



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR
RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH
POST WORKSHOP REPORT**

Attendee Name: Dr. Adelheid Marie Bwire

Attendee Designation and Department: Senior Lecturer, Department of Educational Communication & Technology.

Title of workshop: Outbound Staff Mobility, Linnaeus University, Sweden.

University URL: <https://lnu.se/en/education/>

Mobility Summary: *Brief description, conference organisers, target audience, venue and duration.*

This was a second mobility activity to Linnaeus University, but this time, hosted at Kalmar Campus. The mobility programme aims at increasing the competence of staff in how administration, teaching and learning may differ in diverse academic environments, and become better prepared to work and teach in the multicultural HEI. The programme took place in Department of Didactics and Teachers Practice, Linnaeus University from 16th to 3rd January 2023. This involved attending a conference, meetings with colleague faculty and International Office staff at Linnaeus University in both Kalmar and Kalmar campuses.

Among other activities I participated in were an International Conference on “Teacher Education for Democracy and Well Being”. Together with my colleagues, Dr. Mary Nasibi and Dr. Florence Miima, we presented a Conference paper on “**Teaching Democracy: The Role of Different Actors in Sweden and Kenya**”. The aim of the paper was to contribute to the development of teachers’ education to foster democratic values & democratic society and contribute to increased knowledge for a future project on how teachers’ education fosters democratic values. This presentation generated a rich discussion and a comparison with the Swedish System. We therefore intend to carry on this proposal as a full blown collaborative research. The conference was opened by the Pro-Vice Chancellor who spoke on the Role of teachers, students and family in democratising education. The three keynote speakers were Professor Mikael Person from the University of Gothenberg. His speech addressed “Education for Democracy”. The other Keynote speaker was Professor Jack Lukkers, a Sexologist from Malmö University, who spoke on “Sex the right way – Youth, Sexuality and Swedish Contemporary view on Sexuality”. The third one was Professor Disa Bergnehr, who spoke on “School Health Services, Health Promotion and Risk Prevention”.

A quick summary of the Conference: School's role in democracy in focus of international conference

Schools are expected to play a crucial role in the formation of a democratic society, and to educate democratic citizens. But how does it do this and how should teacher education work to promote this work? This question was the focus of the Teacher Education for Democracy and Wellbeing conference, which brought together some 40 teacher educators from ten countries at Linnaeus University over two days in January.

“Schools are an important stakeholder in building a stable democracy. This means that we in teacher education must educate future teachers about these issues,” says Charlotte Silander, associate professor of political science at Linnaeus University, Sweden, and one of the organisers of the conference.

“We need to learn more about how to train students to work on issues such as democracy, tolerance and diversity in teacher education.”

The conference aims to provide an opportunity for those working in teacher education at different universities

and in different countries to meet and exchange experiences.

“There is a great need for international cooperation in teacher education. This is one way to contribute to that,” says Charlotte Silander.

The issue of the importance of education for democratic citizenship was the focus of Mikael Persson, Professor of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, who was one of the keynote speakers at the conference.

“Yes, education matters. The highly educated participate in politics and vote in political elections at a higher rate. But that may not be the decisive factor,” says Mikael Persson, adding:

“School cannot solve everything. We must have realistic expectations of what it can achieve.”

Mikael Persson concludes with some tips on how teachers can create a climate that promotes democratic values in schools:

“There needs to be an open classroom climate, where different opinions can be heard and social and political issues are discussed,” says Mikael Persson. “It’s good to use new media and different teaching methods, in combination with traditional teaching. Evaluate continuously, and use the teaching methods that suit the class in question.”

Disa Bergnehr, Professor of Education at Linnaeus University, Sweden, was the second keynote speaker. She talked about how school health services can provide care and support in low achieving schools.

In conjunction with the conference, the European university EUniWell hosted a meeting for the EUniWell Teacher Education Arena. Representatives from the Universities of Florence, Cologne, Murcia and Linnaeus met on site in Kalmar, while representatives from the others participated in the online meeting. The conference was organised by Charlotte Silander and Mattias Lundin from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Linnaeus University, in the form of Knowledge Environment Linnaeus: Education in Change.

Photo at Linnaeus, Kalmar Campus:



Globalisation of Education: EUniWell Alliance:

We also held a meeting with Linnaeus EUniWell Alliance participants (Lena Kulmala, Kristina Hellberg and Kerstin Hansson) on a possible virtual collaboration. Also in attendance were staff from the International Office (Administrative Director of Teacher Education, Susan and Jessica). The meeting centred on Globalisation of Education, Teaching/Approaching Difficult/Sensitive Subjects (such as Sexuality), Dealing with Digital tools and Equality in School. We shared many intercultural perspectives on these subjects and also had a chance to know each other better and generate new networks for future projects.

