

PLATFORM FOR STABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS

ROAD MAP: PREPARATORY PHASE

Objectives

The immediate objective is to strengthen capacity of partners in developing countries in relation to research-based education, research, and information dissemination.

Capacity strengthening

Capacity strengthening is considered to be an integral part of all scientific research and is seen as a mutual benefit that strengthens institutions in both North and South. Capacity strengthening in Platform for Stability, Democracy and Rights as in the Building Stronger Universities is understood as covering both staff development and institutional capacity strengthening in the fields of research, teaching, research dissemination and administration and is defined as the mutual benefit of partnerships between core partner universities in Denmark and South.

Partners

The partners in the initiative are primarily from specific Danida programme countries in Africa and Asia and from Denmark.

Partners are of two types: core or associated. The core partners are universities and research institutions. Entities who are not universities or research institutions, e.g. private firms and non-governmental organizations, can participate as associated partners.

All partners in the initiative have signed a Memorandum of Understanding thereby expressing their commitment to collaborate along the overall BSU objective, to strengthen universities in developing countries in taking on an important role in the economic, social and political development of the societies in which they are located; functioning as nodes of innovation and knowledge production, providing solutions to local/domestic and global challenges; and producing skilled and motivated graduates that can contribute to the further development of the societies and address the challenges faced.

Core partner identification

Platform core partners include the participating Danish Universities and universities in the South (or faculty, department) that is involved in long-term collaboration and capacity building.

The majority of the base funding of the platform will support activities involving core partners, thereby ensuring a long-term perspective.

Core partners in South are identified on the basis of the following criteria:

Table 1

Principle	Criterion	Rationale
Long-term sustainability	Existence of critical mass of researchers in DK to carry the collaboration forward	A critical mass of researchers in Danish universities is necessary in order to be able to contribute substantially to long-term capacity strengthening.
Overlap with Danida presence	University is located in current Danida partner country	The BSU initiative contributes to Denmark's development activities through strengthening of university capacity in LICs of high priority for DK
Excellence	Track record of group of researchers engaging in a given collaboration	BSU engages in an international scenario where South partners should choose those North partners who have an edge within the relevant fields. We need to ensure that we engage in fields and areas where we have such an edge.
Institutional commitment	Plans fit into strategic institutional plans	Political/institutional commitment in both North and South are essential to ensure long-term collaboration.
Local needs	Platform activities match identified local needs not covered (sufficiently) by other partnerships	Both generic (staff and institutional) and research-specific capacity building need to be demand-driven on the basis of established local needs. The platform will focus on those local needs that can be successfully addressed by the participating partners, taking the sum of existing capacities into account.
Strong research interests in one or more platform themes	Involved institutions in both North and South should have strong research interests in the themes covered by the Platform	Agreement on core research interests is important for long-term researcher commitment and scientific exchange.

Selection of core institutions in partner countries should take all the above criteria into account. Countries/institutions, where the criteria are only partially fulfilled and where there are substantial interests to include them as core institutions, may be considered for developmental and pilot activities over the initial two-year phase in order to prepare full implementation by 2013.

Core partners are defined as partners who engage in partnerships involving long-term staff and institutional capacity building. At the expected initial funding level, there can only be one core partner institution in

each partner country in south, whereas there can be a larger number of associated partners (universities and other research institutions) within and outside partner countries.

Core partners with research communities that have the expertise in the identified regions will deliver scientific and educational input, hence a substantial amount of work time for many years ahead in order for BSU to make a difference in terms of long-term and sustainable capacity building in core partnerships. It is clear that the vision of contributing to institutional capacity building will involve a very limited number of core partners. It is also clear from the mapping of the Danish research environment that only the East African and Asian regions currently have a resource base across Danish universities that qualify for this type of engagement, and that Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal qualify for all above-mentioned selection criteria and existing research groups are ready to engage. For the other two proposed regions, Southern and Western Africa, the existing ‘researcher volume’ to engage in substantial activities in specific core partner institutions within the stipulated timeframe is more limited and would benefit from time and support to mature and attract more researchers through e.g. development of new research proposals and other activities. Currently, Danish researchers are involved in ongoing or planned activities in countries such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe in Southern Africa and Mali, Niger, Ghana and Burkina Faso in West Africa, and the platform would consider adopting a network approach in these two regions prior to possible partnership with core partner institutions.

Below is a framework for gradual inclusion of the four regions.

