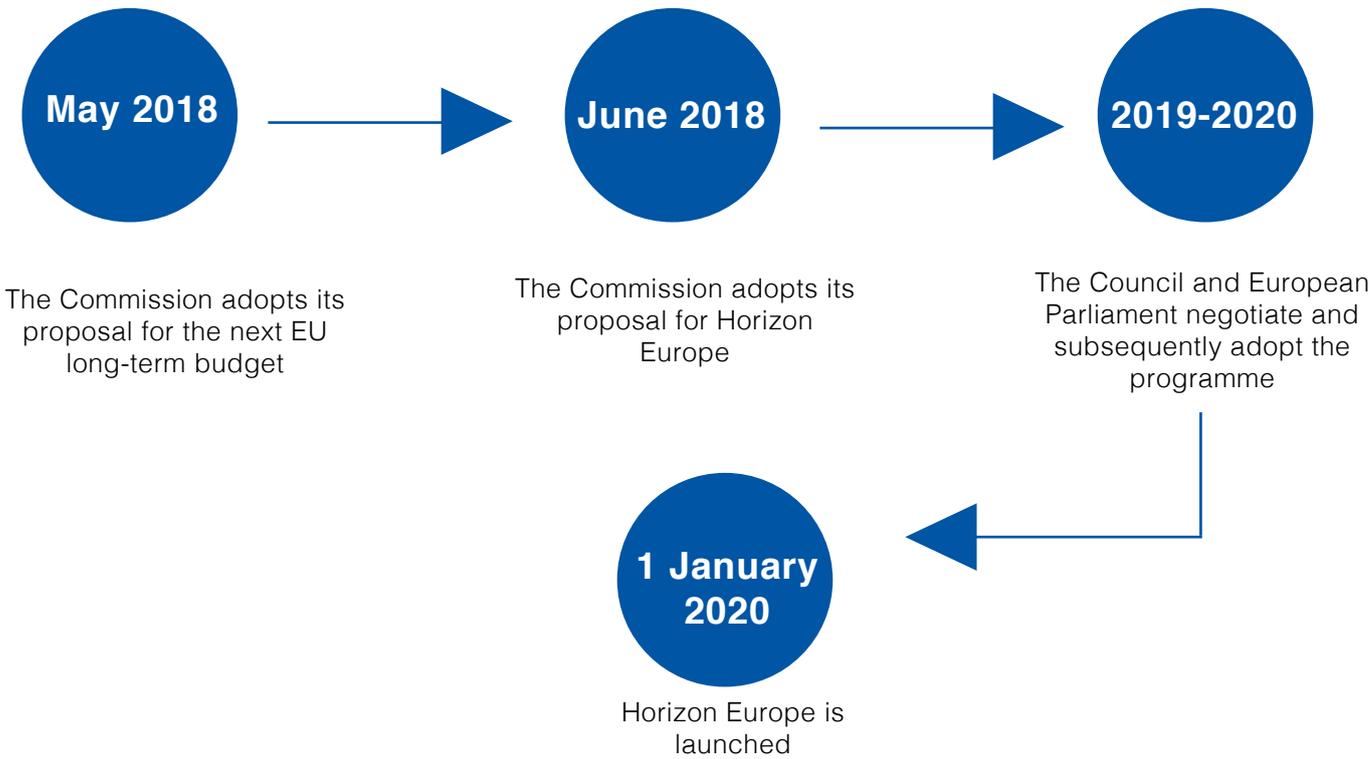
[Implementation strategy](#)

[Factsheet](#)



*Preliminary structure of Horizon Europe*

## Adoption timeline



## Project example

The ARC is involved in the project as the communication partner, being the leader of the work package dedicated to communication, dissemination and exploitation of project results.

ANIMA stands for Aviation Noise Impact Management through Novel Approaches. The ANIMA project is a people-oriented research project. It aims at identifying and diffusing best practices to lower the noise annoyance endured by communities around airports. The project also makes an effort to better understand the non-acoustical factors which influence noise annoyance, but also to improve the quality of life of communities surrounding airports. ANIMA is financially supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. ANIMA project is a 48-month project with a total budget of over €7.4 million. The project also partakes in Future Sky, a global initiative aiming at addressing major challenges faced by the European Air Transport by 2050.

The project consortium is formed of 22 project partners and is coordinated by ONERA (Office National d'Etudes et de Recherches Aérospatiales).



## JPI URBAN EUROPE



### What is JPI Urban Europe?

Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe is a transnational research and innovation programme built upon and aligning national strategies and research programmes. The main ambition of the initiative is to provide relevant solutions and improvement for cities, their inhabitants and businesses.

A Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) was developed to identify and agree on research priorities and define joint implementation measures. The SRIA described the long-term strategy, the research priorities and outlines the implementation plan for the timeframe 2015 – 2020. In 2019, SRIA 2.0 was presented. This agenda will guide the activities and research priorities in the programme until 2026.

