COVID-19 Crisis Response Call for Proposals 2020

As part of the EIT's Crisis Response Initiative, this activity directly contributes to the European Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

EIT Urban Mobility - Mobility for more liveable urban spaces

Contents

Introduction

EIT Urban Mobility has reallocated budgets to open a new call dedicated to addressing urban mobility challenges posed by COVID-19 crisis as part of the EIT's Crisis Response Initiative. This activity directly contributes to the European Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The exceptional COVID-19 Crisis Response Call (COVID CRC) has simplified procedures and an accelerated process. Additionally, substantial simplifications have been made on eligibility criteria, terms and conditions. Proposed activities must be implemented and completed within the 2020 calendar year. The available fund will be up to EUR 7 million[1].

To account for the extraordinary circumstances and urgency, EIT Urban Mobility proposes the following notable changes.

- All partner categories can receive up to **100% funding** within Horizon 2020 eligible costs. Co-funding will be favourably assessed.
- Category "**Project partner**" funding cap is raised to EUR 200k.
- **Subcontracting** must adhere to EIT Urban Mobility and H2020 standard conditions.[2]
- KCA contribution, while welcome, **is not required**.
- **Financial Sustainability Mechanism** contributions are not obligatory but will be favourably assessed.
- Dissemination & communication will be **centrally coordinated** to allow partners to focus on the response action.
- The evaluation and negotiation period will be **4 to 5 weeks**.
- Projects can start in July 2020.
- Project consortium shall consist of at least **two entities from two different countries**.

The following pages contain:
1. Strategic Objectives
2. Scope
3. Eligibility Criteria
4. Quality Criteria
5. Expected Output
6. Submission
7. Evaluation

Questions related to the process, EIT definitions and requirements and other general aspects of the exceptional COVID-19 Crisis Response Call can be addressed to: COVID19Call@eiturbanmobility.eu.

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[1] The total funding amount available for "COVID-19 Crisis Response Call" projects is dependent on the freed funding from other EIT Urban Mobility actions and any additional support offered.
[2] Given the need for rapid action, subcontracting will be an element of most proposals. Note though, that only sub elements of proposals may be subcontracted remaining compliant with Horizon 2020 best price and service rules.

1. EIT Urban Mobility Strategic Objectives

EIT Urban Mobility's five strategic objectives remain unchanged; however, they should be interpreted in context of a COVID-19 response and the ensuing challenges to the urban mobility sector such as societal confidence in shared services, health, and mass transit continuity. A strategy guidance table is provided below that sets the tone for the call. It is neither exhaustive nor limiting in scope.

Objective	COVID-19 Considerations
SO1 - Create liveable urban spaces	Social distancing, novel disinfection, healthy living, short term land reuse, road repurpose, mental and physical wellbeing by design.
S02 - Close the knowledge gap	Skilling public and private providers, mobility workers, citizens and politician and options for response and long-term recovery skills and knowhow.
SO3 - Deploy user-centric, integrated mobility solutions	Providing safe and secure transport systems, expanding mobility offerings, targeted mobility services for the vulnerable or essential workers, protecting urban mobility workers and public transport continuity.
SO4 - Accelerate market opportunities	Defending existing market development, reinforcing start-ups and early stage innovation, promoting circular economy, new materials adoption, data privacy and protection verses service personalisation.
SO5 – Promote effective policies and behaviour change	Building both economic and social resilience, modal correction, supporting rapid policy response, tracking and tracing, pricing/zoning control, business model adaptation, community empowerment and support actions.

