

## **Linking-up Ethiopian Appear Projects**

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On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 the OEAD organised a meeting between all projects of the APPEAR program that are cooperating with Ethiopian universities. In this meeting at the OEAD office three projects have been presented and discussed:

[TRANSACT: Strengthening Rural Transformation Competences of Higher Education and Research Institutions in the Amhara Region](#)

[RESPOND-HER: Responding to Poverty and Disability through Higher Education and Research](#)

[APLHRE: Academic Partnership on Legal and Human Rights Education](#)

We started to present the RESPOND-HER project by listing the aims of the project. We had defined five concrete goals of the project:

- (1) Establish high quality research on disability in Ethiopia.
- (2) Fostering the teaching skills of academic staff from AAU and UV and developing sustainable professional capacities at university level.
- (3) In the long run, this process will also facilitate the establishment of training for professionals at non-university institutions.
- (4) Facilitate students with disabilities' access to higher education and to the labour market by targeting institutional barriers in cooperation with stakeholders from all regions of the country.
- (5) Enhance the services and technical equipment for disabled students at AAU in combination with establishing a nation-wide development plan.

After having discussed each of these points in detail, an overview on the activities that had already taken place as well as latest developments within the project were presented. Our project hit on lively interest. Therefore, lots of questions have been raised by the audience and we had a very interesting discussion.

Having listened to the presentations of the other projects, a discussion about common experiences started. The whole meeting has been very fruitful for all participants.