**The strategic priorities of the SRIA 2.0 were identified in a comprehensive process with broad involvement of urban actors, researchers and policy makers and center around the following core dilemmas:**

- **Digital Transitions in Urban Governance:** how can cities exploit the potential of rapid digitalisation for urban planning and governance while avoiding the risks of new inequalities and addressing the consequences for jobs, value chains and privacy?
- **From Resilience to Urban Robustness:** how can cities get prepared for unexpected, non-linear events and at the same time, ensure the highest liveability for its inhabitants?
- **Sustainable Land-Use and Urban Infrastructure:** how can cities answer the demand for densification and infrastructure provision under the constraints of scarce resources, financial limitations, accessibility and affordability for all?

- **Inclusive Public Spaces for Urban Liveability:** how can cities provide multi-functional public spaces that serve the purposes of all groups of society within the given ownership situations, stakeholder interests, security concerns or densification needs?

### Funding details

The JPI Urban Europe calls aim to boost international collaboration, knowledge development and application. Therefore, the calls usually ask for the participation of eligible applicants from at least three different participating countries and ask for a variety of types of participants. The specific topics of the call determine the specific eligibility and selection criteria. As the calls are based upon multi-lateral cooperation, applicants need to comply with their respective national and funding agency related eligibility criteria and funding rates that are tuned to country specific uses and conditions (but might differ between the participating funding agencies).

The JPI Urban Europe is co-funded by the Horizon2020 (now, Horizon Europe) programme.

[PED/PEN call](#)

[SRIA 2.0 publication](#)



*Expected impact on three dimensions*

## Positive Energy Districts and Neighbourhoods call

With this first of a series of calls on the topic of Positive Energy Districts and Neighbourhoods (PED/PEN), JPI Urban Europe invites transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral communities of researchers and practitioners to create projects with focus on smaller-scale joint R&I projects (duration one, two years) on PED/PEN implementation. By providing transnational alignment, comparison and exchange of experiences between ongoing (European) projects in different PED implementation phases, their integration in general urban strategies, stakeholder involvement strategies and the role of geographical/climatic conditions. The results from projects granted in this call should help to facilitate knowledge transfer and learning from different European contexts, cities and countries to create greater engagement and understanding in PED implementation processes.

Positive Energy Districts and Neighbourhoods may serve as a crucial contribution to achieve climate and energy targets. This call focuses on the exchange of experience between ambitions and initiatives already going on. With this call, JPI Urban Europe aims to create a transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral community working in the field of the energy transition in the urban context, who can align, synthesise, consolidate, and learn from each other with regard to the development and mainstreaming of PEDs/PENs.

**The project proposal should at least address one of the following topics:**

- 1. Contributing to the climate-neutral city:** holistic approaches for PED implementation;
- 2. Embeddedness in local contexts:** applied approaches for integrating PEDs in different urban contexts and the legal framework;
- 3. Engagement and governance:** urban governance, stakeholder involvement concepts and business models.

**Eligibility criteria:**

- Only transnational projects will be funded;
- Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve at least two applicants eligible for funding coming from two different countries whose funders participate in the call. All legal entities must be independent of each other;
- The project coordinator must be eligible to be funded by his/her national/regional participating funding organisation;
- The duration of a project must not exceed two years;
- Proposals must be written in English and respect the template form (in terms of overall size, the limit of pages and characters in the different sections). The template form must be completely filled in.

# Territorial cooperation



## INTERREG



## What is Interreg Europe?

Interreg Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policies. By creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions, it aims to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and place.

To achieve this goal, Interreg Europe offers opportunities for regional and local public authorities across Europe to share ideas and experience on public policy in practice, therefore improving strategies for their citizens and communities.

### **Interreg Europe exists to assist three types of beneficiaries:**

- Public authorities – local, regional and national;
- Managing authorities/intermediate bodies - in charge of the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes or European Territorial Cooperation;
- Agencies, research institutes, thematic and non-profit organisations – although it is not the main target group, these types of organisations can also work with Interreg Europe by first engaging with their local policymakers in order to identify options for collaboration with Interreg Europe.

Organisations that work with Interreg Europe must also be based in one of the 27 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland or the United Kingdom.

### **Any actions developed with financial support from Interreg Europe must fall into one of the following four categories:**

- Research and innovation;
- SME competitiveness;
- Low-carbon economy;
- Environment and resource efficiency.

Interreg Europe is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Close to 90% of the budget is for funding the interregional cooperation projects. All funds for the projects have been allocated in the four calls for project proposals.

**[Calls for projects \(last published calls were available in 2018\)](#)**

**[Full Interreg Europe programme manual \(2019\)](#)**

## 2021-2027 Programme

During the 2021-2027 programming period, Interreg Europe will continue to support interregional cooperation among regions from all across Europe.

More information about application process and answers to frequently asked questions will be available once the programme is ready.

## Project example

LAirA (Landside Airports Accessibility) addressed the specific and significant challenge of the multimodal, smart and low carbon mobility integration of airports and airport landside access in the mobility systems of Central Europe. The project's objective was to reduce the energy use and the environmental impacts of transport activities in airports and hinterlands.

LAirA integrated seven key thematic areas: Electric mobility, Air-Rail links, Walking & cycling, Shared mobility, Intelligent Transport Systems, Wayfinding, Road Public Transport.

