

# CIRCLE U. SANDPITS

## 2023 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

28.02.2023

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*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation*

*programme under grant agreement No 101035814*

**Circle U. Sandpits** offer an exciting opportunity to gather **junior and senior researchers and Ph.D. candidates** from Circle U. partner universities as well as **stakeholders beyond academia**. The goal of the **Circle U. Sandpits** is to encourage the emergence of interdisciplinary projects through sharing and collective brainstorming, under the guidance of professional moderators.

The **Circle U. Sandpit 2023** will consist in 2 two-day residential workshops in **Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)** on **September 11-12** and on **November 22-23, 2023**.

Researchers from the Circle U. universities involved (Aarhus University (Denmark), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany), King's College London (United Kingdom), Université Paris Cité (France), University of Belgrade (Serbia), University of Louvain (Belgium), University of Oslo (Norway)) are welcome to apply.

## ABOUT THE CIRCLE U. SANDPITS

Inter- and transdisciplinary research depends on networking and **collective approaches** to problem-oriented research. This requires new enabling tools to bring stakeholders together and foster a co-creation mindset.

The **Circle U. Sandpits** offer an innovative tool to foster interdisciplinarity and to connect internal and external stakeholders. The aim is to bring together **21 participants** (junior and senior researchers and Ph.D. students **from at least three Circle U. universities**) and **stakeholders outside academia**, including Circle U. [associated partners](#).

The September Sandpit round will gather internal and external stakeholders in a **residential workshop** (called a "Sandpit") in order to encourage the emergence of interdisciplinary projects related to the Circle U. [Knowledge Hubs](#) (Democracy, Climate and/or Global Health). Typically, a Sandpit implies that there is no specific theme at the start, but a professional facilitator promotes interactions among participants to help bring out initiatives and research topics, as well as identify potential threats and barriers.

The November Sandpit round will then be organized to **develop and support the most promising ideas** that have emerged to turn them into concrete project proposals to be submitted to external funding bodies.

All the costs related to the participation in the Sandpits (travel, accommodation, and subsistence) will be covered by the Circle U. Alliance. Please note that any eventual childcare requirements of the applicants should not prevent them from applying. All requests in regard to the childcare arrangements will be discussed individually with the applicants concerned.

In 2023, the first **Circle U. Sandpits** will be held at the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium) on **September 11-12** and on **November 22- 23, 2023**. On November 24, the Sandpit participants will have an opportunity to attend the UCLouvain Annual Conference on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research.

## ELIGIBILITY

The Sandpits are **open to junior and senior researchers and Ph.D. candidates from participating Circle U. universities**, as well as to **stakeholders beyond academia**, including Circle U. [associated partners](#). There are no research area, age, career stages, or nationality restrictions.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The applications will be evaluated and selected by a multidisciplinary panel comprised of Circle U. members. If the number of applications from certain universities outstrips available places in the Sandpits, these universities may operate a preliminary selection with respect to the diversity of applicant profiles, gender, disciplinary and academic age balance. Up to 3 researchers per participating Circle U. university will be thus selected to participate in the Sandpit activities.

The evaluation panel will base its assessments on the overall quality of relevant **motivations and interests** of the applicant. Consideration will be given to:

- Motivation to participate in the Sandpits
- Demonstration of interest in interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary research
- Openness to creative thinking

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

To apply for the 2023 Sandpits, proposals should be **submitted in a single PDF file (in English)** and consist of the following:

- *Curriculum Vitae* (max. 2 pages)
- **Motivation letter** explaining what makes you a good candidate for participating in Circle U. Sandpits (max. 500 words)
- For Ph.D. candidates : a **support letter from the Ph.D. supervisor**
- List up to **5 interesting things you have done** with respect to co-construction and/or inter- and transdisciplinarity (max. 500 words)
- **Commitment** to attend the two residential Circle U. Sandpits in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) on September 11-12 and on November 22- 23, 2023.

Applications should be submitted to the Circle U. Sandpits Coordinator ([sandpit-circlev@uclouvain.be](mailto:sandpit-circlev@uclouvain.be)) as a single PDF attachment by **May 31, 2023** (midnight CET).

Selected participants will be notified by **June 30, 2023**.

## MORE INFORMATION

Please refer questions to the Circle U. Sandpits Coordinator: [sandpit-circleu@uclouvain.be](mailto:sandpit-circleu@uclouvain.be)

More about the Circle U. European University Alliance: <https://www.circle-u.eu/>

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Co-funded by the H2020 Programme of the European Union