

SOUTH AFRICA – SWEDEN UNIVERSITY FORUM

Planning meeting, Pretoria – October 2-3 2017

Position paper for the first research seminar in Pretoria, XXX 2018

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| *Topic/Challenge Headline: Society, equality, poverty reduction**Social transformation through change: Knowledge and social development strategies for society* |
| *Description of challenge (The challenge should be relevant for both countries, approachable from an interdisciplinary perspective, relevant to industry, NGOs and/or surrounding society, linked to one or several of the 17 SDGs)** Challenges around STEM subjects for economic development.
* Universities operating in SILOs from societies surrounding them – need to reposition the relationship between communities and researchers, communities feel they are exploited by researchers and get nothing out of the deal.
* Weak ecosystems linking society, business, universities and government.
* Contribution of higher education to poverty alleviation.
* Lack of jobs after completion of studies.
* Access to schools and quality education.
* Adapt research methodologies to involve communities.
* Leadership programmes & tech transfer issues in societal context.
* Access to higher education, social & economic drivers.
* Decolonization of knowledge fields.
* Adapting tertiary programmes to address employment and skills opportunism.
* Participating of women in research – gender equality.
* Developing programmes & finding teachers for those programmes.
* Practicalities and sustainability of interactive platforms.
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| *Key research questions** How can universities contribute to societal and economic development?
* How can knowledge be democratised?
* How can equal rights in the public sphere be promoted?
* How can diversity in society be managed?
* How to equip communities with the tools to improve their quality of life.
* How can education curricula be adapted to societal needs to improve employability and skills development?
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| *Research areas/keywords** Social transformation
	+ Leadership
	+ Migration education
	+ Gender equality & empowerment
	+ Food security and nutrition
	+ Managing diversity in society, including integration, tolerance, migration
	+ Good governance
	+ Empowerment
	+ Access to land
	+ Water security
	+ Energy
	+ Clean air & pollution
* Knowledge, social development and change through transformation
	+ Social innovation, entrepreneurship and education
	+ Indigenous knowledge systems [decolonization]
* Equal rights in public spaces
	+ Gender
	+ Sexual orientation
	+ Race
	+ Xenophobia
	+ Personal security
	+ Innovation – building of structures
	+ Health system
	+ Reduce inequality
	+ Promote peaceful and inclusive society
	+ Accountable institutions at all levels
* Identity, power relations and peace building.
	+ Cooperative governance – traditional authorities & government
	+ Dealing with the co-existence of shared value systems
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| *Researchers in Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) (including Chair) (2 SE+ 2 SA)**1.* (chair) name/university: SA: Gideon de Wet (UNIZU).*2.* Swedish: Pär Svensson.*3.* Sweden: After consultation.*4*. SA: Christa Rautenbach (NWU)*Dates for next meeting AAC: To be decided*  |

Other:

* Special attention needs to be given to DHET that requires permanent employment of staff, especially in the case of post docs who normally do not have a permanent position at a University.
* Consider the possibility to fund cooperation ties to develop curricula, and to facilitate exchange of lecturers to teach subjects in those areas.

**DAY 2**

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| *Description of possible surrounding activities across South Africa (for instance, innovation & industry seminar, outreach activities, guest lectures, capacity development of young researchers, academic workshops etc.)*1. Alumni events to reach all individuals who had previous contact with Swedish Academic Institutions.
	* A type of roadshow - a core group should do outreach by visiting a few regions where interest is expressed
	* Align these visits with the theme groups
	* Link industry & researchers during these events (they can also become co-funders)
	* Bring students in contact with industries (UP, DUT & Swedish Trade & Chamber of Commerce) – provide a list of companies which can be contacted
	* UP (international office in collaboration with DUT & TUT) to link up with alumni offices of the Universities to send out the invitations
2. Workshop on how to do inter- and transdisciplinary research for both experienced and young researchers, focusing:
	* on proposal development
	* discipline specific language
	* how to do supervise these kind of studies.
	* Responsible university to be identified
3. Workshop on research methodology
	* Discipline specific language
	* How to do supervise these kind of studies.
	* Sampling
	* Using analytical tools
	* Instruments of data collections
	* Data analysis
	* Data interpretation
	* Involvement of subjects
	* Data presentation
	* Responsible university to be identified
4. Training seminar to how to engage with communities in a constructive way combined with community outreach
	* Development of training material by champion researchers to be identified
	* Training material to be added to the interactive platform
	* Identify communities
	* Plough back into community
	* Collaboration with NGOs
	* UNIZU – will arrange this together with a visit (Gideon de Wet)
5. Host a transformative, innovation & policy colloquium.
	* E.g. to deal with poverty, clothing, transport, etc.
	* TUT – will arrange this (Thandi Mgwebi)
6. Guest lectures – invite academics to help facilitate identified workshops.
7. Roundtable discussion to deliberate on institutionalising the objectives of the project – top level discussion?
	* Invite delegates of funding agencies to discuss how they foresee project & avenues to develop further collaboration between the participating countries.
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| *Please describe any ideas for how the interactive platform can be utilized in the surrounding activities:** To be used for the training materials & webseminars
* To provide information on project members, for e.g. to identify collaborators from both sides
* To post news on events, call for papers, programmes, etc.
* Invitation to guest lectures
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