

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. |
| *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? |
| *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 |
| *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. |
| *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 |