EUnita | EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

DUT Call 2026

Open Call Analysis

Programme	Call position	Deadline
Horizon Europe co-funded partnership · Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) · GA 101069506 · Romania: UEFISCDI	Fifth DUT transnational call · two-stage · pre-proposal stage open	17 November 2026, 13:00 CET (pre-proposals)

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Decision in brief: CONDITIONAL GO for Romanian universities, R&D institutes and R&D-registered companies that can join or lead a three-country consortium with a committed city by the end of October 2026. Romania's €1,000,000 envelope and a €200,000–€250,000 per-project cap shared by all Romanian partners make each Romanian share small relative to the effort, so the case rests on the consortium and strategic value. HOLD for organisations without a city partner, and for municipalities or NGOs until UEFISCDI confirms their funding status.

1 Executive summary

DUT Call 2026 is the fifth transnational call of the Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, a Horizon Europe co-funded partnership. It funds research and innovation projects that help cities move along three transition pathways — the 15-minute City, Circular Urban Economies and Positive Energy Districts — through seven topics, one of which, the adaptive reuse of existing urban structures and spaces, cuts across all three. Funding agencies in 28 countries have committed about €49 million, and the European Commission co-funds up to 30% of eligible agency budgets under grant agreement 101069506. [S1, S2, S9]

This is not a single grant. Each partner is financed by its own national or regional agency under the rules in Annex A of the call text, and most projects request around €1–2 million in total for up to 36 months. Romania participates through UEFISCDI with €1,000,000 for four to five projects. Its cap is per project and shared by all Romanian participants: €250,000 where a Romanian entity coordinates, €200,000 otherwise. Universities and public research organisations are funded at 100%, companies at 65–80% for industrial research and 40–60% for experimental development, depending on size. [S1, S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117; S11]

Two conditions decide most files before quality is considered: a consortium of at least three funding-eligible applicants from three participating countries, two of them EU Member States or associated countries, and at least one urban government authority. Evaluators then score three equally weighted criteria from 0 to 5, with a threshold of 3 on each and 10 out of 15 overall. Pre-proposals close on 17 November 2026, 13:00 CET; invited consortia submit full proposals by 15 April 2027, 13:00 CEST; funding decisions are expected in July 2027. [S2, S4]

EUnita's reading is a CONDITIONAL GO for Romanian research organisations and R&D-registered companies that can secure a city partner and a credible consortium within four weeks. The Romanian share is small against the effort, so the case rests on a place in a recurring programme with European cities. UEFISCDI should still confirm researcher eligibility, whether a municipality or NGO meets the 'national conditions', and whether company travel is chargeable. [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117; S13]

2 Call at a glance

Parameter	Verified position	Practical reading
Programme	DUT Partnership, Horizon Europe co-funded action GA 101069506; Call for proposals n°5 (DUT-2026)	National rules decide who is paid and how much
Status	Open since 1 September 2026; stage 1 (pre-proposals)	42 days remain on 6 October 2026
Pre-proposal deadline	17 November 2026, 13:00 CET	Finalise in UDiManager by 16 November
Full proposal deadline	15 April 2027, 13:00 CEST — invited consortia only	The submission guidelines say 13:00 CET; the call text's CEST is authoritative
Total budget	About €49 million from agencies in 28 countries, plus EC co-funding of up to 30% of eligible agency budgets	Money is ring-fenced by country, not pooled
Romanian budget	€1,000,000 (UEFISCDI); four to five projects anticipated, mean €200,000	Few Romanian places
Romanian cap	Per project, all Romanian participants together: €250,000 if a Romanian entity coordinates; €200,000 otherwise	Two Romanian partners share one cap
Romanian funding rates	Universities and public research organisations 100%; companies 65–80% (industrial research) and 40–60% (experimental development) by size; public authorities and non-economic NGOs up to 100%	Companies co-finance 20–60%
Duration	Maximum 36 months; UEFISCDI contracting November 2027 – January 2028	Romanian costs eligible only after contract signature
Consortium	At least 3 funding-eligible applicants from 3 participating countries, 2 of them EC co-fund eligible, plus 1 urban government authority	The city is a gate, not a bonus
Approach	Research-oriented (ROA) or innovation-oriented (IOA); cross-cutting topic IOA only	Choose one primary approach per proposal
Platform	UDiManager (UEFISCDI), PIC mandatory for every applicant	Only the main applicant's contact point submits
Evaluation	Three criteria scored 0–5; thresholds 3 per criterion, 10 of 15 overall	Implementation quality counts as much as excellence
Decision and start	Funding recommendation and national decisions July 2027; start September 2027 – January 2028	No money before late 2027

Official basis: S1 (call page), S2 (call text, revision of 2 October 2026; Romanian figures from Annex A, Table 1 on pp. 48–49 and the UEFISCDI entry on pp. 116–117), S4 (submission guidelines), S9 (UDiManager), S11 and S13 (UEFISCDI).

