

Talloires Network
Youth Economic Participation Initiative
Learning Partner Draft Terms of Reference

1. Overview

The Talloires Network seeks a learning partner to support the monitoring, evaluation and learning for its global Youth Economic Participation Initiative. This new 4.5-year initiative will support 6 - 8 institutions of higher education in developing countries to demonstrate, document and disseminate best practices for promoting students' transition to employment and entrepreneurship.

The contract for this partnership will begin in September 2013, and run through December 2016.

2. Background

2.1 Organization Overview

The Talloires Network is an international coalition of universities committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education. We work together to advance university civic engagement as a strategy to address societal challenges and improve research, teaching, and learning. The Network includes more than 300 institutions in 71 countries enrolling over 7 million students.

Our vision is that a decisive majority of universities worldwide collaborate actively with the communities where they are located; that institutions of higher education become dramatically more effective engines of social and economic development; that they systematically partner with NGOs, government agencies and private businesses; and that the gold standard in higher education is the "engaged university," one that achieves both positive community impacts and academic excellence.

2.2 Program Summary

Developed in collaboration with The MasterCard Foundation, the Talloires Network Youth Economic Participation Initiative (YEPI) responds to the widespread gap between the needs of the job market in many developing countries and the preparation of university-educated youth for employment and entrepreneurship. The Talloires Network believes that strategically changing how universities educate their students can significantly improve the ability of university students and graduates to engage in their economies. The Initiative includes two principal sets of activities: a Demonstration Grants Program and a Global Community of Practice.

The Demonstration Grants Program will award 6 - 8 grants to Talloires Network member institutions in developing countries. Grants will be awarded to institutions that demonstrate a record of success in implementing innovative community-based programs. These programs will propose creative approaches to facilitating students' transition from university to employment and entrepreneurship through a variety of interrelated strategies, including: soft skills education, service learning, providing access to networks and mentoring, entrepreneurship training, and

curriculum reform. Demonstration projects will document lessons learned that will be disseminated among Talloires Network member institutions.

The Network will establish a Community of Practice to facilitate the sharing of knowledge among universities about the role of higher education institutions in promoting the economic participation of their graduates. This Community of Practice will reinforce multiple core functions of the Talloires Network – the exchange of best practices, capacity-building, brokering joint projects, and collective action to support the work of engaged universities.

3. Organization of the Partnership

3.1 Goal of the Learning Partnership

To increase knowledge about best practices for university-community partnerships that promote the economic participation of educated youth.

3.2 Purpose

To aggregate, analyze and present learning from the demonstration grant partners to three core audiences: demonstration grant universities, the Talloires Network secretariat, and a global audience of universities in the Talloires Network and beyond.

The learning partner will work closely with demonstration grant recipient programs, their M&E teams, youth program participants, and the Talloires Network secretariat to gather data from demonstration grant programs and support learning objectives of the Youth Economic Participation Initiative. The Talloires Network places a high priority on the creative and active participation of youth.

3.3 Location

[The Talloires Network secretariat](#) is based at Tufts University. The learning partner need not be located in the Boston area, but should have the ability to communicate regularly via Skype and telephone, and to meet in person as necessary. The learning partner will be expected to travel to each of the demonstration grant sites once per year (Africa, Southeast Asia and/or Latin America. Occasional travel (no more than twice per year) to international trainings and other convenings will be required.

3.4 Key Deliverables of the Learning Partnership:

- 1) With the TN secretariat, and in consultation with grant recipient programs, the learning partner will develop and implement a comprehensive learning framework and monitoring plan for the Youth Economic Participation Initiative.
- 2) The learning partner will analyze and synthesize the data gathered from demonstration grant programs to produce research for dissemination, including:
 - a. Blog posts and short articles (2 – 3 per quarter)
 - b. Annual learning report
 - c. Webinars (1 – 2 per year)
 - d. Presentations and trainings (consultative role)

- 3) The Learning Partner will directly support the design, monitoring and evaluation efforts of grant recipient universities.

3.5 Timeframe:

This agreement will be for a period of 3 years and 3 months, from September 2013 to December 2016.

3.6 Guiding Principles

All monitoring and evaluation should be guided by the following principles:

- Broad participation
- Transparency
- Independence
- Gender Inclusiveness

4. The Application Process

4.1 Learning Partner Qualifications

- Experience with and knowledge of youth employment programs, entrepreneurship education, and/or university civic engagement in Africa, Southeast Asia and/or Latin America;
- Demonstrated ability to develop learning agendas and performance monitoring frameworks across multiple partners in different geographic regions;
- Experience directly engaging youth in M&E processes;
- Previous experience synthesizing lessons learned and strategic learning approaches;
- Experience with monitoring and evaluation;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English; French and Spanish preferred
- Experience with and knowledge of international higher education and community organizations; and
- Basic understanding of accounting systems.

4.2 Application Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit a short expression of interest, approximately 8 - 10 pages in length, with the following sections:

- Statement of interest;
- Demonstration of experience;
- Proposed approach to achieving the learning goals;
- Proposed composition of team, including individual resumes/CVs;
- Preliminary work plan and timeline; and
- Budget estimate.

Submit all proposals by August 20, 2013 to YEPI Director Jennifer Catalano at jennifer.catalano@tufts.edu.

Finalists will be contacted for a phone interview by September 1, 2013.