LAirA was a 30-month project with a total budget of €2.3 million, financially supported by Interreg Central Europe Programme.

ARC was communication and dissemination partner of this project.



# Environment and climate change



## LIFE



### What is LIFE?

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992. The funding period 2014-2020 had a budget of €3.4 billion. For the year 2020, LIFE programme offered €450 million for the matters of nature conservation, environmental protection and climate action projects.

LIFE projects are very flexible in terms of how they are set up. You can decide if you want to run a project on your own, or if you prefer to join forces with partners from your own or another country. However, in the case of integrated projects, the applicants should include in the partnership the authority in charge of the implementation of the plan or strategy targeted by the project, preferably as a project leader.

### Who can apply?

Any entity registered in the EU can make a proposal for LIFE traditional, integrated, preparatory, and technical assistance projects under the sub-programmes for environment and climate action.

#### You could be a:

- Public body operating under a national government's authority, e.g. local authority, national administration etc.;
- private commercial organisation;
- private non-commercial organisation (NGOs etc.)

### How to apply?

Applying for traditional projects with a climate change focus involves submitting a full proposal by October 2020. This includes proposals for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects as well as climate governance and information initiatives.

**For traditional projects** that address environmental and nature themes, there is a two-stage application process: candidates first outline their idea in a concept note by July 2020. If your concept note is shortlisted, you will then have until February 2021 to submit a full project proposal.

**The two-stage project** process covers nature conservation and biodiversity, environment and resource efficiency, as well as environmental governance and information projects.

Applications for **integrated projects** also follow a two-stage process.

### Co-financing under LIFE+ programme

In general, both sub-programmes co-finance traditional LIFE projects with up to 55% of the total eligible project costs. An exception are nature and biodiversity projects under the environment sub-programme: they can receive up to 60%, or 75% in specific cases.

Preparatory and integrated projects are co-funded with up to 60%. Technical assistance projects can receive a contribution of up to 55%, which cannot exceed €100,000.

The project leader and each of the project partners have to contribute financially to the project. When selecting proposals for funding, evaluators consider a partner's financial contribution as a proof of their commitment to the project. A very low financial contribution may be seen as a lack of commitment.

## Traditional projects

### **Nature and biodiversity**

The environment sub-programme funds nature conservation projects in particular in the areas of biodiversity, habitats and species. It provides action grants for best practice, pilot and demonstration projects that contribute to the implementation of the EU's directives on birds and habitats, the EU's biodiversity strategy to 2020, and the development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network.

### **Environment and resource efficiency**

LIFE co-finances projects in the environmental sector in particular in the areas of air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment. The programme provides action grants for pilot and demonstration projects to develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches. It also covers the development and demonstration of innovative technologies, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU environmental policy and law, as well as best practices and solutions. The European Commission is particularly looking for technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

### **Environmental governance and information**

The programme supports projects in the areas of awareness raising, environmental training and capacity building, legislative compliance and enforcement, knowledge development and public and stakeholder participation. It co-finances action grants for information, awareness and dissemination projects that aim to promote awareness raising on environmental matters. This includes cooperation platforms and knowledge sharing on sustainable environmental solutions and practice.

## Integrated projects

Integrated projects are strategic projects supporting EU Member States to achieve full implementation of Strategies or Action Plans required by the EU environmental and climate legislation. They are implemented at national or regional scales, involving relevant authorities and very significant budgets from several EU and national sources, lasting for 6-10 years on average.

## Preparatory projects

Preparatory projects address specific needs for the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and law. The specific topics are indicated in the annual call for proposals.

## Technical assistance

Technical assistance projects provide action grants and financial support to help applicants prepare integrated projects.

## Suggested steps

1. Identify the environmental problem you wish to address and your needs for support;
2. Think about whether LIFE is the right programme for your project: there are other programmes that might be more appropriate;
3. Read all the documentation and most important of all, the common provisions;
4. Put together a project team;
5. Start a forum discussion to find partners or exchange information to learn from others;
6. Before submitting your proposal, ask someone else ("a fresh pair of eyes") to read the proposal for you to give an objective opinion;
7. Submit your proposal in the requested format to the national authority (not the Commission) a few days before the deadline.

[Full list of calls for projects](#)

[FAQ](#)

## GREEN DEAL CALL



### What is the European Green Deal call?

To respond to the urgency and ambition of the European Green Deal objectives, Horizon 2020 will support additional Green Deal related research and innovation with a call worth close to €1 billion.

#### Green partnerships

There will be a new wave of research and innovation partnerships under Horizon Europe.

Partnerships will help drive the huge transformations in environment, society and the economy that the European Green Deal calls for.

The EU will work closely with industry and countries to support partnerships in critical areas such as transport - including batteries - clean hydrogen, low-carbon steel, circular biobased sectors, the built environment and biodiversity.

#### Green missions

- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters;
- Climate-neutral and smart cities;
- Soil health and food;
- Adaptation to climate change and societal transformation.

