Call for EBSF_2 Innovation Pathfinders

1. Background

The European Bus System of the Future 2 (EBSF_2) project is led by UITP and co-funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. The project (May 2015 – April 2018) is aimed at developing a new generation of urban bus systems by means of new vehicle technologies and infrastructures in combination with operational best practices, and testing them in operating scenarios within 12 European bus networks: Paris Area, London, Lyon, Paris City, Barcelona, Helsinki, Madrid, Dresden, Ravenna, San Sebastian, Gothenburg and Stuttgart.

Demonstrations address six key areas for innovation:
- Energy Strategy and Auxiliaries
- Green Driver Assistance Systems
- IT Standard Introduction in existing fleets
- Vehicle Design (Capacity, Accessibility, Modularity)
- Intelligent Garage and Predictive Maintenance
- Interface between vehicle and urban infrastructure

The technological innovations to be tested within the demonstrations deal with a wide range of bus systems, from BRT to local lines, and all current propulsion technologies. They have been identified according to their technological maturity in order to ensure an easy commercialisation after the project is finished.

For more information please visit http://ebsf2.eu/
Please see Annex I for the full description of the ESBF_2 Key areas for innovation.

2. The EBSF_2 Innovation Pathfinders

In the logic of EBSF_2 an “innovation pathfinder” is a bus stakeholder experienced in solutions or strategies which represents an innovation in the bus system domain with respect to one of the EBSF_2 key areas for innovation.

The Innovation Pathfinders will be involved in 2 main project tasks:
- Refine the results of the update of the “Innovative Bus System” concept, following a consultation process among selected project partners (see details in section 3)
- Support the replication of the EBSF_2 innovations across European cities, by being involved in a dedicated transferability analysis (described in section 4) which implies also the visit to selected EBSF_2 test sites (Study Tour).
The opportunity to take part in other EBSF_2 activities is provided namely by joining project meetings and events, identified together with the Project coordinator, to exchange knowledge and experience with the EBSF_2 partners.

The Innovation Pathfinders have access to a financing mechanism within EBSF_2. UITP, as project coordinator will hire the innovation pathfinders, as subcontractor, to perform the above mentioned tasks.

3. “Innovative Bus System” concept update

One of the goals of the EBSF_2 project is to update the innovative bus system concept, as it was settled within the previous EBSF project. This update will be performed through the selection of users’ needs and bus system’s functional requirements identified within EBSF (2008-2012) which are still relevant, despite the innovations occurred in the bus system domain, as well as the integration of the previous database with additional items.

Capitalizing on the EBSF_2 partners’ knowledge and experience, a consultation among public transport operators, authorities, research entities, associations of bus stakeholders and knowledge providers, will allow reviewing the previous database vis-à-vis the priority topics EBSF_2 is committed to work on for the deployment of innovative bus systems in European cities.

The awarded applicant will contribute to refine the results of the above task in view of their experience in implementing innovative solutions or strategies impacting bus systems.

4. Transferability activities

The methodology in EBSF2, building on past transfer processes carried out in EBSF, CIVITAS CAPITAL and TIDE projects, is designed to produce the transferability tutorial package, as catalyst for the take-up by operators and cities in Europe. Building on project demonstrator’s experiences self-explanatory and practice-oriented tutorial packages for knowledge transfer and take-up will be developed (step-by-step guided process). It will enable easy implementation of key EBSF_2 technical solutions within a fact-based, but attractive learning environment meeting practitioner needs. The exercise will include a cross-site innovation assessment framework with common benchmarks, an operational scenario (requirements and KPIs) applied for project demonstration evaluation, and will address the identified transferability barriers and drivers for successful replication of EBSF_2 experiences across Europe.

The transferability approach will include the following:

1) Selection and involvement of the “innovation pathfinders”.

2) Develop full-scale transferability methodology, identifying how EBSF_2 key tested innovations can be transferred/re-used to/by any other site;
3) Transferability exercise to be conducted at the selected sites. It will include the analysis of transferability and implementation success factors (enablers) / barriers in implementing the innovative EBSF_2 solutions.

4) A Final recommendations document will be produced. In particular, each pathfinder will benefit of a customised roadmap in order to maximise transferability potentials and benefits from EBSF_2.

The awarded applicants will be involved in the following activities:

- Participation to questionnaire and in-depth interview(s) to collect information and data needed to perform the transferability exercise. Whenever possible meetings/workshops will be organised ad hoc.
- Participation to at least one EBSF_2 workshop
- Study tour to visit at least one EBSF_2 test site.

5. Eligibility and evaluation criteria

Eligibility criteria

An application for the EBSF_2 Innovation Pathfinders must satisfy all of the following eligibility criteria in order to be retained for evaluation:

- It is submitted before 4 April 2016;
- It involves at least one legal entity established in a Member State of the European Union, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland or Turkey;
- It is complete in all elements required in the application form;
- It is submitted in English (official language of the EBSF_2 project).

Only proposals that satisfy the above eligibility criteria are acceptable and will be evaluated.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluators - the EBSF_2 project coordinator (UITP) and Transferability team – will evaluate the proposals using the following evaluation criteria for each application:

- **Evaluation Criteria 1: “Innovation pathfinder”**
  - degree of conformity to one (or more) of the six EBSF_2 thematic priorities
  - degree of innovation in the in the bus system domain

- **Evaluation Criteria 2: Take-up potential**
  - potential for the measure transferability
  - the local/regional commitment for the transfer of an EBSF_2 thematic priority

The application evaluations will be completed within 1 week (5 working days) of the closing date of this call.
6. Budget and funding rules
The Innovation Pathfinders are expected to be funded with a maximum funding equivalent to 2 person months. All expenses incurred for travels linked to the mission (e.g. participation to the EBSF_2 Study Tours and other meetings and project related events) will be reimbursed up to an amount agreed with the project coordinator.

7. Procedures

Submission
Proposals must utilise the application form and follow the procedures detailed in the application form. Applications submitted past the deadline or incomplete applications will not be retained for evaluation. Applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail. Applications meeting all formal requirements will be evaluated.

Timing and deadline
The EBSF_2 Innovation Pathfinders call opened on 14 March 2016 and will close on 4 April 2016. Proposal evaluations will be completed within 1 week (5 working days) of the closing date of this call. Immediately after, awarded applicants will be asked to sign an agreement with UITP which will cover the duration of the project (till April 2018).

For further information or enquiries please do not hesitate to contact:
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