

Urban Innovations Actions (Part of European Regional Development Fund) – Second Call for Proposals Borough Briefing

1.0 Introduction

Urban Innovation 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 stakeholders, result oriented and transferable.

The Europe Commission has selected three topics that will be included in the 2nd call for proposals: integration of migrants and refugees, circular economy and sustainable urban mobility. **Priority three: Sustainable Urban Mobility is most suited to borough priorities.**

2.0 Timescale for bidding

16 December 2016: Opening of the call

14 April 2017: Deadline for submissions (single stage application)

3.0 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. For the second Call for Proposals, an overall budget of €50 million has been allocated.

4.0 Thematic coverage for the second Call for Proposals

For the second Call for Proposals, applicants can submit project proposals addressing the following topics:

- Integration of migrants and refugees
- Circular economy
- Sustainable urban mobility

Urban authorities applying are requested to select only one of the topics proposed. This briefing will provide further information on topic three - **sustainable urban mobility**. [For a full description of all topics please consult the terms of reference available on the UIA website.](#)

As stated, the Commission's desire is to see projects proposed that bring forth creative, innovative and durable solutions to address the various challenges identified. As such, projects are expected to be more **'hands on' with less emphasis on research and more on developing, delivery, testing and piloting innovative policies, approaches and technologies in the field of sustainable urban mobility.**

Project implementation must take place within a maximum of three years; following implementation, a further year is provided for knowledge transfer and closure of the project. [In terms of support to ERDF Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities, the overall project needs to be viewed as supportive of the core priorities of the ERDF.](#)

Specific Challenge: Projects should contribute to the main aim of creating a transport system that meets individual needs for a rapid, efficient, safe and cost effective movement of people and goods. In order to do this, cities need to implement effective alternatives to conventional means of transport and give way to the transition of a more responsible and less polluting transport system.

Scope: There are some key elements urban authorities proposing projects should consider:

- To promote and facilitate cycling (including e-bikes and cargo bikes), a healthy, clean and cost effective means of transport
- To support those solutions that will contribute to the implementation and the development of SUMP's as part of an urban authority's integrated planning strategy
- Innovative multi-modal hubs and mobility services, allowing for a seamless transfer from one mode of transport to another, where passengers are able to take an informed decision, ticketing, routing on how to proceed with their journey in the most effective and sustainable way
- The creation of logistic hubs to reduce congestion and increase average traffic speed
- Endorse shared mobility solutions such as car-pooling or bicycle sharing schemes, which are slowly becoming part of the urban landscape
- Facilitate and implement innovative alternative fuels (e.g. biofuel, energy from waste, electricity from photosynthesis) infrastructure, in particular charging stations for electric vehicles and other incentives
- Contribute to measurable and replicable resource-efficiency solutions by documenting baseline use and observe progress -, through standard indicators and appropriate data collection, formats ,sharing and publishing rules
- Ensure that any solution adopted to handle data is interoperable and based on open standards

Activities: The types of activities proposed include technological, societal, cultural, economic and environmental aspects. They imply an active role for citizens and communities as well as businesses and public transport providers. While urban authorities should experiment with bold ideas, they should involve communities and citizens to ensure an easy transition to more sustainable modes of transport.

5.0 Next steps

Boroughs are encouraged to [contact LEPT](#) with any queries, expressions of interest or project ideas.

Andrew Luck, Transport Manger

Email: andrew.luck@lept-eu.org

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7934 9646

Kate Mouncher, Communications and European Projects Officer

Email: kate.mouncher@lept-eu.org

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7934 9643