

Invitation of External Experts

1. Eligibility

Who: The host university shall submit the application.

Eligible Experts: Researchers/experts from institutions (universities, research institutes and companies) outside of the EU-CONEXUS Alliance.

What: Research activities that **include** training or teaching related to research-based learning at EU-CONEXUS universities, or key lectures and keynote speeches delivered at conferences organized by the EU-CONEXUS Alliance. Presentations of the external experts may be made available publicly within EU-CONEXUS as streamed scientific talks/lectures.

Duration: Between 3 and 10 working days* (excluding transfer days).

*Duration can be less than 3 days for EU-CONEXUS conference

2. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

2.1. Relevance to SmUCS Topics (Max. 5 points)

Assesses how closely the proposed expert's visit and planned activities align with the EU-CONEXUS thematic focus on Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS) thematic areas. Proposals should demonstrate how the planned activities contribute to the education, research & innovation, or knowledge-sharing on defining, understanding and addressing societal challenges experienced by communities in urban and semi-urbanised coastal regions (rivers, seas and oceans).

5: Strong, direct relevance to SmUCS themes with clearly stated connection and objectives

3–4: Good general relevance; connection is evident but not deeply elaborated

1–2: Limited or indirect link to SmUCS; vague justification

0: No alignment with SmUCS topics

2.2. Quality of Planned Activities and Expected Impact (Max. 5 points)

Evaluates the clarity, feasibility, and expected outcomes of the visit, including both research and teaching components (e.g., lectures, workshops, lab visits, joint work). Strong proposals describe concrete deliverables and how the visit will benefit the host and broader EU-CONEXUS community.

5: Well-planned, balanced activities in both research and teaching with clear deliverables and impact

3–4: Good activities with moderate impact in research or teaching components

1–2: Weakly defined or narrow activities; unclear benefits

0: No clearly stated objectives or impact.

2.3. Collaboration and Long-Term Value for EU-CONEXUS (Max. 5 points)

Assesses how the visit fosters or strengthens partnerships, joint projects, or interdisciplinary cooperation. Proposals should indicate how the activity contributes to strategic alliances, supports future collaboration, and builds long-term value for the consortium.

5: Strong potential for building strategic partnerships and future collaboration across institutions

3–4: Mostly host-focused but with some broader relevance or potential

1–2: Limited partnership development or unclear collaborative value

0: No collaboration or consortium-level impact

2.4. Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination (Max. 5 points)

Evaluates the extent to which the outcomes of the visit will be shared with the EU-CONEXUS alliance, including through reports, workshops, best practices, or other dissemination activities. Strong proposals demonstrate a clear plan for post-visit knowledge transfer.

5: Well-defined strategy for knowledge sharing with consortium-wide benefit

3–4: Some sharing intended but plan may lack clarity or scope

1–2: Limited or poorly defined knowledge dissemination

0: No plan for sharing outcomes

3. Minimum Score and Automatic Rejection

Applications with a final score below 12 will be automatically rejected.

If more than half of the review panel members recommend rejection, the application will also be automatically rejected.

4. Repeat Applicants

Experts who have already received EU-CONEXUS mobility funding before 12 months remain eligible to be invited. However, in cases of equally ranked applications or limited funding, preference will be given to experts who have not yet visited the Alliance.

5. Tie-breaking Rule

In the applications of equal total scores, priority will be given to:

Experts who haven't received the funding before,

Experts from underrepresented research areas within EU-CONEXUS thematic priorities,

Experts of underrepresented gender identities in the respective field.

6. Appeals Procedure

If an applicant wishes to contest the outcome of the selection process, they may file a written appeal to the EU-CONEXUS Coordination Committee within 5 working days of receiving the

decision. The Committee will review the case and provide a final, reasoned decision within 15 working days.