17 July 2020

The Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme) invites interested parties to develop idea notes for producing research-based short films for feeding into debates related to 2030 Agenda for a global sustainable development.

Deadline for submission: 30 September 2020, 12.00h CET

r4d Programme Synthesis

Digital Storytellers, a tangible experience on contributions to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Second Phase

Call for idea notes

1.   Background

The Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme, www.r4d.ch) is a joint funding instrument of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The r4d programme is organised around five thematic modules (employment, ecosystems, food security, social conflicts and public health) and one thematically open module. The 57 projects funded in the r4d programme focus on reducing poverty and global risks as well as on contributing to global sustainable development.

During the period 2018-2022, the r4d programme conducts a synthesis process that facilitates learning beyond individual research projects. One synthesis stream is the "*Digital Storytellers - a*

tangible experience on contributions to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". This stream aims at presenting the contributions of r4d research projects towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] to a wider audience beyond academia.[2]

This synthesis stream has two phases:

1. **Participatory production of a collection of video-clips (2018-2020)** that captures testimonies and contributions in achieving SDGs in r4d partner countries (see also Digital Storytellers Synthesis Project page). Twenty-eight so-called Digital Storytellers (DST) individuals and teams participated in this phase, representing 16 r4d research projects. The product is a collection of 22 video-clips (3-6 minutes) (see Annex 3) and 18 short versions (1-2 minutes) used for dissemination via Twitter (see @r4d_programme). All video-clips were produced based on footage collected by researchers during their fieldwork. Many of them filmed for the first time. All DST video-clips are published until the end of August 2020 on the Knowledge for Development platform of the r4d programme, www.k4d.ch.

2. **Production of short films (from 2021-tbd)** with clear key messages to enrich concrete international development debates and tailored to specific target audiences in the 2030 Agenda realm. The short films shall make use of and extend, if necessary, the footage resulting from the first phase.

We are inviting experienced filmmakers, film producers or distribution companies to prepare idea notes for the second phase to produce short films.

The available budget for the second phase of the Digital Storytellers project is CHF 180'000 and should enable the production of more than one short film by different filmmakers.

2. Invitation for idea notes for Digital Storytellers second phase

2.1 Digital Storytellers II

The second phase of the Digital Storytellers has the objective to produce short films from the r4d programme. These short films should convey clear key messages in view of research contributions to the 2030 Agenda and address specific target audiences, i.e. following clearly identified dissemination opportunities. These short films should benefit from the footage collected during the first phase of the Digital Storytellers project (see structure of DST footage collection in Annex 2) as well as other film material produced in the r4d programme (see research documentary "Inequality and Conflict: Beyond us and them" and film outputs from the Food Systems Caravan).

The selection process for the Digital Storytellers second phase has two steps:

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[1] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/

[2] Originally, the project proposal included the following target groups: 1) Primary target groups: National and international policy makers; Negotiators and observers in several HLPF meeting s and other meetings from UN bodies; Swiss public. 2) Secondary target groups: SDC staff participating in international negotiations; Development community; Donor agencies; International public

- The **call for idea notes** aims at clarifying the potential use of the available film material and the potentially emerging messages. The idea notes outline steps for producing and disseminating short films as contributions to working towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The collection of DST video-clips of phase one and other audiovisual outputs, published on https://www.k4d.ch/category/formats/videos/, serve for thematic scoping and insights into characteristics of the film material.

- The submitted idea notes will be evaluated by the r4d Steering Committee, composed of representatives of the two funders SDC and SNSF. It will select a small number of idea notes for **preparing full proposals** for short films. For the preparation of full proposals, the r4d programme will make fully available the existing film material. Successful proposals will be implemented starting from January 2021.

2.2 Application and timeline

The call for idea notes is open to experienced filmmakers, producers or distribution companies.

