ICP Connect

Formats and guidelines
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
**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
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.
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 **SDGs as a compass toolkit**)
- **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

1: Context analysis

2: Impact statement, ToC and strategy

3: Organisation

4: Stakeholders and coherence

5: Planning & budgeting

6: Risk management

7: Monitoring & reporting

8: Learning and steering

Format:

Pages of text:

1,5

4

2,5

1

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

Max. 500 characters – in excel
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
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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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