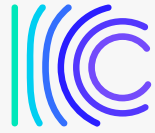




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# Webinar on Seed Funding (4<sup>th</sup> call)

18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025



EU CONEXUS



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Introduction - 10'

Presentation of the Seed Funding call - 15'

Feedback from a successful project leader - 15'

Mike Kinsella, SETU

Questions & Answers - 15'

⇒ *You are free to use the Teams chat to ask your questions*

⇒ *They will be answered during the Q&A session*



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# Introduction (10')

~ *Project Development Support Office (PDSO)*

18 JUNE 2025

## What is the Project Development Support Office (PDSO)?

- One of the first transversal offices created for EU-CONEXUS community
- Established in the framework of EU-CONEXUS Plus funding
- Its main overall objectives are:
  - Increase EU-CONEXUS capacity to **win more European funds**, in particular for research
  - Develop **capacity building, exchange of knowledge & expertise** in terms of project development
  - Increase collaboration among the partners / **enhance EU-CONEXUS** community with regards to **SmUCS challenges**

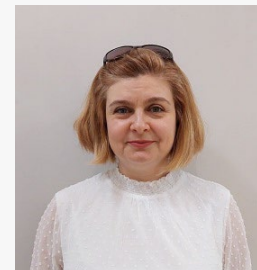
## PDSO Members



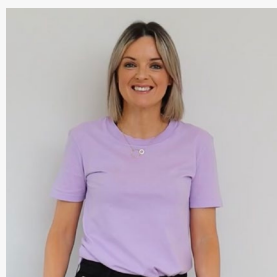
Lucie Vaucel (LRUniv)



Lino Gruber (LRUniv)



Adriana Sumanaru (UTCB)



Michelle Maher (SETU)



Christina Constantinidou (FredU)

## Project Development Support Office activities

- Organisation and participation in **trainings & information sessions** in order to promote funding opportunities  
*Ex: Training programmes such as « EU funding: from idea to implementation », presentation of funding opportunities*
- Facilitation of collaboration between project development support structures of the alliance through **knowledge & expertise sharing**
- Setting up specific programmes to **boost applications to EU calls**  
*Ex: [Upcoming EU-CONEXUS Joint Research Challenge Workshops](#) (23/06 - 03/07)*
- Support for **match-making between researchers**
- Management of the [Seed Funding](#) Call.



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# Presentation of the Seed Funding Call (15')

*~ Last call open for 2025*

18 JUNE 2025

## Main Objective:

Enhance collaboration between EU-CONEXUS partners in education, research, and innovation focused on Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS).

## What Kind of Projects Can Be Funded?

- Small-scale internal collaborative projects
- Focus on education or research & innovation with an educational component.  
(i.e. activities involving researchers **and** students, projects that have a direct impact on students, knowledge sharing with students regarding the outcome of the project in research seminars for instance, etc.)



## Examples of Education-Related Activities

Projects should include clear educational components such as:

- **Virtual Exchanges**

Foster online collaboration between students across partner universities

- **Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)**

- **Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs)**

Short-term combined physical and virtual mobility learning experiences

- **Student Research Hubs**

Platforms where students can collaborate on interdisciplinary research

- **Open Lab Hours (EU-CONEXUS)**

Access to labs and research facilities for student learning

## Expected Outcomes

- **Collaboration Potential:**

Projects should open the path to larger joint initiatives.

- **Educational Impact:**

Clear benefits for students at all levels (Bachelor, Master, PhD).

- **Bridge Research & Education:**

Results should reduce the gap between research and student learning.

- **Joint Academic Offerings:**

Development of joint programmes, micro-credentials, and new learning formats.

- **Enhanced Student Skills:**

- Involvement of trainees
- Exposure to latest research
- Strengthened technical and academic competencies

- **Stronger EU-CONEXUS Collaboration:**

Projects should contribute to long-term, deeper cooperation among partners.

## Seed Funding Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Only **9 EU-CONEXUS partner universities** are eligible for funding
- ✓ **Other organizations** may join, but **are not funded**
- ✓ Must submit a **project proposal** and Project must address to one or several challenges in the field of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS).
- ✓ Must include a **clear educational component** (Proposals without education focus are rejected)
- ✓ At least **2 researchers/academics** from **2 different EU-CONEXUS universities** required
- ✓ No repeat funding for: Same partnership as previous seed funding
- ✓ and same project idea
- ✓ Project duration is **up to 12 months** and **All expenses** must be made by **31 October 2026**

# Seed Funding

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals are assessed based on 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 EU-CONEXUS, Expected outcomes.
- ✓ **Quality & efficiency of implementation**: Work plan, Organization, Budget coherence with regards to project ambition, Deliverables.

# Seed Funding

## FUNDING CRITERIA

- ✓ Eligible costs are: conference fees, publication fees, travels. (personnel costs, equipment & consumables or services related to research are not eligible). A detailed budget must be provided.
- ✓ The funding is **maximum € 4 400 (VAT included) per project**.
- ✓ Co-funding is allowed whether it comes from the partners' own funds or from public or private funds.
- ✓ The expenses related to each project are taken in charge directly by EU-CONEXUS.
- ✓ For this last round of the call there is funding available for approximately 5 small-scale projects.

# Seed Funding

## APPLICATION

- ✓ The project leader has to send the **completed application form** (Annex 1) to the following email address: [projects@eu-conexus.eu](mailto:projects@eu-conexus.eu)
- ✓ Deadline for applications is:
  - **August 29 2025 COB at the latest.**

## Seed Funding 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, applications will be evaluated by a rotating committee composed of 3 representatives from 3 partner universities.
- + participation of the vice-chairs of Ac. & R. Councils.
  - For this last call: FredU, LRUUniv, UROS + vice-chairs for AC & RC

## Seed Funding Selection rules

- ✓ A ranking of the projects will be provided by the committee & 5 proposals will be selected for funding.
- ✓ The projects selected will be presented to the Research or Academic Councils depending on the field covered by the projects.
- ✓ A report will be requested at the end of each project.



# Questions & Answers

18 JUNE 2025

# Resources

## [EU-CONEXUS WEBSITE](#)

Direct Link: [SEED FUNDING](#)

PDSO contact: [projects@eu-conexus.eu](mailto:projects@eu-conexus.eu)





Thank you!

**Merci**  
**Ευχαριστούμε**  
**Gracias**  
**Ačiū**  
**Hvala**  
**Mulțumesc**  
**Danke**

Project Development Support  
Office

Email: [projects@eu-conexus.eu](mailto:projects@eu-conexus.eu)