

Terms and Conditions Call for Projects for Circular Society

Institute for a Circular Society (i4CS), EWUU Alliance

Submission deadline 18 September 2026, 5 pm

1. Purpose of funding

The purpose of this call for project proposals is to facilitate and financially support research initiatives that are both inter- and transdisciplinary and contribute to the objectives described in the call text.

Funds may be used for:

- Salary of faculty staff and student assistants, including financing substitution of teaching or extending research time of existing staff;
- Costs of organizing scientific workshops or other events;
- Costs of organizing stakeholder/dissemination events;
- Materials and equipment needed for research;
- Other costs directly associated with proposed activities (for example, travel costs).

The seed fund cannot be used for:

- Matching in an external grant application (for NWO, EU or otherwise);
- Financing the extension of the contract of a PhD student;
- The purchase of software, hardware, or other devices unless such items are crucial to the execution of the research project and cannot be obtained through the regular support services of the institution(s) of the researcher(s) involved.

2. Eligibility and review criteria

Eligibility

1. Proposals are only eligible for receiving a grant if at least two researchers from the submitting team have participated in the co-creation event subtrack, related to the topic of your proposal, on 8 June.
2. At least two (but preferably more, see Review criteria) Alliance partners are involved in the proposal. It must be clear that the seed fund leads to a new combination of complementary expertise or strengthening an existing cooperation between different alliance partners. The fund can be allocated to one partner or several partners
3. The application form must be used for submission of the proposal and filled out completely;
4. A researcher can be the main applicant for one proposal only and can be co-applicant in one other proposal.

5. The duration of a project is typically 12 months; deviations from this must be substantiated in the proposal. The earliest start date is 1 January 2027.

Review criteria:

1. The composition and qualifications of the team to complete the project. The extent to which the research team makes effective use of the different Alliance partners' complementary expertise. The involvement of more than two alliance partners is rewarded positively.
2. The extent to which the proposal is linked to the challenges of Circular Regions and Circular Hospitals and contributes to the knowledge gaps as described in the call text.
3. The potential scientific quality of the proposed project from an interdisciplinary perspective: complementarity yet also depth, proportionality and expected integration of disciplines involved.
4. Innovativeness and creativity of the proposed project
5. The likelihood of successful implementation

3. What amount can be requested?

The total indicative budget for this call is €160.000. The maximum per proposal is €40.000. If a proposal does not sufficiently substantiate the need of the budget applied for, a smaller amount may be awarded.

6. Submission guidelines

Applications must be submitted by e-mailing the completed application form to: s.tensen@uu.nl, Program Manager Circular society .

The submission deadline is 18 September 2026 at 5 PM. Applicants will be informed about the result of their applications on 1 October 2026 at the latest. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

5. Review procedure and criteria

The I4CS scientific steering committee is responsible for reviewing the proposals. They will appoint a dedicated review panel for this call. At least one committee member will take a seat on this panel. The steering committee can invite additional EWUU and non-EWUU academics and/or support staff, as well as relevant stakeholders to take part in, or to provide advice for the review panel. If applicable, submitters must get approval of an Ethics Review Board at the main applicant's institute. The Institute for a Circular Society (i4CS) reserves the right to adjust proposed budgets if deemed reasonable, also to be able to fund additional proposals.

6. Obligations for awardees

Awardees must be willing to attend future i4CS events to present their results there and might be asked to contribute to i4CS communication activities. By the project end date, recipients must provide a final report of the research, including at least a summary of the results, an overview of the planned and obtained deliverables, and a financial account. In case of good reasons not to openly publish the final report on the website of the alliance, we request additionally a publishable summary of the results.

7. Call timeline & process

18 September 2026	Deadline to submit proposals
1 October 2026	Funding decision

8. Organization

The scientific steering committee for i4CS has the following members:

Prof. dr. Huub Rijnaarts, WUR (Scientific Director)

Dr. Qi Han, TU/e

Prof. Dr. Willem Janssen, UU

Dr. Florijn Dekkers, UMC Utrecht

For questions please contact:

Sacha Tensen, Program Manager Circular Society

s.tensen@uu.nl