**The Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Development Initiative (EID)**

**What is the Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Development Initiative?**

The EID initiative identifies Entrepreneurship and Innovation as an important resource for development. Our overall objective is to support poverty alleviation and sustainable development through increased use of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the policy making process. The EID initiative is a capacity building program in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, focusing on research, teaching, policy advice and private sector development in cooperation between Sweden and partners in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

Jönköping International Business School (JIBS), Jönköping University, has initiated the EID initiative and acts as coordinator and secretariat for its implementation and evaluation. The initiative builds on JIBS renowned research and higher education in entrepreneurship and innovation and 5 years of SIDA-supported capacity building in the areas. It aims to further develop the potential of Entrepreneurship and Innovation by supporting private-public partnerships, increasing efficiency of governmental policy and integrating research and higher education. Economics and Business Administration make up the primary scientific foundation of EID.

**The EID initiative has four pillars:**

**Research collaboration**

The main activity of the EID initiative is international research collaboration on poverty-economic growth issues. Entrepreneurship and Innovation researchers identify underlying problems, value the impact and propose efficient solutions. The research on entrepreneurship and innovation in different contexts includes both collecting data about and interventions regarding policy making, market analyses and valuation, business and strategic planning, corporate governance, business incubation, and start-up support processes and tools.

**Policy advice**

EID researchers will focus on real challenges and issues that concern policy making and policy makers. Entrepreneurship and innovation considerations will be integrated into national and regional strategy and policy processes to meet demands of domestic institutions as well as international organizations. The EID activity will offer workshops, seminars, training of civil servants as well as publication of relevant policy briefs and research.

**Education**

Academic training is fundamental for domestic capacity building in entrepreneurship and innovation. The EID initiative will support national graduate programs in related areas at all its centers. With funds from SIDA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, PhD candidates in economics and business administration from emerging economies will be trained in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at JIBS as well as in PhD-programs connected with EID centers to utilize economies of scale, spillover of knowledge and efficient networking.

**Private sector development**

Private sector development, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged over the last decade as one of the best ways to foster development. The private sector drives innovation, investment and growth, thus playing a crucial role in development. Private sector development is therefore vital for EID in its contribution to fair and sustainable development of societies.

EID intends to link universities with public and private sector actors across industrial sectors and themes for the purpose of stimulating private sector development, entrepreneurship and corporate responsibility in partnering countries.

The EID initiative is encouraging African countries to create the necessary legal and regulatory framework for Public-Private Partnerships; to facilitate networking and sharing of experience among regulatory agencies and other similar organizations and to stimulate cooperation between public and private organizations.

**EID Centers**

There are five EID Centers, hosted by universities or academic institutions in each respective partner country.