



FYP II 'CONNECT 4 CHANGE' FACTS AND FIGURES

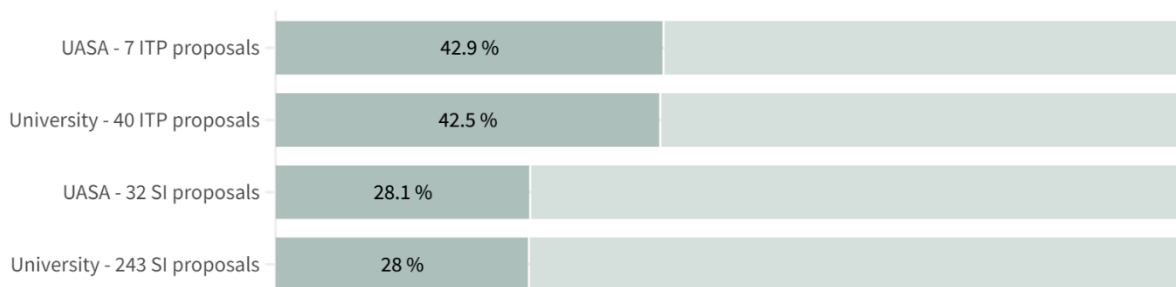
In this short note, we provide an overview of the selection results for the current 5-year programme 'Connect 4 Change', which started in September 2022. Our aim is to provide a glimpse behind the scenes by offering insights into success rates for different types of institutions, male and female promoters, first time promoters or 'pioneers', and interinstitutional projects. It's important to note that the results presented here are derived from a limited number of project intakes: the TEAM 2022 intake, SI 2022 & 2023 intakes, and ITP 2022 & 2023 intakes.

Success rate and institution type (University and UASA)

A concern often raised has to do with the success rates for projects submitted by promoters affiliated to a Flemish university of applied sciences and arts (UASA). Generally, these promoters may harbour a perception of lower likelihood of success; however, the data indicates that this notion does not entirely match reality. Across all projects, they are almost **(31.8%)** as successful as promoters from the universities **(35.6%)**.



If we focus solely on ITP and SI projects, the success rate is nearly identical. It's important to note the limited number of projects submitted by UASA promoters in this comparison.



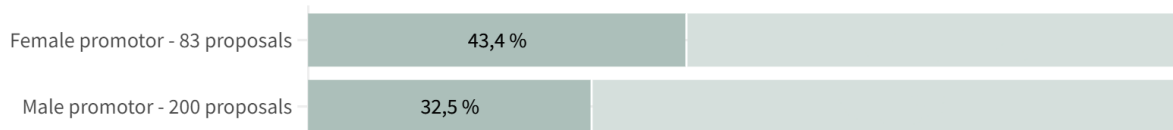
In contrast to our findings for ITP and SI, the selection rate for UASA promoters for TEAM projects is lower than that of the universities. It is important to note, once again, that the quantity of projects submitted by UASA promoters is limited and that this was the first time they could apply for TEAM funding.



Success rates and gender of the Flemish promotor

In alignment with other major research funders (cf. FWO 'gender equality plan 2023' and 'equal opportunity policy', and ERC 'gender equality strategy 2020-2025'), VLIR-UOS aspires to further narrow the existing gender gap in academia. The Flemish interuniversity council's aggregated statistics ('Statistische gegevens betreffende het personeel aan de Vlaamse universiteiten', VLIR, 2022) reveal an imbalanced scenario across each Flemish Higher Education Institution (HEI). Consequently, our goal is to increase the participation of female promoters. This is why in instances of projects with equal ratings, priority will be given to female promoters (and/or first-time promoters).

Presented here are the success rates of male and female promoters from Flanders, providing insight into the current state of affairs (for all project types combined). What stands out is that there are a lot less female promoters but that their success rate is considerably higher (**43,4%**) than for their male counterparts (**32,5%**). We plan to regularly update these figures to monitor progress and change.



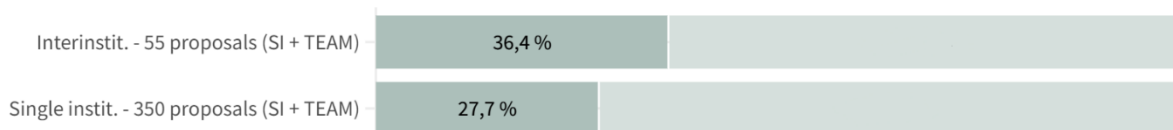
Success rates first time promoters or VLIR-UOS pioneers

VLIR-UOS aims to attract new researchers and staff to the higher education for sustainable development sector. To achieve this goal, the organisation has implemented policies that prioritise not only female participants, but also first time promoters. Accordingly, another area of focus is the success of proposals submitted by first-time promoters or pioneers. Analysing the data reveals that there is a substantial presence of pioneers, with **151** of the project promoters being newcomers. Unfortunately, however, the success rate for non-pioneers remains higher than that of pioneers. This difference isn't entirely surprising considering there's a learning curve involved. Naturally, the more experience one has, the better ones proposals tend to be. VLIR-UOS is therefore continuously working on reducing overly complex jargon and making calls more accessible.



Success rates of Interinstitutional projects

VLIR-UOS places a high priority on interinstitutional collaboration, aligning with its vision statement in the current 5-year program: "Connect 4 Change." However, it's evident that such projects are not very common for every project type in the portfolio. Most interinstitutional proposals fall into the categories of Short Initiatives and TEAM projects, with a total of 55 projects compared to 350 SI and TEAM projects promoted by a single institution. Notably, interinstitutional projects boast a higher success rate (**36.4%**) compared to their non-interinstitutional counterparts (**27.7%**).



Conclusions

The analysis of selection results for the 'Connect 4 Change' programme highlights both successes and areas for improvement. Promisingly, promoters from Flemish universities of applied sciences and arts show comparable success rates to those from universities, while efforts to address gender imbalances in academia have resulted in higher success rates for female promoters. Also encouraging is the higher success rate of interinstitutional projects, which underscores the importance of collaborative initiatives.

It's reassuring to see we are continually able to attract newcomers to propose projects. First-time promoters or 'pioneers', however, could benefit from extra support to enhance their success rates. Looking ahead, continuous monitoring and strategic adjustments will be essential to ensure the effectiveness of the 'Connect 4 Change' programme in fostering positive change in higher education for sustainable development.