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Research Support Office

Regional Study:

Stockholm University Collaboration with African Institutions of Higher Education

Research Support Office

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Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. RESEARCH COLLABORATION	7
RESEARCH PROJECTS	8
CO-PUBLICATION BETWEEN SU AND AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES.....	8
CIVIS – EUROPEAN CIVIC UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE.....	9
KI AND KTH.....	10
3. EXAMPLES OF SU-INITIATIVES IN THE REGION	11
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER AND SYSTEMS SCIENCES, DSV	11
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION, MND	12
STOCKHOLM RESILIENCE CENTRE, SRC	13
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.....	14
4. STUDENT MOBILITY, STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ALUMNI	14
EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS AT DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL.....	14
NEW AGREEMENTS AT DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL	15
CENTRAL AGREEMENTS	16
MINOR FIELD STUDIES	16
STUDENT RECRUITMENT.....	17
SCHOLARSHIPS	19
ALUMNI.....	20
5. EXTERNAL ACTORS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION	21
RESEARCH FUNDING BODIES	21
SWEDISH AUTHORITIES.....	24
BUSINESS SWEDEN	26
EU	28
6. REGIONAL COLLABORATION	31
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION	32
HIGHER EDUCATION	33



7. RANKING LISTS AND OTHER REPORTS OF RELEVANCE..... 34

 THE HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY NETWORK IN AFRICA 35

 THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBILITY 32

8. FINAL REMARKS..... 36



1. INTRODUCTION

Stockholm University (SU) carries out its work in the global research and education arena, offering an international academic environment. In its internationalisation ambitions, SU aspires to base its activities on existing research collaboration and student exchange agreements. Increasing the visibility and the good reputation of the university globally is of great importance. Sustainable development is a central issue for SU. This is in accordance with the global goals of the UN as expressed in the Sustainable Goals 2030 Agenda and in the UN resolution in order to eradicate poverty and hunger, promote good health and education, increase parity and equality and to further peace and sustainable growth. SU has a wide range of education and research activities relating to the 2030 Agenda which can contribute to reaching the global goals in the academic areas of both Science and Human Science. The important role played by SU in the work on sustainability is also clearly expressed in the Stockholm University strategies for the years 2019-2022. This document repeatedly underlines the importance of working with sustainable development.

SU aims at strengthening its global commitment, e.g. through research collaborations with emerging countries and countries with strong growth potential. These enforced ambitions have been formulated in the new long-term plan for internationalisation - Global Engagement.¹ Activity-based work requires data providing the university leadership with the necessary support for their decisions on strategic matters. In 2017 a Regional Study on Latin America was carried out to provide the basis for decisions on how the university can develop its relations with the region in the areas of research, education and collaboration including recruitment. The study gives an overview of universities in Latin America and of collaboration projects in different countries in the region run together with Sweden and SU. That study was a pilot project. The model was evaluated and it now forms the basis for the current study as well as for future data gathering and regional studies. The current study on Africa has been compiled to provide background information in connection with a visit by the President of SU to Africa in Spring 2020 and student recruitment activities in the region planned for the same period.

¹https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.429214.1551789203!/menu/standard/file/Global%20Engagement_en_final.pdf



Maria Wikse, Head of International Affairs, was given the task by the President in October 2018 to lead a project on SU collaboration with African higher education institutions. A working group was formed to produce a Regional Study during the winter of 2018-19 and, following guidelines from the university leadership, the group will set up plans for the visit of the President through contacts with authorities, embassies, universities and other relevant partners. A definite itinerary will be presented by the working group in the fall of 2019.

The members of the working group for the Regional Study are Emily Dock Åkerman (Research Administrator at the Research Support Office), Helene Komlos Grill (Project Manager for international communications at the External Relations and Communications Office), Johanna Wiklund (Senior International Officer at the Research Support Office) and Maria Wikse. Adriana Jimenez Moreno (International Coordinator at Student Services) and Erica Öjemark Strzelecka (Alumni Officer at the External Relations and Communications Office) have contributed in parts of the study.

The working group has carried out several study visits to gather additional information and to anchor the project within the university and other authorities. During the spring of 2019, the group visited the Nordic Africa Institute, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the Swedish Institute. They also met with SU researchers and teachers who are active in the region from the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences (DSV), the Department of Mathematics and Science Education (MND), Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), Stockholm Business School (SBS) and the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences (DEEP). The external meetings as well as the internal ones were rewarding and showed great interest in collaboration with SU on the African continent. Other data consist of co-publication reports, excerpts from the SU research database, statistics of student exchanges, surveys of alumni, students and other collaborations of interest. These data constitute internal working material.

Background

Relations between SU and African institutions of higher education have existed since long, in particular regarding contacts with countries in Southern Africa, such as South Africa and Tanzania. Through financing from Sida, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have also been important partners primarily in Mathematics, Physics,



Computer Science and Ecology. Many students have taken the opportunity to write their degree project as a field study in one of these countries through the Sida programme Minor Field Studies (MFS).

A delegation with former SU Vice-Chancellor Kåre Bremer, the Pro Vice-Chancellor and 22 members of staff visited South Africa in November 2010.² The focus of their trip was the University of Cape Town and student exchange. In 2016 President Astrid Söderbergh Widding visited Botswana and South Africa as one of 13 presidents from Swedish universities who were part of a delegation arranged by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

The Swedish delegation of presidents visited, inter alia, the University of Johannesburg, the University of Pretoria, the University of the Witwatersrand, Stellenbosch University and the University of Botswana. They also met with the leadership of the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), and with representatives of research funding agencies and political leaders both in South Africa and in Botswana. The visit was concluded with a workshop in Cape Town to which the presidents of all South African universities were invited. The purpose of the visit was to develop and deepen existing partnerships and to enter new ones. The President of SU wrote about the visit in her blog on 17 March 2016.³

Throughout the years, SU has welcomed a number of visiting university delegations from African countries. In June 2016 representatives from the University of Nigeria (UNN) met the Vice-Chancellor and several SU researchers. Afterwards two researchers from the Department of Law participated in a workshop in Nigeria in November 2016. University of Nigeria has shown great interest in collaborating with SU, both in research and student exchange. In both 2017 and 2018, the UNN has sent 12-15 students from its Students' Union who were welcomed by the Stockholm University Student Union (SUS).

Many other visits have taken place. On 28 January 2019, the External Relations and Communications Office received a visit from the Tanzanian research funder Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH). The purpose of the visit was

² The SU title of "Vice-Chancellor" was replaced by the title "President" in 2013.

³ <https://rektorsblogg.su.se/2016/03/17/rektorsresa-i-sodra-afrika/>



an exchange of experiences in research communication and social media within the framework of SPIDER (The Swedish Program for Information and Communication Technology in Developing Regions). SPIDER is part of DSV's work to train departments in African countries in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

SU has a long-standing collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, to establish a centre for Mathematics in the region, the Pan-African Centre for Mathematics (PACM).⁴ Long-term funding is necessary, above all in the form of scholarships to doctoral students and to prospective master's students. Professor Stefan Nordlund from the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics and then Senior Advisor to the President, Professor Anders Karlhede went to Tanzania in 2017 to resume the collaboration. The plans for PACM are ongoing and will be intensified during 2019.

