

South-South University Cooperation Network (SUCN) pilot project

Greening-with-STI Bootcamp

SUCN Project Overview

The United Nations is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Among its 17 goals, there is a strong movement towards increasing science, technology, and innovation (STI) on the international forefront, particularly as it relates to addressing the growing threat of global climate change. Higher education institutions, particularly in the Global South, play an important role in promoting STI on a global scale through their (1) teaching and learning, (2) research and engagement, and (3) organizational management efforts. As such, we propose the launch of the **South-South University Cooperation Network (SUCN)** to support meaningful youth engagement and leadership in STI and SDG impacts through better attainment in higher education through SUCN and to achieve greater international collaboration across higher education institutions in the Global South and ultimately worldwide, particularly regarding STI.

The proposed SUCN will bring together 10 leading universities, which can potentially function as the network regional and sub-regional hubs, and other member universities from four UNESCO Global South regions (Africa, Asia and Pacific, Arab States, and Latin America and the Caribbean) to achieve the following key outputs and related activities:

- a. **Greater access to capacity building among Global South youth at higher education level**, as achieved through a comprehensive bootcamp programme with a focus on greening higher education for sustainable development, bringing together higher education students and other supporting stakeholders from both SUCN Leader and Member Universities;
- b. **Youth-led increased technology and innovation transfers across SUCN leading and member universities**, as achieved through an STI Working Group, connecting SUCN universities to share, contextualize, and implement youth-led STI solutions (mainly

greening technology) through the four major functions (teaching and learning, research and development, community and industry engagement, and management and administration) of greening higher education, addressing SDG 13 through 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 17;

- c. **Promotion of innovative South-South cooperation partnerships**, as achieved through an Intergenerational Global Forum, designed to promote technological innovation and interagency dialogue across the South-South University Cooperation Network; and
- d. **Greater evidence-based policy advocacy in higher education institutions**, as achieved through ongoing monitoring & evaluation efforts to assess institutional readiness for the SUCN network and opportunities for STI-related activities.

Greening-with-STI Bootcamp Overview

The SUCN will launch the Greening-with-STI Bootcamp, an interactive capacity-building program to strengthen the skills and expertise of students as the main agents of change and other higher education stakeholder as the support. Across SUCN's leading member universities and through the proposed Greening-with-STI Bootcamp, students along with other higher education stakeholder will engage in training workshops, coaching sessions, and knowledge exchange initiatives, more broadly enabling universities to improve the quality and relevance of education and research for their youth to take leadership in initiatives. The proposed Bootcamp will be a flexible 16-week programme for university students and other higher education stakeholders across various sectors from the Global South to embark on a journey to explore SDG13 through SDG 4, SDG7, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12, and SDG 17. Each team will consist of 3-5 young people coming from diversified disciplinary backgrounds with one university professor or researcher and one university manager and will co-design a STI solution in fulfilling the responsibility of SDG13 defined by the missions of their respective universities. The technological solution can be addressing institutional, communal, municipal, provincial or national SDG 13 challenges. Throughout the Bootcamp, South-South exchanges and workshops are incorporated to allow discussions on identification of common challenges and shared solutions.

Greening-with-STI Details

1. TEAM COMPOSITION

Each team is formed by 3-5 young people coming from diversified disciplinary backgrounds and one (1) university professor or researcher plus one (1) university manager.

2. BOOTCAMP TIMELINE

The bootcamp will last for 16 weeks in total, consisting of the following components:

- **Mandatory weekly coaching sessions:** two coaches – one focusing on STI technical support and the other providing contextual SDG support – to be assigned to each team to help guide through their questions and concerns through different stages of innovative solutions¹ for SDG13 and its intersectional solutions to other SDGs, especially to SDG 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 17. (Teams from different universities can be grouped together with the same 2 coaches. Grouping can be done by time zones and/or by themes – TBC depending on the number and the focus of the teams we will have)
- **Mandatory Masterclasses and Weekly tutorials:** each team will be provided with a combination of masterclasses and OER tutorials that can fill in the gaps in skills needed to move forward with the STI identification, design, implementation, and transfer.
- Optional complementary resources available in the learning platform

