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**Role for researchers in the Academic Advisory Committee -  
South Africa – Sweden University Forum**

The Academic Advisory Committees (AAC) consists of researchers from Sweden & South Africa. Each AAC is responsible for the academic content in their respective challenge:

1. Climate change, natural resources and sustainability
2. Transforming Higher Education Curricula: the nexus between academia and society
3. Social transformation through change: Knowledge and social development strategies for society
4. Understanding the burden of disease in Sweden and South Africa and its impact on the health systems of the two countries in the future
5. Urbanisation and cities in the 21st Century
6. Digital technologies, big data, and cybersecurity

The AAC:s will help the project in the execution of **South Africa – Sweden Research & Innovation Week, May 14-18 2018** (with a two day research seminar in Pretoria and surrounding activities across South Africa). In the activities during the week, researchers from both countries will attend together with representatives of university management, ministries and funding agencies.

**Main tasks for the AAC:**

1. Identify researchers/research groups to participate during the seminar week
   1. Encourage the participation of emerging researchers
2. Assist in the academic organization of the research seminar in Pretoria
   1. How should the challenge be addressed in a purposeful way (i.e. format of discussions, presentations, poster-sessions, group discussions, speed dating etc.)
3. Help identify & suggest the surrounding activities across South Africa
   1. Activities can take place across South Africa (Guest lectures, workshops, industry events, outreach (anything is possible)).
4. During & after the seminar week: lead the work of creating a road map for future collaboration in each challenge, for example:
   1. What can be done with existing resources? What can be done with the help of seed funding (for instance via grants from this project)? For what do we need more substantial funding? (This can then be presented to the funding agencies).

**Work process**

The position paper in each challenge offers a framework for the AAC. The AAC should meet (either via Skype or physically) at least once during the fall 2017, and at least twice in preparation for the seminar in Pretoria. The AAC:s should appoint one chair from each country who will make sure the agenda is moving forward.

**Frequently asked questions**

**Academic Advisory Committees**

* Members of the AAC are primarily representatives of their academic field. As such, they represent all universities in the project and not only their institution/research group. They help the project identify the most relevant researchers and methods for collaboration.
* Max. number of researchers in each AAC is eight, but other researchers can still be involved and consulted if there is a need for this.

**Research Seminars:**

* There is a limit to the number of researchers that can participate in the research seminars in each challenge. As a rule of thumb, there should not be more than one (or max two) researchers from the same university in each challenge
* Participants in the AAC are encouraged to participate in the activities during South Africa – Sweden Research & Innovation weeks.
* In case a member of the AAC is not able to attend the seminar, they should send a replacement