

Information on the country strategy Ecuador

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 [VLIR-UOS Country Strategy for Ecuador](#) fits in with the Ecuadorian national strategy for **improving the quality of life** ('Buen vivir'). Two main themes of the Country Strategy are **biodiversity** and **education**. Ecuador also aims at becoming 'a country of knowledge' whereby the focus is both on scientific and ancestral knowledge. Training of individuals and **higher education** institutions of excellence is a top priority. In this respect also the link between knowledge and innovation (research and technology transfer, private sector development, D4D) receives increasing attention. Other important subjects are **preventive health** and the role and impact of **migration, cultural heritage** and **diversity**. There is no **geographical or institutional focus** put forward.

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** Ecuador 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 **Ecuador** 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 Ecuador can be found [here](#).

Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy	Potential match with the Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework	Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area
BIODIVERSITY - NATURAL RESOURCES	(2) Contribute to a balanced management of natural resources , protection of the environment and adaptation and mitigation to climate change . (3) Ensure access to and sustainable, equitable and participatory management of drinking water and sanitation	11.11.11, ARES, BOS+, PROTOS, TRIAS, Rikolto, WWF-BE ARES, BOS+, PROTOS
EDUCATION (link with knowledge society, research based education, teacher training, educational research)	(4) Contribute to the implementation of an accessible, inclusive, equitable, safe, diversified and quality education system , which includes the active participation of different actors in society by offering programs adapted to different ages and vulnerable groups (5) Ensure and improve access to knowledge , improve the quality of research and stimulate innovation in order to contribute to development.	ACTEC, ARES, BOS+, PROTOS, TRIAS, VIA DB, VLIR-UOS, VVOB ARES, BOS+, PROTOS, , VLIR-UOS
HEALTH (link with Ecuadorian 'buen vivir' concept)		

<p>SOCIETY AND CULTURE (cfr. in the CS mentioned as ‘SOCIAL SCIENCES’ AND ‘CULTURAL HERITAGE’)</p>	<p>(6) Achieve good local governance, with democratic, effective and transparent ‘Decentralized Autonomous Government’ that provide adequate public services and address global challenges at the local level; this in a national context of decentralization that supports local governance mechanisms.</p> <p>(7) To contribute to the protection, respect and promotion of human rights in their integrality and interdependence, as well as to the strengthening of a democratic and pluricultural state</p> <p>(8) Contribute to a more sustainable development process, based on a healthy economy, an equitable distribution of resources and the balance with nature - in line with the promotion of good living and the sustainable development goals.</p> <p>(Decent Work) Guaranteeing labour rights and extending social protection for all</p>	<p>PROTOS, SOS Faim, Rikolto, VVSG, WWF</p> <p>11.11.11, VIA DB</p> <p>11.11.11</p> <p>FOS-IFSI-SOLSOC</p>
<p>FOOD & NUTRITION</p>	<p>(1) To contribute to a competitive and sustainable agricultural sector that generates equitable benefits for all the actors of the sector, especially the small farmers and entrepreneurs</p>	<p>ARES, PROTOS, SOS Faim, TRIAS, Rikolto, WWF, BOS+•</p>
<p>Crosscutting themes for HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH and INNOVATION POLICIES</p>	<p>(5) Ensure and improve access to knowledge, improve the quality of research and stimulate innovation in order to contribute to development.</p>	<p>ARES, BOS+, PROTOS, VLIR-UOS</p>

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **Ecuador** 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 (institutional coordinators for development coordination at level of the Flemish HEIs) elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations.

NGA	Short description of the activities in Ecuador	Name of the local partner(s)	Region(s)	Suggested research topics	Contact person
<p>11.11.11</p>	<p>In Ecuador 11.11.11 works together with organizations that stand up from a rights perspective for a differentiated development, based on social and economic justice and on a balance with nature.</p> <p>11.11.11 works together with organizations and networks that are active at national level on democratization and rights, environmental issues,</p>	<p>Acción Ecológica, INREDH, CDES en CEDENMA.</p>	<p>National, however partners focus on the Amazon region and South Eastern Ecuador</p>		<p>Freya Rondelez</p>

