

## Questions & Answers VLIR-UOS IUC 2026 Call – Information Session 8 July 2024

- **Is it the Flemish partner that initiates the IUC proposal through the VLIR-UOS platform?**  
Yes, the final submission needs to be done by the Flemish partner, it is the Flemish institution that validates the proposal.
- **What do you mean by ‘fit for purpose’?**  
This is used in different ways and at different levels: for instance for the coordination profiles but also for the institutional set-up. It means being up to level, to what extent the IUC proposal is aligned to IUC characteristics.
- **What about the collaboration between partners? Only at level of financial supported collaborations or also voluntary based?**  
Both are possible, try to be clear and refer to relevant previous collaborations, to experiences with other donors and partners, explain in the best possible way.
- **Does the partner coordinator have to be a professor?**  
Yes, with at least an 80% employment.
- **What do you mean by financial annexes, is this about ‘jaarrekeningen’?**  
Yes, this is about financial statements from the partner institutions, can be under different forms.
- **How advanced should the contacts be with the consortium partners? Contacts with other Flemish HEIs?**  
These can remain concise in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage. During this stage we mainly ask for strategies to engage with others, how will you reach out. The further elaboration of the consortium will mainly happen during the next stage.
- **What about MIP? Focus seems to be at the Flemish level, but what about the partners in the partner country?**  
During this 1<sup>st</sup> stage, MIP at Flemish level is very important and that Flemish partnership is going to collaborate with mainly 1 partner institution in a partner country. During the development of the further stages, other institutions in the partner country can be involved but there remains 1 main partner.
- **Could you expand on human rights and knowledge security, since this seems to gain importance? Does it need to be a theme within the IUC?**  
There is no need to develop this in a theme but it is important to know how the partner institution goes about human rights, how it treats vulnerable groups or how to protect human rights, minorities, diversity.... VLIR-UOS has a generic framework about human rights and also the Flemish HEIs underline the importance of human rights in their policy. So this should be addressed in the context analysis. Where relevant it can be further elaborated during the next stages.
- **Who are the development actors in Belgium?**  
VIR-UOS has for every partner country a Country Reference Framework where Belgian development actors are mentioned with their domain of expertise. It could be interesting to collaborate with them, and/or with other relevant (non-Belgian) actors. However, this is something to elaborate more for the next stage, during this 1<sup>st</sup> stage this is more about mentioning potential links.
- **What about the geographic position of a partner university: metropolitan vs non metropolitan?**  
For VLIR-UOS, IUC seems more relevant for partner universities away from the capital but it does not mean that a partner university in a capital cannot be selected. All depends on context, how it involves vulnerable groups or how it is linked with sub-regions in a partner country. It is not an eligibility criterium, the way how its relevance is explained in the best possible way is what matters most.