



Co-UDlabs
COLLABORATIVE URBAN DRAINAGE
RESEARCH LABS COMMUNITIES

3rd Global Call for **Transnational Access**

Rules, eligibility conditions, and application process for
Co-UDlabs' call for Transnational Access (TA) to its research
infrastructure

Co-UDlabs (Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research lab communities)
is an INFRAIA-2-2020 project.



**Co-UDlabs receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020
research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101008626.**

Co-UDlabs' 3rd Call for Proposals

The overall aim of the Co-UDlabs H2020 European project is to integrate research and innovation activities in the field of urban drainage systems allowing the European stakeholders, academic researchers, and innovators in the urban water sector to enhance their activity through a common research network that can provide coherence and access to high-quality large-scale research facilities, thereby building a collaborative European Urban Drainage innovation community. In Co-UDlabs, 17 unique 'field-scale' urban drainage research facilities hosted by seven research organisations are included in the project's **Transnational Access (TA) programme**, aiming to offer the urban drainage innovation community high quality laboratory and field facilities, experimental and technical expertise and improved data sharing platforms. EU-funded access allows diverse groups to collaboratively work on key challenges of the urban water sector, and aids wider, faster, and more effective uptake of innovative solutions to address pressing public health, flood risks and environmental challenges.

This Third Call for Proposals is an invitation to all eligible user groups to submit a proposal for research projects to be carried out at two of Co-UDlabs' unique facilities – the Django Reinhardt Basin (OTHU-DRB) facility at INSA Lyon, and the FREJLEV facility at Aalborg University – with financial support from Co-UDlabs (see below, 'Eligible costs'). Transnational Access will be provided to selected *user groups* (i.e., teams formed by different researchers and institutions that submit a proposal for a TA) led by a *user-group leader*.

More information on the research facilities and the facility providers is available [online](#). A full description of the facilities available for the 3rd TA call is provided in **Annex 1**.

Eligible costs

Co-UDlabs' TA programme covers all logistical, technological, training, and scientific support costs associated with selected TAs to any of the available research facilities. This includes **accommodation, travel, and sustenance costs** of all user-group members that visit the facilities in person. Reimbursements are regulated according to internal rules and procedures of facility providers, so long as the total costs do not exceed the total available per-TA budget of the institution in charge.

Information on estimated days of access and number of travels for each research facility can be obtained [online](#) on Co-UDlabs' website.

Feel free to contact specific facility providers through this [online form](#) for more detailed or updated information on available access days.

Support from facility providers

Scientists and technicians from involved facilities will offer full technical and logistical support for access to their installations, with the aim of providing the most effective context for top-level scientific and engineering research and innovation by selected user groups.

Local teams will help in the preparation of each visit. At least one research assistant and/or laboratory technician will be available at all times to visiting user-groups. Facility staff will also act as a local point of contact for logistical and technical queries. Both facility staff and user groups will convene meetings to discuss the progress of research and exchange ideas and proposals. Specific instrumentation, additional laboratory equipment or capacity, and support services from facility provider can be

requested also during the preparation and finalisation of the TA proposals. A set of common supporting measures, however, is offered throughout the TA programme:

- **Facility providers will be available for all preparatory steps** to the TAs: online meetings; online training whenever necessary before accessing the installations; administrative forms and documents for authorization of access to the organizations and to the facilities.
- **Facility providers will also provide support** with logistical support for local travel; specific on-site training, if needed; the preparation of the experimental setup and guided supervision; management of Health and Safety policy and requirements; data collection and data analysis of the different monitoring equipment; access to laboratory facilities and experimental areas for calibration of the equipment and performing, when relevant, conventional wastewater determinations (turbidity, pH, EC, temperature, solids, BOD, COD); when relevant, access to non-conventional pollutant determinations to be defined in the description of the proposal.