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	<p>climate justice, and social and economic justice. These organizations support rights holders so that they are better able to defend their rights and carry out common actions to influence the policy. The partners are part of international platforms through which they promote South-South exchange and global actions.</p>				
<p>Association for Cultural, Technical and Educational Cooperation (ACTEC)</p>	<p>Since 2014, ACTEC is supporting Salesians secondary colleges in order to improve the quality of the technical education (level: Bachillerato técnico) provided to vulnerable young people from low-income families residing in Guayaquil and Esmeraldas cities. Both colleges also offer vocational trainings to women, mostly single mothers, in order for them to improve the management of their economic activities and hence increase their incomes. ACTEC is also supporting Montepiedra technical college, located in Guayaquil, which also offers tailor-made technical trainings to workers from local industrial companies. The overall objective of ACTEC 2017-2021 programme is to improve the management of these educational centers and the quality of the technical practical trainings through the installation and/or renewal of didactical equipment, continuous teachers training, promotion of entrepreneurial trainings (Bachillerato Productivo) and the enhancement of the marketability (soft skills) of young and adult beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Unidad Educativa Salesiana Domingo Savio, Unidad Educativa Fiscomisional María Auxiliadora, Unidad Educativa Montepiedra</p>	<p>Guayas and Esmeraldas Province</p>		<p>Michel Garcia Nicolas Brecht</p>
<p>Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES)</p>	<p>Within the specificity of the Ecuadorian HE context, ARES is developing an institutional support programme (Programme d'Appui Institutionnel) at the Central University of Ecuador (UCE). Its main objective is the quality of teaching and research implemented by this university where there is potential for regional impact, impact on the entire Ecuadorian university sector and the development of South-South synergies. ARES also promotes, as</p>	<p>Universidad Central del Ecuador, Escuela Politecnica Nacional, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador</p>	<p>None</p>		<p>Veerle Van Acker</p>

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	<p>of 2017, two research projects, the first at the Escuela Politécnica Nacional (EPN), will contribute to a sustainable management of Andean ecosystems through the protection of soil and water resources. The second project, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE), concerns situations of violence and psychosocial suffering of young people.</p>				
BOS+	<p>The overall objective is to improve the livelihoods of indigenous and rural communities in Ecuador, to strengthen CSOs in inclusive and participatory management of forest resources (products and services) (SO1) and avoid deforestation for the improvement of livelihoods through sustainable value chains of agroforestry products (SO2). We focus on three regions of Ecuador: Sierra Sur, Sierra Norte and Central Amazonia in consortium with 10 counterparts. Interventions can stimulate changes in the daily practice of beneficiaries. Specifically: 1) improve the management of protected areas (co-management) and use of forest products and services; 2) improve marketing of non-timber forest products; 3) establish inclusive and participatory management processes 4) improve agroforestry systems; 5) strengthen organizations and capacities.</p>	<p>Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional (NCI), ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCCIÓN AGROPECUARIA PISACA (ASOAGROPISA), Mindo Cloudforest Foundation (MCF), Fundacion Runa (FURU), EcoCiencia, AMWAE,</p>	<p>Sierra Sur, Sierra Norte and Central Amazonia</p>		<p>Eduardo de la Peña</p>
PROjectgroep voor Technische OntwikkelingsSa menwerking (PROTOS)	<p>The program proposes to promote the exercise of the human right to water and sanitation (DHAS), aligns with the ODS (1, 5, 6, 13, 15, 17) in which it goes beyond access to services and seeks to ensure that these are of quality and sustainable. The articulation between the Senagua and its National Water and Sanitation Strategy and the ROSCGAE as national actor, seeks to generate mechanisms for its implementation with strong legitimacy and social participation. The cantons (see regional focus) face similar problems of marginalization and exclusion, lack of technical and</p>	<p>PROTOS EC and CEFODI, CEDIR, CENDAS, SENAGUA, ARCA</p>	<p>Province of Esmeraldas, in the cantons Muisne, Atacames and Rioverde. In the Province of Loja the cantons</p>		<p>Katrien Van Hooydonk</p>

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	<p>economic capacities, water and sanitation coverage, and are located in areas where the effects of climate change will be greater. The specific objective is: "Contribute to guarantee the exercise of the rural population of Ecuador in conditions of sustainability and effective participation. " The program has the interest and support of several relevant actors for national and local water policy.</p>		<p>of Quilanga, Gonzanama and Catamayo .</p>		
SOS Faim	<p>The objective of the program in Ecuador is to strengthen the economic, environmental and social performance of the sustainable family agriculture and the rural social economy, in order to improve the living conditions of the family farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. To achieve this, an alliance with 2 local counterparts is foreseen: CEPESIU and the CAAP, for a total of beneficiaries estimated at 84 649. With these counterparts, specific support will be provided to producers to reinforce their sustainable production techniques and their associative production processes. Support will also be given to groups of rural entrepreneurs (EIL) and other entrepreneurs to strengthen their marketing capabilities and assist them in the insertion in value chains....</p>	<p>CEPESIU, CAAP</p>	<p>Main offices in Quito but counterparts in Imbabura, Manabi, Cotopaxi, Los Rios, Bolivar, Chimborazo</p>		<p>Laurent Biot</p>
TRIAS	<p>Taking control of value chains: In recent years, the urban population in Ecuador has benefited from economic growth. The effects of this increase in wealth don't quite extend to the Andes, however. Poverty and malnutrition are still a concern in our intervention zones. TRIAS supports farmers' organisations in developing profitable production chains. The focus in the programme is on 3 value chains: potatoes, quinoa and agro-ecology where core capacities of 10 farmers/community organisations (7 in family agriculture and 3 micro-businesses) are strengthened in the whole value chain from production, transformation to</p>	<p>Sierra Centro: PACAT, AGROPAPA, ASOPAPA, COPROBICH, Mujeres Pulingui Sierra Sur: CPC, Tejemujeres, Jardin Azuayo Nacional: CNA, CECJ, CONPAPA Nacional</p>	<p>South and Central Andres</p>		<p>Marc Vogelaers</p>

