

DRAFT -- DO NOT CITE



Projects and partners of UAntwerp in the “Global South”

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Overview

- Partnerships in UAntwerp policy framework
- Data sources and limitations
- Data analysis
 - Some basic numbers
 - Types of partner institutions
 - Where do are partners come from?
 - One off vs. multiple engagements
 - Some illustrations
 - Disciplines
 - Type of funder
- Q&A



Policy framework – some examples

Action 108. The university **is continuously exploring new partnerships** and joining new networks to further **increase its international impact**. We are developing a strategic partnership policy. We are starting by mapping existing connections with universities and other partners at home and abroad, both at the faculty and university levels. We must be willing to reevaluate our portfolio. We are establishing guidelines for evaluating and selectively developing partnerships. In developing this policy, we will **create leverage by seeking synergies with** YUFE, AUHA, AMS, UZA, ITG, and **our partners in the Global South**.

Action 116. We will **continue to stimulate and facilitate new initiatives** in this area, including through VLIRUOS resources (e.g., Institutional University Cooperation), but also **by involving partners from the Global South in other research and education collaborations**.

Data sources and limitations

- **Primary source: research database Antigoon**
 - Registration of research/education projects by research office & international office
 - Limited to collaborations with 'tangible results' → no MoUs, no small scale education collaborations
 - Research office only registers collaborations if they know all applicants
 - Historical lack of data on education collaborations
 - No reflection in the database of partnerships where funder has separate contracts with different parties (ex. ENABEL)
 - No reflection of collaborations where research is 'about' partner (countries) but without local promotor – ex. FWO, ERC even though subcontracts with partner exist

Data sources and limitations

- **Secondary source: VLIRUOS projects database**
 - Verification necessary of promoters – database reflects person who registers the project as promotor, which can differ from the actual promotor
- **Tertiary source: International Projects database**
 - Excel file including all projects supported by IP
 - We haven't included smaller financing such as BOF small research projects in general database
 - For some project we follow only the pre-call phase, so no info about final financial allocation



Data sources

- **Filters used**
 - LMIC
 - Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, Caribbean
 - To align with survey
 - 2010 – August 2025



Some basic numbers

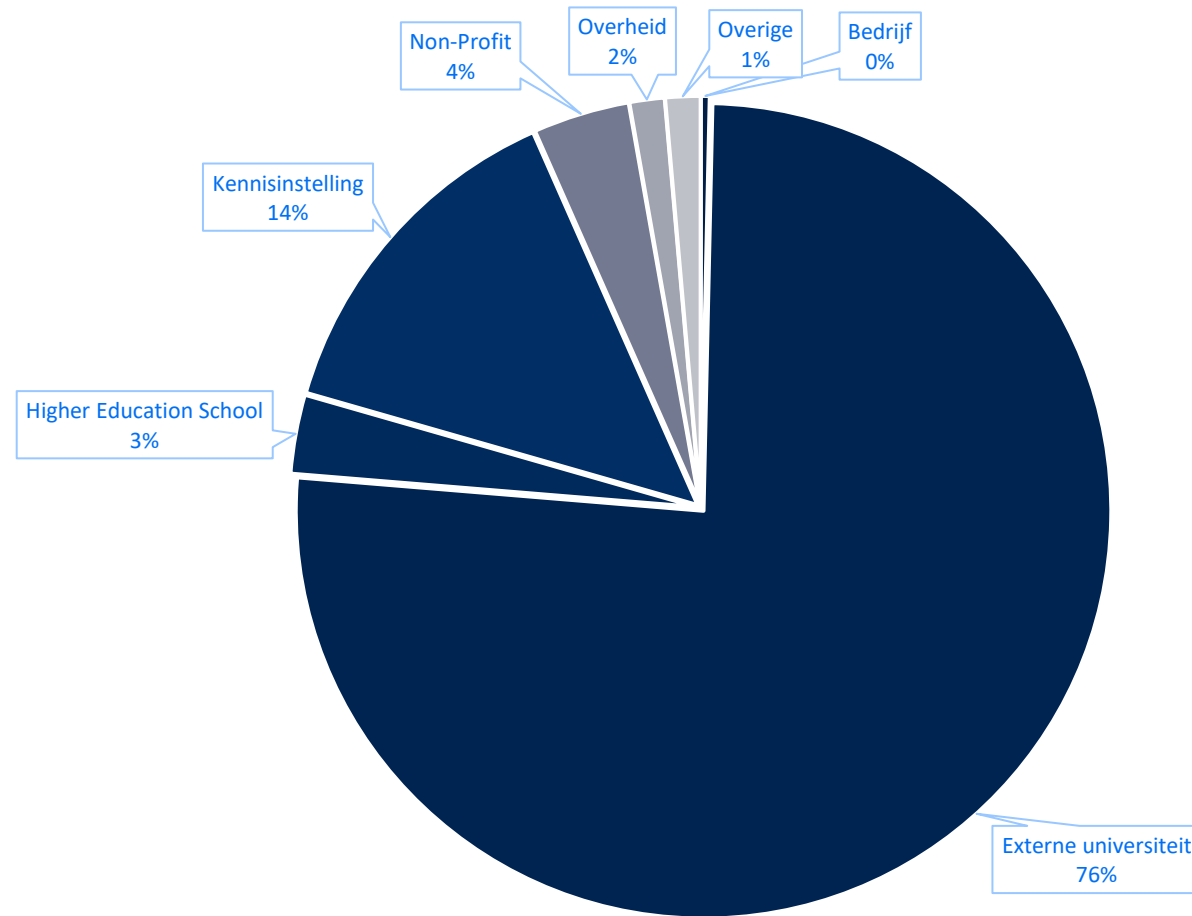
- Partners from 54 LMIC countries
- 287 unique partners (out of 3920 = 7%)
- 661 projects
 - 517 unique projects (out of 4670 = 11%)

