A JOINT FUND FOR ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES OF CASPIAN SEA REGION COUNTRIES (ASUCSRC)

COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Basically, the internationalization of universities has many positive consequences. These include the development of intercultural communication skills, technology transfer, increasing research fields, providing opportunities to attract foreign professors and students, strengthening research and scientific production, economic productivity, and many other financial benefits.

Cooperation for Development is an important and desirable objective considering that, in today's global world, an excellent University has to include in its mission the fight, within and outside its country's borders, for human development that fosters personality development in individuals and in all countries' collective identity as social actors.

Therefore, the capacity of universities should be used to achieve major goals and meet the requirements of today's society.

Strategies in Cooperation for Development

1. Support the strengths

- Establishment of a Cooperation Coordination Office for funding,
- A policy vacuum in international joint cooperation needs to be filled. This deserves joint efforts from related governmental universities.
- However, university fundraising would be an option that is growing in other countries too. Sorbonne University's Foundation has launched its first fundraising campaign "Welcome to the Future". Its goal is to reach 100 million euros by 2022. This is the largest university fundraising campaign ever conducted in continental Europe. University fundraising has always been 'big' in the United States where contributions to the nation's colleges and universities reached a record $43.60 billion in 2017. UK universities follow suit. By some estimates, Harvard receives an average of $3 million a day. Oxford and Cambridge have conducted successful £1 billion campaigns. Stanford has an endowment of more than $20 billion and received four gifts of at least $100 million in 2015 alone.
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2. Capture national and international funding:

- Partnership in projects promoted by other founded cooperation, such as national foundations (e.g. Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR))
- Collaboration is also possible with private entities, etc.
- Increasing preference for supporting public universities in the International Cooperation for Development (ICD) financing countries.
- Funding competition will be mainly carried on in the mid and long-term future, at the international level.

- The ASUCSRC searches/accepts programs and projects that are financed by:
  - <u>Inside the ASUCSRC</u> States
  - International multilateral entities (European Union, World Bank, etc.)
  - Private entities (Foundations, Enterprises, Municipalities, etc.)

Fields of Cooperation

Teaching and training:

- Joint degree programs
- Mobility programs
- Collaborative online learning

Research:

- Research support on Cooperation and Development themes
- Biodiversity, etc.

Challenges faced by the ASUCSRC in Cooperation and Development

- There is an identity challenge since <u>universities are not philanthropic nor solidarity institutions</u>, but cooperation integrates <u>their mission</u>.
- So, it is important to make clear the <u>gains</u> (they might be funds, resources, or social capital) for each of the interventions in the collaboration/partnership.
- A common conduct code should willingly be followed and a Higher Education ICD <u>Observatory</u> should be created.
- <u>Embassies and enterprises</u> should be convened to lobby.
- <u>Quality</u> is not homogeneous in all entities and fields so quality certification procedures must be organized transversally across intervention organizations, using, for example, the <u>Observatory</u>.
- Research must be carried out in new forms of cooperation <u>involving Civil Society</u>.

Some Questions

- How important is it for all universities to develop partnerships of this kind?
- What should be the criteria for getting involved in such partnerships?
- Can they ever be self-financing?
- What structures are guided by this purpose?

Thank You