

GLOBAL MINDS FUND

Call 2025

Explore / Valorise

Announcement and application information

Since 2017, the Federal Government allocates funds, through the office of VLIR-UOS, to the Global Minds Fund (GMF) of Ghent University. GMF operates as driver of change for sustainable development, by producing and valorising relevant knowledge and expertise through mutually beneficial partnerships with and between (non-)academic actors in Belgium and partner countries. Each year the Working Group UGlobal is inviting proposals.

This call concerns:

Explore/Valorise projects

Starting from 1st of September 2025

The deadline for submission is 20th of May 2025 at 23:59 Belgian time.

1. Purpose

GMF provides opportunities to the whole Ghent University community to collaborate with partners in the Global South in order to address the global challenges of sustainable development. GMF is designed as an 'innovator' programme that aims to (1) increase the production and application of innovative solutions to global challenges and (2) sustain, improve and expand equitable partnerships with actors in the Global South.

The focus of this call is on proposals from Ghent University researchers that want to either:

1. explore a collaboration with one or more partners in the Global South, or;
2. valorise the outputs of an already existing collaboration with one or more partners in the Global South;

Proposals should entail innovative responses to global and local challenges. Furthermore, they should be characterised by equal partnership and sustainable collaboration among the partners.

Exploration/valorisation of a Global South partnership can take many forms, for example:

- organizing explorative mission to or from a partner in the Global South to explore possibilities for joint research or education initiatives (*Explore*)
- preparing a joint project proposal for a funding agency (*Explore*)
- collect pilot data for future project proposals (*Explore*)
- organization of seminars, workshops, or lectures to disseminate research findings to a broader range of non-academic stakeholders and communities (*Valorise*)
- converting research outputs into trainings, tools, policy advice or guidelines for specific end-users (*Valorise*)
- establishing a learning network or co-creation platform that brings together a mix of academic and non-academic stakeholders (*Valorise*)

2. Who can apply

Professors, researchers, lecturers, and ATP staff affiliated with Ghent University can be the promoter on the condition that:

- they remain affiliated with the institution for at least the scheduled duration of the project;
- they are the (co-)organizer of the proposed initiative.

PhD-students cannot act as promotor of an E & V proposal.

Promoters can only submit one proposal.

The budget holder is the person who is mandated to make financial commitments on behalf of the institution. This person can but is not necessarily the same person as the promoter. Promoters without financial responsibility (budgethouderschap) need to appoint a budget holder or will be appointed a budget holder by the Research Co-ordination Office. The promoter will be responsible for implementing the initiative.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be admissible for this call, all of the following requirements must be met:

1. The Global South partner is a higher education institution, research/policy institute, government body, nongovernmental organisation (NGO) or community based organisation (CBO).
2. The Global South partner is based in one of the following countries:

Africa		Asia	Latin America
Benin	Morocco	Bangladesh	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Mozambique	Cambodia	Brazil
Burundi	Niger	India	Colombia
Cameroun	Senegal	Indonesia	Cuba
DR Congo	South Africa	Palestina	Ecuador
Ethiopia	Tanzania	Philippines	Haiti
Guinee	Uganda	Sri Lanka	Nicaragua
Ghana	Zambia	Vietnam	Peru
Kenya	Zimbabwe		Suriname
Madagascar			

* Countries marked in blue are eligible for GMF activities since September 2022.

- The proposed activities take place in Belgium or one of the countries as listed in the table above.
- The application needs to fit within the broader context of sustainable development challenges, but there are no restrictions in terms of research fields or themes.
- In the case of Valorise proposals that want to valorise specific research outputs/outcomes, these outputs/outcomes from previous of ongoing projects need already to be available at the time of proposal submission.*

4. Budget and conditions

The maximum amount of the grant is € 10,000.

The grant must be spent between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026.

No budget transfers will be possible to the next budget year.

Costs that can be covered by this fund are restricted by Global Minds VLIR-UOS guidelines and general Ghent University rules. Only activity-related operational costs can be covered with the grant, which include costs for travel and accommodation. Personnel costs are not allowed.

More details on the financial guidelines and eligible project expenses can be found [here](#).

The promoter or budget holder is required to keep track of the actual individual expenditures and record them in the Ghent University analytical accountancy system, with duly supporting justifications. The budget can only be used to achieve the project's objectives.

A financial report as well as final narrative report on the project achievements will have to be submitted after completion. https://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding/globalsouth/applicationform_ev_2025/@@download/file/Application%20form_GMF_EV_2025_v1.docx

5. How to apply

Proposals should be submitted by the 20th of May 2025, 23:59 Belgian time.

Applications must be submitted by the Ghent University promoter with the Global South promoter in copy of the application e-mail.

Applications are submitted via GMaplications@UGent.be (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf).

There is only one application form to be submitted, which can be downloaded [here](#).

The document must be named as follows: "Promoter's last name_E&V_application".

6. Assessment

Project proposals will be reviewed and selected by a selection commission composed of members of UGlobal.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Criteria	Descriptors
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the proposal engages with a specific sustainable development challenge and incorporates the scientific discipline(s) necessary for effectively addressing the sustainable development challenge
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the proposal demonstrates equal partnership among the partners and with relevant stakeholders throughout all stages of project design and implementationthe proposed activities are feasible and likely to contribute to the intended project results
Added value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">added value of the proposed project (in terms of research, education and/or service to society) is adequately demonstrated for all partnersthe proposal adequately describes the expected results, outputs and follow-up of the proposed exploration and/or valorisationthe proposal identifies potential synergies/complementarities with other initiatives, partnerships, projects or research agendas

The selection commission draws up a ranking of eligible proposals. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the limit of the amount of applications that can be selected, priority will be given to:

1. Proposals that target a new GM country as indicated in the table on p. 3 (applies only to proposals with an Explore component)
2. Proposals involving Ghent University promoters who are not yet involved in Global South partnerships (applies only to Explore proposals)
3. Proposals where the Ghent University promoter is a post-doctoral researcher
4. Achieving gender balance with regard to the Ghent University promoters

7. More information

For more information about this call, please contact the GMF coordinator, Steven Schoofs, via steven.schoofs@ugent.be.