EU CONEXUS
European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

Co-funded by the European Union

PhD grant procedure

D4.5

WP4 – PhD Level Joint Actions

Contractual due date (from GA): M48 – 31 October 2026 Final delivery date*:* M45 – 16 July 2026
WP leader: Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest Contributors: LRUniv, AUA, UCV, KU, UNIZD, UTCB, SETU, UROS, FredU, EU-CONEXA
Dissemination level : SENSITIVE

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CALL FOR EU-CONEXUS GRANTS FOR CO-SUPERVISED PhD THESES ON SmUCS TOPICS

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. EU-CONEXUS is a fully-fledged university. It offers education, training, study programs, performs research and links with socio-economic actors for supporting innovation. 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. To find more information, please visit the EU-CONEXUS Website.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EU-CONEXUS PhD Grants

The EU-CONEXUS community aims to develop PhD co-tutelle and co-supervised programs in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability topics between 2 EU-CONEXUS partners. The PhD students in co-tutelle or co-supervision are eligible for the **PhD Grants.**

The overall objectives of the PhD Grants:

- ✓ to increase the skills of PhD students by providing PhD students with mobility opportunities to study and train in another partner institution on SmUCS topics;
- ✓ to support the co-supervised / cotutelle doctoral studies in EU-CONEXUS by providing financial support for learning and training, by attending courses at EU CONEXUS partner universities , attendance to summer schools or other education or training activities organized under EU-CONEXUS and/or by its partners.
- ✓ to support the development of new joint, flexible and innovative PhD co-tutelle / co-supervised study programs.

Eligible beneficiaries: the PhD students from EU-CONEXUS partner universities with co-supervised or co-tutelle theses between 2 EU-CONEXUS partners, can apply for funding through the PhD Grants once the bilateral co-tutelle agreement or the decision for co-supervised theses between the 2 universities has been concluded. The grant is awarded to the PhD student in co-tutelle or co-supervision and can be granted only once during the PhD studies.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ An application proposal must be submitted

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- ✓ The co-tutelle or co-supervised thesis shall be in the field of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS);
- ✓ The bilateral co-tutelle agreement or the co-supervision agreement between the 2 partner universities in EU-CONEXUS must be signed at the moment of the application.
- ✓ Both supervisors from EU-CONEXUS partner universities must agree to the application;
- ✓ The PhD student has to send the **completed application form** (Annex 1) to the following email address: doctoralschool@eu-conexus.eu ;
- ✓ The call is continuous until July 2026 and the maximum number of grants is 15.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The PhD grant can be used for supporting travel, accommodation, registration fees for one or more activities for study or train at one or more partners in EU-CONEXUS during the doctoral studies :

- Attending courses opened by the EU-CONEXUS partners for PhD students, either on SmUCS or transversal topics
- Attending trainings opened by the EU-CONEXUS partners for PhD students, either on SmUCS or transversal topics
- Attending summer schools organized by EU-CONEXUS and/or by its partners
- Attending training events in the field of the doctoral studies

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposal will be assessed with regard to 2 main criteria:

- ✓ **Relevance**:
  - Relevance of the PhD thesis for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability;

  Relevance of the proposed education and training activities for the PhD thesis
- ✓ **Eligibility criteria:**

  - Existence of the bilateral co-tutelle agreement or the co-supervision agreement between 2 EU-CONEXUS partners duly signed and in force and agreement of the 2 co-supervisors for the application.

  Absence of double funding for mobilities for education and training ensured through a declaration of the candidate that there is no double funding and a verification from the EU CONEXUS management if such double funding exists from other programs of EU CONEXUS

EU-CONEXUS Doctoral School working group (WP4 EU-CONEXUS PLUS) will evaluate the application,

and the approved application will be sent for validation to EU-CONEXUS Research and Academic Councils. A response for each application will be received by applicant no later than 30 days from the day of submission.

FUNDING CRITERIA

- ✓ The funding/grant is **€3000 (VAT included) per student** and it can be used for one or more mobilities during the PhD studies in the above mentioned conditions
- ✓ Co-funding is allowed whether it comes from the partners' own funds or from public or private funds;
- ✓ The grant will be awarded to the PhD student by EU-CONEXA organization.
- ✓ The process will be managed by ISBL. Please refer to their procedure for the justification papers and others.

