



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERING PROGRAMME

FOR STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR PARTICIPATION

PREPARED BY
EUSL
Care to Change the World

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Social Development and Empowering Programme

The Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) is an ambitious initiative led by the European Social Label (EUSL) to foster sustainable development, technology transfer, and vocational training in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region. With a strong foundation in agriculture and food security, aligned with the ACTESA and CAADP strategies, SDEP aims to uplift local communities and create economic opportunities. The program is supported by international stakeholders such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and a broad network of high-ranking universities, as well as private investors.

ECHO: A Modular Infrastructure Platform

A key technological pillar of SDEP is the introduction of ECHO, a modular infrastructure platform that addresses critical resource challenges such as energy generation and storage, water generation and storage, and sewage treatment. ECHO is designed to be a flexible and scalable solution, adaptable to different environments and communities. Here is how it works:

- **Energy and Water Generation:** ECHO generates both energy and water through renewable sources like solar energy. It can store both energy and water for future use, making it a vital tool in areas with variable access to these resources.
- **Sewage Treatment for Agriculture:** ECHO includes a sewage treatment system that cleans wastewater to a level suitable for agricultural use, though not for drinking water. This helps close the loop on water use, particularly in regions facing water scarcity, by recycling water for crop irrigation.
- **Software Integration with FlexSus:** To optimize its operation, ECHO is integrated with FlexSus, an advanced software developed in collaboration with Linköping University and Denmark's Technical University. FlexSus monitors and manages energy and water usage, ensuring that the system operates efficiently regardless of location or environmental conditions. This makes ECHO adaptable to both high-sun countries in Africa and regions with less sunlight, like Sweden, by regulating energy generation and storage based on specific needs.
- **Modular and Scalable Design:** ECHO is modular, meaning its size and output can be adjusted based on the cubic meters of water it generates per hour. This modularity makes it adaptable to various scales, from small communities to large urban areas. Additionally, ECHO's platform is container-based and placed above ground, eliminating the need for extensive infrastructure work like digging, making it easy to deploy quickly and efficiently.
- **Global Application:** The scalability of ECHO makes it a universal solution. Whether in Sweden or a more sun-rich country, the modular system can be calibrated to the local environment's specific energy and water needs, making it an ideal platform for a wide range of climates and regions.

Supporting Multiple Stakeholder Projects

ECHO addresses multiple challenges at once, including energy, water scarcity, and sustainability. Its modular and adaptable nature means that various stakeholders, from governments to private businesses and NGOs, can build their own projects on top of the ECHO platform. Whether it's supporting agricultural development, clean energy initiatives, or community infrastructure, ECHO provides the foundation for sustainable and scalable growth.



By integrating ECHO into SDEP, we create a versatile and powerful tool that enhances the program's ability to tackle the pressing challenges of resource management and infrastructure development in the COMESA region and beyond.

Stakeholder List and Contributions for SDEP

The **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** brings together a wide range of stakeholders from across the globe, each contributing their expertise, resources, and networks to drive sustainable development in the COMESA region and beyond. This expanded list reflects the diversity of partners involved, ensuring that the program has the depth and breadth required for success. Here's a more detailed look at each stakeholder and their contributions:

1. EUSL

- **Introduction:** As the leading institution driving the SDEP initiative, EUSL coordinates project implementation, manages stakeholder relationships, and develops vocational training and higher education programs.
- **Contribution:** EUSL takes a central role in constructing agreements, facilitating training, taking equity in startups, and developing higher education courses in compliance, energy, and governance. It also integrates research into energy solutions, such as AML (Anti-Money Laundering), ATF (Anti-Terrorist Financing), and compliance systems.

2. COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)

- **Introduction:** One of Africa's largest Regional Economic Communities (RECs), COMESA is the formal project owner of SDEP.
- **Contribution:** COMESA ensures the program is aligned with regional development goals, particularly in agriculture and food security, through ACTESA and CAADP strategies. They provide access to member states and enhance collaboration with Swedish businesses and institutions, strengthening ties between Africa and Sweden.

3. ACTESA (Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa)

- **Introduction:** A specialized agency under COMESA, focused on agricultural development and trade.
- **Contribution:** ACTESA plays a pivotal role in aligning SDEP with its core mission to enhance food security and agricultural productivity in the region, helping to ensure the successful implementation of agriculture-driven projects.

4. African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

- **Introduction:** AfDB is one of the largest development finance institutions supporting SDEP with funding and strategic guidance.
- **Contribution:** AfDB ensures that the funds provided result in tangible real-world outcomes, particularly in creating a skilled local workforce in Africa, and achieving ACTESA and CAADP goals for food security. They also collaborate with high-ranking universities, adding credibility to SDEP.

5. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

- **Introduction:** IsDB is a major financial partner, with a focus on sustainable development across the Muslim world, including Africa and Indonesia.
- **Contribution:** By providing funding for projects with strong social and economic impact, IsDB helps ensure the sustainability of SDEP. IsDB's involvement, particularly in Muslim-majority countries like Indonesia, supports the program's goals of inclusivity and development in diverse cultural contexts.

6. Namm Capital

- **Introduction:** A private sector investment firm, Namm Capital complements public sector financing from AfDB and IsDB.
- **Contribution:** Namm Capital brings a private-sector perspective, focusing on creating viable business opportunities through investments. They provide strategic guidance on aligning the vocational programs with market-driven needs and ensure long-term profitability for local businesses.

7. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- **Introduction:** UNDP is a global development organization that supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through policy guidance and project funding.
- **Contribution:** UNDP backs both the EFFORT project and SDEP, helping ensure that both initiatives advance sustainability, governance, and inclusive development. By supporting COMESA, AfDB, and the other stakeholders, UNDP strengthens its partnerships in the region and globally.

8. STUNS and the EFFORT Project

- **Introduction:** STUNS (Sustainability and Innovation Hub) and the EFFORT project, initially funded by SIDA, focus on sustainability and innovation in urban development.
- **Contribution:** After SIDA removed its funding, the intention is now to merge the EFFORT project into SDEP, securing new funding streams from AfDB, IsDB, and private investors. STUNS brings expertise in urban sustainability and innovation, integrating their efforts into SDEP's infrastructure and governance projects.

9. Uppsala University, Linköping University, and Denmark's Technical University

- **Introduction:** Leading academic institutions in sustainability, energy, and urban transition.
- **Contribution:** These universities spearhead the research components of SDEP, focusing on energy efficiency, the transition to Net Zero cities, and the governance of compliance systems. Their collaboration on projects like the FlexSus software and EFFORT integrated into the ECHO platform, ensures the application of cutting-edge research to real-world challenges. These institutions will lead a consortium of universities, ensuring SDEP is anchored in solid academic research.

10. Tech Providers (Members of EUSL)

- **Introduction:** Leading technology companies collaborating with EUSL to implement the technological aspects of SDEP.



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- **Contribution:** These companies provide hardware, software, and technical expertise, ensuring that the infrastructure and energy solutions introduced by SDEP are state-of-the-art. They are also heavily involved in deploying the **ECHO** platform, a modular system for energy and water generation, storage, and sewage treatment.

11. NOPEF and NEFCO (Nordic Funding)

- **Introduction:** Nordic funding institutions supporting sustainable projects.
- **Contribution:** NOPEF (Nordic Project Fund) and NEFCO (Nordic Environment Finance Corporation) are *potential* funding partners from Sweden and Finland, providing financial backing for projects aligned with environmental and sustainable goals. Their funding will be crucial for scaling SDEP, particularly in renewable energy and circular economy initiatives.

12. Business Sweden

- **Introduction:** The Swedish trade and investment council, facilitating business opportunities between Sweden and international markets.
- **Contribution:** Business Sweden helps bridge Swedish expertise and local markets in the COMESA region, facilitating trade and investment for Swedish companies involved in SDEP. They ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises from Sweden have access to new markets and opportunities created by the program.

13. SADC (Southern African Development Community), ASEAN, Indian Government, and Other African RECs

- **Introduction:** Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and government partners for future expansion.
- **Contribution:** These entities are key stakeholders for scaling SDEP beyond the COMESA region into SADC, ASEAN, and India, as well as other African RECs. By engaging these partners, SDEP ensures that the program's benefits—such as skill training, technology transfer, and infrastructure development—can be replicated across multiple regions, contributing to broader economic growth and sustainability.

14. Indonesia

- **Introduction:** A key IsDB member country and potential region for SDEP expansion.
- **Contribution:** Indonesia's involvement with SDEP aligns with IsDB's broader strategy of sustainable development. As a country with significant energy and infrastructure needs, Indonesia provides an excellent opportunity for scaling the ECHO platform and other SDEP initiatives, particularly in renewable energy and water solutions.

15. Local Governments and Educational Institutions in COMESA

- **Introduction:** Partners on the ground in the COMESA region responsible for integrating SDEP initiatives into local contexts.
- **Contribution:** Local governments provide the infrastructure and regulatory framework needed to implement SDEP projects, while educational institutions support vocational training and workforce development. They also play a role in ensuring that the benefits of SDEP reach marginalized and underserved communities.



16. Beneficiaries (Students, Local Communities)

- **Introduction:** The individuals and communities who benefit directly from SDEP.
- **Contribution:** Students gain access to world-class education and vocational training, while local communities benefit from improved infrastructure, job creation, and sustainable development. The creation of new businesses, enhanced food security, and access to energy and water solutions are just a few of the ways SDEP improves the lives of beneficiaries.