3 What the grant funds and what it does not

Funded	Not funded
Transnational research and innovation projects under the seven call topics in three pathways [S2]	Single-country projects, or projects without three funding-eligible applicants from three participating countries [S2]
Strategic and applied research (ROA) and urban innovation including piloting, testing and demonstration (IOA) [S2]	Projects framed purely as technology R&D — the call text states it is not focused on technological research and development [S2]
Co-creation with cities, civil society and other stakeholders, including urban living labs [S2]	Funding agencies themselves, which cannot be funded under the call [S2]
Romanian staff, consumables, equipment up to 30% of public funding (state aid compliant), subcontracting up to 25%, travel by project team members in Romania or abroad, and overheads up to 25% of direct costs [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Romanian costs incurred before the contract is signed, and subcontracting of core or substantial parts of the project [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]
Mandatory DUT programme activities, with up to €30,000 of time and budget reserved by the consortium as a whole [S1]	Equipment purchase value for Romanian companies where the equipment outlives the project — UEFISCDI's 2026 package allows only depreciation [S13]
Partners from the 28 participating countries, each under its own agency's rules [S1, S2]	Cooperation partners' costs, which they fund themselves [S2]

Business implication: DUT pays for people co-creating and testing urban solutions with a city, not for capital investment. A Romanian company should model a staff-heavy share with 20–60% self-funded at the Annex A rates, and treat travel as own-funded until UEFISCDI confirms otherwise. A Romanian university is funded at 100% but shares the €200,000–€250,000 project ceiling with every other Romanian partner. [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]

4 Programme and evaluator logic

Each proposal chooses one primary approach. The research-oriented approach produces strategic or applied knowledge and tools for policymakers; the innovation-oriented approach develops practical solutions through piloting, testing and demonstration. The call text maps these to industrial research and experimental development under the General Block Exemption Regulation, which sets company funding rates, and notes that, were this a technology call, ROA would equate to TRL 1–4 and IOA to above TRL 4. [S2]

The evaluator logic favours co-created, transdisciplinary work. Urban living labs are welcome under both approaches, all disciplines are welcome — the social sciences, arts and humanities are named — and proposals should show how results will have factual impact for decision-makers and practitioners. [S2]

- Cross-cutting Topic 1 — adaptive reuse of existing urban structures and spaces; innovation-oriented only.
- 15mC Topic 2 — corporate mobility and cross-sector mobility transitions.
- 15mC Topic 3 — neighbourhood economies, hubs and local services.
- CUE Topic 2 — maintenance of urban green and blue spaces.
- CUE Topic 3 — urban production, repair and small-scale manufacturing.
- PED Topic 2 — deep renovation of privately owned housing.
- PED Topic 3 — energy-system flexibility and integrated technologies, demonstrated in real settings.

Selection is not a single league table. The Expert Panel produces six ranking lists, one for each combination of pathway and approach, and the Call Steering Committee arbitrates between them to

maximise the number of projects and countries funded, balance pathways and approaches and distribute EC co-funding fairly. No gaps are allowed within a list: if a project cannot be funded, none ranked below it is funded. [S2]

