

Research Management Capacity Building Internship for Bahir Dar University and the lessons learnt

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In the framework of the Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) programme between Bahir Dar University and Flemish universities (programme coordinated by prof. dr. Jan Nyssen (Ghent University) and prof. dr. Enyew Adgo, Bahir Dar University)), a collaboration was set up to investigate the research-related support that is offered by the central administration to the research community at the universities mentioned. In this regard, an internship was held from January 15 to February 5, 2018, by a visit of dr. Bezuayehu Kerisew, Research Director of Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia. Four Flemish Universities (Universiteit Gent, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Universiteit Hasselt and Universiteit Antwerpen) were involved. The internship focused on gaining experiences of Flemish Universities on the research co-ordination activities and the research data management platforms used to support these activities. Among the topics which were investigated include:

- the management of the external calls for research proposals and the ways this information is distributed among the researchers;
- the management of internal research funds and the mechanisms to distribute the funds to researchers;
- the university policy measures to stimulate and support staff to perform excellent research;
- the criteria used to evaluate submitted research proposals and/or to assess the research achievements of staff members in the framework of promotion opportunities;
- the research and the research information management systems that are in place to collect, monitor, and visualise all kinds of research performances at the level of an individual, a research group, a faculty, a research institute, and the university as a whole;
- the visualisation of the research expertise of all staff as a helpful means to attract external partners;
- the criteria, steps and management of valorization (formation of spin offs and incubation centers) based on the research outputs;
- the financial management of the research projects from the beginning to their completion;
- the automation of all administrative, financial and output-generating activities related to research;
- the ways to monitor effectiveness and efficiency of research policy measures and to design new or alternative policy measures in order to reach the research-related goals set by the university.

In general, important experience was gained from the Flemish Universities visited and this will be a valuable input for the effort being done to improve the research activities, the research co-ordination activities and the research information management activities of Bahir Dar University.

Keywords: Research management, Institutional University Cooperation (IUC), Bahir Dar University, Flemish universities, Collaboration,