

Information on the country strategy South Africa

For each partner country of VLIR-UOS, a country strategy has been developed. The country strategy represents the strategic niche for VLIR-UOS cooperation in a country, with specific **thematic areas** and an institutional and/or regional focus, based on the needs and national priorities of the country with regard to higher education and development. The [South Africa Country Strategy](#) fully subscribes the National Development Plan, Vision 2030, and higher education priorities. The strategy is translated into the following main themes: **Health** (primary health care, public health and HIV/AIDS); **Food security** (biotechnology, aquaculture, food production & value chain, animal sciences & production); **Environment** (water resource management, climate change); **Social Sciences** (good governance, urban development, communication, local community development and language development). Transversal supported themes are **institutional strengthening** and **ICT**. Regarding the eligible academic institutions, a focus on the rural areas should be prioritised and as such collaboration should be sought with universities in those areas.

The Comprehensive Universities and the Universities of Technology still have a substantial amount of ground to make up on their Traditional University counterparts in South Africa, both in terms of the levels of basic and applied research activities being conducted and the standards and amounts of high impact scientific publication output generated. It is therefore preferable that VLIR-UOS takes account of these differences and create a strategic tendency to give priority to cooperation partnerships (involving scholarships, South and TEAM initiatives) between Flemish academics and academic staff based at Comprehensive Universities and at the Universities of Technology. The Traditional Universities on the other hand can play a very effective role in supporting regional postgraduate (masters level) joint training and possibly joint degree programmes should these prove to be mutually advantageous. See link for [comprehensive universities](#); and for [technical universities](#). A promoter wishing to engage in a cooperation with a higher education institute or public (not for profit) research institute not listed, will need to motivate in the project proposal why a collaboration with this institute is found relevant, how the proposal is aligned with the country strategy and why he/she is presenting a proposal with the proposed partner institution.

Information for potential synergy and complementarity

Synergy and complementarity (S&C) can improve the impact of development cooperation interventions and is a top priority of the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and encouraged by the reform of non-governmental cooperation in 2016. In order to promote S&C, all Belgian non-governmental development actors were invited to elaborate a Joint Strategic Framework (JSFs) per country in 2016. These JSFs provide information about the goals to which the actors want to contribute, and also indicate potential for synergy and complementarity. In the table below, a general overview of relevant information from the Joint Strategic Framework South Africa is provided for each thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy. The Joint Strategic Goal relevant for each theme is listed, together with the Belgian non-governmental actors which are active in South Africa with funding of the Belgian development cooperation. By providing this list, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate synergy and/or complementarity with programmes of other Belgian actors. Synergy and complementarity will also be integrated as an element in the selection of interventions, more in particular when discussing the (developmental) relevance of project proposals. The last updated version of the JSF South Africa can be found [here](#).

Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy

Potential match with Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework

Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| FOOD SECURITY | (3) Contribute to a more inclusive, sustainable livelihood of agricultural smallholders and small-scale entrepreneurs by creating a prosperous sector climate, respecting the environment . | TRIAS |
| ENVIRONMENT | | |
| HEALTH | (1) Contribute to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages through the strengthening of the health system and by developing innovative models for health care | ITM, RKVI |
| SOCIAL SCIENCES | (4) Contribute to good local governance and decentralisation processes to enhance local sustainable development (Decent Work) Guaranteeing labour rights , extending social protection and promoting social dialogue for all | VVSG, TRIAS FOS-IFSI-SOLSOC (country-level), IIAV-WSM-BIS (country and regional level) |
| Crosscutting themes for HIGHER EDUCATION and RESEARCH (institutional strengthening, capacity building, service delivery, ...) | (2) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education , improve access to knowledge , improve research and stimulate innovation in order to contribute to development | VLIR-UOS, VVOB |

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **South Africa** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation can be found in the table below. Their own suggestions for possible cooperation with academics are also provided, but this should not be seen as an exhaustive list. Academics and ICOS elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations. Information on the activities of Enabel in South Africa can be found on their [database](#).

| NGA | Short description of the activities in South Africa | Name of the local partner(s) | Region(s) | Contact person |
|-----|--|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| ITM | Drawing on their position as South African Higher Education Institutions with capacity to support the African Region more generally, the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (UP) and the School of Public Health (UWC) will partner with ITM to strengthen the capacity to respond to key human and veterinary health challenges in the Region. This will done by: 1) Building an evidence base through collaborative research on zoonotic and animal diseases (DVTD) and health policy and systems (SOPH), that takes into account the specific ecological and socio-economic context, in South Africa and the Region; | UP UWC | National | Bruno Marchal |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | <p>2) Collaborating in post graduate research training (masters, doctoral and post doctoral) on these themes to candidates from South Africa and the Region;</p> <p>3) Enhancing south-south and north-south dialogue and networks of teaching and research collaboration;</p> <p>4) Engaging with local communities, practitioners and policy makers to address human and veterinary health challenges in South Africa and the Region.</p> <p>For the ITM, Higher Education Institutions and their staff and students are the main beneficiaries. These are reached through capacity development activities for researchers and research centres, co-production of research and of educational programmes, and networking.</p> | | | |
| RKVI | <p>In the partnership between Belgian Red Cross-Flanders (BRC-FI) and South African Red Cross Society (SARCS), the program 2017-2021 will focus on First Aid (FA). First aid is a priority activity for all Red Cross Societies worldwide, and especially relevant in South Africa, considering its stretched, sub-par health infrastructure and the burden of various communicable and non-communicable diseases. The focus will be on strengthening SARCS as an organization, improving the first aid training quality in commercial and non-commercial first aid and embedding first aid services at community level in 5 provinces.</p> <p>The goal will be to contribute to improved health and well-being of the people in the selected provinces by increasing coping mechanism of community members in emergencies and basic health situations.</p> | SARCS | Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo | Lars Hillewaere |
| VVOB | <p>Low learning outcomes in South African primary schools are a result of the lack of quality. This has a cumulative negative effect in the subsequent school years, resulting in high drop-out rates. A culture and pedagogy of inclusivity is needed to avoid drop-out of vulnerable learners. Inclusivity needs to be addressed through the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of school leaders and teachers, and supported at national, provincial and district level. The VVOB 2017-2021 multi-year programme addresses this. Cooperation with different stakeholders at national level will support district- and school-based CPD for inclusion of all learners. Cooperation at provincial level supports the capacity development of officials to promote inclusive education and address diversity in all CPD activities. Cooperation with district officials who directly support school leaders and teachers, addresses practical implementation in schools, cooperation within district teams and feedback to the province. The programme thus aims to strengthen capacity from policy level to the implementation stage, and to improve communication and (the use of) feedback between the different phases, thereby strengthening the existing system.</p> | Department of Basic Education (DBE) The South African Council of Educators (SACE) Provincial Free State Department of Education (FSDOE) Provincial KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (KZNDOE) South African Principals Association (SAPA) | Free State Gauteng Kwazulu-Natal | Loran Pieck |

