

Research Co-operation Social Sciences and the Humanities

During more than 25 years of Sida/SAREC research co-operation in the development sphere, the role of social sciences and the humanities has assumed growing importance. A lion's share of the support is being channelled through international and regional networks, while at the same time efforts are being made to obtain synergies with bilateral research support through universities.

Sida supports the production of new knowledge in the fields of political, economic, cultural and other social dimensions of development processes. Debate and dialogue, as well as easy access to information, have always been essential ingredients in the social sciences and humanities. These inputs are now enhanced by the development of ever more powerful means of communication. Social scientists around the globe are connected to this increasing web of intellectual interaction. Sida supports regional networks in Latin America, Africa and Asia, as well as institution building and national research capacity development. Areas of research include democracy and human rights, macroeconomics and environmental economics, gender, social change and archaeology.

Latin America

Most countries in Latin America have a long tradition of academic research related to the social sciences and humanities. However, various political agendas and upheavals have in several

regions regularly exercised a negative influence on the development of independent and critical research.

In 1999, Sida support to Latin America social research, which had been going on for two decades, was phased out. The programme has resulted in hundreds of scholarly publications and given new directions to the intensive, regional debate that is going on in Latin America. Sida continues to support CLACSO (The Latin American Council for Social Sciences) a rapidly expanding network of 130 research institutes (both NGOs and university institutions). It has a considerable book publication and offers grants and scholarships to Latin American social researchers each year. Research on human rights, questions of gender, violence and social adjustment is emphasized, as well as an increased collaboration with African research networks. *Further information:* www.clacso.org

In Central America support is given to FLACSO's (the Latin American Social Science Faculty) regional PhD programme for young research-

ers as well as a wide range of social research on relevant regional issues. Participants come from all Central American countries. *Further information:* www.flacso.org

Africa

In Africa, Sida is co-operating with the following regional research networks, which co-ordinate thematic research and scholarship programmes:

- 1) CODESRIA, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, covers the French, English and Arabic speaking parts of the continent. Its activities comprise multi-national and national research networks, fellowships, workshops, as well as a publications programme. *Further information:* www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/codesria.html
- 2) OSSREA, the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, represents eighteen countries. It stimulates research in social sciences, facilitates research cooperation, supports research education, and publishes *The Eastern Africa Social Science Review*, as well as books and research reports. *Further information:* www.ossrea.org
- 3) AAPS, African Association for Political Science is a pan-African organisation mainly for political scientists. It publishes an *African*

Journal of Political Science and develops textbooks in political science for African universities.

Further information: www.aaps.co.zw

- 4) UAPS, the Union for African Population Studies, supports thematic research in demography, e.g. urban-rural migration, changing family structures, fertility and socio-economic aspects of diseases. The threat of HIV/AIDS has become a particular case in point. *Further information:* www.uaps.org
- 5) AERC, The African Research Consortium, involves 20 universities, which together accept 100 students annually for a Masters programme, and is currently in the process of launching a PhD programme. The research is focusing on themes such as regional integration, macroeconomic politics, poverty, and labour market. *Further information:* www.aercafrica.org

In Asia

Sida supports EEPSEA, the Economy and Environment Program for South-east Asia. The network has through its policy relevant research, exercised considerable influence on decision-

makers within the region. *Further information:* www.eepsea.org

SANDEE, South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics is supported as well. The objective is to strengthen the ability of researchers in South Asia to undertake research on the economics of environmental and natural resource problems. *Further information:* www.sandeeonline.org

SEACSN, Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Network, is a regional research network with which Sida initiated collaboration in 2001. The objective is to promote research in the broad field of conflict studies in the Southeast Asian region.

Bilateral Research Cooperation

Besides the support of regional networks, Sida is engaged in several projects of bilateral university cooperation in Bolivia, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Cooperation with Laos and Rwanda is under preparation. Many Swedish universities are involved in this collaboration. Sida is increasingly striving to link bilateral efforts to regional research networks and poverty alleviation. For

further information on our bilateral cooperation, separate country fact sheets are available.

The Global Context

Sida is one of the donors to UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development), an autonomous research institute within the UN system for research dialogue on globalisation, poverty assessment, land reform, governance, environmental issues, and social exclusion etc. Its current research agenda includes social policy in a development context, democracy and human rights, civil society and social movements. *Further information:* www.unrisd.org

Social Programme

Since 1995 Sida has been supporting research in the field of democracy and human rights through a special programme. The support has been of a twofold nature, first to Swedish institutions aiming at promoting research within these institutions and, second, to collaborative research projects involving Swedish institutions and research institutions in the developing world (Africa, Asia and the Middle East).

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15
info@sida.se, www.sida.se