



OFFERED BY VLIZ PHILANTHROPY
SPONSORED BY DEME & A PRIVATE DONOR

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

BRILLIANT MARINE RESEARCH IDEA GRANTS 2023

Call open to **PhD students working in the South** strongly linked with a Flemish marine research group or with a Flemish university or university college

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The VLIZ philanthropy, named The Sea as a Good Cause, is a program set up by the Flanders Marine Institute vzw (VLIZ) in order to raise additional funds to support scientists, engineers and students to come up with creative solutions for current problems, to develop innovative techniques and to support sustainable use of our seas and ocean. Any form of support means a step forward for our scientific knowledge.

*With this grant for a 'Brilliant Marine Research Idea' for **predocs in the South**, we hope to inspire and enable PhD students working in the South and with a strong demonstrable link with a Flemish Marine Research Group, Flemish university or a Flemish university college to explore and pan out a brilliant idea, an out of the box idea, an on the top research topic, but always framed within their ongoing marine research.*

For more information regarding VLIZ philanthropy, check vliz.be/your-contribution and vliz.be/brilliant-marine-research-idea-grant

Summary

Budget 2023	5.000 EUR funded by VLIZ philanthropy with the financial support of the sponsor DEME and of a private donor. Maximum fund per grant: 5.000 EUR
Implementation period	The proposed idea has to be executed within one year after the grant is awarded. Start date: 1 March 2023. End date: 28 February 2024.
Eligibility	PhD students working in the South* and with a strong connection with a Flemish Marine Research Group or a Flemish university college with, at the time of application, less than 6 years of research experience at predoc level (i.e. since starting PhD research). Applicants can only benefit from this grant once during their PhD. <i>* see list of countries at the end of this document</i>
Launch of the call	24 October 2022
Submission deadline	No later than 27 January 2023
Selection	The selection will be made before 23 February 2023, by the VLIZ Scientific Committee and a representative of the sponsor DEME.
Topics	Marine research ideas contributing to solving a research question linked to a.o. the themes identified in the philanthropy research agenda: marine pollution, oceans and human health, marine biodiversity, climate change, ocean related disasters and marine exploration. Topics supported by the sponsor DEME: research situated in engineering & technological sciences, material sciences, economic sciences and biological sciences. More specifics on page 6.
Required documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - application form (download the form here) - cv of the PhD student - letter of consent of the supervisor affiliated to the student's university or university college (free format) - recommendation letter of the scientist with whom the student is strongly connected at a Flemish Marine Research Group, a Flemish university or a Flemish university college (free format) - a copy of your international master's degree from a Flemish university <u>or</u> prove of your doctoral grant, half awarded by a Flemish Marine Research Group or university combined with the financing of the other half by a partner institution or university in the South. - optional: copy of your PhD proposal

What is a grant for a ‘Brilliant Marine Research Idea’?

VLIZ - [Flanders Marine Institute](#) - has become, over the last 20 years, a knowledge institution indispensable to the marine research landscape. What started as an institute focusing on science support, has evolved into a national and international point of contact for marine research. VLIZ initiates and carries out multidisciplinary research and supports marine experts by providing research infrastructure, data, information and knowledge. VLIZ supports the blue economy and reaches out to a broad public. VLIZ further broadens its marine horizons and aims at becoming a world player in the field of marine and coastal research.

In 2013, VLIZ was recognized as a charitable organization and therefore developed a philanthropy program. Through this program, VLIZ is able to raise additional funds through membership fees, donations, sponsorships, etc. to provide financial support to promote marine research worldwide. The Brilliant Marine Research Idea grants are offered by [VLIZ philanthropy](#), named The Sea as a Good Cause, and receive additional sponsoring from **DEME** and from a **private donor**.

[DEME](#) (Euronext Brussels: DEME) is a leading contractor in the fields of offshore energy, environmental remediation, trenching and marine infrastructure. DEME also engages in concessions activities in offshore wind, marine infrastructure, green hydrogen, and deep-sea mineral harvesting. The company can build on more than 145 years of experience and is a front runner in innovation and new technologies. DEME's vision is to work towards a sustainable future by offering solutions for global challenges: a rising sea level, a growing population, the reduction of emissions, polluted rivers and soils and the scarcity of mineral resources. DEME can rely on about 5.000 highly skilled professionals and operates one of the largest and most technologically advanced fleets in the world.

