

# VLIR-UOS in 1 sentence

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# Short description of VLIR-UOS

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VLIR-UOS funds cooperation projects between professors, researchers and teachers. VLIR-UOS also awards scholarships to students and professionals in Flanders and the South. Lastly, VLIR-UOS helps to strengthen higher education in the South and the globalisation of higher education in Flanders.

VLIR-UOS is part of the Flemish Interuniversity Council and receives funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation.

# Extended description of VLIR-UOS (as used in the presentation leaflet)

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## Innovative responses to global and local challenges

We are faced with global challenges such as poverty, migration and climate change. The effects are felt locally, but the causes and solutions are global. We can develop solutions by deploying knowledge and experience from all corners of the world in innovative ways.

As knowledge centres, universities and university colleges play a key role in the search for sustainable solutions to social challenges. Cooperation between countries, institutions and disciplines is vital. VLIR-UOS builds bridges between higher education on the one hand and governments, NGOs and businesses in Flanders and the South on the other. That’s because we cannot have an impact on society unless we cover the entire chain from knowledge to application.

## VLIR-UOS as forum, funder and defender of interests

VLIR-UOS is a forum in which representatives of higher education work together for development and share information and best practices. VLIR-UOS is also the most important provider of funds for development cooperation projects in Flemish higher education. Lastly, VLIR-UOS defends the interests of Flemish higher education in development cooperation with regard to the authorities and third parties.

VLIR-UOS is part of the Flemish Interuniversity Council. VLIR-UOS receives funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation with a yearly budget of approximately 35 million Euros (in 2012).

## Partner countries

The cooperation projects are in the main carried out in twenty partner countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. VLIR-UOS develops a country strategy for each partner country. The goal is to gear cooperation to the needs and demands of the partner country and the specific partners.

The themes and partners that can be considered for cooperation projects are set down in the country strategy. This country strategy also takes the areas of expertise and special interest of the Flemish universities and university colleges into account, as well as earlier cooperation projects with that country.

The country list for scholarships for foreign and Flemish students and professionals runs to 54 countries. VLIR-UOS has a limited budget with which to fund projects in non-partner countries.

## Cooperation projects between professors and teachers

VLIR-UOS supports short-term projects between individual professors and teachers, 3-6-year partnerships between departments and comprehensive 6-12-year partnerships at institutional level. Recently, VLIR-UOS has also started promoting the creation of national networks.

Capacity building and scientific research constitute the main activity in most projects. Other activities include education renewal and improvement, policy support, service provision, organisation of trainings and conferences, university policy and management training, student exchanges, language instruction and quality care in higher education.

VLIR-UOS also promotes cooperation between projects it funds and projects of other Belgian and international development cooperation actors, such as CIUF-CUD, VVOB, APEFE, KMMA, KBIN, ITG, NGOs, cities and municipalities.

## Student scholarships

VLIR-UOS offers scholarships to students and professionals from the South to follow courses in Flanders as well as PhD scholarships.

The courses in Flanders include both short trainings and master’s degrees. The PhD scholarships cover a stay in Flanders and the home country. Within the scope of cooperation projects it is also possible to award scholarships to people from the South for trainings, master’s degrees and PhDs.

Students of a Flemish university or university college can apply for a scholarship for a training placement or a stay in the South in connection with a master’s thesis. They are also eligible for a PhD scholarship if the subject is related to the cooperation with the South.

## From idea to execution

VLIR-UOS regularly launches calls for project proposals, scholarship proposals and academic expertise. These calls may be open to all partner countries or to one specific country. In a number of cases, VLIR-UOS facilitates contacts between interested professors, researchers and teachers in Flanders and the South.

Once VLIR-UOS has received the project proposals, a committee of experts makes a selection based on peer review by experts from Belgium and further afield. Both academic quality and development relevance are evaluated.

## Information

You can find more information on our website at [www.vliruos.be](http://www.vliruos.be). If you are attached to a Flemish university or university college, the contact at your institution will be able to tell you about opportunities for working with the South. Their details are published in the Contact section at [www.vliruos.be](http://www.vliruos.be/).