

B. SOUTH

1. Own Initiatives' Programme (OIP)

The Own Initiatives' Programme finances research and education projects that are initiated by academics at Flemish universities. The projects must be executed in close cooperation with an academic partner in the developing country.

The aim of the Own Initiatives is to strengthen the education and/or research capacity of the local partner by means of knowledge exchange and cooperation, including the institutional strengthening of the academic unit in the South.

Every year VLIR-UOS calls for the submission of proposals. The maximum project duration is five years, with a maximum budget of 310,000 EUR. The two-round selection is competition-based.

The multi-year cooperation with Congo, especially the Université de Kinshasa, is part of this programme, but is not part of the competition.

2. Programme for Institutional University Cooperation (IUC)

Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) covers a broad long-term cooperation between a limited number of universities in the South on the one hand and the Flemish universities on the other, for the institutional development and strengthening in the broad sense of the university in the South. Local priorities and needs are linked to the existing expertise on the Flemish side.

The IUC programme wants to enable the universities in the South to take on their role as a player in development in their own society and to attain the ability to manage their own affairs - or at least to contribute to this goal.

The IUC programme per partner university is composed of several projects. They may be either education and research projects or projects relating to the central policy and management of a university (e.g. ICT, library development, infrastructure, creation of a research fund and research culture, etc.).

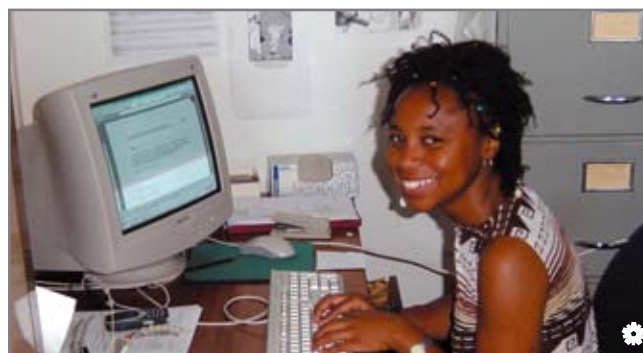
Universities in the South are proposed by a Flemish university. Several steps ultimately lead to the implementation of a five-year plan with intermediate evaluation and monitoring. In principle, the total duration of the cooperation is ten years.

The partner universities of VLIR-UOS are:

- Africa: Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania; University of Zambia (UNZA), Zambia; University of Nairobi (UON), Kenya; University of Zimbabwe (UNZI), Zimbabwe; Mekelle University (MU), Ethiopia; University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa
- Latin America: Universidad Mayor de San Simon (UMSS), Bolivia; Escuela Superior Politécnica Del Litoral (ESPOL), Ecuador; Universidad Central Marta Abreu de Las Villas (UCLV), Cuba
- Asia: Can Tho University (CTU), Vietnam; Hanoi University of Technology (HUT), Vietnam; Network of Saint Louis University and Benguet State University (SLU/BSU), the Philippines

Budget

FIVE-YEAR PLAN 2003-2007	Four programmes within the envelope (NAP, TRA, OIP, IUC)	Scholarships' Programme (SP)
2003	€ 20.200.000	€ 6.500.000
2004	€ 21.315.000	€ 6.900.000
2005	€ 22.430.000	€ 7.250.000
2006	€ 23.545.000	€ 7.620.000
2007	€ 24.660.000	€ 7.620.000



Contact



VLIR-UOS-secretariat
Bolwerksquare 1a | B-1050 Brussels | Belgium
T (32) (2) 289 05 50 F (32) (2) 514 72 77
info@vliruos.be | www.vliruos.be



What is VLIR?

VLIR stands for *Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad* (Flemish Interuniversity Council). VLIR was founded in 1976 as an umbrella consultation body between the Flemish universities and the Belgian authorities responsible for higher education and research. Since its inception VLIR has encouraged the universities to actively profile themselves and to engage on the international stage. In the early 1980s for example there was a limited form of university development cooperation (UOS). Management and administration were in the hands of the ABOS (Algemeen Bestuur voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking or General administration for Development Cooperation), which now goes under the name of DGDC (Directie-generaal voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking or the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation). The role of VLIR-UOS was limited to providing advice.

In 1998 VLIR-UOS took on the management of the Flemish universities' federal funds for university development cooperation. This was in line with the general trend of 'delegating responsibility to the indirect players'. The right of initiative of the Flemish universities was expanded, while university development cooperation was expected to become involved in the policy options of Belgian development cooperation.

VLIR-UOS-secretariat for university development cooperation (VLIR-UOS-secretariat), part of VLIR, is responsible for the management of VLIR-UOS funds. The field of action was recently extended to Flemish *hogescholen* (non-university institutions for higher education). As a consequence VLIR-UOS opens up and serves the whole Flemish academic community in the field of university development cooperation.

What does VLIR-UOS aim at with its university development cooperation?

Knowledge and insight are important tools for the development of a society. Universities play an important role in, amongst other things, creating and disseminating knowledge and offering a critical reflection on society.

