

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Impact 2.0: a new direction for VLIR-UOS as from 2017





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Up until now, the yearly 'Get Together Night' has been one of the only events during which scholarship students could exchange their experiences.

Introduction

This year, VLIR-UOS is celebrating its 20th anniversary. We will therefore be publishing an anniversary edition in the autumn, in which we will look back on stories about the many projects that we have helped to make possible over the years, as well as on the results and impact they have generated.

Because we are saving the best stories for the 20th-anniversary publication, this annual report focuses on providing a brief policy retrospective on 2017, a presentation of the VLIR-UOS mission, the network and the people behind the organisation, and a number of highlights from 2017. It also includes a list of all ongoing projects. A complete overview is available on our brand-new website: www.vliruos.be.

Happy reading!

Kristien Verbruggen, Director of VLIR-UOS

May 2018



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Minister De Croo decided to strongly reform the way in which the Belgian development operates.

Belgian development cooperation and VLIR-UOS in 2017

A new look for the sector since 2014

11 October 2014. The current Belgian federal government is formed under the leadership of Premier Charles Michel. Development cooperation is to be directed by Minister Alexander De Croo. He wants a thorough reform of Belgium's development policy and is using as a starting point the recommendations of the peer review produced by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which regularly carries out critical audits of the OECD member states' development cooperation, the Belgian one included.

Minister De Croo's ambition consists primarily of seeking greater cooperation amongst all actors involved with Belgium's development cooperation, substantially reducing the number of countries in which these actors are working and enhancing their internal cohesion, complementarity and synergy, with the goal of using this focus, concentration and internal cooperation to generate greater impact.

Outline of the reform

In order to put these ambitions into practice, Minister De Croo and the Belgian Actors of the Non-Governmental Cooperation (abbreviated in Dutch to ANGSe) – to which our organisation also belongs – signed a political agreement in August 2015. In this section, we summarise the outline of this agreement.

1 Fewer countries

Concentrating the use of available resources – this is the basic idea at the centre of the reforms within the sector. Efforts include reducing the number of countries in the South to 31 and, within that reduced number, optimising the coordination of development interventions based on Joint Strategic Frameworks (JSFs - cfr. definition on page 11).

Henceforth, all ANGSe will be using a JSF for each of the 31 countries in the South and Belgium, as well as a single thematic JSF on 'Decent Work'. Of all available funding, 90% must be spent within these 33 JSFs.



Since 2014, the Belgian development cooperation has been directed by Alexander De Croo.

2 'Fit for purpose'

All organisations receiving government grants must be able to demonstrate that they are 'fit for purpose'. This means that they have to possess sufficient management capacity and staff-specific expertise to carry out their interventions properly and to achieve high-quality results. To this end, between 2014 and 2016, all ANGSe were subjected to an 'assessment' to determine the maturity of their organisational management in various areas: financial management, strategic management, process management, result-based management, partnership management, the transversal topics of 'gender' and 'environment', risk management, personnel management, transparency and management capacity with regard to complexity. Of the 105 original actors, 85 (including VLIR-UOS) have achieved accreditation, which will be valid for ten years (2017-2026).

3 Programme funding and minimum thresholds

At present, there is only one funding modality: programme funding. A

A JSF was also created for Uganda, one of the countries that were the point of focus of the 2014 Ontwikkelingsdebatten (Development Debates), an event which we also support.

© Hans Van de Water

minimum budget threshold of €2 million has also been imposed. If an organisation submits a grant application that does not exceed this threshold, it must either merge with another application in order to exceed the threshold or choose to be part of a shared file.

One effect of this approach is that the number of programme applications that are submitted to the minister for assessment has decreased by half. With an annual budget of just over €31 million, our organisation exceeds the minimum threshold, and it therefore has its own programme.

4 A single generic regulatory framework

A single generic framework has now been compiled for all ANGSS, formally based on the Royal Decree of 11 September 2016 and on the 2016 International Cooperation Act.

5 Two groups within the ANGSS

The ANGSS are divided into two groups: Civil Society organisations (CSOs) and Institutional Actors (IAs). No distinctions are made at the level of individual actors, but only between these two large groups. Our organisation is part of the Institutional Actors group.

6 From steering groups to federations

The government wished to have a single unique consultation platform for the entire ANGSS sector, and this resulted in the federations. The federal ministry for development cooperation (the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, or DGD) delegates a large number of projects to these federations, thereby assigning responsibility to the ANGSS sector to organise itself through these

federations. They also assume a number of operational duties. Until 2017, individual consultation channels existed in the form of steering groups, but they are no longer active.

7 'Theory of Change' and a focus on results

Interventions should proceed from a well-founded 'Theory of Change' and devote sufficient attention to risk management. It is important that each actor has a policy to regularly evaluate interventions and that the reporting of results should take place in a systematic manner, in the interest of accountability and learning. The new programme thus strongly emphasises results within the management of the organisation, as well as within monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Each programme must also spend a minimum of 1% of its total budget on M&E activities. To make sure that the M&E system of each actor has the quality required, a screening is being organised to certify all M&E systems. This evaluation – as well as the sector evaluation – was executed by the Special Evaluation Office. The VLIR-UOS M&E system is being certified in 2017. For most other actors, the certification is still ongoing.



Researcher in the science labs of the Arba Minch University in Ethiopia.

A new country list and Joint Strategic Frameworks

To ensure the smooth operation of this new formal framework, the sector had to seek consensus on a list of no more than 31 countries in the South for which a Joint Strategic Framework (see definition on the next page) would be prepared. As noted above, this would allow the substantial restriction of the number of South countries in which the ANGTS are active from 51 to 31. On top of that, the JSF 'Belgium' and JSF 'Decent Work' have been established.

In 2015-2016, our organisation participated in all 33 JSFs, building upon the Joint Context Analyses (JCA) developed in 2015. At the time of the JCA consultation, discussions within the VLIR concerning the new list of countries had not yet been completed. To keep all options open, VLIR-UOS participated in all JCAs.

The total number of JSFs must be reduced from 33 to 30 by 2022. This decision must also be taken within the sector as a whole.

The Belgian government's bilateral partner countries (14 + 1)