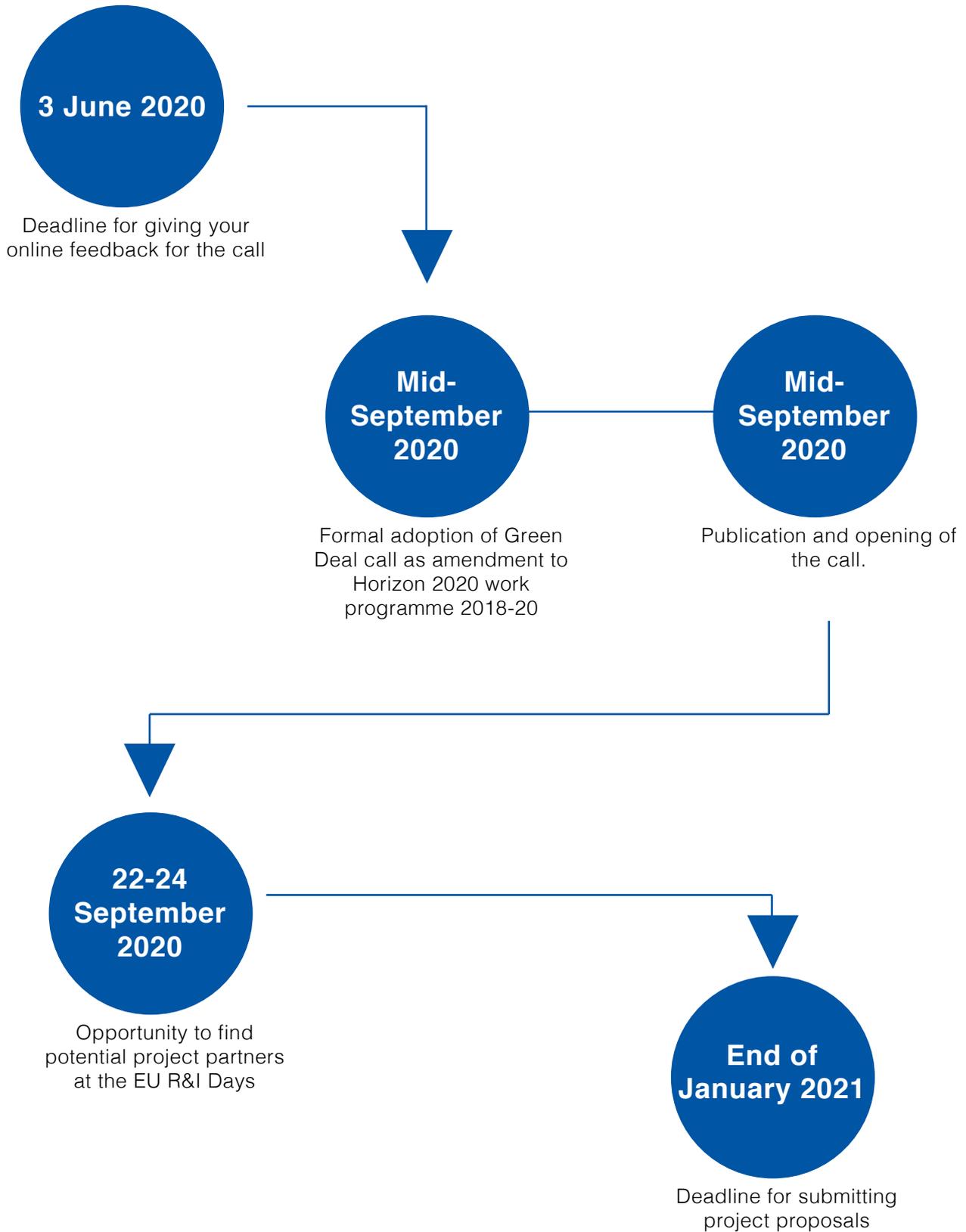
#### The EU Green Deal call is formed of the following eleven topics:

1. Increasing climate ambition: cross-sectoral challenges;
2. Clean, affordable and secure energy;
3. Industry for a clean and circular economy;
4. Energy and resource-efficient buildings;
5. Sustainable and smart mobility;
6. Farm to Fork;
7. Restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services;
8. Zero-pollution, toxic-free environment;
9. Strengthening our knowledge in support of the European Green Deal;
10. Empowering citizens for transition towards a climate neutral, sustainable Europe;
11. Accelerating the clean energy transition and access in partnership with Africa.

[Roadmap and key actions](#)

[Presentation – EU Green Deal call](#)

## Timeline



# Transport & urban transport



## TEN-T AND CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY (CEF)



### What is TEN-T?

The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy addresses the implementation and development of a Europe-wide network of railway lines, roads, inland waterways, maritime shipping routes, ports, airports and railroad terminals. The ultimate objective is to close gaps, remove bottlenecks and technical barriers, as well as to strengthen social, economic and territorial cohesion in the EU.

#### TEN-T comprises two network “layers”:

- The Core Network includes the most important connections, linking the most important nodes, and is to be completed by 2030;
- The Comprehensive Network covers all European regions and is to be completed by 2050.

### What is CEF?

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is the EU funding instrument for strategic investment in transport, energy and digital infrastructure. In the transport sector, CEF is dedicated to the implementation of the TEN-T and aims at supporting investments in cross-border connections, missing links as well as promoting sustainability and digitalisation.