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	commercialisation. Empowerment of women and young people in the related value chain processes is also strongly included.				
Rikolto (former VECO) Country Office (Rikolto)	<p>The challenge of Rikolto (formerly VECO) Andino in Ecuador is to contribute to improving the quality of life of small agricultural producers, through an effective linkage to the market, through intervention strategies that professionalize their organizations, to market quality products that generate more stable income for families.</p> <p>4 axes are supported: 1) Support producer organizations to have professionalised business models, with effective use of new information systems (digitization), and to position themselves in the markets with differentiated quality products. 2) Generate evidence of agri-food companies that make sustainable purchases and encourage the participation of rural youth in the value chain. 3) Generate and implement public and private policies that foster a favorable business environment to ensure sustainability and inclusion. 4) Manage knowledge through national and international platforms that promote reflection and construction of public and private policies. The work will focus on the Coffee and Cocoa sectors, also, within a more territorial approach, with fresh fruits and vegetables within a Food Smart Cities proposal in Quito. ...</p>	<p>Unión de Organizaciones de Productores de Cacao Arriba de Esmeraldas - UOPROCAE, FORTALEZA DEL VALLE, ANECACAO, PACARI, Asociación Agroartesanal de Caficultores Rio Intag – AACRI, ANECAFE, CARAVELA, HOJA VERDE, Unión de Campesinos Cochasqui-Pedro Moncayo – UCCOPEM, ANFAP, TERRA FERTIL, RIMISP</p>	<p>Northern Ecuador (Pichincha, Esmeraldas, ..)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study on consumer awareness in Quito: healthy, sustainable food. This study would support the formulation of the food policy of Quito as city-region we are supporting at this moment. - Second phase of the cadmium project with KULeuven and Espol towards mitigation practices, using bioproducts applied with smallholders. We are already working together with ESPOL on the investigation of levels of cadmium and coordinating with Erik Smolders (KULeuven) but it would be very interesting to have a broader project on mitigation practices, applying different hypotheses with the organisations of cocoa producers and providers of companies like Ecom trading. - A research project on best practices to adapt technical education to the needs of youngsters in rural areas. This could be a tripartite synergy VVOB, Rikolto and VLIR-UOS. 	<p>Johanna Renckens</p>
VIA Don Bosco (VIA DB)	<p>The objective is that vulnerable young women and men (15 -28 years old) in Pichincha, Azuay and Guayas are integrated professionally and socially in Ecuadorian society.</p> <p>To achieve this goal, close collaboration with our partner organizations is crucial. We will collaborate</p>	<p>Oficina de Planificación y Desarrollo Inspectorial (OPLADI); Salesianos</p>	<p>Guayaquil, Cuenca, Quito</p>		<p>Blanca Guerrero</p> <p>Laura Eliaerts</p>

