ENUTC-BTC RESULTS CATALOGUE 2025

URBAN EUROPE

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ENUTC-BTC RESULTS CATALOGUE 2025

CONTENT

A EUROPEAN FUNDING SCHEME

The calls were launched by JPI Urban Europe with support from the ERA-NET Cofund scheme under Horizon 2020.

The ERA-NET Cofund Urban Transformation Capacites (ENUTC) was conceptualised in the framework of the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe. JPI Urban Europe is an intergovernmental and strategic partnership of countries addressing the challenge of sustainable urban development through coordinated research and innovation.

JPI Urban Europe has a longstanding cooperation with the European Commission with a total of 6 ERA-NET Cofund calls launched under the European Research and Innovation Framework Programme – Horizon 2020. ERA-NET Cofund is an instrument of Horizon 2020 that supports and leverages cooperation of national research and agencies across Europe. Through the ERA-NET Cofunds, the European Commission provides top-up funding and strengthens the relationship of the JPI Urban Europe programme to European strategies and priorities, e.g. the various related societal challenges of Horizon 2020. The ERA-NET Cofunds also facilitate the widening of participation of EU Member States or Associated States in such joint calls and programme activities.

As part of the preparation of the next European Research and Innovation Framework Programme – Horizon Europe – new mechanisms for public-public partnerships are under development. One of the candidates for such a European partnership is Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future (DUT).

THE ENUTC AND BTC CALLS

ENUTC, and the cofunded call, aim at enabling and supporting capacity building for urban transformation – in research, business, urban government authorities, including city and municipality administration, and civil society. In the additional call, BTC, art and design are the focal points, and the call's scope is to emphasize the importance of imagination, creativity and the cultural sector.

ENUTC, and the cofunded call, aims at enabling capacity building in research, business, city administration and society for urban transformation. It aims also to support integrated approaches and solutions, transnational, pan-European research networking, and community building. Impact on transnational and evidence-based urban policies – and international policies, goals and missions are also supported.

The BTC call focuses on the building of transformation capacities with new perspectives to make the urban transition really happening – by going beyond the usual procedures, and by being more innovative and creative.

THE TOPICS

The first topic of the cofunded call, urban circular economies, implies functional urban design in support of circular systems, the use of nature-based solutions, and for supporting circularity in resource use and waste management strategies, business models and smart city developments for the common good.

The second topic, community-based developments and urban innovation ecosystems, implies innovative neighbourhoods which enable social innovation and local entrepreneurs, inhabitant engagement, co-creation and co-design to support liveable, just, inclusive and attractive neighbourhoods.

The third topic, robust and resilient urban infrastructure and built environment implies resistance of natural, environmental, social, economic and technological threats on smaller and larger scales based

on efficient use of resources. It also implies fair access.

The first topic of the additional call, BTC, is experimentation and co-creation for a beautiful and sustainable urban future. The arts and creative sectors have an important role to play as boundary spanners for urban transformation. New ways to build sustainable, climate neutral neighbourhoods require co-creation and radical mobilisation between disciplines, sectors, civil society, bodies of knowledge, etc.

The second topic is transformation to sustainable cities. Such urban spaces are not loosely connected, but the building blocks for liveable neighbourhoods and communities. To anticipate anthropogenic effects, it is important to integrate design, consumption behaviours, circular economy, energy use, mobility patterns, waste management, and existing built environments.

The third topic is designing inclusive, liveable and green neighbourhoods. There is a need for more knowledge of, and new solutions for, conflicts, accountability, legitimacy, justice, trust, consequences, and

opportunities that come with democracy and participation. To a high degree, public spaces and natural and cultural environments should be designed and used for co-creation, social inclusion, and a sense of community.

Cofunded call
2022–2025
Budget: 18,4 M Euro
3 topics
2-stage call
16 funding agencies
16 funded projects
Final event: Lund, Sweden

BTC call
2023–2025 (or 2026)
Budget: appr. 4 M Euro
3 topics
1-stage call
8 funding agencies
5 funded projects
Final event: Bucharest, Romania

THE PROJECTS

The national funding agencies in the ENUTC-BTC programme agreed on a total of 21 projects recommended for funding – starting in 2022, and 2023 – and finishing in 2025.

Cofunded call

1. CITY&CO
2. CREST
3. CONTRA
4. ILIT
5. MUNEX
6. CARIN-PT
7. TRUSTMAKING
8. EMBEDTERLABS
9. COOLSCHOOLS
10. TANGO-W
11. CIRCULARCITYCHALLENGE
12. U-GARDEN
13. CONECT
14. CO-HOPE
15. CREATE
16. OPUSH

BTC call

17. ENVISION CHANGE
18. IPA
19. SOUND UP
20. TURF
21. UNLOC

CITY&CO

Populations of cities are ageing, and the shift needs to be facilitated. There is a need for participatory approaches for older people and policymakers, which combine quantitative, sustainable and community-based elements.

One of the aims of City&Co was to co-create an innovative spatial tool (GeoPortal and interface) for a communitybased assessment of the age-friendliness of cities, that can be used in multiple countries, and that supports cities in WHO's 5-year cycle. The tool uses mixed validated quantitative and qualitative assessments of age-friendly cities.

The GeoPortal tool was developed, and it supports cities in the cycle of age-friendliness using direct input from participating older citizens. The creation and maintenance of local ecosystems of relevant stakeholders further supports the sustainability of age-friendly strategies and implementation, and provides capacity building at the city and neighbourhood level.

https://cityco.snspa.ro/

CREST

Visualization is a potential way of increasing the engagement with climate change, and IT developments, such as artificial intelligence and Augmented Reality, provide significant advancements that can be transformative in engaging audiences with climate change issues.

The aim was to help vulnerable urban areas to set-up and roll-out collaborative platforms supported by digital twinning (based on a breakthrough Augmented Reality – AR technology: AugmentCity) and co-creation approaches to support environmental decision making and innovative policy practices, enabling robust and resilient responses to climate change.

The project built on AugmentCity and applied digital twins for demonstration, co-creation and mobilization of stakeholders for capacity-building and collective decision-making in 3 European urban areas for resilient urban infrastructure adaptation to climate change.

https://crestproject.eu/

CONTRA

Participatory processes in european cities are often consensus-driven, sidelining conflict and limiting its democratic potential. How can conflict be taken seriously in urban planning to strengthen cities' resilience and democratic capacity?

Four climate-related policy conflicts in cities were compared, each situated in a distinct institutional context. Together with theatre makers, drama labs were developed; Public interventions that resist consensus-seeking and instead explore conflicting perspectives to enrich dialogue.

Urban drama lab integrate theatrical principles to scrutinize how stakeholders, issues, and interests are represented and performed. The project developed a drama labs toolbox which offers municipalities concrete methods for using theatre to engage stakeholders through embodied learning, role-play, and storytelling.

https://conflictintransformations.eu/

ILIT

Public libraries are long-acknowledged places for information provision and knowledge transmission, but they increasingly also function as important socio-cultural infrastructures contributing to the everyday life in cities. However, austerity pressures threaten libraries' function as spaces of encounter.

The aim was to examine how public libraries as socio-cultural infrastructures address systemic challenges in rapidly transforming societies in three European cities: Vienna, Malmö, and Rotterdam, by deploying the innovative framework of infrastructuring/librarising.

By researching practices that staff, patrons, policy-makers and other stakeholders employ to provide, perform, maintain, safeguard and retool libraries, the project got nuanced and detailed knowledge of the different ways in which public libraries contribute to the local community, and identified gaps that risk undermining and weakening the role of a socio-cultural infrastructure.

www.transforminglibraries.net

MUNEX

How to address growing inequality, cynicism, distrust, and alienation? As local governments embrace municipalism, a key question is whether and how municipalist initiatives – work in practice.

The project examined municipalist policy experiments in neighborhoods in Amsterdam, Barcelona, and Vienna. The goal was to work with municipalities, citizens and transnational municipalist networks to build capacity with insights on the success factors of municipalist initiatives, testing out new approaches to governance and urban justice, and strengthening networks for transnational policy learning.

Three prototypes of municipalist innovations shared between neighborhoods in the cities were co-created in a transnational exchange. Building on earlier research and relations with urban stakeholders, the research provided insights into the creation of neighborhoods which are sustainable, liveable, and inclusive to all.

https://munex.univie.ac.at/

CARIN-PT

Public transport is an essential urban infrastructure. However, the social justice dimension of public transport development remains largely under-researched.

The project focused on urban regions, examining ways to develop and improve inclusive and integrated public transport systems. CARIN-PT strengthened the management and governance capacities of the public transport authorities and supported them in modernising planning processes, increasing cooperation with researchers and various stakeholders, and enabling learning and reflection on intercultural differences.

The project provided insights into recent public transport policies such as demand-responsive or fare-free public transport, micromobility in combination with public transport and the use of transit-oriented development as an urban and transport planning policy. Co-creation enabled a broader range of voices and a more explicit link to implementation.

https://carinpt.eu/

TRUSTMAKING

Trust has become a central theme in current societal discussions, influencing how communities, institutions, and individuals respond to today's complex challenges. The project addresses challenges by empowering young people as co-creators of urban spaces and by strengthening trust-based, intergenerational collaboration with city administrations and other professionals.

Methods through Urban Living Labs in Vienna, Oslo, Panevėžys, and Rotterdam engaged youth in reflecting on their urban environments, getting into contact with public institutions and planning professionals, and co-designing green infrastructure and public spaces. Artistic strategies, co-design workshops, and collaborative learning formats like summer and winter schools were tested.

The project highlights that trust is built through real-world relationships, shared "contact zones" across all ages, genders and sectors, and meaningful engagement through joyful co-creation.

https://trustmaking.eu/

EMBEDTERLABS

Cities in Europe regularly do urban experiments, such as temporary pedestrian zones or other traffic measures. Often small-scale, temporary trials, usually with residents and other stakeholders, such as shops or NGO's, they currently rarely lead to new policies and wider implementation.

EmbedterLabs has developed and tested a tool that supports the learning process during urban experiment, as well the transfer of lessons after an experiment. The tool helps actors to design a process that is based on common intended learning outcomes of both a site-specific and strategic nature that are more open-ended and reflexive questions about the innovation process.

The tool ensures that qualitative and quantitative data that answer the questions are collected, and based on this data addresses (responds to or offers reflection on) learning outcomes and their policy implications. It also proposes methods to ensure the management and dissemination of the lessons learned.

https://www.embedterlabs.com.pl/

COOLSCHOOLS

Cities must ensure equitable access to green and public spaces, particularly for children. Pioneer programs of implementing Nature-based Solutions in school environments seem a promising path for protecting children from extreme heat while increasing their access to urban green areas.

The project conducted in-depth research on the co-benefits of NbS for climate adaptation in school environments in Brussels, Barcelona, Paris, and Rotterdam. The project focused on accessibility and equity, urban biodiversity conservation, well-being and health, safety, socio-cultural perceptions, environmental governance, and sustainability education.

Findings show that more than 90% of primary schools in the four urban areas have less than 30% coverage of green and blue spaces within a 300-meter radius. Nature-based schoolyards are transforming cities by fostering biodiversity and encouraging human-nature interactions.

https://coolschools.eu

TANGO-W

The project aimed to help cities tackle challenges associated with climate change and encourage more sustainable urban development. It evaluated cities' potential for sustainability, specifically at the intersection of food, energy, and water systems.

The project placed a special focus on the development and testing of transformative governance tools for urban project leaders and transformative researchers for European Urban Living Labs in Austria, Sweden, Norway and Lithuania.

Improving urban transformation capacities is essential for cities. By focusing on the interconnections within the food, energy and water systems, cities can address the challenges of climate change more holistically and promote systemic change at multiple levels. Urban Living Labs serve as transformational spaces and experimental environments where innovative solutions can be tested under real-life conditions.

https://nordregio.org/research/
transformative-capacity-in-energy-food-and-water-tango-w/

CIRCULARCITYCHALLENGE

Future generations needs to be equipped with the knowledge and tools to build sustainable, circular economies. By developing a comprehensive curriculum on sustainability and circularity for high schools across the European Union, the project addresses the urgent need to prepare young citizens for active participation in shaping policies for a greener future.

The curriculum was created in collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders, including teachers, students, educational experts, sustainability advocates, and governmental bodies. The innovative approach ensured that the content is practical, relevant, and accessible. Piloted successfully in Austria, Romania, and the Netherlands, the curriculum includes student-focused guidelines, resources for educators, and an online platform hosting a rich library of materials. Additionally, it offers support from the project's consortium, ensuring that schools can easily adopt and implement the program.

https://project.circularcitychallenge.eu/

U-GARDEN

Urban gardens are increasingly recognised as valuable spaces for food production, community building and environmental sustainability. However, their benefits are not equally distributed, and many cities still lack the tools to plan, manage and expand these spaces effectively.

