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Social Impact @ Stellenbosch University

Introduction to Social Impact and MGD Strategies

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- Introducing some key SI Strategies
- Sharing the Vision, Mission and Purpose
- Overarching SI Framework
- Development goals that guide SI and SU focus areas.
- MGD vision and Strategies
- DSI functions

Social Impact Strategic Plan

Stellenbosch University has three strategic priorities namely, broadening access, sustaining momentum on excellence and enhancing societal impact.

The Division for social Impact followed an inclusive participative process and formulated the following in relation to the Social Impact Strategic Plan (SISP):

Vision, Mission and Purpose

Vision

We aim to enhance the Stellenbosch University's Societal Impact.

Mission and Purpose

We play a supportive, equipping, enabling and facilitative role with internal and external stakeholders to address societal challenges through collaborative learning and teaching, research and innovation, and volunteerism.

Key Strategies

Strategies

The DSI strategies are focused on the role of the DSI to support the SISP strategies and the roles of the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation and the Vice-rector: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel.

The DSI staff formulated the following strategies:

Strategy 1. Promote, advance and strengthen engaged scholarship in order to: address societal challenges; initiate and strengthen practices that are conducive to societal well-being; foster relevant graduate attributes that result in active citizens; diversify knowledge base to enable learning across cultures.

Strategy 2. Facilitate, enhance and mobilize opportunities for internal and external stakeholders; co-curricular learning that establish competency-based outcomes.

Key Strategies

Strategies

Strategy 3. Facilitate and create development opportunities to previously excluded communities focusing on the 'lost generation' between school and tertiary education.

Strategy 4. Make Social Impact initiatives visible to internal and external stakeholders in our society through various mechanisms including our online knowledge platform in order to facilitate collective learning and collaboration

Key Strategies

Strategies

Strategy 5. We broker collaborative relationships between internal and external stakeholders by maximizing existing expertise and resources to address societal challenges .

Strategy 6. Create intentional spaces for critical engagement and social innovation around societal challenges and opportunities through the development .

DSI Functions

- **Build capacity** for interaction and collaboration within the university (for academics, students and professional academic support service staff) and with external partners;
- **Offer support to faculty** SI committees and advise deans on SI related issues in the faculty;
- Provide **administrative support to the SIC(S)**;
- **Identify** appropriate and credible partners and broker collaborative initiatives, programmes and research opportunities to staff and students;
- **Develop relationships** with civil society, industry, local, provincial and national government and facilitates memoranda of agreements between them and the university;

DSI Functions

- **Maintain and nurture** relationships for mutual benefit (building of social and relationship capital);
- **Support and advise** the VR:SITP on the Plan revision and development;
- Provide and maintain a **monitoring and evaluation SI platform**;
- **Advance and profile SI activities** in and beyond the institution.
- <http://www.sun.ac.za/si/en-za/Pages/default.aspx>

Faculty Representatives

- DSI faculty representatives for each faculty to:
 - support the faculties
 - awareness of social impact opportunities within each faculties in order to surface these via the platform and the Communities of Practice space.
- Faculty representatives on social impact governance structures

Matie Community Service (MGD) is housed within the division of Social Impact is a registered non-governmental organisation, embedded in the organisational structure of SU, which provides a framework for the responsible participation of students from the different SU campuses in community- and development-based programmes. A range of self-sufficient development projects are managed with strong student and staff involvement by MGD.

Vision

- Increase SU footprint in surrounding communities.

Mission and Purpose

- We play a dual role in supporting the vision of both Stellenbosch University as well as the NPO Sector.
- We provide opportunity for volunteerism for both staff and students in partnerships with US, communities, business and government

Strategies

- *The MGD strategies are focused on the role of the Head of MGD and both Senior Managers to support the DSI vision. The DSI and MGD staff formulated the following strategies:*
- ***Address the needs of our communities through service and development programmes;***
- ***Utilise the talents, commitment and expertise of the students, academics, and co-workers of Stellenbosch University, as well as co-workers and resources outside the University;***
- ***Provide an organisational framework for participation in community support and development on the campuses of Stellenbosch University;***
- ***Deliver a service that is relevant to the needs of our clients, target communities and the priorities of our country;***

- ***Empower clients to reach their full potential as individuals, groups and organisations, contributing to their own development as well as that of the community;***
- ***Work in partnership with clients, volunteers, co-workers and supporters in a spirit of equality and with acknowledgement of the value of the input of all involved;***
- ***Maintain an efficient, effective and quality support and utilise resources in a responsible manner;***
- ***Cherish volunteerism and aspire to its objectives with deep-rooted devotion;***
- ***Furthering of community interaction in the broadest sense, and also in the context of Stellenbosch University's focus on the community;***
- ***Acknowledgement and promotion of the rights, dignity and potential of all in its sphere of contact.***

Current Focus

MGD is currently focused on the following:

- Facilitating volunteerism opportunities for both student's and staff in line with the needs of the surrounding communities.
- Providing training opportunities for both students, staff, and volunteers on volunteerisms in line with the MGD vision and mission and DSI vision.

- Providing volunteer opportunities for medical and health science student through our primary Health Care programme run through our Tygerberg campus.



The organisation is committed to:

- *Address the needs of our communities through service and development programmes;*
- *Utilise the talents, commitment and expertise of the students, academics, and co-workers of Stellenbosch University, as well as co-workers and resources outside the University;*
- *Provide an organisational framework for participation in community service and development on the campuses of Stellenbosch University;*
- *Deliver a service that is relevant to the needs of our clients, target communities and the priorities of our country.*

New Model for MGD

As a part an inclusive strategic planning session, DSI and MGD staff proposed the following process to explore a new model for MGD.

- To explore the opportunity of MGD as a vehicle for third stream funding for the broader Responsibility Centre, including not only the Division for Social impact, Transformation office, Woordfees and the Museum.
- To assess what the current model looks like and meet with various stakeholders around exploring possibilities for a new model.
- To explore the relevance of a university housed NGO in the broader RSA?
- To research what the viability of MGD is within the surrounding communities.

MGD

Decision-making Structures



MGD has its own governance structures such as advisory boards on both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campus respectively and is headed by a Governing body, which provides strategic direction in line with the MGD constitution.

MGD is housed within the Division of Social Impact and is aligned with the SI Themes.



“The educator has the duty of
not being neutral.”

Paulo Freire

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