

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 15

Date: June 4th, 2024

Minutes prepared by Aida Aboutalebi – June 4th, 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Charlotte Emlind Vahul	Present
University of Gothenburg	Jonas Rimbäck	Present
Jönköping University	No representation	Not present
Linköping University	Åsa Wallin	Not present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Not present
	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Not resent
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Not present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Not present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
	Jenny Majidyar	Not present
SACC Trainees	Aida Aboutalebi	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

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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. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implemented on the website. Workshop – desired focus?
5. SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
 - a. Destination Start Up – 2025
 - b. Next Innovations Tour?
6. Next meetings

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 by welcoming everyone.

b) In the last meeting, the primary focus was on the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum, the SIREUS RESEARCH forum, and the development of SIREUS 2.0. Additionally, we discussed the evaluation group and various thematic areas. Many of these topics will be revisited in accordance with the upcoming agenda.

c) SIREUS hosted the SIREUS MEMBERS forum in conjunction with the NAFSA conference in New Orleans on May 29th. The event was a great success, receiving a lot of positive feedback.

SIREUS is currently in the planning stages for the annual Study in Sweden event, primarily overseen by Working Group 4. The event is scheduled for October 4th - 12th and will take place in Washington D.C., New York, and San Francisco.
2. Christer updated the group on the second phase of SIREUS and its ongoing progression. The recommendations from the evaluation groups have been submitted to the steering committee, which has suggested that the SIREUS project should not continue in its current form. A communications plan to officially announce this decision is still in progress.

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The SACC-USA executive committee, in collaboration with Christer, has discussed potential alternatives for continuation. One proposal is for SACC-USA to offer different programs to the universities.

3. Thus far, SIREUS has successfully hosted three SIREUS RESEARCH forums and is currently organizing additional ones. One upcoming forum will focus on green transition, in collaboration with the Green Transition Initiative (GTI). Tentatively scheduled for September 10th, this forum precedes the Green Transition Summit (GTS), also hosted by GTI, where SIREUS will hold a side event. Another potential workshop that SIREUS can participate in will be held in mid-October, hosted by the Embassy of Sweden.

Another potential topic for a SIREUS RESEARCH forum is the US-Sweden Cancer Summit 2024. Recently, a new bilateral collaboration agreement between Sweden and the USA was signed to advance cancer research. During a panel discussion moderated by Åsa Wallin, representatives from The Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, and the National Cancer Institute shared valuable insights into existing funding opportunities for cancer research cooperation and discussed potential future initiatives. Building on this, the plan is to host a SIREUS RESEARCH forum featuring the same panel.

Additionally, there are discussions about organizing a session with NSF and Vinnova moderated by Maria, possibly focusing on the bilateral funding opportunities.

Jonas made an insightful point about the SIREUS RESEARCH forum, highlighting the value of giving participants more details in advance about the specific topic of discussion.

4. a. As SIREUS plans to host workshops on various thematic areas, Vinnova has expressed interest in supporting future SIREUS programs that align with their priorities. This week, Maria will attend a meeting with Vinnova and the Knowledge Foundation (KK-stiftelsen) to explore potential funding opportunities for future program initiatives.
5. a. Christer presented the group with a two-page “brochure” for the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum and inquired about the interest in paying a participation fee if SIREUS were to undergo changes from its current form. Before any definitive answers could be provided, questions emerged about the logistics and financial implications for universities participating in such an event. While there was consensus on the value of the opportunity, concerns were raised regarding the associated costs.
 - b. Concerning the Innovation Tour in Texas, there's an interest in its continuation to some extent. Once more, the group reached a consensus that it would be valuable, given its previous success. However, there were concerns raised regarding its alignment with university budgets. Looking

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ahead to next year, Washington State sparked interest. Christer will discuss this further with Maria to propose a variety of potential concepts for a future Innovation Tour.

6. Next meeting is scheduled to be held on August 27th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

- ~~June 4th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
- August 27th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- October 8th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- November 19th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

The meeting calendar will also be published on the website (private area).

No other topics were discussed, and Christer thanked the members and concluded the meeting.

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