

Urban School: Call for Group Projects 2023/24

"The Return of Regions: What Forms? What Governance? What Representations?"

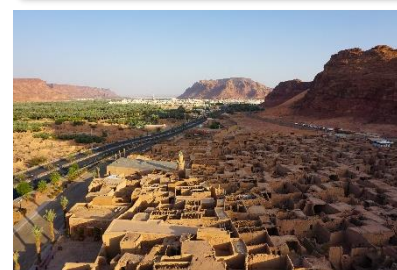
The theme of the 2023 call for projects is a tribute to Bruno Latour, Emeritus University Professor, former Scientific Director of Sciences Po, founder of the Médialab and the master's degree in experimental political arts. How can we fail to recall his words, which resonate as a source of inspiration: "Today, the return of the territory seems to me to be inescapable. But it is a new territory that has been charged with materiality and in which we are interested in the soil, biodiversity, forests, pollution, climate, water, etc. The ecological crisis forces us to take into account all these dimensions, which, at the same time as they are integrated into the territory, modify its size and geometry. The new territory, unlike the old one, not only goes beyond administrative borders, but it is also part of different realities that add new dimensions. It is also enriched by the multitude of affiliations that characterize the agents who inhabit it."

These words reflect the responsibility that we, as the Urban School of Sciences Po, bear for the ecological, digital, social and societal transformations that cities and territories are undergoing today: to offer a space for confrontation, training, and the co-production of public knowledge. This is our pedagogical conviction and our raison d'être.

How to govern territories in the light of these upheavals? How can we turn constraints into opportunities to create value? How can we reconcile economic challenges, innovation and social responsibility in our urban projects?

We have chosen to rely on the reflections of the younger generations of professionals in territorial and urban governance to better understand what is at stake in a context of uncertainty and to propose solutions: this is the meaning of our "collective projects", a central pedagogical module in all our training programs.

In order to inform decisions, develop policies or strategies, and support change within an organization, the work resulting



from our projects is a genuine process of reflection and action that mobilizes the knowledge, know-how and, above all, the energy and commitment of our students, under the demanding supervision of the Urban School and its tutors.

These orientations are, of course, only proposals and suggestions, to be adapted to the needs and challenges of each organization and sector of activity.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your applications by Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

1. Eligibility criteria and themes of the 2022 call for group projects

The call for group projects is open to all public, private, and non-profit legal entities, based in France or abroad, except for partisan, trade union, and religious organisations, in the interests of neutrality.

This is an open call for projects, with no specific thematic focus. However, all topics proposed have to include an urban or regional dimension. As an indication, the Urban School is particularly interested in the following themes, which dovetail with its research and teaching agenda:

- local resilience and adaptation strategies in response to crises,
- collective mobilisations and actions in the area of economic and social policy and community development,
- territorialisation of health policies,
- trajectories of ecological transition and transformation,
- developments in urban infrastructure and services (energy, water, waste, etc.),
- developments in urban planning, mobility and real estate (both residential and economic),
- housing uses and policies,
- digital strategies of cities and regions,
- territorial restructuring, urban and regional planning, and decentralisation,
- citizen participation and local democracy,
- local anti-discrimination policies,
- etc.

2. Benefits and conduct of the Urban School's group projects

Group projects are particularly suited to studies, diagnostics, foresight, comparative analysis, or preparing an evaluation, and more generally to any question that can enlighten the organisation concerned through an R&D-type approach. Their particularity is that they are carried out by students who have not only their academic skills to offer, but also a fresh, outside view on operational issues as young professionals in the making. Group projects constitute an educational activity, not service provision.

Each project involves a group of first-year students from one of the Urban School's Master's programmes. The students in the group spend between 1.5 and 2 days a week on the project (in dedicated time slots, without any concurrent classes) for a

period of 6 to 9 months (depending on the Master's programme). The schedules are as follows:

- for the Master's in Regional and Urban Strategy, Urban Planning, and Governing Ecological Transitions in European Cities, the group project starts in October and ends the following June;
- for the Master's in Governing the Large Metropolis, the group project starts in January and ends in June (the group projects for this Master's programme therefore entail a methodology suited to a tighter schedule).

For the Executive education, the group projects concern the Executive master of Regional Governance and Urban Development. Each project mobilizes a group of students of 50h/ person, on dedicated time slots, without any other concurrent teaching, for a duration of 4 months, from November to March.

