



UniPID and HUGS have the pleasure of inviting you to the Workshop

## **THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI AND AFRICA**

Finding competencies, priorities, and synergies

**DATE:** Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**TIME:** 12:00-16:00

**LOCATION:** Seminar room F 211, Unioninkatu 38, Center campus

### **SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES**

UniPID<sup>1</sup> and HUGS<sup>2</sup> will be holding a joint workshop for the Researchers and Staff at the University of Helsinki (UH) to explore the role and competencies of the University in development cooperation with Africa. This workshop seeks to map the scope and focus of research and collaborative projects with African academics and HEIs, as well as to further consolidate University's African involvement. Despite differences in area of cooperation or subject of study, there is a multitude of potential synergies, benefits, and possibilities to be derived from the networking of researchers and projects. Furthermore, defining the University's competencies to meaningfully contribute to research on and collaboration with Africa is beneficial for identifying future partners, funding possibilities, and projects.

### **AIMS**

In particular, the workshop has the following aims:

- Consider the University's role in human capacity building in African HEIs;
- Discuss strategic research and cooperation priorities, both in terms of topics and modes of collaboration;
- Identify the competencies, strengths, weaknesses, and possible synergies within development research and projects at the University;
- Encourage active interaction between participants, with UniPID, and with other relevant university mechanisms to support development cooperation, research, research funding and student mobility.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- Support the work of the Helsinki University Global South-network, to foster the networking and cooperation between Africa researchers and project staff
- Exchange experiences and identify synergies in conducting research and development work in Africa;
- Identify the University's competencies and future priorities for the research and capacity building activities with and within Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> The Finnish University Partnership for International Development, [www.unipid.fi](http://www.unipid.fi)

<sup>2</sup> Helsinki University Global South-network

## PROGRAMME

- 12.00 *Introduction of Participants*. Chaired by Vice Chair of UniPID Board, Leo Pekkala
- 12.15 *Welcoming address: Internationalization and Global Responsibility at UH*, Vice-Rector Kimmo Kontula
- 12.30 *UniPID's services for university*, Senior Advisor Annica Moore, University of Jyväskylä
- 12.40 *Results and future scheme of the Helsinki University Global South Network, HUGS* Coordinator, Nina Himberg
- 12.50 *Outlook for the ICI-HEI and North-South-South programmes*, Programme Manager Kaija Pajala, CIMO
- 13.05 *Student mobility between UH and African partner universities*, Head of International Affairs, Markus Laitinen/Planning Officer Raisa Asikainen, International Exchange Services
- 13.20 *Presentations of lessons learned in projects contributing to HEI development in Africa (5-10 min each)*
- *SARG - Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Research Group in Kenya, Zambia and Namibia*, Professor John Sumelius
  - *N-S-S program - ESUFI Forest in Sudan and Ethiopia*, University lecturer Eshetu Yirdaw
  - *N-S-S program - SoilSoc Africa in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and South Africa*, University lecturer Kristina Lindström
  - *HEI-ICI – LAMPTESS, Landscape management planning and training for the environment in South Sudan*, Researcher Mohamed Elfadl
  - *HEI-ICI - Human resource development project at the University of Namibia library*, Project manager Elise Pirttiniemi
  - *HEI-ICI- Developing development studies*, University lecturer Elina Oinas
- 13.50 *An overview of Aalto University Research and Cooperation with Africa*, Professor Pertti Haaparanta, Chair of the Department of Economics at Aalto University
- 14.00 *Coffee break*
- 14.15 *Work in small groups – sharing experiences and defining possibilities of cooperation*
- 14.50 *Presentation of the results and the conclusions of the working groups*
- 15.30 *Discussion - Finding synergies and way forward*
- 16:00 *End of Workshop*

The language of the workshop will be English. Coffee and refreshments offered.

For further details contact HUGS Coordinator Nina Himberg, University of Helsinki, email: [nina.himberg@helsinki.fi](mailto:nina.himberg@helsinki.fi).