The grant for a ‘Brilliant Marine Research Idea’ for predocs in the South is intended to inspire and enable PhD students working in a southern non-European country* while having a strong connection to a Flemish Marine Research Group, a Flemish university or a Flemish university college by

- having obtained an international master's degree from a Flemish university**, or
- having a doctoral grant, half awarded by a Flemish Marine Research Group or university combined with the financing of the other half by a partner institution or university in the South (so called “sandwich grant”).

The grant serves to execute a brilliant idea during their PhD within the frame of their research. It should concern an out of the box idea, an additional research topic that was initially not foreseen in the PhD, but that would add an extra value to the ongoing research.

For 2023, **The Sea as a Good Cause** offers one grant to a predoc in the South for their ‘Brilliant Marine Research Idea’. VLIZ philanthropy seeks to fund a marine research idea that can contribute to solving a hypothesis-based marine research question. Topics of interest are (amongst others and not limited to) the themes identified in the philanthropy research agenda including pollution, ocean and human health, marine biodiversity, climate change, ocean related disasters and marine explorations.

For 2023, VLIZ philanthropy has the honour to receive sponsoring for the ‘Brilliant Marine Research Idea’ grants from **DEME** and from a **private donor**.

Framed within the area of interest of the company, DEME sponsors a BMRI grant for a research topic situated in a.o. engineering & technological sciences (including civil engineering), material sciences, economic sciences and biological sciences.

The **private donor** supports, according to their interest, one of the laureates selected by the VLIZ Scientific Committee.

The fund of maximum 5.000 EUR can be used to assist PhD students in lab and/or fieldwork, data acquisition and analysis, visits to other institutes to use specialized facilities, acquisition of equipment or software needed for a certain analysis and so on. The fund cannot be used to reimburse the use of existing lab infrastructure within his/her research group/department, for personnel costs, to pay for travel costs that amount to more than 50% of the grant or to attend conferences.

Budget and implementation period

The overall budget available for the grants is 5.000 EUR from VLIZ philanthropy with the financial support of the sponsor DEME and of the private sponsor.

The grant will be awarded to the successful applicant personally and the terms and conditions (including a short report) of the award will be discussed and negotiated prior to the implementation of the idea.

The proposed idea has to be executed within one year. The selection of the ideas will take place before 23 February 2023. The successful applicants can start their activities from 1 March 2023 and complete them by 28 February 2024.

Eligibility and selection criteria

Eligibility of applicant

- PhD student with, at the time of application, less than 6 years of research experience at predoc level (i.e. since starting PhD research) working in a southern non-European country*
- Having a strong demonstrable link with a Flemish Marine Research Group, Flemish university or a Flemish university college by having obtained an international master's degree from a Flemish university** or having a doctoral grant, half awarded by a Flemish Marine Research Group or university combined with the financing of the other half by a partner institution or university in the South (so called "sandwich grant").
- Consent of the university (college) supervisor

Eligibility of budget and implementation period

- Maximum request for 5.000 EUR
- Maximum duration of 1 year
- Implementation between 1 March 2023 and 28 February 2024

Eligibility of activities and related costs

The grant (budget allocated by VLIZ) includes all possible university/institute 'overhead' or other costs, i.e. no additional will be accepted.

- The grant is used to finance local costs (within the country where the student runs his/her PhD research)
- No personnel costs
- No conference fees
- No reimbursement of the use of existing lab infrastructure within your research group or department
- Travel costs cannot amount to more than 50% of the grant
- The research topic should concern an out of the box idea, an additional research topic that was initially not foreseen in the PhD, but that would add an extra value to the ongoing research
- Recommended:
 - the research topic is unique and relevant for the country which is proved by publications
 - the research results in a strengthening of the collaboration with the connected Flemish Marine Research Group by e.g. contributing, to a database, a project, a publication, etc.

Eligibility of research domain for the VLIZ philanthropy BMRI grant

Topics of interest are marine related and are (amongst others and not limited to) the themes identified in the philanthropy research agenda including pollution, ocean and human health, marine biodiversity, climate change, ocean related disasters and marine explorations.

