ICP Connect
Formats and guidelines

vlruos
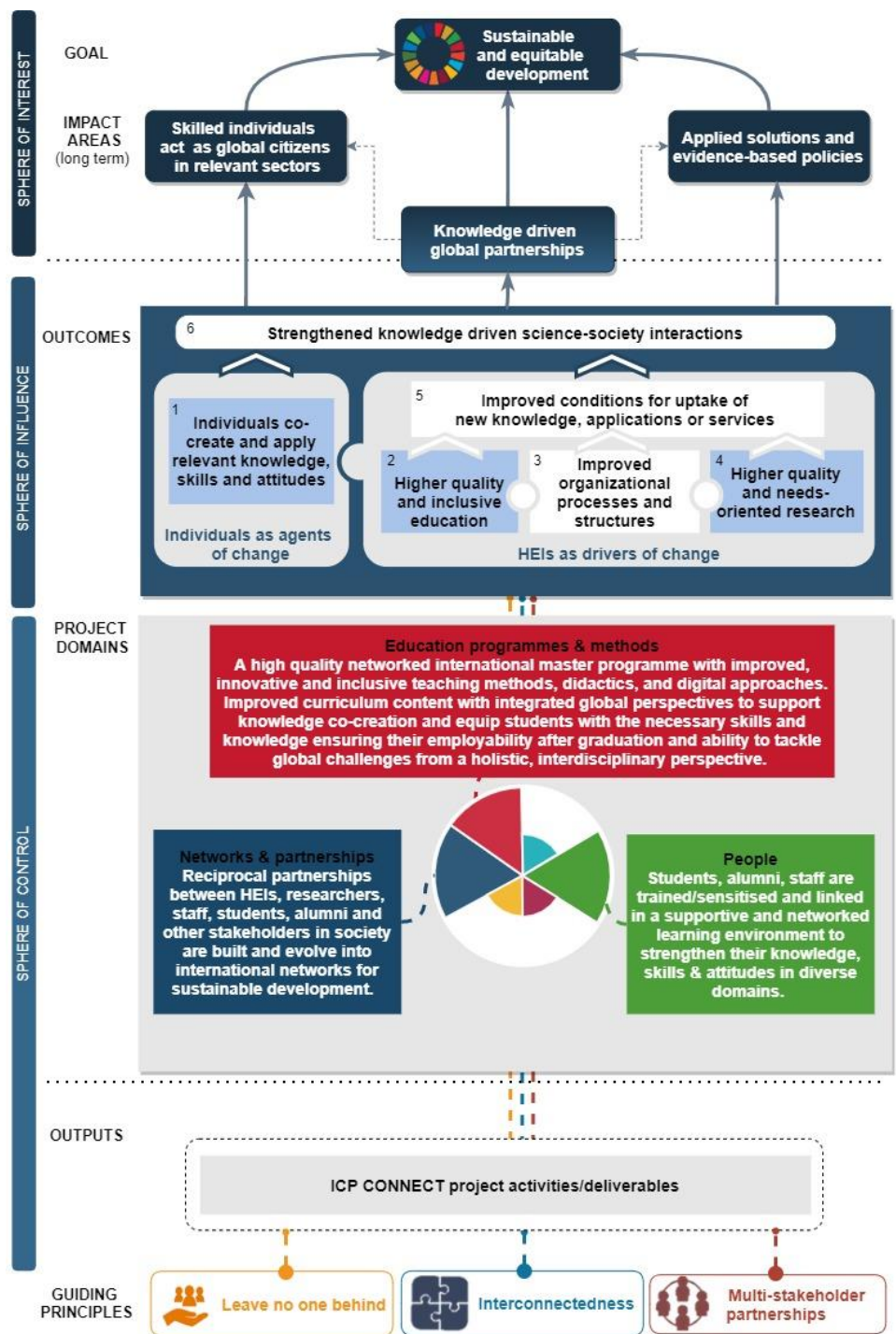SHARING MINDS, CHANGING LIVES

What's new?

