Making Cities Work

finding solutions to urban challenges through cooperation
This is Making Cities Work

A substantial knowledge base has already been created within JPI Urban Europe research projects. Other national and international (incl. EU framework) research initiatives are also generating knowledge about the development of urban environments including both technological and socio-economic aspects.

However, much of this knowledge is not accessible to potential users and is not easily implemented. Implementation of new solutions can be hindered by institutional barriers (e.g. standards and regulations for construction, installations, procurement), social barriers (e.g. resistance of organisations and individuals to accept new ways of doing things) and financial barriers (business models to implement social innovations are unclear or not viable, or there are insufficient possibilities for scaling up innovations).

This call invites proposals for projects that tackle these barriers and address implementation issues. The projects will work on concrete urban challenges and focus on developing a proof of concept and learning on a European scale using transdisciplinary consortia with active participation of both municipalities and companies. For the development of this call, cities and public utilities across Europe have contributed actively to develop a vision on which urban challenges are most pressing to address and for which challenges learning and developing on a European scale has a real added value. Through both national and international brokerage events with cities’ representatives, businesses, researchers and NGOs the topics in this call have been decided upon.

The Making Cities Work call invites municipalities, businesses, researchers, civil society and other stakeholders to build transnational consortia to create challenge-driven innovation projects for European urban areas that have the potential to result in commercially successful services and products.

To ensure that projects supported by Making Cities Work have a lasting value, the participating city management must express its support and intention to develop follow-up of the project by implementation in a real-life situation.

Cities can have different roles in innovation projects: they can be creators of regulations, which allow the innovation to move forward; they can be champions of new solutions and they can be the problem owners and solvers. Often, even forerunning innovative cities often test innovations in isolation. Sharing innovation experiences amongst European cities is the key to effectively tackle city innovation problems.
Targets

A project submitted in this call should:

- Have a challenge-driven approach with the problem owners in an active role and relevant stakeholders to address this problem in the consortium

- Have transdisciplinary and trans-sectoral collaboration with active cooperation between all stakeholders throughout the project

- Be focused on innovative solutions, getting to a proof of concept, demonstration, or test replicability and scalability

- Show the added value of European collaboration

- Should describe the way in which gender and diversity aspects are relevant to the project.

Proposals for collaborative transnational projects should cover challenge-driven innovation and implementation in close collaboration with the end users such as citizens or public authorities and should refer to the topic addressed in the proposal and fit the available funding for the project partners on the national or regional level.

Objectives

Projects should fulfil the following criteria:

- The project should have a challenge-driven approach with relevant stakeholders in an active role to address this problem in the consortium.

- The project should have transdisciplinary and trans-sectoral collaboration with active cooperation between all stakeholders throughout the project.

- The project should be focused on innovative solutions, getting to a proof of concept, demonstration or testing.

- Projects should show the added value of European collaboration.

- Gender and diversity aspects

Details in the call text

The call text describes the objectives, scope, and topics of the call, rules for participation and procedures from proposal to implementation of the projects. Download the call text from the JPI Urban Europe website.

jpi-urbaneurope.eu

Deadline for proposals

The call for proposals is open until 28 February 2018 (12:00 noon CET)
Participation

Each project proposal must be submitted by a project consortium consisting of at least three eligible applicants from at least two participating countries. Each project consortium must have the interest and competence to undertake the goals provided. Each project consortium must exist of at least one eligible business and one city partner.

This call contains a set of rules for participation at Joint Innovation Action programme level (general rules for participation) and specific funding agency rules which apply to applicants who claim funds from a specific funding agency – see details in the call text.

Application

The project coordinator will be responsible for running and managing the project. The main applicant must be situated in one of the five participating countries in this call.

A proposal must have at least two further partners eligible for funding. Possible partners that are not eligible for funding from participating agencies may be included in the projects as self-funded partners.

If the funding is granted to an eligible organisation this can participate in a maximum of two proposals, and only once as project coordinator. In the proposal the participation of all partners involved must be convincingly justified.

Participating categories

The following categories involved in development of urban areas can join consortia:

- Companies (from industry/large companies to SMEs)
- Cities, municipalities, public authorities
- Citizens’ representatives,
- NGOs
- Research organizations
  - Universities
  - University colleges
  - Research institutes
- or other authorities with research undertakings

Partners

Each partner is responsible for leading the project activities at his/her entity. There may be more than one partner from any of five countries. Each partner should be situated in a participating country.

Self-funded partners

Partners from countries not participating in this call, partners that are willing to participate with own funding, or are not eligible for funding from participating agencies, may be included in the projects as self-funded partners.

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Funding

The total amount of funding is € 4.7 million. The call is funded by the participating funding agencies and partners in the projects will be funded by their national or regional funding agencies in accordance with their respective eligibility rules. Agency Funding Guidelines and National Contact Persons can be found in the call text.