During the period 2014-2019, CEF Transport has awarded EUR 23.3 billion in grants to co-finance projects of common interest, out of which EUR 11.3 billion was transferred from the Cohesion Fund.

### Tips for applying

1. Start early: consult national environmental authorities early on. You need the approval of Member States concerned;
2. Anticipate competition: calls are over-subscribed;
3. Ensure that all parts of your application are fully completed (A, B1 and B2);
4. Submitting your proposal in English, or with an English translation, will greatly facilitate and speed up the evaluation process + eSubmission tool is available since 2011.



*The Core Network Corridors*

## Next EU long-term budget (2021-2027)

In June 2018, the European Commission, as part of proposals for the next long-term budget (2021-2027), proposed adapting the CEF programme to support investment in Europe’s transport, energy and digital infrastructure networks. Certain provisions, such as budget, remain open pending decisions on the EU’s overall long-term budget.

### Here are the following priorities for the transport sector:

- Advance work on the European transport network, while helping the EU transition towards connected, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure mobility;
- Decarbonise transport by creating a European network of charging infrastructure for alternative fuels and by prioritising environmentally friendly transport modes;
- Invest in transport projects offering high added-value in cohesion countries, through a dedicated budget;
- In the context of the Action Plan on Military Mobility: adapt sections of the transport network for civilian-military dual-use (for instance technical requirements on dimensions and capacity), using a dedicated budget.

## Evaluation and selection

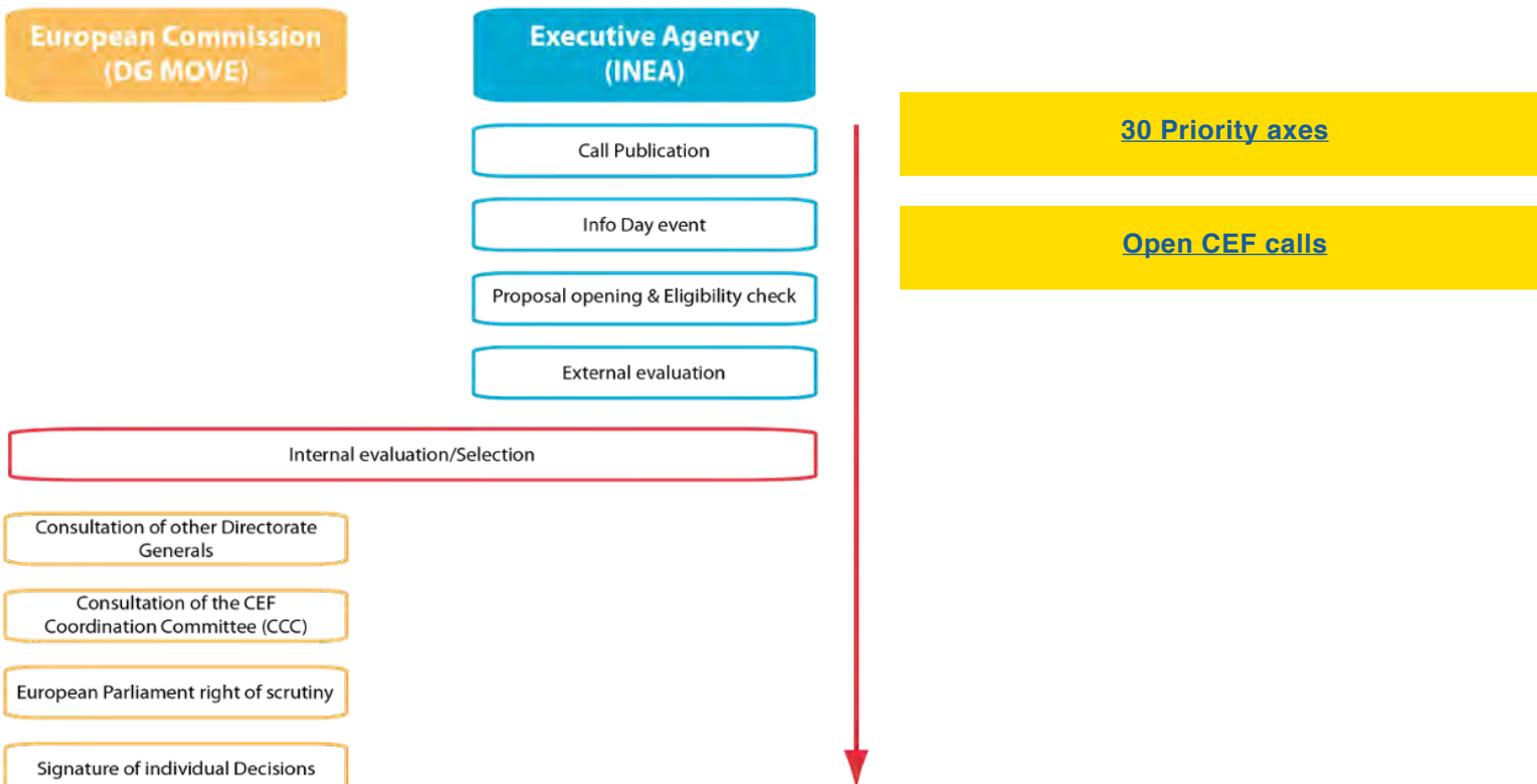
The European Commission (DG MOVE), with the assistance of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA), carries out the evaluation and selection of submitted proposals. The process is supported by independent external experts, whose role is to ensure that only the most high-quality proposals which best meet the award criteria as described in the relevant work programme and call text are selected for funding.

