

Sustainable and Liveable Cities and Urban Areas

Q&A Webinar March 6

The pilot call Sustainable and Liveable Cities and Urban Areas is organized by JPI Urban Europe and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

<https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/sustainable-urbanisation-china-europe/>

Q: Should Chinese partners submit their registration in the Chinese system?

A: No

Q: Is Taiwan eligible?

A: No

Q: Is Hongkong eligible?

A: No. As for the qualification of Chinese researcher based at a Hong Kong university, NSFC does not receive such proposals. However, if the researcher is based at the Shenzhen research institute of a certain Hong Kong university, then they are eligible. The same applies to researchers from Macau. Researchers from Hong Kong and Macau may join the Chinese teams as individuals.

Q: Is the relevant Chinese 5-year plan available in English

A: N/A

Q: Should the main applicant be from one of the 10 participating countries?

A: One main applicant should be from one of the 9 participating European countries, and the other main applicant should be from China.

Q: Can NGOs (European or Chinese) be part of a consortium? Or be coordinator of a consortium?

A: Please check the national annexes in the Call Text to see which specific funding agencies rules' apply.

Q: Could you give us the link to the presentation?

A: The presentation can be found on the JPI Urban Europe website: <https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/sustainable-urbanisation-china-europe/> (under documents)

Q: What types of projects is the call aiming for? Basic/strategic or applied?

A: This can be both. But some participating funding agencies only fund a specific type of research; so please check the national annex in the Call Text of your funding agency.

Q: How important is it to have confirmed involvement of the concerned cities, eg need for Letter of Support or Letter of Engagement?

A: This is not compulsory, but in general an Expert Panel appreciates if the involvement is confirmed by for example a Letter of Support or Engagement.

Q: Are there any specific differences between 'urban data management', and the other three main themes?

A: Urban data management can be a separate topic, but it could also be a cross-cutting issue within the other 3 topics. Topic 4 is the methodological challenge that is to be tackled by an additional cross-cutting topic focusing on generating knowledge and approaches for integrated data, information, and indicators tailored to support other projects in the call and to tackle the ICT and digitalization issues recognizable in SDG11. (page 13 Call Text) So when taking it as a separate topic there should be a clear relation with SDG11 at the very least.

Q: Are partners allowed to enter or exit between registration and submission of the proposal?

A: Yes. Please see the Call for Proposals.

Q: Do all of the European partners need to be from the 9 participating countries or can they also be from other countries?

A: First of all it is necessary to meet the eligibility criteria. So 2 Chinese partners, and 2 European partners from different participating countries. After this requirement is met, it is possible to add other partners as long as they participate with own funding.

Q: The project description of tasks/areas of study at the moment sound very broad and generic. Would there be more specific description/requirements on the three proposal tasks/areas of study? Would that apply to a specific city/cities? Or is this open?

A: No, the information in the Call Text is the only information that is available. It does not apply to a specific city; this is open.

Q: If I'm the coordinator on the Chinese side, my Chinese partners does not need to register in the FFG system?

A: That is correct. Contrary to what was communicated earlier it is not necessary for Chinese partners to register in the FFG system (eCall).

Q: 'Are cross-/interdisciplinary projects a requirement?'

A: It isn't plausible that a project with a mono-disciplinary approach will deliver on the expected impact when you look at the challenges presented in the call text.

Q: Whose Funding Agencies regulations should we conform to between the involved European partners of the consortium ? Both countries' regulations if only two European countries are involved (ie : implication of industrial partners is allowed in some countries, but not in others...)

A: Every partner should conform to the rules of his/her funding agency. So in case you have two European partners the rules of the respective agencies apply for their national teams.

Q: It's not the "FFG system", but e-Call. right?

A: The system FFG uses is called eCall. So the official name is indeed eCall.

Q: Do all Chinese partners have to be registered under NSFC?

A: It is not possible for Chinese partners to register with NSFC. What is requested on Chinese side is that the proposal – with a Chinese version attached – is submitted before the submission deadline (June 20).

Q: Can researchers be involved in more than one proposal?

A: Yes, but again check the national annexes for funding agency specific rules and regulations.

Q: Should the project focus on China mainly or on China and EU equally?

A: It is a joint call, so there should be a certain balance.