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- New Theory of change (VLIR-UOS and per outcome)
- Integration of transversal themes (environment, gender) and other priority themes
- Country strategy approach
  → **SDG** centred approach

- SDG Principles:
  - Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)
  - Multistakeholder partnerships
  - Interconnectedness

VLIR-UOS
Revised Theory of Change

1 goal

⬇

3 impact areas

- -

6 strategic goals **JSF HES4SD**

⬇

6 **VLIR-UOS** outcomes
along 2 axes:
Individuals as agents of change
HEIs as driver of change

- -

⬇

6 **project** change domains

SPHERE OF INTEREST

GOAL — Sustainable and equitable development

IMPACT AREAS (long term)
- Skilled individuals act as global citizens in relevant sectors
- Knowledge driven global partnerships
- Applied solutions and evidence-based policies

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

OUTCOMES

6 Strengthened knowledge driven science-society interactions

1 Individuals co-create and apply relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes
Individuals as agents of change

5 Improved conditions for uptake of new knowledge, applications or services
2 Higher quality and inclusive education
3 Improved organizational processes and structures
4 Higher quality and needs-oriented research
HEIs as drivers of change

SPHERE OF CONTROL

PROJECT DOMAINS

Education programmes & methods
A high quality networked international master programme with improved, innovative and inclusive teaching methods, didactics, and digital approaches. Improved curriculum content with integrated global perspectives to support knowledge co-creation and equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge ensuring their employability after graduation and ability to tackle global challenges from a holistic, interdisciplinary perspective.

Networks & partnerships
Reciprocal partnerships between HEIs, researchers, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders in society are built and evolve into international networks for sustainable development.

People
Students, alumni, staff are trained/sensitised and linked in a supportive and networked learning environment to strengthen their knowledge, skills & attitudes in diverse domains.

OUTPUTS
ICP CONNECT project activities/deliverables

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
- Leave no one behind
- Interconnectedness
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships

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SPHERE OF CONTROL

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OUTPUTS

ICP CONNECT project activities/deliverables

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Leave no one behind

Interconnectedness

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

ICP Connect: What's new?

- Evolution from programme allowance to IF to ICP Connect

- Shift towards sustainability and educational network consolidation

- integrating global perspectives → creating a **supportive, inclusive and networked learning environment** → experts and critical global citizens motivated to act as **change agents** in their network.

FYP2: 2022-2026 Connect4Change : New formats and guidelines

- Taking into account the new SDG framework (sustainable development context, Theory of Change per Outcome, SDG principles)

- Revised theory of change aligned with Agenda 2030 & SDG principles

- Formats and guidelines: standardisation, simplification, digitization via a new modular approach
    - Less text, documents, annexes
    - Online environment
    - Working documents for exchange/preparing (word/excel)
    - Avoiding duplication

- Scholarship & financial guidelines being updated

How to use the formats?

Support & guidance offered

- **Formulation guidelines** with background information on how to fill out the format & **checklist** for integrating **SDG principles** per module (based on <u>SDGs as a compass toolkit</u>)

- **Online form** connected to database / website for calls

- **Formats** (working doc):
  - **Excel** template for Summary, Module 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
  - **Word** template for "narrative" questions / outline for online inclusion of information

- **Information package** (under development) with slides summarizing essential info

Content: 8 modules + summary

	Format	Pages of text
1: Context analysis	W	1,5
2: Impact statement, ToC and strategy	X W	4
3: Organisation	X W	2,5
4: Stakeholders and coherence	W	1
5: Planning & budgeting	X	-
6: Risk management	X	-
7: Monitoring & reporting	X	-
8: Learning and steering	W	2

Context analysis

1. Sustainable development context
2. Partner(s)

ESSENCE

Develop a broad – and shared – understanding of the system in which the desired change is needed. The context analysis justifies the **importance / relevance** of the project, delimits the **scope** and contextualizes the **reasons** why the project is needed (i.e. interconnected **problems** being faced).