Proposals which meet the eligibility criteria specified for a call are evaluated on the basis of the criteria defined in the relevant work programme and call texts. **Essentially, these relate to:**

- relevance to the TEN-T priorities and policy objectives;
- maturity;
- impact - particularly on the environment;
- quality (completeness, clarity, soundness and coherence).

Successful applicants are then invited by the Agency to enter into negotiations on the basis of which, if agreement is reached, individual Commission Decisions are established to support individual projects.

## The Call Process



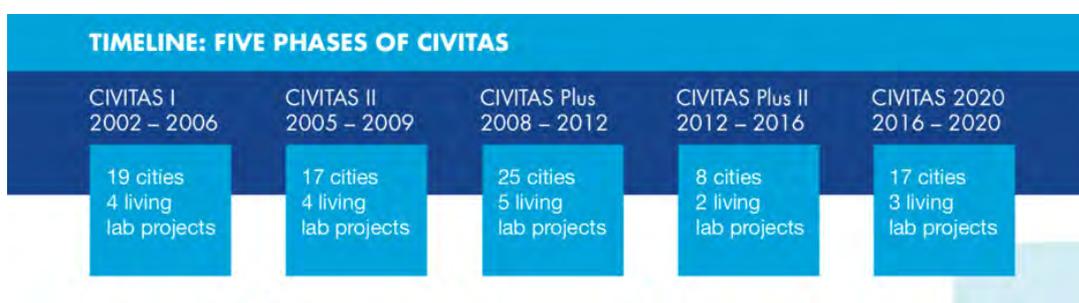
## CIVITAS



### What is CIVITAS?

Since it was launched by the European Commission in 2002, the CIVITAS Initiative has tested and implemented over 800 measures and urban transport solutions as part of demonstration projects in more than 80 Living Lab cities Europe-wide.

The knowledge garnered through these practical experiences is complemented, and supported, by a number of research and innovation projects, also run under CIVITAS. These research projects look at ways of building a more resource efficient and competitive transport system in Europe.



### CIVITAS 2020 SATELLITE

CIVITAS SATELLITE aimed to help cities gain better access to innovative solutions to properly address transport challenges they are facing. Cities, as the closest link to citizens, are the focal point of SATELLITE's efforts, with an emphasis on international cooperation as an essential aspect for cities to function as "activity hubs" in the global economy. Cross-project coordination, exchange mechanisms and capacity-building provided cities with access to the latest innovations resulting from European urban mobility research, as well as helped city practitioners to gain the necessary skills to apply innovations in their local contexts. Additional exchange of activities and community building, where cities can learn from their peers, laid the foundation for these solutions to be applied in practice.

SATELLITE enhanced cooperation between the public and private sector, offered a dedicated online marketplace for urban transport innovations.

The start date of this programme was in 2016 and it is ending in December 2020. **It is very likely that CIVITAS will launch another programme after that. Airport Regions Council will keep you informed.**

### Thematic groups and main topics

- Car-Independent Lifestyles;
- Clean Fuels and Vehicles;
- Collective Passenger Transport;
- Demand Management Strategies;
- Integrated Planning;
- Mobility Management;
- Public Involvement;
- Safety and Security;
- Transport Telematics;
- Urban Freight Logistics.

[FAQ](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

## ELENA



### What is ELENA?

European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) is a joint initiative by the European Investment Bank and the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme. It provides grants for technical assistance focused on the implementation of energy efficiency, distributed renewable energy and urban transport projects and programmes.

The grant can be used to finance costs related to feasibility and market studies, programme structuring, business plans, energy audits and financial structuring, as well as to the preparation of tendering procedures, contractual arrangements and project implementation units.

ELENA supports programmes above EUR 30 million over a period of around 2-4 years, and can cover up to 90% of technical assistance/project development costs. Smaller projects can be supported when they are integrated into larger investment programmes.

The annual grant budget is currently around EUR 20 million. Projects are evaluated and grants allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.



*ELENA projects in Europe*

### Who can apply?

Public and private project promoters such as local, regional or national authorities; transport authorities and operators; social housing operators; other companies (e.g. estate managers, retail chains, energy service companies).

### Urban transport and mobility envelope

ELENA provides support to three different sectors (envelopes): energy efficiency, sustainable residential and urban transport and mobility. The latter envelope supports innovative transport and mobility projects in urban areas that save energy and reduce emissions.

#### Eligible projects include:

- Investments to support the use and integration of innovative solutions that promote alternative fuels in urban mobility, such as vehicles and refuelling infrastructure;
- Investments to promote the wide-scale rollout of new, more energy-efficient transport, which in urban areas can take many forms, such as shared mobility, urban logistics, intelligent transport systems, urban infrastructure (including investments in soft mobility, or mobility that does not involve motorised transport).