SU's core activities are research, education and collaboration. The Regional Study contains data from these branches of activity, and some examples of departments/centres that have numerous longstanding collaboration projects in the region. The study also presents an overview of other Swedish authorities' and research funders' plans for the region. As research institutes and regional partner organisations are vital actors in the region we give a brief overview of some of the most important ones among them. Finally, we give a short presentation of African universities in international ranking lists, and of research reports on the development within the educational sector in the region.

2. RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Society goes through rapid changes in many African countries and strengthening the research capacity of a country can also mean fighting poverty. This is long-term work requiring national research strategies, education and communication of the research results. SU contributes to this work through several ongoing research partnerships based in different African countries.

⁴ <https://www.su.se/samverkan/st%C3%B6d-stockholms-universitet/pan-african-centre-for-mathematics-1.387516>



Research projects

SU's research database lists 81 projects involving cooperation between SU and Africa.⁵ These projects are concentrated to 13 countries and 34 partners. The universities with the highest number of projects are the University of Cape Town, South Africa, with 7 publicly visible collaboration projects (8 in total) and the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with 5 publicly visible projects (6 in total).

According to the national database SweCRIS which is administered by the Swedish Research Council, there are 49 projects with Africa and SU as their common denominator.⁶ Vinnova lists 6 African countries which collaborate with SU: South Africa, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique, Senegal and Kenya.⁷

Co-publication between SU and African universities

Research partnerships often result in co-authored publications. This is why co-publication is used as a measure of successful research collaboration.⁸ Even though co-publication reports can be misleading since different areas of research have their own traditions when it comes to co-authoring, they can still provide interesting indications in general terms. For SU, approximately 1800 co-publications with African universities were identified for the period 2008-2018. More than 600 different universities/research organisations from Africa and 40 different SU-departments participated in these publications. Among Africa's 54 countries, 38 share at least one publication with SU during this period.

Major collaboration projects within Particle Physics account for half of the publications. Two countries, South Africa and Morocco, dominate, and the SU-departments with the largest number of co-publications with African universities are the Department of Physics, the Department of Astronomy, Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences.

When studying data from Web and Science and Diva on the frequency with which African countries occur in publication titles, it becomes evident that Tanzania, South

⁵ <http://researchdatabase.su.se/converis/> 20190125

⁶ <https://www.swecris.se/> 20190125

⁷ <http://h2020viz.vinnova.se/> 20190125

⁸ Information provided by Gabor Schubert, Stockholm University Library, with data gathered from Web of Science and DiVA (the Swedish research publication database) 20181207.



Africa and Egypt dominate, but Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique are also high on the list. Most of the Africa-related publications spring from Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences and the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences. All these departments have many ongoing research projects in Africa, and they regularly send students on Sida-financed Minor Field Studies (MFS). However it is interesting, to note that data from the Web of Science show that only 20 % of SU-publications dealing with Africa are co-publications with an African country.

Since 2018, SU participates in the South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF). The goal of SASUF, a project which will run 2018–2020, is to bring together researchers, research funders, representatives of the business sector from both countries as well as the Ministry of Education and Research (Sweden) and the Department of Higher Education (South Africa). In Sweden, SASUF is funded by STINT and by the twelve participating universities, and in South Africa the funding comes from the National Research Foundation and the Department of Higher Education.⁹

CIVIS – European Civic University Alliance

Along with seven leading European universities SU has initiated the CIVIS- network, European Civic University Alliance. The vision of CIVIS is that students, staff and researchers will be able to move and collaborate as easily between the universities in the network as they do within their own respective university. The following universities belong to the network: Aix-Marseille Université (France), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece), University of Bucharest (Romania), Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain), Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy), Stockholm University and Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany).

The collaboration will focus on the Mediterranean region and Africa since the CIVIS members believe that the future of Europe is connected to the future of Africa. Because of their proximity to the Mediterranean, many of the participating universities also have a direct link to countries in Africa and have established several cooperation projects with universities in the region. The partner universities in CIVIS believe that

⁹ <https://www.su.se/english/collaboration/partnerships-collaborations/projects/south-africa-sweden-university-forum-sasuf-1.403787>



in the future Africa will be among the European Union's key partners and so they endeavour to make collaboration between Africa and Europe into an important aim. CIVIS-members want to achieve change and innovation in the following prioritised focus areas: "Health", "Cities, Territories and Mobility", "Climate, Environment, Energy", "Digital and Technical Change", "Society, Culture and Cultural Heritage". The goal of CIVIS is to become a bridge between Europe and Africa.

SU wants to strengthen its collaborations with the other universities in the network while at the same time reaching further out into the world. At present SU has a research station, NEO, in Greece and several collaborations in Africa such as SPIDER and the Pan-African Centre for Mathematics, PACM.

KI and KTH

Karolinska Institutet (KI), Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and Stockholm University work together in various research projects and other forms of international cooperation. These three state universities jointly form a complete university environment in Stockholm. KI has different collaborations on the African continent, such as Drug Safety, and within the Master's Programme in Global Health where the education takes place in an African country.¹⁰

KI has its most extensive and formalised research collaborations in East Africa and in Southern Africa. KI also collaborates with Stellenbosch University. Moreover, KI has collaboration projects with several other African universities, projects which receive their basic funding from Sida. Among such collaboration partners can be mentioned Makerere University in Uganda, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Tanzania, Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique and the University of Rwanda. Collaboration with Makerere University has been extensive and has been carried out over a long period of time. The President of KI is a member of the board of the African Population and Health Research Centre in Nairobi. KI has further collaboration projects in other parts of Africa which are EU-funded.¹¹

One kind of KTH-collaboration with African countries is through the Global Development Hub where KTH develops coordinated education and innovation

¹⁰ https://ki.se/sites/default/files/ki-africa_strategic_plan.pdf

¹¹ Information provided by Johanna Ackeman, KI.



activities for global development focusing on sub-Saharan Africa.¹² KTH also participates in several Sida-funded projects as well as in other projects at doctoral level.¹³

3. EXAMPLES OF SU-INITIATIVES IN THE REGION

Department of Computer and Systems Sciences, DSV

The Department of Computer and Systems Sciences (DSV) has several programmes in the region. Professor Love Ekenberg has been appointed Professor of Massive Scale Higher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa at the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE).¹⁴ The basis for ICDE is to develop quality programmes in higher education courses at doctoral level. Programmes and courses at other levels will also be included.

ICT4D- Information and Communications Technology for Development

Two independent centres are attached to the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences. They both focus on using IT and other technologies as a positive influence on society. Key to the activities is the ICT4D area, i.e. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) linked to development issues.

