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**To: The European Social Label (EUSL)**  
**Daniel Bermå**  
**President EUSL**

Uppsala, 8 November 2024

Dear Mr. Bermå

### **Letter of Intent: Regarding the Social Development and Empowerment Programme**

EFFORT is a programme consortium for efficient SDG fulfilment for regions in transition and a generator of implementation projects. It includes besides Uppsala other higher academic institutions and public sector in Sweden and Africa, as well as a close collaboration with the UNDP. On a project implementation basis, it also involves private sector and other parties. Following discussions, this letter sets out the intention that the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP), of which EUSL forms part, will become a project partner under the EFFORT Programme.

I am writing to express our interest, and from our discussions confirm both our intent, that SDEP may form a project under the EFFORT Programme. This relates to ongoing higher education and research-focused initiatives also from SDEP, and could involve projects also with private sector and other parties. A collaboration will seek to integrate EFFORT activities with those that SDEP have, or is in the process of, initiated, thereby expanding the programme platform for educational development, social inclusion, and economic transformation across both EFFORT participators in East Africa (Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, and other countries in Africa) and, always subject to funding, seek to expand EFFORT to such African countries which SDEP have initiated contact with in. It is noted that SDEP has ongoing contacts and discussions with COMESA and the African Development Bank.

The EFFORT Consortium (which includes prestigious institutions such as Uppsala University, Makerere University, University of Rwanda and several other partners), is deeply committed to advancing higher education, innovation, and seek to create projects for the implementation of technical and other solutions for more rapid SDG fulfilment, in the regions in which the programme is launched. Thereby creating a model for more efficient cross-border regional and international collaboration. By project partnering with SDEP, we anticipate synergies that will:

1. **Strengthen Higher Education:** We aim to expand research and capacity-building programs across the region, empowering students and faculty to drive change in critical sectors such as agriculture, technology, and social impact.
2. **Support Workforce Development:** Through this partnership, we will create new opportunities for job creation and skills development, directly contributing to economic resilience in South and East Africa.
3. **Enhance Policy and Governance:** The integration with SDEP will promote stronger policy frameworks for education, research, and innovation, ensuring alignment with both regional and international best practices.

While we are committed to seek this project partnership, it is important to set CEHA in November 2024 as a key milestone for this development. However, recognizing the scope of this integration, we anticipate that such a project partnership will be fully defined by the end of the year. We believe that this timeline can provide sufficient opportunity for all stakeholders to collaborate effectively.

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Furthermore, we look forward to investigate how we could align our efforts with the broader goals of the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA) and positioning this project partnership as a model for sustainable, inclusive growth in such regions where EFFORT is or, together with SDEP may, widen, and become active. We can see that these our efforts can be strategically designed to contribute to regional development goals and will be presented as a high-impact initiative for international funding institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB).

We thus appreciate the opportunity to take this further, to collaborate with SDEP/EUSL and begin such planning and execution that we may find necessary. Please consider this letter as a formal expression of our intent, and we look forward to working closely with you to achieve our shared goals.

Yours sincerely,

**The EFFORT Programme Consortium**

**Rafael Waters**  
**Director EFFORT**  
**Uppsala, Sweden**

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**Daniel Bermå**  
**President EUSL**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**