

Iraq call for grant applications Institutional Collaboration Projects OKP-IRA-30005

Joint proposal

Country	Iraq
Priority theme(s)	Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) and Water
Aim of the project	Strengthen education and training programmes for climate smart agriculture and efficient water management meeting labour market needs
Call number	OKP-IRA-30005
Maximum available funding for this call, excluding co-funding	EUR 1,100,000
Maximum funding per collaboration project, excluding co-funding	EUR 1,100,000
Minimum required co-funding ¹	20 % of the total project budget

Time schedule

Call for grant applications	June 27, 2019
Nuffic will answer questions about the call until	August 22, 2019, 11.00 am CEST.
Closing date for submission of grant applications	September 17, 2019, 11.00 am CEST
Assessment of grant application	October 14, 2019
Communication of results to the applicants	October 28, 2019

At least 50% of the required co-funding must come from local funding in the partner country.

Contents

Time schedule	1
1. Introduction: The Orange Knowledge Programme	3
2. Information specific for this call	4
2.1 Long-term impact.....	4
2.2 Context of the call.....	5
2.3 Co-funding	6
2.4 Questions about the call?	7
3. General information for applicants for institutional collaboration projects.....	7
3.1 Eligibility criteria	7
3.2 Grant Obligations and Conditions.....	8
3.3 Requirements	8
3.4 Eligibility check.....	9
3.5 Assessment and selection procedure	9
4. Checklist.....	10

1. Introduction: The Orange Knowledge Programme

Nuffic's Orange Knowledge Programme is a 5 year global development programme, aimed to strengthening professionals and organisations through education and training. It contributes to the goals of the Netherlands' [development cooperation policy](#), in which education plays a significant role.

The programme offers funding in 53 countries for individual scholarships, tailor-made trainings and institutional partnerships between Dutch and foreign education institutions in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education. It focuses on the priority themes of the Dutch government (Water, Food and nutrition security, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, and Security and Rule of Law) and aims throughout the programme for inclusion, employability and environmental sustainability.

Nuffic is programme manager, in close collaboration with the programme's funder, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Running from mid-2017 to mid-2022, it will offer at least 51,000 thousand people the chance to change their future through education.

With its institutional collaboration projects the Orange Knowledge Programme aims to support knowledge institutions in need of sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to development cooperation. Support for vocational education and connection to the labour market are important principles. Institutional projects consist of various activities that contribute to institutional development of organisations in developing countries on three levels: individual, organisational and institutional.

More information about the Orange Knowledge Programme such as the basic principles and the policy framework can be found of the Nuffic website: www.nuffic.nl/en/global-development/orange-knowledge-programme.

The Orange Knowledge Grant Obligations and Conditions can be found among the downloads under the link to this call.

The Orange Knowledge Programme focuses on sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to Dutch development cooperation which are outlined in the Country Plans of Implementation (CPI). Click [here](#) for the CPI's per country.

The Theory of Change (ToC) of the Orange Knowledge Programme describes the interlinkages between capacity building and sustainable inclusive development to which each approved initiative under the Orange Knowledge Programme contributes to. The ToC can be found [here](#).

This document describes the procedure for submitting an Orange Knowledge Programme grant application for institutional collaboration project – joint proposals.

In this document you find important details for this call. Where applicable, links are included to provide more information on grant obligations and conditions, guiding principles, procedures, and formats.

2. Information specific for this call

2.1 Long-term impact

The Theory of Change (ToC) of the Orange Knowledge Programme presents the expected medium and long-term impact and outcomes of the programme. Each impact and outcome is quantified by a number of indicators which are described in the Orange Knowledge Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and relates to the M&E Framework of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

All projects must contribute to achieving these impact and outcomes. In addition, it is expected that projects seek alignment with existing programmes, encourage alumni involvement and stimulate and facilitate south-south cooperation as much as possible. The grant application and, if the application is selected, subsequent reporting must give insight into how the project will contribute/contributes to achieving impact and outcomes.

