**Network for Advancement of Sustainable Capacity in Education and Research in Ethiopia (NASCERE)**

**Management Manual (version 3) – August 2020**

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# 1. Background

In 2007, the IUC program with Jimma University started its research activities. The IUC program became renowned in Ethiopia for its excellent capacity building activities, mainly at the level of PhD education. Next to a large number of PhD degrees, the IUC program also developed a number of PhD schools in Jimma University.

The IUC program was coordinated by Ghent University, but all Flemish universities were taking part in the activities and capacity building efforts.

The IUC program finalized in December 2016. Jimma University had asked the Ethiopian Ministry of Education to foresee budgets to sustain the capacity building efforts initiated by the IUC program. This idea was also supported by the North coordinator of the IUC program, Prof. Luc Duchateau. The Ethiopian Ministry of Education, now Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MOSHE) was keen to do this and opened for the first time in history such a large scholarship program outside Ethiopia, apart from the already existing contract with India.

A tripartite agreement was signed in 2017 between the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, Jimma University and Ghent University which laid foundation for the NASCERE program and the subsequent funding agreement with the MOSHE. The NASCERE program indicated Jimma University and Ghent University as hub universities, but with the aim to collaborate with all Flemish universities through Ghent University. The budget will span a time of 10 years and envisages budgets that should allow 250 candidates to attend PhD study in joint programs created in collaboration with Flemish universities.

In 2020 an agreement between Jimma University and Ghent University was signed indicating the details of the NASCERE program.

The NASCERE program will also make use of the infrastructure and equipment that was bought and installed under the IUC program.

# 2. Scholarship structure

The agreement foresees that the Ethiopian Ministry of Education sponsors the Ethiopian PhD scholars who enroll at Jimma University through a joint PhD program scheme with Flemish universities with respect to their traveling, registration and stipend while in the North. On the other hand, the Flemish universities waive the bench fees and the Flemish promoter foresees an operational budget supporting the PhD research.

The PhD will be of a joint nature when there is a running PhD school at Jimma University and will lead to a double degree, with a Flemish University and Jimma University as the two institutions responsible for the joint degree. In the absence of a South promoter, the PhD degree can also be linked to a Flemish University alone.

The standard scholarship terms are based on the joint PhD with local supervision and are as follows: in principle PhD students go to Belgium for 3 months a year, for a complete period of 4 years, and thus will have stayed in Belgium for 12 months. The total duration NASCERE supports the PhD student in the North is 12 months but in rare cases where conditions in the South are not optimal, such as absence of a joint program or lack of a local advisor or non-existence of key infrastructure, the duration can be extended. Such extension, however, can not exceed a maximum period of 18 months. Extension request will be granted based on a motivation submitted by the Ethiopian and Flemish promoters, and is subject to a critical review by North and South coordinators of the program. Apart from the 4 flight tickets, a stipend of 1500 Euro/month is foreseen and for each travel 150 Euro indirect travel costs, also the lowest registration fee at the Flemish University for the first and final year of the PhD.

The insurance is also covered.

From this stipend, the accommodation needs to be paid.

# 3. Management structure

NASCERE is coordinated by Kora Tushune representing Jimma University and Pascal Boeckx is representing Ghent University. As the program is essentially an interuniversity program, representatives from the different universities need to be involved in the management structure. It is recommended that the different Flemish universities are represented by academic staff who have experience with collaborating with Jimma University through any kind of project.

The following professors are representing their university in the Flemish steering committee

Coordinator: Pascal Boeckx (UGent)

UGent representatives: Lieva Van Langenhove, Tom Decorte, Geert Janssens

UA representative: Steven Van Passel

KULeuven representative: Bart Van der Bruggen

UHasselt representative: Dirk Valkenborg

VUB representative: Ann Van Griensven

Similarly, an Ethiopian steering committee will be established and is presided by Kora Tushune. The steering committee is comprised of representatives of colleges who are participating in NASCERE.

The joint steering committee contains all members of the Flemish and Ethiopian steering committees.

At Jimma University: programme manager (PM): Kassahun Eba Taddesse is the contact person [Kasahun.eba@ju.edu.et](mailto:Kasahun.eba@ju.edu.et) or [kasahunebako@yahoo.com](mailto:kasahunebako@yahoo.com).

At Ghent University: ICOS: Annick Verheylezoon is the contact person [Annick.Verheylezoon@ugent.be](mailto:Annick.Verheylezoon@ugent.be).

# 4. Selection of promoters/candidates

On yearly basis new students are selected.

First, decisions need to be made with respect to research themes and promoters (North or North/South). As the Ethiopian Ministry of Education was very interested in engineering, agronomy and health (merely the beta and gamma sciences), the focus has been on these research areas at the start. But now it is open to any topic.

The NASCERE program started off with a pool of Flemish promoters who have already been active in Jimma, Ethiopia. During the IUC program many Jimma PhDs were trained in Belgium. These graduates from PhD programs in Belgium, are now also involved as promoters.

A call for research topics is open from October till December. In January the next year the call with topics for PhD candidates is launched. The deadline for the local PhD candidates to apply is end of February. The selection by Belgian and Ethiopian promoters is confirmed end of March.

The PhD calls will be advertised in Jimma University. The ultimate decision about the selection is in the hands of the promoter(s). However, in the first phase of the program they need to be registered at and staff of Jimma University.

On yearly basis there are 15 positions available (7 for UGent and 2 for each of the other Flemish Universities). Universities who can not meet the set quota for various reasons would notify the North coordinator in writing. The coordinator then can avail the unused opportunity to other Flemish universities who can readily use the opportunity.

If there are more candidates than open positions, they are put on a waiting list.

# 5. The North support

The NASCERE program only foresees the payment of the Ethiopian PhD student, and also the wavering of bench fees at the Flemish universities. No budgets are foreseen for the North promoter.

It is up to the Flemish universities to decide whether and how they would want to support the Flemish promoters within their universities.

Even if the participating Flemish university is not sponsoring the North promoter, it is up to the North promoter to take a student on board and to find other means to sponsor the students his/her additional expenses such as active conference participations and carrying out the research in his/her research unit.

# 6. Reporting

Quarterly (end of March, end of June, end of September and end of December) an update of the expenses is sent by the ICOS to both coordinators and to the PM. On yearly basis a scan of the invoices or receipts are sent by the ICOS to the PM.

Student progress report. After each stay in Belgium, a short update on the progress and work plan is prepared by the student, signed by the student’s promoter and sent to both coordinators, PM and ICOS.