

Building Stronger Universities in the Global South



BSU III celebrating its first two Phd candidates in Gulu University, Uganda

Aalborg University is co-coordinator for one of the 6 projects in Africa under the program “Building Stronger Universities, BSU”, which is funded by Danida. It’s the only BSU-project lead by female coordinators and anchored in the Humanities and Education.

“The BSU-project is a very important project for Gulu University and for Aalborg University. It gives us an opportunity to build up long term and sustainable relationships to Gulu University in Uganda, and to universities in the Global South. For Aalborg University it’s especially interesting and important as Gulu University is eager to develop problem and project based learning and to adopting ict for learning”. Further the project also offers opportunities for our students to work closely with students from Gulu Universities, and use Gulu University as a base for student projects” tells Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld, who is co-coordinator of the project and coordinator for the Danish Universities.

About the project

Building Stronger Universities is a collaboration between African, and Danish universities with a common goal of strengthening research capacity in developing countries. The program is supported by DANIDA. In 2011 Building Stronger Universities started as a collaboration between *Universities Denmark* (representing all Danish universities) and 11 higher education institutions in five countries (Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, and Nepal). Since then it has progressed through its first and second phase and is now entering its third phase.

One of the target universities is Gulu University (GU) in Uganda. GU was established in 2002/3 and plays an important role in developing and transforming the Northern region of Uganda educating the new generation of leaders and making higher education accessible to

all. The BSU III - GU project focus especially on two themes: *transforming education and rights, resources and gender*.

The overall objective is to strengthen community development, employability and entrepreneurial thinking through the adoption of ICT and blended learning. The project is lead by Gulu University. The project explores the use of participatory methods and problem- and project based learning as a means for sustainable research capacity building. The project is lead by Gulu University. AAU is co-coordinator for the project and coordinator for the Danish Universities.

The project also hosts DK-students doing projects and research internships, and this has proven to be very important for the collaboration between the universities. Examples of student projects from Information Studies are: "Welcome to Pagirinya (Flygtningelejr i Adjumani); Improving the Learning Management system, Moodle, at Gulu University in Uganda."

The project is really important in building up the research capacity in Gulu University so the university can provide research based teaching and learning at the highest level; moreover it supports changes in the teaching and learning culture towards problem and project based learning, where students work closely together with the communities.

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