



Closing Seminar of the ACROPOLIS group 'Aid Effectiveness with a focus on Fragile Contexts' (2017)

Long-Term Policy Supporting Research (PSR)

2019

29-06-2018



ACADÉMIE
DE RECHERCHE ET
D'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR



Belgium

partner in development

Summary

Budget	€ 499.497,99 (€ 260.214,15 ARES part, € 239.283,84 VLIR-UOS part)
Duration	1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019 (<i>with possibility of prolongation</i>)
Eligibility	Researchers of Belgian higher education institutions, both universities and university colleges
Country & themes	Belgium (with case studies in countries in the South). Selected themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Using the Sustainable Development Goals as a compass.2. Support to the Gender Policy.3. Challenges and opportunities for a sustainable integrated water management in partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation.4. Support to the Private Sector Development Policy.
Launch of the call	29 June 2018
Information session	10 July 2018, 10u-12u @ DGD Press Room, Ground Floor, Egmont I (subscribe here)
Deadline submission proposals	30 September 2018, 17.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For ARES: noemie.nyst@ares.be- For VLIR-UOS: inge.vandevyvere@vliruos.be (ICOS of your institution in cc)
Approval of selected proposals	1 November 2018

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1. Context

Framework of the Policy Supporting Research (PSR) programme

Policy supporting research delivers research output on specific themes of interest to Belgian development cooperation on demand of the Belgian government. The goal is to **improve the relevance and performance of Belgian development cooperation policy** with regard to the international framework of sustainable and inclusive development.

As from 1 January 2019 and upon request from the government, the currently ongoing ACROPOLIS policy supporting research programme of ARES and VLIR-UOS will be adjusted into the **Policy Supporting Research (PSR) programme** for a period of three years (2019-2021). The new approach to PSR will remain an integral part of the 5 - year programme (2017-2021) for university cooperation for development of the umbrella organizations VLIR-UOS and ARES. This has been validated by the Minister of Development Cooperation on the 11th of June 2018.

The three-year period is regarded as an **experiment** in which new ways of working can be tried out broadening the expertise, opening up competition, varying the nature of questions, and varying funding modalities. The new approach will be assessed before the end of 2021 to determine whether the objectives of the new approach of policy support to the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid were met and whether the new approach is effective, as compared to other forms of policy supporting research from the past. This evaluation will serve as an input for the preparation of the next programme for university cooperation for development (2022-2026).

PSR is set up to meet the needs of the **Belgian development cooperation administration**, DGD. The aim is to deepen the knowledge on themes that are of prime importance for the Belgian development cooperation, linked to building knowledge and capacity of DGD. The PSR therefore also takes into account the inventory of the training needs and the training plans of DGD. Knowledge and capacity building in the universities in the subjects, is a positive element, but is not an end in itself of the PSR. The PSR is conducted in a hands-on and user-friendly way that enables practical applications in DGD (uptake), as well as dissemination and use by third parties (outreach).

Two types of policy supporting research are planned: long-term PSR and short-term PSR. The current call considers the **long-term PSR**, which allows to delve deeper into a subject. This type of research is closely related to the training, research and overall support needs of DGD and offers a wider range of services such as detailed advice, practical guidelines, complete training modules, scientific advisory services, etc. The short-term PSR support serves to get advice quickly, without extensive research. The products may include background notes, comments and recommendations, possibly supplemented with presentations, short-term studies, expertise that is accessible to DGD, courses and workshops, etc.

At least once a year, a PSR **policy commission** (consisting of DGD, VLIR-UOS, ARES and the cabinet) meets to discuss current PSR projects, results and uptake, and discusses matters of general interest for PSR. The policy committee annually evaluates the functioning of the PSR and proposes adjustments if necessary.

Call 2019 for long-term PSR

After an internal consultation of DGD, VLIR-UOS and ARES received on 27 June 2018 the Terms of Reference elaborated by DGD for long-term PSR regarding the following four **themes** (ToR included in annex 1, 2, 3 and 4):

1. Using the **Sustainable Development Goals** as a compass.
2. Support to the **Gender Policy**.
3. Challenges and opportunities for a **sustainable integrated water management** in partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation.
4. Support to the **Private Sector Development Policy**.

The term of the PSR is **one year**, renewable twice after an assessment of the products and the continued needs. The research group shall be informed, not later than the 1st of September, whether the term will be renewed for one year.

2. Objectives

Policy supporting research delivers research output on specific themes of interest to Belgian development cooperation on demand of the Belgian government. The goal of PSR is to deepen the knowledge on themes that are of prime importance for the Belgian development cooperation, linked to building knowledge and capacity of DGD.

3. Budget

The available budget for this call is **€ 499.497,99**, of which € 260.214,15 is contributed by ARES and € 239.283,84 is contributed by VLIR-UOS. The budget for one long-term PSR project is a maximum of € 250.000 per year.

A **daily fee of 1.000 EUR all-inclusive** is agreed upon. The PSR funding system is based on the daily fee, multiplied by the number of days which are deemed necessary for the implementation of the project. The number of days are to be explicitly justified in the project proposal on the basis of the plan of action and research methodology, and also need to be approved formally by DGD. All-inclusive means that the implementing university receives the calculated budget (daily fee * number of days), from which all corresponding costs need to be paid : salaries, operational costs, mission related costs, possible institutional overhead, etc.).

These costs are considered a **lump sum** amount in both budgeting and reporting, whereby the latter implies that, in principle, these expenses do not need to be accounted for by detailed supporting documents for individual expenses, since the PSR funding system has formally been accepted by DGD. The Belgian higher education institutions are accountable for these amounts and, if required during an external audit or control by DGD, supporting documents need to be available at the level of the Belgian higher education institutions in order to justify this type of costs. Specific costs, however, cannot be rejected since the DGD funding is a lump sum payment.

