

Urban Innovative Actions – Fifth Call for Proposals – 2019

Borough Briefing

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Urban Innovative Actions

Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an initiative of the European Commission. The programme was launched in order to identify and test new solutions which address issues related to sustainable urban development and are of relevance at Union level. The main aim of the UIA initiative is to provide urban authorities across Europe with space and resources to test bold and unproven ideas addressing interconnected challenges and experiment how these respond to the complexity of real life. Projects supported shall be innovative, of good quality, designed and implemented with the involvement of key local stakeholders, result oriented and transferable. The European Commission has selected four topics that will be included in the fifth call for proposals: circular economy, culture and cultural heritage, demographic change and air quality. This briefing will focus on the last topic, **air quality**.

Timescale for bidding

- Planned opening date of the calls: September 2019
- Deadline for submissions: December 2019

Funding and co-financing

The initiative has a total European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) budget of €372 million for 2014-2020. **UIA offers a funding rate of 80%** and will fund projects up to €5 million.

Applying for UIA funding: some key guidelines

- The application is undertaken online through an application form where the project idea, rationale, partnership, main objectives and results as well as work plan and budget are detailed.
- The project activities should be organised in work packages (activity, deliverable, output), detailing the preparation, project management, communication, implementation and investment necessary for the full achievement of the project.
- The application is assessed through two lenses. The strategic assessment is based on how innovative the proposal is (40%), the relevance of the partnership (15%), the measurability of the results (15%) and finally the transferability of the proposed pilot (10%). The remaining twenty percent is determined by the operational assessment, that looks at the quality of the proposal (realistic, coherent, demonstrating value for money etc.)
- The full guidance is available [here](#).

Air Quality: scope of the call

Public authorities are key stakeholders for implementing measures to achieve deliver cleaner air in cities. For this call, UIA is encouraging cities to develop innovative solutions, building upon past EU projects and reports such as:

- The 2013 [Air Implementation pilot](#)
- The 2018 report on [Europe's urban air quality](#)
- LIFE or Horizon 2020 projects (for example [Clair City](#), [ISCAPE](#), [ICARUS](#) or [LIFE Gystra](#))

Authorities are invited to submit pilot project ideas that deal with:

- **Clean commuting:** reducing the impact of commuter traffic from the outer city into the centre
- **Clean air and climate:** supporting synergies between energy, climate and air quality measures
- **Clean air for all:** trial solutions that target more vulnerable (children, elderly)/exposed resident groups living in high pollution or deprived areas
- **Clean air citizen science:** use of indicative air quality measurements, increase cooperation between stakeholders
- **Clean air communication:** increase public acceptance of clean air measures to stimulate behaviour change
- **Clean air governance:** design innovative models for multi-level and across department cooperation

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Past UIA projects on Air Quality

Urban Innovative Actions had previously launched a call on Air Quality for its third round of funding. The five selected projects were:

- [DIAMS](#) Digital Alliance for Marseille Sustainability: creating an innovative information system on air quality
- [AirQon](#) Air Quality through EV Battery Connectivity: replacing diesel generators used at festivals with energy from visitor electric cars
- [HOPE](#) Healthy Outdoor Premises for Everyone: developing a comprehensive sensor network and an air quality index fed by citizen input
- [AIR-HERITAGE](#) Improving the environmental quality of the City of Portici: Monitoring, Modelling, and Mitigating Air Pollution through participated and efficient Policies: developing a new monitoring station network in preparation of a decision-making tool for public officers and the general public
- [CLAIRO](#) CLear AIR and Climate Adaptation in Ostrava and other cities: exploring the effects of urban greenery on air quality

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