

GIST board meeting

5 July 2022

Participants:

Mitali (USCB), Elena (UNITAR), Makoto (UN SIAP), Mamadou (IDEP), Vibeke (UNSD).

Agenda:

1. Follow up on work plan assessment of new structure with co-leads and new members
2. Communication - Newsletter update
3. Language group – how do we initiate?
4. Fundraising – how do we initiate, and which approach do we take?
5. Stakeholder advisory group – adjust membership and next meeting?
6. UN SDG:learn statistics and IAEG-SDG
7. AOB

1. Workplan and new structure/memberships

There was a question on whether the workplan now is finalized. Vibeke specified that while some task teams had progressed well, there had been some delays with others. She promised to share the workplan and would ask TT leads to fill information from their task teams. Once input is received, the finalized workplan can be shared with all of GIST.

Mitali asked how the new structure with co-leads was working out, and the general response is that it is still fresh and that leads and co-leads are in the process of getting to know each other. The impression is good however, with leads and co-leads starting to take over more responsibility from the secretariat, including meeting invites, meeting management and note taking.

In the context, it was also specified that the new members mostly have brought positive new engagement. While some needed more info to get on top of the ongoing work, there has been new and good contributions, and more are expected to come.

Vibeke asked if the board should consider expanding to also include co-leads, at least to some board activities, and board members agreed to this. They will hence be invited to the next board meeting.

2. Newsletter

Vibeke provided an update on the progress, saying that the work of the intern had not progressed as hoped and that she now was carrying out the work herself with an aim to share with the board for review the following week.

Mitali suggested that to save time that interviews would be carried out in writing only.

3. Language group

Vibeke asked how to structure the work on translation of learning materials into different languages. Different options were proposed and discussed. There are expectations that this is more relevant for some members than others, but it was agreed to first do a general outreach to all offering all to provide input on approaches to take and then identify who can contribute how.

In the context it was proposed to do a mapping on who can support what and what is most needed. Similarly it would be helpful to have a list of courses we could share to understand from the SAG as well as with those with translation resources to see which courses might be interesting to translate into their languages as a priority.

The first language/translation meeting will be organized in the fall and the secretariat will initiate it.

4. Fundraising

Fundraising discussions will, for now, remain with the GIST board and it was agreed to set a separate meeting to discuss this. A key first element of discussion would be the development of a fundraising strategy, to see how different GIST members could talk with their partners and donors and how we also could reach out to external potential donors. In this context also what we would want to focus on when approaching potential donors.

In parallel, both UNSD and UNITAR have started processes to secure at least some funds for GIST work. UNSD has, through internal DESA funds, been able to secure 20,000 USD for consultancies to support GIST. The proposal is to focus on the work of task team 1, developing a tool on assessing training needs and gaps, followed by a brief guidance on prioritization on how to fill the gaps. Vibeke will share proposal document, and once ready, the ToRs. In this context it would be good with support in identifying relevant candidates.

UNITAR has also put together a proposal that a few donors could be approached on, more details to come on this.

5. Stakeholder advisory group (SAG)

Vibeke also asked how we should approach increased involvement of SAG members who would be interested in this. The board agreed that they'd like to keep the group as it provides useful input on direction. Selected members could, however, contribute to certain aspects of the work of members. If they become as active as regular members over time, one could consider changing their status to members and instead bring in other SAG countries.

A next SAG should tentatively be planned for September.

6. UN SDG:learn statistics

Vibeke and Elena briefly updated on status of collaboration with IAEG-SDGs on adding more learning materials from custodian agencies, expecting to hear back from IAEG-SDGs soon on next steps.

7. AOB

Mitali mentioned that evaluation of course materials also is part of the workplan. Vibeke said it had been difficult to get commitment from member on this, but that it could be discussed how to re-initiate the discussion.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting end of august.