**PhD Workshop “Bringing Knowledge into practice”**

**6- 11 November 2017**

**Venue University of Oriente**

Participants:

VLIR-IUC UO Cuban PhD students (both Local & Joint)

Flemish PhD supported by their promoters

PhD students from current VLIR projects in Cuba (one participant per project) financed by their projects

VLIR-IUC UO Team members – for Flemish Team members check planned budget

VLIR-IUC UO Cuban & Flemish PLs

Finance:

VLIR-IUC UO Flemish Team members: 8 nights’ hotel & 7 days per-diem if planned budget

VLIR-IUC UO Flemish Project leaders: 11 nights’ hotel & 8 days per-diem

**Sunday 5/11:**

* Arrival
* 19:30 – 22:00: Registration & welcome reception – Responsible: Hipolito

**DAY 1 – Monday 6/11:**

**Two parallel workshops**

Preconference workshop **“System thinking”**–

responsible: Jan Van Maele

*Speakers:* Jan Van Maele (KUL), Annemie Decavele (KUL)

Public: PhD students

**Learning goals**

Overall learning goal

* Learning to take the broadest possible view towards your research. By the end of the day, sufficient common ground should have been defined so that you can present your research with reference to your specific topic as well as to the whole system that it affects/is affected by it.

Specific learning goals

* Learning to apply systems thinking to your research, by learning
* to articulate system structure and behavior;
* to identify leverage points for intervening in a system;
* to look at yourselves, your environment, and your research through a system lens.
* Learning to present your PhD research from a systems thinking angle, by learning
* to apply two way communication between public and presenter through posing questions, finding common ground and interactive techniques;
* to master non-verbal communication through optimal use of voice, space, gesture, material and visual aids;
* to integrate a systems lens into the presentation of your research.

**Method**

During the morning session plenary theoretical sessions will alternate with hands-on exercises in smaller groups. The contents and formats will largely be based on the following sources:

* Meadows, D.H. (2009). *Thinking in systems. A primer*. London: Earthscan.
* Morris, J. & Baddache, F. (2012). *Back to basics: How to make stakeholder engagement meaningful for your company*. https://www.bsr.org/reports/BSR\_Five-Step\_Guide\_to\_Stakeholder\_Engagement.pdf
* Sweeney, L.B. & Meadows, D. (2010). *The systems thinking playbook. Exercises to stretch and build learning and systems thinking capabilities.* White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing.

The afternoon will start with a presentation on the topic of finding common ground, upon which the presenter will explain the choices she made during preparation and delivery to maximize the effectiveness of the presentation. This will be followed by a workshop during which the PhD students will be supported to enhance the presentations of their research in view of what they have learned during the day.

**Provisional schedule**

* **9:00 - 10:30** **An introduction to systems thinking**

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

* **11:00 - 13:00** **An introduction to systems thinking (cont.); Applying systems thinking to your PhD**

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch – sandwich*

* **14:00 – 15:30 Presentation skills**

Break to split into groups

* **16:00 – 17:00 Organization of exercises on presenting your PhD research from a system thinking angle** (small groups of 5-6 PhD students with one leader)

**Social Entrepreneurship workshop** –

responsible: Teresa, Nikolay, Jan

*Speakers:* Nikolay, Jan, Edgar Izquierdo, ESPOL – Equador

Public: PLs, Selected Projects & Stakeholders

The aim of the workshop is to support University of Oriente projects with social or environmental impact in strengthening their business model and acceleration. This workshop will target researchers and stakeholders.

Prior to the workshop, we will organize a call for proposals, from which max. 4 projects will be selected. These projects will receive guidance to further develop prior to the workshop.

Presentations and templates for preparing the projects will be distributed in July 2018.

During the workshop, we will ask the project leaders from university to invite key stakeholders (i.e. partners and beneficiaries), which is important for the further acceleration of the projects.

* 9:00 – 10:30 Lean Start Up for Social Entrepreneurs (Nikolay Dentchev, Edgar Izquierdo, ESPOL - Equador, Jan Cornelis)
* 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
* 11:00 – 13:00 Lean Start Up for Social Entrepreneurs (Nikolay Dentchev, Edgar Izquierdo, ESPOL - Equador, Jan Cornelis)
* 13:00 – 14:00: Lunch
* 14:00 – 17:00: Projects Coaching

Evening Free

* **DAY 2 – Tuesday 7/11:** **Two parallel workshops**

**Preconference workshop “System thinking”**

* 09:00 – 13:00 – Exercises on presenting your PhD research from a systems thinking angle (small groups of 5-6 PhD students with one leader)

**Social Entrepreneurship workshop**

* 09:00 – 13:00 Projects Presentations
	+ Project presentations (4x 20 min)
	+ Discussion per project (4x 20 min)
	+ Best Project Selection - Best Project can benefit from exposure and extra funding from VUB platform in support of social enterprises

Afternoon free

19:30 – 21.30 – Walking dinner at University & PhD students Testimony (PhD students will present (using photos/movies) their views on the past years, experience in Belgium, future perspectives, etc… Responsible – Bello, Hipolito

**DAY 3 – Wednesday 8/11:** **Interactive presentations** 1 – responsible: Paul & Julio

*Objectives:* Conference day including feedback to the students on their presentations.

Three parallel sessions:

\* Biopharmaceutical products and Biomedical Applications

\* Environmental researches and clean technologies

\* Cultural Heritage, law and social sciences

*Arrangements:*

* One invited talk & oral presentations which will be videotaped and analyzed by team of experts (Lut, Jorge, Annemie, Jan, TP3 team members, …). Individual feedback will be given.
* Julio & Paul to set-up reviewers’ committees & sessions chairs
* 9:00 – 13:00: Three parallel sessions; including an invited talk for 45 min
* 13:00 – 14:30: Lunch
* 14:30 – 15:30: Individual feedback to the presenters
* 15:30 – 17:30: Poster Session -1 (1 minute presentation)

Evening visit Rhum Factory or free

**DAY 4 – Thursday 9/11:** **Interactive presentations** 2 – responsible: Paul & Julio

* 9:00 – 13:00: Three parallel sessions (human & exact/applied sciences)
* 13:00 – 14:30: Lunch
* 14:30 – 15:30: Individual feedback to the students
* 15:30 – 17:30: Poster Session - 2

**Evening**: 19:30 – 22:30 Workshop Dinner and Best papers & Best projects awards – official end of the PhD Week

**Friday 10/11:**

* Social activity organized by our Cuban friends for Blegian PhD students – Responsible: Eduardo, Julio , Neris
	+ Visit labs of the universities, schools
	+ Meetings with students
	+ Visit to city, …
* **Workshop Photography Bert Dankaert** Responsible: Phillippe , Neris

workshop will be given by the Photographer to students in journalism and media

**Saturday 11/11: Semana Belga Cultural activity:** Responsible: Philippe & Neris

* Photography exhibition – Bert Dankaert
* Possible Photography workshop with children by a student of Paulo (depending on finance)
* One or two Belgian movies – Phillipe will organize and make presentation