SI-TEAM information session – 8 December 2021 – overview Q & A

Date/time	Wednesday 8 December 2021, 13:00 to 15:00 CET
Profile of participants	- Interested academics - ICOS/GEO - ANGC representatives - Broad public interested in VLIR-UOS Calls for proposals

Conceptual questions

I have seen issues like research, education and service for the community. Does it mean the project proposal should have these three components?
Not necessarily, these 3 areas reflect the typical mission of universities, in our Theory of change we identified 6 outcomes/specific objectives. Projects do not need to have as an objective research, education and uptake combined. A project can focus on research or education but there should always be a connection with 'uptake' (=services to society) since VLIR-UOS funds projects with a focus on sustainable impact on society.

Does the scope cover medical/clinical training and research collaborations?
That could be a possibility.

For SI and TEAM, need the proposals to be in education related or in any development domain?
Project proposals can be related to the outcomes as indicated in the Theory of change and using approaches in multiple areas (research, education, ..) always in relation to sustainable development. Please see explanation in ppts.

You are specifically looking for projects in health and environment; or are you also interested in, e.g., entrepreneurship related projects?
We are not looking for specific topics. It is up to applicants to clarify the link with Agenda 2030 and the SDG framework. Entrepreneurship is certainly possible!

As NGO what do we have to do to be contacted to make suggestions of potential research questions relevant for the communities we are working with ?
You can contact us directly or through our website.

Questions related to the applicant status/ multiple HEI set-up

What is HE&SI standing for?
Higher Education and Sciences Institutes

Are Partners from Europe a must or is it possible to establish local team in one university? Is it okay for the Team to have a European Partner not based in Belgium? Can European universities participate?
The constellation of multiple HEIs at the (co-)promoter level is at level of the Flemish constellation and at level of the partner institutions in partner countries. However, implication of European HEI members would be welcomed via the project team which can be broad and multi-institutional, multi-actor.

+20.000 EUR for Team if multiple HEI's: not only for Hogescholen?

multiple HEIs means multiple Higher Education Institutes so this of courses includes hogescholen (=Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts)

+20.000 EUR only for universities/university colleges in Flanders or local universities/university colleges?
The constellation of multiple HEIs at the promoter level is at level of the Flemish constellation and at level of the partner institutions (in partner countries).

Can ITG be a partner?
Within the organisational setting, at level of the project partners, ITG and ARES are certainly welcomed since they are even strategic partners of VLIR-UOS (within the thematic JSF). However, they cannot be the contracting party or in short the promoters of a proposal, since the promoters are to be linked to a Flemish HEI and partner HESI.

Are post-doc researchers considered eligible for submission of applications?
If the post-doc researcher has an employment status at level of the (partner) HEI, this would be possible. It is up to the Flemish and partner HEI to validate the employment status and thus the eligibility of the applicant. If the status is that of a postdoc scholar, then he/she would not comply as a promoter. We remember that at level of the partner institute, also postdoc researchers are now eligible under the section of research scholarships.

Can two Flemish universities jointly submit a Proposal (together with a non-flemish partner from your country list)?
Yes

Please confirm: the Flemish promoter is allowed to submit 2 TEAM project proposals?
Yes

Are there some possibilities of collaborations with French speaking universities in Brussels/Belgium through joint projects with ARES (not specifically for SI or TEAM project but more generally speaking)?
As indicated, the promoters are linked to a Flemish HEI and a partner country HESI. However, in the project teams, we do welcome a collaboration with French-speaking Belgian universities. We hope there are potentialities for synergies and complementarities with projects from ARES as well.

Are you flexible expanding your partnerships? can we include a new partner from a new country, like Afghanistan, for example?
Afghanistan is not on the project partner country list, so no structural cooperation is possible. People from other nationalities can based on expertise be part of the broader project teams, but the funding is oriented to collaboration with 17 project partner countries as listed in the call documents.

If we submit two proposals for both applications, should the two proposals be totally different or both proposals could be in a similar field or topic (but vary in detailed frames and collaboration)?
 That is up to the applicant. We have no restrictions here but it can be confusing if the topics are very similar.