The general objective of university development cooperation consists in supporting the universities and research institutions in the South in their triple function of education, research and societal services. As such they are able to develop and profile themselves in their own region and country as a driving force of development.

There are three specific objectives:

- Building the institutional capacity in the South so that the development of knowledge and expertise at academic institutions and among academics is stimulated through a close cooperation between North and South, and through better access to international networks;
- Expertise development in Flanders so that academic and general expertise with regard to development issues is retained and even expanded, and can be used for capacity building in the South;
- Maintenance and expansion of social support for development cooperation in Flanders by promoting mutual understanding and solidarity between North and South.

The partners for this cooperation are selected on the basis of their research and education potential, and on the basis of the emancipatory role they fulfil in their society. Institutions in low-income countries or institutions that make a specific contribution to the development of these countries are prioritised.

Cooperation in general and research in particular should meet the local needs and priorities in the South and fit in with the efforts of the international community with regard to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, food security, the development of education, basic health care, basic infrastructure, conflict prevention, respect for human dignity and human rights. The capacity building in the South must contribute to better accessibility and quality of local education and research.

What are the basic principles of VLIR-UOS?

VLIR-UOS considers a number of basic principles to be of paramount importance. The various projects must for example be founded on the three principles of solidarity, sustainability and quality. The cooperation between the Flemish universities offers clear added value, for both Flemish academics - networking - as for the Southern universities - access to the best knowledge available in Flanders. The programmes are not restricted to a merely technological approach to the problem, but also look at the social, economic, cultural and political environment. By way of matchmaking, the priorities and needs of the institutions in the South must correspond to the interest and expertise in Flanders. Shared interest stimulates involvement, leads to mutual enrichment and is the best guarantee of sustainability.

VLIR-UOS emphasises on programmes in the South, to which more than 60% of its funds are earmarked for.

How does VLIR-UOS work?

VLIR-UOS and government

Five-year plans form the general framework for all VLIR-UOS activities with regard to UOS. The Five-year Plan 2003-2007 was ratified by the State Secretary for Development Cooperation on 5 November 2002. Every year VLIR-UOS elaborates an annual UOS programme with concrete actions for each of the distinctive programmes. This annual programme is always submitted for ratification to the government in autumn.

VLIR-UOS and universities

There is a clear division of tasks between VLIR-UOS and the Flemish universities. The universities propose the projects and execute them after approval by VLIR-UOS and DGDC. VLIR-UOS is responsible for general policy, programming, selection, follow-up and evaluation of the programmes or projects. VLIR-UOS is accountable to the government, which means that it is financially responsible for managing and using the funds for UOS.

Internal organisation of VLIR-UOS

The highest policy organ of VLIR-UOS is the Board on which the rectors and representatives of the six Flemish universities sit. The Board has delegated the power to take urgent and operational decisions with regard to UOS to the University Development Cooperation Bureau, in which the four major universities are represented.

In preparing and executing the policy decisions, the UOS Bureau is assisted by the VLIR-UOS-secretariat. The secretariat has close cooperation with the Development Cooperation Institution Coordinators (ICOS) of the six universities, who are responsible for communicating and coordinating the UOS activities at each university.

The proposals submitted for the various programmes are selected by Selection Committees, which each have six members appointed by the Flemish universities and four external members. Their binding advice is submitted to the UOS Bureau for approval.

Expert Groups bring together specialists to exchange information and provide advice to VLIR-UOS with regard to specific themes, such as the use of ICT in higher education and research, library development and policy with regard to Central Africa.

The Development Cooperation Working Group brings together representatives of the Flemish universities and related organisations, such as government administrations, and non-governmental organisations that are active in higher education and research. It functions as a consultation platform for the discussion of VLIR-UOS's performance with regard to long-term development cooperation.

Programmes

A. NORTH

The North Actions' Programme groups all activities with regard to university development cooperation organised in the North, at a Flemish university.

The general objectives of the North Actions are:

- Maintaining and expanding the knowledge and experience of development-relevant themes at Flemish universities;
- Maintaining societal support in the academic world for development cooperation.

1. North Actions' Programme (NAP)

1. Policy advisory research;
2. International courses (ICP), international training programmes (ITP), short training initiatives (STI) and international conferences (INCO);
3. Study trips to developing countries for students enrolled at a Flemish university or non-university institutions for higher education;
4. Debate cycles at the Flemish universities on development-relevant themes and other communication initiatives;
5. Ph. D. scholarships for Flemish researchers;
6. VLIR-UOS-secretariat and the co-financing of the Development Cooperation Institution Coordinators of the Flemish universities;
7. VLIR-UOS evaluation programme for the entire UOS.

Every year VLIR-UOS calls for the submission of proposals for most Actions. The project duration is typically one to a maximum of two years. The selection is competition-based.

2. Training Costs (EDU)

Financing of the Flemish universities for the education of students from developing countries. The division of the budget among the Flemish universities is based on the number of students. A higher amount is paid for scholarship students.

3. Scholarships' Programme (SP)

This programme is the total of all expenses paid to scholarship students that are following an ICP or an ITP at a Flemish university, or are awarded a Ph. D. here after received an ICP diploma.