

THE CENTRE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

Context, Challenges and Concepts:

The Centre for Good Governance aspires to be a cutting-edge good governance centre in Africa for Africa.

Governance is one of the most important determinants of human progress and prosperity. Good governance results in social cohesion economic success, while poor governance results in conflict, poverty, and inevitable demise.

Changing governance is difficult.

Changing governance towards the good, requires social innovation to increase the probabilities of transitional successful change towards transformed legitimate, legal, effective and ethical governance

The primary **purpose** of the Centre is to be a cutting-edge, transdisciplinary governance knowledge centre designed to capacitate all stakeholders with an improved understanding of some of the most pressing challenges faced by societies, globally, nationally, regionally, and locally.

The **objective** is also to innovatively co-create options that provide systems thinking learning leadership competencies and cross-cutting governance capacity to deal with complex adaptive problems.

Governance in the public, private and public benefit domains, require social innovation knowledge and professional analysis and applications provided by dedicated social innovation knowledge institutions which, through a concerted and continued effort discovers, validates, beneficiates and distributes knowledge through research education and service, including consultation services.

Social innovation requires the development and implementation of new ideas, including products, processes services and governance and business models to meet social needs. Social innovation is associated with fields as diverse as smart spaces, restorative social justice, innovative governance and service delivery models, fair trade, distance learning, health care, education, agriculture, food, energy, water, and waste reduction.

The contemporary social and environmental issues that all societies face should not be thought of as threats to human existence, but as major opportunities to create sustainable solutions that positively impact globally, nationally, regionally, and locally.

In an academic context, social innovation is inter-, trans-, and multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral. It is the application of subject specific academic and technical knowledge leading to maximum social impact and the co-creation of significant social value. Social innovation utilises multi- and transdisciplinary subject matter experts and teams in cross-faculty analysis, actions and methodology.



The Functioning of the Centre for Good Governance in Africa:

Within the School for Social Innovation (SSI), the Centre has the intention to bring together, mobilise and incentivise the academic expertise of a diverse group of leading academics and research teams to create and disseminate knowledge-based socially innovative initiatives that will strengthen governance.

Social innovation, as applied by the Centre aims to mobilise thought leaders to use innovation to effectively co-create community based public value and then to ethically distribute the created prosperity through good governance principles.

The world is increasingly challenged by complex adaptive problems, which are also referred to as “wicked” problems. This type of problem defies easy solutions provided by leadership with easy answers. These wicked problems require socially innovative solutions based on the co-creation of these solutions by those who are facing them. This can be done using innovative reflective practice-based prototype solutions designed through human centred design and facilitated by leadership as learning.

The work of the Centre is primarily facilitated by the School of Social Innovation and co-ordinated by the Dean of the School of Social Innovation. The Centre has a broad mandate to work across all the different departments, and other entities such as centres, within Hugenote Kollege and other national and international higher education institutions as well as public and private enterprises.

The Vision and Mission of the Centre for Good Governance in Africa:

The vision of the Centre for Good Governance in Africa at the School of Social Innovation has its vision, mission and objectives to provide for a knowledge centre for leadership and governance in the African context. It will do so using cutting edge and value driven theories, tools and techniques to serve its stakeholders.

The strategic intent of the Centre is to become a premier institute for promoting effective leadership and governance in Africa and to encourage research partnerships and alliances with other entities, both nationally and internationally. In pursuing this intent, the Centre aspires to the following outcomes:

- The Centre will strive to promote and enhance the overall awareness of leadership and governance.
- The Centre will facilitate human capacity building at Hugenote Kollege, nationally in South Africa, Africa as a whole and globally.
- The Centre will develop innovative governance business and local inclusive economic models with the focus on establishing the innovation ecosystem necessary for economic growth leading to enterprise development of specific promising social ventures.



- The Centre will design, develop, and deliver an innovation eco-system necessary to deliver on its strategic intent.
- The Centre will generate income streams to sustain its own activities and running costs.

Core Design and Delivery Objectives of the Centre for Good Governance in Africa

The Centre for Good Governance in Africa at the School of Social Innovation is deliberately designed and established to address the challenges of facilitating possible solutions within rapidly changing local, regional, national, and global scenarios. The intention is to deliver on its purpose through facilitating collaborative efforts among the academic community, government, private sector, civil society and development partners to enhance quality leadership and governance, facilitate conditions for efficient and wise utilization of available resources towards reducing inequality, poverty, and unemployment.

The collaborative efforts call for approaches and methods which cultivate effective and ethical leadership, strengthen governance institutions, fight corruption through ethical and effective leadership and governance in the context. These innovative initiatives include methods such as human centred design thinking, scenario planning strategic thinking, policy analysis and research, think tanks smart spaces design and social laboratories and economic, social and organization development. Opportunities for new forms of governance to create the conditions for human flourishing are explored.

The Centre for Good Governance will operate and facilitate the transfer of promising know-how and emerging technological inventions that has a broader societal impact agenda rather than an agenda that is mainly profit-driven/commercially-focused. The broader societal agenda comprises issues such as poverty alleviation through job creation initiatives. Methods used in the action learning and action research processes is based on co-creating public value through effective and ethical learning governance with partnerships and projects. The Centre will engage in the core activities of research and development, teaching and training, collaboration and capacity building and consultancy, commercialisation and community interaction.

The Centre functions as a trans-disciplinary, inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder academic entity and network managed by the School of Social Innovation. It will also be explicitly linked to and function in partnership with the other Schools within Hugenote Kollege. The organization will follow all applicable and relevant Hugenote Kollege policies in respect of Centres and Institutes.

The Centre will be strong on vision and weak on boundaries, build and maintain a real and virtual knowledge network, do its work through projects, programmes and partnerships using social innovation methodologies and strategies including prototyping and showcasing work done in social laboratories and analysed in the Centre and its global and local knowledge partners.

The Centre will deliver knowledge products in the form of executive education and training, professional research, including contract research and service to its stakeholders, including consultancy services. These activities will also partly contribute to the funding of the Centre's activities.