

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 1 Business

Meeting # 13

Date: March 19th, 2024

Minutes prepared by Sara Lindenius – March 19th, 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology		
University of Gothenburg	Lena Pedersen	Present
Jönköping University		
Linköping University	Therese Lindkvist	Not present
Linnaeus University	Torbjörn Håkansson	Present
Luleå University of Technology		
Lund University	Lisa Thelin	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
Mälardalen University	Daniel Boqvist Mikael Hjorth	Not present Not Present
Stockholm University		
Uppsala University	Cecilia Nilsson	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Charlotte Kramer	Present
SIRUES Trainee	Sara Lindenius	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. SIREUS 2nd half evaluation
3. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
4. SIREUS Affiliation of Companies
 - a. Update status
5. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implemented on the website. Workshops – desired focus.
6. Mapping of target companies/areas
 - a. Individual Plan implemented. What companies to engage?
7. Next meeting

Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used following the agenda that was sent out prior to the meeting. This ppt presentation will be archived on the SIREUS website alongside the minutes.

Minutes

1. a. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- b. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.
- c. Christer initiated the meeting by announcing that future Working Group meetings will be limited to 45 minutes.

Christer updated the group about what has been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting. He mentioned that the evaluation of the project has been started. Which he gets back to later in the meeting.

Christer also discussed the upcoming NAFSA conference scheduled for May 29th in New Orleans, which took place in D.C. last year. He noted that there were 200 attendees at the SIREUS MEMBERS forum at the House of Sweden, and a total of 10,000 guests attended the NAFSA conference last year. For this year's SIREUS MEMBER forum, the option of purchasing separate tickets for non-members has become available, facilitating collaboration with the Swedish Institute. This concept may be taken into consideration for future implementation within SIREUS.

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Moreover, SIREUS has hosted an innovation trip to Texas. The Texas Innovation Tour involved six Swedish universities visiting five different universities in Texas, including the University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Rice University, and University of Houston.

Christer also noted that the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum is currently underway in Colorado this week. Seven companies and 20 individuals from Sweden are attending, providing them with the opportunity to pitch to investors and universities.

2. Christer provided an update on SIREUS progress in the evaluation process. There have been digital meetings as well as an in-person meeting in Stockholm regarding the future of SIREUS. During Christer's visit to Stockholm, he also met with Vinnova, UD, KK Foundation, and SI. They all noted that expanding the range of universities would facilitate securing funding more easily.

Additionally, there are future digital meetings scheduled. Christer also indicated that the SIREUS project will undergo changes in the future. Future meetings will focus on discussing the continuation of SIREUS and exploring additional options for members and universities.

3. Christer briefed the working group about the last SIREUS RESEARCH forum. The guest speaker was Otto Pohl a former New York Times journalist, serial entrepreneur, and head of communications. Otto coaches research-based startups around the world on how to effectively communicate their message to raise venture capital, generate business, and attract the best employees. At the previous SIREUS RESEARCH forum, attendance ranged from approximately 40 to 60 participants. Christer also noted that this level of attendance has been consistent during the last few RESEARCH forums.

Christer is also considering organizing a SIREUS RESEARCH forum focusing on funding. He has engaged in discussions with Vinnova and NSF regarding their interest in participating in such a forum.

The goal is to hold a SIREUS RESEARCH forum every month. However, Christer pointed out that it takes time to find speakers and develop programs that resonate with the researchers in SIREUS database. He reminded the working group that each attendee is required to indicate their university and thematic area they are interested in and that SIREUS stores information about the researchers who attend the events in a database.

Linnaeus University expressed their interest in receiving information regarding their researchers who have attended. Sara will furnish them with a list of the researchers affiliated with Linnaeus University who have attended. It's important to note that, in accordance with GDPR regulations, Linnaeus University, like any other university, only has access to information about their own researchers.

4. a. Christer also mentioned that the SIREUS team has continued working with the concept Affiliated Companies. Christer mentioned that Ericsson and SAAB have signed their MoU. This concept enables

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internships, guest speakers and workshops. He is hopeful about the new concept, but it relies upon what happens after the end of the SIREUS project.

During the meeting, there was also a discussion about the potential for affiliated companies to participate in working group meetings in the future.

5. a. Christer reminded the working group that SIREUS has requested each university to identify their most important Thematic Area. Consequently, SIREUS has developed customized plans for each university based on this information.

6. The goal of this working group is to establish connections with American companies. Vinnova is supportive of this idea and has proposed workshops. Christer is currently exploring how to advance this concept further. Additionally, he mentioned that non-member universities will most likely also have the opportunity to purchase this service and others in the future through the SIREUS program.

7. Next scheduled meeting is on April 29th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)

- a. April 29th-@ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- b. June 4th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- c. August 27th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- d. October 8th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
- e. November 19th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)

The meeting calendar is also published on the website (private area).

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