The CPI gives all details about the impact, outcomes and indicators of the ToC of the Orange Knowledge Programme and of the contribution to the thematic ToC(s) specific to the country in question in Annex 2

The proposed project must contribute to the following **objective(s)**:

- Contribute to Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) and efficient water management for climate smart agriculture (SDG 2 and SDG 6) and to increased employment opportunities for Iraqi youth (SDG 8)

The proposed project must contribute to the following **long-term impact**:

- Water efficiency in agriculture is increased;
- Growth in smart agriculture;
- Ecologically sustainable food systems.

The following **medium-term impact** will contribute to this:

- (I) Education system (TVET/HE) is of good quality, relevant and accessible (SDG 4);
- (II) Partnerships between persons and organisations are inclusive and sustainable (SDG 17);
- (III) Organisations key to (sectoral) inclusive development of partner countries are strengthened by inflow of enhanced workforce.

This will be achieved by the following **outcome**:

- A. TVET/HE organisations (in the selected partner countries and in NL) perform better their core tasks, firmly embedded in their environment (in line with country / regional specific labour market needs & aiming at inclusiveness).

In the Orange Knowledge Programme format for a grant application the consortium partners will be asked to select relevant indicators to measure the achievement during and after project implementation at medium-term and long-term-level.

2.2 Context of the call

Reference is made to the Country Plan of Implementation for Iraq, which clarifies the expected long-term impact to which the institutional collaboration project has to contribute.

Based on a prioritization of capacity gaps as described in the CPI the following intervention domain applies to this call:

Strengthen education and training programmes for climate smart agriculture and efficient water management meeting labour market needs

Nuffic expects proposals to respond to the challenges as identified in the CPI which are further detailed below.

Projects resulting from this call will complement previous and current investment in education and vocational training as well as knowledge transfer and scholarships for Masters and Short courses that benefitted hundreds of Iraqis and refugees living in Iraq to date.

By investing in education and knowledge at technical institutes and universities the Orange Knowledge Programme will contribute to improve skills, competences and knowledge of Iraqi people working in and responsible for climate smart agriculture (CSA), water for agriculture and water management.

Institutional collaboration project proposals addressing CSA and efficient water management should take into account the following key elements:

- Improve/ develop curricula on CSA and efficient water management education and training at technical institutions and universities, including horticulture, dairy production, food quality control;
- Programmes should include internships and demand driven practical skills training ensuring connections to the labour market and link with career development centres;
- Design programmes that build students' employability- and entrepreneurial skills (entrepreneurship, business skills, communication, soft skills);
- Design programmes geared towards agricultural private sector development (farm enterprises) applying smart agri-technology and innovation;

- Enhance knowledge and research for increasing water productivity and improving water quality; for example, waste water treatment for re-use of waste water, water efficiency in greenhouses, reduction of salinity levels;
- Strengthen capacity (skills and knowledge) and management skills of teaching and managerial staff;
- Strengthen institutional structures and systems at education providers that offer programmes on CSA and/ or efficient water-management;
- Promote the attractiveness of professions in the agricultural sector, working closely with popular (management and engineering) faculties of technical institutes and universities as well as with media (i.e. linking with modernised farms, showcasing, role models).

In addition to the grant applications evaluation criteria as listed in the legal policy framework of OKP the following aspects need to be included in institutional collaboration applications:

- Consortia partners and activities to include a number of regions in the country;
- Promote participation from women and marginalised groups;
- Involve (local) government officials from the different regions of Iraq including from marginalized regions;
- Align with the EU and UNESCO supported TVET reform programme;
- Align with the reviewed water strategy of the Iraqi government and the subsequent development of solutions for national and local water management.

2.3 Co-funding

Co-funding is one of the key principles underpinning the programme. It contributes to reciprocity and increases ownership of the collaboration. Co-funding may involve public, private and/or own funds.

Iraq is considered to be an UMIC according to OECD's DAC list. This means that an application for this call must include a co-funding amount of 20 % of the total project budget. The total project budget is calculated as the sum of the requested grant amount plus the budgeted amount of co-funding. At least 50% of the required co-funding must come from local funding in the partner country.

