



Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT)

Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future is the new programme of JPI Urban Europe starting in 2022. The [DUT Partnership](#) steps up the game to tackle urban challenges. Through research and innovation, authorities and municipalities, business, and citizens shall be enabled to translate global strategies into local action. The partnership aims to develop the skills and tools to make urban change happen and boost the urgently needed urban transformations towards a sustainable future with enhanced quality of life in cities.

DUT is realised as a European partnership of more than 60 partners from 27 countries, involving national and regional policy makers, funders and urban-related policy agencies to invest in urban R&I and strengthen a European innovation eco-system for urban transitions. Building upon the JPI Urban Europe achievements, DUT aims to create a strong community around urban transitions and to establish a well-known research and innovation platform that will help cities become more sustainable, inclusive and liveable.

Our future relies on tackling complex grand challenges here and now, many of which must be addressed within cities and by urban communities. The DUT Partnership therefore aims to address these challenges with an integrated approach to offer decision makers in municipalities, companies and society the means to act and enable the necessary urban transformations. In order to support cities along their specific strategies, the partnership focuses on three critical urban sectors and their interrelationships.

[The Circular Urban Economies Transition Pathway \(CUE\)](#)

CUE wants to foster the design of urban places characterized by regenerative urbanism, by which we mean liveable, inclusive, and green communities and neighbourhoods that are sustained by circular urban economies and resource flows.

[The Positive Energy Districts Transition Pathway \(PED\)](#)

PED aims to optimise the local energy system through energy efficiency, flexibility and local energy generation from renewables in actions towards the (urban) energy transition and climate-neutrality and mainstreaming these actions in urban planning processes.

[The 15-minute City Transition Pathway \(15mC\)](#)

15mC focusses on rethinking the existing mobility system and urban morphology to encourage sustainable mobility choices, redistribute urban space and reorganise our daily activities so to make our cities more climate neutral, liveable and inclusive.



1 Participation of Swiss Organisations

This Partnership is aimed at all types of organisations and entities that can contribute to the DUT vision: SMEs, start-ups, for-profit and non-profit organisations, smart cities, research partners, local or regional government entities.

A novelty in this partnership is that three Swiss Funding Agencies, [Innosuisse](#), the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#) and the [Federal Office of Energy](#), are complementing each other to fund projects across the value chain from research to implementation. The projects have to be categorised as either research oriented or innovation oriented approach. The conditions and contacts of the three funding agencies are in our [Factsheet](#).

In order find partners and build a DUT consortium, you can use the [B2Match Platform](#). Swiss partners can lead projects and take the role as a consortium leader, too. A DUT consortium must consist of at least three participating countries, whereas two have to be EU Member States or [Horizon Europe Associated Countries](#). The respective national and/or regional eligibility criteria apply.

2 Submit a proposal

The DUT Partnership manages the application procedure and the evaluation centrally. All relevant information and documents are available on the [partnership website](#) as well as the access to the submission platform. Please note that the Partnership uses a two-step approach, with Pre- and Full Proposals. Funding decisions will be announced in July 2024 by the DUT Partnership.

3 Innosuisse eligibility criteria

Projects submitted under a DUT call must fulfil following national eligibility criteria:

- The Swiss part of the consortium must at least contain of one Swiss implementation partner¹. Participation of a Swiss research partner is optional.
- Swiss implementation partners can be end user organizations, cities, companies or other organizations based in Switzerland. A Swiss company identification number is generally considered evidence of its headquarters in Switzerland.
- Swiss research partners can be higher education research centres according to article 4 letter c RIPA² or non-commercial research centres outside the higher education sector according to article 5 RIPA.
- The share of the total eligible costs of the Swiss implementation partners must be higher than the cost of the Swiss research partner/s.

4 Funding rates

Research partners	100 % of the eligible costs
Implementation partners: SMEs, start-ups, for-profit and non-profit organisations, cities, local or regional government counting less than 250 full-time-equivalents	50 % of the eligible costs
Large companies and other implementation partners counting more than 250 full-time-equivalents	25 % of the eligible costs

¹ Implementation partners: organisations that later produce, sell or apply the results of the projects in practice, see also [SME Definition](#) by the EU commission

² Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation, [SR 420.1](#)

Implementation partners with less than 250 FTE requesting more than CHF 1 Mio. funding, have to submit a due diligence form to Innosuisse before the Full proposal deadline. The form can be downloaded from the [Innosuisse Call Website](#). If Innosuisse already checked the due diligence in the context of another Innosuisse funding instrument, the result will be considered accordingly. If the requested amount is less than CHF 1 Mio. they must submit the latest financial statements (annual accounts) over two years. Start-ups who do not have financial statements available, may submit a Business Plan. Contact for the submission see Chapter 7.