Stakeholder Descriptions for the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)

1. Universities

In the SDEP, universities play a large role, especially in shaping the technical and financial aspects of the project. We have partnered with 25 universities that contribute their academic expertise, research capabilities, and innovative approaches to vocational training and technology transfer. These institutions form the backbone of the educational component of SDEP, ensuring that the training provided is of the highest quality and aligned with global standards. While the majority are referred to collectively as universities, certain institutions, like Linköping University and Uppsala University, have been highlighted for their unique contributions, particularly in areas such as sustainable development and advanced technology integration.

2. African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) is a key financial partner for SDEP, providing essential funding and strategic support. As a leading financial institution in Africa, AfDB's involvement ensures that the project is well-aligned with the continent's broader economic development goals. Their financial contributions are critical to the success of SDEP, enabling the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects, vocational training centers, and technology hubs across the COMESA region. Additionally, AfDB offers valuable insights into the economic landscape of the region, helping to tailor the project to meet local needs effectively.

3. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is another major financial partner, bringing its unique expertise in Islamic finance and development to the SDEP. IsDB's involvement ensures that the project is inclusive and respectful of the diverse cultural and religious contexts within the COMESA countries. By providing funding and advisory services, IsDB helps to enhance the financial sustainability of the project, particularly in regions where Islamic finance plays a significant role. Their support is instrumental in facilitating the expansion of SDEP into Muslim-majority countries within the target regions.

4. Namm Capital

Namm Capital is a private sector funding partner complementing the public funding provided by institutions like AfDB and IsDB. As a dynamic investment firm, Namm Capital's involvement in SDEP brings a critical private-sector perspective, focusing on the return on investment and long-term sustainability of the project. Their contribution goes beyond just financial support; they also provide strategic guidance on market-driven solutions, helping to ensure that the vocational training programs are closely aligned with industry needs. Namm Capital's participation underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable development.



5. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a crucial partner in SDEP, providing support in the areas of sustainable development, governance, and social inclusion. UNDP's expertise in implementing large-scale development projects across diverse regions makes them an invaluable partner in ensuring that SDEP is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their involvement helps to integrate global best practices into the project, particularly in areas such as gender equality, environmental sustainability, and poverty reduction. UNDP also plays a key role in monitoring and evaluation, ensuring that the project achieves its intended impact.

6. STUNS and the Effort Project

STUNS (Uppsala's Innovation and Sustainability Hub) and the Effort project are significant players in the innovation and sustainability aspects of SDEP. Although the Effort project recently lost its funding from SIDA, its goals and expertise continue to align closely with the objectives of SDEP. STUNS brings a strong focus on innovation ecosystems, helping to foster a culture of entrepreneurship and sustainable business practices within the COMESA countries. By collaborating with SDEP, STUNS and the Effort project ensure that the vocational training programs incorporate cutting-edge technologies and innovative practices that drive economic and social progress.

7. Tech Providers (Members of EUSL)

The tech providers, collectively referred to as Members of EUSL, are critical of the implementation of SDEP's technological components. These members include leading tech companies and solution providers that bring advanced technologies and digital tools into the project. Their contributions include providing the necessary hardware, software, and technical support to establish and maintain the vocational training centers. By leveraging their expertise, SDEP ensures that participants receive training on the latest technologies, preparing them for the demands of the modern workforce. These tech providers are also involved in continuous innovation, ensuring that the project remains at the forefront of technological advancements.

8. Business Sweden

Business Sweden is a vital stakeholder in the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP), playing a strategic role in bridging the gap between Swedish expertise and the economic development needs of the COMESA countries. As the official Swedish trade and investment council, Business Sweden's primary mission is to facilitate international business opportunities for Swedish companies while also promoting Sweden as an attractive destination for investment.

In the context of SDEP, Business Sweden contributes by leveraging its extensive network and deep understanding of both Swedish industries and the global market. Their involvement ensures that the project is not only about vocational training and technology transfer but also about creating sustainable business opportunities that can drive economic growth in the COMESA region. By connecting Swedish companies with local markets, Business Sweden helps to create a robust ecosystem where the skills and technologies introduced through SDEP can be effectively utilized, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, Business Sweden plays a crucial role in ensuring that the values of sustainability, equality, and social inclusion are embedded in the business strategies of the Swedish companies involved in the project. Their guidance helps to align these companies with the broader goals of SDEP, ensuring that the economic benefits generated by the project are inclusive and contribute to long-term sustainable development in the region.



Business Sweden's contribution to SDEP is not just about economic growth; it's about creating lasting partnerships that benefit both Swedish businesses and the local economies of the COMESA countries. By doing so, they help to ensure the success of SDEP and its potential expansion into other regions, such as SADC, Indonesia, and India.

Implementation Strategy for the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)

The Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) is a comprehensive initiative designed to bring cutting-edge technology, vocational training, and sustainable development values from Sweden to Africa, specifically targeting the COMESA region. The core objective of SDEP is to empower local communities through skill development, infrastructure improvement, and the creation of sustainable economic opportunities. Below is a detailed narrative of how we plan to achieve these goals:

1. Technology Transfer and Skill Training

At the heart of SDEP is the transfer of advanced technology and the associated values of sustainability, equality, and social responsibility from Sweden to the COMESA countries. The program will deliver extensive skill training programs focused on the effective use and maintenance of these technologies. Training will encompass not only technical skills but also the broader competencies required to fully utilize the technology in various sectors, with a particular emphasis on agriculture and food security.

Agriculture is foundational to SDEP's strategy, aligning with the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA). By focusing on these key areas, SDEP aims to bolster food security, increase agricultural productivity, and drive economic growth in rural communities. Alongside agricultural advancements, the program will also support the construction of essential infrastructure—schools, housing, roads, and more—in collaboration with local communities, ensuring that development is both inclusive and sustainable.

2. Establishment of the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA)

To enhance the governance and sustainability aspects of SDEP, we are establishing the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA), which will serve as a pioneering Hybrid Regional Economic Community (REC). The European Social Label (EUSL) will act as the hybrid member of GSIA, which will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the members of EUSL, funding options, trade solutions and with the hope that Nordic Council of Ministers, COMESA, and their respective member states will join at a later stage or when required.

The GSIA will focus on applying Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, with particular attention to governance, in the relationship between the European Union and Africa. Central to this initiative will be the creation of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) platform known as Flowhub. This platform will be especially beneficial for countries with limited creditworthiness, providing PPP as a Service (PPPaaS). Flowhub will facilitate the implementation of development projects by offering a structured framework for collaboration between public entities, private investors, and international organizations, ensuring that even the most financially constrained countries can participate in and benefit from the SDEP.

3. Development of a Research Centre

In collaboration with our university partners, SDEP will work towards establishing a research center dedicated to driving urban transformation and innovation. The research center will focus on several key areas:

- **Driving Urban Transition:** This initiative will explore sustainable urban development strategies, with a focus on creating cities that are resilient, inclusive, and environmentally friendly.
- **15-Minute City Concept:** Research will be conducted on the development of 15-minute cities, where all essential services are accessible within a 15-minute walk or bike ride, promoting sustainability and reducing urban sprawl.
- **Net Zero Cities:** The center will work on creating three Net Zero cities, which aim to eliminate carbon emissions through innovative technologies and sustainable urban planning.
- **Governance and Compliance:** The research center will also address critical governance issues related to financial transactions, anti-money laundering (AML), anti-terrorist financing (ATF), and other compliance matters, ensuring that the economic activities associated with SDEP are conducted transparently and ethically.

4. Comprehensive Funding Strategy

To ensure the successful implementation of SDEP, a robust funding package has been developed, divided into two parts:

- **Part One: Development Finance Funding** The first part of the funding package involves securing financial support from development financial institutions (DFIs) such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and other potential partners like NOPEF. These institutions will provide essential funding for the core activities of SDEP, including technology transfer, skill training programs, and the establishment of infrastructure. This foundational funding is crucial for getting the project off the ground and ensuring its long-term sustainability.
- **Part Two: Private Investment and Leasing Solutions** The second part of the funding strategy focuses on attracting private investment for the broader impact activities surrounding the project. This includes funding for the construction of schools, roads, restaurants, housing, and other essential infrastructure that will support the agricultural and economic activities of SDEP. Additionally, the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA) will offer a leasing solution for hardware and technology, providing a flexible, pay-as-you-go model. This approach allows participating countries to avoid large upfront capital expenditures or loans from DFIs, making the project more accessible and financially sustainable for them.

This comprehensive strategy, combining advanced technology, skill training, governance, research, and innovative funding mechanisms, positions the Social Development and Empowering Programme as a transformative force in the COMESA region. Through these initiatives, SDEP aims to foster sustainable economic development, improve food security, and create lasting social impact across Africa, with the potential for expansion into other regions globally.

Timeline and Milestones

The **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** follows a structured and phased approach, beginning with a **pre-study** that will lay the foundation for the program's successful implementation. Below is a high-level timeline outlining the major milestones and key actions for the next phase of SDEP.

1. Pre-Study Phase (6 to 18 months)

- **Objective:** The pre-study will focus on environmental impact, sustainability standards, financial capabilities, and compliance with EU standards. This phase is critical for gathering all necessary data to define the technical, financial, and regulatory frameworks for each country involved.
- **Duration:** The pre-study is budgeted for 18 months, but we anticipate that the bulk of the work will be completed within **9 months**.
- **Milestones during Pre-Study:**
 - **Month 1-3:** Initiation of the pre-study across selected member states (**Zambia, Eswatini, Madagascar**, and potentially **Uganda**). Collaboration with environmental scientists, financial experts, and compliance specialists begins.
 - **Month 4-6:** Preliminary analysis of environmental impact, sustainability standards, and country-specific financial capabilities. Evaluation of whether each country will qualify for grants or loans from **AfDB**, and determination of whether the **ECHO platform** will be purchased or leased through **GSIA**.
 - **Month 7-9:** Based on the early findings, we will place an order for the **ECHO platform** customized for the specific needs of each country. Parallel financial and compliance assessments for each state will determine whether **EU standards** apply directly or if compliance will be managed through **GSIA**.