- Consortium building

One partner	423	84%
Two partners	46	9%
Three partners	25	5%
More than 3 partners	11	2%

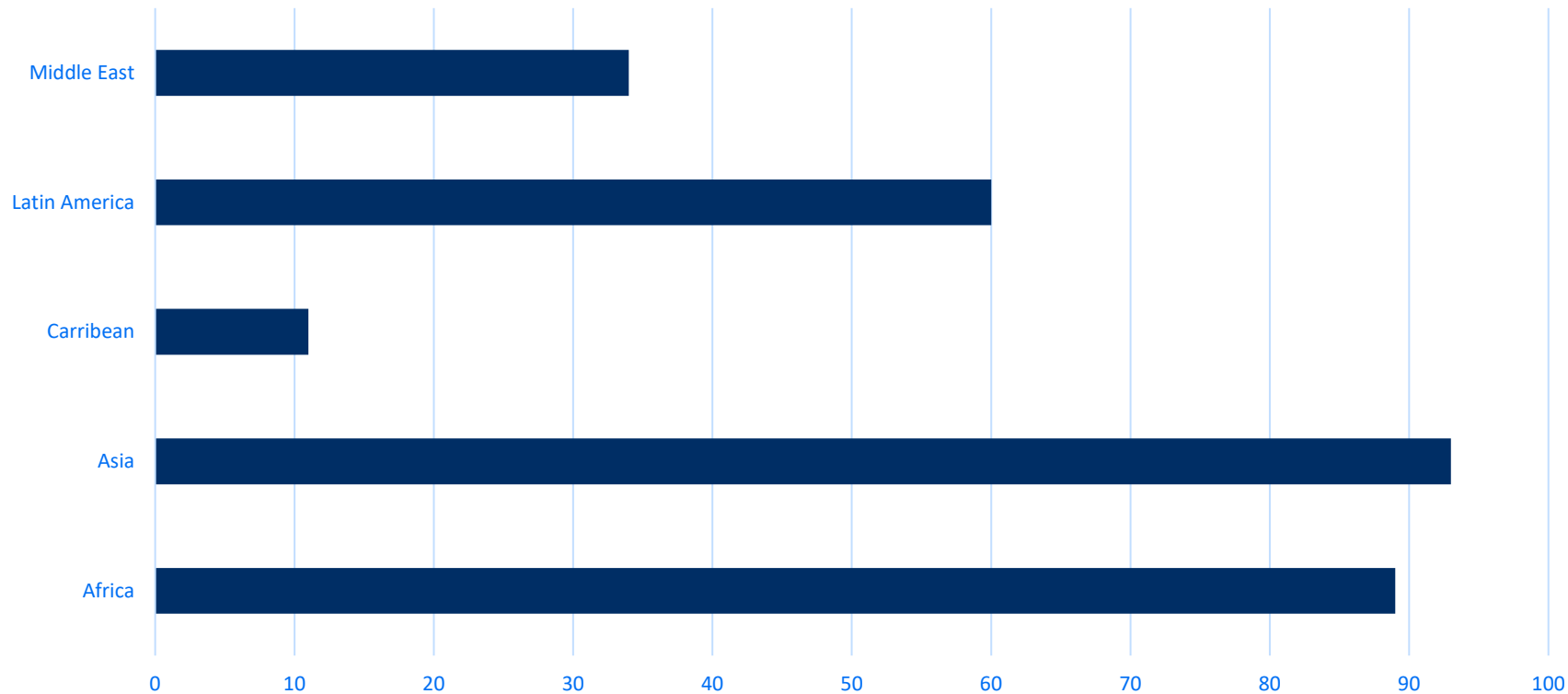
- 61% of our partnerships are **one off** partnerships

