

EU-CONEXUS Open Call for academic staff to create and teach Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

What is the EU-CONEXUS Alliance about?

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) is a transnational European higher education and research alliance addressing global and local challenges by tackling coastal environmental, technical, economic and societal needs. EU-CONEXUS activities benefit from complementary institutional and national experiences and contribute to innovative solutions by creating a unique way of studying and carrying out research through institutional alignment, synergies and seamless mobility for all.

The partners of the Alliance are La Rochelle Université, Agricultural University of Athens, Catholic University of Valencia, Klaipeda University, University of Zadar, Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, South East Technological University, University of Rostock and Frederick University.

Since 2019 EU-CONEXUS member universities are aiming to benefit from the competences and knowledge that have and to expand the possibilities of study opportunities to the students of the Alliance. 2 international Minor programmes were created using existing courses at Bachelor programmes and attract more than 400 students yearly.

With this initiative on Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS) Micro credentials for Bachelor students we aim to create a framework of new type of informal courses of small volume to develop their entrepreneurial, green and digital skills thus increasing graduates' insertion into the labour market.

What are micro-credentials?

A micro-credential is a recognised proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience (European Commission, 2020). In June 2020, the European Commission presented the first European definition and recommended approach to micro-credentials and defines it as:

'the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning. These learning outcomes will have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria.'

Learning experiences leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, and cultural or labour market needs.

Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. They may be stand-alone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity'.

Micro-credentials are available in many formats. They can complement degree programmes, act as stand-alone units of learning, or can be stackable and cumulate into a larger credential (EU supported [MICROBOL report](#) (2021)).

What is the EU-CONEXUS pilot initiative 'Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability'?

Responding to the European Union's actions towards micro-credentials, EU-CONEXUS will pilot a new academic offer which consists of small learning units and will form the core of our new initiative for Bachelor students: Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (hereinafter SmUCS).

This initiative aims at guiding students to achieve specific abilities/ skills required in the labour market and focuses on **six sectors: European, University, Smart, Urban, Coastal and Sustainability.**

Within each sector, several thematic areas are offered (see appendix 1) in which small learning units (micro-credentials) equivalent to 1 ECTS (25-30 effort hours) shall be created.

We are looking for enthusiastic professors/lecturers who want to create and teach content in one of the proposed thematic areas and to participate in the first pilot which will run 2024-2026.

Why should you get involved?

- Unique opportunity to collaborate in the creation of a new leading European educational concept.
- Innovative training by the EU-CONEXUS Teaching Academy team of experts to design small learning units and apply innovative pedagogical methodologies (compulsory attendance, 30 hours in total).
- Enriching teaching portfolio and expanding the audience.
- Teaching mobilities in European universities.
- International networking.

Academic staff profile

The requirements to be able to collaborate in the development and implementation of the EU-CONEXUS new pilot academic offer in Micro-credentials in SmUCS are the following:

- To be a professor/lecturer in one of the universities of EU-CONEXUS Alliance.
- Previous experience in the chosen thematic area(s).
- Communication in English at a C1 level.

Procedure for submitting applications

Interested candidates should submit their application specifying the chosen sector, thematic area and proposed topic of the micro-credential using the following form (see Annex 2) to the representative at their home universities.

University	Representative	Email address
LRUniv	Nolwenn Quéré	nolwenn.quere@univ-lr.fr
AUA	Stefanos Kalogirou	stefanos.kalogirou@aua.gr
UCV	Raquel Blave	euconexus@ucv.es
KU	Rasa Grigoliene	rasa.grigoliene@ku.lt
UNIZD	Nedjelka Balic	nbalic@unizd.hr
UTCB	Alexandru Aldea	alexandru.aldea@utcb.ro
SETU	Orla O'Donovan	orla.odonovan@setu.ie
UROS	Suntje Ehmann	suntje.ehmann@uni-rostock.de
FredU	Byron Ioannou	b.ioannou@frederick.ac.cy

Please note that detailed content is not required at the moment of application. The content will be developed after the selection of the professors/lecturers and with the help of training.