Modalities of access

Access will be provided according to either one of the following modalities:

- **In-Person Access (hands-on).** This modality has been designed for the access to the main laboratory facilities. The presence of at least one member of the user group is required during the whole period of the access. The visit of approximately 5 additional researchers at different stages of the project is also expected (e.g., configuration, installation and/or operation of specific equipment, supervision). **Access duration ranges from 15 to 60 working days.**
- **Partially Remote Access.** The presence of the user group is required at some stage of the access period (e.g., installing and un-installing user's equipment or configuring the facility). This modality of access is intended for mid- and long-term performance monitoring of processes, typically times of 2-9 months, which depends on external non-controlled factors (e.g., rainfall). During the development of these experiments, the facility owner will devote resources for maintenance and control of the experiment, and to transfer the gathered data to the user group. The visit of about 3 researchers is expected during the different stages of the project (configuration or deployment of equipment at the beginning of the project, during the experiment or at the end to uninstall or disassemble). **The estimated in-person access time is from 10 to 20 working days**, depending on the facility.

Conditions of access

Details on the conditions for eligibility can be consulted in the rules and conditions document available on the official [TA call webpage](#) on our website. User groups must meet the following criteria:

- **It is possible to apply from all over the world**, but user groups where all or most users work in third countries (defined as not EU or EU-Associated country according to EU H2020 rules) can be supported as far as the cumulative access provided to them is below 20% of the total amount of days of access provided under the grant.
- The total number of researchers from the **Co-UDlabs partners may not exceed 1/3** of the total number of researchers in any eligible user group.

- Both the **user-group leader** and the majority of the user-group members must work in a **country other than the country where the facility is located**.
- Only user groups that are **allowed to disseminate the results** they have generated under the action may benefit from the access, unless the users are working for SMEs.
- The user-group members should **normally not have access to a similar facility**.

Application process and key days

December 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

15/12 Launch of the 3rd TA call

21/1 Finalisation of evaluation process

05/1 End of 2nd TA call

31/1 Notification of selected proposals

The proposals will be **evaluated by mid-January 2024**. The projects selected in the 3rd TA call are expected to be **fully completed by January 2025**.

Proposal preparation phase

All official documentation about the TA call will be available online on the Co-UDlabs website.

The **3rd TA call officially launches on December 15, 2023**.

All interested groups and participants, however, **can contact Co-UDlabs facility providers at INSA and Aalborg at any time** via this [contact form](#). This channel is designed to offer potential applicants a way to learn more directly about technical constraints, feasibility, or eligibility conditions.

Final proposal submission phase

Project proposals will have to be uploaded via the Co-UDlabs website using the official templates, documents, and online form, available online on the TA call webpage of the Co-UDlabs website. All required documents must be submitted **no later than January 5, 2024, at 23:59 (CET)**.

The following items are required:

- An **application form** which includes the title of the project, user-group leader information, and a request for a specific facility, number of access days and preferred dates for carrying out the project.
- A **project proposal**, not exceeding 4 pages including text, references, and figures. The proposal must provide information on the following sections:
 - a) **Excellence of the proposal**: a summary of the state of the art and general description of the project, highlighting the effectiveness of the research approach and its fit with the main themes of Co-UDlabs, the quality of the proposal and its novelty in the field of

urban drainage, and the suitability of the team and its expertise to successfully carry out the proposal.

- b) **Impact of the expected results:** a proposal for project publications, workshops, and conferences to disseminate results and make it open available to the wider research and innovation community.
- c) **Potential for academic or industrial innovation** considering end-user applications of the expected project results and the possible further development of the research line outside the facility once the TA has been completed.
- **Methodology and access plan:** required research facility and equipment, technical details and specifications of the planned experiments, necessary modifications or adaptations of the facility setup, the estimated number of access days, and the number and duration of visits should be included. The document should contain technical details and specifications to aid the facility providers in assessing the project's feasibility (2 pages maximum).
- **User group CV:** composition of the user group, one-page CV of the user-group leader and a one-page CV summary for the rest of the user group.