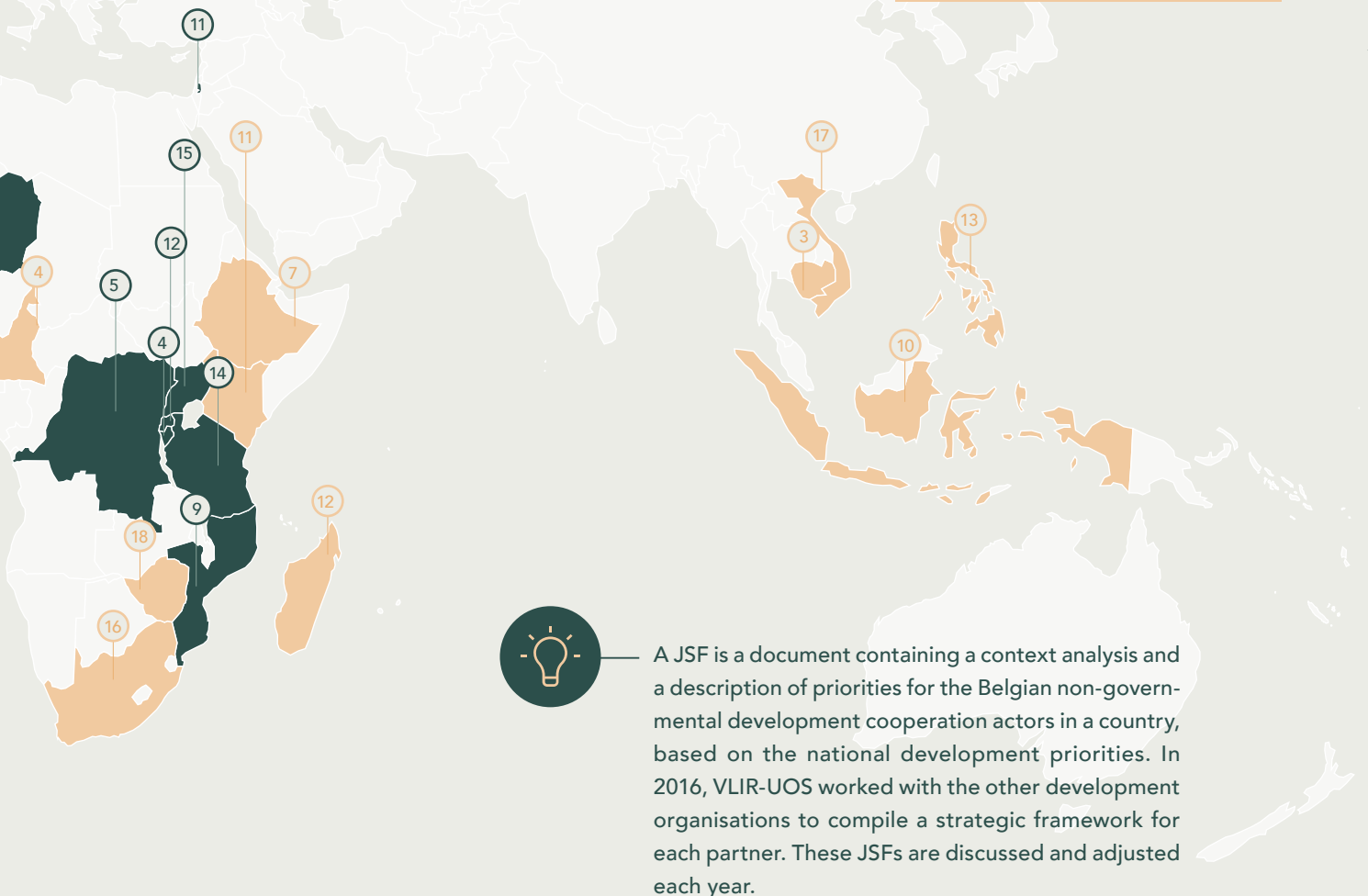
1. Belgium
2. Benin
3. Burkina Faso
4. Burundi
5. DR Congo
6. Guinée
7. Mali
8. Morocco
9. Mozambique
10. Niger
11. Palestine
12. Rwanda
13. Senegal
14. Tanzania
15. Uganda



We have several ongoing projects in cooperation with the Arba Minch University in Ethiopia.

Additional ANGSCountries/Joint Strategic Frameworks (18)

1. Decent Work
2. Bolivia
3. Cambodia
4. Cameroon
5. Cuba
6. Ecuador
7. Ethiopia
8. Guatemala
9. Haiti
10. Indonesia
11. Kenya
12. Madagascar
13. Philippines
14. Nicaragua
15. Peru
16. South Africa
17. Vietnam
18. Zimbabwe



The federations

The days of structural consultation platforms between each individual actor and the DGD came to a definitive end in 2017. From that time on, the sector has been organised through federations. These federations constitute the structural point of contact for the government, and there are currently three: the NGO Federation, the *Fédération des ONG de coopération au développement* (NGO Cooperation and Development Federation; ACODEV) and the *Federatie van Institutionele Actoren België* (Federation of Belgian Institutional Actors; Fiabel).

What do the federations do?



Collect and share information and experiences from and with the members and the government.



Promote complementarity and synergy (e.g. through the coordination of JSFs and all associated projects).

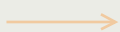


Engage in collective dialogue and interest advocacy in relation to the government and other actors involved in Belgian development cooperation.



Facilitate the further professional development of their members and promoting mutual learning within the sector.

How is dialogue with the government organised?



THROUGH THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION CONSULTING COMMITTEE (NGSC)

in which the federations serve on behalf of the ANGSC: each trimester, a consultation is held on the general strategy and the regulatory framework of Belgian non-governmental cooperation;



THROUGH ANNUAL STRATEGIC DIALOGUES BY JSF-COUNTRY

for a general follow-up on the strategies followed by the ANGSC, the types of and opportunities for complementarity and synergy and collective learning;



THROUGH ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUES BY ACTOR

concerning the monitoring of the results achieved by the ANGSC during the aforementioned screening as well as concerning the progress of the five-year programme: these dialogues are held alternatively at the DGD and at the actor's own location. For each organisation, a contact point is designated within the administration.

Institutional Actors and Fiabel

The DGD has recognised nine Institutional Actors:

1. **Africalia**
2. **Association pour la Promotion de l'Enseignement et de la Formation à l'Etranger (APEFE)**
3. **Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES)**
4. **Brulocalis (Brussels Association of City and Municipalities)**
5. **Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM)**
6. **Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie (UVCW)**
7. **Flemish Interuniversity Council – Department of University Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS)**
8. **Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Aid (VVOB)**
9. **Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VMSG)**



The local work visits (here: Ethiopia) of the ICOS - our direct points of contact at the universities and university colleges - are also a part of university development cooperation.

Fiabel

'Fiabel' is the *Federatie van Institutionele Actoren België* (Federation of Belgian Institutional Actors), an umbrella association for nine major players working to achieve a just and sustainable world. Fiabel advocates the partner countries' interests towards the Belgian government. The organisation was established as part of the International Cooperation Act of 16 June 2016, in amendment to the International Cooperation Act of 19 March 2013 and the Royal Decree concerning the ANGTS of 11 September 2016 (particularly Article 24). Fiabel earned a place in the sector, alongside the two existing federations: the *ngo-federatie* (Dutch) and *ACODEV* (French).

No new legal entity was created for the organisation, as it was an Institutional Actor that was already recognised that accepted responsibility for coordination. Minister De Croo recently recognised the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Aid (VVOB) as the coordinator of Fiabel for a period of ten years.



— The biggest changes within VLIR-UOS starting in 2017

The cooperation sector has undergone major changes in recent years, and we can feel the impact of these changes within VLIR-UOS as well. Our organisation has tried to fit the specificity of university development cooperation into the adjusted formal governmental framework as well as possible. All changes for which preparations had been performed in 2015 and 2016 were officially launched on 1 January 2017. In this section, we list the most important changes.

1

Towards five-year funding

Since 2017, the federal government has funded university development cooperation through five-year programmes. The projects selected in 2016 were thus included in the five-year programme for 2017-2021, which was approved by the Minister of Development Cooperation in 2017.

