

SURF Project – Frequently Asked Questions

SURF Project General Questions

Who is the project partner?

Sustainable URban Freight (SURF) is a partnership with [Environmental Defense Fund Europe](#), a leading international non-profit. It is providing clean air and transport expertise and knowledge to co-create the SURF project with POLIS.

How is the project funded?

The [Environmental Defense Fund Europe](#) finances the SURF project.

Does the SURF project stop at the end of 2021? Why does it not continue?

It is a short-term project as we aim for quick and tangible action. At the end of 2021, we will evaluate the project and decide on its follow-up.

Is there more information for SURF on the POLIS website?

Yes. You can find all the information at the following address: <https://www.polisnetwork.eu/surf/>

Instant Projects

What type of participants are expected to apply for the instant projects?

Participants can include local authorities (cities and regions), as well as transport operators or any other public authorities and departments working on the topic.

Can private companies join the application?

Applicants can identify other stakeholders at the local level, such as logistics companies, retailers, business associations etc., to be part of the overall application. However, only public authorities can receive funding.

Could projects that have already started be used in an application?

This is possible, for example, if funding from the SURF project will enable you to add a component to your current project you hadn't already envisioned or weren't able to afford.

What are the criteria to evaluate and choose the projects?

SURF wants to support a variety of projects, so we will choose different topics and cities from different countries, dedicating efforts to develop zero emission zones. We prefer cities and regions that have already started a sustainable urban mobility plan, as well as freight planning. Thus, the projects will serve as a boost to move forward with processes already on the way.

Can the applicant city name or request a specific expert from the pool?

Applicants can apply for an instant project with an expert in mind. They can also indicate what type of expertise they are looking for. The expert must apply to support the project. For the call for experts and the application form, please click [here](#).

Can two cities from different countries conduct the same project to assess scalability of results?

SURF will not support the same initiative applied in multiple cities. However, if the initiatives are complementary to each other, support is possible. The SURF project aims at helping many cities to progress in different areas so that others can learn from them. Therefore, we need three very different types of projects. However, if there is already an existing initiative from another city that applicants want to try to replicate by adding something innovative, that is also possible – so in that case they can assess scalability.

Is this call only for POLIS Member cities?

The call is open to EU27 cities, even those outside the group of POLIS Members.

Instant Projects – Funding

How many projects will be awarded funding?

Up to three cities, regions, or public companies will be chosen for instant projects. There will also be extra funding through the call for experts to support the selected projects.

What is the budget allocated for each project?

The budget per project is EUR 10.000. Extra funding will be available through the call for experts to support the projects.

What type of expenses can be covered with the EUR 10 000? For instance, local NGOs, staff costs, cargo bikes?

There are no limits in terms of expenses' type, as long as they contribute to the project's overall goal and are meaningful for the community.

Instant Project Experts

What is the profile of experts the project is looking for?

We are looking for people with a background in city logistics or technical experience in data analysis, surveying, infrastructure mapping or sketching proper stakeholder engagement strategies. The experts can be both from the private and public sector. They can also be researchers or anyone whose expertise can help the projects and their participants. The experts will advise, train, and provide technical assistance.

What funding will the expert receive?

Each expert will receive around EUR 500 per day of work. The total amount depends on the projects and their needs. There is a section of the project application form to indicate the expected external support in terms of capabilities and time. We will provide additional information in due time.

Capacity Building

What is the capacity building program?

This part of the program will include an e-course featuring lectures and interviews from specialists in the field or urban freight. The goal is to help cities better understand why and how ZEZ-Fs can help mitigate climate impacts, provide steps for designing, implementing and enforcing these zones as well as tools for how to determine success. Resource materials will be provided to participants as well. These will be pre-recorded so viewing can be done when it is most convenient.

Are there certificates of course completion for the capacity building activity?

Yes. Certificates of course completion are provided.