Submission

Submission of a complete proposal through the FFG electronic submission system (https://ecall.ffg.at) before the deadline, 28 February 2018 12:00 noon CET.

An online help document for submission is provided via https://ecall.ffg.at/Cockpit/Tutorial.aspx

If you have questions about the eCall system, please contact the call secretariat at FFG (Austria) Contact details on the last page of this document.

Proposals must be prepared in English. Proposals written in other languages will not be accepted.

Evaluation

A one-stage evaluation procedure will be adopted for the evaluation and applicants will be invited to submit full project proposals. These will be evaluated in an open competition in which an independent international expert panel will rank proposals according to the programme’s evaluation criteria.

The panel will consist of recognized experts in relevant fields, practitioners and innovators as well as academics, who can assess the innovative and practical values of the submitted Making Cities Work projects.

Based on the ranking by the expert panel, and taking into account the available (national) budgets, the participating national and regional funding agencies will take funding decisions. A written statement on the evaluation of each proposal will be sent by the call secretariat to the main applicants.
Call topics

- Re-thinking urban mobility
- Implementing the Smart Sustainable City
- Creating the city together
- Innovative and sustainable city change

The contents of projects resulting from this call should address one or more of the topics.

The call topics have been selected through inputs from problem owners and other stakeholders. The topics are a subset of the thematic priorities identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of JPI Urban Europe.

The societal challenges municipalities now struggle with should be the base for the projects. Implementation is in focus and the necessary academic knowledge should already be acquired. However, action research could be one part of the project.

Updated information and all relevant documents (official and legal documents) are published on jpi-urbaneurope.eu
Re-thinking urban mobility

Innovative solutions to reduce city congestion

Traffic congestion remains a considerable problem for urban areas. This is not only a mobility problem but also has consequences for the environment; citizens’ health and quality of life; the urban economy; security and safety and is a part of social sustainability.

Solutions to congestion have traditionally been in the mobility or infrastructure area. The complexity of the traffic congestion challenge implies that the solutions could be sought in different urban areas as well and in the basis that too many people travel in the same places at the same time.

Implementing the smart sustainable city

From pilot projects within sectors and neighbourhoods to cross-sectoral services for citizens and business

Smart Sustainable City pilot projects in European cities have so far focused on solving challenges within thematic sectors such as mobility or health. To facilitate synergies and added value among pilot projects, innovative projects of tomorrow should use integrative, cross-system approaches.

Moreover, it has proven difficult to scale up innovations from a smart city pilot to city-wide implementation, or to implement in multiple cities. Shared challenges and successful practices must be identified and turned into useful services for cities and citizens. Projects could combine the business actors’ ability to turn innovative ideas into business, researchers’ experience of providing solutions and by including cities in the process.
Creating the city together

Closing the gap between citizens, companies and city policy

Cities have a responsibility to initiate cooperation with its citizens, civil society actors and companies to solve societal challenges. Over the past years many cities have done this: urban living labs, smart city pilots and urban innovation initiatives have been established all over Europe. However, it has proven difficult to move from a short-term citizen involvement initiative to a sustained practice where citizen involvement is truly incorporated.

Projects related to this topic could focus on closing the gap between citizens, civil society actors, companies, and policy development. One option is to work on a specific city case where a pilot project is transformed into practice. Another option is to develop tools, methods or ideas on how to close the same gap for multiple case study areas.

Innovative and sustainable city change

Reducing the negative impacts of construction sites

Cities are growing and continually changing. When buildings, streets, public spaces or other infrastructure is built or renovated, cities experience added CO2 emissions, noise, visual pollution and forced detours.

Projects related to this topic could involve working with municipalities and construction companies to identify innovative practices and processes that reduce the negative impacts of construction sites in cities. Solutions could make use of existing knowledge, using it in new and innovative ways, and making it possible for municipalities to make knowledge-based and sustainable procurement choices for liveable cities.
From opening to finish

Call opening
24 October 2017

Deadline submission of proposals
28 February 2018 (12:00 noon CET)

Announcement of results
May 2018

Funding decisions announced
Sep 2018-Jan 2019

Start of projects
Sep 2018-Jan 2019

Kick-off meeting Projects
January 2019

Mid-term Projects Event
2020

Final Projects Event
2021
Call secretariat

If you have questions on the general call process and proposal submission.

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National contact points

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the national contact persons at the participating funding agencies.

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Participating funding agencies

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Belgium | Innoviris
Finland | Tekes
Norway | RCN
Sweden | Vinnova, SWEA

JPI Urban Europe

Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe was created in 2010 with the ambition to develop a European research and innovation hub on urban matters and create European solutions by means of coordinated research. The aim is to create attractive, sustainable and economically viable urban areas, in which European citizens, communities and their surroundings can thrive.

www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu