Call for Civic Engagement Seed Fund 2027

Afdeling	: Engagement & Research Services (ERS)
Datum	: October 28th, 2026
Versie	: 02

1 Building Foundations for Civic Engagement

Engaging *with* civil society is resource intensive. Done responsibly, it requires investing in the foundations of these collaborations, such as building trust and cultivating the relationships that allow a collaboration to grow.

This seed fund supports projects that work *with* civil society, meaning citizens, community groups, and civic organisations, beyond consultation or wider dissemination of findings. These are projects where civil society helps shape and carry out the work. We want to help create the conditions for engaged research to be impactful.

To this end, we support small-scale initiatives that explore methods, frameworks, or tools for building these foundations responsibly.

Consider examples from the past edition:

- With GIS, Care and Community: a research approach for local innovation, co-designed with women in rural Costa Rica, building on their knowledge and priorities.
- Black Death/Black Aliveness Summer School: A summer school held outside the university campus, designed in collaboration with local organizations.
- U-MEET: a public installation of migrants' stories in Rotterdam and Brussels, built with local organisations to support their advocacy.
- Ethics of Resilience Workshops: neighbourhood workshops that build a shared vocabulary for residents to engage with city resilience policies.

1.1 What we provide

The funding available is €2,500 per project (max), and we will fund a maximum of six projects in 2027. *Eligible costs* can be, for example:

- 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, justifiable costs: in consultation with us.

Non-eligible costs include: salaries, publication costs not related to civic engagement, costs for involving citizens as study participants.

Next to the funding, we extend our support to:

- A dedicated kick-off session;
- Ongoing guidance and contact with our HIER team;
- Access to the wider HIER network, and consultation about opportunities for future funding;
- Showcase via our communication channels, and other visibility opportunities.

1.2 Who can apply

This call is for collaborations between research and civil society. It is open to researchers affiliated with an EUR faculty. However, we strongly encourage applications made together with named civic partners.

Additionally, *please note*:

- Each project can submit only one application, led by someone affiliated with EUR.
- Teams that include early-career researchers from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. This is considered as a qualitative observation in the assessment.
- Only eligible costs (see above) are covered, and all costs must be clearly justified. Purchases must follow EUR procurement rules.
- Projects must have ethical clearance before they start.
- Projects must start before 2027 and be completed before September 2027.

1.3 Timeline

The call opens: October 8th
Deadline: November 16 (extended)
Eligibility notification: Shortly after submission
Results: Within six weeks from submission

1.4 How to apply

Please submit a PDF to hier@eur.nl by November 2nd, including:

- A **short proposal** to outline (max 2 pages):
    - Your project idea and a clear description of meaningful involvement of civil society throughout the project;
    - If applicable, an impact domain, between: Resilience and robustness of our society, Sustainable entrepreneurship and inclusive prosperity, A just transition to a sustainable society, Healthy society and accessible & affordable healthcare, The responsible use of technologies;
    - Your implementation plan.
- A **budget** (max 1 page), with a breakdown of costs, and how they support engagement with citizens in your project.

1.5 Assessment

A jury of experts will assess your proposal, based on:

1. Relevance to the call
    - Does the project help build the foundations of responsible collaboration with civil society, such as trust and lasting relationships?
    - Are civil society partners meaningfully involved through the research process?

2. Approach and originality
    - Is the approach clear (aims, methods, and how partners take part)?
    - Does it treat partners responsibly, for example through trust-building, shared decision-making, and learning along the way?
    - Does it offer a fresh or creative way to work with civil society?
    - Does the project include a way to reflect on and learn from its own practice?

3. Feasibility
    - Does the team have the right expertise?
    - Are the scale and ambition realistic for a seed fund?
    - Is there a clear plan with timeline, activities, and risks?
    - Does the budget support civic engagement?

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

Any clarificatory questions regarding the focus of the call and its procedure may be submitted to the coordinator of the call, Chiara Stenico, at hier@eur.nl.

Bijlage A

Heading 3

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