4. Eligibility

Researchers of Belgian higher education institutions, both universities and university colleges, are eligible to submit for this call. The proposal must meet the application and submission requirements as described in section 6.

ARES and VLIR-UOS will check the eligibility of the proposals and submit the eligible proposals to DGD on the 1st of October 2018.

5. Selection

DGD is responsible for the selection of the proposals, whereby the quality of the intended output and the intended impact on development cooperation are the main objectives. Selection criteria include : the expertise and previous experiences, the proposed approach, both research methodology and plan of collaboration with DGD.

Collaborations are encouraged if they are an added value for the intended quality of the PSR: inter-university partnerships within Belgium, links with university partners from the South , collaborations with other partners of the Belgian Development Cooperation and cooperation within global networks. Cooperation between PSR and non-university centres and networks is also encouraged in case it adds on quality. Collaborations are taken into account by DGD in case 2 projects are equally ranked.

Selection will be done before **1 November 2018**. DGD will justify the reasons for selection and non-selection. Communication of selection will be done by VLIR-UOS and ARES respectively.

6. Application and submission modalities

Proposal

Proposals are elaborated in English. A proposal needs to be presented in the provided format (see annex 5). The proposal has to elaborate on:

- The presentation of the research team, and, in case of a consortium, the constituent parties (members, relevant expertise);
- The plan of action and the research methodology (objectives, methodology, results, products);
- The strategy for uptake and outreach (practical applications for DGD and use by third parties);
- The collaborations foreseen with other parties (university partners from the South, other partners of the Belgian Development Cooperation, global networks, non-university centres and networks);
- The budget.

The term of the proposal is in principle **one year**. If the research team judges that several years are necessary to reach the results asked for in the ToR, the proposal should focus on the products that can be delivered during the first year.

Support during the formulation

Contact at DGD

For each theme, two responsible persons at DGD are appointed. These persons were responsible for the preparation of the terms of reference and will organize the selection committee that assigns the proposals. They will also supervise the execution (contacts with the researchers, technical guidance committee, organization of activities) and are responsible for quality control of the process and the products.

For more information, please contact:

1. [Olivier Thery](#) & [Tim Bogaert](#) on ToR 'Using the Sustainable Development Goals as a compass'
2. [Catherine Gigante](#) & [Sandrine Vanhamme](#) on ToR 'Support to the Gender Policy'
3. [Carol Durieux](#) & [Liesbeth Loddewyckx](#) on ToR 'Challenges and opportunities for a sustainable integrated water management in partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation'
4. [Jean Jacques Bastien](#) & (to be confirmed) on ToR 'Support to the Private Sector Development Policy'

Information session

Information sessions for interested researchers will be organised on the 10th of July, 10h-12h, at the offices of DGD (Press Room, Ground Floor, Egmont I). The contact persons at DGD will present their research topic and will give more information on the Terms of References during these sessions to interested academics, followed by a Q&A session. Intention is to allow interested academics to get a good understanding of the specific demands from the government, in order to know whether they can offer what is needed and in order to be better informed to formulate a tailor made proposal. ARES and VLIR-UOS will briefly explain the logical aspects of a PSR project (financing, contracting and follow-up). Subscription can be done [here](#).

Submission

The proposals are to be sent by mail to the programme managers of VLIR-UOS and ARES (see contact in table below). The institution of the lead researcher determines whether the proposal should be submitted to ARES or VLIR-UOS. The deadline for submission is **30 September 2018, 17.00**.

Name	Function	Email
Noémie Nyst	<i>Programme manager ARES</i>	noemie.nyst@ares-ac.be
Inge Vandevyvere	<i>Programme manager VLIR-UOS</i>	inge.vandevyvere@vliruos.be

For the Flemish universities: when submitting a proposal to VLIR-UOS, please add the following ICOS (Institutional Coordinator for Development Cooperation) in cc when submitting the proposal by mail to VLIR-UOS.

Name	Function	Email
Tupac Calfat	<i>ICOS KULeuven</i>	tupac.calfat@kuleuven.be
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For the Flemish university colleges: when submitting a proposal to VLIR-UOS, please add Charlotte Christiaens (charlotte.christiaens@vlhora.be) and the following ICOS in cc when submitting the proposal by mail to VLIR-UOS.

Name	Function	Email
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5. Timeline

Description	Deadline
Launch call for proposals by VLIR-UOS and ARES	29 June 2018
Information sessions @ DGD Press Room, Ground Floor, Egmont I	10 July 2018, 10u-12u @ DGD
Deadline for submission at VLIR-UOS and ARES	30 September 2018

Selection of proposals by DGD	Before 1 November 2018
Communication of selection results	November 2018
Start of the PSR	1 January 2019

Annexes

Annex 1: [Terms of Reference 'Using the Sustainable Development Goals as a compass.'](#)

Annex 2: [Terms of Reference 'Support to the Gender Policy.'](#)

Annex 3: [Terms of Reference 'Challenges and opportunities for a sustainable integrated water management in partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation.'](#)

Annex 4: [Terms of Reference 'Support to the Private Sector Development Policy.'](#)

Annex 5: [Proposal Format](#)

Abbreviations

ARES	Académie de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur
DGD	Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid
ICOS	Institutional Coordinator for Development Cooperation
PSR	Policy Supporting Research
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Terms of Reference
VLIR-UOS	Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (Flemish Interuniversity Council) - Universitaire Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (VLIR-University Cooperation for Development)