The project promoted urban gardening as a strategic tool for inclusive and sustainable urban development, and explored how urban agriculture can strengthen social ties, promote active ageing, support local economies, and improve air quality and biodiversity. Through participatory methods and Urban Living Labs in Valencia, Warsaw, Gothenburg and Braşov, collaborative spaces were created for citizens, public institutions, and civil society.

Key results include a publicly available decision-support tool to help cities plan new gardens based on environmental, social and cultural criteria; new business models and training for urban farmers; and policy recommendations grounded in real-life experimentation.

https://u-gardenproject.eu/

CONECT

Cities today face big pressures from rising costs of living and inequality to environmental crises. Everyone, residents, professionals, cultural groups, local authorities has a role to play in shaping resilient neighborhoods. The project looked at how communities can respond to these issues by building local networks of support, care, and action.

The aim was to explore how people, organizations, and institutions can work together to make their neighborhoods stronger, fairer, and better prepared for future challenges like climate change and social inequality. The project created a map and archive for Community resilience practices, studied community efforts, their partnerships, and support from public institutions in Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Bagneux, Saint Denis, Seville, Gothenburg, Stockholm, Bucharest and Sibiu. Local people, researchers, and professionals got to co-design ways to make neighborhoods more inclusive and sustainable in order to make cities fairer, more connected, and more caring.

https://www.jpiconect.eu/

CO-HOPE

Problems with unaffordable housing, migrant segregation, and social isolation have worsened with demographic and environmental changes. The pandemic showed how inadequate housing can turn a health crisis into a social and economic disaster, especially for those overcrowded, isolated, or homeless.

The project investigated whether collaborative housing can provide a more resilient and supportive living model. A quantitative survey of residents was combined with case studies of 14 collaborative housing communities across Sweden, Austria, France, Spain, and Finland to understand how the communities adapted and coped during the pandemic.

Collaborative housing can help address major housing challenges, its success relies on the availability of common spaces, self-governance, strong participation, care and mutual support, as well as collective resilience.

https://www.keg.lu.se/en/co-hope-collaborative-housing-pandemic-era

CREATE

The project researched how to embedd advanced urban material stock methods within governance processes to enable circular economy and cities resilience.

The aim was to support urban transformation processes towards the circular economy by developing a tool that makes an inventory of the existing material stocks in the built environment and explores scenarios for future expected material flows from renovation and demolition activities.

Additionally, the project aimed at proposing governance arrangements on how to approach the circular economy transition. Buildings in Gothenburg, Rennes Métropole, Nijmegen, and Vienna were in focus for the research.

Stakeholder needs were identified to stimulate reuse and recycling of materials in the built Environment, user stories and best practices were defined, and policy recommendations were developed.

https://sb.chalmers.se/project/create/

OPUSH

University libraries stand out as hubs of cutting-edge research. But for most citizens, their city library is a place that is more accessible. The projcet is about open urban sustainability hubs, and to empower local communities with citizen change.

In the project, the university partners teamed up with local libraries to create new networks in transdisciplinary contexts of sustainable development and sustainability transformation. Based on the diversity of the large number of students involved and the integration of disadvantaged population groups, the project pursued an explicitly socially integrative community building approach. Cities involved in project were Vienna, Tallin, Delft, and Barcelona.

Libraries and museums have little or no experience with the open science ecosystem approach. The project has contributed to an open debate in relevant networks and conferences through presentations, and papers, and has shown how these actors can expand their knowledge and capacities with concrete measures.

https://opush.net/

ENVISION CHANGE

Participatory design methods and innovative tools such as virtual reality are emerging, and could potentially aid the envisioning and co-creating of real positive change, and making the energy transition beautiful, sustainable and inclusive. However, state of the art solutions and policy initiatives have not yet led to the needed speeding up of the energy transition.

The project aims to develop and test such creative techniques by using a research-through-design approach, the project conducts applied research in Latvia, Sweden and The Netherlands to identify and meet the needs and priorities of municipalities, communities and stakeholders.

