

La Rochelle  
Université



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**D'ici, on voit + loin !**

Institute LUDI –ExcelLR

# EU-DOCs for SmUCS

Call for proposals of subjects for  
cotutelle thesis

2025

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## 1. Context and scientific orientation

La Rochelle Université has been awarded with an MSCA COFUND to develop a European interdisciplinary doctoral programme with a challenge driven approach related to Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS). This doctoral programme is called "EU-DOCs for SmUCS" and will deliver 17 cotutelle thesis over 2-year groups of students.

This program is being launched in two stages:

- In the first phase, thesis topics are to be submitted by the research teams.
- In a second phase, the eligible thesis offers will be circulated so that candidates can apply.

The aim of this first call for proposals is to identify thesis topics that could be co-supervised by a researcher from La Rochelle University and a researcher from an associated or implementing partner institution.

## 2. Cotutelle eligible partners

Each thesis is funded for a period of 36 months. It has to be a "cotutelle" between La Rochelle Université and one of its 20 partners (cf. list below), EU-CONEXUS partners and international partners involved in SmUCS. Further information can be found on EU-CONEXUS partners [at this address](#).

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

#### Eligible academic partners for EU-DOCS for SmUCS COFUND

### 3. Cotutelle framework

The PhD student should spend at least 6 months (consecutive or not) at the partner university.

To be considered as a cotutelle, each thesis must comply with the following criteria:

- PhD student is jointly enrolled at two universities and is jointly supervised by academic staff at each institution.
- The PhD/doctoral thesis is only defended once and the candidate gets a PhD or equivalent title from each university. The defence committee should include at least one member from a different EU-CONEXUS partner, specialized in the PhD thesis topic, different from the 2 supervisors involved in the cotutelle.
- A cotutelle bilateral agreement will specify all the conditions required to deliver the two PhD degrees and legal diplomas.

### 4. Special requirement for the thesis

#### 4.1. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

The student must get a minimum of 10 ECTS by attending the courses of the programme (1 ECTS = 25 hours of work) and 20 ECTS by following other courses or participating in other research activities (research reports, participation in EU-CONEXUS Summer school, etc.), i.e., a total of 30 ECTS or 750 hours of work over the period of the thesis.

#### 4.2. Secondment

Each thesis needs to include a three months secondment with a non-academic actor, during which the PhD student will be able 1/ to experience SmUCS challenges with a hands on perspective in a work environment related to his or her sector of activity, 2/ 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) and 3/ 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](mailto:eudocs_cofund@univ-lr.fr) or [campusinnov@univ-lr.fr](mailto: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)**

## 5. Career development, training, professionalization

The EU-DOCS program for SmUCS will provide a range of services for doctoral students, with a particular focus on individual follow-up and career guidance. These services have been designed in line with the HRS4R principles: some (such as events for doctoral students or the Career Center) will be implemented at the European University level and will help consolidate the framework for joint doctoral actions within our alliance; others will be based on specific contributions from La Rochelle University, notably in terms of innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting employability and professional impact. By offering personalized follow-up and career services, the EU-DOCS for SmUCS program aims to create a new generation of international researchers, ready to tackle the global challenges linked to the Urban Sustainable Intelligent Coastline (LUDI). This initiative will strengthen international scientific cooperation and make a significant contribution to the socio-economic ecosystems of Europe's coastal regions.

## 6. 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.

All the subjects deemed eligible will be published. The eligibility check is 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 and address SmUCS challenges
- Identification of a non-academic partner or specific business/ professional area for the secondment.
- Co-supervisors should be part of the EU-DOCS for SmUCS academic partners.

## 7. Open science

As part of the France 2030 framework managed by the ANR, and the Horizon Europe programme the project must comply with the following open science requirements. Based on FAIR principles data should be findable and accessible on the Internet, interoperable with other computer systems and reusable both for people and computers

- Obligation to submit peer-reviewed publications in open access: in all cases, submission in [HAL-La Rochelle](#)
- Obligation of open access for research data under the condition: 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'
- Obligation of a Data Management Plan (DMP) for all projects that generate or re-use data to be carried out within 3 months of the start of the project.
- Open access recommended for all outputs other than publications and data (software, modelling, applications, etc.).

## 8. Dissemination and exploitation of results

Responding to socio-environmental issues, the project will have to position itself in terms of its impact on society and the dissemination of results. Particular attention will be paid to the transmission of knowledge to the general public through actions to disseminate scientific culture and/or the transfer of results to socio-economic players by describing its potential for innovation. The impact of the project may also be considered in terms of support for public policies in coastal areas.

## 9. Holder's commitment

The beneficiary undertakes to:

- Display on all media:
  - The reference of the projects financing this action « **ANR-21-EXES-0010** » and **"101179124 — EU-DOCs for SmUCS"**
  - The mention of **France 2030** and **the European Union**
  - The France 2030 and the European Union logos

*The words "This work has benefited from State aid managed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche under the Plan France 2030, bearing the reference ANR-21-EXES-0010 and is co-funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon Europe programme, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions call COFUND 2023 and under the Grant Agreement N°101179124" should be added to any presentation or publication*



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- Comply with Open Science obligations (see above)
- Provide a detailed account of the project and a statement of expenditure in line with the funder's requirements;
- Make themselves available to present their project and initial results at the Rencontres LUDI and/or any other event.

## 10. How to apply?

The file consists of the project application form and its appendices.

Any project submitted must include the opinions of:

- The heads of both research units to which researchers belongs
- The doctoral schools (or similar structure) on the doctoral supervision of each supervisor.

Applications must be sent no later than **30 November 2024** at [eudocs\\_cofund@univ-lr.fr](mailto:eudocs_cofund@univ-lr.fr)

## 11. Provisional timetable

**8 October – 30 November 2024:** Call for thesis subject

**December 2024:** Eligibility et ethical check

**January- March 2025:** Call for PhD candidates.

**March – June 2025:** External and internal assessment process – selection of PhD students

**From September 2025:** beginning of the 9 thesis

**For further information please contact**

Virginia Kolb, scientific coordinator LUDI Institute

[virginia.kolb@univ-lr.fr](mailto:virginia.kolb@univ-lr.fr)

[eudocs\\_cofund@univ-lr.fr](mailto:eudocs_cofund@univ-lr.fr)

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### Scientific partners of ExcelLR project



### Public partners of ExcelLR project



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**D'ici  
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**La Rochelle Université**

Institut LUDI

Avenue Henri Becquerel  
17 000 La Rochelle  
France



[univ-larochelle.fr](http://univ-larochelle.fr)