



BSUEC NEWSLETTER – October 2012

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This newsletter is a supplement to the running news found at www.bsuec.org. It includes a combined overview of activities and progress of the BSU Environment & Climate Platform since the previous newsletter and announcement of 12th June 2012. Danish BSUEC assignment holders – *please pay special attention to the upcoming joint BSU workshop on 12-13 Nov 2012 in Copenhagen and Aarhus.*

NEW BSUEC PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO DANIDA OCT 2012

The BSUEC platform successfully submitted its proposal for the additional 19 mill. DKK grant to DANIDA on October 5 2012. Focus is on capacity building within research communication, dissemination and networking. The project period is 1 January 2013 – 31 July 2015.

Read full proposal: [BSU 19 mill.](#)

The project will be implemented through the current BSU platform structures under Universities Denmark and with equal total budgets (4.75 mill. DKK) for the four thematic platforms. Project conditions are similar to those of the current BSU Phase 1 regarding co-funding and overhead (20% DK, 7% South). However, the South/North distribution of the total budget will be 55/45 compared to the current 50/50 of Phase 1. The project will be reported separately.

The proposal is the result of a close dialogue between South and Danish BSU partners. During spring 2012 our South partners were requested to identify specific needs within the areas of communication and dissemination of research. In addition, bilateral meetings were held and online communication at platform level and across platforms was undertaken during an Executive BSU Workshop held in August 2012 (see below).

EXECUTIVE BSU WORKSHOP HELD IN AUG 2012



For the very first time lead BSU representatives from south partner countries (Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Nepal) and Denmark were assembled under the same roof!



BSU EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP HELD IN AUG 2012 (continued)

The setting was an Executive BSU Workshop targeted at formulating crosscutting BSU activities within the framework of the 19 mill. DKK grant and future phases.

The workshop was held at Hotel Comwell Roskilde, Denmark, 27-29 August 2012.

It was opened by the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation, Christian Friis Bach, and the chair of Universities Denmark's Rectors' Conference, Jens Oddershede.

Briefly, the overall objective was to create a common understanding of institutional capacity building within BSU in general, and to develop ideas for specific activities within six thematic focal areas identified in the initial dialogue during spring 2012. The six thematic focal areas are: E-learning; Fundraising; Outreach Strategies; PhD Systems; Problem-Based Learning and Research Networks.

Further information is found at: [Executive BSU Workshop Aug 2012.](#)



Highlights from the BSU Workshop held in Denmark Aug 2012

TOUR TO DANISH UNIVERSITIES AUG-SEPT 2012

Succeeding the BSU Executive Workshop, from 29 Aug - 3 Sept 2012, African lead representatives of the BSU Platforms on Environment & Climate and Growth & Employment visited RUC, KU, AU, AAU, SDU, DTU and CBS.

The tour aimed at providing an introduction to Danish Universities in general. Special focus was directed at the structuring of MSc and PhD Degree Programmes in Denmark and to obtain insight into ongoing international initiatives at Danish Universities. As spin-off, our African representatives teamed up with Danish BSUEC and GE assignment holders during the visits, which were arranged by the individual universities and coordinated by the secretariats of the BSU EC and GE platforms.



Further information at: [BSUEC & BSUGE Round Tour Aug 2012.](#)



Platform Working Group members visiting Aarhus University and Roskilde University during the BSUEC and BSUEGE Round Tour to Danish Universities Aug-Sept 2012.

BSUEC PHASE-1 ACTIVITIES AT FULL SPEED

Our BSUEC activities are running at full speed! All activities are now well backed by joint teams of researchers from our four partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania, respectively, and Danish Universities. Our BSUEC teams are currently planning activities and setting dates for the execution of courses and workshops, the majority of which will expectedly be held during spring 2013. Our PhD students have teamed up with their African and Danish supervisors and together they are busy elaborating detailed project descriptions and timetables for their PhD projects. For details, see our webpage:

<http://bsuec.org/activities/>

Special attention! BSUEC Assignment holders are kindly asked to remember to send updates to the BSUEC Secretariat (mail to: sla@dmu.dk) on the progress of your activities, dates for courses/workshops and final programmes relevant for upload at our website. Sharing information and updating fellow BSU partners on current BSUEC activities have high priority in our platform. It is an essential precondition for optimizing the transparency and dissemination of activities.