- Swedish Programme for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER)
<https://spidercenter.org/> Head of Centre: John Owuor

SPIDER is a specific initiative within Swedish ICT support for developing countries. It was established in 2004 and it runs projects in three categories: a) capacity building b) bilateral projects and c) research projects. The Centre furthers the development of infrastructure and human efforts in strategic areas such as accessibility, e-Learning, e-Government and e-Health, with human rights as their common starting point. The research and development projects are carried out in more than thirty developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, mainly in collaboration with Sida. In Africa, SPIDER has collaboration projects with countries such as Tanzania,

¹² <https://www.kthmagazine.se/artiklar/vi-ar-alla-utvecklingslander>

¹³ Information provided by Katie Zmijewski, KTH.

¹⁴ <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20180307122517670>



Mozambique, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. At present, SPIDER receives core support from Sida (through 2019). It works through research projects and is a link in several networks between different organisations in the south, e.g. in Network 4 ICT in Education, ICT4 Democracy, East Africa Network and SPIDER Health & Wellbeing Network.

- eGovLab <http://www.egovlab.eu/se/> Director: Vasilis Koulolia

One mission of eGovLab is Ground Truth 2.0, the purpose of which is to analyse data based on digital surveys of citizens to detect societal and economic contexts. Another example is Botswana speaks!, a project that was initiated on behalf of the President of Botswana to improve the democratic process in Botswana using modern IT solutions. By using an online service, Members of Parliament can read submissions posted by the citizens and treat them as meaningful political wishes, which in turn can lead to important societal changes. iMentors is a special initiative to map all e-infrastructures in sub-Saharan Africa. The overall goal is to improve coherence and efficiency for international stakeholders in development projects and initiatives related to e-infrastructures in the region.

Department of Mathematics and Science Education, MND

The Department of Mathematics and Science Education (MND) is involved in TRACE, a project funded by the Swedish Research Council, which aims at gaining more knowledge about the learning processes of future teachers and those who have recently graduated, as well as their participation in school practices and the development of a teacher identity. A major focus is on the use of experiences from the teacher training. Parallel sister projects are in progress in South Africa at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of the Witwatersrand as well as in Rwanda at the University of Rwanda. In time, MND would like to develop a better structured collaboration with more African countries.

Two institutions are of particular interest to MND because of a mutual desire to develop cooperation: The Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the Marang Centre for Mathematics and Science Education. During a previous Sida-funded project in Morogoro, Tanzania, in the late 1990s, MND trained many teachers in interdisciplinary modern didactics. It was a successful project and there are reasons to believe that it would be possible to re-establish the contacts which were created in the



course of the project. Discussions have also been held about establishing cooperation with the University of Dar es Salaam.¹⁵

Stockholm Resilience Centre, SRC

Since 2014, Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) collaborates with the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST) at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The collaboration has led to co-publications, coordinated supervision of students and of post-docs, as well as a growing database which can be used in SRC-research (www.regimeshifts.org).

In the Sahel region, which reaches from Senegal and Mauretania in the west to Sudan in the east, SRC has carried out a number of collaboration projects with research and development organisations. Among ongoing projects can be mentioned FUTURE Sahel where SRC studies the implementation of The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and Sahel Initiative in Senegal. The following are the cooperation partners of the Sahel Initiative: French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Human-Environment Observatory, Dakar, l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Dakar, University Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, Senegalese National Great Green Wall Agency and Stockholm Resilience Centre.

With support from Formas, SRC is running an agricultural project in Burkina Faso targeted at young people. Similar projects were carried out previously in Niger in 2009 with Sida-funding (Human dimensions behind the greening in Sahel: A comparative study of social-ecological dynamics in greened and non-greened communities in Niger) and with funding from the Swedish Research Council in 2010-2016 (Adapting to changing climate in drylands: The re-greening in Sahel as a potential success case). Through collaborations in Burkina Faso and in Ghana SRC has also participated in the project called Targeting Agricultural Water Investments (CGIAR Water Land and Ecosystems).

¹⁵ TRACE <https://www.mnd.su.se/forskning/matematik%C3%A4mnet-didaktik/forskningsprojekt/trace>



Department of English

Professor Stefan Helgesson at the Department of English leads a major research programme with funding from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ). The programme, World Literatures, Cosmopolitan and Vernacular Dynamics (2016-21), has several sub-projects focusing on African literature. Two of these sub-projects are run by researchers from SU: Stefan Helgesson, “Language and Literary Worldmaking in Southern Africa: The Case of Little Magazines” and Paula Uimonen (SU), “African Women Writers” (with a focus on women writers in Nigeria and Tanzania).

4. STUDENT MOBILITY, STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ALUMNI

Exchange agreements at departmental level

SU has three exchange agreements at departmental level with partner universities in South Africa and Morocco.¹⁶ The agreement with Stellenbosch University in South Africa is of unlimited duration whereas the agreements with Rhodes University in South Africa and with the Institut Supérieur de Commerce et d'Administration des Entreprises (ISCAE) in Morocco are time-limited. The agreements were signed by Stockholm Business School (SBS).

Student mobility at departmental level is handled by the department that has signed the agreement and is normally intended for the students of that department. Because of great interest in collaboration from both students and staff, Stockholm Business School has, over the last few years, focused on signing agreements with universities in African countries. SBS wants to offer exchange opportunities to their students in all parts of the world as a way of training responsible economists. The department is anxious to have few but well functioning agreements and gives preference to agreements which also include the exchange for teachers and researchers as well as research collaboration. An example of this is the well-established collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch Business School which has regularly participated in the annual international week organised by SBS.

¹⁶ All SU exchange agreements are recorded in the agreement database MoveOn administered by the Group for International Mobility at Student Services. The exchange database can be found on the homepage: www.su.se/partneruniversities and consists of two parts; university-wide agreements and departmental agreements.



In collaboration with Sida and Uppsala University the Faculty of Science sponsors the International Science Program (ISP4) to create a Pan-African Centre for Mathematics in Eastern Africa (PACM). Support is also given to groups of researchers in Chemistry and Physics at the National University of Lagos.

The Department of Molecular Biosciences, The Wenner-Gren Institute (MBW), collaborates with the Ifakara Health Institute, Dar es Salaam, the WITS Institute for Malaria in Johannesburg and, also in malaria research, with the National Institute for Communicable diseases (NICD). In this particular area of research, MBW also has contacts with researchers at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Université Nazi Boni in Burkina Faso, the Malaria Research and Training Center (MRTC), Mali, as well as the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana.

New agreements at departmental level

Many departments at SU have actively worked to increase their contacts in the region over the last few years. The Department of Law at SU has established contacts with the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa through its participation in the Law Schools Global League network leading to increased knowledge about both the country and the university. The Department of Law wants to set up a scholarship programme for law students from UCT as part of an exchange agreement. South Africa is a partner country in Linnaeus-Palme¹⁷ and the Department has been given funding for a contact trip to UCT. A project application for a partnership programme for student and teacher exchange will be submitted in 2019.

