

NEWSLETTER - 16th December 2016

Outcomes from Cluster for Sustainable Cities Seed Funding Call 2016-17

Seed funding was recently made available through the Cluster for Sustainable Cities to trigger research innovation and help researchers to develop strong proposals that could lead to larger grant applications or other outputs.

The proposed projects were to be in line with the work of the Cluster for Sustainable Cities research programme, which focuses on 5 broad streams that are central to driving innovation for future cities.

The selection panel made up of senior researchers met on 13 December 2016 to evaluate the submissions and select the most promising proposals to be seed-funded. All received proposals to the call were of great interest and of a high quality, but were eventually narrowed down to two most outstanding projects.

Both selected projects demonstrate an excellent alignment to the research programme of the Cluster and very high potential to lead to focused outcomes and impact that will be relevant for the next REF.

The projects funded are:

“Prototyping the Sound Garden. Architecture, Co-Creation and Musical Creativity”, team led by Guido Robazza (£3,000). In the series of “temporary urbanism”, this project will prototype the design and production of a co-created music installation, the *Sound Garden*, to be located at a disused public space in Portsmouth. Project mentor will be Prof Steffen Lehmann.

“Nature or Nurturing? An investigation into the application of soilless technology in urban agriculture communities”, team led by Dr Heather Rumble (£3,000). This project will develop robotic hydroponic systems for community-based urban agriculture. Project mentor will be Prof Mark Gaterell.

Prof Steffen Lehmann noted that “this kind of seed funding offers a unique opportunity for our early-career researchers to further develop their projects, work together with an experienced mentor, and to streamline and further elaborate their research questions, possibly leading to significant grant funding in the future.”

To find out more about the research undertaken by the Cluster for Sustainable Cities, please visit the website at: www.city-futures.org.uk



Image: A typical automated installation for urban food production using hydroponics. (Source: Viscon Hydroponics)