5 Calendar and action points

When	Official or indicative event	Action
1 September 2026	Official: call opened for pre-proposals [S1, S2]	—
9 September 2026	Official: online Info Day; slides, recording and Q&A published [S6]	Read the Q&A before choosing a topic
By 16 October 2026	Indicative (EUnita): UEFISCDI confirmation of researcher eligibility, which Annex A strongly advises, and of municipality or NGO status where relevant [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Write to UEFISCDI now
By 31 October 2026	Indicative (EUnita): consortium, city role and topic fixed; PICs confirmed	Stop recruiting partners
17 November 2026, 13:00 CET	Official: pre-proposal deadline on UDiManager [S2, S4]	Finalise by 16 November
December 2026	Official: eligibility checks [S2]	Answer agency queries promptly
February 2027	Official: Expert Panel assesses pre-proposals [S2]	—
March 2027	Official: invitations to submit full proposals (call text; the Info Day slides say February) [S2, S7]	Plan the full proposal from early February
15 April 2027, 13:00 CEST	Official: full proposal deadline, invited consortia only [S2]	Letters of intent from cooperation partners
May–June 2027	Official: eligibility checks, then Expert Panel on full proposals [S2]	—
July 2027	Official: funding recommendation and national funding decisions [S2]	Prepare the UEFISCDI contract file
September 2027 – January 2028	Official: project start; kick-off meeting in 2028 [S2]	Consortium agreement signed
November 2027 – January 2028	Official: UEFISCDI contracting phase; earliest Romanian start November 2027 [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Romanian costs count only after signature
Within 14 days of any outcome	Official: redress window, procedural complaints only [S2]	Single PDF in English to call@dutpartnership.eu

6 Funding, eligible costs and cash flow

Budget or payment item	Call rule	Decision implication
Transnational budget	About €49 million from participating agencies; EC co-fund of up to 30% of eligible agency budget [S1, S2]	Competition is effectively per agency
Project size	No transnational minimum or maximum; about €1–2 million typical [S1, S2]	Size the project to the partners' national caps
Romanian envelope	€1,000,000; four to five projects anticipated; mean €200,000 per project [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117; S11]	Few Romanian places
Romanian cap	Per project, for all Romanian participants together: €250,000 if coordinated by a Romanian entity; €200,000 as partner(s) [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117]	Two Romanian partners share one cap
Romanian funding rates	Universities and public research organisations 100%; companies: basic research 100%, industrial research 80% / 75% / 65%, experimental development 60% / 50% / 40% (small / medium / large); public authorities and non-economic NGOs up to 100% [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Rate depends on company size and activity type
Indirect costs	Up to 25% of direct costs (staff, travel, logistics), excluding capital costs and subcontracting [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Higher overhead models will not fit
Equipment	Up to 30% of public funding, in full compliance with state aid rules; the 2026 package allows companies depreciation only [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]	Not an equipment grant
Subcontracting	Up to 25% of public funding; special tasks such as IT services only, not core or substantial parts [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Keep core work in-house
Travel	Annex A: eligible for project team members, in Romania or abroad; 2026 package: state-aid beneficiaries pay travel from own funds [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]	Annex A governs this call; companies should confirm before budgeting
Cost eligibility start	Only costs incurred after contract signature; contracting November 2027 – January 2028 [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	No retroactive Romanian costs
Reallocation	Up to 15% between personnel, logistics and travel without prior approval [S13]	Some flexibility during implementation
Programme activities	Up to €30,000 of time and budget reserved by the whole consortium [S1]	Allocate across partners in stage 1
Advance and payment schedule	Not stated in the documents checked [S2, S13]	Ask UEFISCDI before committing staff

Cash flow is the least visible risk. No Romanian money is likely before UEFISCDI's contracting phase of November 2027 to January 2028, costs count only after signature, and the documents checked do not set out advances. The 2026 package also limits projects to the period of PNCDI IV, the national plan for

2022–2027 — a question for UEFISCDI. A small company doing experimental development carries 40% of its costs, a large one 60%. [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]

7 Strands and geography

The call has three pathways and seven topics: the cross-cutting adaptive-reuse topic, which sits with all three pathways, plus two topics each under the 15-minute City, Circular Urban Economies and Positive Energy Districts. Each proposal names one main pathway and topic, and is evaluated against that pathway's criteria. [S1, S2]

Twenty-eight countries take part, from Austria to Türkiye and including Romania, Norway, Switzerland, Tunisia, the Republic of Korea and the Philippines. At least two applicants must come from countries eligible for EC co-funding; organisations elsewhere can join only as self-funded cooperation partners or as subcontractors of funded partners. [S1, S2, S8]

National scope varies. UEFISCDI funds all topics in all three pathways, covering strategic, applied and innovation activities. Other agencies are narrower or split their budgets: TA ČR funds Czech applicants only where the 15-minute City or Positive Energy Districts is the main pathway, and FFG splits Austria's €3.7 million into €1.7 million for the 15-minute City and €1.0 million each for the other two. Check every partner's Annex A entry before fixing the topic. [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117; S11, S14, S15]