Stockholm Business School (SBS) has been granted funding through Erasmus+ for a “Preparation visit” to South Africa. Contacts have been established with the University of Pretoria where an academic from SBS has been on site to gather research data. SBS is also holding talks with the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and the Lagos Business School, Nigeria, concerning teacher and researcher mobility between the universities.

In 2019, Stockholm Resilience Centre submitted its third application of funding for International Credit Mobility (ICM) through Erasmus + together with the Centre for

¹⁷ Linnaeus-Palme is administered by the Swedish Council for Higher Education and funded by Sida as part of its strategy for capacity building, partnership and methods supporting the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development 2018-2022.



Complex Systems in Transition at Stellenbosch University. For many years already, SRC has been collaborating with researchers and doctoral students at Stellenbosch without specific agreements.

Central agreements

Central agreements enable all SU students to go on an exchange and to choose courses in all subject areas. SU has central exchange agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with universities in Egypt (Alexandria University and the Arab Academy for Science and Technology), Rwanda (National University of Rwanda-MoU) and South Africa (Stellenbosch University- MoU). The exchange agreement with the University of Cape Town (UCT) expired in 2015 and was not renewed. Since there was no further funding of the student scholarship, UCT announced that their students would no longer be able to go on an exchange.

Minor Field Studies

Through their scholarship programme Minor Field Studies (MFS), Sida makes it possible for students to spend a minimum of eight weeks in a low- or middle income country to carry out a minor field study as a basis for an independent project in a bachelor's or a master's degree (60 or 120 credits). SU students manifest a growing interest in projects involving African countries.

Over the last two years, SU students have been awarded 88 scholarships. 40 of these scholarships were for theses written in Madagascar, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Among these countries, the scholarships were used mainly for thesis writing in Tanzania, South Africa and Rwanda.

Most of the scholarships were obtained by students in Social Sciences at SU. The Department of Political Science, Stockholm Business School and the Department of Social Anthropology got a total of nine scholarships. Eight scholarships were given to the two following departments in Science: The Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Studies and the Department of Physical Geography. The essays were written mainly in the social and natural sciences with themes such as equality, sex education, gender, geomatics, marine biology and landscape ecology.



The contact persons for the students who chose Tanzania were academics such as researchers and doctoral students as well as directors and coordinators at the Church of Sweden, the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and Femme Internationale. In South Africa the contact persons were academics, entrepreneurs, coordinators, researchers, doctoral students at the YMCA Cape Town, Global Vision International (GVI), Spendrups Ward Wines AB and the University of Cape Town (UCP). In Rwanda the contact persons were academics, diplomats, coordinators and lecturers at the Swedish Embassy in Kigali, Save the Children, Haguruka and RWAMREC, and FCG Sweden. Overall, the students have described their MFS experience as highly beneficial to them.

Student recruitment

The aim of international recruitment work is to attract international staff and researchers, and to further international research collaboration, student exchange and the recruitment of master's students. It is important to increase the preference given to SU among international students and to improve their knowledge about SU education and research as well as their attitudes to Stockholm University.

SU has carried out recruitment activities in the following countries: China, India, Indonesia, USA, Great Britain, Germany and Russia. So far, there has been no student recruitment work by SU in the African region, so there is great potential for development when it comes to the international work of SU. In the activities carried out abroad, SU has used strategic digital communication to promote its education programmes in the countries in question.

The African countries differ from each other. There are, however, some common denominators worthy of consideration when recruitment activities are being planned.

- Africa has the fastest growing middle class in the world and in 2014 the continent had 9 out of the 15 fastest growing economies.¹⁸
- More than 10 % of all mobile students in the world come from African countries. Nearly half of the African students choose to study in Europe, but the proportion of African students going to Europe has decreased in the last

¹⁸ <http://monitor.icef.com/2015/06/demand-for-job-skills-heating-up-in-africa/>



few years. A growing number of African students choose to study in the Middle East, and an even larger number of them stay in Africa to study in a country other than their own.¹⁹

- Outbound flows from African countries have traditionally concentrated on three destinations: France, United Kingdom and South Africa attracting nearly half (45 %). We now see a shifting pattern and an increasing number of African students are abandoning traditional European destinations in favour of international study alternatives in the Middle East and in Asia, where China is a particularly attractive study destination.²⁰
- Like all international students, students from African countries who wish to apply to second cycle exchange programmes at Swedish universities must have a Bachelor's degree. Specific admission requirements may apply for certain programmes.²¹
- The number of applications to the international master's programmes is a general indicator of the interest in international studies and particularly at SU. The following African countries had the largest number of applicants to SU master's programmes 2011-2018: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Egypt, Rwanda and South Africa. Together, Zambia, Cameroon, Sudan and Morocco are number ten.
- Alumni are important ambassadors in recruitment efforts. SU has the largest number of alumni from South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda. LinkedIn has 644 SU alumni coming from (or living in) 42 African countries (see the section on alumni).
- Student recruitment activities in Africa are only meaningful if there are scholarships to apply for, since the economic situation in some of these countries makes the number of self-funded students lower than in other parts of the world. Some students may be self-financed, but the majority will apply for scholarships. Some of these countries offer national scholarships, but in

¹⁹ <http://monitor.icef.com/2016/12/new-study-highlights-shifting-patterns-african-student-mobility/>

²⁰ <http://monitor.icef.com/2016/12/new-study-highlights-shifting-patterns-african-student-mobility/>

²¹ <https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/All-you-need-to-know1/Applying-for-studies/Documenting-your-eligibility-for-studies/Instructions-for-Masters-applicants>



most of them it is also possible to apply for scholarships from agencies such as the Swedish Institute (SI). See below for more information about SI scholarships.

- In many African countries the official language is French or English. Since most second cycle programmes at SU are given in English, there is a case for a focus on recruitment efforts in English speaking countries.
- An important factor in student recruitment activities abroad is that Swedish embassies and consulates actively engage in Study in Sweden activities initiated by the Swedish Institute. A number of diplomatic missions take part in recruitment fairs, arrange pre-departure events to which potential students and alumni are invited, as well as organise open seminars and meetings which present Swedish research and education.

Scholarships

The Swedish Institute Scholarships for Global Professionals (SISGP) are granted to students who want to study a master's programme, and the scholarship covers both tuition fees and costs of living. It is financed through development aid funds, and students from the following countries are eligible to apply: Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.²²

SISGP is for full-time master's level studies at Swedish universities starting during the autumn semester. The programme gives preference to applicants with a strong and relevant professional background and leadership experience. The scholarship programme focuses on capacity building in a number of selected countries. It is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and it follows the guidelines in the new Strategy for capacity development, partnership and methods which supports the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The Strategy was adopted by the Government in June 2018. Applicants must have proven leadership experience, a minimum of 3 000 hours work experience and a clear idea of how the intended studies in Sweden can contribute to the development in his/her homeland.

