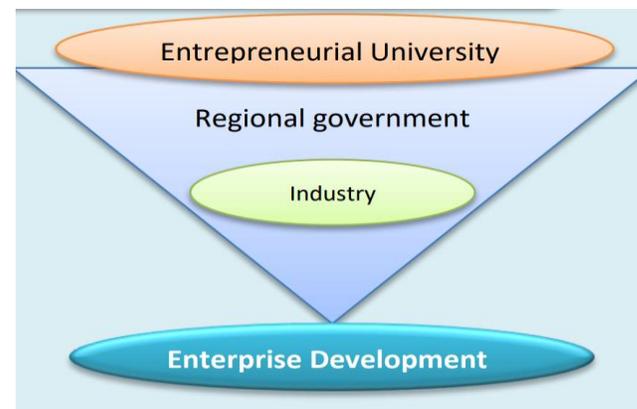
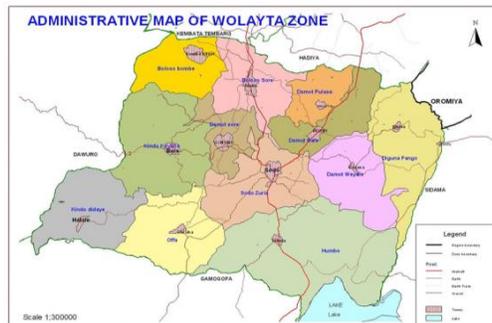


Entrepreneurial University: The Changing Role of a University in Promoting Regional Economic Development in Ethiopia:

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**Background and Rationale:** There has been an explosion of interest in the role of universities to drive regional development and economic growth (Maribel et al. 2018). Universities, more commonly associated with the delivery of higher learning, are increasingly being acknowledged as places to promote new ideas for economic growth (Darwish S. 2014). Gur et al. (2017) identifies “Entrepreneurial Spirit” as the third mission of universities stressing that they need to be entrepreneurial in terms of their action, orientation, education, structures, practices, culture and research (Fayolle & Redford, 2014). Other authors go further to identify the need for universities to foster entrepreneurship and innovation (Galvão et al. 2018). In Ethiopia, economic transformation to long term industrial development is assumed to be based on the development of the micro and small enterprises (MUDH, 2016). Outside of the main centres of population, regional universities and higher education institutions have traditionally had limited direct engagement in shaping or driving local economic transformation. Goal 08 and 17 of SDG call for significant economic growth and strategic partnership between actors This study investigates the potential role of a second generation university in Ethiopia to contribute to the economic transformation of its zone (Wolaita) with the ultimate aim to build the resilience of communities in the zone.



**Methodology:** Mixed research Method: as it Provides strengths that offset the weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research. Concurrent triangulation design

Systematic review, FDG, In-depth interview, Survey will be used

Thematic and descriptive, and bivariate analysis will be applied

- Facts About Wolaita**
- **2.03 million Population**
  - **97 % dependency ratio**
  - **80% agriculture-based economy**
  - **450 people per sq. km**
  - **0.1-0.4 hectare per household**
  - **Successive droughts**
  - **24% urban unemployment**
  - **Increasing youth migration**
  - **High MSE failure rate**
  - **Limited private industry growth**

**Research Question:**

How can Wolaita Sodo University contribute to the economic transformation of Wolaita zone?

**General objective:**

To position Wolaita Sodo University as a key promoter of enterprise development in the Wolaita Zone

**Specific objectives;**

- To develop comprehensive analytical framework on the potential role of a university to drive economic transformation
- To determine transferability of international experiences to Wolaita socio-economic context.
- To identify the options and challenges for Wolaita Sodo University to drive enterprise development
- To establish a programme for early stage micro and small enterprises development in Wolaita Sodo University

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