

1 WHAT CAN BE YOUR GOALS OR REASON?

Such projects very often focus on goals related to public good, esp. to support the SDGs and to develop global citizens, but they often also try to improve acceptance of scientific results, support knowledge diplomacy and provide practice-oriented research. But you might also aim to support local economy or reduce inequalities, e.g. supporting women or the LGBTQ+ communities.

2 WHO CAN BE YOUR BENEFICIARIES?

With such a focus, you might especially want to address those who are normally excluded from classical international experiences, e.g. socioeconomically disadvantaged citizen, seniors or school pupils (usually at home but also abroad). If you e.g. focus on reducing xenophobia, a much broader general public would be an ideal audience. Projects with this focus often also support local or international NGOs and other representatives of society which are working with these disadvantages groups.

3 WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERS IN YOUR UNIVERSITY?

Very often your own academics (domestic and international) will be a key actor, in particular for projects to educate the public, by giving public lectures or running courses. If your target group are young people and pupils, domestic and international students will be a key actor as they are closer to the target group and might be seen as peers. If you want to support a disadvantaged social group e.g. by improving their digital reach, your IT department would be an excellent actor. Administrators such as the International Office can help with organisation.

4 HOW CAN YOU REALISE SUCH ACTIVITIES?

Internationalisation at home will be the most common method, since you more likely focus on the local community. You can use exchange programmes to bring in international students and scholars and to make use of returning students and academics with an international experience. But you might also send a group of local citizens abroad in a partnership using E+ opportunities. Virtual exchange is another fantastic option to bring citizens together from different countries without expenditure related to mobility.



5 WHO CAN BE ENABLERS TO SUPPORT YOU?

All those presenting such projects during the IHES conference said, that the most important enablers are your own students and academics. But you can also reach out to the local municipality and especially NGOs in your community who can provide links and support you through their network and connections. For specialised projects such as the literacy project in Zambia (see below), teachers in local schools can be important enablers. If you want to integrate your international students into the local community, parent initiatives can be excellent partners.

6 RISKS, SOLUTIONS, WHAT TO DO & WHAT NOT

You might want to connect with representatives local prior to a project to learn the real needs of society (often unknown to the university). Coordinators of successful projects agreed that constant exchange and communication with societal actors was the ideal way to overcome hesitation and avoid "wrong" focuses. Also, if you educate the public, often people will feel that it is "not for them". Showing them, that they are able to learn and what their chances are, will help them engage and overcome fear

7 INTERESTING EXAMPLES

The university of Zambia runs a adult literacy project for women

→ <https://www.zcuniversity.edu.zm>

The Universidad Católica de Santa Fé in Argentina developed a project that develops public policies for local development

→ https://www.ellitoral.com/index.php/id_um/177134-cinco-propuestas-parapensar-el-desarrollo-local-ciclo-de-conferencias-en-la-ucsf-politica.html

Stellenbosch University coordinates an International Network of Town and Gown Universities connecting universities with local communities

→ <https://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=7874>

Follow IHES 2021 session → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAnYnXzdtcA>



Internationalisation
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*People need to realize that when chances are not met in advancing education it is not about capabilities but opportunities; the university is trying to create opportunities, seal gaps and enable women to be responsible of their destiny.
(Petronella Lubanga, Zambia University)*

*For us having the rector personal involved helped us to move forward quickly and connect with the higher management of the city.
(Lidia de Plessis, Stellenbosch University)*

*COVID taught me that I should use technology more to further IHES projects.
(Dr. María Gutierrez Peart, UCSF Argentina)*



We aim to use
benefits of internationalisation
for social engagement.

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