Deadline to submit applications, **26 May 2023**.

Selection process

The selection process aims to nominate academic staff to design and teach small learning units for the Microcredentials in SmUCS pilot initiative that will run from Spring 2024 to Autumn 2026.

The nomination of the professors/lecturers to proceed with content development and teaching will be EU-CONEXUS wide. The committee for each sector will be composed of 5 members: 1 representative of WP5, 1 representative of WP6, 1 representative of a Lifelong Learning Office within the Alliance, 2 experts from WP2, preferably from any of the thematic areas.

Candidates will be evaluated according to the requirements of the application and the most suitable ones will be selected. The selection procedure will ensure the homogeneous distribution of content teaching among the partner universities.

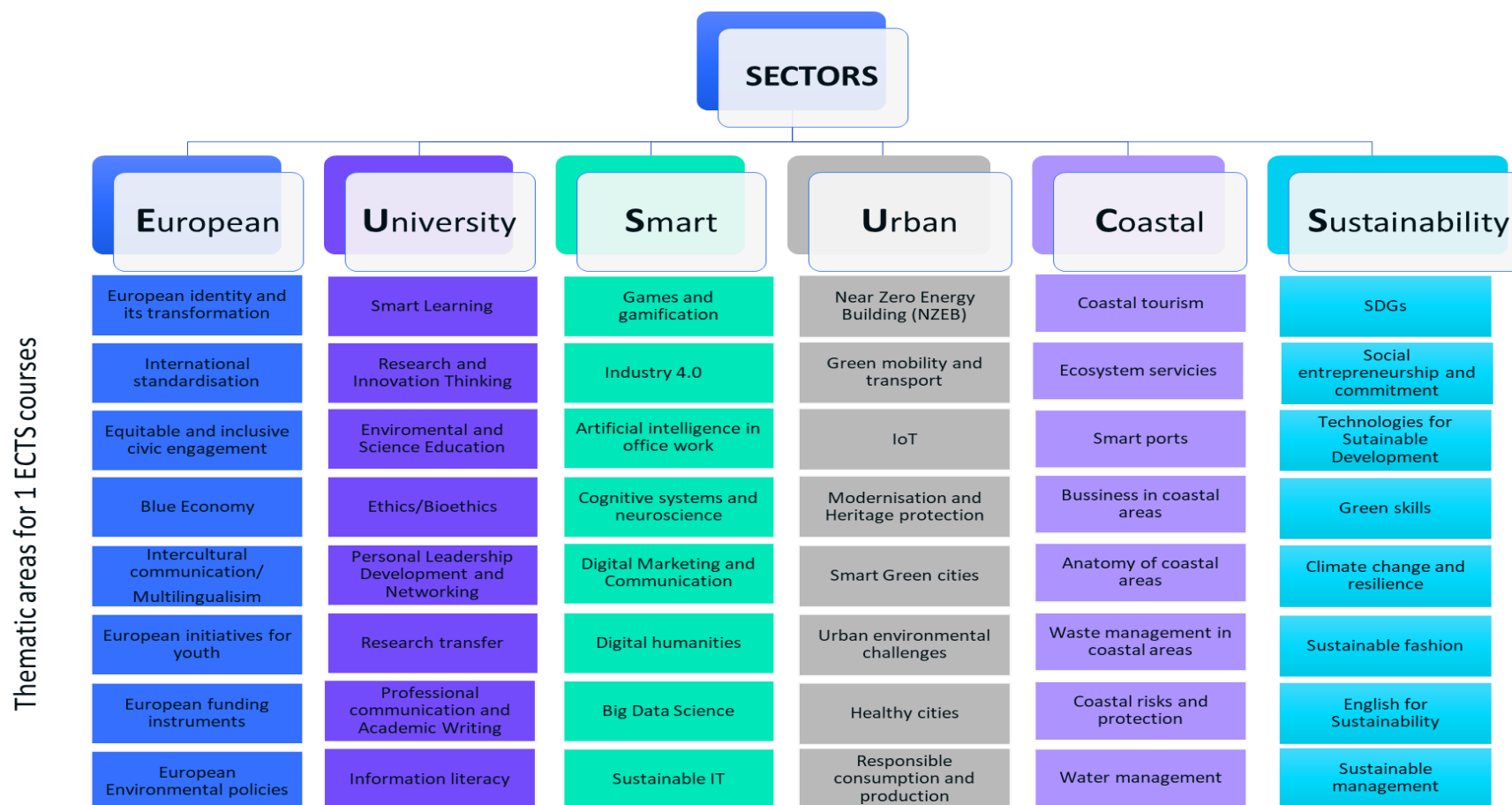
The selection of candidates will be based on the weighing factors and figures of the merit table (see Annex 3), requiring a minimum of 60 points to be considered as a candidate to teach in this pilot initiative. The selected candidates will be informed by 9 June 2023.

