TEAM 2026 – information session

4 November 2025 – overview Q & A

Date/time	**Tuesday 4 November 2025, 13:00 to 15:00 CET**
Objective	Inform the public on the TEAM 2026 Call and how it fits within the VLIRUOS ambitions
Suggested profile of participants	- Interested academics/HEI (Higher Education Institutes) - ICOS/GEO - ANGC representatives, institutional actors, Embassies, broader public

A. Questions related to the applicant (status) / multiple HEI & multi-stakeholder set-up

Could you please clarify the eligibility criteria for partner promoters?

For partner promoters: being employed at a recognised higher education institution (HEI) or a national public (not for profit) research institute, located in a VLIRUOS project partner country.

The main signatory of a project agreement is always a recognised higher education institution, or at the partner country level also a national public (not for profit) research institute is eligible. Note: the status of a recognised national public not for profit research institute implies the institution has a formal mandate from its government.

People from NGOs, private sector, governmental partners or other HEIs can join as team members; multi-stakeholder partnerships are stimulated.

For the detailed criteria, we would like to refer to the call document.

How many institutions can collaborate? And how are budgets shared?

There is no maximum number of collaborating partner institutions.

The budget is managed by the main promoters: both Flemish promoter and partner promoter(s). However, important to take note of is that VLIRUOS channels all financial transactions via the (main) Flemish contracted higher education institution.

Is there a minimum number of partner institutions required?

A project involves at least 1 Flemish higher education institution and 1 partner institution (a recognised higher education institution or national public (not for profit) research institute, located in a VLIRUOS project partner country).

But we really want to stimulate Multi-Institutional Partnerships (MIP) and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP), so it is an added value to involve different institutions and/or different actors. Multiple VLIRUOS partners (from different partner countries) can be involved.

What aspects of a multi-stakeholder collaboration can we budget for? (personnel costs for a private partner? Operational costs for data processing at a private partner? Cost of data/services provided by a private partner?)

The type of costs that can be budgeted for are operational and scholarship costs (mainly short term). No personnel costs can be paid at a private partner. This means that personnel costs such as staff costs cannot be budgeted for. However, within the operational cost category activity related service contracts can be budgeted for persons, not linked to the higher education partner institution, and supporting the project goals. This also means that personnel of a third party actor/ private partner that deliver a service or implement an activity of the project can receive limited support via service contracts. More details on the financial guidelines applicable on TEAM projects can be found in the financial framework document referred to in the Call.

Can a Post-doc researcher be a promoter or Co-promoter in the project? Does the seniority of the partner promoter (in the partner country) play a role in the evaluation of the application? In other words, could a young researcher with limited output play that role or would a senior promoter (e.g. a principal investigator, senior professor) make it more competitive?

Important in a project application is a good mix of expertise and experience relevant to obtain the project goals. This means that the team composition, with a mix of young and more experienced researchers, could play a role. However, VLIRUOS does encourage first-time promoters and female promoters to take part in project calls.

Detailed information is provided under the eligibility for where it concerns the possibility of post-docs to be Flemish promoter. As referred to in the presentation of the information session, the Flemish promoter can be a postdoc, supported by a minimum 10% ZAP co-promoter.

At level of the partner institution, the employment link is to be guaranteed as explained under the eligibility criteria. Both seniors and younger researchers can take up a responsibility as promoter or co-promoter. However, the status of this person at the institution in the partner country plays a role in taking up a promoter position. If a local post-doc researcher has an employment status at level of the (partner) HEI, this would be possible. If the status is that of a postdoc scholar, then he/she would not comply as a promoter.

Is it possible to include a PhD position related to the topic in the project to also be financed by the project?

A PhD can be team member in a project. TEAM projects typically support PhD scholarships for incoming scholars to Belgium. Local scholarships can also be foreseen. More information is provided in the scholarship guidelines.

Is there a limit to the number of applications one can submit to this call?