²² <https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/swedish-institute-scholarships-for-global-professionals/>



The "Swedish Institute Scholarship for South Africa (SISSA)" is open for applications by students who plan to study a master's programme and the scholarship covers both tuition fee and costs of living.²³ SISSA is for full-time master's level studies at Swedish universities and is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Applicants must be South African citizens. Preference is given to applicants with a Bachelor's degree from a South African university. It is also essential that the applicant has a clear idea of how the intended studies in Sweden can contribute to the development in South Africa.

Mastercard has a scholarship programme for African students who want to study abroad. The scholarship programme for master's studies cooperates with a number of partner universities in this programme. The scholarships do not have fixed dates for applications.²⁴

Open Society Foundations give support primarily to organisations which share their view of an open society. It is also possible to apply for individual scholarships which are announced on an on-going basis throughout the year.²⁵ The Robert Bosch Foundation awards scholarships to African students who want to study engineering in Germany or the USA.²⁶

Alumni

SU offers an international academic environment which means that there are SU alumni all over the world, including Africa. An alumnus from SU has studied a minimum of 7,5 credits at the university. This includes studies at all levels, from first cycle to doctoral courses.

Staying in touch and looking after relations with former students, doctoral students and researchers – alumni – is of vital importance for the long-term development of the university and it is an essential part of SU's internationalisation efforts. International alumni at companies, public authorities and other places of work abroad are important ambassadors for SU and they can play a significant role in the recruitment of new

²³ <https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/swedish-institute-scholarships-for-south-africa/>

²⁴ <https://mastercardfdn.org/all/scholars/becoming-a-scholar/apply-to-the-scholars-program/>

²⁵ <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants>

²⁶ <https://www.scholarshubafrika.com/32827/top-fully-funded-masters-scholarships-europe/>



international students, doctoral students and researchers. They can open doors and be of decisive importance when it comes to positioning and anchoring in new markets.

In the three biggest alumni projects - International Master's Alumni Survey 2017,²⁷ Ask our Alumni²⁸ and MFS Buddy Programme²⁹ –there are participants from a total of 17 African countries. The primary focus of these projects has been to reach out to our master's alumni.

In most of the countries with many SU alumni the projects have also risen interest. South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda lead both in number of alumni and in terms of the interest which has been shown so far. However In a number of other countries with many alumni there is, no involvement at present. We see great potential for increased involvement in Morocco, Algeria, Senegal, Tunisia and the Ivory Coast. Finally, in a few countries with fewer alumni, there are great enthusiasts who show interest and involvement, e.g. in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Cameroon.

As part of SUs international alumni work, a close collaboration has been developed with people in charge of alumni questions at the Swedish Institute.

In its international alumni work the External Relations and Communications Office at SU also collaborates closely with their colleagues at Karolinska Institutet (KI) and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH). Our international alumni have a shared interest in the city of Stockholm and this constitutes an important common denominator.

5. EXTERNAL ACTORS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

Research funding bodies

STINT

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) promotes the development of knowledge and competence in

²⁷ <https://www.su.se/english/collaboration/alumni/alumni-projects/international-master-s-alumni-survey-2017-1.418602> 2019-02-15

²⁸ <https://www.su.se/english/collaboration/alumni/alumni-projects/ask-our-alumni> 2019-02-15

²⁹ <https://www.su.se/english/collaboration/alumni/alumni-projects/mfs-buddy> 2019-02-15



internationalisation and invests in internationalisation projects proposed by researchers, teachers and leaderships at Swedish institutions of higher education.

The aim of the partly STINT-funded programme Joint South Africa-Sweden Research Collaboration is to strengthen Swedish research and higher education through the establishment and development of international co-operations. The programme supports projects of high scientific quality which clearly contribute to the activity of the universities involved. The programme is funded by STINT, the Swedish Research Council, Formas and Forte on the Swedish side and by the National Research Foundation (NRF) on the South African side. Final decisions are made jointly by STINT and NRF.

The STINT report *Sveriges internationella forskningssamarbeten – hur bör de utvecklas?* (2017) (Swedish international research collaborations – how should they be developed?) refers to the list from the Government of 26 prioritised markets, four of which are African countries: Algeria, Angola, Nigeria and South Africa. As regards bilateral cooperation agreements with focus on research, South Africa is among the leading countries together with India, Japan, Canada, China, Singapore, South Korea and the USA (2017: 20-21). In the co-publication analysis, South Africa and Tanzania can be found, and it is noted that South Africa is the only non-European country on the top list of major countries. In the list including medium-sized countries, eastern Europe dominates and as an African country, Uganda joins the list (2017:19).³⁰

Formas

Formas is a research council for sustainable development. They fund research and innovation, develop strategies, perform analyses and conduct evaluations. Their main areas of activity include the environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning. Formas, which is a government authority under the Ministry of the Environment, conducts specific environmental analyses and communicates research and research results.

Forthcoming calls are presented on the Formas homepage.³¹ Calls which may be of relevance for researchers who collaborate with African countries are launched by

³⁰file:///C:/Users/wikse/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/DQ1WRG88/STINT2017Tillvaxtanalys.pdf

³¹ <http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Utlysningar/> 20190128



Belmont Forum in collaboration with Future Earth and JPI Oceans, e.g. research about sustainable oceans and Unlocking the Potential of Aquatic Bioresources – BlueBio. Formas previously also had numerous calls with a focus on South Africa. In the Formas project catalogue we find 67 SU projects associated with Africa.

Forte

Forte is a research council and a government agency under the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Forte distributes around 600 million SEK every year to both basic and needs-driven research. This ranges from individual project grants to larger efforts to build world-class research environments. Forte's tasks also include identifying areas where more research is needed, evaluating and analysing research results and to make them available for all.

There are no plans for calls with specific focus on Africa during 2019. However, during 2018, fifteen research projects were granted a total of approximately 82 million SEK to enable research on climate adaptation and resilience.³² Each research group has among its members at least one researcher from a low- or middle-income country, and at least one young researcher of any nationality. Three projects were granted at SU, two of which are of relevance for Africa and both at Stockholm Resilience Centre:

“Forum theatre to enhance joint agency in Kenya and Mozambique: towards relational understandings of climate change” by Maria Mancilla Garcia

“Navigating the complexity of small-scale fishery inventions: An intersection of agent-based modelling and participatory empirical research” by Emilie Lindkvist

The Swedish Research Council and Vinnova

Scientific quality is the fundamental criterion in the evaluations made by the Swedish Research Council, regardless of country or region.³³ They do, however, have calls which could be of interest for research in developing countries, such as ” Research

³² <https://forte.se/nyhet/bidragsbeslut-forskning-med-lang-hallbarhet-visar-vagen-mot-de-globala-malen/> 20190125

³³ Briefing about upcoming calls in 2019 at the Swedish Research Council 20180124



project grant within development research” which opened in March 2019. 25 projects involving Africa are mentioned by Sweden’s Innovation Agency (Vinnova).

