

## **2018-2019 Operational Plan for SUITS, the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies**

### **Mission statement**

The Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS) is an independent, interdisciplinary research institute in the humanities and social sciences. It is a part of the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies. SUITS is primarily a research institute, but may also provide education in its field of activity. The Institute's education and research will mainly focus on issues related to international relations and diaspora studies; society, politics and history, and human rights and democracy. The research should maintain high international standards.

SUITS should contribute to a deep and nuanced understanding of Turkey among researchers, opinion leaders, business leaders, and the general public in Scandinavia, Europe, and beyond.

In addition to research and education, SUITS will engage in outreach activities such as open lectures, conferences, and workshops.

### **Vision**

Stockholm University's strategy document for 2015-2018 establishes the following:

All research at the university should strive to be nationally leading and internationally prominent.

Building on this ambition, SUITS' long-term vision is as follows:

*SUITS should be an internationally leading centre of excellence that attracts researchers from all over the world and from a wide range of disciplines. This research environment will conduct specialist research in the humanities and social sciences, convey a deeper and more nuanced understanding of Turkey and Europe to a global audience, and serve as the hub of a global network of researchers with a special interest in Turkey.*

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## Research

Following a review of SUITS existing research, this Operational Plan presents a slight revision to the three broad research areas in which SUITS conducts research pertaining to Turkey:

1. International Relations and Diaspora Studies
2. Society, Politics and History
3. Human Rights and Democracy

The research under each of the above three themes should eventually be led by a faculty member with corresponding expertise. Reporting to the Director, these three faculty members will be tasked with conducting and directing research within their respective theme, arranging workshops and symposia, and working to secure additional research funding.

The work to launch research projects and seek research grants will continue during 2018-2019. Emphasis will be placed on trying to secure funding to expand SUITS expertise in the field of economics.

### *Prioritized objectives for 2018-2019*

1. *Primary objective:* To maintain a high-quality, international, and productive research environment for interdisciplinary Turkish Studies at Stockholm University.
  1. *Subsidiary objective:* The research environment is maintained at its current size.
    1. *Performance indicator:* At least three researchers are enticed to allocate external funding to, or spend a paid sabbatical at, SUITS.
  2. *Subsidiary objective:* Efforts to enable the expansion of the research environment are made, with particular focus on the field of economics.
    1. *Performance indicator:* Funding for an economist is secured during 2019.
  3. *Subsidiary objective:* Work to secure research funding continues.
    1. *Performance indicator:* At least two successful grant applications involving SUITS faculty submitted during 2018-2019.
  4. *Subsidiary objective:* Continued high publication output level.
    1. *Performance indicator:* The number of academic monographs/articles published by researchers at SUITS

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remains at ca 10 articles (or equivalent number of monographs / anthologies / chapters) during 2018-2019.

#### *Activity*

- Yearly research workshops will be organised by SUITS.
  - Output: High quality grant applications.
- Researchers at SUITS are offered peer review, support, and encouragement through the SUITS Research Seminar Series.

#### **Staff & Faculty**

The 2016 target to recruit skilled staff and research faculty has now been met. During 2018-2019, the focus will remain on recruiting high quality visiting researchers.

#### *Staff & faculty in place on 1 September 2018:*

- Support/management functions: 1,5 full-time positions (1 x 100%, 1 x 20% excluding Director)
- Faculty: 3,5 full-time positions (including 1 Director)
- Visiting researchers/professors: 5 full-time position

#### *External associated faculty:*

- Distinguished Associated Scholar: 2

#### *Prioritized objectives for 2018-2019*

2. To continue to attract high quality visiting scholars.
  1. *Subsidiary objective:* To entice high quality researchers to allocate external funding to, or spend a paid sabbatical at, SUITS.

#### *Activity*

- A staff conference for all employees will be held in the fall (to conduct operational planning, provide information about policy documents, establish the objectives and visions of the Institute and the University, etc.).
- Employees are provided with opportunities for continuing professional development.
- Announce availability of matching funding for visiting scholars in prioritized areas.

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### **Management, funding, administration, and facilities**

*Facilities:* The Institute is beautifully located in Kräftriket, building 4a. The old brick building is located near Brunnsviken, overlooking the water, and is an important asset when it comes to attracting visiting researchers.

*Funding:* The institute needs to secure additional funding to support its activities.

*Management and administration:* The institute will continue its efforts to ensure effectiveness in its administration and management procedures.

#### *Prioritized objectives for 2018-2019*

3. *Primary objective:* To improve administrative procedures and protocols for ensuring efficiency, predictability, legal certainty, and transparency in SUITS' activities.
4. *Primary objective:* To secure additional funding for the Institute's activities.

#### *Activity*

- Guidelines will be developed for administrative procedures (including documents related to Swedish Institute scholarships, external collaborations and general document management).
- Collaboration with the Office for Strategic Partnerships to secure additional Strategic Partners will continue.
- In collaboration with the Research Liaison Office, researchers at the Institute who are working on grant applications will be given support.

### **Communication & collaboration**

The outreach-task is important for SUITS. SUITS shall continue to maintain a high profile with public outreach activities grounded in research and shall introduce a publication series of shorter Turkey policy briefs aimed at a qualified but not necessarily academic audience. SUITS shall also continue its successful collaboration with the Swedish Institute for International Affairs (Utrikespolitiska institutet), organizing joint seminars on topics of common interest.

#### *Prioritized objectives for 2018-2019*

5. *Primary objective:* To establish SUITS in public discourse beyond Sweden as an important and unbiased source of knowledge in matters relating to Turkey.

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1. *Subsidiary objective:* To reach a broader audience beyond Sweden by further increasing the visibility of SUITS in international media.
2. *Subsidiary objective:* To reach an academic audience beyond Sweden by further increasing the visibility of SUITS in international scholarly forums.
6. *Primary objective:* To profile SUITS as the dynamic, interdisciplinary research institute that it is: one producing relevant, unbiased, and reliable research of high quality.
  1. *Subsidiary objective:* Successfully employing a range of communication channels, including research publications, lectures and teaching as well as SUITS' home page and social media, to communicate this profile.

#### *Activity*

- Organise regular open lectures as part of the *SUITS' Open Lecture Series*.
- Organise at least one larger event as part of the *SUITS' Perspectives on Turkey Series*.
- Live-stream and record public events.
- Publish regular Policy Briefs.

#### **Education**

SUITS is primarily a research institute, but may also provide education in its field of activity. The focus will be on courses and programmes in the second cycle (Master's level) which will primarily be provided in collaboration with the Section for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the department.

#### *Prioritized objectives for 2018-2019*

7. *Primary objective:* To ensure a Turkish dimension is included in the education provided by the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies.

#### *Activity*

- Collaborate with the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies to ensure a high quality educational provision for students interested in Turkey.

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