Depending on capacity and funding levels, other regions could be considered later.

Core countries/institutions

Table 2

Region	Country	Core institution	Critical mass	Danida partner country	Plan
East Africa	Uganda	1	Yes	Yes	Start 2011
	Kenya	1	Yes	Yes	Start 2011
	Tanzania	1	Yes	Yes	Start 2011
Asia	Nepal	1	Yes	Yes	Start 2011
West Africa	Initially regional network		At regional level	Yes	Developed for 2013
Southern Africa	Initially regional network		At regional level	Yes	Developed for 2013

Tentative budget outline

All platforms are to develop a work plan which defines activities at three levels: a basic level within a budget of DKK 4M annually; activities for an additional budget level of DKK +3M (“level 1”, total of DKK 7M); and further activities for an additional budget level of DKK +3M (“level 2”, total of DKK 10M).

Below is an indicative budget framework that should help regional and thematic working groups to develop activities for the work plan. Based on an assessment of needs, priorities, feasibility and specific activities, the amounts will be adjusted in the final proposal.

Theme group activities indicate activities whose content is closely related to the subject matter of one of the three themes (Stability & Fragility; Gender equality; Freedom, Democracy & Rights).

Budgets for core partners allow for generic research capacity activities that are not limited to a particular research topic or project. However, often the two kinds of activities will work in synergy and benefit from each other. Generic activities will improve the conditions for successful research, and thematic activities will stimulate general research interests and demonstrate that research matters.

Thematic activities may include other institutions than core partners, i.e. associated partners.

Table 3

	Million DKK/year			
	Base funding	+Level 1	+Level 2	Total max.
Secretariat	1	-	-	1
East Africa Core partners (3 inst.)	2,25	0,75	-	3
Nepal (1 inst.)	-	1	-	1
West Africa (initially network)	-	0,25	1,5	1,75
Southern Africa (initially network)	-	0,25	1,5	1,75
Theme Stability & Fragility	0,25	0,25	-	0,5
Theme Gender Equality	0,25	0,25	-	0,5
Theme Freedom, Democracy & Rights	0,25	0,25	-	0,5
Grand total	4	3	3	10

Regional and thematic working groups

A regional working group is a group of researchers in Danish universities as well as from the region concerned that serve as a resource base for capacity development activities within the region.

While the main focus and funding will be allocated for generic capacity development (including e.g. research training, teaching, curriculum development, dissemination activities) in core partner universities, the regional network may also involve associated partners within the region.

Each regional working group will have a task force that is responsible for the planning and implementation of fact finding, capacity and needs assessment visits in the selected countries. In dialogue with the regional working group, the task force is ipse facto responsible for providing input for the overall platform work plan.

In addition to regional working groups, the platform will also fund thematic working groups. There are three thematic working groups in accordance with the associated Danida strategy: 1) Fragility and Stability; 2) Gender equality; and 3) Freedom, Democracy and Rights. Each thematic group can host sub-groups the

evolve around specific research topics. The research groups should include at least one core partner institution in South and may span different countries and regions. The activities of thematic working groups will typically focus on the specific research topics but will contribute to capacity building within these areas and in synergy with the generic capacity building activities of the regional working groups.

The synergy between regional and thematic working groups is pursued by ensuring necessary overlap and coordination between the two group types.

Country missions

Uganda: Week 40. Report available.

Planned country visits, other potential core countries:

Task force visit to Nepal: Week 48

Task force visit to Kenya: Week 48

Task force visit to Tanzania: Week 49

Workshop in DK 13-14 January 2010

A workshop will be held in Denmark on 13-14 January 2011 to take stock of the work of thematic and regional working groups and further develop the initiative. All Danish platform members and a number of representatives from South as well as additional resource persons and specific stakeholders will be invited. The workshop will combine scientific discussions and development of organization and planning.

Both thematic and regional working groups will deliver input for the workshops in the form of concept papers. See Annex 1 and 2 for concept paper format.

The organization committee for the workshop are: Anna Leander, CBS; Inger Lassen, AAU; Jens Seeberg, AU; and Pia M. Larsen, platform coordinator and contact person (etnpml@hum.au.dk, Tel +45 8942 9912).

The programme and other details concerning registration and venue etc. will be distributed in due course.

