

# Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 17

Date: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Annie Arcini Lundwall – October 8th, 2024*

## Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Charlotte Emlind Vahul	Not 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	Present
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	Not present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
	Jenny Majidiyar	Not present
SACC Trainees	Annie Arcini Lundwall	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 2.0 Implementation
3. WG Structure
4. SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
5. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
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. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then spoke briefly about the agenda for the meeting. He also mentioned the upcoming student recruitment events in the US.
2. Christer referred to a document he has shared with the steering committee, regarding SIREUS Affiliation of Swedish Universities. The plan is that if we get enough universities, which we're not sure about at this point, we will have an affiliation and an MoU with SACC-USA. Christer will finish his work with SIREUS as planned, but SIREUS will continue as a program within SACC USA and Christer will be there to help if needed as a volunteer. SACC-USA will offer a few events as pay-to-arrange with preferred pricing if you're in the affiliation and/or being a SACC-USA member. The prices indicated in the presentation are preliminary, pending on conversations with SI about potential funding for some events. This March we are planning the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum, the prices are preliminary set to \$ 4,000 USD. The plan is also to offer the events to non-members. We did it this week for the Study-in-Sweden tour, where Blekinge Technical University participate without being a member and they are paying \$ 4,000 USD to participate at the events.
3. Christer mentioned again that the WG structure and focus will change towards have a planning group for the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum and potentially the Innovation Tour.
4. Christer opened the conversation regarding interest to participate in the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum. In November this group must confirm if you are interested or not, and

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the same with SIREUS MEMBERS forum and the Study-in-Sweden tour. The plan is to ask you about the interest in a potential event/forum 4-6 months prior to the event, since there are several things that need to be planned and committed to in advance of an event.

The question today is, how does it look for you about the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum including the Destination Startup? Sten says that they are more interested in the INNOVATION tour, Marita is interested in both but there is a reconstruction at their university, and they won't be able to say anything at this moment. Marita thought that the last INNOVATION tour was good, and last year they had companies to send to Destination Startup, but it was a bit too late from their side. For coming events they need to consider a year in advance. Jonas thinks that the concept of SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum and Destination Startup is interesting, but he thinks that it's important to be sponsored with some kind of travel funding. There are a lot of different actors that provide these kinds of events, and the question is what event fits their theme the most. Annette doesn't think that they will be able to participate in neither the INNOVATION tour nor the SIREUS ENTEREPRENEURS forum including Destination Startup, since they (LNU) have just started focusing on innovation. If the affiliation is successful, they might reconsider next year.

Christer asks how it works and who decides about the events, is it the universities or also the start-ups companies. Jonas confirms that there are different types of funding that can be used for specific areas, from e.g. Vinnova, otherwise its from one budget that they use for all kinds of event. Marita says that all the universities are different but there is often one budget that they need to consider what are most important, but they can also apply for money from e.g. Vinnova, but it's different from year to year. Christer says that he and Maria his planning to present the SIREUS ENTREPRENENURS form Vinnova, so it might be easier for the universities to apply for funds.

Christer mentioned that last time at the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum the Swedish companies had the chance to make a presentation for the hole audience. The US based companies participated in a process where they needed to be qualified and then trained to give a pitch to the investors and potential partners. This is something that would be interesting in the future, this is not possible for the next one since there is not a lot of time left, but in the future if we know in advance who wants to join this might be a possibility. SIREUS needs to know this maybe 6-4 months in advance. The participants in the meeting hope that they will have information to give SIREUS at the next meeting.

INNOVATION tour, is there any interest there? In that case we can start a planning group and then select dates and places according to what's interesting to you. The Two-pagers to these events can be found at last meetings notes.

5. We had the 5<sup>th</sup> research forum last week; Nicole Forsberg from Colorado helped plan this, and Bill and Daniel were at the forum. Bill works with front end and funding; David is more focused

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on mature companies for funding and public companies. They were a good combination. This time we did not record the forum due to compliance regulation for investment funds, but we will do an article on it instead. The article will be published on the website. Since SIREUS will be changed, Maria at the embassy will keep the SIREUS RESEARCH forum going, but she would like to have a group that she could ask what kind of topics would be interesting. Maria intends to report on what's happening in the US quarterly, and then have regular SIREUS RESEARCH forum up to 4 times a year.

6. Thanks for today, the next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>. We can make a brainstorming group to ENTREPRENERUS forum if there are any interests, and to the INNOVATION tour. Jonas emphasize that a travel fund would be very helpful, he exemplifies that Vinnova had some before. We can find a specific focus like deep tech and if there are companies that are willing to sponsor. Marita also says that many companies usually have money at the end of the year and that all the universities can apply for the money together. Jonas emphasizes that it is good to make an application that is specific to the agenda and that is clear on what the outcome will be.
7. Christer thanks for the meeting and says that we will meet again in November after the election.

Next meeting is scheduled to be held on November 19th @ 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).

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