A contribution from public funds is defined as: a contribution in cash or in kind to which is directly or indirectly paid for from state resources. State resources comprise all funds from the public sector, including funds from local levels of government (decentralised, federal, regional or other) and, in certain circumstances, funds from private bodies.

Public funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (including embassies) do not count as co-funding, but can be added to the project.

Private funds are considered to be all funds – in cash or in kind – that are not state resources.

2.4 Questions about the call?

Nuffic will answer questions about this call until the date stated in the time schedule on the front page. If you have a question about this call you can send an e-mail in English to GDtenders@nuffic.nl. Mention in your e-mail the call number.

Questions and Nuffic's answers will be published on the OKP website. The identity of the inquirers is kept private.

3. General information for applicants for institutional collaboration projects

Grants for OKP Institutional Collaboration Projects will be awarded to collaboration projects between knowledge institutions focusing on sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to development cooperation. A grant application (proposal) may be submitted by any one of the partners, potentially on behalf of a consortium. The grant applicant must be a Dutch institution for secondary vocational or higher vocational or academic education; or a national or local knowledge institution or organisation (knowledge institution, ministries, national commissions or non-governmental organisation) that contributes to capacity development in the area of higher and vocational education within the local priorities as set out in the country plan of implementation (CPI). The grant applicant must have sufficient organisational and financial capacity to lead an institutional collaboration project. The grant applicant (lead partner of a consortium (country A or Dutch consortium)) can only submit or be involved in one application for this call ('one applicant, one application'-rule).²

Please check the criteria in the legal policy framework on our website, and read the specific criteria in this call document.

The applying organisation will be the grant recipient, who will be responsible for the grant activities and for complying with the obligations and conditions connected to the grant.

3.1 Eligibility criteria

Grant applications and applicants have to meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible for a grant:

1. The grant application must be submitted by a Dutch institution for secondary vocational or higher vocational or academic education, or a knowledge institution or organisation

² A consortium member (Country A or Dutch consortium) can participate in various proposals for the same call. The lead partner of the consortium that is not the applicant can also be involved in various applications for the same call.

in a [Country A](#) (see countries on the map that are marked red), potentially on behalf of their consortia. The project must be a collaboration between a Dutch and a country A partner, potentially on behalf of their consortia. All country A partners have to be based in the country/countries specified in the call. Only the Dutch lead partner has to be based in the Netherlands.

2. The grant applicant is in a position to provide adequate financial management and, due to its experience and expertise in relation to activities similar to those for which the grant is being requested, can guarantee the targeted and effective performance of the activities to achieve the impact and outcomes as defined in the application; the applicant must submit data in the form of a COCA³ to enable its capacities to be assessed.
3. The grant applicant can function and operate appropriately within the legislation passed by the government in the country or countries in question.
4. The project proposal has a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of four years, and must be implemented and established by no later than 31 December 2021.
5. The grant applied for does not exceed the maximum amount specified in the call for grant applications.
6. Any required co-funding is guaranteed.
7. The grant application meets any specific financial requirements set out in the call.
8. The grant application must be in the compulsory format and meet all criteria and requirements stated in this document.
9. The grant application is in line with the CPI of the country concerned.

After receiving an application Nuffic will check if the application is complete and meets the minimum criteria. If the application is not complete or does not meet all criteria Nuffic will inform the applicant. The applicant then has two working days to complete or correct his application under specific conditions. After the two working days it is not possible to make any more changes to the application. Applications that are still not complete or still do not meet the minimum criteria will be rejected.

3.2 Grant Obligations and Conditions

By submitting a grant application the applicant agrees with the Grant Obligations and Conditions (version 3.0). The applicant by submitting also agrees to endorse the objectives of the Orange Knowledge Programme.

3.3 Requirements

³ A COCA (Checklist for Organisational Capacity Assessment) is an evaluation of whether an organisation has sufficient financial and organisational capacity to carry out a project or training course. An approved COCA assessment is valid for a maximum of one year and may be requested/updated during the year. The documents required for the COCA assessment can also be submitted at the same time as the grant application.

