



FAQ

ERA-NET Cofund Urban Accessibility and Connectivity Sino-European Call

You can find the full Call for proposals and the presentations from the webinars [here](#). The guidelines for submission can be found [here](#). Can't find the answer to your question here? Contact your national contact point, or the call secretariat via jpiue-nsfc@nwo.nl.

Call focus:

1. What is the thematic focus of the call?

The thematic focus of this call is urban accessibility and connectivity. Within this, two themes have been highlighted: sustainable urban logistics and climate neutral mobility. You can find the full thematic focus in the call for proposals.

2. Does the research in Europe and China need to be connected and look at the learning points between the two? Should the study be comparative?

This call's focus is on sustainable collaboration on topics that are important to both China and Europe. The research should therefore look at both Europe and China and ideally be comparative, though single case studies are also possible.

Consortium:

3. Are partners from Hong Kong eligible?

So far most of NSFC programs including the NSFC-JPI UE call are not open to universities based in Hong Kong or Macao yet. But there are some Hong Kong universities that have established research institutes in Shenzhen and researchers at these Shenzhen institutes are fully eligible to apply for NSFC programs. Relevant researchers could check with afore-mentioned eligible institutes to see if they are eligible to apply via them. Apart from this, researchers from Hong Kong and Macau may also join the Chinese teams as individuals participants.

4. Should the main applicants be from the countries of the participating funders?

Yes. The Chinese main applicant should be from an organisation eligible to receive funding from NSFC. On the European side, the European main applicant and at least one co-applicant from a different European country must be eligible to receive funding from one of the participating funding agencies.

5. Do all of the European partners need to be from the countries of the participating European funders, or can they also be from other countries?

In order to meet the eligibility criteria, the consortium must include at least 2 Chinese partners and 2 European partners from different participating countries who are eligible to receive funding. After this requirement is met, it is possible to add other partners as long as they participate with their own funding.

6. Is the number of participating organisations on the Chinese side limited to 3?

Yes. On the Chinese side of the consortium, a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 teams can be involved. This includes the team of the Chinese Main Applicant.

7. Can NGOs (European or Chinese) be part of a consortium? Or be coordinator of a consortium?

Please check the national annexes in the Call for proposals, as this may differ per funding agency.

8. I am Main Applicant for a proposal. Can I also be co-applicant in a different proposal?

Applicants may only be involved in two proposals, with a maximum of once as main applicant. NB: some funders may stipulate that you may only participate in one proposal. Please check the national annex of your funder.

9. Is there a limit to the number of cooperation partners (companies, local governments and other practitioners) that can be in the consortium?

On the European side, no. There must be at least one urban public authority in your consortium, as applicant or cooperation partner depending on the funder's regulations, but there is no maximum number.

On the Chinese side of the consortium, the maximum is three teams, including the team of the Main Applicant. A cooperation partner on the Chinese side of the consortium will be considered one of the two or three teams.

10. Is it better to have more partners?

Not necessarily. On the one hand, the involvement of stakeholders and the transdisciplinary approach is something your proposal is assessed on, and stakeholders should be involved in a meaningful way. However, the consortium should also stay manageable. As this is assessed by the Expert Panel, it is up to the consortium to convince the Panel that the consortium's composition and involved partners together can meet the project's objectives.

11. Are partners allowed to join or leave the consortium between the pre-proposal and full proposal phase?

Yes, it is possible to adjust the consortium between the pre-proposal and full proposal phase, for example if you were advised to do so by the Expert Panel. The two Main Applicants, however, must stay the same.

12. Can the urban public authority partner be from any European country? Must there also be a partner from a Chinese urban public authority?

The urban public authority partner can be from Europe or China. If the partner is added on the Chinese side, such a partner counts as one of the three teams.

Application:

13. What is the maximum duration that can be applied for?

Consortia can apply for a maximum of three years (36 months).

14. Is funding available for small and medium enterprises who participate?

On the Chinese side, the funding is given to the Chinese Main Applicant, and it is their job to make agreements how the funding needs to be distributed further, including to partners from small and medium enterprises. On the European side, this depends on the regulations of the specific funder. Please see Annex A or contact your national contact point.

15. Do I need to submit the pre-proposal to NSFC as well?

No. The pre-proposal only needs to be submitted to UDiManager, by the European Main Applicant. PLEASE NOTE: the full proposal does have to be submitted to NSFC's system as well as UDiManager, by the Chinese and European Main Applicants respectively.

16. How are interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research understood? Should there always be a combination of natural and social science researchers?

Interdisciplinary research refers to research including two or more distinct scientific disciplines and collaboration between those disciplines. Transdisciplinary research integrates non-academic knowledge (knowledge from practitioners), and creates a holistic approach. Please note that the proposals will be

assessed on interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity, and the composition of the consortium in relation to the topic's needs and the complementarity of expertise.

17. How should stakeholders be involved in the proposal?

Your consortium is required to include at least one urban public authority. In addition, stakeholders play an important part in the impact plan approach. Ideally, interaction with stakeholders happens from the proposal development onwards, by jointly identifying the societal challenges that the project wants to address and the desired societal impact. Discussions with stakeholders from the proposal development onwards can help you identify the assumptions in your theory of change. In the full proposal, consortia are required to describe their productive interactions: interactions between stakeholders and researchers in which knowledge is produced and valued that is scientifically robust and socially relevant. This can be through, for example, formulating research questions and approaches jointly with potential end-users (co-design), or joint execution of research projects and interactive dialogue about research results (co-creation). Proposals need to describe how they will engage stakeholders as part of their productive interactions, for example in order to move from output (new insights) to outcomes (changes in behaviours, policies, activities etc. of stakeholders).

18. Should my pre-proposal already include a Theory of Change?

In your pre-proposal, you are asked for part of your Theory of Change – the desired societal impact, the problem analysis including the underlying (knowledge-related) causes, and the related assumptions. You do not have to include outcomes and outputs at this stage, but can if you wish. You are asked for the full Theory of Change and Impact Pathway in your full proposal.

19. Is it mandatory to have co-financing for this call?

No, co-financing by consortium partners is not mandatory.

Procedure:

20. If I receive a negative advice on the pre-proposal, does that mean my consortium is not allowed to submit a full proposal?

As it is an advice, you are still allowed to submit a full proposal; however, the Expert Panel is of the opinion, based on your pre-proposal, that your full proposal is less likely to be successful and be awarded funding.