



NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) has received research grant from VLIR-UOS through an Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) programme to strengthen its capacity in natural resource management, food security and health. The programme will strengthen and transform the University's structures, systems and processes through creation of synergies in transformative knowledge, technologies and innovations in collaboration with four (4) Flemish Universities led by Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Other Universities are KU Leuven, Ghent University, and University of Antwerp.

ABOUT IUC

Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) programme envisions a process of change in JOOUST at the level of individual, organizational as well as institutional leading to improved performance of the University as an Higher Education Institution (HEI). Further, the change that will be realized through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is transversal and is expected to enhance both internal and external ICT service delivery in JOOUST. The Programme will also develop capacities and strategies to create the necessary conditions for research uptake at the community levels for the purpose of societal change and impact.



Programme Cycle

This Programme started with a Phase In period on 1st March, 2021 and will end on 31st August, 2022. The core of the IUC programme consists of 10 years of funding from VLIR-UOS divided in 2 phases of 5 years each and followed by a Phase Out.

These phases are jointly implemented via a tripartite agreement between JOOUST, VUB and VLIR-UOS. In this arrangement, VUB functions as the Flemish Coordinating University, meaning, together with JOOUST, VUB will be fully responsible for the management and implementation of the programme on behalf of the participating Flemish Institutions. Further, VLIR-UOS is responsible for the overall management of the IUC Programme Cycle including disbursement of funds to JOOUST through VUB as well as monitoring and evaluation. The Programme formulation and implementation is within the 5 sub-projects illustrated in Table 1 below and is managed by project leaders who are academic from both JOOUST and the 4 Flemish HEIs.



JOOUST-VLIR IUC Programme Leaders

JOOUST Project Leaders were identified during the proposal development and have been confirmed as substantive leaders. On the other hand, the Flemish project leaders were appointed by VLIR-UOS after stage 2 of the IUC selection procedure on the basis of an open competition facilitated via matchmaking procedure and taking into consideration the advice of JOOUST.

Table 1: The Team Leaders for JOOUST-VLIR IUC programme

Intervention	Team JOOUST Leader	Team Flanders Leader	University of Flemish Team Leader
Management of the Lake Victoria Basin Natural Resource	Prof. Dennis Ochuodho	Prof. Bouillon Steven	KU Leuven
Building Capacity for Transformative Agri-Food Systems for Resilience in the Lake Victoria Basin of Kenya	Dr. Calleb Olweny	Prof. D'Haese Marijke	UGent
Building Capacity for Research, Management and Control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases	Ms. Damar Osok	Prof. John Paul Bogers	UAntwerpen
Strengthening ICT infrastructure to Enhance Research, Teaching and Learning	Prof. Silvence Abeka	Prof. Johan Loeckx	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Strengthening Climate Change Resilience among Communities and Ecosystems in the Lake Victoria Basin	Prof. Benard Muok	Prof. Steven Van Passel	UAntwerpen

Sound management structure that is aligned and integrated in JOOUST systems and procedures is critical for the success of the Programme. The University has consequently established and operationalized a Project Support Unit (PSU) to coordinate activities of the Programme. The PSU is headed by Prof. Benson Estambale, Programme Coordinator and supported by Mr. Naphtaly Osika, Programme Manager who are fulltime staff of the University.

The Programme Coordinator provides overall academic leadership and coordination while the Programme Manager provides methodological facilitation and administrative support to the programme. Office space has been allocated to the two officers that will also provide a boardroom facility to the team leader during physical meetings.

Establishment of Project Support Unit



Reference materials

1. VLIRUOS Background document 1- General IUC Concepts and Framework
2. VLIRUOS Blueprint management structure and adapted procedure for IUC team composition (updated version of 23 March 2021)

Contacts

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