

Guidelines for International Projects

As an international organization or foundation, you may submit a project proposal to Vastenactie. The guidelines for international projects funded by Vastenactie are outlined below. You are kindly advised to read these guidelines carefully before submitting a project proposal.

General information

1. Project proposals may be submitted throughout the year. The Vastenactie project committee evaluates proposals three times a year.
2. Vastenactie supports approximately 90 projects per year. Given the high number of applications, Vastenactie can approve only a small proportion of the applications.
3. In principle, Vastenactie considers applications for amounts between €1,000 and €35,000.
4. We support implementing partners for a maximum of three consecutive years. Projects are approved for one year only and must be resubmitted annually.

Important points regarding project content

At Vastenactie, we are inspired by Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti by Pope Francis. Together, they form a powerful moral compass for just and sustainable development. Laudato Si' calls for care for our common home, recognizing that ecological challenges are inseparably linked to poverty, inequality, and human dignity. Fratelli Tutti emphasizes global solidarity, social connectedness, and inclusive cooperation beyond borders and vested interests. We give priority to supporting projects that put this vision into practice: initiatives that strengthen communities, place the most vulnerable at the center, and contribute to a just, peaceful, and sustainable future. In this way, we work together towards structural change, rooted in solidarity and hope.

5. In light of the above your project should contribute to the cultural, social, and economic empowerment of people and communities, aiming at poverty reduction, sustainable positive change, and responsible care for our common home.
6. Vastenactie is reluctant to finance construction work; we prefer to invest in people rather than in buildings or vehicles.
7. The project should benefit a community and should not focus on individual support.
8. The project should fit within the local context and strive for gender equality.

Key considerations

9. The implementing organization must have its own legal entity or be a catholic church body (diocese, parish, order, or congregation).
10. The project must not include support for congresses, study trips, scientific research, and/or fundraising activities.
11. The project may include capacity building of the implementing organization; however, running costs and institutional support are, in principle, eligible for funding only when they directly contribute to the goals of the project.
12. The project should aim at the independence of the implementing organization. The project design must be sustainable, and its implementation feasible.

Attachments

Please include the following attachments with the completed application form:

- A detailed budget, including quotations where available
- A letter of recommendation from the Catholic network in your country, preferably from your local bishop*
- The annual report of the implementing organization for the preceding year, if available
- The certificate of registration of your organization, if available

*** Letter of recommendation**

To be eligible for a contribution from Vastenactie, we ask you to explain how your project embodies the approach and vision of Catholic Social Teaching. We therefore request a letter of recommendation from the Catholic network in your country, preferably from your local bishop. This letter should be enclosed with the application. If this is not feasible, please contact us by email for further consultation before submitting your application. Please be aware that we may contact your reference.