

## Celebrating Success: East African Universities Conclude the Incubation Leadership and Innovation Management Training Programme

**Arusha, Tanzania, February 2025** –The dSkills@EA Incubation Leadership and Innovation Management Programme for Universities in the East African Community (EAC) has successfully concluded, strengthening the role of universities in fostering innovation and technology transfer. This initiative, a collaboration between the EAC and the German government, is implemented by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in partnership with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The programme aimed to empower universities to foster academia-industry collaboration, positioning universities as key drivers of regional economic growth.

The programme's inception followed a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment, revealing key gaps in innovation management across East African universities. Findings indicated that 65% of institutions required enhanced innovation infrastructure, and 60% sought structured capacity-building programmes in technology transfer and intellectual property management. Addressing these needs, the initiative focused on incubation leadership, academia-industry collaboration, and strengthening innovation ecosystems.

This collaborative effort engaged universities and stakeholders from across the EAC Partner States—Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda—in partnership with Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) from East Africa and Germany, including the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), SA Innovation Summit, E4Impact Foundation, and Technische Universität (TU) Berlin. These partners delivered a world-class curriculum and masterclasses, with deep dives into scaling innovation and start-up support within universities.

David Roos, dSkills@EA Project Director, emphasized, “We are not just training individuals— we are cultivating an ecosystem that fosters innovation and drives economic development.” IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, added, “This programme demonstrates the commitment of

EAC-Partner States to equipping institutions with the knowledge and tools to harness innovation for sustainable development.”

The programme trained participants in Innovation Management, Intellectual Property, Research Commercialisation, and Sustainability, enhancing their entrepreneurial expertise. The initiative reached 129 University hub managers, research and development officers and technology transfer officers from over 83 universities in East Africa, creating a cohort that benefitted from a regional knowledge exchange and benchmarking.

93.6% of participants stated the training met or exceeded their expectations, with 85% integrating innovation management principles into their institutional curricula. In Uganda, the programme catalyzed the formation of the Consortium of University Hubs network, enabling over 10 universities to formalize innovation partnerships and co-develop research commercialization strategies.

One participant, Alain Bruce Nishimwe from Bujumbura International University, Burundi, shared, “Overall, I am happy for the training. It really strengthened me in many areas of innovation management. Much thanks to the organization team!”

Building on this success, as recorded in the dSkills@EA project, IUCEA and GIZ will continue engaging universities through advanced digital skills, AI research and innovation through regional collaboration platforms.

Find more details about the dSkills@EA project and related interventions, please visit the website: [www.eacgermany.org](http://www.eacgermany.org)

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