2. ECHO Platform Delivery (6 months after order)

- **Objective:** After placing the order for the ECHO platform (by the middle of the pre-study), the delivery and deployment process will begin.
- **Duration:** The ECHO platform will take another **6 months** to be tailored and delivered to the country of implementation.
- **Milestones:**
 - **Month 7-12:** Customization and development of the ECHO platform as per the pre-study's technical specifications. Local infrastructure preparation begins in coordination with member states.
 - **Month 12-18:** The ECHO platform arrives in the country, ready for deployment and installation.

3. Implementation Launch (Immediately Post Pre-Study)

- **Objective:** Once the pre-study is completed and the ECHO platform is delivered, the full implementation phase of SDEP will begin.



- **Milestones:**

- **Month 18:** The pre-study concludes, and the implementation phase officially begins, with the ECHO platform deployed and operational. Financial models, based on pre-study results, determine whether grants, loans, or leasing models will be applied.
- **Month 19-24:** Full-scale project implementation across the first wave of member states, including infrastructure construction, skill training, and the creation of circular communities. Financial agreements, including leasing models through GSIA, will be finalized based on the member states' capabilities.

4. Financial and Compliance Considerations During Pre-Study

During the pre-study, we will also assess:

- **Financial Capabilities of Each Member State:** This will determine whether a country can receive funding through AfDB grants or loans, or if they will use a leasing option through GSIA for the ECHO platform.
- **EU Compliance or GSIA Compliance Pathway:** We will evaluate each member state's regulatory and compliance framework. If the country is not fully compliant with **EU standards**, the project will be handled via **GSIA**, which will ensure compliance without placing undue pressure on the local systems.

This pre-study phase is crucial for identifying all the necessary elements to ensure that once the implementation begins, the project will run smoothly and be tailored to each country's specific environmental, financial, and regulatory conditions.

Stakeholders Investment and Return of Investment

SDEP and the reason for existing

The Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) is designed to be a transformative initiative that not only benefits the stakeholders involved but also achieves its own ambitious goals. Here's how SDEP itself is satisfied, with a particular focus on job creation, funding support, and the transition to circular communities:

1. Job Creation in Africa and Sweden

- **Job Creation in Africa:** One of SDEP's primary objectives is to stimulate job creation across the COMESA region by providing vocational training, supporting the establishment of new businesses, and developing essential infrastructure. The skill training programs facilitated by EUSL equip local populations with the knowledge and tools needed to participate in and drive the local economy. By fostering entrepreneurship and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), SDEP helps create a robust job market that can sustain long-term economic growth. This not only reduces unemployment but also empowers individuals and communities, leading to improved standards of living and greater economic resilience.
- **Job Creation in Sweden:** SDEP's impact extends beyond Africa, contributing significantly to job creation in Sweden as well. The program's strong ties with Swedish universities, technology providers, and businesses create opportunities for Swedish companies to expand their



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operations and enter new markets in Africa. This international expansion drives demand for skilled workers in Sweden, particularly in areas such as technology development, project management, and sustainable business practices. Moreover, the collaboration with Swedish entities ensures that the expertise and innovations developed in Sweden are effectively transferred to and adapted in the COMESA region, further solidifying Sweden's role as a leader in sustainable development.

2. Supported by Funding from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)

- **Financial Backing and Stability:** SDEP's success is heavily supported by the substantial funding from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) like the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). This funding is crucial for the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects, skill training programs, and technology transfers. The financial support from DFIs not only ensures that the program can operate effectively but also provides the stability needed to plan and execute long-term development strategies. This stable financial foundation allows SDEP to achieve its ambitious goals without the constant pressure of securing short-term funding, enabling a focus on sustainable and impactful results.
- **Leveraging DFI Expertise:** Beyond just financial support, DFIs bring extensive expertise in managing and implementing development projects. Their involvement helps SDEP navigate complex financial landscapes, ensuring that funds are allocated efficiently and that projects are completed on time and within budget. This expertise also contributes to the program's credibility, attracting further investments and partnerships from other international organizations and private investors.

3. Transition to Circular Communities

- **Promoting Sustainability Through Circular Communities:** A key component of SDEP is its focus on the transition to circular communities. This approach emphasizes sustainability by creating systems where resources are reused, recycled, and regenerated, minimizing waste and reducing the environmental impact of development activities. By integrating circular economy principles into the construction of infrastructure such as schools, housing, and roads, SDEP ensures that these developments are not only economically viable but also environmentally sustainable.
- **Economic and Environmental Benefits:** The transition to circular communities generates multiple benefits for the regions involved. Economically, it reduces dependency on raw materials and lowers production costs, making local economies more resilient to global market fluctuations. Environmentally, it contributes to reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, and enhancing biodiversity. SDEP's commitment to circular communities aligns with global sustainability goals, positioning the program as a model for future development projects in Africa and beyond.
- **Global Leadership in Circular Economy Practices:** By leading the transition to circular communities in Africa, SDEP establishes itself as a global leader in sustainable development. The program not only implements these practices on the ground but also provides a valuable case study for other regions and countries looking to adopt similar strategies. This leadership role enhances SDEP's reputation and influence, making it a key player in the global movement towards sustainable and circular economies.



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In conclusion, SDEP is satisfied by the tangible outcomes it generates, including significant job creation in both Africa and Sweden, the financial and strategic support from DFIs, and the successful transition to circular communities. These achievements not only fulfill SDEP's core mission but also establish it as a force in sustainable development, with lasting impacts on the regions and communities it serves.

EUSL

EUSL plays a central role in ensuring that the needs and expectations of all stakeholders involved in the SDEP are met. Below is a detailed explanation of how EUSL will satisfy each stakeholder group:

1. EUSL's Role and Value Proposition

- **Constructing Agreements:** EUSL will lead the negotiation and construction of agreements between various stakeholders, ensuring that all parties' interests are aligned and that the terms are mutually beneficial. By taking a commission on all deals facilitated through SDEP, EUSL secures its financial sustainability while ensuring that all transactions are conducted transparently and efficiently.
- **Skill Training Programs:** EUSL will design and implement comprehensive skill training programs that are tailored to the needs of the local workforce in COMESA countries. These programs will cover a wide range of areas, including the effective use of technology, agricultural practices, and business management. By offering high-quality training, EUSL ensures that the local population is well-equipped to contribute to and benefit from the economic opportunities created by SDEP.
- **Equity in Newly Started Businesses:** EUSL will take equity in new businesses that emerge from the SDEP, particularly those that are a direct result of the skill training programs and technology transfer initiatives. This approach not only provides EUSL with a sustainable revenue stream but also aligns its interests with the success of local entrepreneurs and businesses.
- **Higher Education and Research:** EUSL will develop specialized higher education courses in Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Anti-Terrorist Financing (ATF), and compliance, which are critical for maintaining the integrity and transparency of financial transactions within the SDEP framework. In addition, EUSL will conduct energy research related to the SDEP project, contributing to sustainable energy solutions and the broader goal of creating Net Zero cities.

2. How EUSL Satisfies Specific Stakeholders

- **Universities:**
 - EUSL will collaborate with universities to co-develop and share advanced curricula, particularly in areas like compliance, sustainability, and energy research. By creating joint research projects and higher education courses, EUSL fosters academic collaboration and enhances the global reputation of the participating universities.
- **AfDB and IsDB:**
 - By constructing transparent and well-structured agreements, EUSL ensures that the funds provided by the African Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank are effectively utilized. EUSL's role in governance and compliance education further ensures that these financial institutions can trust the integrity of the project, thereby protecting their investments.



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- **Namm Capital:**
 - EUSL's equity stakes in new businesses and structured agreements provide Namm Capital with clear pathways to returns on investment. Additionally, EUSL's role in skill training and business incubation ensures that the companies receiving investment are well-prepared to succeed, mitigating risk for Namm Capital.
- **UNDP:**
 - EUSL's commitment to sustainability, equality, and social inclusion, combined with its educational initiatives, aligns with the United Nations Development Programme's goals. By ensuring that the SDEP has a strong focus on these areas, EUSL supports UNDP's mission and helps to demonstrate the impact of their involvement.
- **STUNS and the Effort Project:**
 - EUSL will integrate the innovation and sustainability goals of STUNS and the Effort project into the SDEP, particularly in the design of the vocational training and business development components. This collaboration ensures that the cutting-edge ideas from these initiatives are implemented on the ground, providing real-world impact.
- **Tech Providers (Members of EUSL):**
 - EUSL ensures that the technology provided by these members is effectively integrated into the SDEP through targeted training and support. By taking a commission on deals involving tech providers, EUSL creates a financially sustainable model that benefits both the tech companies and the local communities that adopt the technology.
- **Business Sweden:**
 - EUSL collaborates with Business Sweden to ensure that the Swedish companies involved in SDEP have access to well-trained local partners and markets. Through the structured agreements and equity stakes, EUSL helps to create a favorable environment for Swedish businesses to succeed in the COMESA region.
- **GSIA:**
 - EUSL's leadership in the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA) ensures that the alliance's goals of governance, sustainability, and public-private partnerships are effectively implemented. EUSL's expertise in governance education and compliance also ensures that GSIA's standards are maintained across all SDEP activities.
- **Local Governments and Educational Institutions:**
 - EUSL's skill training programs and higher education initiatives provide local governments and educational institutions with the tools and resources needed to enhance their capacity. By contributing to infrastructure development and education, EUSL helps these stakeholders achieve their development goals.
- **Beneficiaries (Students, Local Communities):**
 - EUSL directly benefits the local population by providing high-quality education and training, creating employment opportunities, and fostering local entrepreneurship.



