

**CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ON EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN, AFRICA**

**Proposal for a Joint Project of the
European Parliament GUE/NGL Group and Orange House Partnership (OHP)
with assistance of the Wageningen University, The Netherlands**

BACKGROUND

Sudan has a long history of civil wars and regional conflicts that goes back to the 19th century, well before its independence from Egypt and the UK in 1956, and continues until today. In July 2011, following a referendum agreed in 2005 as part of a comprehensive peace agreement between the northern and southern parts of the country, South Sudan became an independent nation. However, it did not stop the armed conflicts between the north and the south.

One major consequence of the prolonged regional fighting is that a large proportion of the annual governmental budget is lost in military use. Consequently, the education and science budgets have been extremely low for decades, resulting in a severe shortage of highly qualified university teachers and professors. Moreover, many qualified scientists and teachers (in particular men) leave the country, attracted by the significantly higher salaries in nearby middle-east countries such as Saudi Arabia and other gulf states. Illiteracy is high (28% in males and 50% in females). Life expectancy is rather low (49 years), infant mortality is high (between 1/5 and 1/10 live births) and the risk of major infectious diseases (food and waterborne) is very high.

OBJECTIVE AND AIM

The objective of the project is to improve the position of women in Sudan/South Sudan at academic level and in leading positions in the public and private sector by creating an opportunity in particular for female students, academics and other professionals in Sudan and South Sudan to:

- Acquire fundamental and advanced knowledge and expertise in the area of food and feed hygiene, safety and technology and food and feed management, and
- Achieve an advanced understanding of the European Union, its democratic principles and political system and its dealing with economic and cultural differences which may exist between and within its member countries.

The ultimate aim of this objective is to achieve equal societal opportunities and responsibilities for women and men and a strongly improved level of agricultural practices and food hygiene, thus contributing to a decrease in food borne diseases and subsequent mortality. By bringing home the knowledge and experience gained in Europe these women will help building academic capacity and, consequently, improve the level of education in Sudan/South Sudan.

WORKPLAN

The workplan comprises the following work elements:

1. **The selection of strongly motivated female students** who will be candidates for an internship at the European Parliament and Orange House Partnership (OHP) to learn about the European Union, its institutions, working practices and policies. These student(s) will, at the same time, also enrol in a European high quality academic education programme in food or health science which is currently not available in Sudan/South Sudan.

Eligibility criteria for the selection of such students include excellent study results at the highest level of education in Sudan or South Sudan and a minimal level of English proficiency such as an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.0 or higher. Furthermore, selection is also be based on high social and ethical principles, a strong commitment to return to Sudan/South Sudan as soon as possible after obtaining the academic diploma and finishing the internship at the European Parliament and OHP, and to serve the public sector at home.



Provisionally, and based on these criteria Ms Aziza Hussein Bakheit has been selected by OHP and the University of Wageningen. Details of this excellent and dedicated student are provided in Appendix 1. See also her picture on this page.

2. **The creation of a one-year internship at the European Parliament and OHP in Brussels.** The GUE/NGL Group of the European Parliament (EP) and Orange House Partnership (OHP) will jointly tutor the student intern(s) and may require regular progress reporting. The GUE/NGL Group will introduce the intern(s) to the EU institutions and in particular to the European Parliament. Emphasis will be on democracy principles and practices, on dealing with cultural, social and economic differences among member countries and understanding of the EU legislative environment. The role of OHP will be to familiarise the intern(s) with the EU process of reaching EU-wide agreements on technical, scientific and, in particular, agricultural and food and feed issues.

The internship is considered an important contribution to the overall objective of the project and will run simultaneously with the academic education of the student/intern(see below).

3. **Academic education at MSc level.** The selected student for year one of the project will enrol in a 2-year Masters course at the University of Wageningen, The Netherlands. The Wageningen University is a member of the EuroLeague for Life Sciences which is a Joint initiative of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Austria; the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life sciences (LIFE), Denmark; the Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR), the Netherlands; the University of Hohenheim (UHOH), Germany; the University of Ljubljana (LJU), Slovenia; the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Uppsala (SLU), Sweden; the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS), Czech republic; the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland. Future students may enroll in any of the other EuroLeague member universities. Following successful completion of the MSc course the student will return to Sudan and be given a pivotal position at the University of Khartoum (see letter of commitment from the University of Khartoum, attached as Appendix 2). By bringing home the knowledge and experienced gained in Europe these women will help building academic capacity and, consequently, improve the level of education in Sudan/South Sudan.
4. **The development of at least one but preferably two one-week in depth training courses per year for faculty members of the University of Khartoum (teachers and staff).** The training courses are focused on subjects such as: food hygiene, food safety, food management and security, good agriculture practices, health care and women's studies.

Orange House Partnership, with assistance of the University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, will develop the training programmes and deliver the training courses at the

University of Khartoum. A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Khartoum and Orange House Partnership has already been signed (see Appendix 3). The training programme is expected to continue for 4-5 years.

PROJECT COSTS

The financial cost of **part 1 of the workplan** has already been covered by OHP and the University of Wageningen.

The costs of **part 2 of the workplan**: the internship in Brussels will be limited to the travel costs from Wageningen, The Netherlands to Brussels and lodging in Brussels. These costs will be defined once there is agreement with respect to the frequency and length of the trips to Brussels and are expected to be covered jointly by the GUE/NGL Group and OHP.

The financial costs of **part 3 of the workplan** i.e. the Master education will amount to about €23,000/year for a period of 2 years (totalling € 46,000) as calculated by the Wageningen University. These costs cover all expenses: i.e. university tuition, study books, syllables and other study needs, housing costs and costs of (modest) living. The University of Khartoum has offered to contribute approximately €300/month to the living expenses which equals €3,600/year. In addition, the University of Khartoum has offered to cover the travel expenses of the student (one return ticket Khartoum-Amsterdam).

Financial costs of **part 4 of the workplan** will range from €20,000 – 30,000 per year and will cover costs of developing the training curriculum, training material as well as all travel-related costs of trainers (3-4 senior experts for each one-week training course) which includes travelling, lodging, visa costs, insurances, and preventive medical costs such as vaccinations. These costs for year 1 of the project will be carried by Orange House Partnership but is dependent on donations and funding from the public and private sector.

By adopting the project, the GUE/NGL Group is requested to cover 50% of the costs of part 2 of the workplan (which still have to be determined but will probably not exceed €6,500 in total) and the remainder of part 3 of the workplan for the first 2 years, which would be: €23,000 - €3,600 (support from the university of Khartoum)= **€19,400 for year 1**.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1

Details of the provisionally selected student from Darfour, Sudan

Appendix 2

Letter of commitment of the University of Khartoum

Appendix 3

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Orange House Partnership and the University of Khartoum, Sudan on strengthening of collaboration, signed on 8 June 2011 in Brussels and on 25 September 2011 in Khartoum.

Brussels, 11 January 2013