2. Scope

To meet the exceptional scope of the COVID-19 Crisis Response Call, projects should:

- Address the COVID-19 outbreak exclusively and provide an innovative transversal approach that can address multiple areas such as innovation, citizen engagement, technology, and education;
- Ensure rapid implementation and the use of the allocated budget by the end of 2020;
- Have a planned duration of circa 4 to 6 months;
- Generate an immediate/short-term impact meeting the COVID-19 challenge within the urban mobility area;
- Achieve measured outputs by the end of 2020;
- Generate products/services/solutions with impact that can be scaled;
- Contribute to the EIT Core KPIs in the area of innovation: EITN03 - # Products (goods or services) or processes launched on the market;
- Support adoption and repurposing of urban mobility business models, services and/or networks to respond to crisis events; and,
- Take into consideration wider issues related to COVID-19 such as capacity management, data privacy, community resilience, business models, social psychology, micro mobility and potential modal shift reversal, and environmental pollution.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Proposals for COVID-19 Crisis Response Call must:

- Be led by EIT Urban Mobility Core Partner, existing Project Partner or an experienced Linked Third Party, with full partner company approval;
- Have partners from a minimum of two countries, while representation from across two EIT Urban Mobility Innovation Hubs is preferred;
- Follow the regular cost-eligibly rules of EIT-funded projects outlined in H2020 AMGA;
- Ensure that all new partners submit necessary organisation documentation[3] before award on 30 June;
- Accept the administrative fees charge of 20% to new partners;
- Consist of partners registered in an EU country or an H2020 associated country; and,
- Agree to participate in the EIT Urban Mobility *COVID-19 Crisis Response* collective dissemination and communication plan.

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[3] PLAZA Partner Information Form and Annex 3

4. Quality Criteria

Proposals for COVID-19 Crisis Response Call should:

- Have a proposed funding per project of up to EUR 700k;
- Have high impact on the COVID-19 crisis;
- Build on knowledge triangle integration;
- Build on existing activities, competencies, and products/services to allow for swift and high-quality delivery and market uptake;
- Involve demonstrators such as cities, regional governments and transport providers or concession holders;
- Have a solid scientific/technological background for the provision of passenger safety and mobility workers' wellbeing;
- Implement fast track projects to address the COVID-19 crisis with clear solution (product/service/business model);
- Make a significant impact in quality of urban life and mobility services; and,
- Involve SMEs, industry, and start-ups.

5. Expected Output

High TRL **solutions, technology and experience from adjacent sectors** should be used in EIT Urban Mobility COVID-19 Crisis Response Call. These technologies or services will need to be adapted to specific challenges and integrated into the business and operations of mobility services within six months. As such, **definitions of output and deliverables have been altered** for this call.

White papers, feasibility studies, workshops, and work package reports will not be eligible as output or deliverables in the COVID-19 Crisis Response Call[4]. A TRL level of 6 and above is expected. Acceptable output/deliverables will be **prototype builds, completed tests, and demonstration of product/service/ solutions with end users**. These deliverables should incorporate knowledge from user design, feasibility reports, academic and citizen input; however, in and of themselves, they are not deliverables. All proposal should have demonstration of solution/products and **services in-situ by the end of November 2020** to allow testing through December 2020. A final project report will be due in December 2020.

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[4] The Final Project Report is a formal deliverable.

6. Submission

- The COVID-19 Response Call will be opened on 8 May 2020.
- The Call will close on 31 May 2020 at 16:00 CET.
- Proposals are to be submitted directly on PLAZA here.
- Granting decisions on first projects are expected by early July 2020.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation of each proposal will be based on five criteria:

- Excellence, novelty, and strategic fit (score weight 25%);
- Solution readiness, consortium and workplan (score weight 25%);
- Co-financing offered and evidenced (10%);
- Implementation plan (score weight 20%); and,
- Impact (score weight 20%)

Based on the available budget, an external reviewer evaluation (step 1) and a review of portfolio fit & balance (step 2), proposals will be classified in one of four categories: **A**: viable as submitted, **B**: viable with minor changes, **C**: viable with changes and, **X**: non-viable as submitted.

An award decision is planned for 30 June 2020. Based on this decision, projects can start in July 2020 and will be included in the Amended EIT Urban Mobility Business Plan 2020 scheduled for 31 August 2020.