

Growth and Employment

March 20th 2012

Dear all,

This is an update of the activities and progress of the Growth & Employment Platform (GEP) since the previous newsletter sent November 24th 2011 and the update on assignment selection based on EoI's sent February 15th 2012.

Please feel free to circulate this mail to anyone relevant, not already on the list. And please let us know if you are interested in being added or removed from the list by sending an email to kesl@life.ku.dk.

EVENTS

[Dialogue meeting on Danish Development Aid](#) on Monday 26th March at 3.30 – 6.00 P.M. at Festsalen, University of Copenhagen, Frue Plads 4, 1168 Kbh. K. Please see our homepage under 'News and Upcoming Activities' for the advertisement. If you are in Jutland you can attend the meeting through Video conference at Projektrådgivningen, Klosterport 4A, 3. sal, 8000 Århus C, or you can participate directly online from your office (the meeting will be in Danish).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Below list of calls are open for proposals, the first three are mainly relevant for African applicants:

- [African Union Research Grants](#) – Deadline 20th April 2012.
- [Africa-wide 'Women and Young Professionals in Science' Competitions](#) – Deadline 14th May 2012
- [ERA-ARD Agricultural Research for Development](#) – Deadline 22nd May 2012
- [EU ACP EDULINK II 4th call](#) – Deadline 30th July 2012

GEP NEWS

Distribution of assignments within GEP

Based on incoming EoI's from the 2011 call and an assessment by the GEP coordinator, the Danish Steering Committee for GEP decided on distribution of assignments at their meeting on February 14th 2012. This was communicated to all applicants on February 15th 2012 and can be found at our homepage under 'News and Upcoming Activities'.

Shortly all assignment holders will get Contracts by the GEP Secretariat to be signed by the contract holder and their Head of Department. The contract serves as documentation towards Danida of co-financing from the involved Department. All contract holders are recommended to contact the relevant partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania, respectively – to start planning activities. Contact details on Platform Working Groups members at each partner university can be found on the homepage under 'Partners' and 'Platform Working Groups'.

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GEP Working Groups meetings at partner universities

All four GEP Platform Working Groups (PWG) has been holding their first joint meetings at the partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania, respectively. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the homepage from UDSM and KNUST. Minutes from SUA and UG will be uploaded as soon as they are ready.

PhD candidates for GEP scholarships (WP2)

Candidates have been screened at all four partner universities. At KNUST three out of four candidates was selected in the first round, two accepted. The remaining two was selected out three candidates in the second round. At SUA four was selected out of nine candidates in the first round. At UDSM two was selected in the first round out of seven and two are to be selected beginning of April. At UG one out of three candidates was selected in the first round, three to be selected beginning of May 2012.

A call for EoIs for Danish co-supervisors in connection with the 16 GEP PhD scholarships will be announced soon. Each co-supervisor will receive one month of salary from BSU and one travel to the students' country in this phase, plus 20 % overhead. Each co-supervisor must provide one month of staff time to supervision as co-financing according to the BSU agreement.

Research collaboration strengthening funds (WP3)

One of the items on the PWG meetings were the funds allocated under WP3 earmarked for joint research proposal writing and strengthening of North – South research collaboration. Modalities for how this money become operational are being discussed and call for joint proposals will be launched in the coming months.

Joint Financial Management workshop

The Platform for Human Health arranged a training workshop in financial management for accountants and project officers for all BSU partner universities in Africa. An East African workshop was implemented in February and a second workshop was implemented in Ghana in March 2012. This is an example of cross platform collaboration and was seen by the African partners as a good opportunity to meet across universities and platforms.

New BSU web portal to be launched in April 2012

The four BSU platforms have decided to jointly develop a web portal with a common Internet setup and a shared Intranet. The web portal will be hosted and serviced by University of Aarhus. The new portal and especially the Intranet should facilitate enhanced North – South and South – South dialogue and collaboration. In connection with the new web portal a new logo for BSU has also been developed.

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BSU NEWS

Danida has allocated additional 19 million DKK to BSU (2012 – 2014)

Danida has on the 2012 Financial Bill allocated an additional 19 million DKK to BSU primarily earmark to: *'...activities within communication and dissemination of research results targeted researcher in partner counties'*. The details are still to be elaborated. The funds have been made available by reducing the amount available for competitive research under Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU) in 2012. The use of these funds will follow the conditions stipulated in the agreement between Universities Denmark and Danida (between 50%/50% and 40%/60% North/South; full co-financing by the Danish universities of the Danish part of the budget and 20 % overhead).

The Rectors' Council of Universities Denmark has decided that the 19 million DKK for BSU should be distributed evenly between the four platforms.

The Interuniversity Working Group under the Rectors' Conference (Ulandsgruppen) met on March 7th 2012 with representatives from Danida before the ordinary Working Group meeting the same day. The Interuniversity Working Group recommended that BSU prepares a proposal to Danida on how the additional funds should be utilised with focus on joint activities and a lean application procedure.

Discussions on BSU phase II has started

The Interuniversity Working Group under the Rectors' Conference (Ulandsgruppen) at its meeting on March 7th 2012 had an initial discussion on the future focus and organisation and of BSU. The discussion was based on suggestions from the four platforms Danish Steering Committees. No conclusions was made and the Group asked the platform Chairmen and coordinators to discuss it and give joint recommendations.

Thank you to all of you for your support to GEP.

Kind regards

Carl (Calle) and Christian

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