8 Applicant and partner eligibility

Gate	Official condition	Evidence or decision to prepare
Three countries	At least three independent legal entities requesting funding from three different participating countries [S2]	Confirm each partner's agency eligibility in writing
EC co-fund countries	At least two applicants from two different countries eligible for EC co-funding [S2]	Avoid relying on non-EU agencies for the minimum
Urban authority	At least one city, municipality or municipally owned urban service provider, as main applicant, co-applicant or cooperation partner [S2]	Signed commitment and a defined role
Cross-cutting topic	A private-sector organisation as main applicant or co-applicant; IOA only [S2]	A funded company with a real role
Main applicant	Must be eligible for, and request, funding from its own agency [S2]	Coordinator's agency confirmation
PCP limit	Maximum two proposals per person as PCP, only one as main-applicant PCP; stricter national rules possible [S2]	Check every named PCP across all bids
Duration and form	At most 36 months; English; mandatory template and page limits [S2, S8]	Template compliance check before upload
Platform and PIC	UDiManager before the deadline; PIC for each applicant [S2, S4]	Register missing PICs now
Workload balance	No partner above 50% of person-months; balanced consortia expected [S2]	Person-month table by partner
National rules	Each partner must meet its own agency's rules in Annex A [S2]	Read each Annex A entry
Romania: beneficiaries	Romanian legal entities: accredited universities, national R&D institutes, other research organisations, SMEs and large enterprises [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Registry extract; accreditation for research organisations
Romania: municipalities and NGOs	Table 1: NGOs eligible, municipalities 'under national conditions'; rate table includes both at up to 100%; the beneficiary list names neither [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117]	Confirm with UEFISCDI, or join as a self-funded cooperation partner
Romania: companies	R&D in the registered activity; state aid rules apply; funding rate by size and activity [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]	Company size and aid declaration
Romania: researchers	Research-organisation team leader must hold a PhD; UEFISCDI strongly advises contacting it before submission to verify researchers' eligibility [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]	PhD evidence and UEFISCDI's reply
Romania: national submission	No national (pre-)proposal submission required; no additional eligibility criteria [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117]	Only the UDiManager submission

9 Application package and portal sequence

Sequence	Control point
1. National checks	Read each partner's Annex A entry and contact its agency; for Romania, UEFISCDI (Elena Simion), which strongly advises a check before submission and requires no national submission [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S11]
2. PICs	Every applicant needs a PIC before submission [S2, S4]
3. UDiManager account	The main applicant's contact point signs up at uefiscdi-direct.ro and opens 'Submit a Preproposal' under DUT 2026 [S4, S9]
4. Section 1.1	Upload the completed template as an unprotected, converted PDF; formatting breaches make it ineligible [S4]
5. Section 1.2	Select the main transition pathway and topic; add up to five keywords [S4]
6. Section 1.3	Add each partner as co-applicant or cooperation partner with its PIC [S4]
7. Section 1.4	List researchers; PI CV and contact details are mandatory [S4]
8. Section 2	Enter person-months and budget per partner, choosing the research or innovation type allowed by each agency; cooperation partners may show in-kind or zero [S4]
9. Section 4	Verify as often as needed, then Finalize; keep the confirmation email with application ID and timestamp [S4]
10. National submissions	Some agencies require their own submission — FFG, for example, by 19 November 2026, 12:00 CET [S2, S14]

10 Proposal content and limits

Pre-proposals and full proposals must be written in English on the mandatory DUT form, with a standard font and normal margins, and must respect the page limits set in the template. The Info Day Q&A is blunt: the page limit is strict, and exceeding it makes the proposal ineligible. [S2, S8]

According to the Info Day presentation, the pre-proposal template opens with a project overview table, followed by sections with page limits indicated in the text and a references section. The template file was downloaded but could not be read for this analysis, so take the exact page limits from the template itself. [S5, S7]

The online form adds the pathway and topic, keywords, consortium roles, researchers and a per-partner budget. The call text also asks for a section on gender and diversity, and at full-proposal stage evaluators also assess methodology, risks, cost justification, task allocation, management, ethics and data management. [S2, S4]