This does not mean that VLIR-UOS will not be launching any new calls in the 2017-2021 period. To accommodate the academic dynamics and changing generations of PhD students, VLIR-UOS also issues interim calls. A budget is set for each country, consisting in part of ongoing and selected projects, with another part to be filled with projects that have yet to be selected in the framework of project calls that we will launch the coming years.

2

VLIR-UOS, the recognised actor

To qualify for five-year funding, the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid had all of the Belgian development cooperation actors screened for performance. With a strong score of 3.33 on a four-point scale, VLIR-UOS was certified to continue receiving funding for the coming ten years. In the past, VLIR-UOS already earned the EFQM 'Committed to Excellence' quality label.



More coordinated Belgian cooperation in the partner countries

3

Another component of the reform of Belgian development cooperation specifies that any cooperation within partner countries in the South must fit that country's JSF.

In 2017, strategic dialogues for each country were organised for the first time. These dialogues focus on the progress of the respective country programmes of the various actors for each country. More specifically, they provide insight into whether the opportunities for cooperation, complementarity and synergy are being used sufficiently.

In 2017, VLIR-UOS had nineteen countries in the South for which strategic dialogues were held. A dialogue was also

held for the Belgium programme, and our organisation was in attendance. Suriname was the only country for which no such dialogue was held. This country is also not on the list of 33 JSF countries. At least half of the strategic dialogues are held on site.

Such country frameworks have specific implications for our projects. In all new calls, we ask applicants to adapt their project proposals to the context and problem analyses of the countries involved, as well as to the priorities of the JSF. We also encourage cooperation with other Belgian development organisations (e.g. NGOs).

15

Which countries are still eligible for VLIR-UOS funding?

20
partner countries

32
scholarship countries

Africa



Partner countries

Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa

Scholarship countries

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and South Africa

Asia



Partner countries

Cambodia, Philippines,
Indonesia and Vietnam

Scholarship countries

Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia,
Palestinian Territories and Vietnam



**Suriname is eligible only for Travel Grants for 2017-2021. In 2017, India was only eligible for Travel Grants.*

Latin America

Partner countries

Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua,
Peru and Suriname

Scholarship countries

Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala,
Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru and Suriname*

4

Less is more: Innovation in grant programmes

In 2016, VLIR-UOS adjusted its programme portfolio in order to improve its response to the needs of the universities and university colleges in Flanders and the South, as well as to simplify the portfolio in anticipation of the organisation through country programmes that would begin in 2017.

As in 2016, a call was launched in 2017 for new TEAM, SI and JOINT projects to be started in 2018.

JOINT

JOINT stands for 'Joint (International) Academic Networking'. This kind of project is initiated at departmental level, but broadens networking opportunities to support local and global development goals. JOINT-projects (maximum duration: three years) capitalise on common ideas and challenges and support (inter)national alliances or tools that could be useful for other forms of university development cooperation.

Global Minds gives the institutions more autonomy

Global Minds aims to further the development of institutional capacity and knowledge on the part of Flemish universities and university colleges about and for development cooperation along three strategic axes: education, research and sensitisation.

Each Flemish university and university college can design and implement its Global Minds programme, based on its own needs and opportunities, and corresponding to its own institutional policy. For example, one institution might attach greater importance to Flemish doctoral grants, while another devotes more effort to research or internships for students or to the exploration of future partnerships. This way, it will be easier for the institutions to sign up for competitive South-questions in a performant and development-relevant manner, but they will also be able to create the necessary basis for it. Together with DGD, our organisation also monitors whether the institution's individual programmes are coherent with the 'Belgium' programme.

For university colleges, the Global Minds programme is organised at the level of the VLHORA, which represents and supports

thirteen university colleges. However, each university college will be implementing a part of the Global Minds programme, corresponding to its own objectives and expertise. The Global Minds programme officially started at every Flemish university and university college in 2017.

Each institution has drafted a programme for five years, from 2017 up until 2021. Given that the budget will be determined annually for the universities, each institution is expected to update its programme each year.

Global Minds replaces the following former VLIR-UOS programmes:

- Travel Grants (REI)
- VLADOC PhD Scholarships
- ICP PhD
- International Conferences (INCO)
- Programme educational costs

JOINT is a new intervention type, which replaces the following VLIR-UOS interventions:

- **North-South-South:** exchange projects initiated through IUC programmes
- **International cross-cutting projects** in transversal domains (e.g. ICT, libraries, statistics and scientific writing)
- **National cross-cutting projects for topics** including quality assurance, academic English, educational platforms and development and university management

Some examples of actions which fall under Global Minds include the following:

- Integrating a development dimension into the regular Flemish curricula, including through scholarship cases and/or projects from the South, guest lecturers from partners in the South and/or development-relevant research or internships in relevant organisations in the South;
- Conducting development-relevant research: The integration of development dimensions into fundamental, applied and policy-supporting research is essential to allowing the Flemish universities and university colleges to develop the necessary capacity and experience on development cooperation (e.g. project work, role as centres of expertise on development cooperation and development issues in general). The institutions build their own expertise in specific niches, based on thematic/strategic choices;
- Training doctoral students from Flanders/ the European Economic Area (EEA), as well as from the South, to the extent that they contribute to building capacity at the level of the Flemish institutions;
- Organising awareness-raising initiatives for students, staff and other stakeholders of Flemish universities and university colleges.



On our yearly Get Together Night, scholarship students can freely share their experiences with each other.

Study programmes and grants: Rationalisation and innovation

— ● Rationalisation

The International Training Programmes (ITPs) and the Brief Educational Initiatives (KOIs) were merged into a single type of intervention. The Practical Training Programmes (ITPs) continue to target participants with relevant professional experience from countries in the South. The training can be organised for periods ranging from fourteen days to three months. VLIR-UOS facilitates the participation of students from one of our scholarship countries by offering twelve grants for each programme. In 2017, an ITP call was launched in which programmes were selected for two consecutive years (2018 and 2019).

Renewal

For the first time in nearly fifteen years, a call for development-relevant Master programmes was launched in 2015. Fifteen one-year or two-year international Master programmes (ICP) were selected for a period of five years, and they have started this academic year. Each of the selected programmes is entitled to twelve scholarships each year for a period of five years (2017-2021). Five new programmes were selected. The recognition can be renewed for an additional five years, contingent on a positive mid-term evaluation. Five out of the fifteen programmes that were selected in the 2000 call - programmes that already existed before this year - were not selected.

In addition to twelve grants each year, each ICP receives project funding for building a

high-quality programme with a strong South dimension. The funding allows close cooperation with partner institutions and organisations in the South and, within this framework, to de-localise components of the educational programme to this region, while joining ongoing South projects and working to build capacity on the part of institutions and staff in the South.

The five Master programmes that received funding before 2017 but that were not selected for funding 2017-2021 were provided with transitional funding in 2016. The scholarship recipients who started their Master programmes in 2016 will continue to receive funding until the end of their two-year programmes of study, planned for September 2018 at the latest.