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The structured agreements and equitable business models ensure that these benefits are sustainable and have a long-term positive impact on local communities.

By fulfilling these roles, EUSL ensures that every stakeholder's needs are met while driving the success of the Social Development and Empowering Programme. This approach not only satisfies stakeholders but also creates a resilient and sustainable foundation for the project's future growth and expansion.

AfDB and IsDB

1. African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) is fundamentally driven by the mission to spur sustainable economic development and social progress across Africa. In the context of SDEP, AfDB's involvement ensures that their funds are directed towards high-impact development projects with tangible, real-world results. Here's how SDEP meets and exceeds AfDB's expectations:

- **Tangible Development Results:** Through SDEP, AfDB's funding is channeled into projects that generate concrete outcomes, such as the creation of a local workforce, the development of agricultural infrastructure, and the construction of essential facilities like schools, roads, and housing. These projects directly contribute to the economic and social upliftment of the COMESA region, aligning perfectly with AfDB's objectives.
- **Fulfillment of ACTESA and CAADP Strategies:** SDEP is strategically aligned with the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). By focusing on agriculture and food security as foundational elements of the program, SDEP ensures that AfDB's investments support these key regional strategies, furthering the Bank's mission to enhance food security and economic resilience in Africa.
- **Building a Skilled Local Workforce:** One of AfDB's key goals is to foster economic development by creating employment opportunities and building a skilled workforce in Africa. SDEP directly addresses this by implementing comprehensive skill training programs that equip local populations with the necessary skills to participate in and benefit from the new economic opportunities created by the project. This not only enhances the local economy but also ensures the sustainability of AfDB's investments.
- **Collaborations with High-Ranking Universities:** AfDB benefits from the credibility and expertise of working alongside 25 high-ranking universities from around the world, including specialized institutions like Linköping University, Denmark's Technical University and Uppsala University. This collaboration ensures that the educational and research components of SDEP are of the highest standard, further enhancing the program's impact and reputation.
- **Partnership with COMESA and UNDP:** By participating in SDEP, AfDB strengthens its partnership with COMESA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This collaboration enhances the strategic alignment of the project with broader regional and global development goals, while also ensuring that AfDB's investments are leveraged to their fullest potential through coordinated, multi-stakeholder efforts.

2. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is similarly focused on driving development across its member countries, with a particular emphasis on projects that are socially inclusive and economically sustainable. Here's how SDEP satisfies IsDB's objectives:



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- **Tangible Impact Through Development Funding:** IsDB's funds are directed towards projects within SDEP that deliver real, measurable improvements in the COMESA region. This includes the creation of a local workforce, the development of sustainable agricultural practices, and the construction of critical infrastructure. These projects are not only economically viable but also socially inclusive, aligning with IsDB's development philosophy.
- **Alignment with Regional Strategies:** The alignment of SDEP with ACTESA and CAADP ensures that IsDB's investments contribute to regional agricultural development and food security, which are key priorities for many of IsDB's member countries within the COMESA region. This strategic focus ensures that IsDB's funding supports initiatives that have a broad and lasting impact.
- **Collaboration with Leading Universities and Global Organizations:** IsDB gains the opportunity to collaborate with some of the world's leading universities and institutions, adding credibility and academic rigor to the SDEP. This collaboration ensures that IsDB's investments are supported by cutting-edge research and best practices, leading to more effective and sustainable development outcomes.
- **Engagement with COMESA and UNDP:** IsDB's involvement in SDEP also allows it to work closely with COMESA and the UNDP, enhancing its influence and effectiveness in the region. By partnering with these reputable organizations, IsDB ensures that its funding is part of a coordinated effort to achieve broader regional development goals, particularly in areas like governance, sustainability, and social inclusion.

Both AfDB and IsDB find their needs thoroughly met through their participation in SDEP. The program provides them with the opportunity to fund high-impact development projects that deliver tangible results, align with key regional strategies, and contribute to the creation of a skilled workforce in Africa. Additionally, their collaboration with top universities and global organizations like COMESA and UNDP enhances the credibility, reach, and effectiveness of their investments, ensuring that SDEP is not just a financial success but a transformative force in the region.

COMESA and ACTESA

1. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

COMESA, as one of Africa's largest and most influential Regional Economic Communities (RECs), plays a critical role in the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP). The partnership with EUSL offers COMESA numerous strategic benefits, ensuring that their agendas for food security, economic development, and regional integration are effectively advanced. Here's how SDEP satisfies COMESA's objectives:

- **Advancement of Food Security Agendas:** Through its alignment with the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), SDEP directly supports COMESA's food security objectives. By leveraging EUSL's expertise and resources, the program enhances agricultural productivity and sustainability across the COMESA region, contributing to greater food security and economic resilience.
- **Access to Networks and Funding:** COMESA benefits significantly from the networks and funding that EUSL brings into the project. SDEP connects COMESA with a broad range of international stakeholders, including high-ranking universities, development finance institutions like AfDB and IsDB, and influential organizations such as UNDP. This collaborative



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approach not only amplifies the impact of COMESA's initiatives but also ensures that the necessary financial resources are in place to drive large-scale development projects.

- **Strengthening Regional Impact:** As the formal project owner of SDEP, COMESA's leadership in the initiative underscores its commitment to regional development. The impact of SDEP is magnified by COMESA's involvement, as the organization's influence spans multiple countries within Eastern and Southern Africa. By leading such a significant project, COMESA reinforces its position as a key driver of economic growth and social development across the region.
- **Enhanced Collaboration with Sweden:** The partnership with EUSL, and by extension Sweden, strengthens COMESA's ties with Swedish institutions, including Business Sweden and various small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This collaboration opens new avenues for trade, investment, and technology transfer between Sweden and the COMESA region, fostering mutual economic benefits and deepening the relationship between the two regions.
- **Strategic Leadership and Ownership:** While EUSL constructs and manages the operational aspects of SDEP, COMESA retains strategic leadership and ownership of the project. This arrangement allows COMESA to maintain control over the direction of the initiative, ensuring that it aligns with their broader regional development goals while benefiting from EUSL's expertise in implementation.

2. Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)

As a specialized agency under COMESA, ACTESA is primarily focused on enhancing regional trade and improving food security through agricultural development. SDEP aligns closely with ACTESA's mission, providing substantial benefits that help ACTESA achieve its objectives:

- **Support for Agricultural Development:** SDEP's emphasis on agriculture as a foundational element of the program directly supports ACTESA's goals. By introducing advanced agricultural technologies, improving supply chains, and enhancing food production capacities, SDEP contributes to a more robust and sustainable agricultural sector in the COMESA region.
- **Leveraging International Expertise:** ACTESA benefits from the international expertise and best practices that EUSL and its partners bring to the table. The involvement of high-ranking universities and global organizations ensures that the agricultural strategies implemented through SDEP are innovative, effective, and aligned with global standards.
- **Improved Regional Trade:** By focusing on agricultural development, SDEP indirectly supports ACTESA's broader goal of enhancing regional trade. Improved agricultural outputs and food security contribute to more stable and prosperous markets within COMESA, facilitating greater intra-regional trade and economic integration.
- **Increased Collaboration Opportunities:** Through SDEP, ACTESA strengthens its collaboration with key international stakeholders, including UNDP and Swedish entities. These partnerships provide ACTESA with additional resources, expertise, and platforms to further its mission of improving food security and regional trade within the COMESA framework.

Both COMESA and ACTESA find their strategic objectives well-supported through their involvement in SDEP. The program not only advances their agendas for food security and economic development but also enhances their influence and collaboration with international partners. By leading such a transformative project, COMESA and ACTESA reinforce their roles as central figures in the region's development, ensuring that their impact is both substantial and sustainable.



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UNDP, STUNS, and the EFFORT

1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a critical partner in global development efforts, focusing on achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), promoting good governance, and reducing poverty. By merging the EFFORT project into SDEP, we ensure that UNDP's objectives are met and that their support for SDEP is solidified. Here's how SDEP satisfies UNDP's interests:

- **Continuation and Expansion of EFFORT's Goals:** By integrating the EFFORT project into SDEP, we ensure that the innovative and impactful initiatives originally spearheaded by EFFORT are not only preserved but also expanded. The merger allows EFFORT's objectives—such as promoting sustainability, innovation, and social impact—to be carried forward under the broader and well-resourced framework of SDEP. This aligns with UNDP's mission to support sustainable development projects that deliver tangible benefits.
- **Enhanced Impact Through Scale and Resources:** The merger brings the considerable financial and institutional resources of SDEP's funders, including AfDB and IsDB, to bear EFFORT's initiatives. This access to larger and more diverse funding sources enables the continuation and scaling of EFFORT's projects, which directly contributes to UNDP's goals of achieving widespread sustainable development. Additionally, the collaboration with COMESA amplifies the regional impact of these projects, ensuring that they reach a broader audience and have a more significant influence on regional development.
- **Support for COMESA and AfDB:** With the merger, UNDP's support extends to critical partners like COMESA and AfDB, strengthening their respective roles in the region's development. This alignment ensures that UNDP's efforts are part of a coordinated and comprehensive strategy that maximizes the effectiveness of each partner's contributions. By supporting SDEP, UNDP also ensures that their work with these influential organizations continues to drive positive change across the COMESA region.
- **Alignment with UNDP's Strategic Priorities:** The integration of EFFORT into SDEP, underpinned by strong governance, sustainability, and social inclusion principles, aligns closely with UNDP's strategic priorities. This merger ensures that UNDP can continue to champion projects that contribute to the SDGs, with a particular focus on innovation, equality, and sustainable economic growth.