| | | | | |
|-------|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| VVSG | <p>The VVSG program in South Africa has two interlinked components, , financed by the Belgian federal government. First, three South African municipalities are involved in City-to-City Cooperation partnerships with Flemish municipalities (Witzenberg with Essen, Nquthu with Bornem and Bergrivier with Heist-op-den-Berg). Through this cooperation, integrated waste management policies will be developed in these three municipalities in order to contribute to good local governance. The second component consists of strengthening the national association of local governments (SALGA) in its digital capacities and competencies. Using a pilot group of municipalities (including the three before mentioned) to experiment with digital tools, applications and platforms will contribute equally to good and smart governance. The waste management project in the three (and other) municipalities will provide for an excellent opportunity to experiment with. In order to be able to do so, SALGA's internal capacities for digitalization and digital service delivery towards its members need to be strengthened. Finally, SALGA will distribute and scale up the good practices and lessons learned from this process in the three municipalities.</p> <p>Further, two other Flemish municipalities have City-to-City links with South-African municipalities. There are not included in VVSG's federal program. Dilbeek and Stellenbosch are now focusing on tourism in the townships. Aalst and Worcester work mostly on youth, local economy and tourism.</p> | Witzenberg Nquthu Bergrivier SALGA Stellenbosch, Worcester | | Hanne Albers |
| TRIAS | <p>The overall objective of this five-year programme in South Africa is to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of entrepreneurs from historically disadvantaged communities. The Specific Objective of this five year programme is that 10 MBOs have been strengthened and contribute to a more inclusive economy as well as sustainable livelihood of small-scale entrepreneurs by creating a prosperous sector climate, respecting the environment and sustainable development principles. This programme aims to do so through assisting these entrepreneurs in overcoming the "growth trap" (failure of a business within the first year of operation) and building the capacity of MBOs who provide capacity building and support for entrepreneurs.</p> <p>This capacity strengthening will focus on a) increased participation of empowered poor, women and youth in the organisation they are members of, b) an improved internal organisation of the MBOs that are partners of Trias, c) integrated service delivery of the MBOs towards their members and d) more efficient lobbying.</p> <p>Potential and early-stage entrepreneurs - the main target group - will be supported by their MBO through focused activities such as business skills training, business plan development, mentoring, facilitation to access credit, and increased representation of young and female entrepreneurs in the decision-making organs of their organisation. To improve internal communications between the MBOs and their members as well as among the member themselves, the programme will implement a data management system, followed by a Customer Relation Management System.</p> | National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry George Business Chamber West Coast Business Chamber Maize Capital Chamber of Commerce (Bothaville) Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry Greater Alexandra Chamber of Commerce and Industry | Free State Gauteng Kwazulu-Natal Werstern Cape | Alison Kelly |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| | During the first two years (2017 and 2018), the programme builds up gradually by fully complementing the existing PEERS (Partnership for Empowered Entrepreneurs' Representation in South Africa) programme funded by the Flemish Government until December 2018. From 2019 to 2021, the programme builds further by scaling up of its best practices and lessons learned. Trias has begun scanning the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country to identify the most appropriate MBOs to introduce into the programme from 2019, increasing the number of partners to 10 MBOs (from 2019 to 2021). 6,000 small scale entrepreneurs will directly benefit from this programme. | | | |
| Decent Work (IIAV/IEOI) (BIS/MSI) (WSM) | Labour Law and social dialogue in Africa Strengthened trade union partners in South Africa are able to improve social dialogue, contributing to more favourable working conditions for vulnerable workers in the informal and formal economy with focus on women & youth | FEDUSA (Federation of Unions of South Africa) COSATU SACCAWU | National | Maresa Le Roux |
| Decent Work (FOS) | Labour rights and social protection WFP will strengthens the capacities of women working and/or living on farms in order to empower them to actively participate in demanding their health rights, at work, at home and at local government level. WFP focusses on the right to health, including social determinants of health and sexual and reproductive rights. | WFP CSAAWU ILRIG SADSAWU | National | Thibaud Dezyn |

More information can be found on the [South Africa page](#) of our website or by contacting the programme manager of VLIR-UOS [Christophe Goossens](#)