Focus on impact

In 2017, the Special Evaluation Office organised an impact evaluation of the Belgian University Development Cooperation. This evaluation addressed grant recipients (quasi-experimental evaluation design based upon a regression discontinuity analysis), as well as a former Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) in Vietnam (Can Tho) and a number of TEAM projects in Vietnam and Ethiopia. The projects of our counterpart in Wallonia, the *Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement supérieur*

(ARES), were evaluated as well. The final report of this evaluation will be submitted to the parliament and is expected in the summer of 2018. In this regard, VLIR-UOS will also establish its own events to disseminate the evaluation's results in the course of 2018. In its general operations, VLIR-UOS will be devoting more attention to M&E, risk policy and to impact evaluation in particular.

Overview of VLIR-UOS interventions starting in 2017

Partnerships between universities and university colleges in Flanders and the South

At the national level

Networks for University Cooperation (NETWORK)

A Network University Cooperation (NETWORK) programme is a national level institutional network led by a former IUC partner institution, collaborating with Flemish universities and university colleges to support change in a priority theme of national development.

At the institutional level

Institutional University Cooperation (IUC)

An IUC is a long-term partnership (indicative ten years) between a university in the South and multiple universities and university colleges in Flanders, aiming to reinforce the partner university on an institutional level and in its role as 'driver of change', as to support local and global development challenges.

At the departmental level

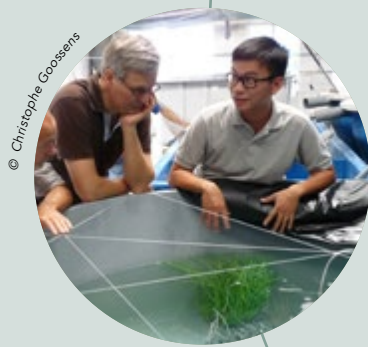
TEAM

A TEAM-project aims at strengthening the research and/or educational capacity of a department/faculty in a higher education institution in a partner country, in view of supporting developmental change in a specific thematic domain. This happens through a four-year project cooperation with a university/university college in Flanders.

© Herman Diels



Maasai people in the Pangani basin in Tanzania (programme: the IUC with the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology -NM-AIST)



Flemish coordinator Peter Bossier (Ghent University) and PhD student Buy, who managed to start the first breeding programme in Vietnam with the 'Rabbit Fish'.

South Initiatives

The approach for South Initiatives (departmental, specific developmental theme) is comparable to that of TEAM-projects, apart from the fact that they are small-scale and short-term (two years). These projects can be either exploring for the extension of new partnerships or they can aim at increasing the impact of former projects.

JOINT

JOINT stands for 'Joint (Inter)national Academic Networking'. This kind of project is initiated at departmental level, but broadens networking opportunities to support local and global development goals. JOINT-projects (maximum duration: three years) capitalise on common ideas and challenges and support (inter)national alliances or tools that could be useful for other forms of university development cooperation.

Capacity-building by and in Flemish universities and university colleges

Global Minds

Global Minds is aimed at the further expansion of capacity and knowledge on the part of Flemish universities and university colleges about and for development cooperation. This is done along the fol-

lowing three strategic axes: education, research and sensitisation. Each institution has its own Global Minds programme.

Programmes and grants in Flanders (ICP and ITP)

Students from the South can follow Master programmes or take a training on development-relevant topics in Flanders, and they can receive grants for this purpose.

Policy-supporting research (ACROPOLIS)

At the request of the federal government, research on topics that are important to Belgian development cooperation is conducted by consortiums of Flemish and French-speaking researchers, with participation of researchers from the South. The topics are as follows:

- Agriculture and food security
- Integrated country policy
- Financing for development
- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Environmental dimension



VLIR-UOS has an IUC cooperation with the Limpopo University in South Africa as well.

The VLIR-UOS mission

01

Sharing minds, changing lives

VLIR-UOS supports partnerships between universities and university colleges, in Flanders and the South, looking for innovative responses to global and local challenges.

VLIR-UOS stimulates cooperative projects between professors, researchers and lecturers. In addition, VLIR-UOS grants scholarships to students and professionals in Flanders and the South. Finally, VLIR-UOS helps to strengthen higher education in the South and the development-based internationalisation of higher education in Flanders.

02

Innovative responses to global and local challenges

We are facing global challenges, including poverty, migration and climate change. Although the effects can be felt locally, the causes and solutions are global. We can find solutions by deploying knowledge and experiences from all parts of the globe in an innovative manner.

As knowledge centres, universities and university colleges play a key role in the search for sustainable answers to societal challenges. Cooperation across the borders of countries, institutions and disciplines is essential. VLIR-UOS is building bridges between higher education and societal organisations and companies in Flanders and the South. Societal impact cannot emerge until we cover the entire chain from knowledge to application.

03

VLIR-UOS as a platform and funder

VLIR-UOS is the platform, allowing the Flemish higher education system to cooperate for development and exchange information and best practices. In addition, in the context of higher education in Flanders, VLIR-UOS is the most important funder of projects for development cooperation with means of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid.



Part of the VLIR-UOS team
in June 2018.

The structure of VLIR-UOS and the people behind it

VLIR-UOS and the institutions

To achieve its objectives with regard to development cooperation, a framework was created with a clear division of tasks between the VLIR and the Flemish universities and university colleges.

VLIR-UOS is responsible for the policy and the five-year programming and for the organisation of calls and the selection, monitoring and evaluation of projects, including financial accountability to the government for the use of the subsidy budgets allocated.

Moreover, VLIR-UOS implements the overarching policy concerning development cooperation, as outlined by the institutions within the context of the VLIR.

To maximise the base of support for the Flemish institutions and to ensure that each institution develops a minimum of activities in the area of development cooperation of the Flemish system of higher education, VLIR-UOS provides co-funding for university development cooperation.

Through the system of co-funding, VLIR-UOS aims to contribute to a part of the cost of the appointment of a team of Institutional Development Cooperation Coordinators for each institution, specifically responsible for handling development cooperation files. The aim of the co-funding is to outline a policy framework and action plan; to establish and expand an organisational structure; to conduct activities; and to achieve results.

VLIR-UOS regularly launches calls for project proposals, scholarship applications and academic expertise. Our organisation also facilitates contacts between interested professors, researchers and lecturers in Flanders and the South. Once VLIR-UOS has received the project proposals, an expert committee selects the proposals based on peer review. All VLIR-UOS expert committees are composed of external international experts. Selections are done per country, via regional committees. The universities and university colleges thus propose the projects and programmes, and they carry them out after they have been approved by the Board UOS based on a binding recommendation from the relevant selection committee and the DGD.

Projects are assessed using six generic criteria (the most important of which are academic quality and development relevance), in addition to their correspondence to the country strategies developed by VLIR-UOS and the Joint Strategic Frameworks.

For the assessment of the Global Minds programme (that started in 2017), important aspects include the policies of the Flemish institutions and the institutional objectives for development cooperation. A specific evaluation method is being elaborated to achieve this.

