



Q-HELIX ALLIANCE

NAWA Programme “Support for European Universities”

Project No. BPI/WUE/2025/1/00016

“Support for the European University Alliance Q-Helix – Inclusive European University
Based on the Quintuple Helix Model”

OPEN CALL NO. 2

Q-HELIX INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC SCHOOL

SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT:

**DIGITAL INNOVATION, SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AND CITIZEN-
CENTRED GOVERNANCE**

Mitrovica and Prishtina, Kosovo

26–30 October 2026

Organised by

Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM), Kosovo

Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland

12 June 2026

This document has been prepared within the project “Support for the European University Alliance Q-Helix – Inclusive European University Based on the Quintuple Helix Model”, implemented by WSB University under the NAWA Programme “Support for European Universities”. The project is financed by the European Union under the European Funds for Social Development 2021–2027 Programme.

1. Purpose of the Call

The purpose of this Open Call is to select participants for the Q-Helix International Thematic School on Smart City Development entitled:

Smart City Development: Digital Innovation, Sustainable Urban Planning and Citizen-Centred Governance

The School is organised within the framework of the Q-Helix Alliance and contributes to the Alliance strategic thematic area of: **Smart City Development**

The School will focus on contemporary challenges related to urban innovation, digital transformation, sustainable infrastructure, citizen-centred governance, environmental sustainability, and the development of resilient and inclusive cities. Particular attention will be given to the role of digital technologies, smart governance solutions, sustainable mobility, resource efficiency, and citizen engagement in addressing complex urban challenges in rapidly changing social, economic and environmental contexts.

The programme has been designed to provide participants with an international, interdisciplinary and practice-oriented learning experience. Students will have the opportunity to engage with academics, practitioners, municipal representatives and development experts, exchange perspectives with peers from different countries and academic disciplines, and develop competences relevant to future careers in urban planning, public administration, sustainable development, digital governance, innovation management and related fields.

The School will combine:

- lectures delivered by academic experts and practitioners;
- practical workshops and interactive learning activities;
- field visits and observation of urban environments;
- stakeholder engagement and meetings with municipal representatives;
- case studies and problem-solving activities;
- interdisciplinary teamwork in international groups;
- mentoring and project development sessions;
- networking and intercultural learning activities.



Participation in the School offers students the opportunity to:

- understand the key concepts, principles and dimensions of Smart Cities;
- analyse urban challenges through a multidisciplinary perspective;
- explore the role of digital technologies in urban governance and public service delivery;
- examine approaches to sustainable mobility, environmental management and urban resilience;
- engage with local stakeholders and better understand municipal development priorities;
- strengthen teamwork, communication, analytical and problem-solving skills;
- gain experience in international and intercultural cooperation;
- establish contacts with students, academics and practitioners from Q-Helix partner institutions;
- develop practical Smart City solutions responding to real urban challenges faced by municipalities in Kosovo.

As part of the programme, participants will work in international multidisciplinary teams and develop a **Smart City Concept Proposal** addressing a selected urban challenge relevant to Kosovo municipalities. The project work will be presented and evaluated during the final day of the School.

Participants who successfully complete the programme will receive a **Certificate of Competences** issued by the Host Institution.

2. School Dates and Location

School Title:

Smart City Development: Digital Innovation, Sustainable Urban Planning and Citizen-Centred Governance

School Dates:

26–30 October 2026

Host Institution:

Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM), Kosovo

Locations:

Mitrovica and Prishtina, Kosovo



Participants selected for the School should plan their travel in accordance with the organisational information provided by the Host Institution.

Detailed travel, accommodation and logistical information will be communicated to selected participants before the School.

3. Number of Participants

The School will host up to 30 participants:

- **up to 20 Local Participants** from Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM);
- **up to 10 Participants from Q-Helix member universities** other than Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM).

Participation shall be granted according to the order of submission of complete and eligible applications in accordance with the Open Call Regulations for Participants of Q-Helix International Thematic Schools.

No more than three participants from the same institution may participate in the School.

4. Target Group

The School is open to students enrolled at institutions belonging to the Q-Helix Alliance.

Particular interest is expected from students representing:

- urban studies;
- urban planning;
- public administration;
- management;
- economics;
- business and innovation studies;
- architecture;
- civil engineering;
- environmental sciences;
- sustainability studies;
- information technology;
- computer science;
- artificial intelligence;
- data science;

- geography and spatial planning;
- social sciences;
- law;
- related disciplines.

Students from other disciplines may also apply if they demonstrate a clear interest in Smart City development, urban innovation, digital transformation, sustainability, public governance or related topics.

5. Programme Topics

The School will address, among others:

- Smart Cities: concepts, principles and contemporary development trends;
- Urban innovation and digital transformation;
- Digital governance and municipal innovation;
- Open data, e-services and citizen engagement tools;
- Sustainable urban mobility and transport systems;
- Urban environmental management and air quality challenges;
- Smart infrastructure and sustainable public services;
- Energy-efficient cities and smart infrastructure solutions;
- Green urban development and climate-resilient urban planning;
- Resource efficiency and circular economy approaches in urban environments;
- Citizen participation and co-creation in urban development;
- Data-driven municipal planning and decision-making;
- Urban challenges and development priorities in the Western Balkans;
- Smart City solutions for resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities.