Types of institutions



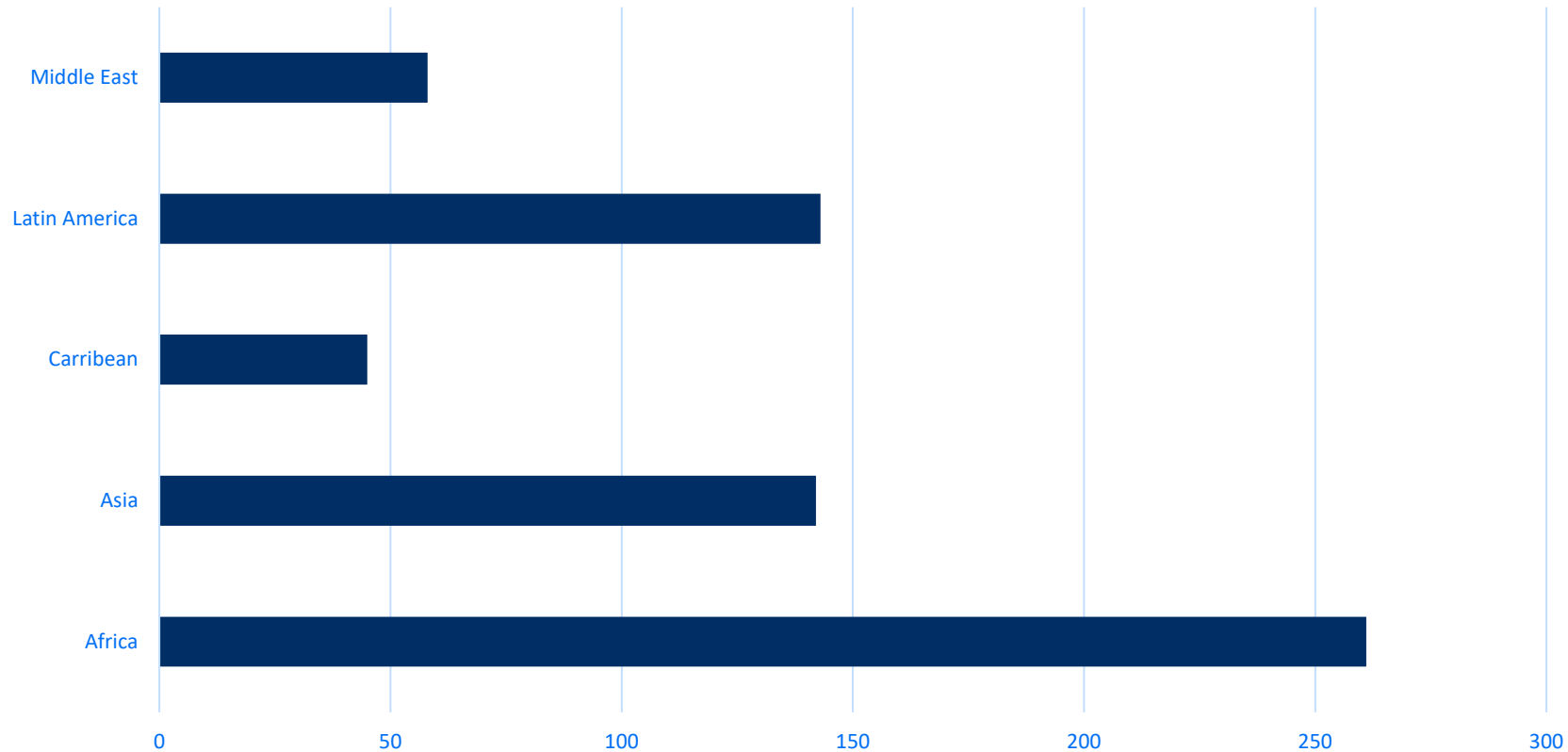
Partners from 'the Global South'

- Highest number of partners in Asia, followed by Africa and Latin America



Partners from 'the Global South'