2. STUNS (Uppsala's Innovation and Sustainability Hub) and the EFFORT Project

STUNS and the EFFORT project have been at the forefront of promoting innovation, sustainability, and regional development in Sweden and beyond. The loss of funding earlier this year due to shifting political priorities in Sweden was a significant setback. However, by merging EFFORT with SDEP, we ensure that STUNS, EFFORT, and their partners continue to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development. Here's how the merger satisfies STUNS and the EFFORT project:

- **Preservation and Enhancement of EFFORT's Vision:** The merger allows the EFFORT project to continue its mission of driving innovation and sustainability, but within a larger and more comprehensive framework. By integrating with SDEP, EFFORT's initiatives gain access to the extensive networks and resources of SDEP, ensuring that the project's original vision is not only preserved but also enhanced. This offers STUNS and EFFORT the opportunity to achieve their goals on a much larger scale and with greater impact.



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- **Funding Stability and Expansion:** The integration of EFFORT into SDEP secures the financial future of the project by tapping into the funding streams provided by AfDB, IsDB, and other international donors. This not only replaces the lost funding but also potentially expands the financial resources available to EFFORT, allowing the project to grow and evolve in ways that were previously not possible. The backing of these prominent financial institutions also lends additional credibility to EFFORT's initiatives, attracting further support and investment.
- **Increased Influence and Collaboration:** The merger into SDEP connects STUNS and the EFFORT project with a broader range of influential stakeholders, including international organizations like UNDP, major financial institutions, and regional bodies like COMESA. This expanded network increases the influence of STUNS and EFFORT, enabling them to play a more prominent role in shaping sustainable development policies and practices across the region. The collaboration with high-ranking universities and the technology partners within SDEP further bolsters EFFORT's capabilities and reach.
- **Sustained Impact on Innovation and Sustainability:** STUNS and the EFFORT project are given a platform within SDEP to continue their pioneering work in sustainability and innovation. The merger ensures that their innovative approaches to tackling global challenges, such as urban transformation and sustainable development, are integrated into the broader goals of SDEP. This not only sustains their impact but also leverages the larger scope of SDEP to implement their ideas across multiple countries in the COMESA region.

The merger of the EFFORT project into SDEP provides a pathway to satisfy the goals and needs of UNDP, STUNS, and EFFORT. The integration allows for the continuation and expansion of EFFORT's initiatives, secures necessary funding, and aligns the project with broader regional and global development strategies. This collaborative approach ensures that each stakeholder's objectives are met while contributing to the overall success and impact of the Social Development and Empowering Programme.

Universities

Universities play a crucial role in the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP), contributing their academic expertise, research capabilities, and innovative approaches to real-world challenges. Here's how SDEP ensures that the universities involved are fully satisfied:

1. Real-World Applications and Tangible Impact

- **Working on Tangible Projects:** One of the most significant benefits for the universities participating in SDEP is the opportunity to apply their research and academic expertise to real-world projects with tangible outcomes. Rather than being limited to theoretical work or isolated case studies, these universities can engage directly with the challenges and opportunities presented by the SDEP initiative. This includes working on the development of sustainable cities, advancing energy concepts, and enhancing compliance systems within the COMESA region. By contributing to projects that have a direct impact on communities, economies, and environments, universities can see their work come to life in a way that is both meaningful and rewarding.
- **Increased Research Opportunities:** SDEP provides a fertile ground for applied research, offering universities the chance to explore new technologies, methodologies, and solutions in a practical setting. The real-world challenges faced in implementing SDEP initiatives, such as creating Net Zero cities or improving agricultural practices, providing rich data and valuable insights that can drive future research and innovation. This, in turn, enhances the universities'



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academic reputation and positions them as leaders in cutting-edge research with a global impact.

2. Student Engagement and Course Promotion

- **Attracting Students Through SDEP:** SDEP not only engages universities in meaningful projects but also helps them attract students from around the world. By selling courses on behalf of the universities, particularly those focused on sustainable cities, energy concepts, and compliance, SDEP serves as a platform to promote these educational programs. Students are drawn to the opportunity to study at institutions that are actively involved in groundbreaking development projects with real-world applications. This not only increases enrollment but also enriches the academic environment with students who are passionate about making a difference.
- **Enhancing Educational Offerings:** The involvement in SDEP allows universities to expand and refine their course offerings, particularly in areas related to sustainability, energy, and governance. These courses can be tailored to incorporate insights and experiences from SDEP projects, providing students with unique educational experiences that blend theory with practice. This approach not only enhances the universities' academic portfolio but also makes their programs more attractive to prospective students and industry partners alike.
- **Opportunities for Student Participation:** Students at these universities gain the opportunity to participate directly in SDEP projects, whether through internships, research assistantships, or fieldwork. This hands-on experience is invaluable, providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their future careers. By involving students in the practical aspects of SDEP, universities offer an education that goes beyond the classroom, preparing graduates to be leaders in their fields.

3. Strengthened Global Partnerships and Reputation

- **Building International Collaboration:** Through SDEP, universities have the chance to collaborate with other high-ranking institutions, development organizations, and private sector partners on a global scale. These partnerships enhance the universities' international profiles and create opportunities for joint research, student exchanges, and collaborative projects. By being part of a globally recognized initiative like SDEP, universities can build lasting relationships that further their academic and research missions.
- **Reputation as Leaders in Sustainable Development:** By contributing to SDEP's goals, universities enhance their reputations as leaders in sustainable development, energy innovation, and governance. Their involvement in high-impact projects within the COMESA region and beyond positions them as key players in addressing global challenges, attracting attention from prospective students, faculty, and research partners worldwide.

SDEP satisfies the universities by offering them the opportunity to work on tangible, impactful projects, attract and engage students through unique educational offerings, and build their global reputation through international collaboration and leadership in sustainable development. This mutually beneficial relationship ensures that the universities' academic and research goals are aligned with the broader objectives of SDEP, creating a powerful synergy that drives success for all parties involved.

Risk Management and Contingency Planning in SDEP

In implementing the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP), it's crucial to address potential risks such as political instability, financial constraints, and logistical challenges, especially in regions that may not be creditworthy. The SDEP recognizes these risks and has developed a robust strategy to mitigate them, ensuring the program's success and sustainability.

1. Financial Risks and Creditworthiness

One of the primary challenges in funding development projects in certain African countries is their lack of creditworthiness. These nations often require significant financial support but may struggle to secure funding beyond what is available from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) like the African Development Bank (AfDB). The AfDB provides a mix of grants and loans, with the most substantial grants typically going to countries in the most challenging situations. However, relying solely on DFI funds can limit the scale and scope of projects in these regions.

2. Introducing the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA)

To address these financial risks, SDEP has established the **Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA)**. GSIA is designed as a multifaceted entity that operates as:

- **A Hybrid Regional Economic Community (REC):** GSIA bridges the gap between Africa and Sweden, fostering collaboration and economic integration between these regions.
- **A Trade Organization:** It facilitates trade between member states in Africa and Sweden, promoting economic growth and sustainable development.
- **An ESG and Compliance Partner:** GSIA ensures that projects within SDEP adhere to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and comply with necessary regulations, particularly those aligned with EU standards.

3. Leasing Hardware to Mitigate Financial Risks

To further mitigate financial risks, GSIA offers a **leasing model** for the deployment of essential hardware and technology. Instead of requiring countries to take on substantial loans—which may be difficult to secure due to creditworthiness issues—GSIA leases the hardware necessary for the SDEP projects. This approach allows for the:

- **Avoidance of Large Capital Expenditures:** Countries can implement the technology and infrastructure they need without incurring heavy debts.
- **Flexibility in Payment:** The leasing model provides a "pay-as-you-go" structure, aligning costs with the project's progress and the country's financial capacity.

4. Addressing Political Instability and Logistical Challenges

Political instability and logistical challenges are common in regions with complex socio-economic environments. GSIA plays a critical role in mitigating these risks by:

- **Providing Stability Through Membership:** As a member organization, GSIA creates a stable and consistent framework for SDEP's implementation. It offers a unified platform where member states, including those from Africa and Sweden, collaborate under shared goals and principles, reducing the impact of political fluctuations.



- **Ensuring Compliance Without Overburdening Projects:** GSIA makes projects compliant with EU regulations and international standards without imposing unnecessary burdens on the local implementation teams. This ensures that while projects meet global standards, they remain practical and achievable within the local context.
- **Streamlining Logistics:** By centralizing operations and resources through GSIA, logistical challenges such as supply chain disruptions, transportation issues, and resource allocation are better managed and coordinated. This centralized approach helps maintain the continuity and efficiency of project execution, even in difficult environments.

5. Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability and Success

The creation of GSIA as part of SDEP not only mitigates immediate risks but also ensures the long-term sustainability and success of the projects. By addressing financial, political, and logistical risks head-on, SDEP can focus on its core mission: driving sustainable development, creating jobs, and improving living standards across the COMESA region and beyond.

Through the establishment of GSIA and its strategic approach to leasing, compliance, and logistics, SDEP effectively manages the risks associated with development in challenging regions. This ensures that the program remains resilient and adaptable, capable of overcoming obstacles and delivering lasting, positive change.

Metrics for Success and Monitoring

To ensure the **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** achieves its goals, a comprehensive system for measuring success and monitoring progress is essential. While specific metrics will continue to evolve as the program progresses, the following key performance indicators (KPIs) provide a robust framework for evaluating the impact of SDEP across its various dimensions. These metrics focus on tangible outcomes in job creation, vocational training, entrepreneurial activity, and gender inclusion.