Swedish authorities

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and its missions in the region

Some African countries are of particular interest for recruitment efforts made by SU. This is based on information about interest from applicants and Swedish initiatives such as those made by the embassy or the Swedish Institute, as well as general knowledge about the country concerning language, population, relations with Sweden and development potential. These countries are Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda

Relations between Sweden and North African countries such as Egypt and Morocco are strengthened through the embassies in Kairo and Rabat as well as through the Swedish Institute in Alexandria (SwedAlex).³⁴ The mission of SwedAlex is to further increased contacts between Sweden and other European countries with Egypt and other Middle Eastern and North African countries. The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures has EU funding and is also located in Alexandria since 2005 as the result of a common Swedish-Egyptian initiative within EU collaboration with the countries in the Mediterranean region.

As regards South Africa, diplomatic relations have a long history. In the 1960s, the Swedish Government as well as Swedish popular movements participated actively in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa through political and humanitarian support.³⁵ Sweden has an embassy in Pretoria, a consulate in Cape Town and an honorary consulate in Durban. Nowadays, cooperation between Sweden and South Africa is bilateral for trade, regional to strengthen peace, security and democracy in Africa, and multilateral through the EU and the UN. In 1999 South Africa and Sweden set up the so-called Bi-National Commission (BNC) for the discussion and development of common issues in politics and economy. BNC convenes bi-annually led by Sweden’s Deputy Prime Minister and South Africa’s Deputy President.

³⁴ <https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/egypt-alexandria/about-us/>

³⁵ <https://www.regeringen.se/sveriges-regering/utrikesdepartementet/sveriges-diplomatiska-forbindelser/afrika/>



For decades, Sweden has had extensive development cooperation projects with Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. The countries have cooperated at government level to support other African countries in their liberation from colonialization, for UN reforms and against nuclear weapons. At grassroots level, extensive collaboration has developed between non-governmental organisations, churches, schools and municipalities. Sweden has embassies in these countries with envoys from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well as from Sida. The bilateral relations cover regional and international issues, trade, investments as well as contacts with the business sector, environment/climate and development cooperation.

Sweden began its development cooperation with Rwanda in 1994. Since then, Swedish involvement in the country has increased considerably. In 2010 Sweden opened an embassy in Rwanda and Rwanda now has an embassy in Stockholm. Initially, Swedish support for Rwanda consisted mainly of humanitarian aid, but as a consequence of the positive economic development in the country, focus has shifted more towards promotion of trade. The overall objective of Swedish development cooperation with Rwanda is to reduce poverty and to strengthen the conditions necessary for sustainable peace and reconciliation, as well as to achieve improved respect for human rights. Furthermore, support is given to establish domestic research capacity. Previous collaboration has shown that the country is able to manage and make use of international aid efficiently.

Since Nigeria got a democratically elected government in 1999, the business sector has shown increasing interest in the country. After the rebasing of Nigeria's GDP in 2014, the country became Africa's largest economy. Today the country is Sweden's most important trading partner in Africa and it is a prioritised marketplace for Swedish export. The embassy in Abuja represents Sweden in Nigeria, Ghana and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Sweden also has honorary consuls in Lagos, Nigeria, and in Accra, Ghana.

Like Nigeria, Ghana is one of the most important trading partners in Africa. Some twenty Swedish companies have been established in the country, e.g. Skanska, ABB, Volvo CE, Atlas Copco, Ericsson, Viasat, Tetra Pak, and Svedala Industri AB. Imports from Ghana are mainly scrap copper and other scrap metals. Swedish business interests in Ghana are currently focused mainly on the telecom sector and the mining industry. However, there are also other sectors of actual and potential interest



such as food processing, energy supply, infrastructure and forestry. At present, the relations between Ghana and Sweden focus on trade, promotion of Sweden and cultural exchange. Support for development efforts is also given to certain international organisations based in Ghana, such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre.³⁶

Sida's research cooperation

The core activity of Sida's research cooperation is to strengthen the capacity of low-income countries and regions to undertake research training and use research in the struggle against poverty. The research cooperation also includes support to international research of particular relevance for low-income countries. Thirdly, it promotes research-driven innovation with the potential to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable societies.

Sida's research cooperation is long term and has a systems approach, where different initiatives are mutually supportive. Scientific quality and relevance for development are decisive criteria for all activities. An environmental and gender equality perspective should permeate all initiatives, with respect to both the content of activities and the actors involved.

Sida currently has bilateral research cooperation with Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The cornerstone of the bilateral cooperation is the collaboration between universities in partner countries and in Sweden. Programmes are chosen in open calls where applicants from institutions in the partner country and those in Sweden submit joint applications. The open calls are published on Sida's website under [Calls and announcements](#). The collaborations should contribute to the partner country's capacity to independently undertake research training and conduct high-quality research, and there is an emphasis on increasing the number of women researchers and the capacity to communicate research findings to society. Infrastructures needed in a sustainable research system, like ICT, labs and libraries, are also often included in the collaborative programmes, as well as support to the development of innovation systems and innovation clusters.

The overarching goal of Sida's research cooperation is for people living in poverty to be able to improve their situation within socially, economically and environmentally sustainable societies.

³⁶ <https://www.regeringen.se/sveriges-regering/utrikesdepartementet/sveriges-diplomatiska-forbindelser/afrika/ghana/>



Linnaeus-Palme

Within the Linnaeus-Palme program, universities in Sweden can apply for grants to collaborate with institutions in low- and middle-income countries.³⁷ The program aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of higher education institutions in low- and middle-income countries, strengthening the partnership between Swedish universities and higher education institutions in low- and middle-income countries, and to broaden the interest of young people for development. In addition, the international exchange and partnerships will contribute to a higher quality of education.

Sida aid primarily targets challenges shared by several countries, or where there is a need for coordinated efforts.³⁸ Support is given to regional efforts in areas such as the sustainable use of cross-border natural resources (e.g. waterways shared by several countries), peace and stability, trade, migration, and the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases (e.g. through the support given to the UN programme UNAIDS). Helping to bring about peace and security calls for close collaboration with African organisations which can provide support and constitute a platform for dialogue while also contributing to sustainable regional measures.

Sida's research support is based on three pillars:³⁹

1. Building research capacity in low-income countries
2. Research of direct relevance to low-income countries
3. Innovation

Particular focus on Tanzania

Sida also supports regional research institutions in order to strengthen the capacity of the region to develop research. Another aim is to give researchers the possibility to develop their research and to share their results across the whole continent. Most major African universities are part of the regional networks supported by Sweden, e.g. CARTA, Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa.

In Tanzania, Sida runs research collaboration projects in health, marine science, natural sciences, renewable energy, entrepreneurship and innovations. Sida has provided support to Tanzanian research institutions for more than 30 years, the goal

³⁷ <https://www.utbyten.se/program/linnaeus-palme-partnerskap/mer-om-programmet/>

³⁸ <https://www.sida.se/Svenska/Har-arbetar-vi/Afrika/Regionalt-samarbete-i-Afrika/> 20190125

³⁹ Information provided by Eren Zink, Research Officer, Sida



being that, over time, Tanzania will be able to conduct their own research at international level. The objective is to raise the country's capacity and international competitiveness, primarily within the Tanzanian institutions of higher learning, but also in the country as a whole.

