



1st Call for Project Proposals

Research Hub “Transforming Infrastructures for Sustainable Cities”

Deadline: 2 November, 2018

Who can apply?

Are you an UU researcher involved in research on cities and infrastructure, who is looking for initial funding in order to collaborate with researchers from other disciplines and faculties?

With the seed money fund, the Infrastructure and Sustainable Cities hub intends to stimulate new research ideas, facilitate new internal and external collaborations, bring together researchers across UU’s faculties and to foster new ways of research impact. By connecting our knowledge and collaborating with stakeholders in transdisciplinary settings, the hub aims to explore and provide sustainable infrastructure solutions for cities of the future. Our ambition is to investigate and test practices that help transform cities and their infrastructures in a sustainable way.

Background

Within Utrecht University’s strategic theme “[Pathways to Sustainability](#)” an interdisciplinary team of researchers has developed the challenging research hub “[Transforming Infrastructures for Sustainable Cities](#)”. In this program, faculty members from different disciplines, together with local, national and international stakeholders have developed a platform for new transdisciplinary collaborations on urban sustainability transformations. One of the key mediators of such transformations are technical infrastructures—socio-technical systems in the provision of energy, water, wastewater, waste, mobility and information and communication services. However, changing those urban infrastructures towards sustainability imposes exceptionally high requirements in terms of the transformation knowledge and practices for decision makers.

It is the objective of the research hub to stimulate and sustain cross-faculty collaborations that deepen our knowledge on change practices and techniques of urban infrastructures which look across sectoral and often ‘siloes’ urban systems (energy, water, wastewater, transportation, solid waste etc.) within specific settings. We ask: how do transitions in individual domains interact and how could “siloes” domains be better integrated to stimulate urban transitions toward circular economies, urban healthy living, urban



resilience and inclusivity? How do or could innovative change techniques and practices (e.g. urban experiments, co-design, governance approaches, decision-support systems, sustainability assessment tools, 'socio-technical imaginaries') contribute to such transitions? The hub explores such pathways in a global perspective. Beyond the Utrecht/Amsterdam region it will engage with urban regions that represent a diversity of spatial settings, technological cultures, transformative practices and governance settings: Berlin, Toronto, Los Angeles, Nanjing, New Delhi, Dar es Salaam, São Paulo and Melbourne.

Requirements

We invite applications from members of Utrecht University for seed funding that reflect an innovative approach in exploring urban sustainability transformations through the lens of technical infrastructures. More specifically, we offer seed funding for activities that

- * aim to acquire external funding for research activities on urban and infrastructural sustainability transformations with the potential of substantial societal impact;
- * develop strong engagement with urban stakeholders to tackle sustainability challenges and bring the transdisciplinary agenda of the hub and the strategic theme forward (e.g. stakeholder workshops), and/or
- * contribute innovative and high-quality perspectives and insights to the hub's research agenda on urban and infrastructure transitions (e.g. academic workshops, major publication projects).

The proposal (with a maximum of 2 pages, excl. references) should have a well-defined focus towards the initiation of research projects, stakeholder collaborations and academic products that contribute to the research and goals of the hub "Transforming Infrastructures for Sustainable Cities". It should demonstrate clear deliverables that lead to writing an external research proposal bringing together innovative consortia and/or stimulate other research activities beyond its funding period. Each proposal has to be submitted by at least 2 UU scholars from different faculties/disciplines. We encourage collaboration with external parties. Societal external partners can join an application, but funding cannot be granted to external personnel. The proposal briefly outlines the theme, the research questions and objectives, the researchers/stakeholders involved, the deliverables, interdisciplinarity, academic and societal relevance and budget. Please submit your proposal in the attached format (see Annex).



The total budget of the 2018 seed-funding call is € 65,000 (two further calls for seed funding will be launched in 2019). The maximum grant per project is € 20.000. Each applicant can only participate in one proposal in this call. Members of the hub's core team are excluded as applicants. Projects must be completed within 2019.

Assessment criteria

- * The potential contribution to strengthen the research hub's goals and profile.
- * Academic quality and innovation.
- * The potential in successfully acquiring external funding or stimulating activities beyond the seed funding.
- * Potential scientific and societal impact.
- * The extent of interfaculty, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration.
- * Track record and expertise of the applicants.

Procedure and timeline

- * Launch of the call 02 October, 2018
- * Submit by email to the hub manager (future.cities@uu.nl)
- * **Deadline is Friday, 2 November, 2018, 17:00 CET.**
- * The hub's core team will discuss and rank all eligible proposals. Members of this core team will not contribute to the decision process of proposals of their own group.
- * Publication of the **decision** will ultimately take place at the end of **November, 2018.**

Justification and Report after the grant

At the end of the seed money grant the applicant must hand in:

- * Proof of the results (submitted proposal for an external call/workshop report, other deliverables);
- * A short, written report for the website;
- * A presentation for one of the hub's public lectures.

Questions

If you have questions about the call and the criteria, please contact the hub manager (future.cities@uu.nl; the email will be functional in the course of this week).



Research Hub "Transforming Cities through Infrastructures" Research Project Seed Money Call 2018

<Maximum amount pages 2 A4 excl. references>

1. Applicant's information

< Please fill in on the first row the name of the main applicant >

Name	Faculty	Email	Discipline	Position

2. Title and summary

- Proposal seed money project title:
- Theme and aim of the planned external proposal (incl. envisaged external call), workshop rationale, publication project etc.
-
- Objectives and summary, including approach

3. Deliverable(s)

< Describe the expected deliverable(s) of your project >

4. Contribution to the scope of the research hub

< Describe the potential contribution to strengthen the research hub's goals and research profile >

5. Budget

< Please include the general planning of the project. Overhead costs cannot be reimbursed >

- Material costs
- Personnel

6. CV

- Top 3 relevant papers per applicant
- Relevant scholarships, prizes, grants per applicant