- Highest number of projects in Africa, followed by Latin America and Asia



Top 10 – number of partners/country

1	China (People's Republic)	23
2	South-Africa (Republic)	22
3	Brazil	20
4	India	19
5	Turkey	14
6	Thailand	12
7	Congo (Democratic Republic)	12
8	Iran	12
9	Tanzania (United Republic)	10
10	Uganda	10



India – 21 projects, 19 partners

Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
Jadavpur University
Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries University
Kasturba Medical College
Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur
National Institute for Industrial Engineering
National Institute of Immunology
Panjab University
Public Health Foundation of India
Schizophrenia Research Foundation India
Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College (GSMC) and the King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital
Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (TIFR)
Teri School of Advanced Studies
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute

- Many partners, however, many one off partnerships...
- Due to 2 big H2020 consortia
 - Saraswati 2.0
 - INCENTIVE - Indo-European Consortium for Next Generation Influenza Vaccine Innovation



Brazil – 66 projects, 20 partners

Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica de Minas Gerais

Fundacao Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul

Universidade de Sao Paulo

Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos

Universidade Estadual Paulista

Universidade Federal da Bahia

Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

Universidade Federal de Pernambuco

Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

Universidade Federal do ABC

Universidade Federal do Ceara

Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo

Universidade Federal do Pará

Universidade Federal do Triangulo Mineiro

Universidade Federal Fluminense

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco

Universidade od Estado do Amazonas

- Many partners, fewer one off partnerships
- Two universities with high engagement (Sao Paulo – 9) Céara (18) with very diverse research groups
- Two very active research groups from UAntwerp
 - BUT one ZAP reached emeritus status and we see engagement going down

DR Congo – 49 projects, 12 partners

Centre de surveillance de la biodiversité (CSB - UNIKIS)

Institut Nationale de la Recherche Biomédicale (INRB)

Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural

National Institute for the Study of Agricultural Research -
Yamgambi Biosphere Reserve

Université Catholique de Bukavu (8)

Université Catholique du Congo

Université Catholique du Graben

Université de Kinshasa (12)

Université de Kisangani (10)

Université de Lubumbashi

Université Pédagogique Nationale

University of Kinshasa (Unikin)

- 50% are one off partnerships
- A number of institutions with much engagement
 - Bukava – often with same research group
 - Kisangani – with a few research groups
 - Kinshasa – with a wide variety of research groups
- Long-term partnerships



Morocco – 9 / Nicaragua – 1 / Suriname – 3

Cadi Ayyad University

Instituts Supérieurs des Professions Infirmières et Techniques de Santé

Mohammed V University

Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi

Université Cheikh Anta Diop; Université Cadi Ayyad

Université Mohammed Premier

Université Moulay-Ismaïl

Universidad Centroamericana

Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname



Disciplines

Faculties/Institutes	% of budget
Faculty of Medicine and Health Science	39,60%
Faculty of Science	16,95%
Faculty of Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences	12,34%
Institute of Development Policy	10,88%
Faculty of Social Science	8,03%
Faculty of Business and Economics	2,95%
Faculty of Law	2,65%
Faculty for Design Sciences	2,54%
Faculty of Arts	2,42%
Faculty of Applied Engineering	1,65%
Total	100,00%

Funder – top 10 in number of projects

VLIRUOS Short Initiatives	77
VLIRUOS Institutional University Collaboration	34
VLIRUOS TEAM	33
European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)	24
H2020 - Gezondheid, demografische verandering en welzijn	23
FWO mandaten: aspirant fundamenteel onderzoek 2de termijn	21
FWO Wetenschappelijke onderzoeksgemeenschappen	18
EU - Erasmus +	18
FWO – Non-European bilateral research projects	16
VLIRUOS Joint	16

Funder – top 10 in order of budget

VLIRUOS Institutional University Collaboration (IUC)	€ 12.827.756,4
H2020 – Health, demographic change and well being	€ 12.665.174,34
VLIRUOS TEAM	€ 9.145.487,55
H2020: Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)	€ 5.532.935,34
VLIRUOS Short Initiatives	€ 4.120.284,35
European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)	€ 3.276.566,27
FWO Odysseus	€ 2.745.426,00
FWO – Non-European bilateral research programmes	€ 2.446.273,00
H2020: ERC Advanced Grant	€ 2.224.931,49
Horizon Europe 2.1 - Health	€ 2.171.158,76

Conclusion

- We need better data
- We need to look at more than just what is registered in our databases, exchanges, informal partnerships etc need to be taken into account
- Grasping partnerships is complex, all partnerships have their own story
- Personal relationships remain important, but institutional strategy can build on existing relations
- Many opportunities still exist – only 11% with LMIC partners
- Partnerships are two-way exchanges, so please get in touch!