Each group appoints a coordinator from among its members who acts as a contact person for the partner. The group is supervised by an experienced practitioner, recruited for the purpose as an adjunct tutor by the School, with the partner's agreement, once the question of potential conflicts of interest has been checked and ruled out. The project is overseen by a member of the School's faculty, who is ultimately responsible for its execution. The stakeholders meet in a steering committee-type decision-making body.

The project objectives and particulars are determined based on the presentation sheet sent in support of the application (see below). The sheet can be reworked with the Urban School or the Executive education pedagogical team before the project starts.

The students express their preferences for this or that project based on the various presentation sheets. The School takes these preferences into account when composing the groups, but also considers the match between the students' profiles (academic background, technical or linguistic skills, etc.) and the needs of the project. The School reserves the right to change a group's composition in the course of the project if difficulties arise.

After a period of core training in the tools and methods of project management, group work, territorial assessment, fact-finding, and decision support, which takes place before the group projects start, the students manage the process independently with the support of the tutor. The School can of course be called upon by the partner, the group, or the tutor as and when necessary. The School's participation is compulsory at two specific times: at the mid-term and final meetings of the steering committees.

Validation of the project is an academic requirement for entry into the second year. The Urban School has sole discretion to validate the project, considering feedback from the partner, the students, and the tutor. If necessary, it may ask the group to do additional work in the second year if there is a clear shortfall.

The strategy for exploitation of group project results is planned and jointly decided upon by the stakeholders no later than the mid-term steering committee meeting. In addition to the compulsory written reports (see below), it can, with the agreement of

the Urban School, take a wide variety of forms depending on the topic: articles and publications, podcasts and other audio-visual formats, participation in conferences, webinars, exhibitions, partnership meetings or public meetings, etc. The outputs resulting from the group project provide content for these different exploitation formats, but publishing, communication, and the organisation of events remain the full responsibility of the partner.

The compulsory deliverables for group projects are as follows:

- one month at the latest after the project starts, a concept and methodology note including a presentation of the issues, the project objectives, details of the research to be carried out, a timetable, and a “time budget” specifying how the work is distributed within the group,
- at the mid-term steering committee meeting, an interim report (in word processor format) presenting a literature review and the findings of the initial fieldwork,
- at the final steering committee meeting, a final report (in word processor format, minimum 40 pages not including maps, statistics, etc.), presenting the group’s conclusions and including a critical analysis of the results achieved and scope for improvement, plus a summary for publication and dissemination,
- Steering committee facilitation documents (in slide format) and the associated minutes

The intellectual property of the work produced is shared between the Urban School or the Executive education and the partner. Any public mention of the project must acknowledge the students who carried it out. Students and tutors are bound by a confidentiality clause.

Finally, each year, the Urban School Lab may, with the agreement of the partners concerned, organise a project presentation event showcasing the group projects that are most likely to shed light on the ways in which urban and regional stakeholders are developing their policies and strategies.

3. Urban School Lab Day, each year in June, highlight of the group project

The strategy for promoting collective projects is planned and decided upon by the stakeholders at the latest during the mid-term steering committee meeting. In addition to the compulsory written reports mentioned above, it can take a wide variety of forms, depending on the subject: articles and publications, podcasts and other audiovisual formats, participation in conferences, webinars, creation of or participation in exhibitions, partnership, or public meetings, etc. The work resulting from the collective project can provide content for these different formats of valorization, but publishing, communication and the organization of events remain the full responsibility of the partner.

Except for certain subjects whose confidentiality prohibits any dissemination (subject to a prior exchange with the partner), the final results of the collective projects will be

collected and made available in the new digital library launched by Sciences Po in the fall of 2023.

Finally, in June of each year, the Urban School Lab organizes an event open to the public for the restitution and valorization of the 40 or so collective projects carried out during the academic year. The aim of the workshops is to ensure cross-presentations of the main results of the collective projects, in the presence of the tutors who have accompanied the students during the year and the institutional partners of the Urban School. They will be enriched by "conversations" throughout the day, aiming to bring together a researcher and a high-level professional on an emerging topic.

4. Application procedures, criteria, and selection

Applications must be sent to the Urban School by email from 29 May 2023 and no later than the 4th of July 2023 for projects concerning the master of Regional and Urban Strategy, the Urban Planning programme, the master in Governing Ecological Transitions in European Cities and the Executive master of Regional Governance and Urban Development. For the master in Governing the Large Metropolis, whose projects start later, applications may be submitted until midnight on 30 November 2023. If applicants are unsure of which type of Master's programme to focus on for a project, they should contact us.