International Platform workshop

The workshop in Denmark will be followed by a workshop in Eastern Africa. This workshop will have several tracks that will combine to cover organizational issues, education and research activities, e.g. the scientific track will focus on the thematic areas viewed from different perspectives, development of research plans, etc. The international workshop will also finalize the input for the concept papers that will inform the development of the final work plan.

The programme and approach for this workshop will be developed further in dialogue with the working and South partners. The dates for the workshop are 10-12 March 2011.

Finalization of Work plan

The work plan will be finalized by the Steering Group on the basis of input from the regional and thematic working groups.

Depending on the need for detailed negotiations as well as decision-making processes among the participating core partners, it is envisioned that further meetings between representatives of the platform in North and South may be required.

Annex 1: Format for thematic concept papers

Each of the three thematic groups should write a draft concept paper to be presented at the workshop in Denmark on 13-14 January 2011, where it will be further developed for discussion and finalization at the planned workshop in East Africa in March 2011.

Each working group will appoint a main author who will be responsible for finalizing the concept paper following the workshop in East Africa in March 2011.

The objective of the concept paper is to give an outline of planned research-related activities under the theme. The final concept paper will feed into the overall platform work plan.

The final concept paper should contain the following sections:

- Introduction
- Background
- Research priorities, including North and South perspectives
- Existing research activities and potential for synergy and alignment with other groups/initiatives
- Existing capacities in North and South (an appendix should list ongoing research activities of relevance to the theme and indicate project responsible person, project title, involved institutions, funding and financial source)
- Linkages between the research theme and capacity building
- Project plan for 2011-12
 - Activities
 - Proposed budget for 2011 and 2012 at funding level 1 and 2, respectively
- Plans for external funding
- Visions for Phase 2 (2013-15)

The draft papers presented at the January workshop are not expected to address all issues in detail. They will focus on the perspectives among Danish research communities and will be kept open-ended for revision in dialogue with South partners, especially during the workshop in March 2011.

Annex 2: Format for regional concept papers

Each regional group should draft a concept paper to be presented at the workshop in Denmark on 13-14 January, where it will be further developed for discussion and finalization at the planned workshop in East Africa in March 2011.

Each working group will appoint a main author who will be responsible for finalizing the concept paper following the workshop in East Africa in March 2011

The objective of the concept paper is to provide description and rationale of generic capacity building activities with each specific core partner. The final concept paper will feed into the overall platform work plan. The concept papers will be based on the country task force reports for the potential core and associate institutions of each region.

Regional concept papers should as a minimum contain the following:

- Introduction
- Background
- Overview of university sector in core partner country/countries
- Strategic plans (including research and teaching priorities)
- Existing capacities in South and DK
- Identified needs
- Plan of activities
- Tentative budget
- Plans for external funding
- Visions for Phase 2 (2013-15)

The draft papers presented at the January workshop are not expected to address all issues in detail and they will be kept open-ended for revision in further dialogue with South partners, especially during the workshop in March 2011.

Annex 3: List of possible activities

Strengthened research capacities of members in partner countries (South)
Strengthening of research capacities within prioritized core fields
Pursuing new research agendas/frontiers
Undertaking multi-disciplinary research
Application of new (state-of-the-art) methods
Strengthening of publication profile (increased impact factor/H-factor of participating researchers, both North and South researchers)
Business and industry collaboration and involvement in research programmes
[more to be added]
Strengthened tertiary education of members in partner countries (South)
Curriculum development, new courses
Development of joint MSc programmes (South-South, South-North)
Enhanced student involvement
Quality control and accreditation of educations
E-learning
Didactics and innovative learning methods
Bringing research results into courses
Bringing innovation skills into courses/curriculums
[more to be added]
Strengthened dissemination and knowledge management skills of members in partner countries (South)
Strengthening of physical dissemination channels (web, publication series, newsletters)
Strengthening of universities' extension services (newsletter, training materials, guidelines, seminars, conferences, advisory services)
Strengthen universities' role in bringing research-based information in use by decision-makers ("myndighedsbetjening")
[more to be added]

Institutional capacity building

University management
Creation of university boards
Performance based management, and Performance Contracts
University leadership programmes
Development of institutional strategies and action plans
Financial planning, budgeting and monitoring
Human resource management
Public relations
Project management skills
Quality assurance and control mechanisms
Business and industry collaboration

Management of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
Student (BSc, MSc, PhD) Management systems
[more to be added]
Infrastructure
Buildings
Library and library services
Laboratories, equipment
IT-infrastructure
[more to be added]