Yes, a limit of two proposals per applicant (Flemish/partner promoter). Please also take note you can have maximum 2 ongoing TEAM/SI projects (e.g. in case you are a promoter of 1 ongoing TEAM 2022, TEAM 2024 or SI 2025, you can only present 1 proposal). Please check details in the call document.

Is it possible to have other European universities outside the Flemish one?

Yes, colleagues from other European universities can join as team member.

The institutions of the Flemish and partner promoter are contracted and are budget holder, they need to be located in Flanders and in one of the VLIRUOS partner countries.

Can multiple applications come from the same university?

Yes, multiple applications can come from the same university. There is a limit set on the number of proposals that can be submitted per promoter, not on the partner institution.

I am a free researcher, and I'm not working in universities or institutes, my question is can I join as a TEAM member?

Theoretically everyone who has an interest and relevance in a project could be team member, of course it is up to the main promoters (both Flemish and partner) to constitute the project team.

If I received a scholarship, can I join a TEAM project?

Yes, as a team member it is possible, and bringing in a certain expertise relevant to the project.

Can we apply as a consortium of institutions?
No, a consortium cannot submit a proposal but you can collaborate together with one or more HEIs and join as a team member. At the partner level, multiple partner HEIs can be included as contracting parties.

B. Technical questions related to submission, formats, guidelines

Is it possible to include construction costs (e.g. to build a facility for a laboratory that is the core of the project and will host/organize/facilitate most project-related activities?)? Relatedly, is it possible to include costs of vehicles (e.g. to buy bicycles/motorbikes to facilitate project logistics)?
Investments costs are possible, but the share of investments is to be kept in line with the project objectives. As a good practice, an indicative maximum of 25% investment costs in the total project budget is also suggested in the VLIRUOS financial framework document (section on TEAM projects). The focus is on capacity development, together with uptake; so investments are not the core of a TEAM-project or any other project type with VLIRUOS.

Is it mandatory to use ORCID for the CVs of the promoters? ORCID is rather limited and therefore important information might be missing.

For the Flemish promoters we request the use of ORCID, so this in principle mandatory, but if you feel that important info is missing, you might add the link to another accessible online CV. Please do not mix up links, since sometimes we receive links that are no longer working. In the case of partner promoters, please you can use ORCID or another online CV (if you do not have an ORCID account), such as an accessible and complete Linkedin profile, or in exceptional cases you can still add your CV via the tool annexes.

Is it necessary or beneficial to offer co-funding?

It is not required but it can certainly be beneficial, esp. when competition between project proposals is high.

Can you clarify MSP (Multi-stakeholder partnerships)?

Multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) concerns a structural collaboration with at least 1 non-academic actor (= multi-stakeholder; civil society, private sector, governmental actors, etc.) within the framework of a project, in which this actor plays an active role in the project implementation. The actors in the MSP work towards a common goal, with a clear division of roles and responsibilities, which are formalised, e.g. in the project agreement.

Is it possible to connect with specific Enabel projects in the target countries, through targeted interventions, and consider Enabel as part of the 'multistakeholder partnership'?

Yes, that is possible. You can also reach out to other actors when needed. These can be Belgian or local NGOs, industry, governmental partners; they can join as team members.

C. Contacts

Where can I find the list of Flemish universities and researchers with their expertise?

There is no such list available.

In order to establish a partnership with a Flemish university or University of applied sciences and arts, you will find the contact details of the persons working at the international offices of each higher education institution (HEI) here: https://www.vliruos.be/icos-geo

Of course you can also go through the websites of the Flemish HEI and look yourself for specific expertise you would need and contact the professors yourself.

If you cannot find the expertise you need, feel free to send us an e-mail at info@vliruos.be, and we'll assist you in finding a partner in Flanders. Be sure to specify the expertise you're looking for and, if possible, provide your research question.

Hereby the link to the TEAM call on the VLIRUOS website: https://www.vliruos.be/get-funded/calls/team-2026-call-project-proposals