UNIVERSITY AS A FACILITATOR FOR COMMUNITY BASED SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES IN SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA

P5: Increased Youth Employability Through Skilling, Innovation, Experiential Learning & Technology Transfer

DATE: October 14, 2021
Content

1. Introduction: Problem / Need Statement
2. Objectives
3. Expected Outcomes
4. Team Composition
5. Expertise gap and contacts
Introduction to current situation:

Tackling Uganda’s escalating youth unemployment at 83% challenge

- 24.36% live in urban settings (UBOS, 2019)
- 87% from tertiary institutions cannot find jobs
- only 27% of students are in sciences
- 30% students are girls - a great gender imbalance
- High Rural-urban migration rate at 16% (UNHS, 2017)
- Innovations, soft skills & ICT initiatives not targeted the youth
The overall goal is to contribute to the elimination of youth unemployment in SWU

Specific Objectives:

• Develop a multidisciplinary ecosystem of various internal and external stakeholders in support of youth innovation and entrepreneurship
• Strengthen business incubation, experiential learning & technology transfer
• Develop short training courses for the youth that strengthens their entrepreneurial and innovation skills
• Support youth entrepreneurs through experiential learning and technology transfer
Expected Outcomes

- A multidisciplinary ecosystem to inspire, nurture and promote the conversion of innovative ideas into commercially products and businesses; established

- Strengthened business incubation centre at MUST

- Strengthened centre for innovation and technology transfer at MUST

- Produce graduates with firm-specific entrepreneurial and innovation skills that have immediate market value
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUST team</th>
<th>FLEMISH team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Tumuhimbise Manasseh</strong> (Department of Accounting &amp; Finance, Faculty of Business and management Sciences) : Sustainable business solutions and development specialist</td>
<td><strong>Lies Vanhaelemans</strong> (Department of business management Howest) : youth entrepreneurship, Innovation management</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. ir. Fred Kagwa</strong> (Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Computing and Informatics) : ICT/software specialist</td>
<td><strong>Ivo De Pauw</strong> (Department of Digital Arts and Entertainment Howest) : Mathematics, ICT expert</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Rogers Mwavu</strong> (Department of Information Technology): ICT/software specialist</td>
<td><strong>Ann Deraedt</strong> (Department of business economics Howest): ICT/software specialist, collaborative software, data management</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko</strong> (Department of Environment and Livelihood Support Systems, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies) : Policy Management and Natural Resource Governance</td>
<td><strong>Sofie Degraeve</strong> (Department of industrial design Howest) : Sustainable business solutions and development specialist, Design thinking in education, Innovative teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Asaph Katarangi</strong> (Department of Human Resource, Faculty of Business and management Sciences) : Human resource development specialist</td>
<td><strong>Lieven Theys</strong> (Department of business management Howest) : Innovation management, internationalization, legal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Twinomuhwezi Alex</strong> (Department of Marketing &amp; procurement, Faculty of Business and management Sciences) : Marketing and value addition specialist</td>
<td><strong>Loes Flamant</strong> (Department of business management Howest) : Finance and accounting, How to start up a business</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Kemeza Imelda</strong> (Department of Educational Foundations &amp; Psychology) : Psychology and Gender specialist</td>
<td><strong>Lieselotte Vantomme</strong> (Business coach Howest) : Coach of entrepreneurial students in starting-up their business, sustainable development</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Specioza Twinamatsiko</strong> (Department of Community engagement and service learning) : Service learning, community engagement &amp; research specialist</td>
<td><strong>Dirk Van Merode</strong> (Department of design and IT AP) : technology transfer, international projects in sustained development</td>
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Expertise gaps

- Talent development experts
- Sustainable value chain in e.g. agriculture, tourism, ecosystem, industry,…
- SME development and accelerator:
  - Go-to-market of innovations and management
  - Incubator: linking the industry and MUST
  - Skilling & Business process outsourcing (BPO)
  - Youth entrepreneurship

Contact: Dr. Manassee: Tumuhimbise.Manassee@must.ac.ug; +256-772404142

Contact: Ms. Lies: lies.vanhaelemeesch@howest.be; +324-74853547