



Appendix 1

Annual Report Form

Annual Reporting Form for Platforms under the Building Stronger Universities programme.

For the year:

1	Project	
	Name of Platform	Platform on Stability, Democracy and Rights
2	Institution	
	Name	Aarhus University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Culture and Language
	Project Coordinator	
	Name	Lene Marie Andreassen
	Address	Jens Chr. Skous Vej 7, DK-8000 Århus C
	E-mail	etnolma@hum.au.dk
4	Time Frame	
	Project period (approved start and end date)	August 1 st 2011 – July 31 st 2013
	Extension of project period, if any	July 31 st -December 31 st 2013
5	Annual Expenditure	
	Original Annual Budget	2.513,865 DKK
	Actual annual expenses (must correspond with the Annual Accounts)	
	Explanation of deviations from the original budget.	<p>Additional activities (“soft landing” activities) were conducted at Tribhuvan University in the extended project period in agreement with DKUNI and Danida.</p> <p>Implementation has in some cases been slower than planned because of a) inadequate and slow communication between North and South Partners b) incentive structures among researchers from the North and the South.</p>
6	Progress of the Project during the Year	
a	Describe the progress made towards the fulfilment of the approved objectives	<p>In general, there has been good progress towards the fulfilment of the following objectives.</p> <p><u>Strengthening institutional research capacity at South Universities within the areas of Stability, democracy and Rights</u></p> <p>Twelve academic staff members from partner universities (5 from Gulu, 2 from TU and 5 from Maseno) came to Denmark on a short term study stay in the spring of 2013. The visitors were assigned hosts at AAU, AU, RUC and SDU. The visiting scholars took part in a number of activities at the host universities as well as joint conference held at AU in May 2013. The study stays were very beneficial, as they created strong institutional links between universities and personal ties between visiting scholars</p>

and hosts.

At TU the last of a series of Research methodology workshops to develop research capacity in the faculties was held in 2013. The participants are now being used as resource persons in the campuses.

At Gulu University a Research Methodology Workshop was held in April 2013. In addition, three courses on core concepts of research were developed and implemented - an academic Writing course, a Social science workshop and a legal pluralism course

All the 6 Small scale research grants awarded at TU were completed in 2013. The researchers shared their experiences and the study results with the other faculties in the respective campuses.

At Gulu University 5 small scale research projects were completed in 2013.

At Maseno University only one small scale research was completed, however, it resulted in participation in an election workshop in Nairobi and a jointly written article submitted to the peer-reviewed Journal of Modern African Studies in August 2013

Strengthening institutional capacity in the area of research-based education at South universities within the areas of Stability, democracy and Rights

All of the nine PhD scholarships planned in phase I (three at each partner university) were initiated and they are progressing as planned. Five of the PhD students have been in Denmark on a study stay at the university of their Danish supervisor.

In addition to the PhD scholarships, six MPhil grants for staff were initiated at TU. It is expected this will lead to an improvement in applications for PhD grants in future. The MPhils will all finish in 2014.

A PhD forum workshop held at Maseno University attracted 80 participants. The forum offered graduate students undertaking PhD and Masters an opportunity to update their knowledge and skills, while promoting the exchange of ideas. Discussions on development of best practices for PhD supervision were initiated

An Academic Writing Workshop was successfully conducted at Maseno University to strengthen the participants (19) in the area of research dissemination with the capacity to produce academic publications.

A workshop was held to develop the gender studies curriculum and hence strengthen gender studies at Maseno University. The curriculum was finalized and awaits Maseno University Senate approval.

Gulu University held 3 workshops to develop peer-based education approaches.

Strengthening institutional capacity in the area of research dissemination at South within the areas of Stability, democracy and Rights

A workshop on Writing and Publication was successfully held at Gulu University.

Project Coordination

Platform activities have been effectively and efficiently managed and coordinated. Collaboration between all the involved partners (coordinators, chairmen etc.) has worked reasonably well, despite some of the disruptive effects of the restructuring of the BSU programme.