For starting to work on a project, there is no need to wait for a call. Anyone interested to apply with their project need to fill out a pre-application form on ELENA's website and send it to [elena@eib.org](mailto:elena@eib.org).

[Project cycle](#)

[FAQ](#)

# Urban development



## URBACT III



### What is URBACT?

For about 15 years, the URBACT programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 28 Member States, Norway & Switzerland.

Following the success of the URBACT I and II programmes, URBACT III (2014-2020) has been developed to continue to promote sustainable integrated urban development and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.

For URBACT III, one axe is dedicated to networking, expertise, capitalisation and communication activities. The other axe is dedicated to the technical assistance of the programme.

#### The URBACT III programme is organised around four main objectives:

1. **Capacity for Policy Delivery:** to improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way.
2. **Policy Design:** to improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities.
3. **Policy Implementation:** to improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities.
4. **Building and Sharing Knowledge:** to ensure that practitioners and decision-makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.

#### To reach these objectives, URBACT III develops three types of interventions:

- transnational exchanges;
- capacity-building;
- capitalisation & dissemination.

The total budget eligible budget of URBACT III is 96,3 M€.

### Selection for funding

URBACT transnational networks were selected by means of Calls for Proposals. Call for Proposals are published in the URBACT website and disseminated through different communication tools.

The selection process is made out of two phases: first 6-month phase for the consolidation of the project proposal and a second 24-month phase for the implementation of the exchange and transfer activities.

Cities willing to set up a URBACT network are requested to submit the first proposal to get funding for Phase 1.

If the proposal is approved for Phase 1, networks will have 6 months to prepare and submit a complete project proposal for Phase 2.

**Currently, there are no calls of proposals for this programme.**

[FAQ](#)

## Important note

URBACT does not finance the implementation of Local Action Plans, which can be funded by the partners or by other programmes (ERDF, European Social Fund, etc.).

### An URBACT project involves:

- 6 to 12 cities (or other partners);
- Cities discussing, sharing and working for 1 to 3 years;
- Local partners who develop pragmatic local action plans and partners developing tools and recommendation for other European cities.



*Urban topics of URBACT*

# ESPON



## What is ESPON?

Started in May 2016, the ESPON 2020 Programme aimed at promoting and fostering a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels.

### Primary target groups are:

- European policymakers, in particular in the field of Cohesion Policy as well as other relevant sectoral and thematic policies and programmes, particularly those currently not fully articulating their territorial approach;
- National policymakers and practitioners responsible for territorial cohesion, ETC programmes, macro-regional strategies and Cohesion Policy preparation and implementation at national level, as well as other relevant policy fields;
- Authorities implementing ESI Funding programmes and preparing periodical reporting;
- Regional and local policymakers and practitioners responsible for territorial development and planning and/or involved in cross-border, transnational and macro-regional cooperation.

### As secondary target groups, the following actors are important as receivers and users of territorial evidence:

- Organisations promoting different regional/urban interests at EU level;
- University academics, both researchers and students as future decision makers;
- The private sector and wider European audiences.

## Priority axes

- Priority Axis 1: Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach (it covers a single thematic objective of the ETC Regulation and will deliver in relation to the Investment). Priority: Institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.
- Priority Axis 2: Technical Assistance (TA).

## Specific objectives

- Objective 1: Enhanced production of territorial evidence through applied research and analyses.
- Objective 2: Upgraded knowledge transfer and use of analytical user support.
- Objective 3: Improved territorial observation and tools for territorial analyses.
- Objective 4: Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence.
- Objective 5: Leaner, and more effective and efficient implementation provisions and more proficient programme assistance.

The total budget for this programme was 48,678,851.00 €.

**For now, there are no new updates on the following ESPON programme, but there are some open calls.** Please click on the link below.

[Open calls](#)

[Workshops](#)

# EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



## What is European Regional Development Fund?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports economic growth, job creation and reduction of regional disparities.

**65% to 85% of ERDF and Cohesion Fund resources will be allocated to these priorities, depending on Member States' relative wealth.**

- Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses;
- a Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change;
- a more Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks;
- a more Social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare;
- a Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

Organisations that can benefit from ERDF include public bodies, private sector organisations, universities, associations, NGOs and voluntary organisations, depending on the operational programme.

The ERDF also gives particular attention to specific territorial characteristics. ERDF action is designed to reduce economic, environmental and social problems in urban areas, with a special focus on sustainable urban development. At least 5 % of the ERDF resources are set aside for this field, through 'integrated actions' managed by cities.

Areas that are naturally disadvantaged from a geographical viewpoint (remote, mountainous or sparsely populated areas) benefit from special treatment. Lastly, the outermost areas also benefit from specific assistance from the ERDF to address possible disadvantages due to their remoteness.

## ERDF focus and funding

The ERDF focuses its investments on several key priority areas. **This is known as 'thematic concentration':**

- Innovation and research;
- The digital agenda;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- The low-carbon economy.

