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|  | **Summary of the call for proposals ‘Transnational partnerships’** |

**What?**

This call for proposals aims to improve services on the Flemish labour market by setting up transnational partnerships in which some kind of ‘mutual learning’ is achieved.

We are looking for challenging labour market-related ideas for which transnational cooperation will result in a certain added value. Promoters have to submit a thematic project proposal to apply for financial support.

If the proposal is endorsed, organisations concerned can start elaborating the defined social challenge in the initial phase and consequently set up a Flemish and transnational partnership regarding this theme.

In the next phase the aim is to set up actions within the partnership to face this challenge.

The active population (job-seekers, employees and self-employed persons) should get better services thanks to this partnership in a direct or an indirect way, a higher degree of job security should be established.

Most of the member states have made a choice as to which themes they intend to give priority to. Flanders has decided to include as many as possible of issues in the call.

Below, we include the broad themes as well as a number of sub-themes as a source of inspiration. This is not an exhaustive list:

1. **Refugees**
2. **Social economy**
3. **Social Inclusion**
4. **Youth employment**
5. **Learning and skills**
6. **Employment**

Apart from this, one has to take into account the horizontal themes which apply in every

context:

1. **Gender and gendermainstreaming**
2. **Social innovation**

**Who?**

The call for proposals is open for any organisation with a legal personality, the social partners and the entities within the Flemish authority.

More specifically, this call for proposals is open for all of the actors on the labour market as well as organisations which fulfil a role in the Flemish labour market.

The setting up of a relevant Flemish and transnational partnership is compulsory.

**Actions?**

The projects within this call for proposals can start from an existing practice or from challenges on the Flemish labour market or from abroad, and will set up a network regarding the issues concerned.

When addressing a specific challenge, it is possible to set up an innovative project or to improve an existing service. ESF Flanders has proposed minimal requirements to warrant the fact that projects deliver a relevant final product as an output.

**The projects consist of a preparatory phase and two implementing phases.**

**Duration, timing & monitoring**

1. **The preparatory phase (4 months)**

Project proposals that have been approved of, are given 4 months from **June 1st until September 30th t**o set up a Flemish -and transnational partnership and the refining of the project idea in a transnational context. This will be financed through a lumpsum budget of 15.000 EUR (cfr. infra). During this period promoters should elaborate the issues below:

* Establishing a Flemish and transnational partnership (an agreement has to be made with at least 1 transnational - and at least 1 Flemish partner). It is however recommended to look for more than 1 partner (so as to establish a solid partnership on the Flemish as well as on the European level). Read more in chapter 2.4;
* Elaborating further the project idea;
* This will be integrated in a desk and partner search report and will constitute a part of the final report of the preparation phase.

Before entering into phase 1, applicants have to integrate the results in a desk and partner search report, which constitutes at the same time a project proposal for phase 1. This means that the final report of the preparatory phase will be used as submission report for phase 1. The assessment of this report will be carried through between September 30th and December 31st, 2016.

1. **Phase 1 of the projects (30 months):**

Phase 1 starts on **January 1st, 2017** and concerns the actual implementation of the project to obtain the final product. This phase will last f**or 30 months**

In the period April – May 2019 the promoter will be requested to participate in the validation sessions, so as to have the output of the project validated. In case of a positive validation the promoter will be able to enter the last phase (phase 2), for which a refined dissemination strategy will have to be drawn up. It is only after the assessment of this dissemination strategy that phase 2 can get started. This strategy has to be submitted by June 15th, 2019, in order to finish the assessment process by June 30th, 2019.

1. **Phase 2 of the projects (6 months):**

The dissemination phase means that the final product can be disseminated, and this can happen both on the Flemish level and on the transnational level (for 6 months at the utmost) from July 1st, 2019 until December 31st, 2019. Be alert: there will be no new submission term after phase 1; the submission phase is fully integrated in phase 1, so that phase 2 can continue after the conclusion of phase 1 without interruption.

**Duration of the project**

A project (preparatory phase included) can last for 40 months at the utmost. A break has to be scheduled between the preparatory phase (four months) and, in case of approval, the effective implementation of the project (36 months at the utmost, spread over the 2 last phases).

The duration of a project may differ according to the member state, but the norm is 3 years starting from January 2017 onwards, This term does not include the 4 months for the preparatory phase in 2016.

**Where?**

Projects are to be implemented within the EU and in collaboration with transnational partners, preferably from the common framework. This common framework was initiated by the Commission to provide more coordination during the setting up and implementation of transnational cooperation. This role includes the synchronisation of the launch of calls for proposals in the respective member states. This will make it easier for potential promoters to look for transnational partners and to set up a common transnational project.

In case no applicable partner is found within the common framework, also partners from countries which do not belong to the common framework for the selected theme can be asked to join the partnership. An ESF allocation in the home country, however, is a conditio sine qua non.

**How much?**

The budget for the call for proposals regarding ‘Transnationality’ amounts to 8,400,000 EUR, of which 5,000,000 EUR will be financed by the European Social Fund and 3,400,000 EUR by the Flemish Co-financing Fund.

A maximum subsidy of 300,000 EUR will be allocated to projects according to the partition below:

* A maximum of 180,000 EUR ESF (60% subsidies from the European Social Fund)
* A maximum of 120,000 EUR VCF (40% subsidies from the Flemish Co-financing Fund)

For the preparatory phase a maximum budget of 15,000 EUR will be allocated to a project, according to the partition as follows:

* 9,000 EUR ESF (60% subsidies from the European Social Fund)
* 6,000 EUR VCF (40% subsidies from the Flemish Co-financing Fund)

For phase 1 a maximum budget of 255,000 EUR will be scheduled for a project, according to the partition as follows:

* A maximum of 153,000 EUR ESF (60% subsidies from the European Social Fund)
* A maximum of 102,000 EUR VCF (40% subsidies from the Flemish Co-financing Fund)

For phase 2 a maximum budget of 30,000 EUR is scheduled, according to the partition below:

* A maximum of 18,000 EUR ESF (60% of subsidies from the European Social Fund)
* A maximum of 12,000 EUR VCF (40% of subsidies from the Flemish Co-financing Fund)

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