	<p>with 5 Vocational Training Centers (CFPs), 1 Office of Planning and Development (OPD), and an Office of Labor Insertion (OIL).</p> <p>Together with the partners, we will work first to improve the quality of the educational process and the learning in all training centers. We will do this by providing training to teachers, and adapting the study plans and the study environment. Second, we want to strengthen management capabilities of all partner organizations in different areas (human talent management, financial management, among others). Finally, we will focus on improving the access/guidance to decent work and youth entrepreneurship in view of social and professional integration.</p>	<p>de Don Bosco (SDB); Programa Artesanal de Capacitación Especial Salesiano (PACES); Tainate Huasi; Taller Escuela San Patricio (TESPA); Nuestros Hijos; Casa Don Bosco; Oficina de Inserción Laboral (OIL) Nacional</p>			
<p>Vlaamse Vereniging voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking en technische Bijstand (VVOB)</p>	<p>The 2017-2021 program for strengthening vocational and technical education (F-EFTP) is focused on the school leaders and teachers of technical secondary education (TSO) in the three provinces that were most affected by the earthquake this year (Esmeraldas), Manabí and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas). F-EFTP is committed to improving the competences of these educational professionals, so that their students can enjoy high-quality TSO that provides them with the skills they need for work and life. To this end, VVOB strengthens the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) at national, zonal and district level and then more in particular of those government departments and public entities responsible for the continuing professional development of school leaders (R1) and specialist teachers (R3).</p>	<p>MINEDUC and various subsecretaries</p>	<p>Esmeraldas, Manabí y Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas</p>	<p>Some examples (non exhaustive):</p> <p>Do projects linking the schools and the community / productive sector help to improve the subsequent employment of students? Which methods are more successful for this purpose?</p> <p>Investigation of the implementation of different pedagogical models and didactical methods ((i) Instructional model 4C / ID, (ii) Project Based Learning),</p> <p>Research on vocational guidance.</p> <p>Research on violence in schools (prevention, detection and management)</p> <p>How is the use of equipment and machines incorporated into technical learning? How are</p>	<p>Caroline Decombel</p>

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				theory and practice linked in the process (classrooms and workshops)? Relation with skills development?	
<p>Vlaamse Vereniging van Steden en Gemeenten (VVSG)</p>	<p>The VVSG program in Ecuador focuses on the integrated management of water resources at the municipal level. Two twinnings between local governments (Bierbeek with San Felipe de Oña and Evergem with Guaranda) already have a history of cooperation. Inside of this approach sensitisation of the population about the importance of water and water resources and at the same time strengthening of the capacities of municipal governments on the preservation of water resources is foreseen. Activities such as (re) afforestation, raising awareness through schools, construction of an irrigation canal, training of water boards, involvement of the population through the organization of 'mingas' will contribute to a more sustainable management and use of the water in the two municipalities.</p>	<p>Municipalidades de Guaranda, San Felipe de Oña</p>	<p>Guaranda, San Felipe de Oña</p>		<p>Karlien Gorissen</p>
<p>World Wide Fund for nature (WWF)</p>	<p>The indigenous communities and Ecuadorians of Amazonia and Chocó-Darién live in the Ecuadorian forest, but suffer from deforestation that alters their natural habitat, water, but also ancestral culture, degrading their well-being and making them more vulnerable to climate change. This deforestation is the vestige of an economic model, based on the export of raw materials, but also unsustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Our program is intended to provide a new integrated local economic model, where forest and protected areas are in harmony, render benefits to the men and women who live around and within. It is under three geographically integrated components: better participatory management of conservation, sustainable economic development around and in protected areas, as well as increased account of</p>	<p>Basins of Putumayo and Pastaza</p>	<p>WWF-Ecuador and Altrópico; Nacionalidad Achuar del Ecuador (NAE) Federación de Centros Awá del Ecuador (FCAE)</p>		<p>Isabelle Vertriest</p>

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	<p>forest protection by the population and local authorities. This model will be developed with our 2 partners WWF-Ecuador and Altrópico in the basins of Putumayo, Pastaza and Mira, where the potential for economic development (ecotourism, cocoa, forest products non-timber forest exploitation), the actors (Achuar, Awa, Chachis, Afro-Ecuadorians, ...) and the Forest management (managed by the state or indigenous nationalities) are different. From this we will draw better lessons for potential replicability.</p>				
Waardig Werk	<p>FOS supports banana worker union ASTAC, foundations DONUM and LUNA and NGO SURKUNA to contribute to the improvement of enforcement of labor rights and the right to social protection, including the the right to health, sexual rights and reproductive rights for banana workers, popular women and young people from the capital, and the whole Ecuadorian population.</p> <p>ASTAC represents a vulnerable rural population working in a sector where informal employment, subcontracting, flexibilisation of work and gender discrimination are prominent and where the type of production interacts in a negative way with the environment. Fundación DONUM makes an important contribution to public debate on health legislation and policy and is a catalyst for policy influencing by the Platform for Health and Life that groups civil society organizations working on the right to health.</p> <p>SURKUNA and LUNA train young trade unionists and popular women as promoters of sexual and reproductive rights and equal opportunities for men and women and work with local authorities to improve access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health care.</p>	<p>ASTAC, DONUM, LUNA, NGO SURKUNA</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>Research on sexual harassment in higher education (related to the 'machometer', instrument developed by DONUM)</p>	<p>Jo Verweken</p>

More information can be found on our [Ecuador page](#) of the website or by contacting the VLIR-UOS programme coordinator and focal point for Ecuador [Peter De Lannoy](#)