**The ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region:**

- In more developed regions, at least 80 % of funds must focus on at least two of these priorities;
- In transition regions, this focus is for 60 % of the funds;
- This is 50 % in less developed regions.

**Furthermore, some ERDF resources must be channelled specifically towards low-carbon economy projects:**

- More developed regions: 20%;
- Transition regions: 15%;
- Less developed regions: 12%.

[Rules for the ERDF](#)

[Official website](#)

## URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS



### What is Urban Innovative Actions programme?

The main objective of Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is to provide urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test innovative solutions to the main urban challenges, and see how these work in practice and respond to the complexity of real life. The programme supports the implementation of pilot projects and puts emphasis on participatory processes involving various stakeholders such as agencies, private sector partners, associations, research institutions, NGOs, etc.

The beneficiaries of the UIA Initiative are urban authorities. However, given the complexity of the urban challenges, they cannot act alone. In order to design and implement effective and innovative solutions, urban authorities need to involve all the key stakeholders that can bring expertise and knowledge on the specific policy issue to be addressed.

#### UIA can provide you with two levels of support:

- Providing funding for your projects: UIA co-finances 80% of your project's activities. In total, UIA can provide you with up to EUR 5 million ERDF to implement your innovative project;
- Capturing and sharing the knowledge that your project will generate: UIA wants to see how potential solutions work in practice. As in a scientific experiment, UIA is interested in understanding what worked in the implementation of your project and what did not work. Draw lessons, capture the knowledge and share it with other urban policy-makers and practitioners across Europe.

### Project funding

#### UIA funds projects that are:

- **Innovative:** be bold, creative and propose a project that has never been implemented anywhere else in Europe. Demonstrate that your idea is experimental and not part of your normal activities;
- **Participative:** involve the key stakeholders that will bring expertise and knowledge to your project, both during the design and the implementation phase of a project;
- **Of good quality:** define realistic ambitions, coherent activities and effective management. A logically interlinked work plan, a coherent and proportionate budget as well as effective management arrangements will make things happen;
- **Measurable:** how will you describe the change you want to see in your local situation if the project is successful? How would you measure this change? Defining clear results that can be measured and quantified is key;
- **Transferable:** address an urban challenge that can be relevant to other urban authorities in Europe, draw lessons on your experiment and share them with a wider audience of policy makers and practitioners.

**The UIA has closed its fifth call for project proposals in 2019. ARC will keep you updated about the new opportunities.**

[Previous calls for proposals](#)

[Guidance for applying](#)

# Other funding options



## EFSI



### What is EFSI?

The European fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is the key pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe jointly launched by the European Investment Bank Group (EIB) and the European Commission in November 2014 to address the investment gap and to boost growth and job creation, by mobilising private financing for strategic investments (July 2015 Regulation). The Investment Plan focuses on removing obstacles to investments, providing visibility and technical assistance to investment projects and making better use of existing and new financial resources. The aim is to finance higher risk projects, maximising the impact of public investments and unlocking private ones, as well as providing additional financing for strategic investments, SMEs and mid-caps.

#### EFSI has two separate windows:

- Infrastructure and Innovation Window (IIW): managed by the EIB, it aims to finance strategic investments for research and development, ICT, energy and transport, infrastructure, environment and resource efficiency as well as human capital and health;
- Small and Medium Enterprises Window (SMEW): it aims to ease access to financing for SMEs via loans, guarantees and equity provided by financial intermediaries (e.g. national promotional banks); it is managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF).

EFSI is directly operated by the EIB, and projects supported by EFSI are subject to the normal EIB project cycle and governance. Its financial products are mainly loans, guarantees and equity investments, but no grant fund is provided. It offers the possibility to finance Investment Platforms, especially for projects with a thematic or geographical focus, and operations with National Promotional Banks.

### Projects

Every month the EIB Board of Directors approves new EFSI projects. To benefit from EFSI resources deployed through the EIB, the projects need to undergo the standard EIB due diligence process. This process helps to verify if your project is eligible for EIB financing. If it is and the operational department proposes that it be backed by EFSI, it will be presented to the independent Investment Committee to decide on the use of the EU-guarantee.

#### In particular, EFSI projects need to be:

- Economically and technically sound;
- In at least one of the EFSI eligible sectors;
- Contributing to EU objectives, including sustainable growth and employment;
- Mature enough to be bankable;
- Priced in a manner commensurate with the risk taken.

#### EFSI financing



# Contact points for each programme

## Horizon Europe

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[National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#)

## JPI Urban Europe

### JPI Urban Europe Management Board

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## Interreg

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[Joint Secretariat \(JS\) staff contacts](#)

## LIFE

### IT questions

env-clima-life-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu

### LIFE National Contact Point

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[National contact points nature & biodiversity](#)

[National contact points environment & resource efficiency](#)

[National contact points climate action](#)

[National contact points environmental governance & information](#)

## Green Deal Call

### General contact email

RTD-H2020-GREEN-DEAL-CALL@ec.europa.eu

## TEN-T and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

### Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)

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### CEF general email address (directed to INEA)

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## CIVITAS

### For inquiries about the CIVITAS Initiative

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