SECRA
Collaborate for Resilience

University of HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals

Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilience Communities in Asia

Website
https://drrcollab.org

Research problem

SECRA aims at tackling the often ad hoc, episodic quality of university-enterprise collaboration (UEC) in the field of disaster resilience in the project's partner countries, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Philippines. This is a pressing issue, because the knowledge and skills transfer through entrepreneurial processes within UEC have the potential to increase disaster resilience. In turn, disaster resilient societies are more likely to better respond and adapt to consequences of climate change,to which the partner countries are vulnerable.

SECRA deals with the problem at hand in a sequential fashion. SECRA's contribution to more resilient communities is through increasing the capacity of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to initiate, manage, maintain, and benefit from UEC. The institutionalization and systematization of UEC are addressed in WPs 1, 2, and 3, innovation in WP4, and monitoring in WP5.

SECRA concomitantly addresses gender equity as a means towards better UEC. We are aware that there is not a simple answer to the wickedness of climate change consequences or resilience; we are claiming, however, that facilitating systematic, institutionalized, and monitored UEC is part of a solution.

The overarching aim of SECRA is to contribute to more resilient communities in Asia through institutionalized, systematic, monitored, innovative, and inclusive university–enterprise collaboration (UEC) in climate change action and disaster resilience (DR).

Project outcomes

SECRA's focus on the field on DR aligns with the most recent addition to the cross-cutting priorities, namely that of addressing climate change prevention, adaptation, and mitigation strategies. These strategies are more fruitfully achieved through the pooling of resources and innovation between in triple helix arrangements such us UEC.

Additionally, SECRA will contribute to the following Asia Region 6, Category 3, regional priorities:

- University enterprise cooperation (such as support for students' practical placement, entrepreneurship, employability of graduates).
- Knowledge triangle, innovation (such as reinforcing links between education, research, and business).
- Definition, implementation, and monitoring of reform policies.

Project objectives

1. To trace, delimit, and map the lacunae in UEC collaborations broadly identified through (i) work preceding SECRA and (ii) the needs analysis conducted together with the partners in the Philippines, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. Bounding these lacunae will, inter alia, provide the foundation for the work conducted in the development WPs.
2. To foster a better alignment between the interest of enterprises with the national public interest, especially in the field of climate change and DR.
3. To create the prerequisites for, and establish a community of practice (CoP) involving university and enterprise actors in the field of DR, both in physical and in virtual network terms.
4. To boost entrepreneurship and innovation in the selected HEIs by creating opportunities for collaboration with enterprise actors; support the transition of ideas into practice, and support start-ups and scale-ups while making use of existing knowledge resources at these HEIs.
5. To develop and implement a monitoring and assessment tool that can feed into evaluations of UEC collaborations in a broader effort of evidence-based policy in the program countries.
6. To foster appropriate, inclusive solutions for the promotion of gender equity and diversity.

How will the research problem be addressed?

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- University enterprise cooperation (such as support for students' practical placement, entrepreneurship, employability of graduates)
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The institutionalization and systematization of UEC are addressed in WPs 1, 2, and 3, innovation in WP4, and monitoring in WP5.

- WP1 - a needs-analyses conducted with the partners and will produce a detailed map of the collaborative landscape in the partner countries. This will serve as the preparatory foundation for the ensuing WPs.

- WP2 - the development of a relational framework and policy briefs. Since a single-level conceptualization of UEP is inadequate, propose a relational framework thattakes into consideration multilevel factors when developing a context-specific approach to collaborations and the support of network arrangements. At the macro-national level, the relational framework takes into account the significance of national norms and institutions. At the meso- (HEI) level, the project will consider the organizational processes, that influence UEC in climate change action and DR. At the micro level, it put focus on relations.

- WP3- based on the work on the two previous WPs, the stakeholders foster the capacity of HEIs to foment sustainable networks with SMEs that is, networks that are effective in their actions and may be sustained over time in the form of Communities of Practice (CoPs). WP4 will produce a platform that will serve as a hub of knowledge as well as a meeting place for researchers, teaching personnel, students, and business owners.

- WP4 -take on the issues of entrepreneurship and innovation, as articulated in the regional policy, head on. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development developed an InternationalPolicy Toolkit proposing an 'ecosystem' approach with education as its third pillar. The toolkit called for the mainstreaming of entrepreneurial types of education, promoting experiential learning approachesand training teachers, recognizing leadership through an increased level of professorial recognition and supporting networks of educators, which SECRA is also promoting in WP1. SECRA proposes to increase the capacity of HEIs through training in entrepreneurship education,hands on events such as university-enterprise engagement days, all in the interest of raising awareness among students that regarding the benefits of collaboration with the private sector as well as showcasingSMEs as a viable alternative to employment at the public sector, thus increasing their employability.

- WP5- develops an instrument to measure progress in each institution against their own benchmark. The instrument will include dimensions intrinsic to the HEI, such as structural organization and institutional support, as well as the external environment.

- WP6- Though the primary focus of SECRA is not gender equity, the project applies a critical approach to the training sessions and materials to design the activities and deliverables of this project having gender equity. The project contributes to assure gender equity and diversity training and to employ culturally appropriate strategies to attract more women in the training sessions at each partner university. This contributes to the democratisationof higher education, at least from a gender perspective.

- WPs (6, 7, and 8) of the project contribute to the regional goals. Abroad dissemination strategy includes scientific publications, contributions to trade publications, reports,blog posts on the web site, and social media activity. Additionally, a rigorous and professional project management can serve as a way to mentor less experienced partners into effectively running projectsand thus in an oblique way, contributing to capacity building. The inclusion of the associate partnersensures access to SMEs and private sector in general.

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