



Closing Seminar of the ACROPOLIS group 'Aid Effectiveness with a focus on Fragile Contexts'

Short-Term Policy Supporting Research 2019

Call for proposals

ARES

ACADÉMIE
DE RECHERCHE ET
D'ENSEIGNEMENT
SUPÉRIEUR

Summary

Budget	€ 50.000
Themes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political-economic analysis of the agriculture sector in Uganda 2. The role of mutual health insurance funds and social economy initiatives (social profit) in the extension of social protection mechanisms towards rural workers in Benin
Eligibility	<p>Team leader: Researchers of FWB (Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles) Belgian higher education institutions</p> <p>Collaborations: Researchers Belgian higher education institutions or other</p>
Country	Belgium (with case studies in the Belgian partner countries)
Launch of the call	13/06/2019
Deadline submission final proposals to ARES	19/07/2019 – 17:00
Final approval of the proposals	22/08/2019
Implementation period	1 st of September 2019 – 28 February 2020

Table des matières

1. Context	4
Framework of the Policy Supporting Research (PSR) programme	4
Short-Term PSR	4
2. Objectives	5
3. Budget	5
4. Eligibility	5
5. Selection	6
6. Application and submission modalities	6
Calendar	6
Annexes	7

1. Context

Framework of the Policy Supporting Research (PSR) programme

As from 1 January 2019, the ACROPOLIS policy supporting research programme will be adjusted into the **Policy Supporting Research (PSR) programme** for a period of three years (2019-2021). The new approach to PSR will remain an integral part of the 5 - year programme (2017-2021) for university cooperation for development of the umbrella organizations VLIR-UOS and ARES.

PSR is set up to meet the needs of the **Belgian development cooperation administration**, DGD. The aim is to deepen the knowledge on themes that are of prime importance for the Belgian development cooperation, linked to building knowledge and capacity of DGD. The PSR therefore also takes into account the inventory of the training needs and the training plans of DGD. Knowledge and capacity building in the universities in the subjects, is a positive element, but is not an end in itself of the PSR. The PSR is conducted in a hands-on and user-friendly way that enables practical applications in DGD (uptake), as well as dissemination and use by third parties (outreach).

Two types of policy supporting research are planned: long-term PSR and **short-term** PSR. The current call considers the short-term PSR, it serves to mobilize universities to give punctual support in the short term (maximum 50 working days). This type of support serves to get advice quickly, without extensive research. The products may include background notes, comments and recommendations, possibly supplemented with presentations, short-term studies, expertise that is accessible to DGD, courses and workshops, etc. The precise type of "products" will be detailed in the ToR for each demand.

At least once a year, a PSR policy committee (consisting of DGD, VLIR-UOS, ARES and the cabinet) meets to discuss current PSR projects, results and uptake, and discusses matters of general interest for PSR. The policy committee annually evaluates the functioning of the PSR and proposes adjustments if necessary.

Short-Term PSR

After an internal consultation of DGD, ARES have received two Terms of References from DGD for short-term PSR regarding the following **themes** (ToR included in annex 1, 2):

1. 'Political-economic analysis of the agriculture sector in Uganda'
2. 'The role of mutual health insurance funds and social economy initiatives (social profit) in the extension of social protection mechanisms towards rural workers in Benin'

For each theme, one responsible at DGD is appointed. This person was responsible for the preparation of the terms of reference and organizes the selection committee that assigns the proposals. The person responsible also supervises the execution (contacts with the researchers, technical guidance committee, and organization of activities). This person is also responsible for quality control of the process and the products.

Focal point for the Uganda project: Erwin De Wandel (Erwin.dewandel@diplobel.fed.be).

Focal point for the Benin project: Mélanie Schellens (melanie.schellens@diplobel.fed.be) and Corrinne Heus (Corinne.heus@diplobel.fed.be).

The term of the PSR is **50 working days** in a period of **6 months maximum**.

The budget for one short-term PSR project is a maximum of 50.000 euros.