5 Eligible costs

Only costs directly related to the DUT project plan are eligible. They are defined in the present document, according to the Ordinance of 20 January 2021 on the measures for the participation of Switzerland in the Programmes of the European Union in the field of research and innovation (SR 420.126, in German³). Only salary costs documented by employment contracts of Swiss project partners or costs invoiced directly to Swiss project partners will be reimbursed.

All expenses must be specified and documented in detail for reporting and auditing purposes.

5.1 Salaries

For universities pursuant to Article 4 letter c RIPA, the institution's usual salary rates apply. Only effective wage costs will be reimbursed.

For companies as well as non-commercial research institutions and institutions outside the higher education sector, effective wage costs are eligible up to the following maximum amounts:

Employee category	Gross hourly rate	Gross annual salary
Project coordinator, deputy project coordinator, experienced researcher	max. CHF 119/h	max. CHF 220'500
Research assistant, scientific collaborator	max. CHF 68/h	max. CHF 126'000
Technician, Programmer	max. CHF 61/h	max. CHF 113'400
Postgraduate, Assistant	max. CHF 46/h	max. CHF 85'100

The gross hourly rates correspond to an annual full-time equivalent of 2100 hours including 13.5% holiday and public holiday compensation. On top of the gross salary rates, the effective social costs of the employee and of the employer are eligible.

Only salaries of personnel with a Swiss employment contract of a partner registered in Switzerland are eligible. Employees working at a foreign subsidiary count as subcontractors.

5.2 Fixed assets

Depreciation of fixed assets necessary for the execution of the project are eligible costs, unless the asset is fully depreciated by third-party funds specifically earmarked for this purpose. The depreciation rates for equipment are determined in accordance with the internal accounting rules. If the asset is not used exclusively for the project, the respective actual share of use in the project may be taken into account. The proportion of use of the asset must be verifiable (e.g. by means of laboratory records) and auditable. The following depreciating calculation applies:

$$\text{fixed asset depreciation cost} = \frac{\text{purchase price}}{\text{lifetime}} * \text{time fixed asset is reserved for project}$$

³ FIPBV <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2021/72/de>.

5.3 Consumables

Consumables which are necessary for the execution of the project and are accounted for in the proposal and in the description of work, are eligible costs. Details will be negotiated during the elaboration of a national financial plan in the case the project receives a confirmation for funding.

5.4 Travel costs

Travel costs within Switzerland are not eligible for funding.

Internationals travel costs, which are necessary for the execution of the project, are eligible costs. Travel costs for conferences abroad are only eligible for funding, if participation is linked directly to the DUT project and the partner makes an active contribution to the conference (presentation, poster, paper, booth). Effective costs for hotels are eligible up to CHF 300.- per night. Expenses for meals abroad are reimbursed at the following flat rates: CHF 14.- for breakfast; CHF 27.- for lunch or dinner. All other expenses must be specified and documented in detail.

5.5 Subcontracting

Subcontracting is eligible for funding, if it is duly justified and complements the project partners own contribution to the project in a suitable way. It should not cover key work packages of the project and already existing project partners cannot be subcontracted.

5.6 Overhead costs

Overhead costs correspond to the Innosuisse rate of 15 % except for research institutions with a separate agreement with Innosuisse.

Overhead costs include for example accounting fees, advertising, insurance, project related legal fees, office rent and supplies, telephone bills, etc.

5.7 Non-eligible costs

Costs, which are not essential for the execution of the project and its work packages are not eligible for funding.

6 Payments

Innosuisse contribution will be paid according to following schedule: The first payment after the signature of the contracts and the Consortium Agreement will cover 50%, the mid-term payment is 30% and the final payment 20% of the total funding contribution.

7 Contact

Please read the provided information on the [DUT Call 2023](#) carefully.

For more information on the DUT Partnership and Innosuisse funding you can contact:

Ms Larissa Beutler, Scientific officer Thematic EU Partnerships
Phone: +41 58 467 16 05; larissa.beutler@innosuisse.ch