The following additional activities were implemented:

- An Academic Writing Workshop was conducted at Tribhuvan University, Nepal, in October 2013.
- A group of six visitors from Tribhuvan University came to Denmark in December to study PhD schools and structured doctoral training.

		The development of PhD schools at TU was planned for BSU phase II. Despite TUs exit from the BSU programme, the university will use the inspiration from the visit to DK to initiate a restructuring of its PhD programmes in 2014.
b	Describe the progress made in reaching the outputs/results	Please see under a) For more details refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of project achievements annexed to the BSU Phase 1 Completion Report • Activity Completion Reports: http://bsusdr.org/
c	Describe the progress in terms of institutional and research capacity building	BSU has contributed greatly in terms of institutional and research capacity building at all three partner universities, as documented by the positive feedback. For example, it was mentioned that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PhD scholarships funded by BSU will help the universities tackle the challenges of replacing retiring academic staff with highly qualified PhD holders. • The exposure to the organization of PhD schools in Denmark will be used as a basis for restructuring the PhD programme at TU.
d	Describe the status of the project management and partnership	The partnership between the various participating institutions has been successful and it would most likely have become even stronger if it had continued under BSU phase 2.
e	Describe the progress made of the communication activities during the year	Communication was acknowledged early on as a high priority area. As a result of that BSU was awarded a communication grant in 2013 and AU decided to co-finance a communication officer to the PSDR platform from May 2013 and onwards. However, the restructuring of BSU and the phasing out of the platforms had a negative impact on the communication activities. For example, a planned e-learning workshop at Maseno University was planned and cancelled twice.
7	Substantive Changes	
	Have any of the responsible persons been changed? If so, please list the changes, the actions taken and consequences.	There have been no changes during the year among the Southern partnerships. A new Platform Coordinator and Communication Officer started work at the PSDR platform secretariat in May 2013.
	List any new factors possibly affecting the achievement of the objectives in the future and describe how the project will address them.	N/A
8	Statements and Permits	
	Affirm that the required research permits, approvals and authorizations were in place before the start of the activities. List any new approvals/ authorizations obtained during the year and explain the status for any documents still not obtained.	All SDR partner universities have permission to carry out research. However, Gulu University has had a challenge regarding clearance of small scale research projects. The Institutional Review Committee (IRC) under the National Council for Science and technology is responsible for clearance, which has been a time-consuming process.
9	Lessons learnt	
	Describe lessons learnt, including positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It takes time to build up partnerships and develop well-functioning systems and procedures. Ideally this type of collaboration should

	<p>experiences or solutions of interest for other projects.</p>	<p>therefore have a long term perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unexpected disapproval of the BSU phase II application and the restructure of the BSU programme created some confusion and disruption of planned activities. Despite that it was possible to arrange additional activities at Tribhuvan University in the extension phase: An Academic Writing Workshop in October 2013 and a visit by TU staff to Aarhus University to study PhD schools in December 2013. • A minimum quota for female participants in activities is OK, but it can be difficult to meet the target, e.g. in Nepal where there are only few female university staff members. • Exposure visits to the partner institutions in Denmark are very beneficial. One of conditions for making institutional reform possible is to convince decision makers that reforms are taking place in other parts of the world and to give them exposure to good practices. For example, the faculties of TU have been getting very little international exposure and hence the new generations are mostly unaware about the higher education arena outside the country.
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Attachments:

1. List of publications, proceedings etc. produced by the project during the year, with possible links.
2. Overview of the progress of the PhD educations within the project

The Project Coordinator and the institution herewith confirm that the information given in the annual report is correct:

Date: _____ **Printed name:** _____ **Signature:** _____
 (Project coordinator)

Date: _____ **Printed name:** _____ **Signature:** _____
 (Head of Institution/Chairperson of Steering Committee)