

BE-C[C41]-I[I-402] Higher education advancement fund

BE-C[C41]-I[I-402]-T[134] Improving High Education offering in Flanders to make it more future-proof and agile

Date of completion: Q4 2023

1) Context: description of the measure and relevant context from the CID annex [text in full from the English version]

C41.I-402 Higher education advancement fund - Improving High Education offering in Flanders to make it more future-proof and agile

7 higher education institutions have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund. (the goal was 7 institutions, we achieved that 18 institutions have benefitted)

Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, these higher education institutions, based on analyses of training portfolios drew up action plans to

-adjust and reduce the existing offerings and, where necessary, create new ones.

-to adapt programs, based on the requirements of the labour market and society.

Although participation was not obligatory, all Flemish higher education institutions were eligible to suggest and submit projects under this call for projects.

2) Copy of the milestone/target wording [text in full from the English version]

Seq.num	Measure (reform or investment)	Milestone/Target	Name	Qualitative indicators (for milestones)	Quantitative indicators (for targets)			Indicative timetable for completion		Reporting and implementation responsibility	Description of each milestone and target
					Unit of measure	Baseline	Goal	Quarter	Year		
134	C41.I-402 Higher education advancement fund	Target	Improving High Education offering in Flanders to make it more future-proof and agile		Number of higher education institutions who received funds	0	7	Q4	2023		7 higher education institutions have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund. Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, higher education institutions, based on analyses of training portfolios, shall draw up action plans to adjust and reduce the existing offerings and,

Seq.num	Measure (reform or investment)	Milestone/Target	Name	Qualitative indicators (for milestones)	Quantitative indicators (for targets)			Indicative timetable for completion		Reporting and implementation responsibility	Description of each milestone and target
					Unit of measure	Baseline	Goal	Quarter	Year		
											where necessary, create new ones. In addition, attention shall be paid to adapting programs, based on the requirements of the labour market and society. All Flemish higher education institutions shall be eligible to suggest and submit projects under this call for projects. However participation in this call is not obligatory for higher education institutions, nor is submitting a plan a guarantee of acceptance.

Verification mechanism:

Summary document duly justifying how the target (including the relevant elements of the target, as listed in the description of target and of the three investment components of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.

This document shall include as an annex the following documentary evidence:

1. Copy of the relevant decision of the Flemish Government ('Besluit Vlaamse Regering') confirming the number of higher education institutions which have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund.
2. Spreadsheet listing all selected higher education institutions.
3. For each higher education institution: (i) the final report submitted by that institution, including the analyses of training portfolios and the action plans to adjust and reduce the existing offerings and, where necessary, create new ones and the period for future implementation and (ii) the jury report justifying that the action plan meets the criteria set out in the target and that the technical specifications of the chosen projects are fully aligned with the description and criteria as set out in the target and in the description of the measure.

Further specification: (if relevant)

3) List of key evidence provided in FENIX

	Identifier [same as in FENIX]	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description	Link to the requirements below
1	Attachment1_summarydocument_target134		Summary document duly justifying how the target (including the relevant elements of the target, as listed in the description of the target and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.	all
2	Attachment2_GrantsFunding	VR 2021 2611 VV DOC.0158 Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering betreffende de toekenning van projecttoelagen in het kader van het Voorsprongfonds, in uitvoering van het relanceplan "Vlaamse Veerkracht" (VV112) entry info force: Nov, 26, 2021	This decision of the Flemish Government grants funding of the Higher Education Advancement Fund to higher education institutions.	1, 5
3	Attachment3_GrantsFundingAdaptation	VR 2021 1712 VV DOC.0183 Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering tot wijziging van het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 26 november 2021 betreffende de toekenning van projecttoelagen in het kader van het Voorsprongfonds, in uitvoering van	This decision of the Flemish Government adapts the grants allocated to higher education institutions for the Higher Education Advancement Fund.	1

