



Funds for cross-disciplinary pilot projects under LL

Our Plant-based future – a GSC Living lab

Background

In order to run the development of new solutions in the framework of the Living Lab, Our Plant-based Future management team wants to be able to use a new tool. The tool will provide an opportunity to launch small pilot projects where the main activity is to develop and test specific solutions within the transition to more plant-based food production, including incorporating the infrastructure we already have at UCPH, as well as focusing on cross-disciplinarity and end-users.

This memo describes the concept/tool, framework and decision-making processes for funding.

The actual concept/tool

The starting point may be an existing research project, which is an obvious choice to boost or further develop with specific proposed solutions and an interdisciplinary approach, or as a starting point can be an academic commitment, for example, arising from existing infrastructure. For Our Plant-based Future, infrastructure will generally mean UCPH facilities in Taastrup and Frederiksberg. Regardless of the starting point, the main objective is to develop and test one or more solutions (technical, products, ideas, concepts, etc.) in an interdisciplinary set-up and interaction with one or more end-users.

The idea for the pilot project must be anchored in and professionally run by 1-3 researchers with a desire for a cross-disciplinary approach to a green solution, and there must be funding for them to be able to employ one or more people (from research assistant to researcher) in order to carry out the work in practice. It will be up to the researcher(s) who run the pilot project how the project is staffed and organised.

The pilot projects can be used as pre-projects for applications, but this should not be a requirement.

Frameworks for pilot projects

You must be able to apply to GSC funding for the development and implementation of the pilot project. The funds can be used for salaries for the person(s) who will carry out the tasks in the project (from research assistant to researcher) and for other costs related to this. The project must be managed and run by one or more researchers, but the actual execution can be carried out by, for example, a research assistant and/or a postdoc with competencies within the field. The most important element is the specific content, the development of the specific solution in an interdisciplinary and user-inclusive set-up, as well as the learning from the process and the possibility of testing the solution.

The approach to an Our Plant-based Future Living Lab pilot project is:

- The "Living" part must be conceived as activities in the specific environment and with a specific end-user or other type of employer in mind.

- The ' Lab ' part is thought as a reduction in reality (removal of noise) and a sharp/exploratory approach to individual questions based on hypotheses. In addition, there must be an element of upscaling and testing along with an end-user or similar.
- The GSC Living Lab offers the interdisciplinary explorative space for idea development and testing.

The Living Lab Manager can help initiate the interdisciplinary exploratory space, offer general sparring and clarification, make external contact and do other supporting tasks. In addition, the Living Lab management team assists with development and sparring in relation to the approach that the lab's pilot projects are working on, so that the concept is continuously tested and improved.

The amount per pilot project is DKK 100-300,000 and the time period is max. 11/2 years. As a rule, there can be no more than three ongoing pilot projects in Our Plant-based Future lab.

Finances and decision-making

The initiative will require GSC funding to be earmarked for pilot projects in 2023. The pool framework must be able to cover up to three pilot projects of max. DKK 300,000 each, but realistically there will probably be a pool of DKK 600,000. The funds will be granted to the researcher(s) who run the project (administration is being clarified).

Information about the initiative is disseminated across UCPH via faculty newsletters and, if relevant, through departmental newsletters.

Prior to an actual application, the applicant can spar with the Lab management team about content and set-up, but this is not a requirement. Applications and questions must be sent to the Living Lab manager, who will read it and check that the requirements have been met. The applicant and the LAB chair group meet and discuss the pilot project and the set-up, in order to ensure that the tool is developed to suit its purpose. The adjusted application is submitted for consultation in the GSC Coordination Group and on the basis of a recommendation from this, the GSC coordinator makes a decision on the allocation of funds.

The concept for pilot projects will be continuously adjusted as it is moving forward, and the GSC Coordination Group will receive information on an ongoing basis.

Requirements for pilot projects and applications

- Researchers and academic knowledge across UCPH (min. two faculties) must be involved in project development/specification
- End-User(s) must be involved (part of the development phase may be to identify and establish contact with relevant end-users). Students can be included and the pilot project may be combined with Living LAB funds for student projects
- The development and testing of one or more solutions must be included. The solutions may well be at idea/concept level, but they have to be able to be described specifically.
- There must be a form of collaboration with an external partner (e.g. company, authority or NGO)
- The project must be communicated on an ongoing basis, with which GSC communications can be helpful
- At a minimum, one open event must be held, in which results etc. are presented. This could take the form of a final event.
- The application must include
 - Max. 10,000 keystrokes (4 standard pages), exclusive of references and budget

- Project idea, including a description of the cross-disciplinary project/idea development as well as proposals for end-UCPH, including:
 - Which faculties (min 2) and researchers are involved and with what angles
 - Description of the expectations for the solutions aspects
 - How will Living Lab be fleshed out in the project (see the chapter on "The approach in an Our Plant-based Future Living Lab pilot project")
- Budget. The funds can be used to pay for UCPH employees, materials, analysis, rental of equipment, consumer-related tasks, etc.