



HIGHER EDUCATION & SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We envision a world in which higher education, research, and international academic partnerships drive innovative solutions and evidence-based policies, empowering critical, resilient global citizens who actively shape society. This fosters sustainable development both locally and globally, ensuring a better future for all.

Why?

Belgian higher education and research institutions, supported by dynamic global networks, have been driving sustainable social and economic development for years, aligning with Belgian and international strategies. Inspired by academic solidarity, our impactful international partnerships, innovative projects, and scholarship programmes, nurture global leaders, advance research on global challenges, and build vibrant alumni communities, fostering Global Impact and Stability.

What we do?

- **Empowering Future Leaders, Professionals and Citizens:** Preparing students to take up strategic changemaker roles to tackle global challenges
- **Fostering Innovation delivering Impact:** pioneering research addressing real-world challenges generating innovative solutions used by public and private sector and civil society organisations leading to global and local development
- **Mutual beneficial partnerships:** strengthening Belgian higher education through equal collaboration, enhancing research capacities in the Global South and enabling co-creation of knowledge to address global challenges and drive innovation.
- **Networks strengthening Belgium's soft power & diplomacy:** Academic partnerships, scholarships and alumni networks create strong bonds with Belgium and its regions which enhances our soft power and impact on peace and stability

How?

Instruments:

- **Agents of change:** Scholarships for future leaders, professionals and citizens
- **Drivers of change:** Institutional partnerships and academic networks for lasting impact

Key features:

- Proven impact
- Cost-efficient model with matching contributions
- Mutual beneficial partnerships with clear benefits for all involved (win-win)
- Power of scholarships and alumni networks
- Long-term focus and commitment
- Mix of education, research and applications in policies and practices
- Lever for Team Belgium in Team Europe



Who?

Thematic Joint Strategic Framework “Higher Education & Science for Sustainable Development”

ARES, VLIRUOS, and ITM share the mission to contribute to global sustainable development through higher education and science. The Thematic Joint Strategic Framework is a platform that brings together expertise from Belgian institutions for higher education and science beyond themes, disciplines, sectors, and geographic boundaries.

VLIRUOS

Leading funding body for scholarships for and partnerships between academics from Flanders and partner institutions in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, focused on global sustainable development. VLIRUOS operates on behalf of the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR).



ARES

Federation of higher education institutions of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. ARES coordinates initiatives that strengthen individual and institutional capacities, develop research and education, and foster innovation through international academic partnerships.



ITM

Advances science and health for all through cutting-edge research, postgraduate education, medical expertise, and long-standing partnerships. Collaborates with universities, public health institutes, hospitals, and laboratories in low- and middle-income countries to build stronger health systems and improve quality and access to health care for all. Specific attention is given to pandemic preparedness and outbreak response capabilities. ITM works in 12 countries in support of 26 partner institutions.



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