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Maastricht University

WUN Research Development Fund 2022

‘Advancing sustainable development’

Maastricht University internal procedure – deadline September 20

The WUN RDF offers senior and junior researchers at Maastricht University the opportunity to develop research initiatives with colleague researchers from other WUN member universities on issues that are relevant and urgent from the perspective of current global developments. The UM, as WUN member and as a European university with a global outlook, invites and supports its researchers to submit ideas for the RDF that shape our university’s global engagement.

The WUN Research Development Fund (RDF) provides grants up to 10.000 British Pound (about 11.500 Euro), for one year, for initiatives that foster research collaborations among academic staff (faculty members) at WUN partner universities. WUN welcomes ideas for research collaboration that fit in the Network’s principal research theme of *Sustainable Development*. More specifically WUN prioritizes research initiatives that underpin the following Sustainable Development Goals: Good health and Wellbeing, Quality Education, Affordable and Clean Energy, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Life below Water, Life on Land (SDGs 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15).

The framework for the 2022 round of applications for grants from the WUN RDF 2022 is provided by the WUN documents WUN Research Development Fund 2022 and the WUN RDF 2022 question guide. Both documents are attached to the internal UM call for ideas for the WUN RDF 2022 sent out early September. The first document is a 4 page pdf-file that also can be found on the WUN website. The question guide is a Word document that can be found on the WUN Online application portal (there is a link on the WUN website to this portal) and can be used as an informal work sheet for drafting applications – this gives a good impression what a RDF project application entails. More information and applications for RDF proposals to WUN can be made through the WUN website <https://wun.ac.uk/article/wun-research-development-fund-2022/>

The deadline for submitting WUN RDF proposals for this round is Monday 24 October 2022 (17.00 UK time). However, the UM (and all other WUN member universities) is allowed to submit no more than two applications with a member of its academic staff as Principal Investigator (PI). There is no limit on the number of applications in which a UM staff member can be a co-investigator.

To avoid that much work is spend on proposals that in the end cannot submitted, as in previous years **an internal pre-selection of ideas for good proposals** will be made. From these ideas, two will be selected and these two ideas then can be developed in full proposals that will be submitted to WUN before the deadline.

The **internal deadline for submitting ideas for proposals for the WUN RDF 2022 is Tuesday September 20th**. The result of the selection will be communicated on Monday September 26th. From then on there will be a three weeks to develop the two selected ideas into full eligible proposals.



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How to submit an idea for a proposal for the WUN RDF 2022? Please send a Word document structured in the following way and containing the following information:

1. Title of the proposed project / research collaboration
2. Name of applicant/principal investigator
3. UM Faculty/department/unit
4. Contact details: phone and e-mail
5. Brief description (max. half page) of the proposed project; objective(s), intended result(s)/ expected output(s), main activities, rationale
6. To which WUN priority area(s) does the proposed project correspond?
7. Who will be the partners in the project? (at least two WUN partner universities are required from at least one other WUN 'region' than Europe; beyond that there may be more partners including non-WUN members)
8. Indicate whether you have already contacted these partners and whether they already have confirmed their participation

Please make sure that the total document is not more than 2 pages.

Send this information at the latest on Tuesday September 20th as a Word text file by mail to the UM WUN Co-ordinator: han.aarts@maastrichtuniversity.nl

The selection of ideas will be done by the UM representatives in the WUN Academic Advisory Committee and in the WUN Partnership Board facilitated by the UM WUN co-ordinator.

The outcome of the selection will be communicated by Han Aarts on Monday September 26th.

Please consider when you develop an idea:

- Please consider that you need to include in your proposal fellow researchers from at least two other WUN member universities in addition to the applicant. You can make use of the WUN Hub (see annex) for finding additional partners.
- Also consider that also they can apply for a WUN grant through their own university, but obviously only one application for one project can be made. So it may be worthwhile to consult your fellow researchers what may be the best/most effective way to submit a proposal. In case of doubt, you can also consult WUN coordinator Han Aarts.
- WUN prefers research initiatives that use the geographical diversity and combined strengths of the participating (WUN)partners
- The involvement of Early Career Researchers is an advantage
- The involvement of (research) students in projects that provide learning opportunities is an advantage
- A research proposal crossing boundaries by taking a multidisciplinary and/or multisectoral approach has an advantage
- On funding: the partners involved in a research proposal are not supposed to match the RDF funding (as was the case in the past). Of course (generating) additional funding for a



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proposed initiative is allowed and welcomed, but it is not a formal requirement and bears no weight in the selection procedure for funding.

- Good perspectives for future funding of the proposed research however are an advantage
- Projects that are an extension and/or just a minor variation on previous RDF funded projects receive low priority. Projects that address new research problems or take existing research in significantly new directions receive a high priority.

In case you have any question please consult the WUN documents or mail or call to Han Aarts, 06 46705026 or 83519 (the latter being my office number, but for the time being I work mainly from home).

Annex: **the WUN Hub**

In developing an idea for a WUN RDF project you may also use the WUN Hub. WUN Hub is a database that enables researchers at WUN universities to find (and connect with) WUN colleagues and WUN-supported research projects.

As a researcher at a WUN member university you join the Hub by creating a profile that illustrates your affiliation, research interests, and participation in WUN research projects (if any). This profile enables WUN colleagues with related interests to identify and connect with each other. As a registered user you can search the Hub to find information on members with particular research interests and active WUN research projects. It is also possible to post and view calls for collaborators to join a potential research project, and view calls for funding opportunities. For more information and for joining the WUN Hub see: <https://wun.ac.uk/wun-hub/>



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Annex: List of the WUN member universities, as of August 2022

Maastricht University, the Netherlands
Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
Makerere University, Uganda
National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
Renmin University of China, China
Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany
Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
The University of Auckland, New Zealand
The University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil
Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
University College Dublin, Ireland
University of Alberta, Canada
University of Bergen, Norway
University of Bristol, United Kingdom
University of Cape Town, South Africa
University of Ghana, Ghana
University of Leeds, United Kingdom
University of Massachusetts Amherst, United States
University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
University of Rochester, United States
University of Southampton, United Kingdom
University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
University of York, United Kingdom
Zhejiang University, China

(26 members in 19 countries)