



## TEAM 2024 Concept Notes – information session

### 13 October 2023 – overview Q & A

<b>Date/time</b>	<b>Friday 13 October 2023, 13:30 to 14:30 CET</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Inform the public on the TEAM 2024 Call (stage of Concept Notes) and how it fits within the VLIR-UOS FYP ambitions
<b>Suggested profile of participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interested academics/HEI (Higher Education Institutes)</li> <li>- ICOS/GEO</li> <li>- ANGC representatives, institutional actors, Embassies, broader public</li> </ul>

#### A. Questions related to the applicant (status) / multiple HEI & multi-stakeholder set-up

**1) Could you please clarify the eligibility criteria for partner promoters?**

For partner promoters: being employed at a recognised higher education institution or a national public (not for profit) research institute, located in a VLIR-UOS project partner country. Multiple partner promoters can be foreseen at partner level.

The main signatory of a project agreement is always a recognised higher education institution or national public (not for profit) research institute.

For the detailed criteria, we would like to refer to the call document.

**2) How many institutions can collaborate? And how are budgets shared?**

There is no maximum number of collaborating partner institutions.

The budget is managed by the main promoters: both Flemish promoter and partner promoter(s). However, important to take note of is that VLIR-UOS channels all financial transactions via (the main) Flemish contracted higher education institution.

**3) Is there a minimum number of partner institutions required?**

A project involves at least 1 Flemish higher education institution and 1 partner institution (a recognised higher education institution or national public (not for profit) research institute, located in a VLIR-UOS project partner country).

But we really want to stimulate Multi-Institutional Partnerships (MIP) and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP), so it is an added value to involve different institutions and/or different actors.

**4) What aspects of a multi-stakeholder collaboration can we budget for? (personnel costs for a private partner? Operational costs for data processing at a private partner? Cost of data/services provided by a private partner?)**

The type of costs that can be budgeted for are operational and scholarship costs (mainly short term). No personnel costs can be paid at a private partner. This means that personnel costs such as staff costs cannot be budgeted for. However, within the operational cost category activity related service contracts can be budgeted for persons, not linked to the higher education partner institution, and supporting the project goals. This also means that personnel of a third party actor/ private partner that deliver a service or implement an activity of the project can receive limited support via service contracts. More details on the financial guidelines applicable on TEAM projects can be found in the financial framework document referred to in the Call for Concept Notes.

**5) Can a Post-doc researcher be a promoter or Co-promoter in the project? Does the seniority of the partner promoter (in the partner country) play a role in the evaluation of the application? In other words, could a young researcher with limited output play that role or would a senior promoter (e.g. a principal investigator, senior professor) make it more competitive?**

Important in a project application is a good mix of expertise and experience relevant to obtain the project goals. This means that the team composition, with a mix of young and more experienced researchers, could play a role. However, VLIR-UOS does encourage first-time promoters and female promoters to take part in project calls.

Detailed information is provided under the eligibility for where it concerns the possibility of post-docs to be Flemish promoter. As referred to in the presentation of the information session, the Flemish promoter can be a postdoc, supported by a minimum 10% ZAP co-promoter.

At level of the partner institution, the employment link is to be guaranteed as explained under the eligibility criteria. Both seniors and younger researchers can take up a responsibility as promoter or co-promoter. However, the status of this person at the institution in the partner country plays a role in taking up a promoter position. If a local post-doc researcher has an employment status at level of the (partner) HEI, this would be possible. If the status is that of a postdoc scholar, then he/she would not comply as a promoter.

**6) Is it possible to include a PhD position related to the topic in the project to also be financed by the project?**

A PhD can be team member in a project. TEAM project typically support PhD scholarships for incoming scholars to Belgium. Local scholarships can also be foreseen. More information is provided in the scholarship guidelines.

**7) Is there a limit to the number of applications one can submit to this call?**

Yes, a limit of two proposals per applicant (Flemish/partner promoter). Please also take note you can have maximum 2 ongoing TEAM/SI projects (e.g. in case you are a promoter of 1 ongoing TEAM 2022 or SI 2023, you can only present 1 proposal).

**8) I am from University Putra Malaysia, and Malaysia is not listed as a partner country?**

No, we are working with specific project partner countries (17) and Malaysia is not part of it.

**9) I am considering a team with one university from Peru and another from Bolivia and also a collaboration with Wageningen university colleagues, is it welcome to have other European universities outside the Flemish one?**

Yes, colleagues from Wageningen university can be team member. The institutions of the Flemish and partner promoter are contracted, and they need to be located in Flanders and in one of the VLIR-UOS partner countries.

Colleagues from universities from other European countries can be team member but not budget holder.

