

ASG Innovation for whom

Universities as drivers of social innovation for inclusive development

In the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe, 162 877 persons applied for asylum in Sweden in 2015. Integrating hundreds of thousands of new arrivals into the Swedish society in the coming years is but one example of societal challenges that will require social innovations, not least within Higher Educational Institutions. This research program proposes to study how universities can serve as engines for social innovation. Through case studies, the ambitions and activities in the area of social innovation at Lund University will be examined and evaluated in an international context. Social Innovation is here defined as “a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than present solutions and for which the value created accrues primarily to society as a whole rather than private individuals” (Stanford Center for Social Innovation).

Members

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Workshops 2016/17

Workshops and seminar hosted by the Advanced Study Group on Social Innovation at Pufendorf Institute, Lund University, 2016/17

Social innovation is a topical issue for academics, practitioners as well as policy makers. This is primarily a result of the realization that many of the critical challenges society is facing today will require social innovations, not least in the areas of global climate change and the transition to a greener economy.

The Advanced Study Group of Social Innovation at Pufendorf Institute is interested in highlighting and analyzing social innovations particularly with a focus on environmental sustainability. Such innovations could be driven by an individual, a community, or changes in

institutions. In the three workshops and a final seminar, the process of social innovation will be examined from different perspectives.

In order to bridge between theory and practice, one speaker from academia and one representing a policy and/or practice perspective will present their views. These will serve to stimulate informal discussions in the workshops to which we invite academics as well as practitioners and policy makers to participate and contribute with their views.

Workshop 1: Universities and social innovation

The aim of this workshop is to dig deeper into the role of universities when it comes to social innovations and try to explore questions like: are universities responsible for supporting social innovations, can universities serve as seed-beds for social innovations and, in that case, are universities prepared to do it?

Time: October 28, 2016, 9:30-12:00

Workshop 2: The role of public procurement to support social innovation

In this workshop we discuss the role of governmental actors and public policy in general to support the emergence and scaling up of social innovations for environmental sustainability. We will address questions like: can public organizations use procurement as a way to support social innovations and/or are there situations when public procurement hinders social innovation?

Time: November 28, 2016, 10:00-12:00

Workshop 3: Community based social innovations

In this workshop we discuss the role of civil society movements and organizations in initiating and supporting social innovations for environmental sustainability. We take the perspective of grassroots innovations and community-based ecological innovations.

Time: January 26, 2017, 13:00-15:00

Final Seminar 4: Replicability, scaling up and scaling down of social innovation experiences

In this concluding seminar we discuss the challenge of replicating and scaling up social innovations for environmental sustainability, but we also discuss if we need to think about scaling down, that is to say – in a time when we are enmeshed in large systems, do we need to think small-scale in order to enable individuals and communities to take action. Up-scaling as well as down-scaling might act as hinders or enablers, which also will be explored.

Time: May 5, 2017, 13:00-16:00