		het relanceplan "Vlaamse Veerkracht" (VV112) Entry into force: Dec, 17 2021		
4	Attachment4_ ProofsofPayment	Proofs of payment	This is an official bankstatement that prooofs the payment of the financial support	1
5	Attachment5_ Call	VR 2021 0907 VV DOC.0105 Oproep tot het indienen van een plan, door de hogescholen en universiteiten, tot het bekomen van een projecttoelage in het kader van het Voorsprongfonds, in uitvoering van het relanceplan "Vlaamse veerkracht" (VV 112	This note of the Flemish Government contains a call for submission of a plan by the Higher education institutions to obtain a project grant under the Higher Education Advancement Fund. It is accompanied by a guidance document and two templates that had to be used to submit proposals.	2, 3, 4, 5
5bis	Attachment5bis_ CallAttachments	VR 2021 0907 VV DOC.0105 Oproep tot het indienen van een plan, door de hogescholen en universiteiten, tot het bekomen van een projecttoelage in het kader van het Voorsprongfonds, in uitvoering van het relanceplan "Vlaamse veerkracht" (VV 112	The guidance document and two templates that had to be used to submit proposals.	2,3,4,5
6	Attachment6_ Projectplans	Submitted project plans	18	2
7	Attachment7_ VisionNote	VR 2024 0202 VV MED.0001-1 Voorsprongfonds - mededelingBIS MEDEDELING AAN	This communication looks back at the results of the Higher Education Advancement Fund and presents the main reflections on	2

		DE VLAAMSE REGERING Betreft: Beschouwingen Voorsprongfonds	the impact of the Higher Education Advancement Fund on a future-oriented education portfolio and lifelong learning. In addition, the note also provides insight into the draft agreement framework around micro-credentials in higher education.	
7bis	Attachment7bis_attachmentVisionNote	VR 2024 0202 VV MED.0001-1 Voorsprongfonds - mededelingBIS MEDEDELING AAN DE VLAAMSE REGERING Betreft: Beschouwingen Voorsprongfonds	Report of 18 institutions	2

4) Detailed justification

[Explain clearly how the achievement of the milestone/target is demonstrated by the evidence provided, covering ALL elements of the milestone/target and the elements of the measure description that are directly or indirectly linked to the milestone/target's requirements. (e.g. the fact that (i) a certain institution had (ii) to accomplish something (iii) in a certain way in order (iv) to achieve a certain goal (v) by a certain date). Please provide a clear link between all the below elements and the one or more evidence items listed above.

Requirement 1: '7 higher education institutions have benefitted from the Higher Education Advancement Fund.'

(attachment 2 grantsfunding, attachment 3 grantsfunding adaption and attachment 4 proof of payment)

On November 26, 2021 the Flemish Government decided to grant funding of the Higher Education Advancement Fund to 18 higher education institutions. This decision entered into force on November, 26, 2021.

The decision was based upon the results of a published project call (see Annex 3) and the advice of an independent jury (see Annex 6). All 18 higher education institution submitted projects for this call.

The process is described in more detail in the accompanying "Nota van de Vlaamse Regering".

December, 17, 2021 the Flemish Government made an adaptation of this decision. This decision entered into force on December, 17, 2021. The decision was based upon the results of a second round of the project call (see Annex 3) and the advice of an independent jury (see Annex 6). 17 out of 18 higher education institutions submitted project proposals during this round of the call. The process is described in more detail in the accompanying "Nota van de Vlaamse Regering".

As mentioned in the decisions of the Flemish Government, that are mentioned above, the projects received 80% of the proposed budget in 2021.

In 2023, all the projects have to submit a report, explain the accomplishments of the KPIs and the financial status of the projects. Subsequently, the project results will be submitted to an audit, both on KPI's and finances, and based upon the combined results, the institutions will receive the rest of the proposed budget, or will be asked to refund part of the budget. The audit of the KPI's was completed in 2023 but the financial audit is still ongoing. A final decision on the budget has not been taken at this moment.

