

SEED FUNDING

EU-CONEXUS Ambition:

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 (SmUCS challenges). EU-CONEXUS is a fully-fledged university. It offers education, training, study programmes, performs research and links with socio-economic actors for supporting innovation.

To find more information, please visit the [EU-CONEXUS Website](#).

The EU-CONEXUS community brings together researchers, teachers and students from the different partner institutions and aims to foster internal collaboration between them by offering **Seed Funding**.

Objectives of the Seed Funding:

The overall objective of the Seed Funding is to enhance collaboration between EU-CONEXUS partners in **education, research and innovation on SmUCS challenges**.

Therefore, teams from EU-CONEXUS partner universities can apply for **Seed Funding** in order to **develop small-scale internal collaborative projects in the field of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS)**. Projects can either focus on activities related to education, or they can also focus on activities related to research and innovation but in this case they must necessarily have an education component (i.e. activities involving researchers **and** students¹, projects that have a direct impact on students, knowledge sharing with students regarding the outcome of the project in research seminars for instance, etc.).² For instance, these activities related to education can be linked with virtual exchanges, Collaborative Online International Learning, Blended Intensive Programmes, Student Research Hubs, Open Lab Hours of EU-CONEXUS.

Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS) means for EU-CONEXUS to focus its education, research & innovation, and knowledge-sharing activities on defining, understanding and addressing societal challenges that are experienced by communities from urban and semi-urbanised coastal regions (rivers, seas and oceans).

Expected outcomes of the projects must be tangible: possibility to work together on a bigger project, impact on education/on students, results aiming at closing the gap between research & students, joint academic offer (e.g. joint programme, micro-credential, etc.), enhanced students skills and knowledge (trainees involvement, sharing latest research results, etc. and possibly contributing to a deeper joint collaboration between involved parties and EU-CONEXUS partners.

Eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Eligible beneficiaries are the nine EU-CONEXUS partner universities. Other organisations can participate but do not receive any funding.
- ✓ A seed funding project proposal must be submitted.
- ✓ The project proposal subject must approach one or several challenges in the field of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS).
- ✓ Education related and/or impacting activities must be clearly visible and stressed in the proposal. Projects that do not include an education component will be rejected.

¹ Students comprise PhD students, Master students, Bachelor students...

² EU-CONEXUS Plus being funded by Erasmus+ in the frame of the European Universities Initiative, Seed Funding projects should therefore be linked to activities targeting education, research and service to society. Pure research projects are not eligible.

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- ✓ At least 2 researchers or academics from 2 different EU-CONEXUS partner universities must be involved in the project (other organisations cannot be part of this core group).
- ✓ Groups of researchers, academics, project holders who already received support from any of the previous Seed Funding calls will not be eligible a second time, with the same partnership.
- ✓ The same project idea won't be financed through Seed Funding twice.
- ✓ Duration of the Seed Funding project: up to maximum 12 months (strict deadline for expenses eligibility will be 31 October 2026).

Evaluation criteria:

The proposal will be assessed with regards to 3 main criteria:

- ✓ **Excellence:** Relevance of the project with regards to the societal challenge of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, Education, research or innovation contribution of the proposed project, Appropriateness, completeness and clarity of the methodology.
- ✓ **Impact:** Impact of proposed activities and results, in particular for students and EU-CONEXUS at large, Expected outcomes
- ✓ **Quality & efficiency of implementation:** Work plan, Organisation, Budget coherence with regards to project ambition, Deliverables.

Proposals involving more partner universities will be prioritised.

Funding Criteria:

- ✓ Eligible costs are: conference fees, publication fees, travels, etc. (personnel costs, equipment and consumables or services related to research are not eligible). A detailed budget must be provided.
- ✓ The funding is **maximum €4400 (VAT included) per project**.
- ✓ Co-funding is allowed and encouraged whether it comes from the partners' own funds or from public or private funds.
- ✓ The expenses related to each project are paid for directly out of the central EU-CONEXUS budget.
- ✓ For this last round of the call there is funding available for approximately 5 small-scale projects.

Application:

- ✓ The project leader has to send the **completed application form** (Annex 1) to the following email address: projects@eu-conexus.eu
- ✓ **This call is open until:**
 - **August 29th COB, 2025.**

Selection Rules:

- ✓ A **two-step-evaluation** will take place:
 - In a first step the Project Development Support Office will assess the conformity of the application to this call and its technical eligibility.
 - In a second step, the applications will be evaluated by a rotating committee composed of 3 representatives from 3 partner universities (evaluators are designated by the members of EU-CONEXUS Plus Work Package

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10, in charge of setting up the Project Development Support Office). For this round of the call, the committee members will come from Frederick University, La Rochelle Université and University of Rostock. In addition, the vice-chairs of Academic and Research Councils will participate in the evaluation.

- ✓ A ranking of the projects will be provided by the committee and approximately 5 proposals will be selected for funding based on the ranking.
- ✓ Applicants will be notified one month after the cut-off date at the latest.
- ✓ The projects selected will be presented to the Research or Academic Councils depending on the field covered by the projects.
- ✓ A report will be submitted at the end of each project according to the format provided.

The Project Development Support Office is in charge of managing the Seed Funding. For any question you can contact the team of project officers at the following address: projects@eu-conexus.eu.

The Project Development Support Office missions are to:

- 1) *Manage the Seed Funding,*
- 2) *Work in order to increase mobilisation of EU-CONEXUS community in developing common projects either internally or in response to external calls for proposals It offers training, information sessions to the community and facilitates collaboration of project development support structures through knowledge and expertise sharing.*

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Information about the partners involved in the project proposal	
EU-CONEXUS project leader:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ Partner University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other staff involved (<i>if applicable</i>):	
Other partners of the Project proposal Partner 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Partner 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Partner 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
Other partners if relevant (add as many lines as additional partners or remove the empty ones)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Name of the Researcher/Academic ✓ University ✓ Research Unit / Department ✓ Contact information (e-mail and phone number)
General information about the project proposal	
Title and acronym of the project:	
Main project objective:	
Project Description (half a page max.)	

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Excellence (2 pages max.)				
Impact (2 pages max.)				
Quality and efficiency of implementation (2 pages max.)				
Budget				
Balanced budget (list of expenses & resources indicating the amount requested to Seed Funding and co-funding if relevant)	Expenses in Euros (including VAT)		Resources in Euros (including VAT)	
	Item xxxxxx	Xxxxx €	Seed Funding	Xxxxx €
	Item xxxxxx		Origin of the funding	Xxxxx €
	TOTAL	Xxxx €	TOTAL	Xxxx €
Add as many lines as necessary				
Date and signature of the project leader:				

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