1. Job Creation (Direct and Indirect)

- **Direct Job Creation in Africa:**
 - **Target:** Number of jobs directly created through SDEP initiatives, particularly in the areas of technology, agriculture, and infrastructure development.
 - **Monitoring:** Track employment rates in regions where SDEP projects are implemented, with a focus on roles generated by ECHO installations, construction projects, and technology deployments.
 - **Success Indicator:** Increase in employment rates in targeted regions, with a specific target of creating at least 5 000 direct jobs within the first five years.
- **Indirect Job Creation in Africa:**
 - **Target:** Number of jobs indirectly created through SDEP, including those in supporting industries such as logistics, supply chain, and services.



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- **Monitoring:** Evaluate the growth of local businesses and industries that support SDEP projects, using economic impact studies and local business registrations as benchmarks.
- **Success Indicator:** A multiplier effect where each direct job leads to the creation of additional jobs in the local economy, with a target ratio of 1:3 (one direct job leading to three indirect jobs).
- **Job Creation in Sweden:**
 - **Target:** Number of jobs created in Sweden through SDEP's international partnerships and the expansion of Swedish companies into African markets.
 - **Monitoring:** Collaborate with Business Sweden to track employment growth in Swedish firms that are directly involved in SDEP, focusing on sectors like technology, project management, and sustainable development.
 - **Success Indicator:** Creation of at least 2,000 jobs in Sweden as a result of increased trade, technology transfer, and project management activities related to SDEP.

2. Participation in Vocational Training

- **Target:** Number of participants enrolled in vocational training programs across the COMESA region.
- **Monitoring:** Track enrollment and completion rates of training programs, with a breakdown by gender, age, and region. Use feedback surveys and skill assessments to measure the effectiveness of training.
- **Success Indicator:** Enrollment of at least 7 000 participants in vocational training programs within the first five years, with a completion rate of 85%. Emphasis on including 50% women in the programs to promote gender equity.

3. Entrepreneurship and New Business Creation

- **Target:** Number of new businesses established in Africa that work with or around the ECHO platform.
- **Monitoring:** Monitor business registrations, partnerships with ECHO, and entrepreneurial ventures supported by SDEP's ecosystem. Assess the sustainability and growth of these businesses through revenue tracking and job creation metrics.
- **Success Indicator:** Establishment of at least 700 new businesses within five years, with a focus on those leveraging the ECHO platform for energy, water management, and agricultural innovation.

4. Empowerment of Women

- **Women in the Workforce:**
 - **Target:** Increase in the number of women participating in the workforce as a result of SDEP initiatives.
 - **Monitoring:** Track the employment rates of women in regions where SDEP projects are active, with a focus on sectors traditionally dominated by men, such as technology and construction.



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- **Success Indicator:** Increase in female workforce participation by at least 20% in targeted regions.
- **Women Entrepreneurs:**
 - **Target:** Number of women who become entrepreneurs through SDEP's support, including those who start businesses around ECHO.
 - **Monitoring:** Track the number of female-owned businesses registered as part of SDEP initiatives and their success rates. Provide ongoing support through mentorship programs and access to micro-financing.
 - **Success Indicator:** Creation of at least 300 women-led businesses within five years, with a sustainability rate of 75% after three years.

5. Impact of the ECHO Platform

- **Target:** Successful deployment and operationalization of ECHO units in various regions, contributing to local sustainability goals.
- **Monitoring:** Track the number of ECHO units installed, their operational efficiency, and their impact on local communities, including improvements in energy and water access.
- **Success Indicator:** Deployment of at least 100 ECHO units within five years, with each unit serving at least 1,000 households and/or equivalent agricultural operations. Monitoring the success of FlexSus software in optimizing the operations of ECHO units.

6. Overall Sustainability and Community Impact

- **Target:** Contribution to the development of sustainable, circular communities through SDEP initiatives.
- **Monitoring:** Use community surveys, environmental impact assessments, and sustainability audits to gauge improvements in quality of life, resource management, and environmental health.
- **Success Indicator:** Creation of five model circular communities within five years, where resource efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable practices are fully integrated and demonstrable.

Monitoring and Reporting Framework

- **Regular Monitoring:** Establish a centralized data collection and monitoring system to regularly track progress across all KPIs. This system will aggregate data from various regions and stakeholders, providing a comprehensive view of SDEP's impact.
- **Reporting:** Quarterly and annual reports will be produced to update stakeholders on the program's progress, challenges, and successes. These reports will include detailed analyses of each KPI, along with case studies and testimonials from beneficiaries.
- **Adaptive Management:** Based on the monitoring data, SDEP will adapt its strategies to address any emerging challenges or opportunities. This ensures that the program remains responsive and effective, continuously improving its impact.

By focusing on these metrics, SDEP ensures that its success is measurable, transparent, and aligned with the broader goals of sustainable development, job creation, and community empowerment.

These KPIs will not only guide the program's implementation but also demonstrate its value and impact to all stakeholders involved.

Integrating Food Security Strategies: ACTESA, CAADP, and Beyond

The **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** is deeply aligned with regional and continental strategies focused on food security, particularly those spearheaded by the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Food security is a critical component of SDEP, which aims to enhance agricultural productivity, ensure sustainable food systems, and contribute to the broader goals of economic and social development in Africa.

1. Alignment with ACTESA and CAADP

- **ACTESA:** As a specialized agency of COMESA, ACTESA focuses on enhancing agricultural trade and food security across the region. SDEP supports ACTESA's mission by introducing advanced agricultural technologies, improving infrastructure, and providing training programs that increase agricultural productivity. The program's focus on sustainable agricultural practices, powered by the ECHO platform, ensures that these improvements are not only impactful but also environmentally sustainable.
- **CAADP:** CAADP is the agricultural program of the African Union, designed to stimulate economic growth through agriculture-led development. SDEP aligns with CAADP's pillars, which include sustainable land and water management, market access, and food supply and hunger reduction. By focusing on these areas, SDEP directly contributes to CAADP's goals, particularly through initiatives that promote sustainable agricultural practices, support smallholder farmers, and enhance food security across the COMESA region.

2. Integration of Additional Food Security Strategies

- **Africa Food Systems Forum 2024:** The upcoming "Africa Food Systems Forum 2024: Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food systems transformation in a digital and climate era" in Rwanda highlights the critical importance of transforming food systems in the context of digital innovation and climate change. SDEP will actively engage with the outcomes and insights from this forum, ensuring that its initiatives are informed by the latest developments and strategies in food security.
- **Focus on Innovation and Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** SDEP's integration of the ECHO platform, which combines energy, water, and waste management, is a key innovation that supports climate-resilient agriculture. By providing modular, scalable infrastructure that adapts to different environments, SDEP ensures that agricultural systems are more resilient to climate change, contributing to long-term food security in the region.
- **Collaborating with Global Food Security Initiatives:** SDEP will also collaborate with other global and regional initiatives focused on food security, ensuring that its efforts are part of a broader, coordinated approach to addressing food challenges. This includes engaging with organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food



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Programme (WFP) and aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

3. Metrics for Food Security Success

- **Agricultural Productivity:** SDEP will measure success by tracking improvements in agricultural yields and productivity, particularly in regions where the ECHO platform is deployed. This includes monitoring the efficiency of water usage, energy input, and crop outputs, ensuring that agricultural practices are both sustainable and productive.
- **Food Supply Chains:** Another key metric will be the enhancement of food supply chains, ensuring that agricultural products reach markets efficiently and that food systems are resilient against disruptions. SDEP will work closely with ACTESA to strengthen regional trade networks, reducing food insecurity through improved market access.
- **Climate-Resilient Practices:** SDEP will also monitor the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, particularly those supported by the ECHO platform. This includes tracking the use of recycled water for irrigation, the implementation of energy-efficient farming methods, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural processes.

By aligning with and contributing to key food security strategies like ACTESA and CAADP, and by integrating the latest innovations from forums such as the Africa Food Systems Forum 2024, SDEP ensures that its impact on food security is profound and far-reaching. The program not only addresses immediate food security challenges but also builds resilient, sustainable systems that can withstand the pressures of climate change and evolving global food demands.

Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

The **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** is designed with sustainability and long-term impact at its core. Far from being a short-term initiative, SDEP is what we proudly call a **Legacy Project** – a transformative effort that will likely extend beyond our own lifetimes, continuing to evolve and grow for decades to come.

We see this as the beginning of a snowball effect: what starts with this initial project will build momentum, leading to a financial and geographical scale-up. As SDEP gains traction and demonstrates its success, we anticipate that major financial institutions like the African Development Bank (AfDB) will provide us with our own **EUSL Envelope**—a dedicated funding stream that allows us to expand the program into other African countries. This scale-up will enable us to focus on leading research, advancing skill training, and driving job creation while introducing cutting-edge technology from Sweden and other parts of the world.

Building a Sustainable Future for Africa, With Africa

Unlike previous models of external involvement in Africa, where outside powers have often exploited the continent's resources for their own gain, **SDEP is committed to a fundamentally different approach.** We believe in **building Africa, with Africans, for Africa.** Our vision is one of genuine partnership and collaboration, where African communities are the driving force behind their own development.

SDEP fosters local ownership, ensuring that the skills, technology, and infrastructure introduced through the program are not only sustainable but also deeply rooted in the communities they serve.



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By working with local governments, businesses, and educational institutions, we ensure that the benefits of the program remain within Africa, contributing to long-term economic growth and social progress.

