Mapping of interest in broad initiatives for cooperation with Africa.

Lund University (LU) is now looking for three researchers at LU for the assignment to carry out a mapping of interest at LU for three specific areas for collaborative with Africa. The three subject areas are 1) food systems, 2) innovation and 3) migration. Each person will map one area. The assignment amounts to 20% over three months and shall be finalized on March 1, 2020.

Background

At a meeting on April 1, 2019, LU’s external advisory group for African Cooperation agreed that LU should increase its visibility, not to lose opportunities and funding for cooperation with Africa. The group felt that LU should develop a few broad thematic initiatives (interdisciplinary and faculty cross-cutting) involving researchers from LU and partner universities in Africa. The group further expressed that the aim should be to highlight broad areas of strength within LU with high attractiveness for Africa and for funding. The aim is also to enable LU to engage in dialogue with financiers and organizations in a more coordinated way, and be prepared for future initiatives. In this context, it was mentioned that LU is working to build links with, among others, the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). The external advisory group suggested that LU should start with three broad areas: "food systems", "innovation" and "migration".

The assignment

The assignment includes mapping of interest in LU, possible coordinators/champions, breadth and strength within LU, relevance for Africa (and Sweden), attractiveness for financiers, comparative advantage / niche for LU, how LU should position itself in the area, opportunity for collaboration with Africa.

The assignment comprises three employees who each map one of the three identified subject areas "food systems", "innovation" or "migration".

The task is to

- Identify people with an interest in one of the three broad subject areas.
- Interview a few people at LU, representative of each identified subject area, to identify key players, networks and interests.
- Contact all faculties within LU.
- Dialogue with the two persons who carry out the surveys of the two other subject areas.
- Identify subject-related common interests with the Africa Research University Alliance.
- Report to LU’s Africa Strategy Group no later than 31 January

Letter of interest

Employees at LU with an interest in carrying out a survey in any of the identified areas shall submit an letter of interest no later than November 15 to par.svensson@er.lu.se. The notification shall include:

- Name, title, institution, contact details
- Short justification (max one A4 page)
- CV
- Also indicate which of the areas "food systems", "innovation" and "migration" are your interest