

SANORD conference 2009: "Inclusion and Exclusion in Higher Education" Rhodes University December 7 - 9, 2009.

Parallel session on Strategic Collaboration on Higher Education and Research for Development under the theme: PARTICIPATING IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

Organisers: Danish SANORD member universities and DDRN

Background

The global context for international collaboration on Research and Development is rapidly changing. It is no longer easy to confine problems associated with e.g. environmental degradation, migration and climate changes to the developing countries. These problems affect people worldwide. Research and higher education are increasingly being recognised by policy makers as key ingredients for achieving sustainable development and development research funding agencies grapple with developing a suitable framework of targets and attached methods that are conducive and adaptive to change.

The policy framework of Research and Development in European and Scandinavian countries is also changing, and increased emphasis is put on international collaboration and coordination, strategic partnerships, innovation, local ownership (alignment) and demand orientation. In recent years there has been a shift in Danish support to Research and Development from long-term university-to-university North-South partnership projects with a focus on capacity building of institutions, to larger strategic partnership projects with in-built capacity building and involving multiple partners and institutions. These changes in the policy framework of Higher Education and Research in many countries and the global context for international cooperation open up new opportunities for universities and the research community in terms of agenda setting and putting knowledge into use, but it also challenges the traditional thinking and conceptual framework of development cooperation, which builds on the divide between the North and the South.

- What are the trends internationally with regard to strategic collaboration on Higher Education and Research? What do the challenges look like from the perspective of Southern Africa/Scandinavia?
- Which types of collaboration among Northern and Southern universities and institutions do we need to address these challenges?
- What can we learn from our own experiences with partnerships and higher education for development?
- How does one fight polarization between winners or losers in the global competition for sharp minds and money flows?
- How do universities ensure access to global commons of knowledge, networks and opportunities - also in the recent economic crisis?
- Which strategies do SANORD member universities and cross-institutional networks apply to help policy makers in their design of international higher education and research collaboration policies? How do we convince policy makers that by investing in knowledge of young women and men they would get an asset that could boost economic development?

In order to address the challenges and questions raised above Danish SANORD member institutions: University of Aarhus, University of Southern Denmark, and University of Aalborg (applying member) together with the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN), is suggesting to organize a parallel session on Strategic Collaboration on Higher Education and Research for Development under Theme PARTICIPATING IN A GLOBALISED WORLD at the 2009 SANORD Conference.

Purpose, objectives and expected results

The main purpose of this session is to highlight and discuss the opportunities and challenges faced by SANORD member institutions' participation in a globalised world with a view to contributing to developing the conceptual and strategic framework for North-South collaboration and boosting economic development in Africa.

The session has the following specific objectives:

- To reflect on current trends in collaboration on higher education and research for development.
- To enhance the dialogue and the knowledge exchange between the SANORD member universities.
- To contribute to developing new strategies and modalities in collaboration on higher education and research for development.

Target audience

The session targets SANORD members, researchers, representatives of higher education institutions, and other key actors on the research and development scene who will be signing up for participation in the SANORD conference 2009 and with special interest in the theme PARTICIPATING IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

The session will be facilitated by DDRN and Danish universities who are members of SANORD.

December 8 or 9, 2009 (one session 1 ½ hour)	
Time	Topic
	Registration of participants & coffee
	Introduction by Danish Universities and DDRN
1 hour	<p>Session 1: Key drivers and challenges in strategic collaboration on Higher Education and Research in development</p> <p>Paper 1: 'Trends in internationalization of higher education and their significance for development in the South - Migration, brain drain, brain circulation, North universities going South' <i>Presentation by Arne Carlsen, University of Århus/DPU</i> Q&A</p> <p>Paper 2: 'Drivers and Challenges in Collaboration on Higher Education – perspectives from the South University', University of Cape Town, South Africa (tbc) Q&A</p> <p>Paper 3: 'Strategic Collaboration on Research for Development and Higher Education - A Review of Institutional Frameworks and current thinking' <i>Presentation by DDRN</i> Q&A</p>
½ hour	Discussion (moderated by DDRN)