A Legacy of Sustainable Development

This project is not just about immediate outcomes—it's about **creating a legacy of sustainable development** that will continue to empower future generations. Over the next several decades, SDEP aims to:

- **Establish Africa as a leader in sustainable technologies**, particularly in areas like renewable energy, water management, and food security.
- **Foster long-term research partnerships** that advance both African and global knowledge on sustainable development.
- **Create millions of jobs** that will drive economic growth, improve livelihoods, and build a stronger, more resilient continent.

In everything we do, sustainability remains at the forefront. From our reliance on renewable technologies like the ECHO platform to our emphasis on local skill training, SDEP is about building systems that last—systems that future generations can build upon and expand.

A Future Vision for SDEP

Our ultimate vision is for SDEP to serve as a model for sustainable development, not just in Africa but globally. As we scale up and expand into new regions, we hope to inspire similar programs across other continents, helping to shape a world where development is driven by collaboration, respect for local cultures, and a deep commitment to sustainability.

In short, **SDEP is planting the seeds of long-term change**, with a clear vision of a prosperous, self-sustaining Africa. This project is more than a series of initiatives – it's the beginning of a legacy that will continue to grow for generations to come.

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

The **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** is a complex, multi-stakeholder initiative that relies on continuous engagement and collaboration to ensure its success. Each stakeholder involved has unique goals and priorities, and SDEP has been carefully designed to satisfy those individual agendas while aligning with the overarching mission of sustainable development. To maintain alignment, interest, and support from all partners, **SDEP's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy** is built on the following principles:

1. Tailored Value for Each Stakeholder

SDEP recognizes that each stakeholder has specific objectives, and we ensure that those objectives are met throughout the project's lifecycle:

- **Development Banks (AfDB, IsDB):** For these institutions, the primary goal is to provide funding for tangible development projects that produce real-world results. By driving job creation, infrastructure development, and sustainable practices in Africa, SDEP ensures that the funds are making a significant, measurable impact in line with the banks' mission to foster sustainable development across the continent.
- **Universities (Uppsala University, Linköping University, Denmark's Technical University, and others):** Universities seek to engage in real-world, tangible research that extends beyond the confines of a lab. Through SDEP, they participate in groundbreaking projects focused on sustainable cities, energy innovations, and governance frameworks. These initiatives not only advance academic knowledge but also provide universities with global recognition as leaders in applied research and sustainable development.
- **COMESA, ACTESA, and CAADP:** For these African institutions, SDEP aligns directly with their regional and continental strategies for food security, agricultural development, and economic growth. By supporting their existing mandates, SDEP helps them achieve their goals of improving agricultural productivity, promoting trade, and enhancing food systems through technology and innovation.
- **EFFORT Project and STUNS:** The integration of the EFFORT project into SDEP ensures continued funding for its mission, particularly in energy matters. By merging with SDEP, EFFORT not only secures financial stability but also broadens its reach into sustainable development and renewable energy initiatives, driving impactful research and solutions across Africa.
- **EUSL and Tech Providers:** For EUSL, SDEP offers an unparalleled opportunity to expand the market for its members, bringing Swedish technology to new markets while providing local people with skill training and infrastructure. By constructing circular societies and focusing on sustainability, SDEP not only drives business growth for EUSL members but also creates long-term, sustainable communities across Africa.

2. Maintaining Engagement and Communication

To ensure that stakeholders remain actively engaged and aligned with the program's objectives, SDEP will implement a robust system of reporting, communication, and events:

- **Regular Reporting:** SDEP will produce detailed reports on project milestones, achievements, and progress toward key performance indicators (KPIs). These reports will be tailored to each stakeholder group, highlighting how their specific contributions and goals are being fulfilled. For development banks, this means clear evidence of impact and job creation; for universities,



it means showcasing research outputs and real-world applications; for regional bodies, it means demonstrating alignment with food security strategies.

- **Ongoing Communication Channels:** SDEP will maintain regular communication with stakeholders through newsletters, online platforms, and direct updates. This ensures that all parties remain informed about the program's developments and can provide feedback as needed. Clear and open communication will also help address any emerging issues quickly and collaboratively.
- **Annual Stakeholder Events:** SDEP will host annual events where all stakeholders come together to review progress, share insights, and discuss the future direction of the program. These events will serve as important opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, networking, and the generation of new ideas. They will also help generate interest from external parties and promote the potential for scaling SDEP into new regions.

3. Generating External Interest for Global Scale-Up

As part of SDEP's long-term vision, the program aims to generate interest from the broader global community, positioning itself for expansion into regions like **India, Indonesia, Mexico, and beyond**. By showcasing the success of SDEP through media, conferences, and international forums, we aim to attract new partners, investors, and governments who want to replicate this sustainable development model.

Through consistent stakeholder engagement, reporting, communication, and global outreach, SDEP aims to not only maintain strong relationships with its current partners but also to build momentum for future projects in new regions.

In summary, **SDEP's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy** ensures that every stakeholder's unique agenda is satisfied, while fostering long-term collaboration and transparency. This multi-faceted approach will keep partners invested, ensure alignment with project goals, and generate the interest needed to expand into new markets and countries, solidifying SDEP's role as a global model for sustainable development.

Global Expansion Strategy

The **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)** has the potential to scale far beyond its initial focus on the COMESA region. By leveraging strategic partnerships, replicating successful models, and tapping into diverse funding streams, SDEP aims to become a global blueprint for sustainable development. This section outlines the roadmap for expanding SDEP into new regions, focusing on key countries like **Uganda**, and broader regions such as **SADC, ASEAN, and India**.

1. Uganda: A Strategic Gateway for Global Expansion

Uganda serves as a pivotal country in SDEP's global expansion strategy for several reasons:

- **Multiple Financial and Regional Alliances:** Uganda is a member of **COMESA**, a key partner in SDEP, but it also has strong ties to the **African Development Bank (AfDB)** and the **Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)**. This unique positioning provides SDEP with access to diverse funding sources and strategic partnerships, making Uganda an ideal location to demonstrate the scalability of the program. A successful implementation here not only strengthens relationships with AfDB but also opens doors to IsDB member states like **Indonesia**, expanding SDEP's reach into Southeast Asia.



- **Makerere University Partnership:** SDEP has already received a draft **letter of intent** from **Makerere University** – a prestigious institution with a long history of research and innovation. Makerere University has existing collaborations with **Uppsala University**, **UNDP**, and the **EFFORT project**, but the lack of funding has limited their progress. Through SDEP, this partnership will gain the financial backing it needs to make significant strides in areas such as vocational training, energy innovation, and sustainable agriculture. The collaboration will also serve as a model for future university partnerships in other regions.
- **Role of Uganda in Scaling to Other IsDB Countries:** A successful implementation in Uganda will act as a springboard for scaling into other **IsDB** member states, particularly **Indonesia**. The **IsDB** connection offers a direct pathway for SDEP to expand its model of circular communities, skill training, and sustainable development across regions that share similar challenges in infrastructure, energy, and food security.

2. Pre-Study Countries: Zambia, Eswatini, and Madagascar

- **Zambia, Eswatini, and Madagascar** have been identified as **pre-study countries** for SDEP. These nations represent diverse economic, social, and environmental landscapes within the COMESA region, making them ideal testing grounds for SDEP's core components, such as the **ECHO platform**, vocational training, and circular community development.
- **Zambia:** Already engaged with AfDB and COMESA, Zambia is poised for significant agricultural and energy innovation. SDEP's focus on sustainable food systems aligns with the country's development goals, making it a key partner in scaling SDEP's agricultural initiatives.
- **Eswatini:** With a relatively small but strategically positioned economy, Eswatini offers the opportunity to pilot innovative technologies on a national scale, especially in renewable energy and water management.
- **Madagascar:** As a country with unique biodiversity and pressing development needs, Madagascar will benefit from SDEP's focus on environmental sustainability, circular economies, and food security.

Successful pre-studies in these countries will create a foundation for expanding SDEP into other African nations, including those in the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**.

3. Expanding into SADC, ASEAN, and India

- **SADC (Southern African Development Community):** SADC presents a natural extension of SDEP's work in COMESA. Countries such as **South Africa**, **Botswana**, **Namibia** and **Mozambique** offer diverse economic opportunities and development challenges that align well with SDEP's focus on sustainability, energy, and food security. Expanding into SADC will require adapting SDEP's models to local conditions, particularly in terms of governance, resource management, and infrastructure needs.
- **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):** With the potential to expand into **Indonesia** via its membership in the **IsDB**, SDEP can use its successes in Africa as a model for sustainable development in Southeast Asia. ASEAN countries face similar challenges in balancing economic growth with sustainability, and SDEP's circular community model could be a key driver of change in this region. Expanding into ASEAN will require partnerships with local universities, governments, and private sector players, much like the collaboration SDEP has established in Africa and EUSL has support from the Gadjah Mada University already.



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- **India:** India, as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, presents a massive opportunity for SDEP to influence sustainable urbanization and energy solutions. With rapid urbanization, energy demand, and environmental degradation, India's development path needs to be redefined with sustainability at its core. SDEP's model for circular cities, skill development, and agricultural innovation can play a key role in shaping India's sustainable future. India's existing connections with Africa, as well as its own strong educational institutions and tech sector, provide fertile ground for collaboration. EUSL has already received support from the O P Jindal University for SDEP in Africa.

