



VLIR

Vlaamse

Interuniversitaire

Raad

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University

Development Cooperation



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**Future strategies
and coordinated policies for
university cooperation for development**

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The rationale : why coordination ?

- Paris' Declaration on aid effectiveness
- A means, not a goal in itself
- Objectives :
 - Complementarity and synergy; avoid duplication
 - A platform for
 - Sharing information, experiences, experts, resources, ..., and capitalising on it
 - Initiation of cooperation
 - Cost effectiveness :
 - task division, joint efforts for extension / adoption (e.g. with NGOs), using each other's networks, joint agreements, benefits of scale, cost sharing, alignment to local framework, joint audits of the country / partner university, joint financial control, joint reporting, ...
 - To benchmark (quality assurance / optimization)

A joint responsibility

- Individual universities : donor and recipient
- Intermediary organisations
- Multilateral organisations / networks
- Governments, both in N and S
- Individual academics

Conditions

- Governments are to create an enabling environment
 - Cfr. Paris' Declaration : alignment – financial / reporting guidelines
- A genuine commitment, at all levels
 - Recipient university : Transparency
 - Donor agencies : autonomy
 - ...
- Need for a coordinator / active entity
 - More is needed than only a wish to cooperate and coordinate
 - How ? Format : network, platform ... ?
 - What kind of mandate ?
 - Who ? Something new ? ...
 - Funds ?
 - ...

Possibilities for cooperation / coordination

- At the level of the recipient institution
 - Setting up an international relations office
 - Organise annual donor meetings
 - What more ... ?

Possibilities for cooperation / coordination

- At the level of donor agencies / intermediary institutions – 1/2
 - Advocacy : joint message to the respective political authorities:
 - Putting HE on the agenda
 - Negotiations with development cooperation ministers
 - Striving for mixed funding
 - Information exchange : sharing information on programmes, systems, guidelines, practices, experiences, policies, databases (experts, screening diplomas...), ...

Possibilities for cooperation

- **At the level of donor agencies / intermediary institutions – 2/2**
 - Joint initiatives
 - Gateway to funding opportunities
 - Country papers
 - Local audits; Joint reporting system
 - Sharing resources in partner countries : office, representative, local personnel
 - Studies :
 - On developments in HE and development cooperation
 - Methodologies : institutional audits, PCM, outcome mapping, evaluation, value for money, evaluation systems, ...
 - Joint training programmes : change management, leadership training, project proposal writing, scientific writing, intercultural communication,
 - Enlarging the north south south network
 - for collaboration
 - joint consultation processes for innovative policies, ...
 - Joint website / portal
 - Periodic (annual?) meetings
 - ...

Way forward

- Commitment at all levels, not only a white paper to government
- Code of conduct ?
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Sharing minds, changing lives