A talk on the Swedish Education System:

We also had a sharing with Jessica (Teacher Training Office) who described the Swedish Education System. We learnt about Teacher Certification for pre-school and secondary school teachers. Teacher education takes between 2 and 5 years. All teacher trainees do Teaching Practice for 5 – 10 weeks. It was noted that just like in Kenya, there has been a decline in teacher population over time. As a result of this collaboration meeting, we agreed to have virtual collaborations on topical issues for example Sexuality, Parental Engagement through a STAFF TRAINING MOBILITY with Linnaeus also sending students to KU for TEACHER PRACTICE.

Collaboration on student exchange - Teacher Trainees in KU for Teacher Practice

Other meetings we had were with faculty in Teacher Education and from the International Office. With the latter, we discussed (with Jessica Sundstrom and Alexandra Holtie) the feasibility of collaboration on student exchange - receiving LNU Teacher Trainees in KU for Teacher Practice. This was left pending as LNU looks into ways of recruiting their students into the programme as KU does the same. The Departmental Chairman and Project leader, Dr. Marguerite O'Connor will continue to explore this possibility through Dr. Charlotte Silander.

Research and teaching collaboration

Meeting with Dr. Charlotte Silander (Faculty and Director of Internationalisation) and Kerstin Hansson: among the areas we discussed for research and teaching collaboration were: Sexuality Literacy; Language barriers students experience, language and Identity, Teaching Digital aspects of Language, Teaching language and culture, Effective use of Social media. From this meeting, we agreed on having a virtual collaboration between LNU, a French University and KU students on “Sexuality Literacy” and on “Digitisation” through virtual seminars (Zoom links to be created). There will be three seminars in March and April 2023 with the first one coming on the 6th March and the other two on 4th and 5th of April 2023.

Tele-collaboration (Virtual Exchange)




Collaboration with faculty from Language Education and Applied Linguistics: we discussed with Christopher Allen the possibility on collaborating both through faculty exchange and virtual exchange and we look forward to writing a proposal to apply for a KA1 Mobility funding. However, we agreed to immediately set up tele-collaboration via a Virtual Exchange with Master of Education (Applied Linguistics) students. Dr. Florence Miima and I will attend Chris Allen’s “ICT for Language Teachers – Digital Literacies” classes on 20th and on “Language Teaching Skills for Young Learners” on 22nd of February 2023. He will also attend our virtual classes on dates yet to be decided on. This can then be followed by a physical mobility (for which we need to develop a proposal)

Mobility Objectives: *Describe Mobility objectives*

Faculty mobility to Linnaeus University is aimed at extending the collaboration with European universities in order to develop competences of staff members to increase education quality in Kenya, mainly concerning pedagogy, research and transfer of know-how and technologies. Collaboration with Sweden and Linnaeus University fits well into these aspirations. Its purpose is to contribute to establishing regional and international networks. It to increase faculty competence in how administration, teaching and learning may differ in diverse academic environments, making us better prepared to work and teach in a healthy environment.

Lessons learnt: *Identify specifically what you are bringing back from the workshop that relates to your departmental/ school/ University objectives.*

The lessons learnt from the mobility programme are as follows:

-  The importance of globalization of education
-  Enhanced international networks, professionalized acting in international classrooms, and improved capacity to compete for future collaborations and positions.
-  The importance of digital literacy in Language Education.

- ✚ Recognised and appreciated the importance of sexuality literacy.
- ✚ Built networks with colleagues from European countries from different schools of universities.
- ✚ That health promotion is key to educational success.
- ✚ That home-school collaboration is important.
- ✚ Developing strong networks with faculty in other schools of the university to mainstream good practices for school wellbeing.
- ✚ Teacher exchange can contribute to internationalization of the curriculum and to more attractive and qualitative programmes.
- ✚ Rethink ways of teaching and working and to change approaches in teaching and administration.

Partnership/Collaborations/Funding Opportunities/Networks Developed: *List new contacts developed that may be useful for collaborations and funding.*

I recommend:

1. That we develop more collaborations with Linnaeus University under the LINNAEUS PALME and ERASMUS + KA1 or KA2. We have begun developing a proposal on the same for future funding.
2. To develop networks with individuals from related Schools of Linnaeus University for purposes of conference participation, research and authorship.
3. That even though the mobility duration is relatively short, there are digital tools for continuing the collaboration virtually since we have learnt from previous experience that staff exchange contributes to both individual and institutional development.
4. To make use of the experiences for the benefit of KU in the School of Education and with my peers in the Department of Educational Communication & Technology

Additional Comments.

- Together with the Linnaeus Office of Internationalisation through Lena Kulmala, the Department of Educational Communication & Technology is developing a Project application for Erasmus+ KA1 (International Credit Mobility) for 2023 – 2026.
- The LINNAEUS PALME Mobility comes to an end in November 2023. There is need for funding by KU for collaboration in allied areas and allowing for exposure of more lecturers from the Department of Educational Communication & Technology.
- We were and will continue to be ambassadors for Kenyatta University and for the Kenyan Education system in order to help increase KU's capacity to attract students and staff and to operate at an international level.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

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