4. Timelines for Expansion

- **Phase 1: 2024–2026 (Uganda, Zambia, Eswatini, Madagascar):**
 - Initial focus on successfully implementing SDEP in Uganda, with parallel pre-study initiatives in Zambia, Eswatini, and Madagascar.
 - Strengthen partnerships with Makerere University, AfDB, IsDB, and local governments.
 - Develop and refine the ECHO platform for scalability in both African and global markets.
- **Phase 2: 2027–2030 (SADC, Indonesia, India):**
 - Use the success of Uganda and other pre-study countries to expand into key SADC nations.
 - Establish pilot projects in Indonesia through the IsDB connection, leveraging lessons learned in Africa.
 - Initiate partnerships and pilot programs in India, focusing on circular cities and sustainable agriculture.
- **Phase 3: 2031 and Beyond (ASEAN and Global Expansion):**
 - Expand into additional ASEAN countries, using Indonesia as a regional hub for SDEP activities.
 - Build a global network of universities, governments, and private sector partners to continue scaling SDEP into other regions, such as Latin America and the Middle East.

5. Potential Challenges and Adaptation

- **Geopolitical and Economic Variability:** Each region presents unique political and economic environments. While SDEP's model is flexible, it will need to adapt to local governance structures, legal frameworks, and cultural contexts to ensure successful implementation.
- **Regulatory and Compliance Differences:** Each region has its own regulatory environment. SDEP's involvement with the **Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA)** and partnerships with universities like Uppsala and Linköping will help ensure that the program adapts its compliance and governance models for different regions while maintaining the highest standards.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Expanding into new regions will require deep cultural understanding and sensitivity, particularly in regions like ASEAN and India, where local customs and traditions play a significant role in business and governance. SDEP will collaborate with local institutions to ensure the program's initiatives are culturally adapted and community-focused.



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6. The Role of Makerere University and Other Universities

Makerere University's involvement is a critical part of SDEP's expansion strategy, particularly in Uganda and as a bridge to other IsDB countries. By partnering with global universities like Uppsala University, Linköping University, and Denmark's Technical University, SDEP can continue to lead cutting-edge research in sustainable development, while building local capacity and ensuring that the program remains grounded in academic rigor.

A Vision for Global Impact

SDEP's expansion strategy is about more than just scaling a successful model—it's about **creating a sustainable, long-term legacy of development** across multiple regions. By strategically partnering with universities, governments, and financial institutions, and by demonstrating success in key countries like Uganda, Zambia, and Indonesia, SDEP is positioning itself as a global leader in sustainable development. With a carefully phased approach, the program is well-prepared to overcome challenges and adapt its model to different regional contexts, ensuring that its impact will be felt for generations to come.

Call to Action and Acknowledgments

The Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) is now entering a stage where we aim to formalize support from all stakeholders in advance of the upcoming October workshop. With foundational agreements already in place with COMESA and ACTESA and the universities, we are focusing on securing letters of intent from key partners to ensure the program's successful launch.

Call to Action: Securing Support Ahead of the Workshop

By the time of the October workshop, we aim to have formal commitments in place from all major stakeholders, ensuring that the workshop itself can serve as the platform for finalizing agreements and officially launching SDEP. Our focus is on gathering letters of intent from member states and partners, solidifying their participation in advance.

- **Engagement from COMESA Member States:** Our goal is to receive letters of intent from Zambia, Eswatini, Madagascar, and Uganda ahead of the workshop. These letters will confirm their commitment to SDEP and ensure that the groundwork for formal agreements is in place by the time of the event. The workshop will then serve as the occasion for these nations to formally sign agreements, enabling full project implementation in their regions.
- **Support from Uppsala University, UNDP, and the EFFORT Project:** We are also working to secure formal letters of intent from Uppsala University, UNDP, and the EFFORT project, whose contributions to research, sustainability, and governance have been invaluable. Securing their formal participation will ensure that these essential partners remain integral to the SDEP mission moving forward.
- **AfDB Commitment:** While AfDB has shown informal support, our aim is to secure a letter of intent from the bank by the time of the workshop. This will pave the way for formal application processes with COMESA and demonstrate AfDB's willingness to provide critical funding for SDEP projects across the region.

The October workshop will be the venue for signing formal agreements and kicking off SDEP, ensuring that all necessary elements are in place. With letters of intent secured before the event, we can use the workshop to focus on finalizing details and planning next steps.



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Recognition and Acknowledgments

As we approach this significant milestone, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable support and contributions of our partners. The progress made thus far has only been possible due to the collective efforts of institutions and organizations that share SDEP's vision for a sustainable future.

- **COMESA and ACTESA:** Your leadership in aligning SDEP with the region's food security and agricultural strategies has been critical to our progress. Your commitment to driving sustainable development in Africa lays the foundation for SDEP's long-term success.
- **Uppsala University, UNDP, and the EFFORT Project:** We deeply appreciate the ongoing support of Uppsala University, UNDP, and the EFFORT project. We didn't think that they would be interested in even considering a collaboration. Their involvement will be vital in advancing research and fostering innovation in sustainability, governance, and energy. We look forward to formalizing your participation as we continue to work together.
- **AfDB:** While we await formal confirmation, we are grateful for the African Development Bank's informal support, the time invested already and look forward to finalizing your role in financing and expanding SDEP's reach.
- **CRESYM and the CREAM Consortium:** We extend our gratitude to CRESYM and the CREAM Consortium for their valuable contributions in research and scientific collaboration. Their expertise has greatly enhanced SDEP's capacity to develop practical, sustainable solutions across multiple sectors.
- **Linköping University:** Their professor in technological research has been outstanding, particularly through the complex concept of Guanxi and the FlexSus platform, has provided SDEP with cutting-edge solutions for sustainable energy and water management. Their collaboration is critical to achieving the program's long-term sustainability goals.
- **Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia) and O P Jindal University (India):** We would also like to recognize Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia and O P Jindal University in India for their partnership. Your engagement in research and capacity-building will be instrumental as SDEP looks to expand its impact into new regions, particularly across Southeast Asia and South Asia.
- **Business Sweden South Africa:** A special thanks to Business Sweden South Africa for their tireless efforts in supporting the October workshop and for opening key doors to funding sources like NOPEF and NEFCO. Your commitment to helping SDEP secure essential partnerships and financial support is greatly appreciated.

As we approach the October workshop, we call on all stakeholders to submit letters of intent and confirm their formal participation. This will ensure that when we gather for the workshop, all agreements are ready for signing, and we can proceed with launching this initiative. Now is the time to act. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of sustainable development that will benefit Africa and serve as a model for the world.



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Final Words

The Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) is at the threshold of realizing its vision of creating a sustainable, prosperous future for Africa, with Africa. As a Legacy Project, SDEP represents more than just a series of short-term initiatives—it is a long-term commitment to building circular communities, creating jobs, and fostering innovation that will last for generations.

With COMESA and ACTESA already committed to the project, we now have a strong foundation to expand into Zambia, Eswatini, Madagascar, and Uganda. We have received invaluable support from Linköping University, Denmark's Technical University, Uppsala University, UNDP, the EFFORT project, and are in ongoing discussions with the African Development Bank (AfDB) for formal financial backing. This collaborative effort is strengthened by partnerships with other leading academic institutions such as CRESYM, the CREAM Consortium, Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia, and O P Jindal University in India.

As we prepare for the October workshop, it is vital that all stakeholders finalize their commitments and submit letters of intent to ensure that we can move forward with confidence. This workshop will serve as the platform where all agreements will be signed, and SDEP will officially launch. Our partners, including Business Sweden South Africa, have opened key doors to additional funding sources like NOPEF and NEFCO, paving the way for broader financial support.

We are not simply implementing another development project; we are building a global model for sustainable growth that can be replicated in regions such as India, Indonesia, Mexico, and beyond. This is not a project designed to extract resources or short-term gains. Instead, it is about empowering communities, fostering local ownership, and creating lasting change that benefits both Africa and the world.

Our collective efforts represent the beginning of a powerful transformation. Let us act together – to secure commitments, formalize participation, and prepare to launch a project that will leave a legacy of sustainable development for generations to come. Together, we have the opportunity to shape the future, and with each stakeholder playing their part – and nothing else – we will build a more sustainable, equitable world.



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Links

EUSL

<https://eusl.eu>

AfDB (African Development Bank Group)

<https://www.afdb.org>

IsDB (Islamic Development Bank)

<https://www.isdb.org>

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

<https://www.undp.org>

Uppsala University

<https://www.uu.se>

Denmark's Technical University (DTU)

<https://www.dtu.dk/english>

NEFCO (Nordic Environment Finance Corporation)

<https://www.nefco.int>

SADC (Southern African Development Community)

<https://www.sadc.int>

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

<https://asean.org>

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

<https://caadp.org>

World Food Programme

<https://wfp.org>

COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)

<https://www.comesa.int>

ACTESA (Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa)

<https://www.comesa.int/actesa>

Namm Capital

<https://nammcapital.com>

STUNS (Sustainability and Innovation Hub)

<https://www.stuns.se>

Effort project

[EFFORT - Uppsala University \(uu.se\)](https://effort.uu.se)

Linköping University

<https://liu.se/en>

NOPEF (Nordic Project Fund)

<https://www.nordicprojects.org>

Business Sweden

<https://www.business-sweden.com>

FlexSus (controlling system)

<https://flexsus.org>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

<https://fao.org>

Gadjah Mada University

<https://ugm.ac.id/en>





This document outlines the **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)**, an innovative and collaborative initiative led by the European University of Southern Lusitania (EUSL). SDEP aims to bring advanced technology, vocational training, and sustainable development practices from Sweden to Africa, with a focus on the COMESA region. Supported by a diverse group of stakeholders—including development banks, global universities, and private investors—SDEP focuses on critical issues such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure development.

At its core, the program is about creating real-world impact through job creation, resource management, and the transition to circular communities. This document details the contributions of each stakeholder, the innovative ECHO platform for energy and water solutions, and the importance of collective action to achieve lasting global change. Together, we can build a more sustainable, equitable future.