

Open and Responsible Science (ORS)

Seed Fund Call 2025

Afdeling : Engagement & Research Services (ERS)
Datum : October 13, 2025
Versie : 02

1 Innovating on the Conditions for Impact: Supporting Responsible Civic Engagement

Responsible engagement with civil society requires more than reaching outcomes: it requires investing in the processes that allow impactful collaborations to grow. This Seed-Fund shifts attention from outcomes to the conditions that enable them. We support small-scale or pilot projects that explore methods, frameworks, and partnerships to cultivate responsible civic engagement. **Do you have a great idea that develops knowledge, interventions, or tools to strengthen the conditions for impact, but you lack the funding? Apply now!**

For this call, civic engagement refers to the active involvement of civil society—such as citizens, community groups, and civil society organizations—in research.

Examples of eligible ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Developing methodologies to strengthen trust-based collaboration
- Designing reproducible frameworks for civic partnerships
- Creating sustainable models for engaging communities
- Piloting and/or testing civic engagement approaches
- Sharing and amplifying process-oriented best practices of civic engagement

1.1 We provide

Funding available: €2,500 per project (max). We will fund a maximum of 4 projects.

Eligible costs:

- **Implementation:** venues, consumables, equipment, expert reimbursement, travel, partnerships with civic partners and non-traditional scholars (including training of civic partners)
- **Communication & dissemination:** civic-oriented publishing, communication materials, wider-audience platforms
- **Other justified costs:** in consultation with ORS department.

Please note that this funding is intended as seed money to test approaches, not to cover full project costs. **Ineligible costs** include salaries, publication costs not related to civic engagement, costs for involving citizens as study participants.

Additional support from the **Open & Responsible Science Department:**

- Available guidance and contact during project implementation
- Access to networks and opportunities for future funding
- Support with methods like [SIAMPI](#) to evidence process-based impact
- Showcase of selected projects, including visibility of projects on the EUR website, internal newsletters, and external outlets featuring innovation on engaged research, and facilitating visibility of projects with the upcoming Hub for Engaged and Impactful Research network and events

1.2 Eligibility

- Open to all EUR-affiliated **researchers and/or professional support staff**
- Applications can be individual or collaborative. Collaborative applications are strongly encouraged
- Partnerships with other faculties, research institutions, and/or societal actors are welcome
- The project starts *before 2026*

1.3 Timeline

- **Call opens:** September 18
- **Deadline:** (extended to) October 31
- **Eligibility notification:** shortly after submission
- **Results:** within six weeks from submission deadline (including feedback on implementation for successful applications)

1.4 How to apply

Submit a PDF to chiara.stenico@eur.nl by October 31 including:

1. A **short proposal** (max. 2 pages) with:
 - The project idea and why this application warrants consideration. Projects must clearly articulate how their approach goes beyond traditional outreach activities and contributes to responsible civic engagement processes and/or structural change in engagement practices.
 - An implementation plan. Ideally, the plan already outlines foreseen risks and possible mitigation measures.
2. An **appendix** (max. 1 page) with a budget containing clear justification for each item.

Contact details: Questions? Contact chiara.stenico@eur.nl.

1.5 Requirements & Reminders

- One application per project (submitted by a project lead affiliated with EUR).
- Teams including early-career researchers from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.
- Incomplete or late submissions won't be considered.
- Only eligible costs (see above) will be covered; all costs must be clearly justified.
- Purchases must comply with institutional procurement rules. Please note that projects must be ethically cleared before their start date.
- Project must be implemented within the agreed timeframe and before September 2026.

1.6 Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis. A jury of research experts and practitioners will assess proposals on:

- **Relevance:** Partnerships, themes, or societal challenges addressed
- **Methodology & Social innovation potential:** Showing a clear approach to the realization of an innovative idea
- **Feasibility & efficiency:** Budget clarity and realistic timeline

To avoid possible conflicts of interest, jury members with a direct work relationship with a candidate will not evaluate their submission.