Eligibility of research domain for the BMRI grant sponsored by DEME

The eligible topics are marine related and fit within one of the following descriptions:

1. Engineering and technological sciences (including civil engineering)

- Coastal engineering and hydrodynamics
- Nature inspired solutions for coastal management (protection)
- Nature inspired flood protection for rivers and estuaries
- Offshore (geotechnical) engineering - sustainable scour protection

2. Materials science

- Tunable biodegradable material in marine environment

3. Economic sciences

- Nature Based Solutions business case - bringing nature inspired solutions up to a mature business level
- Sustainability and economics

4. Biology

- Effect sound on marine mammals – offshore works
- Dunes: eolic sand transport and influence on dune management
- Offshore (oyster) reefs
- Biofacilitating structures
- Biobuilder species and (other) biogenic reefs

5. Divers

- Multi-use of space / marine spatial planning
- Renewable energy / aquaculture / others
- Ammunition and toxic waste dump solutions
- Microplastics and ocean pollution solutions

Eligibility of submission modalities

Timely and complete submission.

Selection procedure

After the deadline has passed, the scientific board of VLIZ together with a representative of DEME will evaluate the submitted applications and make a final selection. The jury has the right to withhold the grants, if it decides that none of the proposed proposals can be taken into consideration.

All applicants will be personally informed about the success of their proposal.

The grants are awarded during the VLIZ Marine Science Day on 1 March 2023. Successful applicants will be invited to send in a short video as a way to present their work at the VLIZ Marine Science Day 2024.

How to submit an application?

Applicants can apply for the grant by sending **following documents** to filantropie@vliz.be:

- application form
- cv of the PhD student
- letter of consent of the supervisor affiliated to the student's university or university college (free format)
- recommendation letter of the scientist with whom the student is strongly connected at a Flemish Marine Research Group, a Flemish university or a Flemish university college (free format)
- a copy of your international master's degree from a Flemish university or prove of your doctoral grant, half awarded by a Flemish Marine Research Group or university combined with the financing of the other half by a partner institution or university in the South.
- optional: a copy of your PhD proposal, to proof the add-on value of your BMRI proposal

Subject of the e-mail: Proposal for a 'Brilliant Marine Research Idea' 2023 (predoc South)

Submission deadline: No later than 27 January 2023

Where to turn for more information?

Institute

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
InnovOcean Campus
Jacobsenstraat 1
8400 Oostende
Belgium

Contact person

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*** Annex 1: Countries eligible for a BMRI grant for predoc researchers in the South**

Africa	Middle & South America	Asia & Oceania
Algeria	Antigua and Barbuda	Bangladesh
Angola	Argentina	Cambodia
Benin	Belize	China
Cameroon	Brazil	Cook Islands
Comoros	Colombia	Democratic Republic of Korea
Congo	Costa Rica	Fiji
Democratic Republic of Congo	Cuba	Philippines
Djibouti	Dominica	India
Equatorial Guinea	Dominican Republic	Indonesia
Eritrea	Ecuador	Kiribati
Gabon	El Salvador	Laos
Gambia	Grenada	Maldives
Ghana	Guatemala	Malaysia
Guinea	Guyana	Marshall Islands
Guinea Bissau	Haiti	Micronesia
Ivory Coast	Honduros	Myanmar
Kenya	Jamaica	Nauru
Liberia	Cape Verde	Niue
Libya	Mexico	Palau
Madagascar	Montserrat	Papua New Guinea
Morocco	Nicaragua	Samoa
Mauritania	Panama	Solomon Islands
Mauritius	Peru	Sri Lanka
Mozambique	Saint Helena	Thailand
Namibia	Saint Lucia	Timor-Leste
Nigeria	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Tokelau
Sao Tome & Principe	Suriname	Tonga
Senegal	Venezuela	Tuvalu
Sierra Leone		Vanuatu
Sudan		Vietnam
Somalia		Wallis and Futuna
Tanzania		
Togo		
Tunisia		
South Africa		

*** Annex 2: International master's programs with a marine component that qualify for the BMRI grant at predoc level for researchers in the South**

- [Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management \(Oceans & Lakes\)](#)
- [International Master in Marine Biological Resources \(IMBRSea\)](#)
- [International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology \(IMaNema\)](#)
- [Master of Science in Aquaculture](#)
- [Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems \(Tropimundo\)](#)
- [Interuniversity Programme in Water Resources Engineering \(IUPWARE\)](#)
- [Master of Sustainable development \(SUSDEV\)](#)