For any question you can contact the us at the address: doctoralschool@eu-conexus.eu .

Annex 1 - Application for EU-CONEXUS PhD Grant

Applicant (name, surname): Contact mail and phone number:	
1) University: 2) Faculty / Research unit (Department/Laboratory/Centre/Institute)	
Thesis topic:	
Name and contact of the supervisor at the home university:	Faculty / Research unit (Department, Laboratory, Centre, Institute): Name, surname: Contact details:
Name and contact of the supervisor at the host university:	Faculty / Research unit (Department, Laboratory, Centre, Institute): Name, surname: Contact details:
Relevance of the topic for SmUCS	
Activities to be funded (description of the activities that are intended to be funded using the PhD grant, skills and learning / training outcomes or other results to be expected after using the grant). Relevance of the education and training activities for the PhD thesis	
Data regarding the bilateral co-tutelle agreement or co-supervised agreement (should be attached)	Date of the signature of the bilateral cotutelle agreement or co-supervision agreement:

Signature of applicant	Signature of PhD supervisor at home university
	Signature of PhD supervisor at host university

Methodology to ensure absence of double funding for the PhD grant under EU-CONEXUS Plus project

EU-CONEXUS Plus grants under WP4 funds mobilities for education and training purposes.

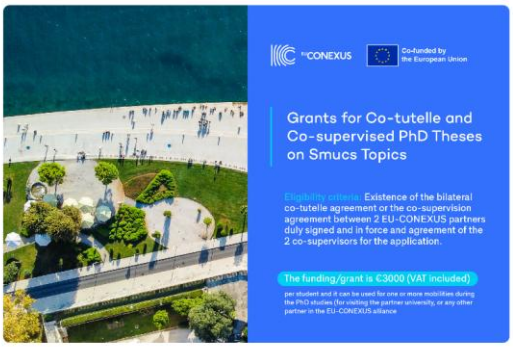
In order to ensure the absence of double funding, especially for the PhD students who are funded by other EU grants, here is the methodology to be applied in the section of the applicants for the PhD mobility grants:

1. In the application form: the student must include the information if he/she is funded by another EU project for the PhD thesis and give the name of the project, university coordinating the project and link to the project website.
2. Annexed to the application form, the student must sign a sworn statement explaining that the mobility grant given under EU-CONEXUS Plus project will be used for educational purpose only and the student confirms he/she will not ask for another refund by another EU project and if this is the case, he/she will be entitled to refund the amount requested.
3. In the case that the student is funded by another EU project, WP4 selection committee must liaise with the project coordinator * to discuss and make sure the student did/will not claim the same costs twice for the same activity. The process is the following:
    - When the application is received and declared eligible by the WP4 selection committee, WP4 leaders must send the application by email to the other project coordinator.
    - In case the project coordinator is not known, the institutional coordinator of the university coordinating the project must be contacted by the WP4 leaders to get the contacts details.
4. The project coordinator has to reply to the email and confirm the absence of double funding under 7 calendar days. The project coordinator must liaise with the local coordinator of the project (if any) to inform him/her. He/she needs to make sure the student will not claim the cost in the future.
5. The application cannot be considered eligible if the project coordinator has not confirmed by email the absence of double funding for the costs claimed
6. In case of doubts, WP4 leaders and the project coordinator must clarify the doubts together and with the student (f.e. Organise a virtual meeting online, by emails or any other means).
7. In case of double funding, and as stated in the sworn statement, the student must refund the grant to the EU-CONEXUS Plus or other EU project. The relevant project partner should be informed and send its refund policy to the student. The refund must take place under 30 calendar days.

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Please make sure you fill in the document titled Sworn Statement and that you carefully go through the document Methodology to ensure absence of double funding for the PhD grant under EU.

This activity is organised under the EU-funded Project EU-CONEXUS Plus (Project number 101089709) titled : "A significant step forward for the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability" .

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