Headquarters in Brussels

On 1 September 2017, **eighteen** people were working at the Brussels headquarters:

- **Kristien Verbrugghen**, *Director*
- **Peter De Lannoy**, *Head of Programmes*
- **Stefan Wellens**, *Head of Support*
- **Koen De Koster**, *Strategy and Quality Advisor*
- **Herman Diels**, *Programme Manager Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda*
- **Christophe Goossens**, *Programme Manager Cambodia, Vietnam, South Africa and Mozambique*
- **Wannes Verbeeck**, *Programme Manager Suriname, Bolivia and Ethiopia*
- **Kathleen Wuytack**, *Programme Manager DR Congo, Morocco and Burundi*
- **Inge Vandevyvere**, *Programme Manager Indonesia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, the Philippines and Belgium (ACROPOLIS)*
- **Ragna Frans**, *Programme Manager Belgium (Global Minds, ICP and ITP, scholarships, phase-out interventions)*
- **Tim Zeuwts**, *Information Manager*
- **Anouk Courtin**, *Communication Advisor*
- **Micheline De Schrevel**, *Chief Accountant*
- **Bart Van den Bossche**, *Accountant & Finance Officer*
- **Dominique De Bondt**, *Administrative Officer*
- **Kristof Van Der Perren**, *Administrative Officer*
- **Veerle Versele**, *Administrative Officer*
- **Nicky Haezebrouck**, *Administrative Officer*



Contacts at the Flemish universities and university colleges

The Institutional Coordinators for Development Cooperation (ICOS) serve as VLIR-UOS contacts at the Flemish universities and university colleges. The ICOS inform academics at their own universities and the associated university colleges of opportunities for cooperation, in addition to providing advice on designing project proposals and support during project implementation. Contact information for the ICOS at the universities and university colleges is available through the following link: <https://www.vliruos.be/en/contact/28#institutional-coordinators-for-development-cooperation-icos>

Board UOS

The Board UOS consists of a representative of each Flemish university and a representative of the university colleges. The members are as follows (as of 1 September 2017): Paul Janssen, Hasselt University (Chairman), Herwig Leirs, University of Antwerp (Vice-Chairman), Stefaan Smis, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Johan De Tavernier, KU Leuven, Guido Van Huylenbroeck, Ghent University, Kurt Debaere, Howest (VLHORA representative).

Fiabel

As of January 2017, the UOS Steering Group no longer exists, given that consultation with the government has since been shifted to the federations. VLIR-UOS is a member of Fiabel, the federation of Institutional Actors, and it is represented through that organisation as well.

Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

The Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid advocates various aspects of the Belgian development cooperation. This entity is overseen by the Minister of Development Cooperation, Alexander De Croo. VLIR-UOS has a generally constructive relationship with the DGD, especially when it comes to case management. Leen Verstraelen, the case manager for VLIR-UOS within the DGD, was succeeded by Tania Braems in the summer of 2017.

Strategic dialogues

VLIR-UOS is active in 20 countries in the South and Belgium, and it participates in a strategic dialogue each year with the DGD and all actors who are working in one of the relevant countries:

Africa: Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa

Asia: Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam

Latin America: Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru

Suriname is not a JSF country, but VLIR-UOS does have ongoing projects there.



The ICOS are our direct link to the universities and university colleges.

Belgium and regional committees and expert groups

The composition of the committees and expert groups is as follows (as of 1 September 2017):

Assessment Committee for Global Minds and International Training Programmes

Members: Nicol Keith (University of Glasgow), Henrik Secher Marcussen (Roskilde University), Michael Totterdell (former rector of the University of Plymouth), Ewa Kolanowska (consultant)

Regional Committee for Africa

Members: Ben van Baren (Bean NV), Peter Njuho (University of South Africa), Jacqueline Bergeron (consultant), Gerda Heyde (consultant), Daniel Namusonge Sifuna (Kenyatta University), Henk Verweij (consultant)

Regional Committee for Asia

Members: Leon Cremonini (University of Twente), Peter De Bruyn (Delta-I-Consulting), Nadine Burquel (BCS), Dirk Lamberts (consultant)

Regional Committee for Latin America

Members: Julio da Motta Singer (Universidade de San Paulo), Teresa del Pilar Lozano (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Nancy Yolanda Jaspers (Camino Consult), Koen Warembol (11.11.11)

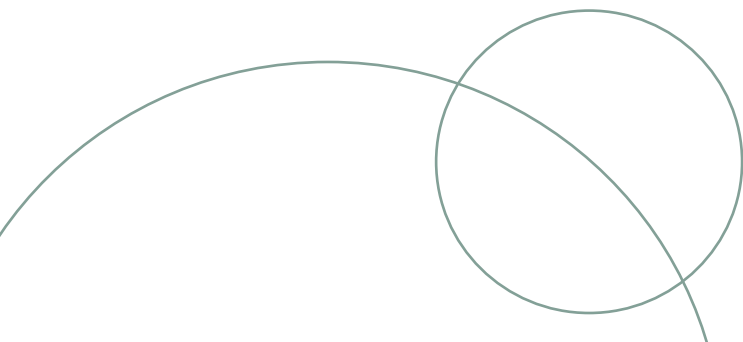
In the past, VLIR-UOS had two expert groups – one for ICT/Online Learning and one for library development – which have since been merged into a single Information and Technology Services (ITS) group. The goal of the expert group is to exchange information and experiences, in addition to providing advice to VLIR-UOS based on project experience (e.g. concerning the use of ICT and online learning in higher education and research in the context of higher education).

Expertengroep ITS

Chairman: Wim van Petegem (KU Leuven)

Members: Georges Eisendrath (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Marc Thoelen (Hasselt University); Rudy Gevaert (Ghent University), Frederick Questier (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Peter Manderick (Close The Gap), Raf Dekeyser (KU Leuven), Egbert De Smet (University of Antwerp), Trudi Noordermeer (University of Antwerp), Piet De Keyser (UC Leuven-Limburg (UCLL)), Liesbeth De Vogelaere (Artevelde University College Ghent), Marc Goovaerts (Hasselt University), Ludo Holans (KU Leuven), Stephane Sas (KU Leuven), Paul Nieuwenhuysen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Dieter Roefs (Ghent University), Jan Kennis (Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp (ITM), Natalie Kerssebeeck (UCLL)

VLIR-UOS website: In 2017, several seminars were organised with the ICOS for the purpose of creating a new website. This new website went live in May 2018: www.vliruos.be.



04

*At our yearly New Year's event,
we try to bring together a large
part of our network.*

The VLIR-UOS network: memberships



Academic Cooperation Association / The Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) is a federation of national organisations from Europe and beyond that fund and encourage the internationalisation of higher education. VLIR-UOS is a member of ACA through the VLIR.



Bbest / This is a non-profit organisation with the mission of promoting 'Excellence in Belgium'. Bbest is also the national partner organisation of EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management).

Donor Harmonization Group / DHG is an informal group of government agencies and intermediary organisations of European countries (e.g. Nuffic, DAAD, SIDA) that was established with the objective of mutual information and inspiration, for the purpose of information sharing and policy coordination.



European Association for International Education / The European Association for International Education (EAIE) is a non-profit organisation that encourages and facilitates the internationalisation of higher education in Europe and beyond and that seeks to respond to the needs of individuals active in higher education.