Maximum 2,5 page

Impact statement, Theory of Change (ToC) & strategy

1. Impact statement
2. ToC
3. Project strategy

ESSENCE

Envision the desired long-term change (**dream**) to which the project wants to contribute. Describe and visualise **change pathways** to develop an impact-oriented **strategy** with concrete activities and **deliverables** in the selected project change **domains**.
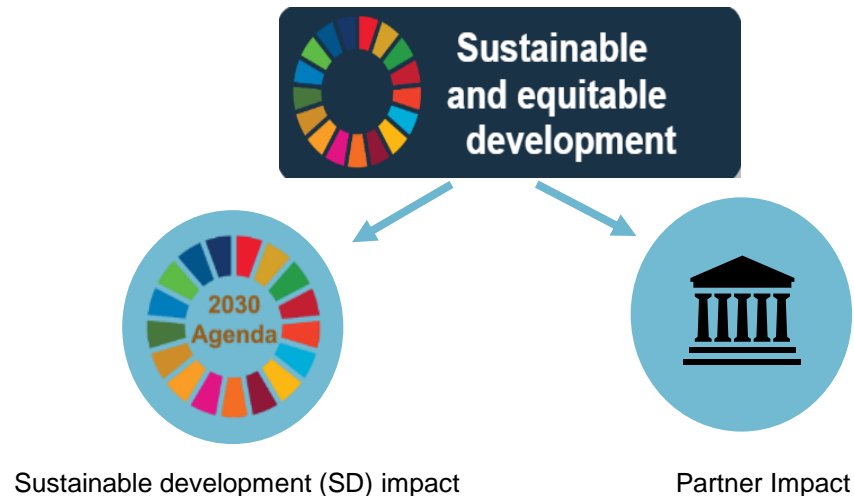
Impact statement = project vision

Key questions
1) What are the ambitions / **dreams** of the project (= **long-term** change)? Why and for who?

Max. 500 characters – in excel

Sustainable and equitable development

Sustainable development (SD) impact

Partner Impact

Developing a theory of change

Key questions

1. What are the key areas where change is needed to realise the desired changes / dreams?
2. What **outcomes** can a ICP Connect project realistically achieve?
3. Translate these into an **outcome statement** for the project (by aligning with the standard outcomes foreseen in the ICP Connect ToC)
4. Design the strategy **(= theory of action)** by making use of **one or more of the six VLIR-UOS core domains** (intermediate change level)
5. **Formulate an intermediate change statement** per selected domain
6. **Formulate activities/deliverables** to realise these intermediate changes in the selected domains (outputs)
7. What assumptions / uncertainties may influence the change process?

Max. 2 pages for theory of change narrative description

Methodology and specific project strategies

Key questions

1. Methodological approach (*methodologies to realise changes, integrating aspects related to scholarship & alumni strategy and mobility; transversal themes global citizenship and environment*)
2. Project priorities in terms of the transversal theme gender in the project strategy

Max. 1 1/2 pages for methodological approaches and ½ page for the gender section

Organisation

1. **Who is involved?**
2. **How is the project structured/organised?**

ESSENCE
Describe **who** is (internally) involved in the implementation of the project – and how. Clarify the **structure of the organisation** and assigned **roles** and responsibilities of individuals working on the project.

Max. 2 pages for Project organogram – partner involvement and ½ page for systems and procedures

Stakeholders

1. **Identification**, **management & engagement strategy**
2. **Coherence: internal & external**

ESSENCE
Describe and **analyse** the internal and external stakeholders that will be involved in or will benefit from the project. How will they be involved and their interest/influence.

Coherence

Key questions
What **synergies or complementarities** are foreseen with…

1) <u>External</u>:
- Projects/academic programmes/networks with external funding?
- The local/regional context?