11 Evaluation and selection

Criterion	Maximum	Threshold	What to prove
Excellence — relevance and merit	5	3	Clear objectives, sound concept, added value of transnational work; ROA: new strategic knowledge; IOA: innovation against existing solutions
Impact and user engagement	5	3	Fit with the topic, gender and diversity, real engagement of cities and stakeholders; at stage 2, dissemination and either societal insight (ROA) or market potential (IOA)
Quality and efficiency of implementation	5	3	Consortium quality and interdisciplinarity, balanced contributions, feasible timescale, value for money; at stage 2, costs, tasks, management, ethics and data
Overall	15	10	No weak criterion — half marks are allowed, but one score below 3 fails the proposal
Weighting	Not stated	Not stated	The three criteria are scored equally; sub-criteria inform but are not scored separately

At stage 1, each eligible pre-proposal is read by at least three members of an international Expert Panel; at stage 2, each full proposal by at least four independent experts. The Steering Committee invites pre-proposals so that requests to each agency do not exceed four times its budget (three times for agencies without EC co-funding), while representing as many countries as possible. A fallback procedure can remove a non-coordinating partner from an oversubscribed agency carrying no more than 25% of person-months, and an inclusion procedure can let invited consortia add partners from under-represented agencies. Complaints, on procedure only, must arrive within 14 days. [S2]

12 Legal, IP, data and ethics

Each funded project must sign a consortium agreement among all partners within six months of the project start; where enterprises take part, it must be signed before the project starts, in line with the EU state-aid framework for research and innovation. It must cover at least internal organisation, sharing of risks and results, dissemination and exploitation, intellectual property and dispute settlement, and some agencies impose stricter rules. DUT strongly promotes open science under the FAIR principles: wherever possible, funded projects are obliged to provide open access to research outputs — publications, data, software, models — through trusted repositories, and to share the link with the Call Secretariat; data management requirements are set out in Annex B. By applying, applicants consent to their personal data being processed under the GDPR, including sharing with funders and reviewers outside the EEA. Funded activities must do no significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation. At full-proposal stage, evaluators also assess regulatory and ethics issues, GDPR-related management and, where relevant, a data management plan. [S2, pp. 40–45]

For Romanian partners, UEFISCDI's 2026 package requires an intellectual-property agreement among partners, publication of vacancies on jobs.research.gov.ro and euraxess.ro, up-to-date researcher profiles on brainmap.ro and project information on the institution's website. Personal data is processed under the GDPR and Romanian Law 190/2018. [S13]

13 Contracting, implementation and reporting

Each funding agency takes its own formal funding decision and contracts its own beneficiaries. For Romanian partners, UEFISCDI plans its contracting phase between November 2027 and January 2028, with November 2027 the earliest national start, and costs count only after signature; it then finances and monitors the project under its contract. Progress and final reports follow the contract timetable, and up to 15% of the budget can move between personnel, logistics and travel without prior approval. Research done properly whose hypotheses fail is not penalised; poor execution leads to recovery. [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]

At transnational level, projects become part of the DUT portfolio and must take part in its programme activities, for which the consortium reserves time and budget, including travel, of up to €30,000. Three project events are planned — a kick-off (2027 in section 5.2.1, 2028 in the section 4.4 time schedule), a mid-term event in 2028 and a final event in 2029/2030 — and projects should also contribute to at least one DUT event a year; municipal partners should join the DUT City Panel. Consortia submit annual progress reports in English to the Call Secretariat, with a key-performance-indicator survey completed by the main applicant, plus annual popular-science summaries and a final publishable report. Two obligations deserve a line in the budget from stage 1: each project must name an expert who spends at least five person-months on the DUT Knowledge Hub work package (deliverables at months 12, 18, 24 and 36), and a communication plan with a named communication ambassador is a mandatory year-one deliverable. Projects are also invited to nominate a city representative for the Mission Innovation Urban Transitions Mission, for which DUT estimates two person-months. [S1, S2, pp. 40–43]

14 Best-fit applicant profiles

- **Strong fit:** a Romanian university or national institute, funded at 100%, with urban energy, mobility, planning or circular-economy research, a PhD-holding team leader and an existing link to a Romanian or foreign city.
- **Strong fit:** a Romanian SME with R&D in its registered activity — building renovation, energy services, flexibility, mobility data or local production — able to test with a city partner and fund 20–40% of its own costs.
- **Strong fit:** a consortium led from a well-funded agency that needs a third, EC co-fund-eligible country and a Romanian case site.
- **Strong fit:** a team targeting PED Topic 2 or 3, CUE Topic 3 or 15mC Topic 3, where Romanian partners can bring real buildings, districts or neighbourhoods.
- **Weak fit:** a company seeking money to develop or launch its own product, with no city and no research partner.
- **Weak fit:** a Romanian municipality or NGO that needs UEFISCDI funding but has not confirmed how the 'national conditions' apply to it.
- **Weak fit:** an organisation that needs cash before late 2027, or Romanian partners who together need more than €250,000.