Requirement 2: 'Through the Higher Education Advancement Fund, higher education institutions, based on analyses of training portfolios, shall draw up action plans to adjust and reduce the existing offerings and, where necessary, create new ones.'

(Attachment 4 call, Attachment 4bis attachment by the call, Attachment 6 projectplans, Attachment 7 vision note, Attachment 7bis attachment by the vision note (reports of the institutions))

This requirement can be underpinned by different elements:

- 1. Call for project proposals. On July, 9, 2021 the Flemish Government decided to launch a project call, to offer all Flemish higher education institutions the possibility to submit projects in the Higher Education Advancement Fund. The call explained the purpose and regulations and was accompanied by a clarification document and two templates to file project proposals. The call entered into force on July, 9th 2021.*

The clarification of the call states at pg 2 that for the development of an agile and future proof training portfolio, 4 possible projects can be submitted:

- i. Analysis of training portfolio on the level of an institution: Within this component, projects can be proposed on analysis, study, alignment and concertation as well as concrete development and, if feasible in terms of timing, realisations. Within the text there is a reference to the existing procedure for programming of new programmes, so this is included in the scope of the call.*
 - ii. Analysis of training portfolio for a specific subject area (with multiple institutions)*
 - iii. Analysis of training portfolio for a specific region (with multiple institutions)*
 - iv. Renewal of the existing programme offer*
- 2. Submittance of project plans by the higher education institutions. Together the project proposals, all institutions had to submit a holistic plan, where they were asked to describe the institutions vision and coherence of the proposed project they submitted. More information can be found in the call and the accompanying document for clarification.*
 - 3. The final conclusions of the Higher Education Advancement Fund. At the end of the project, we asked the higher education institutions to submit a report on every project that was funded by the Fund, but we also asked a more holistic report on the impact of the Fund on their institutions. The higher education institutions were asked to give a detailed and specific image of the impact of the Fund on their training portfolio, the development of new programmes and the possible termination of existing programmes. These reports were added as attachments to the vision paper, including the results of the Fund, that was endorsed by the Flemish Government on Feb, 2, 2024.*

Requirement 3: 'In addition, attention shall be paid to adapting programs, based on the requirements of the labour market and society.'

(Attachment 4 call, Attachment 4bis attachments by the call)

In the project call, as launched by decision of the Flemish Government on July, 9, 2021, this is mentioned on:

- Pg 2: as a general requirement of all projects on training portfolios
- Pg 3: analysis of a training portfolio for a specific region
- Pg 5: the possibility of creating new offer for vulnerable groups
- Pg 11: as an element of the assessment of the jury

Requirement 4: 'All Flemish higher education institutions shall be eligible to suggest and submit projects under this call for projects.'

(Attachment 4 call, Attachment 4bis attachments by the call)

The project call, as launched by decision of the Flemish Government on July, 9, 2021, was open to all Flemish higher education institutions. This is mentioned explicitly on pg 6 of the call.

Requirement 5: 'However participation in this call is not obligatory for higher education institutions, nor is submitting a plan a guarantee of acceptance.'

(Attachment2 GrantsFunding, Attachment3_GrantsFundingAdaptation , Attachment 4 call, Attachment 4bis attachments by the call)

The project call, as launched by decision of the Flemish Government on July, 9, 2021, mentions explicitly at pg 6, that all universities and university colleges of the Flemish Community can submit a plan and project proposals. There was no obligation to participate.

Pg 10 - 16 of the call describe a detailed selection process for all submitted proposals. This includes two selection rounds by an independent jury, based upon predetermined criteria. More information on the selection process can also be found in the decisions of the Flemish Government of Nov, 26 2021 and Dec 17, 2021 on funding projects of the Higher Education Advancement Fund, like explained in the first requirement.

Contribution to the achievement of other elements from the measure description: [evidence related to the elements that are not directly addressing the M/T but in the measure, where relevant]:/