Evaluation and selection procedure

TA proposals will be received and managed by the Co-UDlabs coordination at the Universidade da Coruña, which will check their **eligibility** in accordance with the **call's rules and conditions**. Please note that proposals exceeding length requirements, not using the official templates, or received after the final deadline **will not be considered** by the evaluators. Eligible proposals will be reviewed by the requested facility providers to assess their **feasibility**. After the feasibility check, applications will be sent to an **External Evaluation Panel (EEP)** of international independent scientists and end-users. Facility providers will have only an advisory role during the selection procedure. EEP members will be responsible for the independent evaluation of TA proposals, according to the following selection criteria:

- **Confirmation of Feasibility and Eligibility** (on a yes/no basis)
- **Excellence of the proposal** (weak: 0 – outstanding: 10)
- **Impact** (weak: 0 – outstanding: 5)
- **Potential for academic or industrial innovation** (weak: 0 – outstanding: 5)

Institutional diversity, multi-nationality, and interdisciplinarity in the composition of user groups will also be valued positively. Representation of the non-academic sector within user groups will also be encouraged. If two proposals have the same overall score, the number of new users (defined as those who have not been granted TA slots before and those who have not already had access to the requested facility outside of Co-UDlabs) and the gender diversity of the user group will be considered when assessing the proposals.

The user-group leaders of awarded proposals will be informed of the outcome and re-directed to the facility providers to coordinate their TA and negotiate and sign the User-Facility Agreement (UFA), which officially marks the beginning of the TA collaboration. Non-selected applicants will be informed by e-mail, alongside a summary of the evaluation and comments by the EEP and their final scores. Where appropriate, the report may also include recommendations and suggestions to improve and re-submit a new proposal for consideration of the EEP and the facility providers. Specific proposals may be recommended re-submission at a potential third call, which Co-UDlabs will take into consideration for late 2024.



Annex I: List of providers and facilities

Co-UDlabs' 3rd TA call has been launched specifically to provide access to the following research infrastructures and facilities (further details can be consulted online on our [Research Facilities](#) resource), which are still available after the finalisation of the 1st and 2nd TA calls.

INSA

Lyon (France)

<http://deep.insa-lyon.fr/>



Django Reinhardt detention and settling basin (OTHU-DRB)

**Partially Remote
Access**



- The Django Reinhardt detention and settling basin is an “end of pipe” facility that enables to intercepts up to 80% of stormwater particulate pollutants.
- LSPIV is available. Users can implement sensors for quantity and quality measurements at the inlet and outlet of the basin. Historical data collected for 15 years are available. It is also possible to investigate trace metal sediment contamination.

Aalborg University

Aalborg (Denmark)

<https://www.aau.dk>



Frejlev research station (FREJLEV)

Partially Remote Access



- Frejlev research and monitoring station receives combined and separated sewage water from the urban city Frejlev. The city has around 2,800 inhabitants and consists primarily of residential areas.
- Inline access to a continuous flow of sewage water and full list of water quality equipment allows conducting unique wastewater process research.



Annex II: European Union and associated countries list

This annex is a non-exhaustive list of countries that have no restrictions on access to research facilities based on the Horizon 2020 Regulation. In case of any conflict with the H2020 Regulation,¹ the latter shall prevail.

- Albania
- Armenia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Faroe Islands
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary²
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

¹ Please refer to the following regulations: [Horizon 2020: List of countries eligible for funding](#); [Horizon 2020: Associated countries](#); [Horizon 2020: international cooperation](#).

² The participation of Hungarian institutions and individuals can be discretionarily rejected in accordance with [Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506](#), which stipulates that legal commitments must not be entered into with any public interest trusts established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.



Co-UDlabs

COLLABORATIVE URBAN DRAINAGE
RESEARCH LABS COMMUNITIES

Co-UDlabs project aims to develop innovative solutions and technologies to allow existing UD to innovate for better facing current and future challenges such as increasing urbanization and climate change.

Please feel free to contact Co-UDlabs at this address: contact@co-udlabs.eu

You can follow us on:

- [Twitter](#) @CoUDlabs
- [LinkedIn](#)

You can visit our website: <https://co-udlabs.eu/>

You can contact our facility providers: <https://co-udlabs.eu/facility-contact-form/>

You can download our TA brochure: <https://is.gd/TABRochure>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°101008626