

« EU-DOCS for SmUCS » - MSCA COFUND

Guide for subject proposal

— Call #2 deadline: December 12th 2025

univ-larochelle.fr

1. Cotutelle partners

Each thesis is funded for a period of 36 months. It has to be a "cotutelle" between La Rochelle Université and a foreign university. Below is a non-exhaustive list of academic partners involved in SmUCS issues.

Academic partners	
University of Zadar	Croatia
Frederick University	Cyprus
University of Rostock	Germany
Agricultural University of Athens	Greece
South East Technological University	Ireland
Klaipeda University	Lithuania
Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest	Romania
Catholic University of Valencia	Spain
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	Spain
Deakin University	Australia
University of Calgary	Canada
University of Sherbrooke	Canada
University of Helsinki	Finland
University of Cape Coast	Ghana
Universita Degli Studi Dell'Aquila	Italy
Sapienza University of Rome	Italy
University of Barcelona	Spain
Universidad de Sevilla	Spain
Case Western Reserve University	USA
University of Science & Technology of Hanoi	Vietnam

Academic partners (non-exhaustive list)

The concept of **Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS)** means focusing on education, research, innovation and knowledge sharing to better understand and address the challenges faced by communities in urban and semi-urban coastal areas. This includes issues related to rivers, seas and oceans.

The Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability is not simply a thematic topic, but rather a challenge-driven field of education and research. Coastal zones act as transition zones between inland areas and the deeper parts of the sea, where social and economic activities interact with valuable and unique coastal ecosystems. Activities along our coasts, whether direct or indirect, have an impact on these ecosystems by providing a variety of goods and services. The way in which urban coastal environments and societies function and evolve in the face of climate change and increasing human pressure is a major challenge addressed by Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS).

Few reminders regarding the conditions of the project:

- The PhD student must spend at least **two years** (not necessarily consecutive) at LRUniv.
- The PhD student must complete a **3-month secondment** to the chosen non-academic partner (this period can be extended as long as the student spends 2 full years at LRUniv).
- The PhD student must spend **between 6 and 9 months at the academic partner**.
- The academic partner agrees to provide the PhD student with the adequate working and research environment and to pay the sum of **5000€** to La Rochelle Université (mobility grant).
- The student will get a PhD or equivalent title from each university and only defend his/her thesis once.

2. Secondment

Each thesis needs to include a **three months secondment with a non-academic actor**, during which the PhD student will be able:

- To experience SmUCS challenges with a hands on perspective in a work environment related to his or her sector of activity.
- To present his/her research activity to the host structure thus sharing potential solutions and getting the opportunity to debate with stakeholders on how this can meet their future needs (impact and dissemination activities).
- To contribute to any reflection going on within the structure in relation to his or her research domain.

Non-academic partners may be chosen among the list of partners in EU-DOCS for SmUCS (cf. 13 partners below). This list can be extended depending on the relevance of the secondment for the PhD student in relation with the subject of the thesis. If you need help identifying a non-academic partner, please contact: eudocs_cofund@univ-lr.fr or campusinnov@univ-lr.fr

Port Atlantique La Rochelle	France
Alstom	France
Plateforme TIPEE	France
District 2, Municipality of Bucharest (PS2)	Romania
Platforma 22	Croatia
ISOTECH	Cyprus
Southern Regional Assembly	Ireland
Port of Waterford	Ireland
ProtoQSAR	Spain
MATCH Biosystems	Spain
MOLDRUG	Spain
PHARMAQUA	Greece

Non-academic partner (non-exhaustive list)

3. Eligibility criteria of the subject

EU-DOCS for SmUCS aims at recruiting the best PhD candidates in all disciplinary fields contributing to addressing the challenge of sustainability in coastal environments and societies.

The proposed subject will go through an eligibility check based on:

- Alignment of the subject with the objectives of the programme: **quality of the subject**, addressing **SmUCS challenges**.
- **Quality of the supervision** provided by the co-supervisors (approval from the Doctoral schools and research laboratories).
- **Compliance with the EU rules** regarding ethics for research.
- Identification of a **non-academic partner** or specific business/professional area for the secondment.

For further information please contact

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Scientific partners of ExcellR project



Public partners of ExcellR project





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