For the masters, applications are to be sent by email to the following three addresses:

- ilaria.milazzo@sciencespo.fr (executive director)
- bertrand.vallet@sciencespo.fr (Lab coordinator)
- sandrine.boisard@sciencespo.fr (accounting and legal officer)

For the executive master, applications are to be sent by email to the following two addresses:

- charlotte.halpern@sciencespo.fr (academic director)
- alexia.krief@sciencespo.fr (programme manager)

Applications must be signed by a person with the authority to commit the applicant organisation and take the form of a concept note of up to five pages answering the following questions:

- What are the strategic and operational issues behind the applicant organisation's request for a group project?
- What questions are asked of the students and what are the expected outcomes of the group project for the organisation?
- What elements of methodology and phases are envisaged at this stage?
- What types of deliverables and forms of exploitation is the organisation hoping for?
- How does the applicant organisation propose to monitor the project?
- In summary, why do you want to entrust this undertaking to students from the Urban School?

The Urban School or the Executive education teams reserves the right to ask the partner for clarification during the call for projects. In turn, it will be happy to provide applicants with any information they require.

The first project selection takes place in early July, and the second in December for the Governing the Large Metropolis programme only. The selection panel is made up of the following people:

- Urban School Dean, Tommaso Vitale, and Executive Director, Ilaria Milazzo,
- The programme directors and academic coordinators of the Urban School Master's programmes

The panel's decision is final. It is based on the following criteria:

- the strategic and operational dimensions of the issue the candidate raises, which must also be closely related to the students' course of study,
- a good understanding of the teaching model and what it presupposes, i.e. a piece of R&D work and critical analysis entrusted to future professionals,
- the organisation's capacity to monitor the project, including the appointment of a contact person who can provide students with the data and information they need for their work,
- the clarity of the partner's expectations in terms of the project's deliverables and exploitation.

The panel will pay close attention to the issue of possible conflicts of interest. Under no circumstances may a collective project be directly linked to the provision of a service (which would be tantamount to subcontracting) or to a partisan endeavour.

The final number of projects selected depends on student intake numbers for the Urban School, which are not known until the end of June. As a rule, a project should have no fewer than four and no more than six students.

5. Financial aspects

The selected partners provide financial support to the Urban School (support that can, for eligible organizations, take the form of sponsorship), up to €15,000 for the Territorial and Urban Strategies and Governing Ecological Transitions in European Cities master's degrees, and €20,000 for the Master's degree in Urban Planning.

For the Governing Large Metropolis master's degree and the Territorial Governance and Urban Development executive master's degree, due to a delayed calendar, please contact the pedagogical managers directly.

In return for this commitment, Sciences Po will cover all costs related to the realization of the collective project, including supervision costs and students' travel and mission expenses. The financial support also aims to develop certain training activities such as study trips for students from the school and laboratories related to skills specific to the realization of collective projects (graphic design, cartography, project management).

6. Group projects: a summary for each master

	URBAN PLANNING	REGIONAL AND URBAN STRATEGY	GETEC
Topic of study	City planning and projects, transport planning and infrastructure, urban renewal and housing, urban policy, urban planning and development, property development and economics, urban projects	Fields include public policy, economic development, regional business strategies, urban planning and development, social policy, sustainable development policy, etc.	European energy policies, corporate environmental strategies, legal and economic issues, risk management, biodiversity, mobility, circular economy and resilience, etc
Language	French	French	English, exceptionally French or Spanish
Duration	9 months from October to the end of June (2 days per week)	9 months from October to June (1.5 days per week)	9 months from October to June (1.5 days per week)
Typical schedule	<p>March-July: the partner makes a project proposal and defines specifications September: the commission is finalised, teams are formed, the tutor is chosen October-December: first phase of the project December: interim deliverables January-April: second phase of the project and fieldwork May-June: the assignment concludes with the final deliverables</p>		

GLM	EXECUTIVE MASTER GTDU
Major cities and their governance, economic development, social inclusion, mobility and transport issues, regulation of water supply, energy policy, etc.	Urban development, regional governance, and partnership and/or institutional strategy in a wide range of fields (big data, planning, mobility, CSR, housing, public services, citizenship and inclusive cities, etc.)
English, exceptionally French or Spanish	French
5 months from January to June (1.5 days per week)	6 months from March to October (50 hours)
<p>August-December: project proposals are made and specifications defined November-September: discussion and finalisation of projects and agreements January-February: first phase of the project March-April: interim deliverables May-June: final deliverables</p>	<p>September-October: project proposal and definition of the specifications November: discussion and finalisation of projects, choice of tutors January: constitutions of the teams February: launch of the project with the steering committee June: final deliverables</p>

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