The decisive asset is the consortium: a committed city, partners from agencies with budget and a topic within every partner's national scope. Romanian organisations that cannot influence these should join, not lead. [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S11, S13]

15 Strategic application angles

Positive Energy Districts in private housing. PED Topic 2 asks for scalable deep-renovation models where ownership is fragmented and decisions involve many owners, with renewable integration and heritage constraints. A Romanian partner with access to multi-owner residential buildings and a municipality willing to host a pilot brings the case material that topic needs. [S2]

Energy flexibility with a city utility. PED Topic 3 rewards real-world demonstration of coordinated electricity, heating, cooling and mobility flexibility. A municipally owned district-heating or energy operator qualifies as the urban authority partner, which solves the city gate and the demonstration site at once — provided its own funding route is settled. [S2]

Neighbourhood economies and urban production. 15mC Topic 3 and CUE Topic 3 favour locally embedded models — multifunctional hubs, repair, small-scale manufacturing, resource-sharing platforms — and the governance needed to support them. These suit Romanian social-science teams and small companies working with a city on a specific neighbourhood. [S2]

Coordination versus partnership. Romanian coordination raises the cap for all Romanian participants together from €200,000 to €250,000, but makes the coordinator's contact point responsible for submission and limits that person to one main-applicant role. For most Romanian organisations, a well-defined partner role in a consortium led from an agency with a larger budget is the stronger first move, with no more than one or two Romanian partners sharing the cap. [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117]

16 Risks and decision blockers

Risk	Why it matters	Mitigation
No committed city	The urban authority is an eligibility rule [S2]	Signed role and case site by end of October
Shared Romanian cap	€200,000/€250,000 covers all Romanian participants in a project [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117]	One or two Romanian partners at most
Municipality or NGO status	Table 1 says municipalities 'under national conditions'; the detailed beneficiary list names neither [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117]	Written confirmation from UEFISCDI
Small Romanian envelope	€1,000,000 for four to five projects [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117; S11]	Join the strongest consortium, not the first
Four-times rule and fallback	Oversubscribed agencies can lose partners at stage 1 [S2]	Spread partners across agencies with budget
Page limit or PCP breach	Automatic ineligibility [S2, S8]	Template and PCP checks before upload
National plan horizon	Contracting November 2027 – January 2028, while the 2026 package ties projects to PNCDI IV (2022–2027) [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]	Ask UEFISCDI how 2027–2030 spending is contracted
Company co-financing	Companies funded at 40–80% for applied work, by size; Annex A and the 2026 package differ on company travel [S2, Annex A pp. 116–117; S13]	Model the own share from the rate table; confirm travel
Cross-cutting topic rules	IOA only and a funded private partner [S2]	Choose a pathway topic if either is missing
Partner agency restrictions	Different pathways, caps and national deadlines [S14, S15]	Map every partner's Annex A entry
Timing	42 days to 17 November 2026, 13:00 CET [S2]	Fixed internal milestones from now

17 EUnita opportunity scorecard

Provisional public-market score: 57/100. This is EUnita's commercial and delivery assessment of the call, not an official evaluator score or applicant success forecast. DUT offers strategic value and repeat calls with European cities, but Romanian partners share a €200,000–€250,000 cap per project and the process is long and two-staged.

Dimension	Score / 20	Rationale
Funding value	12	€1–2 million projects in total, but only €200,000–€250,000 for all Romanian partners together; universities funded at 100%, companies at 40–80%
Access and fit	11	Romania eligible across all topics; the city gate, the shared cap and conditional municipality status narrow the field

Dimension	Score / 20	Rationale
Strategic value	16	Access to European city networks and a partnership with calls planned through 2028
Delivery burden	8	Two stages, multi-country consortium, national rules per partner and a 36-month project
Timing and competition	10	42 days to the pre-proposal deadline and a small Romanian envelope against the four-times invitation rule
Total	57 / 100	Worth pursuing for well-placed research organisations and R&D companies; not a quick win

18 Official sources and document availability

The links below are the official source set used for this analysis. URLs are printed in full so they can be checked; all were checked on 6 October 2026.