2. Objectives

Policy supporting research delivers research output on specific themes of interest to Belgian development cooperation on demand of the Belgian government. The goal of PSR is to deepen the knowledge on themes that are of prime importance for the Belgian development cooperation, linked to building knowledge and capacity of DGD.

3. Budget

The budget for one short-term PSR project is a maximum of € 50.000 euros.

A **daily fee of 1.000 EUR all-inclusive** is agreed upon. The PSR funding system is based on the daily fee, multiplied by the number of days which are deemed necessary for the implementation of the project. The number of days are to be explicitly justified in the project proposal on the basis of the plan of action and research methodology, and also need to be approved formally by DGD. All-inclusive means that the implementing university receives the calculated budget (daily fee * number of days), from which all corresponding costs need to be paid: salaries, operational costs, mission related costs, possible institutional overhead, etc.).

These costs are considered a **lump sum** amount in both budgeting and reporting, whereby the latter implies that, in principle, these expenses do not need to be accounted for by detailed supporting documents for individual expenses, since the PSR funding system has formally been accepted by DGD. The Belgian higher education institutions are accountable for these amounts and, if required during an external audit or control by DGD, supporting documents need to be available at the level of the Belgian higher education institutions in order to justify this type of costs. Specific costs, however, cannot be rejected since the DGD funding is a lump sum payment.

For this call, **at least 75% of the budget will be assigned to universities and/or university colleges' members of ARES.**

In the repartition of the working days, a maximum of 12 working days will be attributed to non-members institutions of FWB.

4. Eligibility

Researchers of FWB Belgian higher education institutions, both universities and university colleges, are eligible to submit for this call. The team leader is member of a FWB institution. The collaboration with non-members of FWB is permitted within the limit of 25% of the budget.

The proposal must meet the application and submission requirements as described in section 6.

ARES will check the eligibility of the proposals and submit the eligible proposals to DGD on the 22 of July 2019.

5. Selection

DGD is responsible for the selection of the proposals, whereby the quality of the intended output and the intended impact on development cooperation are the main objectives. Selection criteria includes: the expertise and previous experiences, the proposed approach, both research methodology and plan of collaboration with DGD.

Collaborations are encouraged if they are an added value for the intended quality of the PSR: inter-university partnerships within Belgium, links with university partners from the South, collaborations with other partners of the Belgian Development Cooperation and cooperation within global networks. Cooperation between PSR and non-university centres and networks is also encouraged in case it adds on quality. Collaborations are taken into account by DGD in case 2 projects are equally ranked.

Selection will be done before 22 of August 2019.

6. Application and submission modalities

Proposals are elaborated in English. A proposal needs to be presented in the provided format (see annex 3). The proposal has to elaborate on:

- The presentation of the research team, and, in case of a consortium, the constituent parties (members, relevant expertise);
- The plan of action and the research methodology (objectives, methodology, results, products);
- The strategy for uptake and outreach (practical applications for DGD and use by third parties);
- The collaborations foreseen with other parties (university partners from the South, other partners of the Belgian Development Cooperation, global networks, non-university centres and net-works);
- The budget.

The proposals are to be sent to the programme officers of ARES (see contact in table below). The institution of the lead researcher determines whether the proposal should be submitted with ARES.

The last date for submission is **19 July 2019, 17.00**.

Name	Function	Email
Noémie Nyst	<i>Programme officer ARES</i>	noemie.nyst@ares-ac.be

Calendar

Description	Deadline
Launch call for proposals by ARES	13 June 2019
Deadline for submission at ARES	19 July 2019 17h00

Selection of proposals by DGD	Before 22 August 2019
Start of the PSR	1 September 2019

Annexes

Annex 1: Terms of Reference 'Political-economic analysis of the agriculture sector in Uganda'

Annex 2: Terms of Reference 'The role of mutual health insurance funds and social economy initiatives (social profit) in the extension of social protection mechanisms towards rural workers in Benin'

Annex 3: Proposal Format