

Vietnam call for grant applications Institutional Collaboration Projects OKP-VNM-10054

Joint proposal

Country	Vietnam
Priority themes	Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) and Water
Aim of the project	Capacity building in agricultural transformation in the Mekong River Delta
Call number	OKP-VNM-10054
Maximum available funding for this call, excluding co-funding	EUR 620,000
Maximum funding per collaboration project, excluding co-funding	EUR 620,000
Minimum required cofunding	15 % of the total project budget
Note: At least 50% of the <u>required</u> co-funding must come from local funding in the partner country	
Final date project	The project should be finished before 31 December 2021

Time schedule

Call for grant applications	31 March 2020
Nuffic will answer questions about the call until	19 May 2020, 11.00 A.M. CEST
Closing date for submission of grant applications	11 June 2020, 11.00 A.M. CEST. Note: This closing date includes the three additional weeks due to the epidemic of COVID-19 virus.
Assessment of grant application	9 July 2020
Communication of results to the applicants	23 July 2020

Content

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?	6
3. General information for applicants for institutional collaboration projects.....	7
3.1 Eligibility criteria.....	8
3.2 Grant Obligations and Conditions	8
3.3 Requirements	9
3.4 Eligibility check.....	9
3.5 Assessment and selection procedure.....	9
Step 1: Assessment of eligible applications	9
Step 2 Ranking of applications	10
4. Checklist	10
Annex I.....	12

1. Introduction: The Orange Knowledge Programme

The Orange Knowledge Programme is a 5 year global development programme, aimed at 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 54 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 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, regarding 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 on 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 4.

The proposed project must contribute to the following long-term impacts in Water Security and Safety:

- Water is used sustainably and equitably, ensuring the needs of all sectors and the environment;
- Water efficiency in agriculture is increased.

The proposed project must contribute to the following long-term impacts in Food & Nutrition Security:

- Promote agricultural growth;
- Create ecologically sustainable food systems.

The following medium-term impact will contribute to this:

1. Education system (TVET/HE) is of good quality, relevant and accessible (SDG 4);
2. Partnerships between persons and organisations are inclusive and sustainable (SDG 17);
3. 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.

2.2 Context of the call

The objective of this call is to contribute to agricultural transformation in the Mekong River Delta by increasing the quality and skillset of graduates who (will) work in the agro-business sector.

Explicit reference is made to the Country Plan of Implementation (CPI) for Vietnam, which clarifies the context and expected long-term impact to which the institutional collaboration project under consideration has to contribute. In addition, the call contributes to the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2019 in which the Netherlands and Vietnam endorse cooperation in the Mekong River Delta on agricultural transition towards vertically integrated value chains and a shift to modern agro-business specialisation. The MoU acknowledges the transfer of knowledge as an essential pillar in advancing value addition and secondary sector knowledge and skills.

Proposed projects should be in line with the Strategic Partnership Agreements (SAP) on (1) Climate Change Adaptation and Water management in 2010, (2) Sustainable Agriculture and Food security in 2014 and (3) a consolidation of Government Resolution 120 which presents a vision for the Mekong Delta region.

Note: for more information on the MoU and SAP's, please contact mr. Laurent Umans from the embassy in Hanoi via laurent.umans@minbuza.nl.

The following capacity gaps have been identified in relation to the training and education needs:

- At ministerial level approximately 35% of staff are academically trained, whereas at provincial and district levels little over 2% of staff have more than a BA/BSc degree;
- Vietnam still has low quality university level education and vocational training in agriculture/food security and water & climate change related subjects, which are considered out of date and still cannot meet the demand for training and education, both in terms of quality and quantity;
- Capacity building is needed to Vietnamese higher education institutes in water management transformations (e.g. embrace floods and brackish water) linked to agricultural restructuring, professionalisation and livelihood changes;
- There is a gap between scientific knowledge and the implementation of relevant policies and governance on agricultural transformation;
- Vocational training institutes face a bigger challenge: they are not able to recruit enough students because vocational training is not considered attractive.