An essential objective is the practical use of research results for the development of the country, e.g. through new methods of cultivation and fishing, a vaccine against HIV, and new forms of energy to meet the increasing need for electricity among the population. The aid is dominated by a programme for the improvement of research capacity in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and Ardhi University (ARU).

Sweden has contributed with 290 million SEK during the years 2004-2011. One result has been that 15-20 per cent of the present teaching body with a doctoral or master's degree at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) have been trained through Swedish funding. The number of students accepted at UDSM has increased from 3 300 in 1994 to 17 000 in 2012. At Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) most of the researchers and teachers who are employed at the University were trained through the research programme which was funded by Sweden. Since 2002, 18 doctoral students have graduated at ARU; 16 of them are still working as teachers and researchers at the university.

Statistics Sweden (SCB)

SCB arranges a training programme for authorities and organisations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to provide support in the production, analysis and spreading of statistics on equality.⁴⁰ Through its training programme "Gender Statistics", SCB contributes its expertise and many years of experience in this area to help increase knowledge and develop methods for statistics on equality internationally. The training programme is funded by Sida as part of their International Training Programmes

Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI)

In South Africa, KemI collaborates with the Department of Labour which has undertaken extensive training of inspectors preparing them for the ongoing work of

⁴⁰ <https://www.scb.se/om-scb/scbs-samarbetsprojekt-i-varlden/international-training-program-i-jamstalldhetsstatistik/> 20190128



introducing GHS (the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) in South Africa.⁴¹

In Tunisia, KemI, jointly with France and Austria, has participated in a so-called “Twinning Project” with the Centre Technique de la Chimie of the Ministry of Industry, CTC (Centre for chemical engineering) to strengthen the administration and to harmonise the Tunisian legislation with EU rules. During the period 2018-2022 KemI will organize an international capacity building programme to support the participating countries in developing strategies for the creation of their national chemicals control. The programme is funded by Sida development aid.

The Nordic Africa Institute

The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), which is under the responsibility of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, supplies the Nordic countries with current analyses of Africa.⁴² The goal is to strengthen cooperation between African and Nordic researchers and to make knowledge about Africa available to researchers, decision-makers, media, students and an interested public. NAI was founded in 1962 and is funded jointly by Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

NAI is organised around three core areas of activity: research, communication and library and documentation. The Institute has the following main tasks: furthering research about Africa’s social, political and economic development through top-quality research of its own and acting as a hub and catalyst for Nordic Africa research. NAI is also active in spreading qualified and relevant information based on research about modern Africa and conditions in Africa, and it has an active policy dialogue made available to decision-makers in the Nordic countries. An additional important task is to cover and make available literature and other sources of information about modern Africa of relevance to research and studies, and to provide a library with services for borrowing, references and information.

NAI’s three core activity areas are very closely interlinked and they support and strengthen each other. Research carried out at the Institute and within other Nordic organisations, and in cooperation with African institutions, is stimulated by the extensive library collection of studies and information about modern Africa. Research

⁴¹ <https://www.kemi.se/om-kemikalieinspektionen/vart-uppdrag/internationellt-arbete> 20190128

⁴² www.nai.uu.se



results and analyses made by NAI staff and affiliated experts reach the academic world and other actors through communication activities such as events, workshops and conferences. NAI collaborates with institutes and universities such as Copperbelt University and Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (Zambia), Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and the Malawi University of Science and Technology.

The Swedish Institute (SI)

The mission of SI is to increase interest and confidence in Sweden around the world, to develop collaboration in the neighbouring countries, and to further democratic, fair and sustainable global development. SI thus contributes both to the strengthening of Sweden and Swedish interests, and to increased prosperity and stability in nearby countries and to democratic, fair and sustainable development in developing countries. A further mission is to promote increased mobility of students, researchers and skilled professionals

Much of SI's activities is focused on offering scholarships to students from 34 countries listed by OECD-DAC. African countries on the list are Cameroon, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. 250 to 350 scholarships are granted every year. They include travel, tuition fees, cost for insurance and costs of living up to 10 000 SEK/month. The scholarships are intended for one or two years of master's studies. Alumni activities are also an important part of SI networking and they involve Swedish national missions abroad. Several alumni networks can be found in Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia. The embassies in Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia have participated in some of the alumni events.

Business Sweden

Business Sweden was founded in 2013 by a merger of the Swedish Trade Council (Exportrådet) and Invest Sweden.⁴³ Business Sweden is owned by the Swedish Government and the industry, and it is represented by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Foreign Trade Association (Sveriges Allmänna Utrikeshandelsförening). The ambition is to help Swedish companies to increase their global sales, and to assist international actors to invest and expand in Sweden. In the

⁴³ www.business-sweden.se



African region, there are offices in South Africa, Kenya and Morocco. West Africa and Southern Africa are covered from the office in Johannesburg, the East African region and parts of Central Africa are reached from Nairobi, and the French speaking countries in North and West Africa are covered from Casablanca.

EU

Relations between the EU and Africa have broadened and deepened in recent years.⁴⁴ As a consequence of growth and positive development in many African countries, the economic and strategic importance of the continent for the EU has changed. This in turn has created new possibilities for cooperation between the EU and Africa. Such cooperation takes place through a number of agreements, such as the Cotonou Agreement and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy. In addition to these agreements, the Council has adopted three regional Strategies: for Africa's Horn, the Bay of Guinea and the Sahel. Relations between Africa and the EU are also handled through formal dialogues held during summits. The Cotonou Agreement is the overarching framework for Europe's relationship with Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. It covers EU relations with 79 countries, including 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

As for international research collaboration, however, there is still the prevailing opinion that the EU and US dominate, even though African universities are going through a significant development. In her article "Vem får tala om Afrika?" (Who can speak about Africa?), Maria Eriksson Baaz draws attention to the fact that half of all publications in the Central African region have a European co-author.⁴⁵ Eriksson Baaz says that in recognized international publications, African researchers are often described as Research Assistants, even though much of the research carried out by Europeans in Africa could not be realised without local researchers.

6. REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Africa is the world's second largest continent with over a billion inhabitants in more than 50 countries. The majority of the population live in the sub-Saharan countries,

⁴⁴ <https://www.regeringen.se/sveriges-regering/utrikesdepartementet/sveriges-diplomatiska-forbindelser/afrika/afrika-och-eu/>

⁴⁵ <https://fof.se/tidning/2015/9/artikel/vem-far-tala-om-afrika>

where improvement of living conditions faces particularly great challenges. The nations in this region are young, the problems are numerous and often such that they cannot be solved by a single country. Regional collaboration therefore plays an important role for the positive development by preventing and solving conflicts, strengthening democracy and economic growth, and for the reduction of poverty. In addition to regional organisations working for economic integration, there is a number of intergovernmental river commissions, regional organisations from Africa's civil society, African think tanks and networks, as well as several trade associations.

