

Call for Applications

Seed Mobility Programme on Sustainable Cities and Communities

As part of the **European Campus of City-Universities (EC2U)**, a call for applications is now open for a **seed mobility programme on sustainable cities and communities**.



EC2U and its Virtual Institute for Sustainable Cities and Communities

EC2U is a **multicultural and multilingual Alliance** consisting of nine universities committed to advancing **education, research and innovation**: the University of Coimbra (UC), the University of Iasi (UAIC), the University of Jena (FSU), the University of Linz (JKU), the University of Pavia (UNIPV), the University of Poitiers (UP), the University of Salamanca (USAL), the University of Turku (UTU) and the University of Umeå (UMU).

EC2U addresses key global challenges through its **Virtual Institutes (VIs)**. **The EC2U Virtual Institute for Sustainable Cities and Communities (VISCC)** focuses on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11: **Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG11)** and its sub-targets. This initiative merges the strengths of multidisciplinary education, training and innovation to develop scientific activities aimed at improving urban living conditions and fostering environmental stewardship.

Objectives of the VISCC seed mobility programme

The VISCC seed mobility programme is a cornerstone of the EC2U's commitment to **fostering interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration**. The main objective of the VISCC short mobility programme is to **actively promote in-depth collaboration among researchers and research groups** of the nine EC2U universities, such as:

- **Networking and training visits** on the VISCC topics.
- **Initiation of joint activities** within the VISCC: collaboration in joint projects, publications, presentations at conferences or at scientific events is encouraged.
- **Promotion of interdisciplinarity**: projects engaging multiple disciplines involved in the broad scope of SDG11 and foster collaboration between research groups within the EC2U network are encouraged.

Two specific seed projects were selected for development:

- **Reducing the adverse effects of natural disasters**: This project focuses on reducing the risks linked to anthropogenic climate change and urban sprawl via multidisciplinary perspectives, advanced geospatial techniques, and artificial intelligence technologies.

- **Legal and socio-political dimensions of urban sustainability:** This project focuses on urban sustainability from a legal and social science perspective. Rethinking and reorganising for green social policies and welfare – social sustainability – is thus both a crucial task and a major challenge.

These seed projects aim at **stimulating and incubating the development of interdisciplinary and scientific networking** between the EC2U universities on novel and strategic scientific topics. As the name indicates, they intend to be the **seed for future research cooperations and for the construction of projects** responding to regional and international calls for funding, prolonging the mission and values of EC2U.

Requirements and eligibility

Individuals interested in applying for the seed mobility programme are required to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must hold an **academic position** or be enrolled as a **PhD student** or **Master's thesis student** at **one of the nine EC2U universities**;
- Must be a **member of the VISCC** or must **express their interest to participate** in the VISCC prior to the submission of the mobility proposal;
- Must be able to **undertake the proposed networking or training activities** for the duration of the mobility project;
- Must be able to **publish any outcomes and present them** at conferences/workshops;
- Must have a **working knowledge of English**; documents, grant applications and assessment reports will be submitted in English.

Individuals working directly on the **abovementioned seed projects** or on the **following topics** are encouraged to apply:

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| ➤ Sustainable reuse of buildings | ➤ Urban environment and health |
| ➤ Energy efficiency and sustainability at urban scales | ➤ Heat waves and thermal comfort in cities |
| ➤ Sustainable and clean energy supply | ➤ Indoor environmental quality |
| ➤ Local Energy Communities and energy networks | ➤ Earth surface processes |
| ➤ Sustainable urban governance | ➤ Geospatial modelling |
| ➤ Waste management | ➤ Green infrastructure |
| ➤ Urban Heat Island detection and mitigation | ➤ Nature-based solutions |
| | ➤ Other topic related to Sustainable Cities and Communities |

Funding

A typical mobility will last **5 days** (including travel days). The mobility grant will cover **travel, accommodation, and individual support costs** related to the visits. The mobility grant will be allocated following the **local regulations** of each EC2U university.

Each EC2U University have been allocated **12 grants** for the seed mobilities.

Grantees Obligations

Grantees must demonstrate a commitment to actively engage in the activities associated with EC2U, namely, to become members of the VISCC.

Grantees must write an evaluation report within one month after the grant end date, according to the obligations outlined in the application form.

If these mobilities lead to collaborations that result in the publication of papers, grantees should acknowledge the EC2U support by adding the following sentence to their papers: *"This work has been partially supported by the EC2U Alliance and its Erasmus+ Grant Agreement n° 101124589-EC2U"*.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria :

- 1. Relevance of the application and alignment with the objective of interdisciplinarity**
 - The clarity, relevance, and ambition of the project should demonstrate a strong partnership and/or collaborative dynamic extending beyond the seed mobility.
 - Projects adopting an interdisciplinary approach will be prioritised, involving at least two distinct academic fields.
- 2. Scientific quality of the application, partnerships and implementation**
 - The funding request must be well-justified and aligned with the EC2U Alliance and the seed mobility call's objectives
 - Priority will be given to applications related to the predefined seed project themes.
- 3. Impact and outcomes**
 - The application should show potential to evolve into an initiative eligible for external funding opportunities.
 - Consideration will be given to activities involving scientific outreach, open or participatory science, and the dissemination of knowledge to the broader public.

Calendar

- Launch of the mobility call: 01/10/2025
- Deadline to receive proposals: 15/03/2027
- Notification received within 30 days after the submission of the proposal.
- Mobilities must take place between November 2025 and the 15th of June 2027.

Submission of proposals

To apply, you must:

1. Complete the application form;
2. Send the application form to your local university representative of the VISCC (see contact information below) before the end of the call (15/03/2027).

Applications will be evaluated firstly locally by the EC2U Universities and then by the VISCC Board.

Contact points

Applications should be submitted to your **local VISCC university representative**:

- UC: ana.amaral@uc.pt
- FSU: alexander.brenning@uni-jena.de
- UAIC: lucian.sfica@uaic.ro
- JKU: maria.buchmayr@jku.at
- UNIPV: marco.morandotti@unipv.it
- UP: celine.fontaine@univ-poitiers.fr
- USAL: rastrollo@usal.es
- UTU: jukka.kayhko@utu.fi
- UMU: katrin.holmqvist-sten@umu.se

Questions regarding the mobility grants can also be submitted to **the EC2U local coordinators**:

- UC: ec2u@uc.pt
- FSU: ec2u@uni-jena.de
- UAIC: petronela.spiridon@uaic.ro
- JKU: ec2u@jku.at
- UNIPV: ec2u.localcoordinators@unipv.it
- UP: ec2u@univ-poitiers.fr
- USAL: ec2u@usal.es
- UTU: ec2u@utu.fi
- UMU: ec2u@umu.se