The Belgische Referentiecentrum voor de Expertise over Centraal-Afrika (Belgian reference centre for expertise on Central Africa - E-CA - CRE-AC) / This organisation promotes access to and the dissemination of knowledge on Central Africa in Belgium. Professor Paul Steels (Hasselt University) represents VLIR-UOS in the Board of Directors.



EDUCAID / The Belgian platform for education and training in development cooperation. Its goal is to make information available, thereby encouraging people and organisations to improve the coordination of their actions in the South on education, thus increasing their efficiency. VLIR-UOS has been a member of the platform since it was established in 2010.



European University Association / VLIR-UOS is a member of the EUA through the VLIR.



Flanders Knowledge Area / The mission of FKA was to contribute to the internationalisation of higher education in Flanders and to increase the international visibility of its quality. Flanders Knowledge Area was disbanded in early 2018. The functions were taken over by the VLUHR Governance Committee for Internationalisation.



FIABEL / The Federation of Institutional Actors (see page 27) is an actual association located in the offices of VVOB. VLIR-UOS has been a member of Fiabel since its creation in 2017. **Institutional Actors of the Belgian Development Cooperation:** / Africalia, Association pour la Promotion de l'Enseignement et de la Formation à l'Etranger (APEFE), Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES), Brulocalis (Brussels Association of City and Municipalities), Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie (UVCW), Flemish Inter-university Council – Department of University Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS), Flemish

Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Aid (VVOB), Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG).



Kindling / VLIR-UOS is a member of Kindling, the Belgian 'Digital for Development' (D4D) platform. It was established in 2017 by Agoria and Close the Gap, with support from the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation. The platform aims to make cooperation possible and to exchange information and experiences relating to D4D. Particular emphasis is placed on achieving cooperation between the development sector and the Belgian private sector. This platform was established during the implementation of Minister De Croo's strategy memorandum.



Kom Naar Buiten (Come Outside) / In 2015, VLIR-UOS contributed to the first edition of *Kom Naar Buiten* (Come Outside), the activity day on scientific communication. The 2017 edition was held in cooperation with the Flemish research funding agency (FWO), the *Jonge Academie* and the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB).



Ontwikkelingsdebatten (Development Debates) / Together with the *Belgische Technische Coöperatie* (BTC)/ENABEL, the Flemish government – Department of Foreign Affairs, the *Vereniging voor de Verenigde Naties* (VVN), VVOB, Echos Communication and 11.11.11, VLIR-UOS is a co-organiser of the *Ontwikkelingsdebatten*. Several times each year, debates are organised for professionals in the area of development cooperation. The debates are aimed at the exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas, as well as at the discussion of developments that are important to development cooperation.



The Shift / The Shift is the network for corporate social responsibility, which comprises companies, governments and social

organisations. The network was formed in 2015 as a merger of Kauri and Business & Society Belgium. VLIR-UOS has been a member of Kauri/The Shift since 2008.



Flemish partnership Water for Development / The partnership constitutes a reinforced cooperation between all Flemish parties involved in the water sector and in international cooperation.



VLEVA The *Vlaams-Europees verbindingagentschap* is a public private association that works to bring more Europe into Flanders and more Flanders into Europe. VLIR-UOS is a member of VLEVA through the VLIR.



VLUHR / The Flemish Council of Universities and University Colleges (abbreviated in Dutch to VLUHR) was jointly established by all Flemish higher education players, in accordance with the education decrees. The founding members are the universities associated in the Flemish Inter-university Council (VLIR), the university colleges associated in the Council of Flemish University Colleges (VLHORA) and the associations.



VVOB / Under the motto 'Education for Development', the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Aid contributes to fighting poverty and building a more just world with improved chances for everyone. The General Assembly consists of, amongst others, Prof. Paul Janssen (VLIR-UOS Chairman), Prof. Herwig Leirs (VLIR-UOS Vice-Chairman), Prof. Stefaan Smis (Board UOS member) and Kristien Verbruggen (Director of VLIR-UOS).

05

Ongoing projects

In the following section, you can find an overview of all South projects that are currently ongoing within VLIR-UOS as well as all the projects that already started/will start in 2018. Institutions (and their locations) are partners in long-term Institutional University Cooperation Programmes (IUC).

A complete overview of all projects is available at <https://www.vliruos.be/en/projects>.

Information on the various types of programmes is available at https://www.vliruos.be/en/project_funding/4.

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Projects in which local soil erosion is being countered are part of our IUC cooperation with the Université de Burundi.