Given the capacity needs mentioned, the following criteria apply to this call (in addition to generic criteria and objectives of OKP):

- The proposed project will need to address capacity needs of (future) civil servants engaged at decentral level as well as staff engaged in extension services who will have a central role in improving agricultural practices and value-adding activities in the upper delta, the saline estuary zone and the peninsula area of the Mekong River Delta;
- The project will need to contribute to innovation in the agro-water sector by bringing further new ideas and concepts (i.e. through pilots, demo's etc.);

- The project should narrow the gaps between science and policy, between policy and practice, particularly where agriculture connects with water and delta management and where government connects with the private sector;
- The project should seek close alignment with different Dutch agro / water programmes, see Annex I;
- The proposal may focus on key ministerial and education institutes and/or education institutes that can (potentially) play a key role in upgrading the knowledge and skills base of civil servants in the Mekong River Delta region;
- If possible, the proposal should focus on connecting vocational training and education to academic education;
- The proposal should address soft skills development, interactive teaching methodologies, curriculum improvement with a specific focus on institutional sustainability;
- If possible, the proposed strategy should align with outreach activities to (small scale) farmers;
- The proposed strategy will have to pay attention to remote areas and the position of women and female farmers.

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.

Vietnam is considered to be LMIC according to OECD's DAC list. This means that an application for this call must include a co-funding amount of 15% 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 email 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.

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 project must be a collaboration between [a Dutch knowledge institution and a country A knowledge institution](#), potentially on behalf of their consortia. The grant application must be submitted either by the Dutch institution for secondary vocational or higher vocational or academic education, or the knowledge institution or organisation in a [Country A](#) (see full-programme countries on the map that are marked red), 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 COCA 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 applicant (lead partner of a consortium, either from country A or the Netherlands) can only submit or be involved in one application for this call ('one applicant, one application'-rule). 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.

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

Applications have to be:

- submitted before the deadline, in the compulsory format;
- complete, including all required documents at the time of submission, in the English language;
- a maximum of 25 pages, excluding the compulsory annexes;
- in a font size not smaller than Century Gothic 10;
- submitted in a searchable PDF (including all the annexes) and a budget in excel via email by sending it to GDtenders@nuffic.nl.

The email must at least carry the following information:

- subject: grant application Orange Knowledge Programme: OKP-country abbreviation-call number;
- a description of the content: call number, country, attached documents;
- the full name and contact details of the applicant.

All submitted annexes must follow the numbering and titles as indicated in the grant application form (checklist).

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 criteria 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:

- Quality of the partnership;
- Project relevance;

- Project approach and design;
- Project management;
- 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. In case a minimum of co-funding is required, the application must also obtain a minimum score for co-funding. Only applications that have obtained the required minimum score on all items are taken into consideration in the selection of a winning application. Applications that have not obtained the minimum score will be rejected.

Step 2 Ranking of applications

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 email of the outcome of the selection.

4. Checklist

Before submitting your application, please check that each of the following components is complete and complies with the criteria:

- The application concerns collaboration between a Dutch knowledge institution and a country A knowledge institution, potentially on behalf of their consortia;
- The application has been submitted before the deadline
- The correct application form has been used.
- The application is written in the required language.
- 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).
- The e-mail has been drawn up according to the specifications in this document.
- The answers must not exceed the maximum number of words indicated per question.
- The 'one applicant, one application'-rule has been respected

An application needs the following documents to be complete:

- Filled-in application form using the mandatory application format
- Annex 1 Statement grant applicant (mandatory format)
- 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
- Annex 3 Project Logical framework including planning (mandatory format)

- Annex 4 Budget of the proposed project (mandatory format)
- Annex 5 Overview of relevant experience in capacity development of the Country A partner and the Dutch partner (mandatory format)
- Annex 6a CVs of the project management teams (both partners) and principal experts
- Annex 6b Statements of availability and expertise (mandatory format)
- Annex 7 Capacity analysis of the Country A partner(s) (mandatory format: organisational assessment plus 5c scoring visualisation)
- Annex 8 Proof of co-funding, duly signed by co-funder
- Annex 9 Bank Statement of the grant applicant no more than 6 months old
- 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.

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.

Annex I

Where possible, the project will need to align with the following initiatives:

- The Blue Dragon (eg. their capacity development efforts and Communities of Practice);
- The WUR activities with CTU (salinity tolerance) and VNUA (horticulture);
- The activities by TU Delft with HUNRE and TLU on climate adaption and IWRM;
- The Partner for Water initiatives (earlier dissemination project, subsidence and water retention);
- Dutch agro-business activities (seed sector, fruits, aquaculture, water treatment and others);
- Arcadis project and a potential UDW project that produces a web portal that disseminates the results of the Rise&Fall project for the policy makers, general public and scientists (translating scientific knowledge to policy and action);
- Programs of IDH, Origination Facility, MAM shrimp project, etc.