

Danish Development Research Network

Terms of Reference

Review of Institutional Framework in Selected European Countries for Strategic Collaboration on Higher Education and Research for Development

1. Background

During the period of the late 1990s and the early 2000s five research networks funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) were created. Since the merger of three of these networks (ReNED; GEPPA and NETARD) in 2007 into Danish Development Research Network (DDRN), important experiences have been gained on the challenges of establishing research cooperation between North and South. Also, major events such as the International Workshop on Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research on a Global Scale 17-18 May 2005 at the Niels Bohr Institute, and the Hearing on Internationalization of Education 30 August 2006 in the Danish Parliament, have raised important issues related to current North-South relations and developments in the global economy. Recently, policy initiatives have been launched by the Danish Rectors' Council and by DANIDA in dialogue with Danish universities. The Danish universities are in a process of reflections and development of strategic plans for North-South collaboration on higher education and research for development. Besides, DANIDA has introduced - on a pilot project basis - a new scheme of research cooperation giving priority to demand-driven needs of South partners. Also the Africa Commission recommends increased support to post primary education.

The Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) expects to launch a second phase of operation later this year. It is envisaged that extended cooperation with similar European organisations will be a permanent feature of the operation of the network. At the same time, processes of globalization involve rapidly changing patterns and policies of collaboration on higher education and research between industrialized and developing countries. Thus, there is a need to take stock of past experiences and to clarify options for future interventions. The 'Review of Institutional Framework in Selected European Countries for Strategic Collaboration on Higher Education and Research for Development' will provide an important input to these discussions by synthesizing and documenting the most successful arrangements in Europe. Parallel to this, DDRN is funding an overview of ENRECA projects (Danida funded research capacity building collaboration projects) including project management challenges and opportunities.

Both overviews will be presented at a DDRN conference 'Strategic Collaboration on Higher Education and Research for Development', which will take place at University of Aarhus, Denmark on May 25-26, 2009. A subsequent conference with a South perspective will take place at Makerere University in Uganda probably later this year.

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2. Purpose and objectives

The purpose of this consultancy is

- To provide a knowledge base on the institutional framework in selected European countries of strategic collaboration on higher education and research for development, so we in Denmark can supplement our strategies and recommendations with experience from other European countries
- To synthesize presentations and discussions during the above-mentioned conference.

The specific objectives of the consultancy are:

- To profile potential partner organisations in Europe
- To document lessons learnt and future plans of these organisations
- To document strategies and modalities for collaboration on higher education and research for development between North and South, relevant to discussions in a Danish context
- To prepare the documentation (presentations and reports from rapporteurs of plenary and group work sessions) for publication from the Northern DDRN conference on strategic collaboration on higher education and research for development.

3. Output

- A review report in English (max. 40 pages plus annexes) based upon a desk study of available documents and articles, and telephone interviews
- An edited manuscript in English ready for publication from the conference on strategic collaboration on higher education and research for development.

4. Methodology

The main steps in developing the review and the published report are as follows:

A cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary advisory committee will be formed by the Board of DDRN to assist in defining criteria of relevance, the applied methodology, and in the review process.

- **Selection of organisations in European countries to be covered in the review**
Relevant organisations will be selected in collaboration between the consultant and the advisory committee.
- **Collection of available documentation**
Sourcing available materials from websites of the selected organisations, from libraries and from Danish resource persons in DANIDA, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Education, Danish universities a.o.
- **Identification of respondents in selected organisations for interview**
Members of the board of the selected organisations, managerial staff, and staff members

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working in the field are identified and contacted for appointment by telephone.

- **Interview guide development**
Drawing on preliminary analysis of the collected documentation, key issues for interviewing are identified and phrased as in the format of an interview guide.
- **Analysis of documentation and interviews conducted**
A detailed review of the data collected is conducted to organise the findings according to key issues and to allow for a comparison between the selected organisations.
- **Formatting of presentation of results**
A format is developed to allow a clear and readable presentation in printed and electronic media encouraging discussions.
- **An outline** of the review report is presented to the DDRN Secretariat and the Advisory Committee for comments.
- **Draft review developed and discussed**
Drafts in printed and electronic format are submitted to the advisory committee for comments and suggestions.
- **Publication writing**
Final versions of the review report in printed and electronic format is completed and proofread.
- **Presentation**
The final review report is presented orally during the conference on strategic collaboration on higher education and research for development.
- **Synthesis of conference proceedings**
Documentation of presentations and reports from rapporteurs of plenary and group work sessions from the Northern conference on strategic collaboration on higher education and research for development will be edited in the format of manuscript ready for publication.
- **Draft manuscript developed and discussed**
Draft manuscript in electronic format is submitted to the advisory committee for comments and suggestions.
- **Publication writing**
Final version of the manuscript in printed and electronic format is completed and proofread.

The assignment will be carried out in close collaboration with the secretariat of DDRN and guided by the advisory committee.

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5. Reporting and deadlines

- **20 March 2009** – Deadline for submission of expressions of interest
- **2 April 2009** - The consultant will present a proposed work plan, including outline of the review and conference publication, to the cross-institutional advisory committee
- **30 April 2009** - First draft of the review publication (in English) submitted to DDRN for comments
- **10 May 2009** - Final draft will be submitted to DDRN
- **15 May 2009** - Final review publication submitted to DDRN
- **10 June 2009** - First draft of the conference publication (in English) submitted to DDRN for comments
- **15 June 2009** - Final draft of the conference publication will be submitted to DDRN
- **20 June 2009** - Final conference publication submitted to DDRN

The consultant will be expected to attend the conference in Aarhus on 25-26 May 2009, where the report will be presented by the consultant and discussed by the participants.

It should be noted that all rights to the written products and presentations of this assignment are reserved for DDRN. However, the consultant is free to use the data collected during the consultancy in his/her scientific work, including scientific publications. In case of direct employment by DDRN, the network should be referred to as alternative employer. In case of a consultancy contract between DDRN and the consultant, appreciation should be shown to DDRN for the financial support rendered.

6. Duration

The assignment will involve one and a half person months of work and be carried out during the period March 2009 – June 2009

Expressions of interest with curriculum vitae and proposed budget should be submitted by email no later than March 20, 2009 to:

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