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Overview



16.808.108

ongoing in 2018

whereof



3.610.122

starting in 2018



163

ongoing projects in 2018

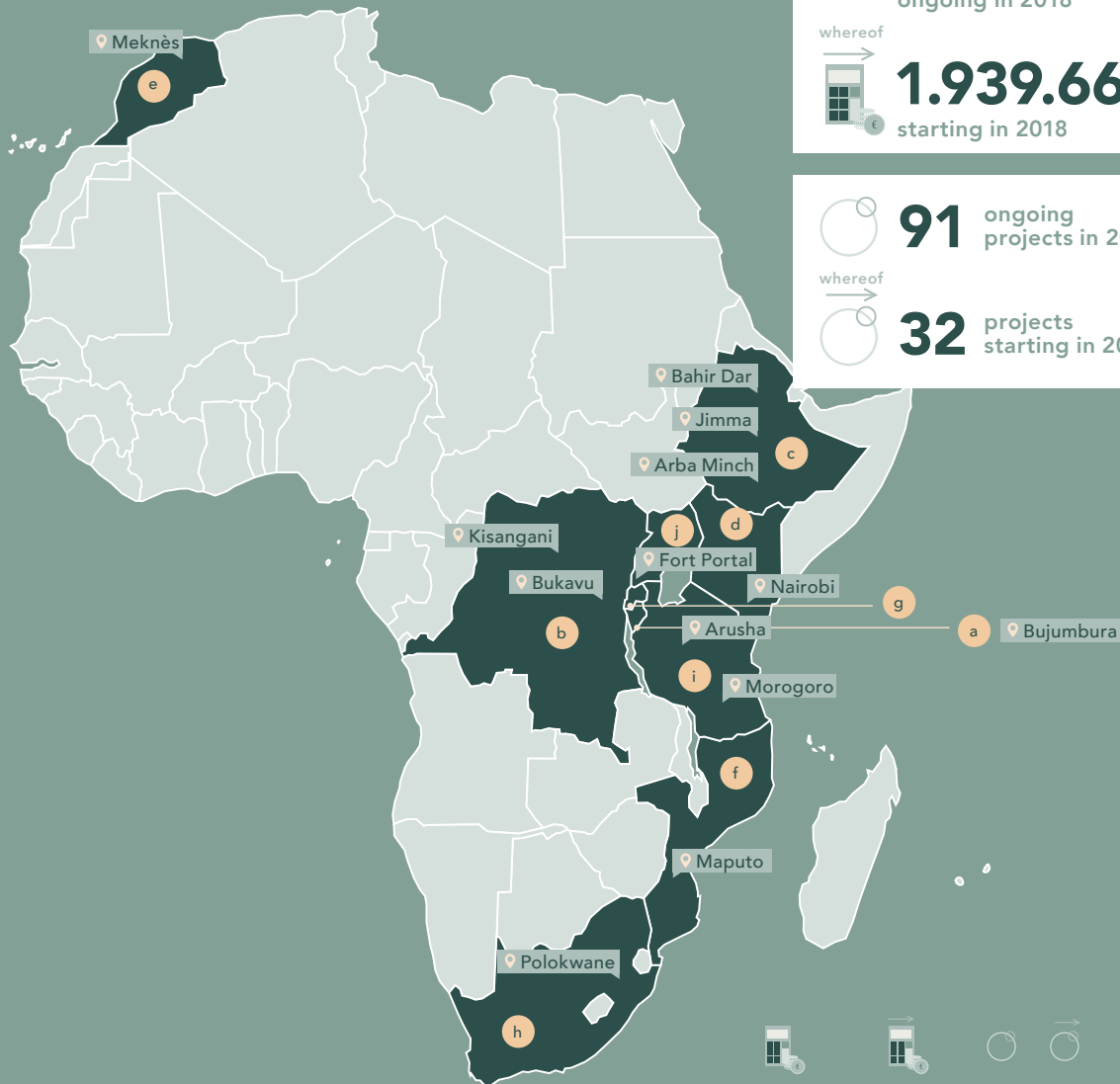
whereof



60

projects starting in 2018

Africa



9.733.039

ongoing in 2018

whereof



1.939.662

starting in 2018



91 ongoing projects in 2018

whereof



32 projects starting in 2018

a	Burundi Université du Burundi (UB)	450.000	0	1	0
b	DR Congo Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB) Université de Kisangani (UNIKIS)	1.775.462	359.336	18	7
c	Ethiopia Arba Minch University (AMU) Bahir Dar University (BDU) Jimma University (JU)	1.842.712	165.702	14	4
d	Kenya Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT) Moi University (MU)	1.102.431	268.035	10	3
e	Morocco Université Moulay Ismaïl (UMI)	1.223.066	211.930	9	3
f	Mozambique Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM)	162.408	0	2	0
j	Uganda Mountains of the Moon University (MMU)	1.007.074	457.881	15	8
g	Rwanda	24.866	24.866	1	1
i	Tanzania Mzumbe University (MU) Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science & Technology (NM-AIST)	1.020.295	96.543	10	1
h	South Africa University of Limpopo (UL)	1.124.725	355.369	11	5

Asia

**1.647.813**

ongoing in 2018

whereof

**476.427**

starting in 2018

**18** ongoing projects in 2018

whereof

**8** projects starting in 2018

© Christophe Goossens

Researcher Luong Quang Doc shows a type of grass that grows on the Tam Giang Lagoon bottom which enables him to measure the water quality.

34

Hue

a	Cambodia	47.370	47.370	1	1
b	Indonesia	50.930	50.930	1	1
c	Philippines	128.595	128.595	2	2
d	Vietnam Hue University (HU)	1.420.918	249.532	14	4

Latin America



5.427.256

ongoing in 2018

whereof



1.194.033

starting in 2018



54

ongoing projects in 2018



20

projects starting in 2018



© Luc Janssens de Bisthoven

Former ICOS Piet Wostyn on a work visit in Suriname.

35

a	Bolivia Universidad Católica Boliviana "San Pablo" (UCB)	963.022	169.385	6	2
b	Cuba Universidad de Oriente (UO)	2.223.868	350.168	21	5
c	Ecuador Universidad de Cuenca (UCUENCA)	1.183.998	378.524	17	7
d	Nicaragua	60.367	60.367	1	1
e	Peru Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM)	753.154	142.381	5	3
f	Suriname Anton De Kom University (AdeKUS)	242.847	93.208	4	2

06

The new projects in numbers

36



Types of projects

In all, we distinguish 66 new projects involving four different intervention types: TEAM projects, South Initiatives, JOINT projects and ITP's.

25

TEAM

28

South Initiatives

07

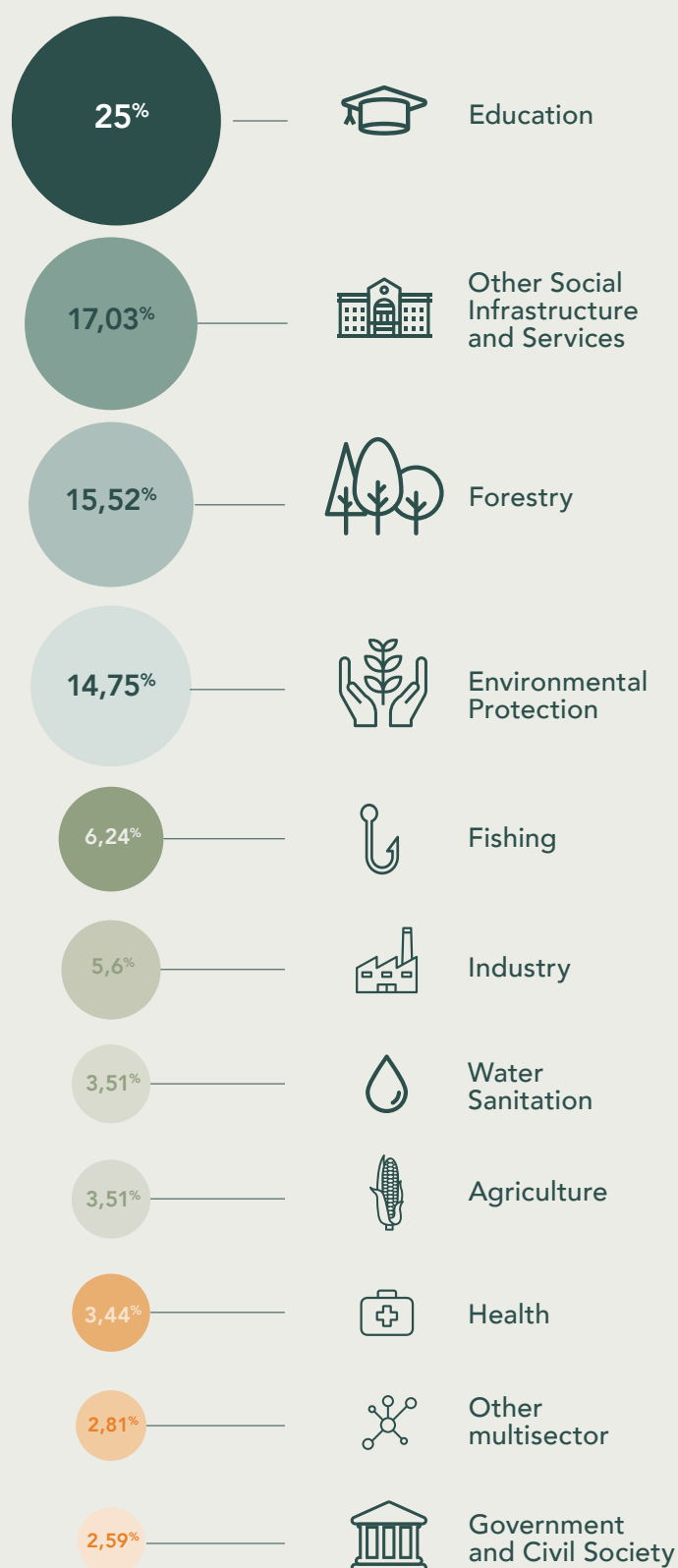
JOINT

06

ITP

Sectors

One fourth of all project budgets for the projects starting in 2018 focus on the Education sector. Scores for the sectors 'Other, Multi-sector' (e.g. Urban Development, Rural development and Research/Scientific Institutions) and 'Health and Agriculture' were somewhat lower. There were less projects selected aiming at sectors like Health, Agriculture, Urban Development, Rural development and Research/Scientific Institutions:

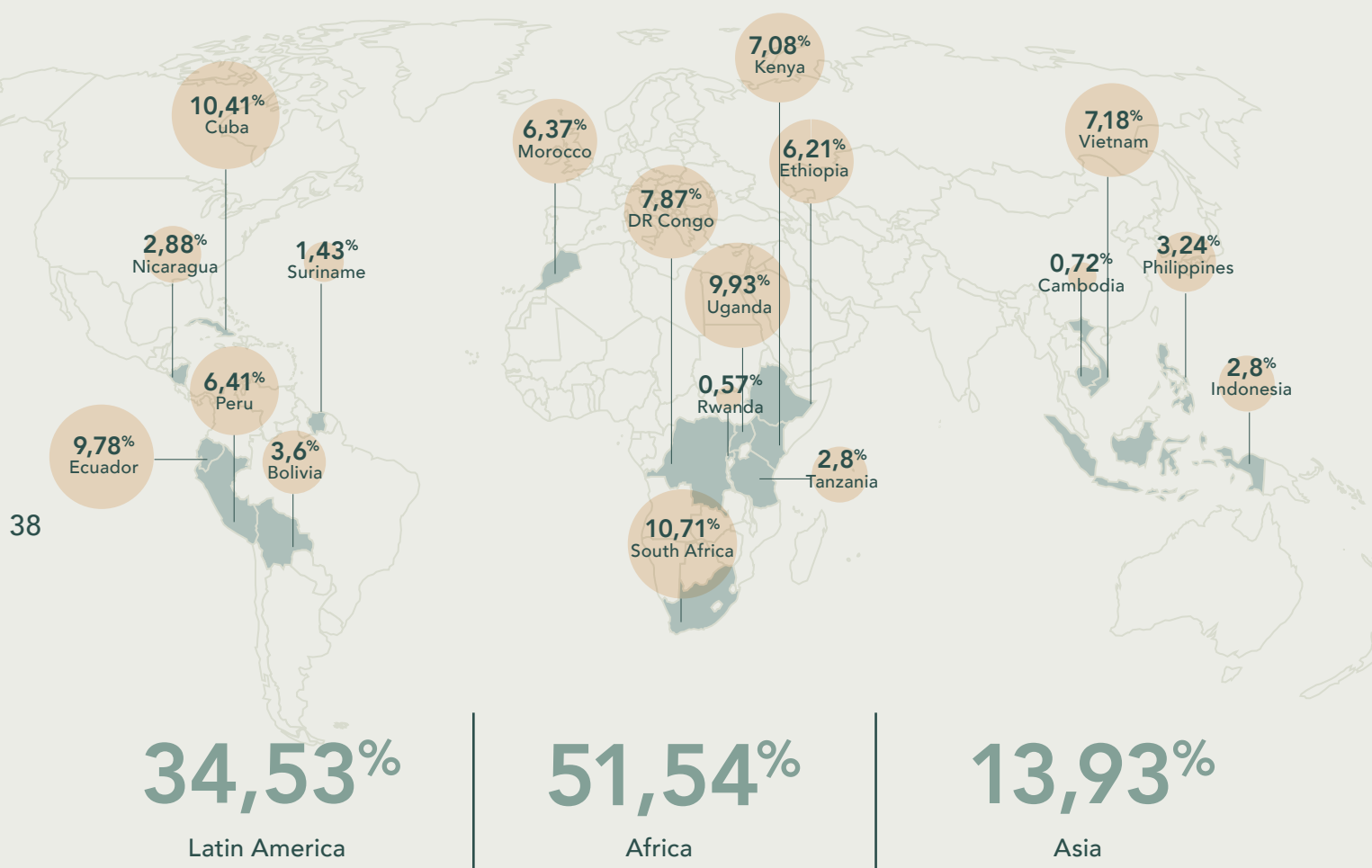


*These sectors are based on the categorisations of OESO-DAC (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/>).

Countries and continents

Where are most selected projects active? If we only consider the budgets for cooperation with countries in the South, South Africa is in first place with 10.71%, followed by Cuba (10.41%), Uganda (9.93%) and Ecuador (9.78%).

With regard to the budgets by continent, about three fourths of the funds (74%) go to Africa. Latin America receives 22%, and Asia receives only 4%.



Gender (im)balance?

Women are strongly under-represented amongst promoters, both from Flanders and from the South. Women make up 29% of all Flemish supervisors and 30% of all supervisors from the South. Although we are far from achieving a gender balance, an increasing trend has been observed since 2003.

Flemish supervisors

29% | 71%

Supervisors from the South

30% | 70%

2017 VLIR-UOS budget

The following is a summary of the VLIR-UOS budget for 2017, as it was approved by the DGD through a Ministerial Decree. We will not have information on the exact expenditures until the second half of 2018, as we will not be able to finalise the processing of the reports of these projects until that time.

OPERATIONAL COSTS	26,496,921	89.30%
SOUTH	11,002,692	37.08%
Institutional University Cooperation (IUC)	7,549,765	25.45%
Network University Cooperation	1,000,000	3.37%
TEAM	1,724,452	5.81%
South Initiatives	504,134	1.70%
JOINT	224,341	0.76%
Belgium	7,718,225	26.01%
Policy support	305,000	1.03%
ACROPOLIS	305,000	1.03%
Capacity-building, Flemish institutions	4,780,268	16.11%
Global Minds; universities	2,890,173	9.74%
Global Minds; university colleges	600,750	2.02%
VLADOC PhD Scholarships	1,153,418	3.89%
International Conferences (INCO)	135,927	0.46%
Education	2,632,957	8.87%
International Master Programmes (ICP)	2,389,309	8.05%
International Training Programmes (ITP)	243,648	0.82%
GRANTS	7,776,005	26.21%
ICP grants	6,787,528	22.88%
ITP grants	486,024	1.64%
ICP PhD grants	502,453	1.69%
MANAGEMENT COSTS	367,272	1.24%
Preparation, monitoring, general management	69,905	0.24%
Evaluation & audit	267,682	0.90%
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	2,835,800	9.56%
TOTAL	29,670,309	100.00%

About VLIR-UOS

VLIR-UOS supports partnerships between universities and university colleges, in Flanders and the South, looking for innovative responses to global and local challenges.

VLIR-UOS stimulates cooperative projects between professors, researchers and lecturers. In addition, VLIR-UOS grants scholarships to students and professionals in Flanders and the South. Finally, VLIR-UOS helps to strengthen higher education in the South and the development-based internationalisation of higher education in Flanders.

VLIR-UOS is part of the Flemish Interuniversity Council and receives funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation. More information: www.vliruos.be.



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