

DUT Call 2026 (Driving urban Transitions): business park, campus, industrial site or general urban green site sought to pilot collaborative green and blue space management. - Circular Urban Economies (CUE).

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request Belgium

Company's country

POD reference

RDRBE20261008023

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Targeted countries

- Netherlands
- Poland
- France
- Belgium

Contact Person

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Term of validity

9 Oct 2026
9 Oct 2027

Last update

9 Oct 2026

General Information

Short summary

A Belgian university-led consortium is preparing a DUT Call 2026 proposal on collaborative management of urban green and blue spaces. A company or site-management organisation is sought to provide one or multiple business parks, campuses, industrial sites or comparable test environments to co-design, implement and evaluate coordinated, ecological and social management interventions across stakeholders/owners, especially with municipalities.

Full description

Urban green and blue spaces extend across public parks, private gardens, business parks, industrial sites, institutional campuses and waterways. Together, these spaces can support biodiversity, cooling, water infiltration, air-quality improvement and human wellbeing. However, their management is usually organised plot by plot. Different owners, contractors and users make separate decisions, often with different objectives, budgets, schedules and contractual arrangements. This fragmentation can prevent green and blue spaces from functioning as a connected urban network, and leads to ecological and economic losses for the individual organisations.

GREENFIT addresses this gap by developing and testing a collaborative socio-ecological management framework for urban green and blue spaces across ownership and management boundaries. The project will identify where coordinated action creates the strongest ecological, social and economic benefits and what enables organisations to cooperate in practice. It will combine spatial analysis, stakeholder research, scenario development and interventions in urban Living Labs. The results will be translated into an online participatory tool and practical guidelines for local authorities and other land managers.

The project will map ownership and management structures, costs, stakeholder needs and barriers to cooperation. It will assess where interventions are most needed by considering biodiversity, cooling, air-pollution removal, water infiltration, accessibility, safety, health, climate risks and social vulnerability. It will then compare coordinated and individual management through modelling and practical interventions. Possible interventions include coordinated mowing and tree pruning regimes, improving ecological corridors, water-sensitive landscape management or coordinated litter management.

The consortium is seeking a company or site-management organisation that can contribute a real-life test environment such as a business park, industrial estate, corporate, institutional campus or general urban green site (e.g. mobility companies), mixed-use site or cluster of neighbouring properties. The site can, but does not have to, include green and/or blue spaces managed by several owners, tenants, contractors or departments. The partner will help involve relevant stakeholders and co-design, implement and evaluate one or more coordinated management interventions, especially in collaboration with the municipality, to go towards better socio-ecological urban green-blue management, with economic benefits.

The proposal targets the Driving Urban Transitions Call 2026, Circular Urban Economies topic 'Innovative maintenance of urban green and blue spaces', using a research-oriented approach. The existing Belgian consortium includes KU Leuven and PXL. The project is expected to last 36 months.

Expressions of interest are requested by 4 November 2026, ahead of the pre-proposal deadline of 17 November 2026 at 13:00 CET. The full-proposal deadline for invited consortia is 15 April 2027 at 13:00 CEST

Advantages and innovations

GREENFIT starts from a practical challenge that is insufficiently addressed by site-by-site greening: ecological and social benefits emerge across connected landscapes, while management decisions, budgets and contracts are fragmented among individual parcels and organisations.

The project will integrate spatial ecological evidence, stakeholder preferences, ownership structures, management costs and governance arrangements. It will not only identify opportunities but also test whether coordinated management delivers greater ecological, social and economic value than isolated action.

For the participating company or site-management organisation, the project offers a structured setting to examine how cooperation among owners, tenants, contractors, public authorities and users can improve site management. The Living Lab will generate evidence on implementation barriers, costs, responsibilities and benefits, and will contribute to a participatory tool and guidelines that can support replication at other business parks, campuses and mixed-ownership sites. Quantitative targets and partner-specific benefits should be added once the pilot site and interventions are selected.

Technical specification or expertise sought

The partner sought is a company, business-park or industrial-estate manager, campus operator, real-estate or facility manager, landscape-management organisation, infrastructure or utility site operator, or another organisation responsible for a sizeable urban or peri-urban site.

The organisation should preferably offer:

- access to a business park, campus, industrial site or comparable area with relevant green and/or blue spaces;
- a setting not currently managed by the public authority;
- the mandate and internal capacity to engage management actors and support practical experimentation;
- access to available site, management, cost and spatial data, subject to appropriate agreements;
- willingness to co-design and test coordinated management interventions and monitor their implementation;
- interest in biodiversity, climate adaptation, water management, nature-based solutions or sustainable site management.

Experience with multi-stakeholder projects, Living Labs, European research projects or cooperation with local authorities is an advantage but should not be mandatory. The partner must verify its eligibility under the applicable national or regional DUT Call 2026 funding rules.

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 15: Life on Land**
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**
- **Goal 10: Reduced Inequality**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
- **Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions**
- **Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal**

IPR Status

No IPR applied

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

The selected partner will join the transnational consortium under a research and development cooperation agreement and contribute a practice-based demonstration and research environment.

The partner is expected to:

- identify and provide access to a suitable pilot site with fragmented ownership or management responsibilities;
- help map the owner(s), tenant(s), contractor(s), public bodies, users and other stakeholders involved in managing the site;
- provide or facilitate access to available information on current management practices, responsibilities, contracts, costs and relevant spatial or environmental conditions;
- participate in workshops and interviews on needs, barriers, incentives and feasible cooperation arrangements;
- co-select and co-design one or more coordinated management interventions with the research and local-authority partners;
- facilitate practical implementation, including internal approvals and engagement of relevant contractors or site users;
- support before-and-after monitoring of ecological, social and economic outcomes;
- test the project's participatory tool and provide feedback on its usability for private and mixed-ownership sites;
- contribute to replication guidance and dissemination to other companies, site managers and business parks.

The precise tasks, budget and leadership responsibilities will be agreed according to the partner's expertise, pilot site and national funding conditions.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **Big company**
- **SME 11-49**
- **SME <=10**
- **SME 50 - 249**

Call Details

Framework program

Horizon Europe

Call title and identifier

Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Call 2026 – DUT

Submission and evaluation scheme

Two-stage submission: pre-proposal followed by an invited full proposal. National or regional eligibility rules also apply.

Anticipated project budget

Coordinator required

No

Deadline for EoI

4 Nov 2026

Deadline of the call

17 Nov 2026

Project duration in weeks

156

Web link to the call

<https://dutpartnership.eu/calls/dut-call-2026>

Project title and acronym

GREENFIT — Aligning citizen needs, ecological functioning and ownership structures for coherent, locally tailored and socially supported urban green and blue management at the landscape scale

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **10002005 - Biodiversity / Natural Heritage**
- **11006 - Citizens participation**
- **10004008 - Water Resources Management**
- **10002006 - Ecology**
- **10002004 - Climate Change mitigation**

Targeted countries

- **Netherlands**
- **Poland**
- **France**
- **Belgium**

Market keywords

- **09008002 - Water, sewerage, chemical and solid waste treatment plants**
- **09003001 - Engineering services**
- **09007004 - Engineering and consulting services related to construction**
- **09007005 - Facility management companies**

Sector groups involved

- **Maritime Industries and Services**
- **Construction**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Proximity and Social Economy**