




VEI International PM Prep Program



-  Expression of Interest
-  Online
-  Start program: early april

Are you considering a career as a project manager abroad and would you like to know more about it? Then you can sign up for an internal orientation and development program for colleagues with (future) international ambitions, the VIPPP. Signing up does not automatically mean you will be participating in the program.

This program is intended to give you a realistic picture of what it is like to work as a project manager abroad for at least four years and to prepare you step by step for your international ambitions.

Program structure

Phase
1

Orientation and selection

16th April
Morning



You will participate in an online session lasting approximately 1.5 hours, which will be offered twice at different times and in different groups. The session will be led by experienced project managers and HR (VEI). During the session, you will gain a realistic picture of what it is like to work as a project manager abroad. Topics covered include cultural differences, travel and work pressure, career and growth opportunities, practical experiences, and the impact on your private life and family.

After Phase 1, we will discuss the continuation of your participation in the process.

*Participation in this program does not guarantee a position or assignment, but it does provide serious preparation for future vacancies.

Phase
2

Deepening and preparation

April
/May



This phase consists of an in-depth session of half days, preferably taking place (partly) in person in Utrecht. During this meeting, we will delve deeper into the context of working as a project manager abroad. Topics covered include culture, religion, nature, and politics; international employment conditions; health & safety and risks (possibly supplemented with a live exercise); stakeholder management; and both the fun and more challenging aspects of the job. There will also be opportunities to talk to experienced project managers and exchange experiences.

After Phase 2, you decide whether you want to continue.

Selection for Phase 3 is based on your motivation. This program requires a serious ambition to work abroad and active commitment. We expect participants to take the process seriously and commit to the entire program.

Phase
3

Practical experience, buddy system and further development

Q3



This phase focuses on practical development. You will work on specific practical issues and receive support through a buddy system with an experienced project manager. In addition, there will be a focus on personal development areas, so that you can grow in a targeted manner towards a possible international role.

After Phase 3, the internal program ends.

This program has provided you with comprehensive and in-depth information about working as a project manager abroad, including practical examples. When vacancies become available, it is up to you to apply for them yourself. If your application for a Project Manager vacancy leads to a placement, you will participate in the mini-academy, where we will provide country-specific information and prepare you for your departure.



Planning and deadlines

Before March 27

April

Before May 1

From May

Register for Phase 1

Online orientation sessions

Decision on participation in Phase 2

Start of Phase 2

From Q3 2026, we expect to have insight into whether and where vacancies for the position of project manager may arise.

What do we ask from you?

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To participate in Phase 1, we ask for a short Expression of Interest, consisting of:

1. **Motivation letter (max. 1 A4 page)**
 - o Why do you want to work abroad?
 - o What appeals to you about international projects?
 - o Your availability for the next 4 years.

2. **Self-assessment of basic skills**

Consider the following:

- o Project and stakeholder management
- o Communication skills
- o Independence and adaptability
- o Dealing with cultural differences
- o Flexibility (travel, workload)

The job description with the requirements for this position can be found in the appendix.

Interested?

Would you like to learn more about the role of project manager and find out if it suits you? Please let us know by emailing hr@vei.nl before March 27, 2026.

You can also contact us here if you have any questions.



A collaboration of Dutch drinking water companies.

Job vacancy



 **Project Manager**

 **Country name**

 **32-40 Hours**

What will you be doing as a project manager?

In this 'spider in the web' role, you will be responsible for Vei's Water Operator Partnerships (WOP) in country X. You will play an important role in managing the project team. In doing so, you will focus on the personal and professional development of the members of your project team. You will be responsible for the output, take on a coaching, facilitating, and connecting role, and ultimately ensure that the objectives of the project plans are achieved. You will take a leading role in drawing up the project plans up to 2030.

You recognize the added value of the WOP and know how to communicate this with conviction and vision. Good relationship management with the managing directors and employees of the water companies, relevant national and international stakeholders (including financiers or Dutch water companies). Other important tasks include managing short-term experts, acquisition and lobbying activities, further professionalizing peer-to-peer (hybrid) support, and drawing up and analyzing progress reports and presentations for both internal and external target groups.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for an inspiring Project Manager with strong leadership skills who can lead complex international projects and partnerships.

- Experience working result-oriented in complex and changing environments
- Affinity with working in developing countries, collaborating with donors and international stakeholders, and developing new partnerships
- Strong stakeholder management skills, including navigating political dynamics and influencing without formal authority
- A team player who can coach independent teams, connect people, and take responsibility for project results
- Analytical and pragmatic, with a relevant Bachelor's or Master's degree and experience managing projects with multiple partners

You have at least 5 years of relevant work experience in the (drinking) water sector, at least 2 years of project management experience, and preferably relevant work experience abroad. You have a good command of professional English.

Terms of employment

The total expected duration of the assignment is 4 years.

Your Dutch employer will remain your current employer, but you will be temporarily seconded to VEI for the duration of the assignment. At the end of the assignment, you will return to your current employer with an unforgettable experience and a broader horizon, in accordance with the applicable return policy. The conditions of the VEI long-term assignments apply. The position of project manager is a position in scale 12 and falls under the CAO Wwb (Collective Labor Agreement for Social Support).

Additional information

The nature of the work and the meaningful work carried out by VEI are in themselves important motivations for applying. This involves international work at a socially relevant organization.

Working at VEI means working in a collegial atmosphere where personal development and social responsibility are central.



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