



Co-UDlabs

COLLABORATIVE URBAN DRAINAGE
RESEARCH LABS COMMUNITIES

Introducing Co-UDlabs – an INFRAIA H2020 European Project

May 1, 2021, marked the official start of Building **Collaborative Urban Drainage** research **labs** communities (Co-UDlabs), a European research project funded by the European Union's H2020 framework programme (H2020-INFRAIA-2020-1, Grant Agreement No. 101008626). Co-UDlabs is based on the common goal – and impending necessity – to develop efficient and effective co-operation between scientists, researchers, and practitioners in the face of the increasingly pressing challenges of Urban Drainage System management.

Research projects on UDS require a wide range of specialistic knowledge to go alongside significant investments in designing and building experimental set-ups and developing field sites. **With Co-UDlabs, a consortium of 9 partners will offer Transnational Access (TA) to 17 experimental facilities, including lab and field sites.** It will also provide access to historical data sets obtained in the project's field labs, as well as to the results from Joint Research Activities (JRAs) performed in collaboration by Co-UDlabs partners.



UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



The 9 partners of the Co-UDlabs consortium: Universidade da Coruña (A Coruña, Spain); The University of Sheffield (Sheffield, United Kingdom); Deltares (Delft, Netherlands); EAWAG (Dübendorf, Switzerland); IKT (Gelsenkirchen, Germany); INSA (Lyon, France); Aalborg University (Aalborg, Denmark); GRAIE (Lyon, France); Euronovia (Paris, France).

In order to encourage co-operation among researchers, practitioners, SMEs, and local regulators and administrations, the project aims to establish research consortia based on a mix of academic and non-academic partners – with specific focus on the engagement of SMEs active in this field of work. **You can easily connect with us and stay updated on Co-UDlabs news by joining our stakeholders' group** at this link: <http://www.graie.org/survey2/index.php/787823?lang=en>.



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The 17 research facilities offered by Co-UDlabs partners in the first call for proposals for Transnational Access.

Call for consortia/project proposals

There is a specific work package at the heart of Co-UDlabs' activities, 'WP5 - Transnational Access', which will have a budget available to support the establishment of consortia to access one or more facilities offered by the project's partner institutions. Funding includes access to the facilities as well as technical support for the tasks to be performed and travel and stay expenses. More details on these opportunities are available on [our LinkedIn page](#) and will be available soon on the project website that is currently being developed.

Co-UDlabs is defining the Transnational Access framework so that a first round of TA research activities can be carried out already in the second semester of 2022. The call will open in October 2021, and the project is working with the following timeline of activities in order to support potential users and research teams as they work on a successful proposal:

- **October 13, 2021: an introductory webinar** presenting the project and the opportunities offered by the Transnational Access framework, with a preliminary discussion on potential proposals, match-making, and research consortia. We provide all the details about this event below.
- **November 3 and 4, 2021:** a Co-UDlabs partner, the Institute for Underground Infrastructure (*Institut für Unterirdische Infrastruktur, IKT*) will hold an online



workshop on good practices and optimization of urban drainage, which will engage directly with industry, regulators, infrastructure operators, and other utilities that will debate on specific issues and challenges in UDS, in search of viable and sustainable solutions.

- **November 23 and 25, 2021: a 'Hackathon' event** in which 'proto'-consortia can be already provided with an opportunity to propose and design innovative, disrupting solutions to a set of key outstanding issues and problems in UDS research and practice. Co-UDlabs is looking for insight and ideas from a diverse range of fields – including AI, computer science, numerical work, IT, instrumentation development, or utility management.
- **January 31, 2022: the official deadline** for the submission of **TA consortia/project proposals**.
- **March 31, 2022: announcement of grants for selected proposals.**

Webinar logistics and details: October 13, 2021

We aim at having some 20 project teams or early consortia attending the introductory webinar on **October 13, 2021**. The session will feature **a preliminary presentation of the Co-UDlabs project** – its goals, resources, facilities, and team – by Prof. José Anta Álvarez (UDC - Universidade da Coruña, Spain), Co-UDlabs Project Coordinator, followed by **a quick Q&A session**. A second part of the webinar will engage attendees in **a discussion with the facility providers, so that they can give more detailed information on the venues** and the installations involved in the project as well as on **the services and potential uses that can be carried out** within the scope of Co-UDlabs. Finally, the attendees will also be given time in a 'meeting' room to **find potential matches for partnerships and consortia** to develop an idea suitable for the Co-UDlabs TA. The webinar will close with an introduction to the process' next crucial steps – the Hackathon and the official Call for Proposals – and a final Q&A session.

You can **access the Webinar registration form** at this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4416726531422304271>.

You can find more information on the Webinar within the **Deltares Software Days** platform at this link: <https://softwaredays.deltares.nl/-/introduction-to-co-udlabs>.

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