The timeline is as follows:

• Deadline for submitting idea notes	30.09.2020
• Evaluation of the idea notes and invitation for full proposals	27.10.2020
• Deadline for submitting full proposals	30.11.2020
• Interviews with applicants	08.-10.12.2020
• Selection of proposals	11.12.2020
• Contracting and start of mandates (the duration of the mandates depend on the respective time plan and can last until end of 2022)	01.01.2021

3. Submission process

3.1 Documents to be submitted

- A motivation letter
- An idea note **using the structure** as provided in Annex 1, maximal length 3 pages
- CVs of the key involved persons
- URLs to work samples, if possible related to 2030 Agenda/sustainable development themes

3.2 Information and inquiries

Questions related to the submission and evaluation procedures can be sent by email to r4d@snf.ch until 31 August 2020. The idea notes have to be submitted electronically **by 30 September 2020, 12.00h CET, to r4d@snf.ch.**
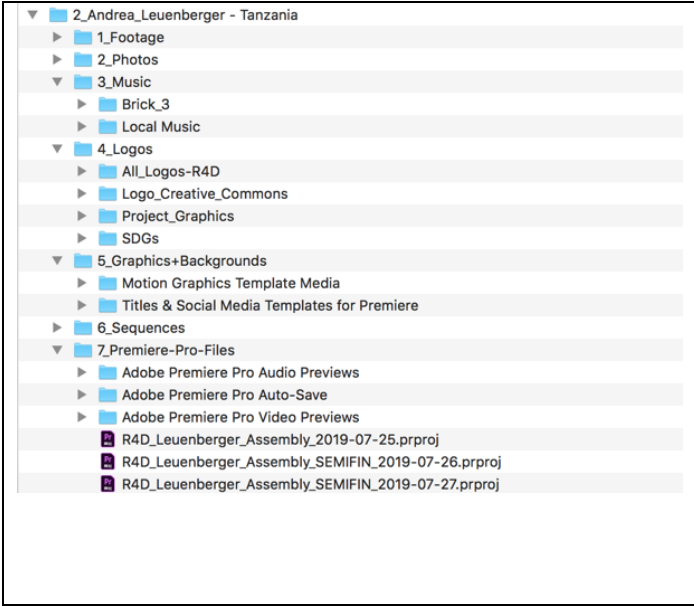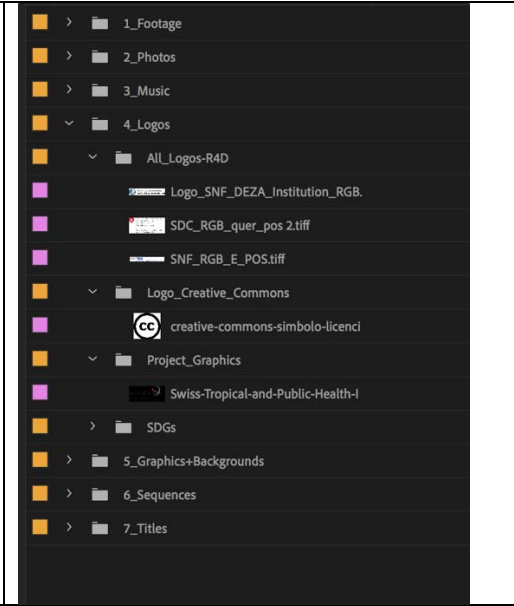
Annex 1: Template for idea notes

1 Your idea in short:

Describe the essentials of your idea in 2-3 sentences.

2 Key messages related to contribution of the r4d programme to the 2030 Agenda:

Please present tentatively in bullet points the key messages that your proposed short film(s) will convey and the rationale behind these key points (i.e. why are these interesting for the specific target audience? How do these messages emerge from the available material and/or from r4d research projects?).

3 Target audience:

Please specify tentatively the target audience for the proposed short film and the rational for selecting this specific target audience (i.e. why is this target audience relevant for disseminating results from the r4d programme? Why is this target audience interested in the key messages?)

4 Dissemination opportunities and strategy:

Please state tentatively the dissemination opportunities/events for the proposed short film and explain why you consider this opportunity relevant. Please explain tentatively the dissemination strategy for your proposed film.

5 Use of the material available from the DST phase I and other film outputs:

Explain how you plan to make use of existing audio-visual material from DST phase I and from other film outputs of the r4d programme.

6 Preliminary activity plan and team set-up:

Please provide a preliminary timeframe with people involved and their roles.

