UrbanCommunity Open Call: Micro-grants for experiments on sustainable and just cities

1. What is this call about?

The UrbanCommunity is an open network of committed individuals that emerged from the ‘UrbanA for sustainable and just cities’ project. Since 2019, the UrbanCommunity has been hosting conversations, exchanging ideas and co-creating resources at the intersection of urban sustainability and social justice. The main question driving the UrbanCommunity is “How do we make our cities more just and sustainable?”

Anyone who follows us online and engages in our events is a welcome member of this Community. Follow the UrbanA twitter and linkedin and check our UrbanCommunity website (www.sustainablejustcities.eu/urbancommunity) for upcoming events.

ICLEI Europe with the support of the Robert Bosch Stiftung is providing **6 to 10 grants between 6,000 and 10,000€** for existing and new UrbanCommunity participants to carry out experiments on sustainable and just cities between April 2022 and March 2023. During the grant period, all grantees will stay closely in touch and learn from each other through a series of three workshops. The deadline to take part in the application process is **February 28th 9:00 CET**. Emails of acceptance and regrets will be sent between the **14th and 22nd** of March 2022.

**What is an experiment?** It is a small-scale project, initiative, activity, event, workshop etc. that aims to address urban sustainability and justice together. The experiment should aim to generate innovative solutions for existing problems in a “probe and learn” process of adaptation to new circumstances and experiences. The experiments should be a source of transferable and actionable knowledge for other UrbanCommunity members.

UrbanA has identified 17 keys as core elements to integrate social justice into urban sustainability. Within this call, the 17 keys will guide UrbanCommunity members to identify their area of focus and carry out experiments in their own local community. You can explore the keys here: https://sustainablejustcities.eu/keys

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1 UrbanA (Urban Arena for Sustainable and Just Cities) was co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union https://urban-arena.eu/
2 UrbanA focused on synthesizing knowledge on sustainable and just cities in Europe. Explore this knowledge: https://wiki.sustainablejustcities.eu/Main_Page
2. What opportunities does this grant offer?

Through the grant and the running of your experiment, you will be offered the opportunity to:

- Access financial support for ongoing initiatives on sustainable just cities
- Belong to a growing and vibrant UrbanCommunity of practitioners, activists, policy-makers, public servants, urban planners, engaged residents, NGOs, formal and informal associations and others
- Share your own experiences and learn from others on urban sustainability and social justice

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<th>Grants may be spent on:</th>
<th>Grants may not be spent on:</th>
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| Activities such as workshops, events, processes, experiment-related materials (e.g. facilitation and communication materials, venue costs, etc.) | - staff costs and salaries\(^4\) (however, you may contract someone else for a service\(^5\)),
- research purposes,
- profit-oriented purposes. |

Non-compliance will result in the immediate cancelation of the grant.

3. Who can apply for this grant?

We welcome applications from entities and individuals with diverse backgrounds. These entities may be: public institutions, informal or formal associations, NGOs, municipalities, resident groups\(^6\).

Business and profit-oriented entities (i.e. social enterprises, sustainability-focused businesses) may still apply for the grant. However, the grant may only be used for non-profit purposes.

4. Which experiments will be awarded with a grant?

Successful proposals for experiments must fulfil the following requirements:

- The experiments will run from April 2022 to March 2023. The assigned grant can only be spent within that period.
- The experiments’ overall objective is to create more socially just and ecologically sustainable cities. Successful applications will need to demonstrate how they address both of these elements together.
- Each experiment addresses at least 5 of the 17 keys for sustainable and just cities.
- Experiments will explicitly address one or more of these keys: power, diversity, accessibility.

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\(^4\) There may be an exception for individuals or informal groups who are currently not salaried for the community work that they do. ICLEI will evaluate this on a case by case basis.

\(^5\) This might include allowances for expenses for economically disadvantaged people, for child care and other types of support which will be evaluated by the ICLEI team on case by case basis.

\(^6\) Other entities might enquire via email to check whether they are eligible
• The experiments tap into existing local initiatives and processes, therefore linking with and benefiting local actors. Ideally the experiments directly engage the voices of people who are often marginalized (think about race, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, income).
• The experiments’ learnings are shared with the rest of the UrbanCommunity and they are receptive to adapt based on UrbanCommunity feedback (see section below “what is the peer-learning group?”)
• The experiments take place in Europe and its neighbouring countries. Neighbouring countries may apply provided travel is feasible with the available travel support budget (see section below “what is the peer-learning group?”)

5. What is the peer-learning group?

One of the main objectives of this call is to create a peer-learning group amongst the selected grantees. Obtaining the grant means committing to the peer-learning group activities.

Formally, the peer-learning group runs from March/April 2022 until May/June 2023. This entails:

• Three 1.5-day peer-learning workshops The first peer-learning workshop will take place in Berlin between the 5th and 6th of May 2022. The second workshop will be online in September 2022 and the third one will be in person in February 2023 (location to be decided). If you apply for this grant you are expected to join these workshops.
  ○ NB: The in-person workshops might be moved online in case of travel restrictions. The travel & accommodation costs for the peer-learning workshops will be covered by ICLEI Europe within a limit of 350€ (to be confirmed).

• Monthly creative reporting Each sub-grantee will be required to send to the rest of group a brief update on how their experiment is progressing. This could be via a video, picture, a paragraph of text.

• Community Conversations online (1-hour online events). In the upcoming year, we will host about 5 Community Conversations online, where the grantees may share with the rest of the UrbanCommunity the progress, challenges and obstacles of their experiments.

6. How does the application process work?

The application process will consist of two steps:

First step: The first is to check your eligibility. You can apply by filling in this Google form by February 28th, 9:00 CET, providing basic information on your experiment. If you are eligible we will invite to follow the second step (to be sure your experiment is eligible, read section 3 and 4 above).

Second step: By February 28th the latest, you will know if your experiment is eligible for funding. If so, we will share with you a template where you can elaborate on the
details of your experiments. This is due by March 9th, 17:00 CET. Between March 14th-22nd we will communicate the results of the selection process.

Successful grantees will be contacted by ICLEI to sign the contract. The payment will be split into two parts. 50% of the grant will be transferred via bank transfer in April/May 2022 and 50% in March/April 2023. The grantees are expected to transparently report on how they spent their budget upon request.

7. How does the selection process work?

ICLEI Europe will carry out the selection process based on the eligibility and experiment requirements (see section 3 and 4 above). ICLEI Europe will use the list of following criteria to prioritize specific experiments:

- Active leadership by or participation of individuals who experience marginalization and intersecting inequalities based on their identities (e.g. gender, race, disability, age, sexuality, income)
- Development of creative and engaging experiment with the potential to inspire others
- Development of an approach with potential for wider application, or clear connection to societal change
- Previous engagement with the UrbanCommunity
- Demonstration of a collaborative mindset

8. How can I ask more questions?

Please read carefully this document to see if you can find an answer to your questions. If you have further questions please send an email to justtransition-europe@iclei.org