

Pre-announcement of 'Call for proposals for institutional capacity packages for BSU Phase 2'

The BSU Platforms on *Environment & Climate* and *Growth & Employment* are preparing a 'Call for proposals for institutional capacity packages for BSU Phase 2 (August 2013 – July 2015)'.

The 'Call for proposals' will be announced 1st February 2013 with deadline **1st March 2013**.

We encourage all partners from our four BSU universities in Ghana (KNUST and UG) and Tanzania (SUA and UDSM), and Danish Universities to initiate contact and joint development of ideas in order to prepare for the upcoming call.

All proposals must fall within the *Environment & Climate* and *Growth & Employment* subject areas and must focus on institutional capacity building, see 'Conditions for proposals' below.

All applications will be reviewed by independent experts. Final decision on which applications to be taken forward will be made by the Danish Steering Committees after consultation of the respective Platform Working Groups (PWGs) at KNUST, UG, UDSM and SUA.

A template for the proposal and the evaluation criteria will be announced concurrently with the 'Call for proposals' on 1st February after consultations between the Platform Working Groups and Danish Steering Committees in January 2012.

The time-line for the process is as follows:

| Timing | Activity |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 th December 2012 | Pre-announcement of 'Call for proposals' |
| 20 th January – 1 st February 2013 | Platform Working Group Meetings at SUA, UDSM, KNUST & UG. Decision on template for proposal and evaluation criteria |
| 1 st February 2013 | Call for proposals launched |
| 1 st March 2013 | Deadline for submission of proposals |
| 1 st -7 th March 2013 | Review by independent experts |
| 7 th – 10 th March 2013 | Final decision on proposals by the Danish Steering Committees upon consultation of the Platform Working Groups |
| 10 th - 17 th March 2013 | Time set aside for revision of considered proposals based on recommendations from the review, if required |
| 18 th – 31 th March 2013 | Compilation of full platform proposals |
| 2nd April 2013 | Platform proposals submitted to Universities Denmark |

Conditions for Proposals (short-version):

- 1) *Eligible applicants.* Only proposals developed **jointly** by BSUEC and GEP Ghanaian/ Tanzanian and Danish partners are eligible for funding. Only proposals that include at least one BSUEC/GEP Partner University in Ghana (KNUST, UG) or in Tanzania (SUA, UDASM) and at least one university in Denmark (AAU, AU, CBS, DTU, KU, RUC, SDU) are eligible for funding. Other institutions, i.e. not EC/GEP partner universities, may be involved in the proposal within the budget limit of the GEP/EC African partner university.
- 2) Each proposal **must have a Principal Investigator (PI) from one of the Ghanaian/Tanzanian partner university and a PI from a Danish university.** A PI can only submit one application but is welcome to participate in other proposals. The two PIs will be responsible for implementation, administration and reporting.
- 3) Budget. The budget limit per proposal is 1 million DKK per partner. Budgets are to be divided into separate shares of 55% for African partners and 45 % for Danish partners in the first year and 60 % for African partners and 40 % for Danish partners in the second year, according to the agreement between DANIDA and Universities Denmark. Budget must operate with 7 % overhead for African universities and 20 % overhead for Danish universities. The BSUEC and GEP Platforms expect to award in total around 20 comprehensive packages of 1 million DKK each.
- 4) Proposals must be within the 'Environment & Climate' or 'Growth and Employments' **scientific priority areas:**

| Environment and Climate <i>scientific priority areas</i> | Growth and Employments <i>scientific priority areas</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sustainable land use and management | Management and Leadership |
| Sustainable water use and management | Development Economics |
| Energy and water in rural and urban linkages | Agriculture and Agribusiness |
| Climate change | |
| Sustainable innovations and planning | |

Projects are allowed to cover more than one priority area, including across the two platforms.

- 5) Consistent with the objectives of the BSU initiative, proposals must focus on **institutional capacity strengthening** of the partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania:
 - Strengthening of capacity to conduct high quality scientific research of relevance to society
 - Strengthening of capacity to offer high quality educations of relevance to society
 - Strengthening of outreach and communication capacity of relevance to society

The evaluation will give priority to proposals that integrate two or more focus areas.

6) The following list provides inspiration for what could be considered as activities under each of these three headings (“**building blocks**”):

A. Strengthening of capacity to conduct high quality scientific research of relevance to society:

- Scholarships (PhDs and Post Docs) at South partner universities
- Support to MSc thesis work of students of South partner universities
- PhD course development and implementation
- Research networking
- Staff exchange (research visits)
- Staff upgrading activities
- Small pilot research activities
- Joint fundraising activities (proposal writing)

B. Strengthening of capacity to offer high quality educations of relevance to society:

- Curriculum development
- Updating learning paradigm (e.g. towards more problem-based learning, experiential learning, and a like) including readjustment of examination format to updated learning paradigm
- Increase use of ICT in the teaching (e.g. blended and E-learning)
- Develop teaching material based on African cases and research to increased local relevance of education
- Introduction of field visits and internships
- Introduction of external educational advisory panels
- Increase student mobility
- Accreditation

C. Strengthening of outreach and communication capacity of relevance to society:

- Knowledge networks
- Community engagement
- Policy briefs
- School book development
- Use of mass media and social media