This project focuses on collaboratively exploring creative imaginations using interactive media (emerging and playful technology such as VR/AR) and participatory design techniques for engaging communities and envisioning sustainable Urban Transitions.

https://videszinatne.rtu.lv/en/science/project-and-research/envision-change/

IPA

What if we shifted focus from one project at a time to instead working more on the whole with innovation portfolios? By acilitating urban transition portfolios, the project paves way for a more impactful and sustainable approach that suits the complexity of urban challenges.

The aim is to build transformation capacity for urban transitions that connect both inner and outer transformation, Existential Sustainability, through an experimental Innovation Portfolio Approach. This is done in Lund, Timişoara, and Amsterdam by three different types of intermediaries: an innovation platform, a cultural NGO, and a university Master programme.

The skills of intermediaries and their toolbox are developed, mission driven innovation projects through the Innovation Portfolio Approach are facilitated, and demo forums are developed to increase participation in open innovation for urban transition through culture and creativity.

https://www.futurebylund.se/projekt/ipa-gron-omstallning-med-hjalp-av-helhetstank

SOUND UP

Building on community engagement in data collection and artistic co-creation with a focus on sound, the project seeks to enable an improved quality of life for all living beings in residential areas and public (urban) spaces through a considered artistically inspired (re-)design of the sonic environment.

The project aims to develop artistic as well as academic or scientific methods for participatory design of soundscapes and to determine how such methods may contribute to an enhanced wellbeing, inclusivity and quality of life in some carefully selected urban environments in Kiruna and Binkhorst.

Collaborations with municipalities, mining companies, school, and citizens are established for sonic urban transformation, to contribute tangibly to the green transition and development of sustainable and more attractive living environments.

https://www.ltu.se/en/research/centres-of-excellence-and-collaborations/ltu-arc/research-projects/research-projects/2024-10-31-sounding-urban-places

TURF

Urban spaces as sources of fresh food, resilience, and community empowerment are reimagined. By transforming garages and underused buildings into aquaponic and hydroponic farms, the project brings sustainable food production closer to where people live.

It connects technology, nature, and local action to create greener cities, stronger neighborhoods, and new opportunities for learning and entrepreneurship. The innovation-driven project is developed in collaboration with sustainability experts, designers, and urban planners to create scalable, real-world solutions.

The project demonstrates how adaptive reuse of car parking structures for controlled environment agriculture can strengthen urban resilience, and has developed a web-based decision support manual for the creation of Living Labs. With the calculator tool farming potential is determined by how a space transforms into a productive area.

https://www.the-urban-food-factory.com/

UNLOC

Are the functions of post-communist buildings adequate for today's residents? In what ways can creative and participatory actions build awareness of sustainable, ecological, and inclusive cities?

The title of the project is inspired by the "locus of control", a reference to the symbolism of the architecture of power. The project explores how the history of power relations is reflected in architecture, and uses new technologies that can change the way people perceive and understand architecture.

Using historical and social inspirations, and artificial intelligence, a platform has been created for alternative visions of urban space. The project finds that many post-communist buildings no longer meet residents' needs, and that collaboration across art, design, history, sociology, and AI generated richer outcomes.

https://unloc.uken.krakow.pl/

THE FUNDING AGENCIES

Below are the national funding agencies in the ENUTC and BTC calls.

Cofunded call
1. Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande (FORMAS)
2. Latvijas Zinātnes padome (LZP)
3. Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)
4. Agence Nationale de la Recherge (ANR)
5. Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FRCT)
6. Innoviris
7. Norges forskningsråd (RCN)
8. Narodowe Centrum Nauki (NCN)
9. Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI)
10. Statens energimyndighet (SWEA - STEM)
11. Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (FWO)
12. Lietuvos mokslo taryba (RCL)
13. Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAg)
14. Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)
15. Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbh (FFG)
16. Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)

BTC call
1. Innoviris
2. Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)
3. Latvian Council of Science (LCS)
4. Taskforce for Applied Research SIA (Regieorgaan SIA)
5. National Science Centre (NCN)
6. Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
7. Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande (FORMAS)
8. Statens energimyndighet (SWEA - STEM)

CONTACT US

The ENUTC initiative is operated on a daily basis by a European management team. Many operational issues are dealt by national funding agency contact points.

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