



SMUS

Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability

TU Berlin | Faculty VI - Planning Building Environment – Institute for Urban & Regional Planning

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Science Communication Projects

EC(h)OTONING

EXPLORING THICK EDGES

Application Deadline: Friday 15th May 2026

The Science Communication Hub

The SciCom Hub within SMUS provides a space for researchers and practitioners working on diverse topics to develop innovative science communication projects that use visuals, stories, and other (interactive) formats to make concepts and ideas more easily understandable for people inside and outside academia. By involving residents, decision-makers, artists, researchers, and others in co-creating diverse media (maps, digital content, audio/video), these projects bring together different ways of knowing and feeling the long-term impacts in urban areas. This shared work helps people see how environmental damage, social inequality, health, and policy are interlinked, supporting a more inclusive and pluralistic understanding of wicked urban problems.

The SCPs therefore aim to promote transdisciplinary learning and increase public engagement in addressing “Wicked Urban Problems” (WUPs) in urban spaces.

The theme of the current cycle is:

EC(h)OTONING – exploring thick edges

EC(h)OTONING is a transdisciplinary, practice-based research series linking universities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to explore urban sustainability, bringing students, policymakers, and communities into dialogue around how local challenges resonate across shared urban futures. EC(h)OTONING points to how Wicked Urban Problems (WUPs) are sensed, narrated, and amplified across different “edges” – between polluted and “clean” areas, expert and lay knowledge, past and future – that echo through space and time, and why addressing them requires plural ways of knowing and acting rather than purely technical fixes.



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Science Communication Projects

The SMUS Science Communication Projects (SCPs) aim to deliver research outcomes and approaches beyond classical scientific representation (e.g., via scientific papers or presentations at academic conferences). The focus lies on the communication of and on the urban, its visualizations, representations, and mediations, understanding communication not as a unidirectional presentation of information, but rather as a multidirectional dialogue. To this end, the SCPs can deal both with the medium (or media) employed for transmitting information (e.g. maps, plans, infographics, drawings, sketches, texts, speech, audios, video), but also with the processes of transmission (e.g. human/non- human interaction, participatory methods, co-production), and questions of how a collective understanding of the corresponding content succeeds.

The output of the SCP's may be in different languages, but an English translation must be provided so that different audiences can understand the outcomes (please remember to set aside sufficient funds for this).

Eligibility

The call will be organized for and addressed to **all SMUS partner institutions** within the wider network, as well as practice-oriented partners in media and communication (e.g., designers, artists, and filmmakers), and members of the public and civil society organizations, who can actively contribute to the production of SCPs contents.

A total of 5-6 SCPs will be selected and funded.

Financing

Each SCP shall NOT exceed a total sum of €8.000,00 (+19% German VAT). Please provide a budget detailing your planned spending in the given categories (see budget template provided).

Please note the following:

Selected projects will receive a service contract and are not required to provide a financial report.



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Application Procedure

Applications should be sent before midnight Berlin time on 15.05.2026 to Science & Communication Hub, sci-com@smus.tu-berlin.de

All applications should include the following:

- A PDF copy of the completed Application Form.
- The completed Budget.

Consideration will be given to the thematic and professional spectrum of different disciplines and the representation of the world regions within the SMUS network and beyond.

Timeline

| DATE | ACTION | WHO |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 08.04.2026 | Launch of the Call: EC(h)OTONING – exploring thick edges. | SC Hub |
| 15.05.2026 | Application Deadline | Applicants |
| 15.05.2026 – 22.05.2026 | Selection Process | Selection Committee |
| 25.05.2026 | Notification of selected SCPs | SC Hub |
| From 25.05.2026 | Admin process: signing of cooperation agreements. | TU Berlin and Project Teams |
| From 25.05.2026 | Conceptual phase | Project Teams |
| 01.06.2026 – 30.10.2026 | Production phase | Project Teams |
| October 2026 | Completion phase | Project Teams |
| 30.10.2026 | Delivery of science communication project | Project Teams |