

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 13

Date: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Aida Aboutalebi – March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Charlotte Emlind Vahul	Present
University of Gothenburg	Jonas Rimbäck	Present
Jönköping University	No representation	Not present
Linköping University	Åsa Wallin	Not present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Not present
	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Not present
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
	Tor Regberg	Not present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
	Jenny Majidyar	Not present
SACC Trainees	Aida Aboutalebi	Present
SACC USA	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 2<sup>nd</sup> half evaluation
3. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
4. In Thematic Areas
  - a. Implemented on the website. Workshops – desired focus?
5. Individual University Plan
  - a. Updated status - what area would be extra interesting?
6. SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
  - a. Destination Start Up - Denver Annually! March 18-22, 2024
  - b. Innovation Tour Texas Feb 5-9, 2024 – next?
7. Next meetings

## 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 by welcoming everyone and announcing that, going forward, meetings would be shortened to 45 minutes instead of the previous 60-minute duration, as per discussions and consensus from previous meetings.  
  
b) Christer mentioned to the group that the agenda for this meeting reflected talking points from the previous meeting such as the SIREUS Texas Innovation tour, SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum, 2<sup>nd</sup> half evaluation, and the SIREUS RESEARCH forum.  
  
c) Similarly, it was pointed out that recent developments within SIREUS are reflected by the meeting agenda. Furthermore, he noted that the structure of the working groups would likely undergo changes to some extent.
2. Christer informed the group about the initial virtual meeting held by the evaluation team, where they discussed the project's progress and its future. Subsequently, Stockholm University hosted an in-person meeting to further discuss the continuation of SIREUS. During this session, participants received feedback highlighting the project's strengths and areas for improvement. The primary focus of the

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discussion was the project's direction post-February 1st. Additionally, on March 7th, a meeting took place where Christer received recommendations for enhancements. The upcoming meeting on April 9th will center on the evaluation team's recommendations, which will then be presented to the steering committee. The committee will review these recommendations on April 16th and decide on the continuation of SIREUS by May 28th. The stakeholders' group will formally make the final decision on June 4<sup>th</sup>, after which the implementation will take place.

3. So far, SIREUS has hosted three SIREUS Research forums and is currently in the process of organizing additional ones. There have been requests to focus on funding-related topics for upcoming forums. Maria shared information with the group about the US-Sweden Cancer Summit 2024, during which a new bilateral collaboration agreement between Sweden and the USA was signed to promote cancer care and research. A panel discussion moderated by Åsa Wallin included representatives from The Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, and the National Cancer Institute, who provided insights into existing funding opportunities for cancer research cooperation and discussed potential future initiatives. Building on this, Christer mentioned exploring the possibility of organizing a similar panel for the next research forum, which could be of interest to researchers.

4. SIREUS is actively developing a database of topics of interest for RESEARCH forum participants and seeking thematic areas ([Thematic Areas \(sireus.org\)](https://sireus.org)) that resonate with universities. This initiative not only facilitates targeted outreach but also enables the creation of relevant webinars.

Maria highlighted the new exhibition at the House of Sweden, which centers on artificial intelligence (AI). The exhibition, titled "Artificial Intelligence IRL: How Sweden is putting AI to good use," was inaugurated on March 26th. It encompasses three sub-categories: AI for an open society, AI for a healthier world, and AI for a greener planet. Maria then mentioned to the group that this presents an opportunity for further exploration through digital or in-person workshops, particularly focusing on the third sub-category.

5. On the SIREUS website [University specific documents \(sireus.org\)](https://sireus.org), individualized plans are also accessible, created specifically for each university.

These plans enable SIREUS to provide tailored support to universities according to their specific requirements.

6. The **SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum** in conjunction with Destination Startup was held from March 18th to 22nd. Unlike last year, this year Swedish start-up companies had the opportunity to pitch their ideas, marking a shift from primarily listening to active participation for the Swedish delegation. Aida, Christer Nygren, and Christer Bergman attended the event and provided a summary of their experiences. Christer Nygren, representing Mälardalen University, shared valuable insights gained as a first-time participant, emphasizing the importance of communication with other Swedish universities as one of the key takeaways from the event.

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Christer Bergman informed the group that he had spoken with the organizers of the Colorado event and expressed the desire to enhance the Swedish presence for future Destination Startup events. It was emphasized that participation in these events is intended to be an annual occurrence, and there is consideration for potentially organizing a similar event in Sweden. He further suggested that such an event could be carried out in collaboration with Vinnova. Building on this, Maria, as a participant from last year, expressed enthusiasm for bringing such an event to Sweden.

The Innovation Tour Texas took place from February 5th to 9th, 2024, providing participating universities with a unique opportunity to explore Texas' tech ecosystem and its approach to innovation. Malin and Maria shared insightful observations from the trip, noting the distinctiveness of the Texan ecosystem compared to Sweden. They highlighted that different cities within Texas prioritize different areas of innovation. Reflecting on the experience, it was suggested that if repeated, it might be beneficial to focus on one specific area. Nonetheless, this trip served as an excellent initial step and presents an opportunity for further development.

7. Next meeting is scheduled to be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
  - a) ~~March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 16.00 CET (10 am EST) — please note it is on a Wednesday.~~
  - b) April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
  - c) June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
  - d) August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
  - e) October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
  - f) November 19<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

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

Before concluding the meeting, Maria raised another important topic: the potential of Sweden signing a green transition deal with Washington State. Additionally, she suggested that SIREUS explore the possibility of organizing a visit to Washington State.

Christer then thanked the members and concluded the meeting.

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