**10) Can multiple applications come from the same university?**

Yes, multiple applications can come from the same university. There is a limit set on the number of proposals that can be submitted per promoter, not on the partner institution.

**11) I am a free researcher, and I'm not working in universities or institutes, So, my question is can I join as a TEAM member?**

Theoretically everyone who has an interest and relevance in a project could be team member, of course it is up to the main promoters (both Flemish and partner) to constitute the project team.

**12) If I received a scholarship, for example, BOF, FWO, or another scholarship. Can I join a TEAM project?**

Yes, as a team member it is possible, on behalf of an organization and bringing in a certain expertise relevant to the project.

**13) When we are comparing the current project with another ongoing VLIR-UOS projects, is that in same country/ same institution or globally?**

In the context of coherence with other initiatives, other VLIR-UOS projects in the same country or other linked projects outside that country may be mentioned, though for the concept note this does not need to be very elaborated yet.

## **B. Technical questions related to submission, formats, guidelines**

**1) When I'm trying to apply, this is the message they are sending me:**

***User account from identity provider does not exist in tenant 'VLIR-UOS connect' and cannot access the application in that tenant. The account needs to be added as an external user in the tenant first. Sign out and sign in again with a different Azure Active Directory user account.***

External persons to a Flemish university or university of applied sciences cannot submit in our system.

This means that as an applicant from a partner country, you should first have/find a partner promoter at a Flemish higher education institution and agree with that person and the ICOS of the Flemish institution on how to be provided with access and agree on who will upload the documents.

Once all information is in the application tool, it will in the end be the responsibility of the Flemish promoter to submit a project proposal.

Please note that the **technical information sessions (how to submit a proposal in the online tool)** will be organized on:

- Tuesday, November 7th (10 AM CET): [Register here](#)
- Monday, December 4th (3 PM CET): [Register here](#)

**2) Can a Flemish promotor who has already a TEAM project ongoing submit another proposal for this call?**

Yes, there is a maximum of two ongoing TEAM/SI projects per promotor (TEAM 2022 or SI2023). If you have 1 ongoing TEAM 2022 project, you can submit 1 additional proposal. Please check the eligibility section.

**3) In this project can we include a short-term research stay to work on the project activities at a university based in Belgium?**

Yes, a short term research stay in Belgium is possible.

**4) I am not good in English, I am from a French-speaking country.**

Our working language is English, so all proposals must be submitted in English. In case the project is selected, the annual reporting process will also be conducted in English.

**5) For an IUC which is in phase out period like NM-AIST, can our application be linked to the sustainability of previous IUC work or do we focus on a completely new angle?**

Yes, a proposal can be linked, build further on the IUC project activity and focus on valorisation, complementary actions or completely new angles. Important is to explain how it relates and adds value.

**6) Would a PhD project already in progress and funded by KU Leuven internal fund be eligible to apply for the grant? We plan to use the grant to expand the scope of the project to multi-stakeholders and for implementation of the project's final results.**

Yes that's possible.

**7) Is it possible to include construction costs (e.g. to build a facility for a laboratory that is the core of the project and will host/organize/facilitate most project-related activities)? Relatedly, is it possible to include costs of vehicles (e.g. to buy bicycles/motorbikes to facilitate project logistics)?**

Investments costs are possible, but the share of investments is to be kept in line with the project objectives. As a good practice an indicative maximum of 25% investment costs in the total project budget is also suggested in the VLIR-UOS financial framework document (section on TEAM projects). The focus is on capacity development, together with uptake; so investments are not the core of a TEAM-project or any other project type with VLIR-UOS.

**8) Can you share the application template?**

The template has to be filled out in an online tool. However, here you can find the Word-templates which you can use to prepare the proposal ([https://www.vliruos.be/en/ongoing\\_calls/open\\_calls/call\\_team\\_projects\\_2024\\_stage\\_1\\_concept\\_notes/3334](https://www.vliruos.be/en/ongoing_calls/open_calls/call_team_projects_2024_stage_1_concept_notes/3334))

**9) Will you please share the recording of this meeting?**

Yes, the recordings will be shared on our website.

## **C. Contacts given through the chat**

**Where can I find the list of Flemish universities and researchers with their expertise?**

There is no such list available. The best recommendation is to search for a Flemish university or university of applied sciences that interests you (underneath this web page: <https://www.vliruos.be/en/contact/28> with additional e-contacts of ICOS/GEO at the bottom of that page) and then explore the relevant expertise. If you cannot find the expertise you need, feel free to send us an e-mail at [info@vliruos.be](mailto:info@vliruos.be), and we'll assist you in finding a partner in Flanders. Be sure to specify the expertise you're looking for and, if possible, provide your research question.