



FUTURE CITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE

BANJA LUKA: SMARTER, HEALTHIER, MORE LIVEABLE



GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

June 2020

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cities

Cities only occupy roughly 2% of the earth's land surface, but they account for more than 60% of energy use, 70% greenhouse gas emissions, 70% of waste production, and 80% of global Gross Domestic Product. These urban engines of growth and opportunity, demand ever-more resources in an increasingly climate-insecure world.

Past years were marked by widespread ecosystem collapse and climate-related disasters that have displaced an estimated 24 million people since 2008. Estimates say that by 2050 nearly 143 million people will be internally displaced by climate change realities. In 2020, the world saw the global COVID-19 virus crisis that affected health and lives of people, disrupted economies, caused loss of jobs and incomes, hampered public services. These were felt particularly in cities. The speed and scale of the challenges facing cities are faster and bigger than estimated, and this accelerated change is outpacing our ability to respond.

At the same time, technology continues to advance at an unprecedented rate and holds the potential to address these complex challenges and contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive and circular development. Cities around the world leverage technology and tap into the intelligence of their communities and businesses to create and implement local innovative solutions to overcome current challenges and seize system-changing opportunities that help transform "the city we call home" into a more liveable, healthy, prosperous, clean, safe, resilient, accessible for all, pleasant to live in and offering diverse opportunities for all residents. Cities of the future.

Banja Luka heading towards a future city

The [city development strategy 2018-2027](#) defines one of its four strategic objectives "Develop the city as modern urban environment based on the smart-city concept, providing for more comfortable life for all residents". The city leadership is highly committed to achieve this objective and the city administration, in partnership with other stakeholders, has already started the implementation of several smart city projects (including digitalisation of the administration; development of an e-city Viber community, introduction of e-patrol app which helps citizens voice issues with public services or functionality of the city, pilot e-mobility and smart parking projects, etc.), which contribute to the long-term vision.

In 2020, the City Mayor has re-confirmed his commitment to continue efforts towards the transformation of Banja Luka towards a future city. In partnership with the Innovation Centre – Banja Luka and with the support of UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the City of Banja Luka has placed two main short-term tasks in this area: (i) develop a future city vision and action plan, which will help operationalise the objective into implementable activities, in collaboration with residents; and (ii) continue to implement smart city projects which help advance the future city agenda.

Despite the fact that the COVID-19 crisis affected highly Banja Luka and the wider region, at the end of the pandemic, the City of Banja Luka is launching this Future City Innovation Challenge: on the one side – to call for innovative proposals to be implemented in 2020 that help make the city smarter, greener and more liveable. On the other, learning from the recent COVID-19 crisis experiences, this Innovation Challenge will also invite ideas on how to make the city more resilient and safer by tapping into technology and innovative solutions.

2. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY AREAS

Objectives of the Future City Innovation Challenge

The Future City Innovation Challenge is an open and competitive call for proposals from civil society organisations, private sector, universities, media, public institutions that offer innovative and technology-based, yet customised solutions that would make Banja Luka smarter, greener, more resilient, inclusive and sustainable. This Future City Innovation Challenge aims to bring such ideas to life, catalyse action, and test innovative solutions that contribute making Banja Luka a city of the future.

The **main objectives** of the Future City Challenge are to:

- Stimulate design and implementation of a portfolio of innovative and technology-based solutions that help build a more equitable, accessible, and enjoyable city to live in.
- Instigate collaboration among multi-sectoral city stakeholders to co-design blueprint solutions that contribute to a future city.

The **key results** are:

- At least 5 transformative, and scalable interventions that contribute to Banja Luka becoming a future city;
- At least 3,000 residents benefit directly from the implementation of the proposals.

The city pilot transformation zones

All proposed projects should be developed specifically for one of the following pilot zones where all approved projects will be implemented:

- urban zone: **local communities (mjesne zajednice)** [Lazarevo I](#) and [Lazarevo II](#)
- rural zone: **local communities (mjesne zajednice)** [Karanovac](#), [Krupa na Vrbasu](#), [Bočac](#), [Ljubačevo](#), [Krmine](#), [Agino selo](#).

Implementing all proposals within the selected areas will serve as a demonstration of diverse solutions that together can help improve the entire area at a micro-scale.

