



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### LEVERAGING SOUTH AFRICA'S UNIVERSITIES TO ATTAIN THE SDGS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

#### SOUTH AFRICAN SDG HUB POLICY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

##### 1. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting countries around the world with unparalleled economic and social challenges. This is especially the case in middle-income countries such as South Africa where the effects of the pandemic amplify pre-existing economic and social challenges. The Presidency of South Africa, the GIZ and the [South African SDG Hub](#) at the University of Pretoria are partnering to assist with South Africa's achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) in the context of COVID-19.

This partnership seeks to unlock the policy impact of the expertise at South Africa's 26 public universities, enabling the South African government to use the expertise at its universities to source innovative and policy-relevant input. Working with centers of excellence and leading academics, the South African SDG Hub will coordinate the reports identifying evidence-based economic or social policy responses which advance the achievement of the SDGs in the context of COVID-19.

##### 2. Objective

This call targets proposals that provide insight into the attainment of the SDGs in the context of COVID-19 in one of five areas. Proposals need to highlight policy approaches needed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Up to seven proposals will be eligible for research honoraria of R60 000 per proposal.

The proposals should relate to existing knowledge from completed, or near completed, research which addresses eminent social, administrative or economic needs in the relevant area. Within the submission, viable evidence-based policy recommendations should be clearly included and take cognisance of short, medium, and long-term approaches. Where pertinent, consideration of the different levels of government and the potential impact on the relevant area should be identified.

Proposals are welcome from South African University based academics in the following areas:

- Agriculture (SDG 2)
- Education, Training and Development Practices (SDG 4)
- Health and Social Welfare (SDG 1 and SDG 3)
- Local Government (SDG 11 and SDG 16)
- Public Service Productivity (SDG 16)



### 3. Proposal format

- Problem Statement (maximum of 500 words)

*Clearly identify the issue and which of the above area(s) it falls under, including relevant SDG targets and indicators.*

- Status before COVID-19 (maximum of 500 words)

*What were the developments, best practices, challenges, missing opportunities and gaps in the area pre-COVID-19? Any other relevant factors that existed pre-COVID-19.*

- Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic (maximum of 1 000 words)

*Provide an overview of the challenges COVID-19 has created, highlight existing gaps or any other pertinent impact.*

- Proposed Policy Recommendations and Expected Outcomes (maximum of 1 000 words)

*Brief overview of the short, medium and long term evidence-based policy recommendations. What outcomes could be expected following implementation of the various recommendations in the short, medium and long-term? How are these outcomes linked to the attainment of the SDGs?*

- Implementing Actors (maximum of 500 words)

*Based on the research findings, which actors (both governmental and non-governmental) are considered best placed to implement recommendations, and why? This could include the different levels of government. Identify any partnerships considered necessary.*

- Proposed Timelines for Implementation of Policy Recommendations (maximum of 250 words)

*Indicate the ideal timeframe for implementing the policy recommendations and identify any potential constraints or challenges to implementation.*

### 4. Phases and Deadlines

- **Phase 1**

Proposals focused on the identified areas are submitted. Under the leadership of the Policy and Research Services unit in The Presidency, up to seven (7) proposals are selected to advance to the next phase. The selection criteria are based on: the current gaps in policy approaches; whether they address different powers and functions of the different spheres of government; whether the proposals are sufficiently developed and based on existing research. All decisions are final, and we reserve the right to award more or fewer proposals. No feedback will be provided on submissions.

**Deadline: 7 August 2020**

- **Phase 2**

Notification on outcome of call and successful proposals and awarding of up to seven research honoraria to the value of R60 000 each.

**Deadline: 14 August 2020**



- **Phase 3**  
Further development of proposals to ensure fulfilment of The Presidency's requirements.  
**Deadline: 11 September 2020**
- **Phase 4**  
Symposium where selected proposals will be presented to The Presidency.  
**Deadline: 18 September 2020**

## 5. Eligibility

Any academic(s) or research team(s) based at one of the 26 South African Universities. In recognition of the need to support early-career researchers and those based at previously disadvantaged tertiary institutions, partnerships and collaborations will be sought to expand expertise and access to opportunities.

## 6. Submissions:

All proposals should be submitted via <http://sasdghub.up.ac.za/proposal-submission>

## 7. Project Partners

**The Presidency of South Africa.** Authorised the South African SDG Hub to undertake this cooperation amongst the partners as the SA SDG Hub acts as the coordinating mechanism connecting experts from the 26 public universities to The Presidency. The Presidency identifies the project priorities and assists in identifying policy relevant submissions.

**The South African SDG Hub** hosts the national SDG knowledge facility and coordinates the South African SDG Hub Policy Support Initiative. Its multi-university and multi-partner governance structure ensures that expertise from all 26 South African Universities is made available to The Presidency as and when required.

The German **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)** through **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** provides financial, logistical and technical support to the initiative.

## 8. Contact

For further information contact:

Dr Dominique Mystris  
SA SDG Hub, University of Pretoria  
[dominique.mystris@up.ac.za](mailto:dominique.mystris@up.ac.za)