

ACP JSC Session 6

Reporting from Session 5

Future perspectives: beyond the projects

- Thematic discussion points emerging from sessions 4 and 5 utilised:
 1. Networking/partnerships/outreach
 2. Training/capacity development and monitoring of its impact
 3. Harmonization/strategic thinking/thinkers and doers
 4. Impact of safety and security on projects + governance

Networking/partnerships/outreach

How to ensure outreach?

1. Someone making money → private sector
2. Someone saving money → end users through public, NGOs, etc.

Transforming PROJECTs → PRODUCTs/SERVICEs

Networking/partnerships/outreach

How to ensure sustainability beyond EU funds?

1. Leadership

- ✓ Key to boost motivation
- ✓ Tools (platform, social media)

2. Interest

- ✓ Similar interests
- ✓ Complementary expertise
- ✓ Social franchising?

Suggestions

A) dedicated coordination Units

B) include Agreements beyond project in EU evaluation

Training/capacity development and monitoring of its impact

1. Sustainability

- ✓ Capacity to source funding and new investment opportunities
- ✓ Relevance to end users
- ✓ Partnerships with relevant stakeholders; continuous engagement
 - ✓ (private, public, NGOs etc)
- ✓ Replication and reproducibility

Training/capacity development and monitoring of its impact

2. Impact monitoring

- ✓ Tracer study or survey
- ✓ Employability
- ✓ Quality and acceptability of outputs
 - ✓ (publications, products, methodologies)
- ✓ Improved performance of management of institutions

Harmonization/strategic thinking/thinkers and doers

1. Review similar curricula and come up with Regional Programs/Centers of Excellence
 - Leverage scarce resources (both infrastructure and human capital)
2. Build strong disciplinary associations to set up minimum standards and certify that those minimum standards are adhered to
 - Benchmark the programs

Harmonization/strategic thinking/thinkers and doers

3. Strive to have harmonization without uniformity
 - Respect the “Blue sky” space of universities while contributing towards the UN SDGs
 - Needs a holistic approach in solving farmers’ poverty and food insecurity - not only curriculum harmonization
 - Credit transfer
 - Mobility of student and staff

Harmonization/strategic thinking/thinkers and doers

4. Improve communication among participating universities themselves and the funding body to minimize duplication
 - This is only possible if and when African universities are adequately funded to minimize fierce competition for funds leading to concealing information

Impact of safety and security on projects + governance

1. Realistic risk assessment needed with a series of options
 - Is there an issue for government- may need component to deal with lobbying/dialogue
2. Move or postpone the project make use of new or alternative technologies
 - Maybe constraints for movement of staff?

Impact of safety and security on projects + **governance**

- Governance an issue with changing government: need to maintain interaction w/ govt, local authorities and the civil service
- Project level: stability of the partnership, plans for when a partner needs to drop out; partnership needs to continue

Impact of safety and security on projects + **governance**

- Future: What happens if government does not approve a degree developed through project? Exit strategy needed- source of funding
 - Government scholarships for students
 - Government and industry sponsor staff