Priority innovation challenge areas

The Future City Challenge invites proposals in the following priority areas:

- **Future public services:** the innovation challenge will seek to support proposals for innovative, technology-based and smart public services (e.g. public transport and traffic, energy efficiency and public lighting, public waste management, administrative services, etc.), which offer future-looking solutions for more effective and people-centred public service delivery. Applicants are encouraged to propose ideas which go beyond an off-the-shell "installation of a new application/software", but such that envisage re-imagining of the public service based on citizens' contribution, innovative thinking, data and technology. In addition, in their proposals, applicants may think about the smart public service also from the viewpoint of ensuring that they remain uninterrupted, accessible and effective, especially in times of public health crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic).
- **Future public spaces:** the innovation challenge will seek to support proposals that re-imagine public spaces and areas by tapping into collective intelligence, citizen-led processes

that offer a new vision for improved public space utilizing innovation, art, culture, green infrastructure and green areas, technology and urban development as complementary tools for more accessible, greener, people-centred and modern public spaces and areas. In their proposals, applicants need to consider the safety and “new normal” in public spaces imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Resilient city:** Cities face a growing range of adversities and challenges in the 21st century. From the effects of climate change to floods or earthquakes, from industrial incidents to pandemics. Resilience is a main feature of future cities, helping them adapt and transform in the face of these challenges and prepare better for both the expected and the unexpected. Therefore, the innovation challenge will seek to support proposals that protect natural and cultural heritage for enhanced urban resilience, pilot circular economy and sustainable urban food solutions, introduce green infrastructure, develop protective and devices and alternative infrastructure solutions, disaster information management systems and solutions, etc.

Although these three priority areas focus on various elements of city life, the common denominator for all proposals is that they need to be sustainable - doing no harm on the ecosystem and maintaining current resource capacities without compromising the future.

Applicants can submit as many proposals as they wish in one or all priority areas.

What proposals are encouraged?

We are looking for proposals that seek to introduce systemic change. Hence, the Future City Innovation Challenge does not encourage single-point solutions that focus on the technology/device alone without considering the challenge to be addressed or the wide system within which the project is going to bring change. For example, introducing “smart bins” and mobile apps that don’t also address an inefficient waste management system or human behaviours, are just expensive trash cans. This Innovation Challenge invites solutions and innovations where technology serves as a means to an end, rather than being the focus.

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

The following applicants are eligible to apply under the Future City Innovation Challenge:

- Non-governmental organisations;
- Private sector;
- Public institutions (agencies, institutes, art and culture, etc.) and utilities;
- Public and private universities;
- Public and private elementary and secondary schools;
- Innovation hubs and technology centres;
- Media.

Applicants can submit applications individually. However, this Future City Innovation Challenge encourages:

- **partnerships between eligible stakeholders** within a proposal;
- **informally connected tripartite coalitions between applicants who tackle each of the three priority areas within a connected set of three separate applications that**

together represent an inter-linked, cross-sectoral and more systemic solution for the selected area.

4. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK AND DETAILS

The total amount of financial resources ensured by UNDP and co-financed by the City of Banja Luka amounts to **BAM 260,000**.

Financing from the Future City Innovation Challenge per project cannot exceed BAM 50,000.

The value-added tax (VAT) is not included in the BAM 50,000 budget.

Co-financing by applicants is not mandatory. However, co-financing is highly encouraged and will be positively evaluated.

5. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligibility criteria

In order to be considered eligible under this Future City Innovation Challenge, a proposal must meet **all of the following criteria**:

- The proposal **addresses directly at least one of the priority areas**: i) future public services, ii) future public spaces and iii) resilient city;
- The proposal **engages residents** in the design, testing, and implementation of the product/service/solution in the pilot area;
- Products, results, data, technologies and solutions generated by the proposal **can be open sourced and made publicly available** to improve policy and governance;
- The project can be implemented and **demonstrate results by December 2020**.
- The expected **funding from the financing scheme does not exceed BAM 50,000**.

Any application which does not meet all eligibility criteria will not be considered for support. Therefore, **all applicants are advised to carefully review their ideas against each of these criteria and make sure the proposal meets all of them**.

Evaluation criteria

Each proposal which passed the eligibility check will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The proposal is evidently a **“game-changer” in a way a system, a service, or a public space function**.
- The proposal offers **innovative and first of its kind solution/approach for the city**.
- The proposal uses **horizon technology and modern digital solutions** (e.g. artificial Intelligence, machine learning, etc.).
- The proposal places attention to the needs of the **socially excluded residents** (e.g. the elderly, persons with disabilities, the poor, the long-term unemployed, etc.).
- The proposal clearly demonstrates **sustainability and/or eco-logical/circular approach**.
- The proposal envisages activities which focus on stimulating **behavioural change** that will ensure sustainability of the new product/service/approach.

Additional criteria

Additional evaluation points will be awarded to proposals that:

- Demonstrate **multi-sector, interdisciplinary partnerships**;
- **Have tri-angle connections among proposals (submitted separately by different applicants) who work in each of the three priority areas in the same pilot zone and together enable an** inter-linked, cross-sectoral and more systemic impact in the selected area;
- Envisages the **creation of standards, protocols and/or new policy/regulatory blueprints**;
- Demonstrates **secured co-financing** (own or from third parties).

In addition, all proposals will be evaluated for their logic and feasibility, sustainability and scalability and budget, as described section 11 of the Guidelines for Applicants "Evaluation of applications".

