

**CALL OPENING**  
**15TH OF DECEMBER 2015**



## **ERA-NET COFUND SMART URBAN FUTURES CALL TO OPEN 15TH OF DECEMBER 2015**

**In the ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures Call cities and civil society in Europe can address urgent and long-term challenges by co-creating ideas and projects.**

### **Cities as challenges and possibilities**

Europe is today fully immersed in the urban age, with 80 per cent of its citizens living in cities and urban areas. European cities and urban areas are the main drivers of economic development and growth, knowledge and creative generation/production, innovation and benefactors for the liveability.

However, cities are not yet sustainable in a broad and substantial sense and also contribute to deprivation, poor health and environmental damage. Therefore there is an identified need for integrative procedures in how to conceive new knowledge and implement new solutions to tackle transition pathways.

The ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures (ENSUF) has been established by the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe in order to initiate a transnational joint call for RDI proposals.

Current sector-specific initiatives and priorities are mostly elaborated in isolation from each other. Moreover, the overall challenge today is to move to action through dialogue: from a sector oriented technocratic approach to one that recognises more diverse viewpoints and rationalities.

The call topics will enable participants to develop projects that aim for substantial impact in shaping smart urban futures.



## CALL TOPICS: WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The projects submitted in this call should aim to cover new and innovative approaches, promote interdisciplinary research and collaboration, and encourage the involvement of civil society, thus bridging gaps between research disciplines, citizens and decision makers, cities and consumers.

### Funding

A total amount of public funding of maximum 24.5 M€ will be provided by national and regional funding agencies from 18 European countries, including support from Horizon 2020.

### Three call topics have been identified:

#### Concepts and strategies for smart urban transformation, growth and shrinkage

While patterns of transformation growth and shrinkage pose challenges to cities across Europe they also offer opportunities. The projects should create a better understanding of the interplay between cities and their surrounding rural areas in terms of land-use, transport, environment, energy, identify how transformation, growth and shrinkage dynamics can be exploited as an opportunity to revise

spatial structures, decision processes and stakeholder cooperation and strengthen favourable practices towards better livelihoods and quality of life.

#### New dynamics of public services

In recent decades many urban areas in Europe have seen a significant change in the structure and organisation of public service provision. Recent game-changing circumstances and dynamics stemming from economic, social and environmental trends intensify the necessity to rethink traditional models. This topic aims to develop new and innovative approaches in the realm of public services to increase the capacity of urban areas to answer local challenges.

#### Inclusive, vibrant and accessible urban communities

This topic examines the everyday needs and challenges facing different social and cultural groups in the city, and how individual and community practices, urban governance, businesses, infrastructures and urban regeneration can support sustainable urban development and the peaceful integration of diverse communities.

## Why apply?

This joint call also offers access to JPI Urban Europe and its network of researchers, practitioners, stakeholders and experts in urban development. Projects funded via this call will become part of the programme of the JPI Urban Europe. Programme activities include knowledge sharing, networking, programme seminars, dissemination of results and a central programme website.

## Who can participate?

Each project proposal must be submitted by a project consortium consisting of at least three eligible applicants from at least three participating countries.

The following categories involved in development of European urban areas can join consortia:

- **Researchers**
- **Practitioners**
- **Innovators**
- **Other stakeholders**

*Areas (e.g.): science, social sciences and humanities, SMEs or other businesses, NGOs, cities, social entrepreneurs etc.*

Each of the applicants must have the interest and competence to undertake research, development or innovation within the specified topics. The different national rules of funding apply.

Partners from countries not officially participating in the call are welcome in a consortium but they need to fund their activities from other sources.

## Application

For this call a two-stage procedure will be adopted. In the first stage, consortia are invited to submit pre-proposals, the

# TIME SCHEDULE

**Pre-proposal deadline**  
mid-March 2016

**Invitations for applicants to submit full proposal**  
June 2016

**Full proposal deadline**  
September 2016

**Funding decisions announced**  
December 2016

**Start of projects**  
December 2016–March 2017

evaluation focusing on innovativeness, potential impact and composition of the consortia. A selection of approximately 50 pre-proposals will be made. The successful consortia will then be invited to elaborate their ideas to full proposals.

## Evaluation

Eligible proposals, both pre-proposals and full proposals, will be evaluated in an open competition in which an independent international expert panel will rank proposals according to the call's evaluation criteria. The panel will consist of recognised experts in relevant fields, who can assess the potential of the submitted smart urban futures projects. The panel will be appointed by the participating funding organisations.

Updated information on this joint call and all relevant documents (official and legal documents) including national contact persons will be published on [www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu](http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu)

## SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

If you have questions on the general call process and proposal submission, please contact the JPI Urban Europe Call Secretariat:

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## PARTICIPATING FUNDING AGENCIES

If you have questions on the national funding rules contact your national contact person.

**Austria** FFG

**Belgium** DGO6, Innoviris, FNRS

**Cyprus** RPF

**Denmark** IFD

**France** ANR

**Finland** TEKES, AKA

**Italy** MIUR

**Latvia** VIAA

**Lithuania** LMT

**The Netherlands** NWO

**Norway** RCN

**Poland** NCN

**Portugal** FCT

**Romania** UEFISCDI

**Slovenia** ARRS

**Sweden** Formas, Swedish Energy Agency, VINNOVA

**Turkey** TÜBITAK

**United Kingdom** AHRC, EPSRC, ESRC, Innovate UK

For national contact information please visit [www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu](http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu)

### **ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures (ENSUF)**

The ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures call initiates transnational joint calls for RDI proposals, developing our knowledge of the urban condition and sustainable development through creation and testing of new methods, tools, and technologies required to overcome current economic, social, and environmental challenges. ENSUF is supported by the European Commission and funded under the Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Cofund scheme.

### **JPI Urban Europe**

The aim of the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe is to create attractive, sustainable and economically viable urban areas, in which European citizens, communities and their surroundings can thrive. JPI Urban Europe coordinates research and innovation for making better use of Europe's public funds.

[www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu](http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu)