The 16 weeks are divided into 4 stages (more details can be found in Annex A)

¹ Examples of viable innovative solutions may be:

- SDG 2 (Zero hunger)
 - o An app that links restaurants and grocery stores with local charities and NGOs to save food waste and redistribute to local refugee communities.
- SDG 3 (Good health and well-being)
 - o An online platform for socially introverted people or locally confined people to enjoy real life experiences in the virtual world (e.g. play tennis, have a drink, etc.).
 - o A set of adjustable clips that help customize facial masks to reduce breathing and allergy problems when wearing a mask.
- SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities)
 - o A brick reformed from recycled plastic bottles to support rebuilding local slums.
- SDG 13 (Climate action)
 - o A waste collector that can be used by divers and surfers to collect trash in the ocean.

Stage 1: CONTEXTUALIZE AND DEFINE	Stage 2: IDEATE	Stage 3: PROTOTYPE AND TEST	Stage 4: REFINE AND PITCH
<p>Week 1: Touchbase Icebreaking activities can be arranged to help teams from different Global South countries learn more about each other and understand the objectives of the Bootcamp more precisely.</p> <p>Week 2: Identification of Challenges Identification of up to three SDG13 (including intersectionality with other SDGs) challenges that are contextually relevant for each group and to which they could contribute. (more details in Annex B)</p> <p>Weeks 3 and 4: Confirmation of the</p>	<p>Weeks 5 to 6: Brainstorm of Solutions Design of possible solutions for the defined problem statement.</p> <p>Weeks 7 and 8: Solution Selection and Consolidation Selection of the best solution and designing of its first version.</p>	<p>Week 9: Developing Prototype The draft solution must be transformed into a prototype</p> <p>Weeks 10 and 11: Proof of concept and Test designing: The solution to be further refined and tested against hypothetical scenarios.</p> <p>Week 12:</p>	<p>Weeks 13 to 14: Refinement of STI Solution Final refinement of the prototype after testing and preparation for pitch with wider audiences.</p> <p>Weeks 15: Prepare for the pitch</p> <p>Week 16: Pitch among all Bootcamp participant teams and other invited</p>

<p>Challenge to be resolved by STI One challenge must be selected and transformed into a clear problem statement.</p>		<p>Final Testing with external users The prototype shall be tested with external users to understand its practicality and limitations.</p>	<p>stakeholders.</p>
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3. ELIGIBILITY

Each team is expected to:

- Have sufficient English skills to facilitate with STI solution transfer among the Global South.
- Demonstrate a balanced knowledge background in science, technology, innovation, social issues, climate change, and green education.
- Access to stable internet, devices, and infrastructure for prototyping.
- 3-5 students and one representative of each of the following categories:
 - o Teaching or research professional
 - o University management professional

4. SELECTION PROCESS

Each university will be responsible for selecting the members of their team(s) taking into consideration the above eligibility criteria inclusivity measures defined by the UN System.

Each university can nominate up to ten (10) teams to the Greening-with-STI Bootcamp as selected at institutional level. UNESCO IESALC will not interfere by any means in the internal selection process to be conducted within each leader university.

Although the student composition of each team must be different, the professor/researcher and university manager can be responsible for more than one team within their universities.

5. BOOTCAMP ARRANGEMENT

The arrangement for Masterclasses will be for everyone.

The arrangement for Tutorials will be OER for everyone.

The arrangement for coaching can be referred to as follow:

Each university will be assigned the same 2 coaches for all their teams, one focusing on STI technical support and the other providing contextual SDG support. (Teams from different universities can be grouped together with the same 2 coaches. Grouping can be done by time zones and/or by themes – TBC depending on the number and the focus of the teams we will have).

Weekly meetings will be arranged between the coaches and the teams under their responsibility to track progress and provide feedback and guidance across all stages of the bootcamp.

6. RECOGNITION

All teams will receive a Certificate of Participation.

All teams with a viable solution will receive a Certificate of Honor with the full name of their solution/prototype to acknowledge their success.

All valid solutions will be invited to the Global Road Show.