Applications have to be:

- submitted before the deadline, in the compulsory format. The format is one of the downloads under the link to this call;
- Complete, including all required documents at the time of submission, in the English language;
- Must not exceed 25 pages, excluding the compulsory annexes;
- The annexes must follow the numbering and titles as indicated in the grant application form (checklist);
- The font size must not be smaller than Century Gothic 10;
- Must be submitted in a searchable PDF (including all the annexes) and a budget in excel via e-mail by sending it to GDtenders@nuffic.nl. The email must at least carry the following information:
 - o Subject: grant application Orange Knowledge Programme: OKP-country abbreviation-call number;
 - o a description of the content: call number, country, attached documents;
 - o the full name and contact details of the applicant.

3.4 Eligibility check

After receipt of a grant application Nuffic will send the applicant a confirmation of receipt by email.

Nuffic will check if:

- the application meets the eligibility criteria.

Grant applications that do not meet the minimum will be rejected. The applicant will be informed of this decision by Nuffic via email.

3.5 Assessment and selection procedure

Step 1: Assessment of eligible applications

Nuffic assesses the quality of eligible applications.

The applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

- I. Quality of the partnership;
- II. Project relevance;
- III. Project approach and design;
- IV. Project management;
- V. Technical quality of the application.

A specific score sheet and set of criteria are used for the quality evaluation of the application. These criteria are the basis to determine which application best answers the

capacity gap expressed in the CPI. An explanation of the assessment specifying the assessment questions and their weighting is available on the website.

A grant application is given a score for each of these criteria. The application must obtain a **minimum score for each of the five criteria (I to V.a). In case a minimum of co-funding is required, the application must also obtain a minimum score for co-funding (I to V.b).** Only applications that have obtained the required minimum score on items **I to V.a (I to V.b in case a minimum of co-funding is required)**, and therefore totalling a minimum aggregate score of 84 (93 in case a minimum of co-funding is required) out of a maximum of 160 points, are taken into consideration in the selection of a winning application. Applications that have not obtained the minimum score will be rejected.

Step 2

After the assessment all applications will be ranked. The grant application(s) with the highest score(s) will be selected, within the available budget.

After the selection Nuffic will inform the applicants with eligible applications by e-mail of the outcome of the selection.

4. Checklist

I. Requirements			
Before submitting your application, please check that each of the following components is complete and complies with the criteria:		Check by applicant	
		Yes	No
1	The application has been submitted before the deadline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	The correct application form has been used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	The application is written in the required language.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	The budget is in the prescribed format (in excel and a signed PDF by the legal representative of the grant applicant), does not exceed the maximum available amount for the specific call and meets the co-financing requirement (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	The e-mail has been drawn up according to the specifications in this document.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	The application does not exceed 25 pages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	The 'one applicant, one application'-rule has been respected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
II. Required documents			

An application needs the following documents to be complete. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Nuffic prefers the proposals for the Institutional Collaboration Projects calls to be submitted in separate documents (Proposal, CVs, statements, letters) and the budget also separately in Excel.

	Filled-in application form using the mandatory application format	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 1 Statement grant applicant (mandatory format)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 2 Letter of intent for a consortium agreement signed by all partners (Country A lead partner including consortium members and Dutch lead partner including consortium members) including organisational diagram of the project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 3 Project Logical framework including planning (mandatory format)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 4 Budget of the proposed project (mandatory format)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 5 Overview of relevant experience in capacity development of the Country A partner and the Dutch partner (mandatory format)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 6a CVs of the project management teams (both partners) and principal experts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 6b Statements of availability and expertise (mandatory format)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 7 Capacity analysis of the Country A partner(s) (mandatory format: organisational assessment plus 5c scoring visualisation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 8 Proof of co-funding, duly signed by co-funder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 9 Bank Statement of the grant applicant no more than 6 months old	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Annex 10 Checklist Organisational Capacity Assessment (COCA) for Institutional Collaboration Projects of grant applicant (mandatory format) or if the applicant already has a valid COCA: the COCA registration number issued by Nuffic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>