

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 1 Business

Meeting # 14

Date: April 29th, 2024

Minutes prepared by Sara Lindenius – April 29th 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology		
University of Gothenburg	Lena Pedersen	Not present
Jönköping University		
Linköping University	Therese Lindkvist	Present
Linnaeus University	Torbjörn Håkansson	Present
Luleå University of Technology		
Lund University	Lisa Thelin	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
Mälardalen University	Daniel Boqvist	Not present
	Mikael Hjorth	Not Present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Cecilia Nilsson	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Charlotte Kramer	Not resent
SIRUES Trainee	Sara Lindenius	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. SIREUS 2nd half evaluation
3. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
4. SIREUS Affiliation of Companies
5. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implemented on the website. **Workshops – desired focus.**
6. Mapping of target companies/areas
 - a. Individual Plan implemented. **What companies to engage? What process to focus on?**
7. Next meeting

Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used following the agenda that was sent out prior to the meeting. This ppt presentation will be archived on the SIREUS website alongside the minutes.

Minutes

1. a. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then spoke briefly about the agenda for the meeting.
- b. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.
- c. Christer updated the group about what has been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting.

The SIREUS ENTREPRENURS forum that was held in Colorado a few weeks ago has been evaluated. Six companies and 20 individuals from Sweden were attending, providing them with the opportunity to pitch to investors and universities. The SIREUS team held a meeting with attendees and sent out surveys afterward. The responses received appear to be positive.

Christer mentioned briefly that the SIREUS 2nd half evaluation is ongoing. He gets back to the evaluation process later in the meeting.

Christer also discussed the upcoming NAFSA conference scheduled for May 29th in New Orleans, which took place in D.C. last year. He noted that there were 200 attendees at the SIREUS MEMBERS forum at the House of Sweden 2023. As last year, the member universities have 20 tickets each and affiliated universities have 5 tickets each. Christer reminded the group that at this year's SIREUS MEMBER forum,

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the option of purchasing separate tickets for non-members has become available, facilitating collaboration with the Swedish Institute. This concept may be taken into consideration for future implementation within SIREUS. Christer also mentioned that The Swedish Institute is contributing 50,000 SEK, and we anticipate around 150 to 200 guests.

The SIREUS team has begun planning for the Study in Sweden tour scheduled for October. The tour will visit Washington D.C., New York, and San Francisco.

2. The SIREUS 2nd half evaluation, also known as SIREUS 2.0, is ongoing. It involves participants from all universities and working groups. There have been three virtual meetings and one in-person meeting at SU. Two weeks ago, a meeting was conducted with the steering committee where the recommendations from the evaluation group were presented. The evaluation team has a following meeting scheduled for May 8th, followed by a final meeting with the stakeholders.

From the evaluation, Christer understands that universities perceive SIREUS as too broad. The goal is to narrow it down in the future if the project continues. There will be fewer meetings and a special events planning group formed as needed. The plan also involves removing the stakeholder group and keeping only a steering committee to reduce meeting time. If the project continues, the membership cost will be around 100,000 SEK instead of the current 200,000 SEK. It's also important to consider how this change will be handled financially and if SACC-USA can manage this project financially.

Christer held discussions with SI, Vinnova, and UD. Vinnova expressed positivity towards a stronger focus on thematic areas and workshops. KK stiftelsen expressed interest in if other universities are interested in joining the project. SI also supported a more focused approach to the project. They all emphasized that expanding the range of universities would make it easier to secure funding. Cecilia asked about the financial support SACC would require from these organizations, and Christer explained that with the new project plan, SIREUS would need around 15-17 member universities and funding from Vinnova for workshops. He acknowledged this as a challenge and mentioned that SIREUS would receive contributions for necessary events.

3. Christer noted that there haven't been any significant changes. He reminded the group that attendance at previous SIREUS RESEARCH forums typically ranged from around 40 to 60 participants.

Christer is considering organizing a SIREUS RESEARCH forum focusing on funding in the future. He attended a seminar in DC where Sweden's Minister of Health was present. The seminar featured a panel discussion on funding, which Christer noted could be relevant for a future SIREUS RESEARCH forum. He is in contact with Åsa Wallin, LiU who was the moderator at that event to do a similar panel as a SIREUS RESEARCH forum. He also had a similar conversation with Maria Brogren, Swedish Embassy about a SIREUS RESEARCH forum featuring Vinnova and NSF, since they recently signed a bilateral agreement about research funding.

In recent days, the SIREUS team has been in touch with the Green Transition Initiative to collaborate on a research forum. GTI are planning on having a Green Transition Summit in October. The SIREUS team are exploring topics of interest to Sweden.

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4. a. Due to the evaluation process, this project is currently put on pause. Christer still wants to develop it further, but until we know what's next for SIREUS, the work on the Affiliation of Companies is paused.

5. a. Christer asked the working group what they are interested in in terms of workshops.

Torbjörn suggested that the topics for research depend on the interests of the researchers. He proposed forestry and the digitalization of forests as areas of interest for Linnaeus. Therese indicated that Linköping University would be interested in topics related to AI and Life Science. Maryam mentioned that she needs to discuss this further with the researchers as there aren't specific areas they are currently focusing on. Torbjörn also suggested combining SIREUS events with established conferences and seminars. Cecilia agreed with Maryam and emphasized the importance of discussing topics with researchers. She also mentioned that the principal at Uppsala University has identified three areas for future investments: precision health, green transition, and migration.

Christer notes that the Swedish Institute is hosting an AI exhibition at the House of Sweden this spring. Alongside the exhibition, they are organizing roundtable discussions on AI. The SIREUS team is collaborating with the Swedish Embassy to invite American universities and contribute to workshops and roundtable discussions.

Cecilia asked if the workshops are in-person or online. Christer answered that the GTI summit and the AI exhibition at the House of Sweden are in-person, but SIREUS is considering having both digital and in-person workshops in the future.

6. Mapping of target companies/areas is also put on pause due to the SIREUS 2nd half evaluation process, but the SIREUS team have collected individual plans from all universities.

7. Next scheduled meeting is on June 4th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)

- a. June 4th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- b. August 27th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- c. October 8th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- d. November 19th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)

The meeting calendar is also published on the website (private area)

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