Timeline - Micro-credentials in SmUCS



For more information feel free to contact Raquel Blave (raquel.blave@ucv.es), María López (ml.lopezpuchades@ucv.es) or a WP2 representative in each university.

Annex 1 - Sectors and thematic areas



Annex 2 - Application form to create and deliver small learning units in EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in SmUCS

(draft)

Application to create and deliver small learning units	
Contact details of the applicant	
Full name of the professor/lecturer	
University	
Faculty/Department	
Email address	
Contact phone number	
Information about content proposal	
Sector	<input type="checkbox"/> European <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal <input type="checkbox"/> Smart <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability
Thematic area*	
Proposed title	
Draft content description (up to 1000 characters)	
Specific competences to be worked on and learnt during the course (e.g. software, law, business plan, etc.)	
Applicant's relevant experience**	
Teaching	
Please, describe your teaching experience in the chosen	Examples :

thematic area (courses or programmes taught, years of experience, teaching institution, etc).	Introduction to project management. 6 ECTS. Bachelor cycle. From 2018 until now. Leading teacher. UCV. Project management in engineering. 6 ECTS. Master cycle. From 2020 to 2021. Assisting teacher (laboratory works). University of Valencia
Do you have experience teaching in English? If so, what type of courses did/do you teach and for how long?	Yes Introduction to project management. 6 ECTS. Bachelor cycle. From 2020 until now. Leading teacher
Do you have a certificate in English ? If so, which specific certificate and at what level ?	C1. Attested by univeristy
Research & Professional Experience	
Please, describe your research experience in the thematic area (research field, results, publications, projects, etc.)	Applications of project management in engineering. Projects : 0 Scientific publications : Title, journal, year... Conference proceedings : Title, conference, year
Do you have non-teaching professional experience in this thematic area? If yes, please describe the position held and the tasks carried out.	As an expert, I am hired by companies to apply and train project management software (Company x from 2020, company Y from 2019 to 2020) I worked in the private sector IT department (responsible for project management software) from 2017 to 2020)
Have you previously participated in an international academic project? If yes, please indicate the name of the project(s) together with a brief description of the project(s).	Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships. Enhancing engineers with project management skills. 2021-2023.
Received Training	
Please, describe the trainings in innovative teaching methodologies (courses or	How to teach in English in international classroom. EU-CONEXUS, June 2022. 12 contact hours

applied through innovative projects) in which you have participated during your career).

Design thinking. UCV. April.May 2021. 20 hours.

* see Annex 1

** if your CV contains requested information, you can send it instead

Please send your application to the representative at their home universities (to be specified according to university) until 26 May- 2023.

Annex 3: Weighing factors and figures of merit

Figures of merits	Weighing
1. Teaching and Level of English	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching experience related to the thematic area the candidate applied for. 	25 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience teaching in English. Level of English (C1 or C2). 	25 points
2. Research & Professional Experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantifiable research activity related to the thematic area the candidate applied for. 	20 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant non-teaching professional experience related to the thematic area the candidate applied for Participation in academic international projects 	15 points
3. Training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative pedagogical methodologies (courses or applied through innovative projects) 	15 points