Excellence and renewal in interdisciplinary research

IIIEE STRATEGIC PLAN IN RESEARCH 2016–2018
IIIEE Strategic plan for Research 2016–2018

1. DEVELOP A CLEAR RESEARCH SCOPE, FOCUS AND IDENTITY
The research scope and focus at the IIIEE will be structured as follows:
- The IIIEE will advance knowledge on how to catalyse the transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies across different themes of governance and management:
  1. International and national policy intervention
  2. Urban governance and experimentation
  3. Business management and practice
  4. Consumption governance

International and national policy intervention
- for a transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies
In this theme, the IIIEE will advance knowledge on policy instruments, developed and implemented by governments and international authorities. Driven by the need to bridge the gap between science and policy, we develop methodologies and analytical approaches and provide new insights in areas such as green economy, low-carbon technologies and mitigation strategies, resource and product policy, and a circular economy. We identify barriers to policy intervention, analyse learning opportunities and address multi-level governance interactions (see themes below). The research is to be conducted in collaboration with governmental authorities and organisations.

Urban governance and experimentation
- for a transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies
In this theme, the IIIEE will advance knowledge on urban governance, experimentation and innovation. In our research we go beyond traditional urban planning by including tools such as visions, collaborative dialogues, urban living labs, financing models, local regulations and public procurement for urban transition processes. The research is to be conducted in collaboration with municipalities, businesses, public organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Business management and practice
- for a transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies
In this theme, the IIIEE will advance knowledge on sustainable business management and practice. Based on the conviction that the transition towards sustainability will require both changes in business practice and institutional context, we research sustainable business models, management approaches to support industry transitions, approaches and provide new insights in areas such as green economy, low-carbon technologies and mitigation strategies, resource and product policy, and a circular economy. We identify barriers to policy intervention, analyse learning opportunities and address multi-level governance interactions (see themes below). The research is to be conducted in collaboration with governmental authorities and organisations.

2. SUPPORT EXCELLENCE AND RENEWAL IN RESEARCH
The IIIEE will support excellence and renewal in research by ensuring broad disciplinary expertise among the researchers. This will be achieved by recruitment and strengthened cooperation with academic partners within and outside Lund University. In 2016–2018, the IIIEE will recruit guest professors and post-docs and specifically strengthen in-house competence in economics. Collaboration with other faculties within LU will be further developed through the Lund University Urban Arena (coordinated by the IIIEE) and additional projects.

The IIIEE will support excellence and renewal in research by ensuring an international scope and collaboration in research. This will be achieved by recruitment of international staff, invitation of guest professors and a rich collaboration with international research partners. In 2016–2018, the focus will be to strengthen cooperation with a few selected universities which are to reinforce research in the three research themes. The IIIEE will also support participation in high-level multilateral and intergovernmental scientific assignments and academic exchange through international projects.

The IIIEE will support excellence and renewal in research by ensuring collaboration with business and societal partners. In 2016–2018, the IIIEE will appoint new professors of practice (adjunct professors) and pursue collaborative projects and funding opportunities with authorities and businesses. Collaboration with partners in the Öresund region has high priority, through e.g. Interreg projects.

The IIIEE will further support quality in research by:
- Promoting evaluation criteria of high academic quality addressing interdisciplinary and collaborative research.
- Promoting the dissemination of research in high-quality scientific outlets (e.g. journals, conferences, workshops, books, etc.). Goals for the number of papers to be written have been developed for 2016. These are to be evaluated in 2017.
- Securing high-quality support for PhD education, e.g. by further developing the IIIEE PhD article incubator and providing PhD courses. The PhD programme will be more clearly defined and given a clear structure by the development of a PhD guide: Leadership in research shall be transparent and visible with a strong commitment to the Institute’s vision and core values. The Institute will promote training in academic leadership, provided by LU, with expectation that everyone will be able to actively contribute to the success of the Institute.
3. SUPPORT A VIBRANT RESEARCH CULTURE
The IIIEE will support a vibrant research culture by promoting interdisciplinary research, attracting prominent international researchers and providing practical relevance (see above). The IIIEE will further promote external communication and visibility, e.g. promote open events in collaboration with academia, business and society, renew the website, practice new forms of spreading scholarly knowledge (blogs, etc.) and assist researchers in being more visible in the media. Internal communication will be improved through internal research seminars and specific PhD seminars.

The Institute will also improve the physical infrastructure. The IIIEE will invest in high-tech video-conferencing equipment, renew the IIIEE website and maintain a state-of-the-art library in-house.

4. IMPROVE THE IMPACT OF IIIEE ON SOCIETY
The IIIEE will improve its impact on society by articulating the IIIEE identity, increase external communication and visibility, and enhance dialogue and interaction with governments, communities and businesses. In 2016–2018, the IIIEE will develop a framework for the evaluation of its impact, develop a new website explicitly communicating research for an improved impact, and develop open events in collaboration with academia, business and society. The IIIEE will strengthen its societal impact and connect its research activities to societal processes such as the IPCC work, the work of the UN body, work on the Sustainability Goals etc.

5. SECURE LARGER AND MORE STABLE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH
The IIIEE will support more secure research funding in the following way:
• Strengthen internal mechanisms to discuss funding calls and the development of applications, especially larger research applications
• Increase visibility and participation in Stockholm and Brussels
• Increase fundraising in cooperation with Lund University fundraising efforts.