



Lubumbashi, le 22 SEPT 2019

N°/Réf. : 1/R/CONS.COOP/KKK/ 0401 /2019

✓ To the President of VLIR-UOS
Brussels - Belgium

Object: **Proposal submission for the IUC call of VLIR-UOS (2022-2032)**

Mr. President,

At the time when the University of Lubumbashi (UNILU) will submit its pre-proposal to VLIR-UOS, the first of this kind, for the IUC programme (2022-2032), I would like to greet warmly and thank the VLIR-UOS management team who did not hesitate to receive me in Brussels at the beginning of my mandate as Rector of UNILU in 2015 and now to encourage my university to apply for such programme.

The ambitious project submitted by UNILU pursues a legitimate objective focused on promoting the sustainable development of populations living in the Katangan Copperbelt in which our University is located, by mastering the knowledge to tackle the socio-economic problems impacted by this mining environment. Thus, we aim to strengthen our partnership with VLIR-UOS and expect by 2032, to sustain academic capacities in human, material and technical resources, to create new research sectors and structures (laboratories, research centres) and to develop, the interaction between UNILU and the population, in order to promote, by 2040, the socio-economic and environmental conditions of the populations by accommodating their life in the mining region, with regard to the environment and climate change, urbanization, health, governance, security, entrepreneurship, agro-pastoral and training. This is our change statement.

Our university is an institution with a long tradition of multifaceted collaboration. It develops partnerships with several public and private companies in the region, public services, non-governmental organizations and many other institutions such as ARES-CCD, VLIR-UOS, MRAC, AUF... from which UNILU has benefited an institutional support for many years. All this has enabled it to significantly strengthen its capacities in governance, teaching, research and community service. We would like to mention in particular that via transversal and targeted projects initiated and funded by VLIR-UOS, UNILU has set up services and structures; through such initiatives, it filled up some gaps in its operational capacity. This is especially the case of the Quality Assurance Office, Computer Resources Department (UNIVERSITIC), Centre of Academic English, laboratories of agropedology, toxicology, mycorizae and other research organizations.

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Obtaining VLIR-UOS funding through an IUC program, in co-coordination with universities in Flanders (including UHasselt, UGent and others...) will enable UNILU to complement previous projects/programs and the institution's strategic plan, which aims to significantly increase the number of academic staff, train laboratory staff, create a translation service within the academic English center, provide libraries with recent and specialised bibliographic resources, etc.

I can state therefore that UNILU is a serious candidate with a strong track record in the implementation of programs such as the one proposed to VLIR-UOS, the latter having preparatory work was coordinated by Professor César Nkuku Khonde, who has expertise and experience in the field no longer to be demonstrated.

We are convinced that our University's application will attract the attention of decision-makers who will give UNILU the opportunity to develop such a program for the first time with VLIR-UOS. Finally, please be assured, Mr. President, of our support and of my great support for the IUC VLIR-UOS 2022-2032 project that will be developed at UNILU.

Yours sincerely,

The Rector


KISHIBA FITULA Gilbert -
Profesor



c.i. : - Conseiller à la Coopération
- Dir. Coop. Interuniversitaire