S1 DUT Partnership — DUT Call 2026 call page (dates, budget, countries, topics, FAQ, downloads)
https://dutpartnership.eu/calls/dut-call-2026

S2 DUT Call 2026 — Call Text, 149 pages, revision of 2 October 2026, incl. Annex A (Romania: Table 1, pp. 48–49; UEFISCDI entry, pp. 116–117)
https://dutpartnership.eu/sites/default/files/2026-10/DUT%20Call%202026_Call%20Text_0.pdf

S3 DUT Call 2026 — Call Text, earlier upload (revision of 17 September 2026)
https://dutpartnership.eu/sites/default/files/2026-09/DUT%20Call%202026_Call%20Text_0.pdf

S4 Electronic Submission Guidelines for UDiManager — DUT Call 2026
https://dutpartnership.eu/sites/default/files/2026-09/Submission%20Guidelines%20DUT%20Call%20for%20Proposals_2026_0.pdf

S5 DUT Call 2026 — Pre-proposal template (DOCX)
https://dutpartnership.eu/sites/default/files/2026-09/DUT%20Call%202026_Preproposal%20template.docx

S6 DUT Call 2026 Info Day page (9 September 2026)
https://dutpartnership.eu/events/dut-call-2026-info-day

S7 DUT Call 2026 Info Day — presentation
https://dutpartnership.eu/sites/default/files/2026-09/DUT%20Call%202026_Info%20Day_Presentation_0.pdf

S8 DUT Call 2026 Info Day — Q&A
https://dutpartnership.eu/sites/default/files/2026-09/DUT%20Call%202026%20Info%20Day%20QA.pdf

S9 UEFISCDI — UDiManager submission platform (DUT-2026 listed as current call)
https://www.uefiscdi-direct.ro/

S10 DUT Call 2026 matchmaking platform (b2match)
https://www.b2match.com/e/dut-call-2026

S11 UEFISCDI — Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT) page: Romanian budget, contact
https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/driving-urban-transitions-partnership-dut

S12 UEFISCDI — Parteneriate și misiuni europene (European partnerships and missions) page
https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene

S13 UEFISCDI — Information package, European partnerships and missions 2026 (PN-IV-CEI-OE-PME-2026-1, 8 July 2026)
https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/resource-832956-PI-Parteneriate-europene_08.07.2026.pdf

S14 FFG — Driving Urban Transitions Partnership Joint Call 2026 (Austrian rules; comparison)
https://www.ffg.at/en/ausschreibungen/dut2026

S15 TA ČR — DUT Joint Call 2026 is open (Czech rules; comparison)
https://tacr.gov.cz/en/driving-urban-transitions-dut-joint-call-2026-is-open/

Annex A (national and regional rules) is part of the call text rather than a separate file; Romania appears in Table 1 on pages 48–49 and in UEFISCDI's detailed entry on pages 116–117, both checked on 6 October 2026. Section 5 of the call text (project implementation, pages 40–45) was also read in a browser on 6 October 2026. The pre-proposal template (DOCX) was downloaded but its contents could not be read. No standalone FAQ document exists; the FAQ is on the call page. The call text linked from the call page is the

2 October 2026 revision; an earlier upload (revision of 17 September 2026) is still online at a different address. The FFG and TA ČR pages are used for comparison only.

19 Final verdict

CONDITIONAL GO. Pursue DUT Call 2026 if you are a Romanian research organisation or a company with R&D in its registered activity, can join or lead a consortium with partners from at least three participating countries and a committed urban authority by the end of October 2026, and have UEFISCDI's confirmation that your researchers are eligible. Budget the Romanian share within one €200,000–€250,000 cap for all Romanian partners together and, for companies, at the Annex A rates. HOLD if you have no city partner, need funding before late 2027 or are a municipality or NGO that cannot yet confirm its funding status. The pre-proposal deadline is 17 November 2026, 13:00 CET. [S2, Annex A pp. 48–49, 116–117; S13]

20 How EUnita can help

EUnita can confirm Romanian eligibility and budget rules with UEFISCDI, map each partner's national rules, help find and structure a consortium with a committed city, choose the pathway, topic and approach, draft the pre-proposal against the evaluation criteria and page limits, prepare the UDiManager submission and, if invited, develop the full proposal and the Romanian contract file. Each assignment would be scoped to the applicant's verified facts and the current official documents.

21 Contact

EUnita — EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

David Gaburici, Managing Partner

david.gaburici@eunita.eu | +40 746 666 090 | www.eunita.eu