7 Budget:

Please include a preliminary budget clarifying costs of specific lines.

Annex 2: Footage from Digital Storytellers phase 1

The first phase of the Digital Storytellers started the collaboration with the research projects at the beginning of 2019. The phase finalised in June 2020. The access to footage will be made available upon selection of the idea note for further elaboration into a full proposal.

The material available from this phase is organised in 28 project folders with equal structure including story grid, logos, graphics, footage, music, photos, etc. one per DST project. Altogether there are approximately 800 GB of material. Each project has 1 Premiere Pro File "Final Version-Color Corrected" and 1 Premiere Pro File "Original Assembly". The amount and quality of footage per project varies greatly. The story grid is a paper edit with referenced material and translation of interviews into English where needed.

Within each "story grid" the projects used the so-called "Brick System" for organising the material: interviews (Brick 1), B-Roll (Brick 2) and proposition for a coherent narration based on super-imposed titles (Brick 3) including a selection of their favourite interview pieces (Brick3+). The information in the folders is organised correspondingly. The Brick System was assembled within a Premiere Pro Project File into separate sequence and each Brick received a sequence (photo). Brick 1 and Brick 2 were loosely assembled while Brick 3/Brick3+ were finally edited into a video, including sound-edit, proofreading and colour-correction. Rights for music were cleared (royalty-free or licensed), though an additional production would require to clear them (see Figure 1 for the folder structure and fhe Premiere Pro-Project structure).

| Project folder structure | Premiere-Pro structure |

Annex 3: Overview on DST video-clips and r4d film products

DST Title	SDG (main)	SDG (second)	Publication date
Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from developing countries	SDG16	SDG17	23.06.2020
How can we support farmer in creating a sustainable income?	SDG12	SDG8	12.02.2020
How can a community increase its food sustainability?	SDG2	SDG17	22.01.2020
How efficient is agroecology as compared to agro-industry?	SDG12	SDG15	10.02.2020
Empowering Women Cheesemakers in Brazil	SDG2	SDG10	13.08.2020
Can research contribute to community empowerment? Voices from Kenya.	SDG2	SDG1	27.08.2020
Sustainable Forest Landscape Management and Local Livelihoods Transformation	SDG15	SDG1	01.07.2020
How do everyday people contribute to large-scale conflict resolution?	SDG16	SDG5	19.06.2020
How does mental wellbeing connect to physical health in Sub-Saharan Africa?	SDG3		26.08.2020
How could we improve community health around large gold mines? Tanzania	SDG3	SDG10	21.01.2020
How can community health around large mines be improved? Burkina Faso	SDG3	SDG10	11.02.2020
A Multidisciplinary Approach to Researching Health Impacts of Large Mines	SDG3		08.07.2020
Collaboration in Building a Sustainable Palm-oil Production	SDG12	SDG4	29.06.2020
Agroforestry and Soil Fertility with Gliricidia Sepium	SDG1	SDG2	11.08.2020
Agroforestry Leftovers as a Source of Income	SDG12	SDG15	20.08.2020
Increasing Resistance in Rice Crops	SDG2	SDG8	19.08.2020
Inclusive Growth in Laos' Manufacturing Industry	SDG8		16.06.2020
Women building an effective waste chain within municipalities?	SDG10	SDG6	17.06.2020
How can we improve the value chain along waste management?	SDG8	SDG11	17.06.2020
How can distant stakeholders co-develop a shared vision for sustainable land use?	SDG17	SDG15	02.07.2020
How can we manage invasive weeds in arable lands?	SDG15	SDG5	20.01.2020
Responding to Invasive Trees	SDG15	SDG16	30.06.2020

Other r4d film products			
Research documentary «Inequality and Conflict – Beyond us and them»	SDG16	SDG10, SDG5	02.06.2020
Project portraits r4d Food Security	SDG2	SDG1	various

Creating space for bottom-up conflict de-escalation and peacebuilding

Rights and protection for female waste pickers in Nepal

Improving the waste management value chain in Sri Lanka

Inclusive growth in Laos' manufacturing industry