Can also a University of Applied Sciences benefit of the extra 20 000 euro if they work with another University of Applied sciences or two partner HEI's?
Yes

Technical Questions related to formats and guidelines

No budget requested for concept note TEAM?
No

Do we have to write all pre-proposals in English? or can this be in French if the country is a French speaking country ?
Everything in English

Some researchers have experience with the previous log frame approach...Would you say outcome statement corresponds with the specific objectives (previous calls) and the impact statement corresponds with the general objective (in previous calls)?
Yes

I hope there is a concept note template, is it?
Yes a template for SI and TEAM

Where can we find detailed information about the scholarship allowances?
In the financial guidelines ppt and budget form attached to the Call documents you have the necessary info to write out the proposal. Detailed info on Scholarships operationalisation once projects are selected will be made available later on, is still in progress

No indicators for impact and outcome statements?
Indicators are organiserd per intermediate change domain. Some of these indicators link up with the outcome level. One indicator on uptake towards the policy level also has a link with the Impact Level but indeed not explicitly. Applicants are free to add project specific indicators.

Which docs do I need to fill out for stage 1 TEAM concept? Only narrative (Word), or also Excel doc?
Both word and Excel (but limited info, no activities, no indicators, no risks, ..) In the narrative format it was indicated which info to input in the underline excel such as the underline Organisational module of the project, underline basic data (summary, title, markers). underline For module 2 only add the Impact and Outcome statements in the underline excel. (see also p. 19-28 in formulation guidelines and slides 19-20 in ppt Intro to the SI-TEAM 2022 formats.)

The main focus of the TEAM concept note is in the word document with a focus on the narrative explanation of the ToC and the logical flow between the dream, outcome level and intermediate changes. Max. 1 ½ pages for ToC narrative description focussing on the flow.

Is there budget for investments?
Yes, investments costs are part of the project budget, but the share of investments is to be kept in line with the project objectives, an indicative maximum is also suggested in the budget format. Focus is collaboration and capacity development, together with uptake.

Search for Flemish partners: how to go about it?

VLIR-UOS has the ambition to provide a platform for interaction and questions, but for the moment we refer to the contact addresses per university/university association as included in the call. We can also assist in linking up with other projects.
As indicated in the chat, please find here the portals per Flemish University:
KU Leuven:
•   KU Leuven University's research portal:
https://www.kuleuven.be/onderzoek/portaal/#/?hl=en&lang=en
•   KU Leuven Who-is-who:
https://www.kuleuven.be/wieiswie/en/person/search
•   KU Leuven organizational chart: www.kuleuven.be/wieiswie/en/unit/regional/50000050

Here is also an interesting link: https://www.wetenschapswinkel.be/ or
https://www.kuleuven.be/engage/wetenschapswinkel

Hasselt University:
          https://www.uhasselt.be/University-Development-Cooperation

UGent:

https://www.ugent.be/en/research

Also look at publications with Belgium (Flanders) in your field and to contact those researchers

Uantwerp:

https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research/research-overview/ and https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research/publications-and-expertise/find-an-expert/

VUB:

https://researchportal.be/en or ICOS@vub.be or https://www.vub.be/en/research-groups-alphabetically#vub-research-groups

You can access our research publications https://researchportal.vub.be

Is there a list somewhere of past TEAM-funded projects?

You can find a list of TEAMS projects on the VLIR-UOS website:
https://www.vliruos.be/en/projects/20?country=&stat=&programma=14&institution=&submit=&filter%5Bstatus%5D%5B%5D=FollowUp&filter%5BprogrammeIds%5D%5B%5D=14#filtermenu
(filter on TEAM)

Varia

How come the selected projects are predominately health and environment? What if you come from social sociences/humanities? Like journalism? Is that a problem?
No problem, we do have quite a few projects from social sciences/humanities!

What is the success percentage between applications and funded projects for SI and for teams?
Difficult to say, depends on the number of submitted proposals. In the past success ratio's have been quite good as compared to other organisations. New is that now there are no country budgets and also that selections between SI and TEAM are separate, so the selection chance per programme (SI/TEAM) is clearer since indicative 29 SI projects are selectable and 39 TEAM projects.
For TEAM a policy guideline was set to provide on average a minimum 50% chance ratio for proposals that reach the 2nd stage of selection. The success ratio during stage 1 will of course depend on the number of proposals.
How many proposals did you get in the past?
More than 100 proposals per project type.

General question, as newly interested colleagues might not make it to the deadline as more pre-work needs to be done to ensure a high-quality proposal; will a similar call be repeated in the next years or is this THE call for the upcoming 5 years?
There will be more calls for TEAM and SI. Next TEAM call in 2023 for projects to start in 2024, next SI call in 2022 for projects to start in 2023. In total 3 calls for TEAM and 4 for SI are foreseen within this Five Year framework.

How much estimated beneficiaries in each project is expected? In the outcome category how many individuals are expected to benefit from each project? Like training, education[Phd, Msc..] or service beneficiaries who get services from the project?
This cannot be identified. We have no expectancies regarding numbers, difficult to say, depends on the type and nature of the project.