BSUEC HALF-YEARLY REPORT SUBMITTED TO UNIVERSITIES DENMARK SEPT 2012

BSUEC has successfully submitted its half-yearly narrative report to the Secretariat of Universities Denmark September 15, 2012. The report highlights BSUEC main platform activities conducted during the first half year of 2012 and describes key challenges to implementation and collaboration.

In conclusion, we are confident that our goals will be reached by summer 2013. The implementation of BSUEC Phase 1 activities is in full progress. Valuable networks and partnerships between Danish and African researchers have already been established and important lessons have been learnt on an almost daily basis and are considered and incorporated by the platform managers on an ongoing basis.

Read full report: [BSUEC Half-yearly Report 2012](#)



PLANNING OF BSU PHASE 2 (2013-2015)

The initial steps towards preparing for BSU Phase 2 are now being taken – despite the fact that we have just entered the implementation stage of BSU Phase 1! Yet, as inclusion of our many stakeholders is of uttermost importance to us and experience has taught us that consensus decision making regarding activities is a time-consuming process, we see the need to get started. Thus, additional meetings between lead BSUEC representatives were held during the BSU Executive Workshop in August, and a Danish Steering Committee meeting is in the pipeline for Oct/Nov 2012. In addition, we are currently examining the possibilities of arranging meetings with our Platform Working Group (PWG) at the four partner universities in Ghana and Tanzania in early 2013 (week 4-5) together with the Platform on Growth & Employment.

UPCOMING EVENTS – WORKSHOP TARGETED AT DANISH BSU ASSIGNMENTHOLDERS

Danish BSUEC assignment holders in BSU Phase 1 are hereby invited to an informal BSU Workshop organized by the BSU coordinators across platforms!

The aim of the workshop is to inform and update about BSU activities and provide further clarification of our assignment conditions as well as sharing ideas and experiences. Workshops will be held at both University of Copenhagen on 12th Nov and at Aarhus University on 13th Nov. 2012.

TENTATIVE programme:

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and round of presentation by participants (chair)
10:10 – 10:30	Brief presentation and update on key activities on each BSU platform (coordinators)
10:30 – 11:00	Group discussions - Assignment level (PhD co-supervision & PhD short courses)
11:00 – 11:15	Plenum discussion on issues raised within each group (chair)
11:15 – 11:45	Group discussions - Country level (Ghana/Tanzania/Uganda/Kenya/Nepal)
11:45 – 12:00	Plenum discussion on issues raised within each group (chair)
12:00 – 12:30	Break and Networking (refreshments to be served)
12:30 – 13:00	'How to do institution capacity building?' (invited speaker)
13:00 – 13:05	Closing words (chair)

Registration on: <http://www.doodle.com/a5w7dt4ugq2q5r8v>

Deadline: October 17, 2012

DANIDA 2013 (FFU) call for proposal is open now!

Within the framework of Danish development cooperation, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs invites Phase 1 applications (prequalification) for research grants related to development research.

Read more on: http://www.dfcentre.com/?Research_Projects:Call_for_Applications_2013

The Themes of Call for Phase Applications (Prequalification) 2013:

- Theme 1: Governance in fragile and unstable environments
- Theme 2: Green economy, inclusive growth and employment
- Theme 3: Rights to natural resources

Deadline for the submission of Phase 1 applications: November 16, 2012, 12 noon



CLOSING WORDS

Many of you may have experienced receiving an autoreply to e-mail enquiries to the BSUEC Secretariat. For your information, I am presently on leave of absence part time to care for my mother, who suddenly a few months ago was diagnosed with terminal cancer. She has a strong wish to spend her last days at home – a wish that I want to fulfill and a wish requiring extra time and effort for special personal care and nursing. Therefore, you may experience a delay in my response time in the upcoming weeks. I deeply appreciate your patience and understanding. Thank you.

Kindly let me know, if you are interested in being added to or removed from our e-mailing list.

You are very welcome to forward this Newsletter to colleagues not included in the current BSUEC mailing list.



Best wishes for a happy autumn,
Susanne Lildal Amsinck

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