2) <u>Internal</u>:
- with other VLIR-UOS funded projects / activities in line with the needs of (in)direct beneficiaries and local partners' priorities?

Max. 1 page

Planning and budgeting

1. **Operational plan**
2. **Budget**

ESSENCE

Focus on how the project will contribute to the set goals in the six project domains. It specifies what activities must be done to achieve a particular goal (or goals), when they need to be done and who is going to do them. Includes both the **outputs that need to be delivered and the financial & human resources attached to it**.
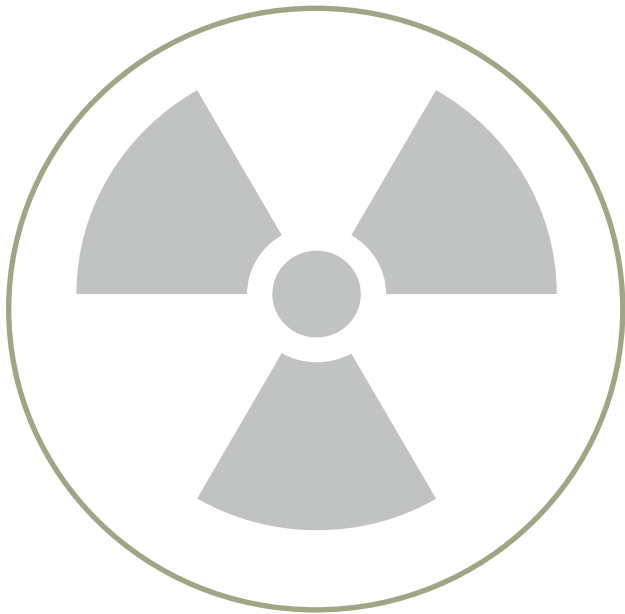
Risk management

1. **Identification**
2. **Assessment**
3. **Risk response and monitoring**

ESSENCE
Identify and manage the key risks the project will potentially face

Monitoring & reporting

1. **Develop and choose indicators**
2. **Use & reporting of indicators**

ESSENCE

Measure the project performance and **progress** towards realising the goals of the project. Identify **indicators**, set **targets**, **collect** relevant data and analyse indicators at the level of the project for reporting (accountability and learning purposes).
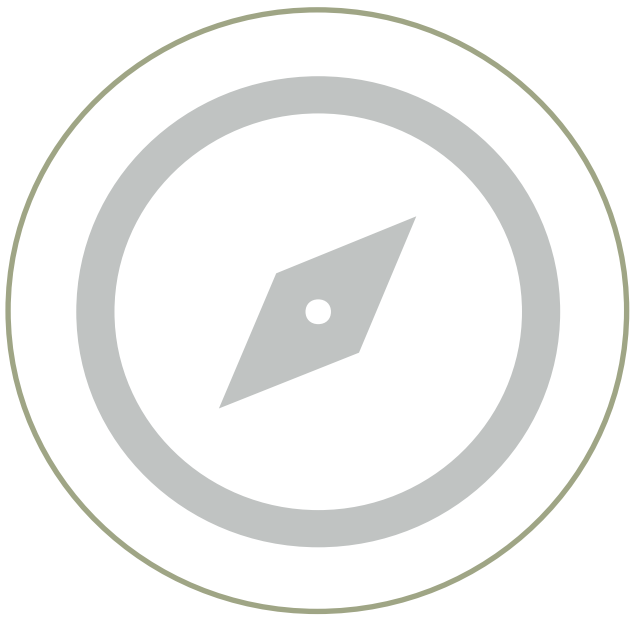
Learning & steering

1. Integration recommendations Stage 1
2. Project sustainability strategy

ESSENCE
Describe how to follow-up on changes, adaptations and **lessons learned** from (previous) experiences in order to improve the quality of the project.

Max. 2 pages

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