6. WHAT WE DON'T FUND

Applicants should note that the following **types of costs cannot be included in the proposal budget**:

- Costs to purchase land or property;
- Costs for salaries of the project (e.g. project officer, project manager, project assistant);
- Financial loans or credits;
- Costs to cover utilities or office space/rent;
- Costs that have been incurred before signing of the contract under this Challenge;
- International travel costs.

Projects' budgets that have some of the above-listed ineligible costs **will not be considered for evaluation and support under the Challenge**.

7. PROJECTS' DURATION

The duration of each project should not exceed **6 months**.

8. APPLICATION FORM AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

Each proposal is developed based on the following set of mandatory documents:

- Application Form (*Annex I*)
- Budget (*Annex II*)
- Registration evidence (*scanned copy of the original*)
- Letter of intention to ensure co-financing (if relevant) (*indicating the exact amount, the source and signed by an authorised representative of the applicant*)

Each of the above documents should be in English language, signed by the authorised person.

9. HOW TO APPLY?

Submit your proposal by post or in person to the following address:

**Trg Republike Srpske 1/C1
78000 Banja Luka
UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Future City Innovation Challenge**

Each envelope should be marked "Future City Challenge".

10. APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of applications is **26 June 2020**.

11. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The evaluation process is open, transparent, and asks all interested stakeholders to participate in the selection of proposals. The steps of the evaluation process are described below.

Step 1 - Administrative and eligibility check: 30 June 2020

The administrative compliance and eligibility check will be performed by a team comprising representatives from UNDP. This will verify that proposals meet the following minimum requirements:

- The proposal is submitted on time;
- The proposal contains all required documents;
- The applicant meets all eligibility criteria.

All proposals that pass the screening phase and meet all of the above criteria will automatically proceed to the next phase.

Step 2 - Technical evaluation: 6 July 2020

The evaluation committee will comprise representatives from UNDP, while the City of Banja Luka will be engaged as an observer. The evaluation committee will review all proposals and prepare a ranking list of proposals. The quality evaluation will be conducted based on a scoring grid using a 0-1-2-3-4-5 scale, as presented below.

RELEVANCE OF THE PROPOSAL	Maximum points
The proposal is a "game-changer" in a way a system, a service, or a public space function.	25 points YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The proposal offers innovative and first of its kind solution/approach for the city	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The proposal uses horizon technology and modern digital solutions	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points

The proposal places attention to the socially excluded residents (e.g. the elderly, persons with disabilities, the poor, the long-term unemployed, etc.).	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The proposal clearly demonstrates sustainability and/or ecological/circular approach.	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The proposal envisages activities which focus on stimulating behavioural change that will ensure sustainability of the new product/service/approach	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
LOGIC AND FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL	15 points
The proposal is clearly presented	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The activity plan is clear, logical and feasible	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The set results are measurable and quantified/qualified through adequate indicators and data sources	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALABILITY	10 points
The proposal considers environment protection and has considered sufficient ways/tools to ensure the proposals' follow-up maintenance and sustainability of the product/result/system	YES: 5 points To some extent: 5 points NO: 0 points
The proposal has a scaling up potential	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
BUDGET	15 points
The budget is realistic , clear and linked to the planned activities.	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
It is feasible to achieve the expected results with the costs planned within the budget.	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
The proposal demonstrates value for money	YES: 5 points To some extent: 3 points NO: 0 points
ADDITIONAL CRITERIA	20 points ("YES" or "NO" only)
The proposal demonstrates multi-sector, interdisciplinary partnerships	YES: 5 points NO: 0 points
The proposal is one of three inter-connected proposals (submitted separately by other applicants) that work in the same pilot zone and complement each other	YES: 5 points NO: 0 points
Envisages the creation of standards, protocols and/or new policy/regulatory blueprints	YES: 5 points NO: 0 points
Demonstrates secured co-financing (own or from third parties).	YES: 5 points NO: 0 points

TOTAL MAXIMUM SCORE

90 points

Applicants are encouraged to conduct a mock-evaluation of their applications based on the evaluation grid above, to assess the quality of their proposals before submitting.

Only applications that receive **50 points and more** will be considered for financing.

After evaluation of all applications, the evaluation commission will prepare a ranking list. All proposals that pass the quality evaluation phase will be eligible for financing. The Future City Innovation Challenge will finance the highest-ranking projects from the final rank list based on the total budget availability.

All applicants will be informed about the outcome of the evaluation process.

12. QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION

Need more information or have specific questions? Please send them at registry.ba@undp.org, with a subject "Future City Innovation Challenge".

The answers to frequently asked questions will be published here: www.ba.undp.org.

UNDP will organise an online information session about the Future City Innovation Challenge on 19 June 2020. The exact address and details for joining the online session will also be published at www.ba.undp.org.