In addition to educational activities, participants will take part in workshops, field visits, stakeholder meetings, case studies, project development sessions, practical exercises, networking activities and intercultural exchange sessions.

As part of the programme, participants will work in international interdisciplinary teams and develop Smart City Concept Proposals addressing real urban challenges faced by

municipalities in Kosovo. The final projects will be presented and discussed during the closing session of the School.

6. Recruitment Schedule

Activity	Date
Publication of Open Call	12 June 2026
Application Deadline	26 June 2026
Formal Evaluation by WSB University	27–30 June 2026
Approval by the International Center for Quality in Education and Research Q-Helix	by 30 June 2026
Notification of Results	within 5 working days after approval
NAWA Registration	July 2026
School Implementation	26–30 October 2026

7. Selection Principles

Applications shall be evaluated in accordance with the Open Call Regulations for Participants of Q-Helix International Thematic Schools.

- Participants shall be selected according to:
- fulfilment of all eligibility requirements;
- successful completion of the formal evaluation process;
- order of submission of complete applications;
- availability of places.
- Applications that do not meet all formal requirements may be rejected.

8. Financial Support

Participants from Q-Helix member universities other than the Host Institution may receive:

- Travel Grant;
- Accommodation and Subsistence Grant.

Financial support shall be awarded in accordance with:

- the Open Call Regulations for Participants of Q-Helix International Thematic Schools;
- Annex No. 4 – Travel Grant Calculation Rules;
- Annex No. 5 – Accommodation and Subsistence Grant Calculation Rules;
- applicable NAWA Programme rules.

Local Participants shall participate free of charge but shall not receive mobility grants.

9. Competence Validation and Certification

All participants shall complete:

- a pre-test assessment at the beginning of the School;
- a post-test assessment at the end of the School.

The comparison of pre-test and post-test results shall constitute the primary mechanism for assessing competence acquisition and learning outcomes achieved during participation in the School.

Participants who successfully complete the School programme shall receive a Certificate of Competences issued by the Host Institution.

10. Submission of Applications

Local Participants (Public International Business College Mitrovica)

Students of Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM) shall follow the recruitment procedure established internally by the Host Institution.

Participants from Other Q-Helix Member Universities

Applications shall be submitted electronically to:

q-helix@wsb.edu.pl

The application package shall consist of:

- Annex No. 1 – Application Form;
- Annex No. 3 – Student Status Confirmation;
- Annex No. 7 – Information Clause on the Processing of Personal Data, signed by the Applicant;
- any additional documents required under this Open Call.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

11. Student Mobility Support

- Students may seek support from the National Student Mobility Coordinators listed in Annex No. 8.

- National Coordinators provide information and support during the application process but do not receive applications.
- Students of Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM) should contact the coordinator designated by the Host Institution.
- Students from all other Q-Helix member universities shall submit applications directly to: q-helix@wsb.edu.pl

12. School Coordination Contact

Questions concerning the School programme, educational activities, learning outcomes, logistics, accommodation, travel arrangements and organisational matters may be addressed to:

Name	Role	Institution	E-mail
Prof. ass. Dr. Afete Muhsiu	School Coordinator	Public International Business College Mitrovica (Kosovo)	a.muhsiu@ibcmetrovica.eu
Prof. ass. Dr. Shaip Gashi			s.gashi@ibcmetrovica.eu
Prof. Dr. Ekrem Gjokaj			e.gjokaj@ibcmetrovica.eu
Arbnora Nuhi. Ema Kursumlija	Student & Administrative Contact	Public International Business College Mitrovica (Kosovo)	a.nuhi@ibcmetrovica.eu e.kursumlija@ibcmetrovica.eu

Questions concerning recruitment procedures, grants, Project implementation and Q-Helix Alliance activities may be addressed to:

WSB University

Q-Helix Alliance Coordination Office

E-mail: q-helix@wsb.edu.pl

13. Applicable Regulations

Participation in the School shall be governed by:

- the Open Call Regulations for Participants of Q-Helix International Thematic Schools;
- this Open Call No. 2;

- applicable NAWA Programme rules;
- relevant Project documentation.

In the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of the Open Call Regulations for Participants of Q-Helix International Thematic Schools shall prevail.

14. Applicable Annexes

The following documents constitute an integral part of this Open Call:

- Annex No. 1 – Application Form;
- Annex No. 2 – Evaluation Sheet;
- Annex No. 3 – Student Status Confirmation;
- Annex No. 4 – Travel Grant Calculation Rules;
- Annex No. 5 – Accommodation and Subsistence Grant Calculation Rules;
- Annex No. 6 – Competence Acquisition Summary Report;
- Annex No. 7 – Information Clause on the Processing of Personal Data;
- Annex No. 8 – National Student Mobility Coordinators;
- Annex No. 9 – Host Institution Participant Confirmation List.

15. Final Provisions

The Organiser reserves the right to amend this Open Call where necessary due to organisational, legal, financial or Project-related requirements.

This Open Call enters into force on the date of its publication.