Economic integration

Swedish collaboration is almost exclusively conducted with actors from the African continent. Foremost among them is the African Union (AU). Its purpose is to create strong collaboration between governments, representatives of civil society and the private sector in order to promote unity between all inhabitants in Africa.⁴⁶ The vision is to create a peaceful Africa driven by its own inhabitants. All African states with the exception of Morocco are members of the AU.

One of the regional organisations for economic integration is the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which unites 15 West African states to promote economic development.⁴⁷ In time, the goal is to establish an economic monetary union. To reach this goal, collaboration is focused on the prevention of conflicts, the creation of economic integration and the sharing of natural resources between the member states.

In the east, the East African Community (EAC) works for democracy, human rights and capacity building. Its members are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) seeks to create a regional society which can improve living standards for all inhabitants in Southern Africa.⁴⁸ It has 15 member states in Eastern and Southern Africa. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) also works regionally for

⁴⁶ <https://au.int/>

⁴⁷ www.ecowas.int

⁴⁸ www.sadc.int



economic prosperity.⁴⁹ Its members are the countries on Africa's Horn – Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya, the Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia.

Higher education

The regional collaborative organisation Southern African Development Community (SADC) has a special programme for research and higher education, largely funded by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF).⁵⁰ The Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) is a regional association with a focus on research and higher education. It is a network of some 30 universities in the Nordic countries and in Southern Africa. It was founded in 2007 and is designed to further global and local collaboration between the member universities.⁵¹ The network also serves as a forum for leaders in higher education and for academics as a means of facilitating the development of joint projects.

The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) is a network of universities from different African countries and different historical background sharing a common vision. The goal of the network is to enhance research and graduate training in member universities through a number of channels, including the setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to be hosted by member universities. ARUA was inaugurated in Dakar in March 2015, bringing together sixteen of the region's leading universities. By developing local research excellence through pan-African collaboration, the idea is to find solutions to the African development problems.⁵²

Other regional research networks are Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)⁵³ and the Third World Network.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ <https://igad.int/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.nrf.ac.za/sites/default/files/documents/SA-Mozambique-Zambia%20Trilateral%20Call%20Guide%202019.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://sanord.uwc.ac.za>

⁵² www.arua.org.za

⁵³ <http://www.twnafrica.org/indexx.html>

⁵⁴ <https://www.codesria.org>



7. RANKING LISTS AND OTHER REPORTS OF RELEVANCE

Since 2003, global ranking lists have listed universities and institutions of higher education according to various indicators. The ranking lists have grown in number and importance over the last decade, but so has criticism of the methods used by the ranking organisations and the lack of transparency. Rankings are used especially by international target groups, thus becoming increasingly important for the way universities act on a global arena and for their internationalisation.⁵⁵ As regards African universities, only South African universities make it to the international ranking lists.

The rankings use different methods to measure quality. Most rankings use data from the global abstract and citation data bases Web of Science and Scopus. SU monitors the four oldest and best-known international ranking lists considered to be the most influential in the world: Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE), QS Top Universities, Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), also called the Shanghai list, and CWTS Leiden Ranking.

The annual Hobsons International Student Survey (ISS) shows that 25 % of international students use ranking results to assess and choose a university for their studies. According to the 2017 survey, the ranking lists most favoured by international students are: QS, THE and ARWU. However, researchers do not tend to exclusively use ranking lists when looking for research collaboration. They often seek contacts with institutions and groups who do high quality research in their own field of research and their judgement is not based on ranking results.

Many people criticise the use of Web of Science and Scopus to evaluate scientific publications. The criticism is mainly directed at the lack of publications in Humanities and Social Sciences in these data bases. The data bases mainly index journal publications in science and social sciences, therefore other types of publications, such as books and conference publications, are under-represented. In the present study, the discussion is broadened by introducing other reports of relevance. Since a lot of research is carried out at institutions outside the universities, some

⁵⁵ <https://www.su.se/medarbetare/r%C3%A5d-st%C3%B6d/internationalisering/att-ranka-universitet-om-rankningar-och-stockholms-universitet-1.380892> 20190125



institutes of interest which have gained greater importance over the last few years are listed below.

University	ARWU ⁵⁶	THE ⁵⁷	QS ⁵⁸
University of Cape Town	301-400	156	200
University of the Witwatersrand	201-300	200-250	381
Stellenbosch University	401-500	301-350	405

The Higher Education Research and Advocacy Network in Africa

The Higher Education Research and Advocacy Network in Africa, HERANA, is a project which has gathered data on research, education and other parameters from eight African universities for 15 years.⁵⁹HERANA has studied the correlation between higher education and economic growth by examining how some African universities are organised. One of the main conclusions drawn by HERANA is that the key to high quality lies in the academic core, and that there is often an unreasonable conflict between teaching and research.

⁵⁶ <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2018.html> 20190125

⁵⁷ https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2019/world-ranking#!page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/scores 20190125

⁵⁸ <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2019> 20190125

⁵⁹ <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20181211123355847>

The importance of mobility and cooperation

Africa has long suffered from so-called brain drain, i.e. young, talented people leave the continent to work and study in countries that are more industrialised. According to the Economic Commission of Africa, 27 000 skilled Africans left the continent during the period 1960-1975, and since 1990 some 20 000 people leave Africa every year.

In the book *The next generation of Scientists in Africa*, Beaudry, Mouton and Przesky stress the importance of encouraging and facilitating mobility for young researchers.⁶⁰ They maintain that cooperation and funding go together, and that research funding agencies play a decisive role in enabling young researchers to stay on in their countries of origin, thus preventing brain drain. Among those African countries which are the best at generating funding (South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania) the explanation is strong local funders and the presence of large foreign foundations.

A sign of positive development can be found in the fact that scientific articles written by African authors have grown in number. Even though South Africa still dominates in the search engines, other African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have also contributed to this development. Collaborations between African researchers and researchers in other countries have grown increasingly common, and so have quotes of articles authored by African researchers. They are particularly prominent in the research fields of tropical medicine, infectious diseases and agriculture.

8. FINAL REMARKS

Relevant data is a prerequisite for SU to follow its new plan for internationalisation, Global Engagement. A solid basis of reports and information from many different actors is necessary for the University to act, both in the long term and to be flexible. The task of gathering information and of writing this regional study has been very rewarding. There has been great interest both from SU staff and from external actors to meet the working group and to answer its questions.

The working group was very well received both during our visits at SU departments and at the Nordic Africa Institute, Sida, the Swedish Institute, STINT and the Africa

⁶⁰ *The next generation of Scientists in Africa*, Beaudry et al. 2018



Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. These rewarding talks have increased our understanding of the region and we are very grateful for the time given for the meetings with us. All this will be of great value for the planning of the President's visits to the region in the autumn of 2019, as well as for upcoming student recruitment.

The working group is particularly impressed by the amount of current research and education cooperation at SU and by the interest in increasing contacts with the region as well as establishing collaboration projects to meet the challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda.