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Hochschule Neu-Ulm
University of Applied Sciences

AFRICA INSTITUTE

INSTITUTIONAL REPORT 2024

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PREFACE



Dear friends to the Africa Institute

Welcome to our comprehensive report on an exciting year 2024, which was full of fruitful and productive activities for us and for our valued partners in various active projects on the African continent. Through many impactful trainings, workshops, conferences and meetings we were again able to deepen and expand our network of valuable relations to individuals in a number of different countries and together with them create value for their organisations.

We are very proud to be part of the EU-funded Erasmus+ capacity building project UPLIFT-Ag under the project leadership of Prof. Maina Mwangi of Kenyatta University. This project 'Universities Promoting Linkages For Impactful Training, Innovation and Technology Transfer (UPLIFT) in Agriculture' started in December 2023 and aims to enhance the effectiveness of practice-oriented teaching and research at 9 higher education institutions in the four countries Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The HNU Africa Institute brings its competence in transfer-oriented research and teaching into this project, training in 2024 already more than 100 researchers and lecturers in these areas.

Another major highlight of this year was the start of the DAAD-funded project "SCEFAB: Strengthening Circular Economy for Agribusiness – Promoting Employment by Entrepreneurship Education". The project aims to significantly strengthen the labor market in Ethiopia and Senegal and reduce the ongoing brain drain from the Global South to the Global North by integrating an innovative education concept at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia, and Université Gaston Berger, Saint-Louis in Senegal in close cooperation with three key industry partners from Ethiopia, Germany, and Senegal.

And we are very pleased that our colleagues, Prof. Dr. Thorsten Neumann from the Department of Economics and Prof. Dr. Stefanie Schöberl from the Department of Information Management, along with Prof. Dr. Barbara Brandstetter, conducted two HNU student excursions to the African continent this year. In September, Prof. Dr. Neumann led 16 HNU students on a development economics excursion to Rwanda. And in November, Prof. Dr. Schöberl and Prof. Dr. Brandstetter also guided 16 students from HNU on a one-week excursion to Cape Town, South Africa.

Enjoy the read about the above mentioned activities, and many more of our activities in 2024 in this report.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer, Director Africa Institute

VISION & MISSION

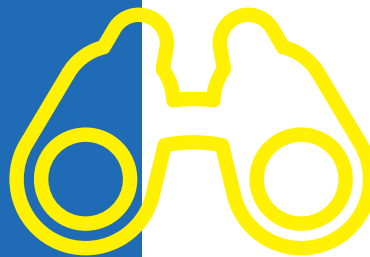


MISSION

Since 2005, HNU has been active across faculties on the African continent and cooperates on an eye-to-eye level with African partner universities as well as German and African companies in application-related education, transfer and research projects. In this way, the Africa Institute makes an active contribution to the development and utilisation of potentials in scientific and economic cooperation with countries on the African continent. The Africa Institute constantly maintains and develops contacts with researchers, professors, entrepreneurs and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations. Through growth, innovation and the increasing economic strength of Africa, the continent will play an important role for Europe in the future.

VISION

Applied and practice-oriented teaching and research are important for the further development of the educational landscape and thus the foundations of the economic systems in African countries. With its focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and digitalisation, HNU actively contributes to the further development of academic ecosystems for innovation and start-ups in African countries. The economies of African countries and Germany benefit from well-trained professionals and international relations. HNU students benefit from experience in African countries, which represent important future markets for Germany and Europe.



ABOUT HNU AFRICA INSTITUTE



Group Photo in Cape town, South Africa during the DLSE project student excursion

The Africa Institute is involved in research, teaching, learning, innovation and transfer activities and includes projects and researchers from the three faculties of Health Management, Information Management as well as Business and Economics.

Cooperation with African partners focuses on practice-oriented and interdisciplinary projects in the areas of health management, entrepreneurship, logistics and resource management, decentralised electrification, circular economy and commercialization of research. This expertise is made available to German companies through various transfer formats, such as events or market research. Within the framework of these projects, activities such as excursions, guest lectures and joint research are made possible and valuable networks are formed.

SERVICE PORTFOLIO



MARKET & CONTRACT RESEARCH

- Economic analyses of African markets or concept development by professors of the Africa Institute
- Analyses of African markets within the framework of Bachelor/ Master theses or market entry strategies developed by competing study groups in project-based seminars



PARTNERING & WORKSHOPS

- Procurement of reliable business and cooperation partners in selected countries
- Organisation of the annual Africa Day for companies with presentations, topic discussions and mutual exchange of ideas
- Conducting and evaluating in-house workshops on all market and environment-related issues of doing business in Africa



TRAININGS, TALKS & KEY NOTES

- Customised personnel training for your Africa business for decision-making, business entry, or expansion
- Topic-related lectures or keynote speeches for workshops or conferences

African countries where project activities have taken place or are currently taking place in 2024



PARTNERS AFRICA

COUNTRY	NAME	WEBSITE	PROJECT ACTIVITES
Cameroon	Catholic University of Cameroon (CATUC)	http://catuc.org/	Partner in projects of the Faculty of Health Management
Ethiopia	Arba Minch University	https://www.amu.edu.et/	Applied Entrepreneurship Education Programme
Ethiopia	Bahir Dar University	https://www.bdu.edu.et/	Application of the SCEFAB project proposal in the DAAD University-Business-Partnerships Programme
Kenya	Kenya Methodist University	https://kemu.ac.ke/	Project PAGEL Health Data Analytics, formerly HIM study programme
Kenya	Kenyatta University	http://www.ku.ac.ke/	Projects Applied Entrepreneurship Academy and TT-CUIP
Kenya	Moi University	https://campusnairobi.mu.ac.ke/	HAW Kenia
Kenya	Strathmore University, especially Strathmore Business School	https://strathmore.edu/	DAAD application for subject partnerships, CBBL Project until 2018, Guest lectureships since 2017
Kenya	University of Eldoret	https://uoeld.ac.ke/	MBA Health Business Administration
Kenya	University of Kabianga	http://kabianga.ac.ke/main/	Guest lectureships since 2014
Kenya	Booth Extrusions	http://boothextrusions.com/	Project Applied Entrepreneurship Academy
Malawi	University of Malawi	https://unima.ac.mw/	Student excursions
Mauritius	University of Mauritius	https://www.uom.ac.mu/	Project INFINITY
Namibia	Namibia University of Science & Technology	https://www.nust.na/	Project PROCEED
Namibia	Namibia Energy Institute	http://nei.nust.na/	Project PROCEED
Rwanda	Sina Gerard	https://sinarwanda.rw/	Project Rwanda-CAE
Rwanda	University of Rwanda	https://ur.ac.rw/	Projects TT-CUIP, HILLTOP and Rwanda-CAE
Senegal	Université Gaston Berger	https://www.ugb.sn/	Project STAIRE
Senegal	SL Green Energy	http://sl-greenenergy.com/	Project STAIRE
South Africa	University of the Western Cape	https://www.uwc.ac.za/	Project PAGEL Health Data Analytics, Big Data in Logistics Project, formerly HIM study programme, DLSE, HILLTOP, IVAC
Tanzania	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences	https://www.muhas.ac.tz/	Project PAGEL Health Data Analytics, formerly HIM study programme, HILLTOP
Tanzania	Mzumbe University	https://mzumbe.ac.tz/	MBA Health Business Administration
Tunisia	Université de Tunis	https://utunis.rnu.tn/	German Arabic transformation, Improvement of Healthcare
Tunisia	Université de Sfax	https://univ-sfax.tn/	German Arabic transformation, Improvement of Healthcare
Uganda	Uganda Christian University	https://ucu.ac.ug/	DFG Pre-Project Solar Energy Mini-Grids DEDLRAU
Uganda	Uganda Management Institute	https://umi.ac.ug/	DLSE Project

PARTNERS GERMANY

NAME	CITY	WEBSITE	PROJECT ACTIVITIES
africon GmbH	Bremen	https://www.africon.de/de/	Applied Entrepreneurship Education Programme
artiso solutions GmbH	Blaustein	https://artiso.com/	Student Internship; DLSE project
AMK Arnold Müller GmbH & Co. KG	Kirchheim unter Teck	https://amk-group.com/de	Project Big Data in Logistics
Bayern Innovativ GmbH	Nürnberg	https://www.bayern-innovativ.de/	Cooperation partner Africa Day 2020
En-Crops GmbH	Plochingen	http://www.en-crops.de/	Project Rwanda-CAE
EnergieKonzepte Schiffer GmbH & Co. KG	Paderborn	https://www.energie-konzepte-gmbh.de/	Project STAIRE
Hensoldt	Ulm	https://www.hensoldt.net/	Conception of a project application started
Hochschule Weihenstephan Triesdorf	Weihenstephan	https://www.hswt.de/	UAS Africa Network
Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg	Würzburg	https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/startseite/	Project BRIAS
KTI – Plersch Kältetechnik	Balzheim	https://www.kti-plersch.com/	Project STAIRE Project SCEFAB
Mindfuel	München	https://www.mindfuel.ai/	Project Big Data in Logistics
Phaesun GmbH	Memmingen	https://www.phaesun.com/home.html	Applied Entrepreneurship Education Programme, speaker Africa Day 2020
Raach Solar	Dettingen an der Iller	https://raachsolar.com/	Applied Entrepreneurship Academy – Renewable Energie
Sahay Solarverein Afrika e.V.	Frankfurt am Main	https://sahay-solar.org/	Applied Entrepreneurship Education Programme
Sharkbite Innovation	München	https://www.sharkbite.international/	Project Rwanda-CAE
Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt	Ingolstadt	https://www.thi.de/	HAW Kenia, Project PROCEED, BRIAS network
Universität Bayreuth	Bayreuth	https://uni-bayreuth.de/	Project PROCEED, BRIAS network, cooperative Promotion

RESEARCH & TRANSFER PROJECTS



The HNU project representative received a traditional “Gabi” during the SCEFAB launch in Ethiopia

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DLSE DIGITAL LOGISTIC SERVICES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PROJECT GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:

The Digital Logistics Services and Entrepreneurship (DLSE) project is a three-year initiative funded by the SDG-Partnerschaften program. It aims to empower students in South Africa and Uganda with skills in digital logistics services. Leveraging HNU's expertise in supply chain logistics, entrepreneurship, and start-up activities, the project enhances the Big Data Logistics curriculum at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa and provides research-based, practice-oriented teaching. The program is also transferred to the Uganda Management Institute (UMI), adapted to local educational needs. The project plays a key role in transforming the logistics and entrepreneurship landscape, promoting sustainable development and economic growth.

This year, the project has significant progress and successful collaborations. In May, a workshop was held at UMI involving three members each from UMI and HNU, and two from UWC. The workshop focused on curriculum development and identifying cooperation partners. As a result, six local external partners were identified to support practice-oriented teaching at UMI. In June, HNU hosted a Hackathon

attended by project teams from UMI, UWC, and HNU. It involved two future UMI lecturers, four students each from UMI and UWC, and six from HNU. Participants developed solutions for a use case identified during the May workshop, fostering innovation and hands-on learning in digital logistics. At the HNU's Africa Day 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HNU and UMI, symbolizing a strengthened partnership. Representatives from UWC and UMI also presented on the DLSE project and the potential for digital innovation in Uganda and South Africa. In November, a week-long Entrepreneur Hackathon and public results conference were held at UWC in collaboration with UWC's Small Business Clinic and industry partners from Cape Town and Uganda. The event brought together 40 students (16 from HNU, 4 from UMI, and 20 from UWC) and eight external partners, including five local businesses, the High Tech Think Tank Cape Town, and Katosi Fish Landing Uganda. Participants worked on real industry use cases, which were presented at the public conference. The event received positive feedback, and students engaged in innovative problem-solving with local companies.

The project team continued with curriculum development, incorporating workshop results and discussing models for industry-university cooperation. New partners such as Mercedes Benz South Africa, Artiso GmbH Germany, and Ugandan organizations like Beyond Logistics, Kampala City Authority, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority/Customs, and Uganda National Medical Store to ensure more collaborative opportunities for students. Further achievements included the accreditation of the Master of Science in Digital Logistics and Entrepreneurship (MDLE) at UMI. The master's program was approved by UMI's Senate and submitted to Uganda's Ministry of Education for accreditation.

Through DLSE project, two UWC students successfully completed a five-month internship at Artiso GmbH in Germany this year. The internship provided them with hands-on industry experience and enhanced their digital logistics knowledge. A new module "International Industry Project" was also introduced at HNU for UWC honors students, promoting collaboration and practical industry training. accomplishments as they continue to strengthen capacity in the digital logistics sector across South Africa, Uganda, and Germany.



A group company visit during DLSE project visit in South Africa



HNU president, Prof. Dr. Uta M. Feser & UMI representative, Mrs. Oluka Pross, signed an MoU at the African Day of Entrepreneurs 2024



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE



UGANDA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

PARTNERS

University of the Western Cape (UWC);
Uganda Management Institute (UMI)

LOCATIONS

Bellville, South Africa;
Kampala, Uganda

PROJECT DURATION

March 2023 until December 2026

CONTACT

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dany Meyer

FUNDING

Funded by the DAAD with funds
from the Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
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Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

PROJECT GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:

In the Strengthening Circular Economy for Agribusiness (SCEFAB) project between the University Gaston Berger, Senegal (UGB), Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia (BDU), and Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (HNU), an innovative, practice-oriented, and interdisciplinary module called “Founders Lab” is being developed and implemented. As part of the module, students will receive training and support in creating customized and sustainable business models related to the circular economy, particularly in agribusiness. An annual Founders Lab Pitch will be conducted, open to local stakeholders and companies, to foster the development of innovative business concepts and start-up ideas aimed at transforming the agribusiness sector in Ethiopia and Senegal sustainably. The market launch of these sustainable business models will generate job opportunities, especially for the growing youth populations in Senegal and Ethiopia. Another key goal of the SCEFAB project is to expand the activities of the existing incubation centers at the participating universities. A major project output is empowering the UGB Incubateur and the Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation Centre (EDIC) at BDU to manage the Founders Labs and organize the annual Founders Lab

Pitch events. While the circular economy is a focus of the project, the Founders Lab emphasizes student challenges in developing business models within this framework.

The incubation centers, acting as transfer units, play a critical role in linking the universities to local economies and companies. Business ideas are incubated within the universities to local economies and companies. Business ideas are incubated within the universities and graduates are assisted in finding suitable companies to collaborate with. Exchange events will also be organized at each partner university to strengthen industry networks and gather input from local businesses. This dialogue, supported by project partners KTI Senegal, nOa Climate, and Wogelesa, is vital for equipping students with practical knowledge for the Founders Lab. In early November, German, Ethiopian, and Senegalese project members met in Addis Ababa for a joint kick-off workshop. The week included presentations, group work, and excursions, offering ample opportunities for exchange and building relationships among international partners. During the workshop, the concept of the circular economy was introduced to participating lecturers and professors, enabling teams to generate local use cases.

Discussions also explored Ethiopia and Senegal's potential to harness renewable energies, critical for the circular economy. Additional presentations on “Digital Finance” and “Blockchain in the coffee value chain” provided participants with fresh perspectives and ideas.

Excursions to Addis Ababa University, Bitu Coffee, and the Kazana Group offered valuable insights into local businesses and initiatives, rounding off the workshop. Cultural highlights, such as a visit to a traditional restaurant and Ethiopian coffee ceremonies, enhanced the experience. Non-Ethiopian guests were particularly delighted by the presentation of traditional gabis by BDU participants. Overall, the Addis Ababa workshop was a successful start to the project, laying the foundation for fruitful international and interdisciplinary collaboration.



A group picture of the participants at the Kick-off Workshop in Addis-Ababa



The project group visits Bitu Coffee



Bahir Dar University
"Wisdom at the Source of the Blue Nile"



**UNIVERSITÉ
GASTON BERGER
DE SAINT-LOUIS**



PARTNERS

Université Gaston Berger,
Bahir Dar University,
NOa Climate GmbH,
KTI Senegal SASU,
Wogelesa Integrated Fish,
Vegetables and Fruit Farm,

LOCATIONS

Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
Saint-Louis, Senegal
Berlin, Germany
Dakar, Senegal
Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

PROJECT DURATION

2024 until 2027

CONTACT

Prof. Dr. Walter Swoboda;
Dr. Felix Holl

FUNDING

Funded by the DAAD with funds
from the Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
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**Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development**

RWANDA-CAE

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA THROUGH CIRCULAR AGRO-ECONOMY

PROJECT GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:

The concept of a circular economy aims to create sustainable value cycles, mirroring natural ecological processes, to minimise waste and optimise the life cycles of products and materials (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017). To support the transition to a circular economy, the Rwanda-CAE project is implementing an interdisciplinary, practice-oriented Master's program in Circular Agro-Economy in a blended learning format at the University of Rwanda, fostering innovative and sustainability-oriented startups in the agricultural sector. A network of experts from relevant institutions for innovation in the circular economy in Rwanda and Germany has been established, including the projects' three practice partners: SINA GERARD ESE URWIBUTSO, a food processing company in Rwanda that cooperates closely with local farmers; SharkBite Innovation GmbH, a consultancy experienced in frugal innovation strategies and African markets; and En-Crops GmbH, which processes residual biomass such as wood waste and horse manure into soil additives using an extruder process to sustainably improve soil quality.

In the final project year, highlights included the launch of the Master of Science in Circular Agro-Economy, joint teaching of certificate

courses, and a student excursion to Rwanda. The year began with a research stay by Dr. Nathan Taremwa at HNU in January to jointly analyse data. The joint research activities resulted in two book chapters being published and one journal article being prepared. Another highlight in January was the visit by Dominique Xavio Imbabazi, founder of Golden Insect Ltd Rwanda, who gave guest lectures about his entrepreneurial journey to HNU students and visited the industry partner En-Crops to scout opportunities for his business.

In March, the Higher Education Council conducted an on-site visit at the University of Rwanda to assess the curriculum and teaching conditions for the Master's program, resulting in successful accreditation. In July, the Master of Science in Circular Agro-Economy was officially launched. Project leaders Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer and Dr. Nathan Taremwa symbolically handed the curriculum to the principals of the three involved colleges: College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, College of Business and Economics, and College of Science and Technology. Training of Trainers and Multiplicator Workshops were held to prepare new lecturers to teach circular economy topics.

In November, the first cohort of 30 students began the Master of Science in Circular Agro-Economy. Before this, four 2-day certificate courses were conducted for practitioners, covering Principles of Circular Economy, Circular Food Systems, Agribusiness Innovation and Design Thinking, and Circular Agribusiness Models. Additionally, HNU students participated in an excursion to Rwanda in September, guided by Prof. Dr. Thorsten Neumann. They visited companies, institutions, and engaged in interactive workshops with Rwandan students on entrepreneurship and development economics.

The final highlight was a university-industry conference in Kigali in December, which reinforced the practice-oriented approach of UR by strengthening ties with industry representatives. The project's conclusion was celebrated and evaluated in November, during a visit to HNU by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Rwanda, Prof. Didas Muganga Kayihura, the Principal of the College of Business and Economics, Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza, and project leader Dr. Nathan Taremwa. They were welcomed by HNU's President and Vice Presidents. This visit served to evaluate the project and strengthen the partnership beyond its official duration.



Launch of the MSc Circular Agro-Economy in July 2024



Agribusiness Innovation and Design Thinking class session at University of Rwanda in July



Student excursion to Rwanda in September 2024 – visiting business partner Sina Gerard



PARTNERS

University of Rwanda;
SINA GERARD ESE URWIBUTSO;
Sharkbite Innovation GmbH;
En-Crops GmbH

LOCATIONS

Kigali, Rwanda;
Munich, Germany;
Plochingen, Germany

PROJECT DURATION

May 2021 until December 2024

CONTACT

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer;
Vanessa Robertson

FUNDING

Funded by the DAAD with funds
from the Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
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UPLIFT-AG

UNIVERSITIES PROMOTING LINKAGES FOR IMPACTFUL TRAINING, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN AGRICULTURE

PROJECT GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:

Agriculture teaching higher education institutions (HEIs) in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Zimbabwe are expected to ensure high quality training, impactful research and effective transfer of knowledge and technologies. However, the HEIs effectiveness is severely limited by curriculum that is not well aligned to the needs of employers and use of ineffective teaching methods that lack interaction and roles for industry and business practitioners. Furthermore, HEIs lack the mechanisms and capacity to identify, protect and commercialize their intellectual property.

Therefore, the Erasmus+ Key action 2 Capacity building for higher education project "Universities Promoting Linkages For Impactful Training, Innovation and Technology Transfer (UPLIFT) in Agriculture (UPLIFT-Ag)" started in December 2023 and aims to enhance the effectiveness of HEIs in the four countries. This goal will be supported by strengthening relationships with actors and stakeholders in agriculture industry, introducing improved methods of teaching agriculture, design of innovative curricula that enhance knowledge, skills and attitudes for employability and entrepreneurship, and building innovation and entrepreneurial capacity of the HEIs through establishment and strengthening the function of innovation

incubation centers and technology transfer offices. The project under the leadership of Kenyatta University will be accomplished in partnership with Chuka University and Taita Taveta University in Kenya, University of Lay Adventists of Kigali and University of Rwanda in Rwanda, Chinhoyi University of Technology and

Zimbabwe Open University in Zimbabwe, University of Ngozi and University of Burundi in Burundi, Università Politecnica delle Marche in Italy, University of Copenhagen in Denmark and HNU. From 21.-23. February 2024 the official project kick-off meeting was conducted in Nairobi. The first training sessions for the project participants were conducted and the work package structures, activities and responsible teams were formed. Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer conducted a short training on Innovation, Commercialization and IP Management for the large project team of over 35 participants.

Subsequently every of the five international work package teams picked up their work. HNU's essential contributions are in the work packages for university-industry relations and for improving innovation and incubation structures. HNU designed and delivered a

structure and methodology for conducting a broad baseline study among university decision makers and university scientists of the participating universities as well as among representatives of industry partners in the 4 African countries involved. The goal of this baseline study is to understand the status quo of university-industry relations and the experienced barriers to establish these relations. 65 university decision makers and 212 university lecturers and scientists from the nine African universities involved participated in this study as well as 109 representatives of industry partners from the 4 African countries. The project team is now using these findings to derive the necessary activities and focus on the most effective actions for improving the university-industry relations for the participating African universities.



Project kick-off meeting in Nairobi in February 2024.



Transfer Benchmark visit at HNU in November 2024



PARTNERS

Kenyatta University (KU)
 Chuka University (CU)
 Taita Taveta University (TTU)
 Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT)
 Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU)
 University of Rwanda (UR)
 The University of Ngozi - Burundi (UNG)
 Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM)
 Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (HNU)
 University of Copenhagen (UCPH)
 University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK)

LOCATIONS

Nairobi, Chuka, & Voi, Kenya
 Kigali, Rwanda
 Ngozi, Burundi
 Harare & Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe
 Neu-Ulm, Germany
 Ancona, Italy
 Copenhagen, Denmark

PROJECT DURATION

December 2023 - November 2027

CONTACT

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer, Projekt leader

FUNDING

Funded by Erasmus+ with funds from the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).



Erasmus+



European
Commission



Co-funded by the
European Union

TT-CUIP

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PROJECT GOALS

The TT-CUIP project contributes to improving technology transfer and the commercialization of intellectual property at Kenyatta University (KU) as well as University of Rwanda (UR). Although Kenya and Rwanda have established political, legal, and institutional frameworks to promote science, technology and innovation, the number of start-ups by university graduates and staff is still negligible and innovation collaborations between industry and academia are rare. To close this gap, university management and researchers need to be sensitized to technology transfer strategies and intellectual property management. Through capacity building, the TT-CUIP project supports the two partner universities in developing strong links with industry and encouraging their staff to commercialize their innovations and research results.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2024:

In 2024, the TT-CUIP project entered its final year with the aim of consolidating the lessons learned and processes initiated in previous years at the University of Rwanda and Kenyatta University. The universities worked on finalizing and implementing revised technology transfer strategies, supported by onsite training activities and targeted public relations efforts to enhance industry relationships.

The highlight of mutual learning and exchange was a benchmarking visit to HNU in June, where five delegates from the University of Rwanda and Kenyatta University attended HNU's university-industry conference themed "5th Africa Day for Companies - Twin transformation: opportunities and challenges on the African continent." Over 80 company representatives from six countries participated in

presentations, interactive workshops, and inspiring discussions at Vöhlinschloss Illertissen. This visit provided UR and KU representatives with an excellent opportunity to network with German and international businesses and other African universities, and to learn from HNU about organizing such transfer events to bridge the gap between academia and industry. Throughout the week, they were coached by HNU professors and industry experts from their home countries to be able to transfer the lessons learned to their own context. Both UR and KU applied these valuable learning experiences to create industry-university formats like innovation days at their own universities throughout the remainder of the year.



DAAD project leader conference in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, in July 2024



Management Workshop at HNU on Technology Transfer for representatives of Kenyatta University, Nairobi, and University of Rwanda in June 2024.



PARTNERS

Kenyatta University;
University of Rwanda

LOCATIONS

Kahawa, Kenya;
Kigali, Rwanda

PROJECT DURATION

January 2021 until December 2024

CONTACT

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer;
Vanessa Robertson

FUNDING

Funded by the DAAD with funds from the
Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
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Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

PUBLICATIONS

Author Robertson, V., Majiwa, E., Taremwa, N.K.
Release Date 2024
Title Exploring Circular Economy Awareness, Perceptions and Practices in Selected Urban Slums in Kigali City of Rwanda.
In Publisher Urban Slums and Circular Economy Synergies in the Global South. Eds. Okyere, S.A., Abunyewah, M., Kwasi, M.O., Boateng, G.F. Springer Nature.

Author Taremwa, N., Robertson, V., Karlun, L., Ijumba, N.
Release Date 2024
Title Indigenous Knowledge and Circular Agro-Economy: Universities as Co-Creation Partners for Sustainable Agriculture in Rwanda.
In Publisher University Initiatives on Climate Change Education and Research. Ed. Filho, W.L. Springer Nature.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATIONS

DAAD PROJECT LEADER CONFERENCE

In July, the DAAD project leader conference in Dar Es Salaam, titled “Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders to Pioneer Sustainable Development – The Role of Academia,” was attended by representatives of HNU, along with over 90 project leaders from 41 projects spanning more than 20 African countries and Germany. Two HNU projects were presented: “Capacity Strengthening in Technology Transfer and Commercialization of University Intellectual Property (TT-CUIP)” at Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya) and the University of Rwanda (Kigali, Rwanda), and “Digital Logistic Services and Entrepreneurship (DLSE)” with the University of the Western Cape and Uganda Management Institute.

Valuable insights were gained from the good practices and approaches shared by other projects, and many new connections were established with university colleagues in Africa and Germany. Gratitude was expressed to DAAD and their professional team for organizing an excellent event and facilitating these exchanges, and to esteemed project partners whose efforts made these initiatives successful: Prof. Maina Mwangi (Kenyatta University), Dr. Nathan Kanuma Taremwa (University of Rwanda), Dr. Oluka Pross Nagitta (Uganda Management Institute), and Prof. James Kariuki Njenga (University of the Western Cape).



A group photo of project leaders at the DAAD project leader conference in Dar Es Salaam; Tanzania



Delegates exchange ideas during the project leader conference in Dar Es Salaam

5TH AFRICA DAY FOR ENTERPRISES

The 5th Africa Day for Enterprises took place on June 11, 2024, at Vöhlenschloss in Illertissen, Germany, bringing together participants for an inspiring day of networking and idea exchange. The event focused on the theme of twin transformation, exploring the synergetic interplay of digital transformation and sustainability transformation and their impact on the African continent. Discussions addressed key topics such as the concept of twin transformation, Africa's current position in digitalization, priorities for sustainable development, and the synergies and tensions between these two transformative forces.

The event showcased a wealth of perspectives from professionals across various sectors and nationalities. A particularly impactful element was the participation of African delegates, who shared their innovative approaches and unwavering drive to create change in their communities. Their contributions highlighted Africa's readiness to lead transformative efforts, underscoring the need to recognize talent and foster collaboration.

Throughout the week, a delegation of Rwandan and Kenyan lecturers and business owners participated in discussions on strengthening collaboration between academia and industry. These dialogues sparked engaging debates and reflections, with one memorable sentiment resonating strongly: "We know the solutions. Let's start implementing them. We, ourselves, can do that." This statement was met with immediate action, demonstrating a shared commitment to turning discussions into tangible outcomes.

The HNU Africa Institute organized a remarkable Africa Day, emphasizing the urgency of breaking down barriers, recognizing African talent, and fostering global partnerships to drive sustainable development. The event served as a powerful platform for innovation and collective action, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.



VISITS TO THE AFRICA INSTITUTE



African Delegates in a Presentation Session with Prof. Jens Kolb at HNU

TT-CUIP WORKSHOP

As a follow-up on senior management workshops conducted with representatives of Kenyatta University and University of Rwanda in 2023 and 2022 within the TT-CUIP project, a delegation from both universities visited HNU in the week of 10. June. Members of this delegation included from University of Rwanda side the Principal of the College for Science and Technology, Dr. Ignace Gatere, and the Principal of the College for Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Dr. Guillaume Nyagatare. On Kenyatta University side, the Director for Innovation Incubation and University Industry Linkages, Prof. Maina Mwangi, took part. A joint workshop was held on Monday 10. June to review the progress of the transfer-related activities in both universities, including the transfer strategy of University of Rwanda. The workshop also prepared the visitors for their contributions in the Africa Day for Enterprises on the next day.



Mauritius project partners during their visit at the HNU

VISIT OF VC OF UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

As a follow-up on senior management workshops conducted with representatives of Kenyatta University and University of Rwanda in 2023 and 2022 within the TT-CUIP project, a delegation from both universities visited HNU in the week of 10. June. Members of this delegation included from University of Rwanda side the Principal of the College for Science and Technology, Dr. Ignace Gatere, and the Principal of the College for Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Dr. Guillaume Nyagatare. On Kenyatta University side, the Director for Innovation Incubation and University Industry Linkages, Prof. Maina Mwangi, took part. A joint workshop was held on Monday 10. June to review the progress of the transfer-related activities in both universities, including the transfer strategy of University of Rwanda. The workshop also prepared the visitors for their contributions in the Africa Day for Enterprises on the next day.



African Delegates in a Presentation Session with Prof. Jens Kolb at HNU

UPLIFT-AG BENCHMARKING VISIT

In November, the Africa Institute hosted a one-week workshop for 13 lecturers, researchers, and deans from nine universities in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe as part of the Erasmus+ UPLIFT-Ag project. Participants explored effective transfer strategies with Prof. Dr. Jens Kolb, learned about targeted internationalization with Prof. Dr. Elmar Steurer, and joined a Design Thinking for Social Entrepreneurship seminar led by Prof. Dr. Antje Wild and Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer. They also outlined solutions to transfer challenges in HNU's Innovation Space and engaged with start-up teams at the Founders Space. The visit provided invaluable insights and practical tools for their universities' ongoing work.



Mauritius project partners during their visit at the HNU

INFINITY PROJECT PARTNERS FROM MAURITIUS VISIT HNU

In August, partners from the INFINITY project in Mauritius visited Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (HNU) and met with Prof. Dr. Elmar Steurer, Vice President for Research and Internationalisation. INFINITY, funded by DAAD and BMBF, is a collaboration between HNU and the University of Mauritius, led at HNU by Prof. Dr. Heiko Gewald and Maximilian Haug. The project addresses Mauritius's reliance on imported food by leveraging digital technologies, such as AI and conversational agents, to improve agricultural production and processing through advanced information management.

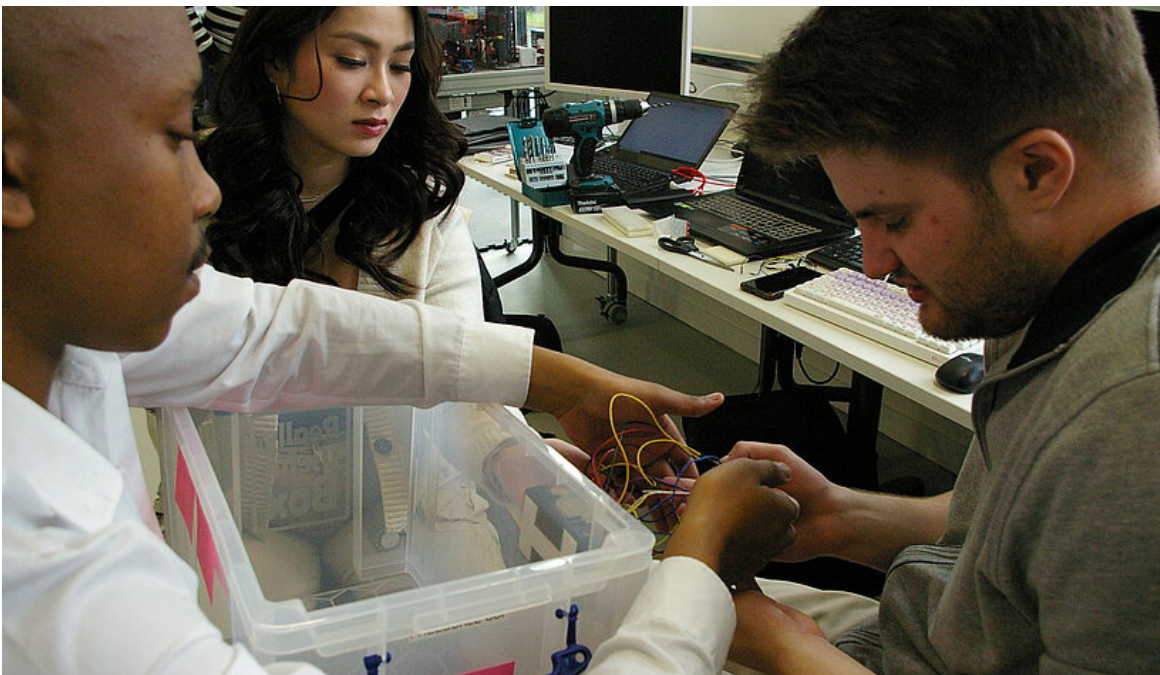


Rwandan Delegates during their visit at the HNU

EVALUATION VISIT RWANDA-CAE

As part of their ongoing partnership, a delegation from the University of Rwanda (UR) visited Hochschule Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (HNU) in November to evaluate their collaboration and explore new opportunities. The delegation included Assoc. Prof. Kayihura Muganga Didas, Vice Chancellor of UR; Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza, Principal of the College of Business and Economics; and Dr. Nathan Kanuma Taremwa, Principal Investigator for the Rwanda-CAE and TT-CUIP projects.

HNU and UR share a history of working together on impactful projects, including Technology Transfer and Commercialization of University Intellectual Property (TT-CUIP) and Rwanda Circular Agro-Economy (CAE), both funded by DAAD from 2021 to 2024. Additionally, the two institutions are collaborating on the UPLIFT-AG project, supported by the EU Erasmus Program from 2023 to 2026. These projects focus on sustainable development, advancing technology transfer, and fostering research to benefit Rwanda.



HNU and UMI students during the Hackathon

EHACKATHON AT HNU

In June 2024, a hackathon was conducted at HNU, attended by the project team from South Africa and Uganda, two future lecturers from Uganda Management Institute (UMI), as well as four students from UMI, four from the University of Western Cape (UWC), and six from HNU. The goal of the hackathon was to promote innovations and practical solutions in the field of digital logistics. Specifically, a use case identified in the May workshop in Uganda was prototypically implemented.

STUDENT EXCURSIONS



HNU and UR students at the University of Rwanda



HNU representative, Prof. Neumann awarded a T-shirt at the University of Rwanda

EXCURSION TO KIGALI AND MUSANZE, RWANDA

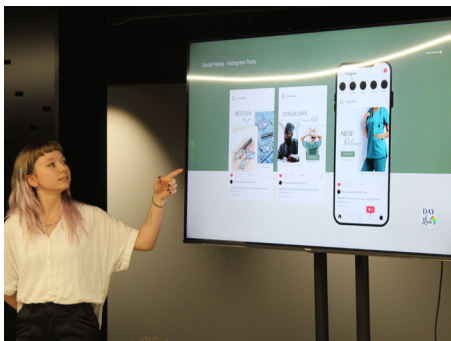
In September, sixteen HNU students from the Business and Economics department travelled to Rwanda as part of a two-week excursion within the project Rwanda-CAE. The excursion was led by Prof. Dr. Thorsten Neumann to study the economic and business perspectives of Rwanda. For the students from the bachelor programs B.Sc. Business Administration and B.Sc. Business Psychology this was a unique opportunity to meet and to discuss with fascinating stakeholders. An opportunity one cannot book as a tourist.

After studying about Rwanda's politics and economics before the excursion, the students had meetings with the German political and economic institutions operating in Kigali. These have been, namely, the German embassy, the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) who introduced to their work and to the economic linkages of Germany and Rwanda.

The group was also highly welcome at two colleges of the University of Rwanda, namely, the College of Science and Technology in Kigali and the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine in Musanze. In Musanze the students had a joint two-day workshop on Micro Businesses with students from the University of Rwanda. The workshop was kindly supported and moderated by Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung. It was a wonderful intercultural experience. During the trip the students also visited various larger and smaller companies such as Inyange Industries (dairy and juice producer), Sina Gerard (baker, juice, ice cream among other businesses), Sowatt (the factory), a farmers' cooperative supported by GIZ, Golden Insect Beyond and the Gorillas Experience (tourism). Fascinating insights from factory tours and discussions with local business managers have been very enriching.

Finally, there have been insightful cultural visits to the city of Kigali, to the Genocide Memorial, to the Kandt House Museum, to the Akagera National Park and to the Twin Lakes at Musanze. Last, but not least, we have had a short, but impressive stop at an African school.

To summarize, the two weeks have been an intensive experience and quite shaping for all participants.



HNU student presents their team's solution during the final presentation

EXCURSION TO CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA

From November 17 to 24, sixteen students from HNU, representing three programs (IMUK, DEM, KIM), participated in a one-week excursion to Cape Town, South Africa, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Schöberl and Prof. Dr. Brandstetter. This excursion, part of the Digital Logistic Services and Entrepreneurship (DLSE) project, brought together HNU students with their peers from the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the Uganda Management Institute (UMI).

A key component of the excursion was the "Working in Business Clinics" initiative, which allowed students to engage directly with small and medium-sized enterprises in the Cape region. Divided into mixed teams of eight, the students analyzed business challenges faced by these companies, especially in the fields of digital logistics. They visited the companies, learned about their operations, and applied entrepreneurship and design thinking methodologies to co-create solutions with practical value, under the supervision of their professors. The program concluded with presentations, where the teams shared their solutions with representatives from the participating companies and UWC, showcasing innovative outcomes that were well-received by start-up founders.

Throughout the week, students experienced hands-on learning while strengthening international academic partnerships. They gained insights into real-world business scenarios, applied their theoretical knowledge to practical problems, and benefited from the diverse perspectives of their peers. The excursion served as a platform for both academic and cultural exchange, fostering personal and professional growth among all participants.

The success of this program was made possible through the dedication of the students, the guidance of their professors, and the support of DAAD funding. This excursion to Cape Town was a transformative experience, offering valuable lessons in interdisciplinary teamwork, problem-solving, and intercultural understanding, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved.



A group photo of HNU students during the excursion in Cape Town



HNU student presents their team's solution during the final presentation



Uwais Adroos and Siyabonga

INTERNSHIP IN ARTISO GMBH, GERMANY

As part of the Digital Logistics Services and Entrepreneurship (DLSE) nproject, two students from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Uwais Adroos and Siyabonga Jele, participated in a transformative five-month internship at Artiso GmbH in Germany from June. The internship provided the students with an opportunity to complete their postgraduate honors in Information Systems while gaining practical experience in an innovative industry setting.

At Artiso, the students were integrated into a dynamic environment of cutting-edge projects and talented teams. Despite the language barrier, they embraced learning German, enriching both their cultural and professional experiences. Their primary task involved developing an innovative Azure DevOps extension aimed at improving the efficiency of Agile teams using AI technologies. This project not only contributed to Artiso's ongoing innovation efforts but also provided the students with hands-on exposure to advanced AI applications in a real-world context.

This internship led to the development of the new International Industry Project module at HNU, specifically designed for honor the students from UWC. This module aims to strengthen academic-industry collaboration and provide students with opportunities to apply their knowledge in global contexts.

The successful completion of this internship highlights the transformative impact of international partnerships like the DLSE project, fostering academic excellence and industry readiness among students.

ESD MASTER'S PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



First cohort of the ESD Master course after their last presentation in HNU



Second Cohort of the ESD Master course joined by African delegates during a class in the innovation space

Apart of the Africa Institute's mission to foster sustainable development, promote entrepreneurship, and support capacity building in African countries, the Africa Institute launched an international Master's course in Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development (ESD) in summer semester 2023. The program was established under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer, with the support of Peter Marquetand and other dedicated colleagues. The ESD master course aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge to address global development challenges through innovative, sustainable business models. It aligns with the Africa Institute's commitment to promoting practice-oriented, interdisciplinary education and fostering social impact through research, learning, and collaboration.

The ESD program integrates key areas like social entrepreneurship, sustainability management, and international development cooperation, empowering students to become change-makers and leaders in various sectors. Conducted entirely in English, the program emphasizes practical learning through project work, case studies, and guest lectures by international practitioners. This hands-on approach ensures students gain real-world experience in addressing pressing social and environmental issues.

Since its launch, the program has attracted students from diverse continents, including Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America. This global representation provides students with a rich multidisciplinary perspective, that enables them to foster cross-cultural exchange and

innovative problem-solving. The first cohort, which enrolled in 2023, has successfully completed the program, marking a significant milestone for the program. The second cohort joined in Winter semester 2024, with 22 students currently enrolled. This diversity offers students the opportunity to engage with peers from different socio-economic, cultural, and professional backgrounds, enhancing their understanding of global development challenges and fostering a collaborative learning environment.

By integrating the values of sustainability, entrepreneurship, and impact-driven leadership, the ESD program supports the Africa Institute's broader goal of promoting sustainable development in Africa and beyond. It prepares graduates to contribute to socio-economic development, both as innovative entrepreneurs and as key players in governmental, non-governmental, and private sector organizations.

To learn more about the ESD master program, scan the QR code below:



ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

GERMAN-AFRICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Through the excellent network of the non-profit Africa Association (AV), valuable contacts and communication with national and international companies, institutions, universities, private individuals and partner organisations are made possible. One of the AV's main goals is to ensure an opportunity-oriented Africa policy. In the future, the Africa Institute of the HNU, together with other AV members, will conduct workshops and events aimed, for example, at political decision-makers and company representatives.



BAVARIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

The Bavarian Research Institute of African Studies (BRIAS) combines Africa-related disciplines and research competences in cooperation with the Universities of Bayreuth and Würzburg, the Ingolstadt University of Technology and the HNU. HNU focuses on health management, blended learning and practically oriented entrepreneurship education. Among other things, BRIAS aims to strengthen university cooperation with partners in Africa, establish new teaching modules and develop joint future-oriented projects.



AFRICA FIRST NETWORK

Since Africa is a continent of opportunities and the challenges of the future can only be tackled together with Europe, the Africa First Network is supporting projects in Africa, for instance. Through a wide network with numerous actors such as investors, entrepreneurs and financial experts, projects can be planned and realized that are not only profitable for the parties involved, but also for society and the environment.



Delegates at the German Embassy in Senegal during a Circular economy business trip organized by the German-African Business Association. Africa Institute was represented by Christine Ogolla and Sven Kühnel

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

UAS AFRICA NETWORK

The lack of practical education in African higher education is a frequently lamented problem that has led to a shortage of skilled workers. At the same time high unemployment and underemployment of academics has to be stated in many African countries. The German model of universities of applied sciences promises solutions. Together with the German Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, Flensburg, Rhein-Waal and Weihenstephan-Triesdorf HNU is part of this specific UAS network. HNU co-organized an event on "University of Applied Sciences as Drivers of a shift of paradigm in Africa - How to provide contribution in difficult times?" took place in Hamburg on November 28 and 29. The event addressed members of the German parliament and was organized by the Centre of Business and Technology in Africa of UAS Flensburg under the patronage of GIZ. Prof. Dr. Elmar Steurer was part of the event's program.

GAANF E.V.

The collaboration between Giving Africa a New Face (GAaNF) e.V. and HNU marks an important step toward supporting degree-seeking students from African countries. This initiative highlights HNU's two master's programs tailored for international students; MSc Digital Transformation and Global Entrepreneurship and MA Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development. GAaNF e.V., led by Edith Otiende-Lawani, and HNU, represented by Prof. Dr. Elmar Steurer, aim to bridge academic opportunities with personalized assistance, ensuring students can thrive both academically and personally. This partnership enables cultural exchange, empowerment, and practical support, addressing challenges faced by African students while strengthening ties between Germany and African nations.



Edith Otiende-Lawani, GAaNF e.V. representative, and Prof. Dr. Elmar Steurer, HNU representative meet at Munich's Park Café in August

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT YEAR PROMISES EXCITING AND IMPACTFUL PROJECTS:



Dr. Adaora Dagogo, Managing Director of Stechad Ltd. and Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer at the HNU Africa Day for Enterprises 2024

Africa Institute Leasershship

After more than 6 years of leading the Africa Institute, Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer will pass on the leadership of this institute with the beginning of the year 2025 into the hands of Prof. Dr. Elmar Steurer, who was active in many projects for over 10 years on the continent already. Prof. Dr. Bayer will remain active in the institute and continue to lead projects and will actively contribute in many activities of the institute.

Africa Day for Enterprises

The next Africa Day for Enterprises is already in the planning for 2025 and it will be conducted in the first half year with a focus on innovation and startups. Stay tuned for more information to come soon.

SCEFAB Project

In 2025, the "Founders Lab" module will be introduced as part of the SCEFAB project, which is the most significant activity of the year. Students from Senegal, Ethiopia and Germany will be selected during the year to participate in this practical module during the winter semester. The kick-off event takes place on site in Senegal, where the student teams are put together. The teams are then trained throughout the semester (mainly virtually) so that they are able to develop their own start-up by the end of the semester.

DLSE Project

In the coming year, we will continue to work on developing new application-oriented teaching formats. The team will conduct one workshop each in Uganda and Germany with students from all three universities. There are also plans to hold a conference with local stakeholders and potential project partners at the UMI in Kampala.

UPLIFT-Ag Project

In the first quarter of 2025, this important EU-funded project will bring HNU and Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer for project activities for the first time to Zimbabwe.

AFRICA INSTITUTE TEAM



**Prof. Dr.
Thomas Bayer**

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Professor Dr. Bayer has been a member of the Africa Institute since 2014 and has headed it since 2019. At HNU, he also heads the StartupSÜD joint project and, as laboratory manager, the HNU Founders Space. Currently, he is primarily responsible for managing the projects "Advancing Sustainable Economic Development in Rwanda through Circular Agro-Economy - (Rwanda-CAE)" and "Capacity Strengthening in Technology Transfer and Commercialization of University Intellectual Property (TT-CUIP)" with Kenyatta University in Kenya and University of Rwanda at the Africa Institute. From 2017-2021, he led the project "Applied Entrepreneurship Academy" for 5 years, also in cooperation with Kenyatta University in Nairobi.



Sylvia Göbel

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Sylvia Göbel has been a member of the Africa Institute since 2013. She is responsible for financial planning, coordination of third-party funding, and reporting to donors, especially the DAAD.



Inken hoeck

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Inken Hoeck is a Research Assistant at the Africa Institute of Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (HNU), specializing in Business Models, Mobility, Energy, and Circular Bio-Economy. Since joining the Africa Institute in November 2019, she has played a key role in supporting the development and submission of new project proposals and serves as the operational lead for major initiatives such as the PROCEED project (focused on off-grid electrification in rural Namibia), the STAIR project, and the DFG project in Uganda. Inken is also actively engaged in the SCEFAB project, advancing circular economy practices in the agribusiness sectors of Ethiopia and Senegal. Beyond her project work, she is pursuing a PhD on Circular Bio-Economy in Rwanda at the University of Bayreuth, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Eberhard Rothfuß (University of Bayreuth) and Prof. Dr. Thomas Bayer (HNU).



Vanessa Robertson

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Vanessa Robertson (née Miller) is a Research Associate at the Africa Institute, where she has worked since May 2019. Her research focuses on Circular Economy, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Management. She has supervised the Rwanda-CAE project, promoting circular agribusiness practices, and the TT-CUIP project, which enhances innovation management capacities at universities in Kenya and Rwanda. Her academic contributions include co-authored studies on indigenous knowledge in Rwanda's circular economy and on circular economy awareness in urban slums of Kigali. She is currently engaged in the SCEFAB project and pursuing a PhD in circular business model research at the University of Passau.



**Prof. Dr.
Elmar Steurer**

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Prof. Dr. Steurer is member of the HNU board and responsible for Internationalization since September 2024. Previously, he was Vice-President for Research and Internationalization, from 2022 – 2024, Dean of the Faculty of Business & Management from 2017 to 2021 and Vice President for Research and Transfer from 2013 to 2017. In addition to these functions, he is continuously involved in the implementation of third-party funded projects for the Africa Institute. These are largely in the area of promoting entrepreneurship in rural regions of Africa through the use of decentralized electrification. He currently manages the DAAD funded project SCEFAB with Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia and Universite Gaston Berger, Saint-Louis, Senegal. Before he was responsible for the third party projects PROCEED, STAIRES, AEEP, GIZ-GBE and DEDLRAU. Before his appointment at Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, he gained 15 years of professional experience in the fields of finance, controlling and risk management as an industrial engineer with a doctorate from the University of Karlsruhe.



**Prof. Dr.
Bernard Wagemann**

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Professor Dr. Wagemann has been a member of the Africa Institute since his retirement in 2014. In this context, he worked intensively on questions of rural electrification as a central prerequisite for the development of such regions. His current research and activities focus is on entrepreneurship in African countries. He has conducted several trainings on the promotion of start-ups, including topics such as Design Thinking, Lean Start-up, and frugal innovation. Prof. Wagemann has played an active role in the STAIRES project, where he developed a training manual to serve as a teaching aid for aspiring small entrepreneurs in rural Senegal. He has also contributed to the conceptual development and advisory support for the SCEFAB project.



**Prof. Dr.
Jens Pätzmann**

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Professor Dr. Pätzmann has been a member of the Africa Institute since January 2019. In 2020, he also became director of the newly founded Institute for Entrepreneurship at HNU.



**Prof. Dr.
Tobias Engel**

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Professor Dr. Engel is Professor of Supply Chain Management and a member of the Africa Institute. He is jointly responsible for the practical implementation of the Big Data in Logistics project, which is being carried out with the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town. There, a new Master's degree programme was developed that takes up the current development in the areas of big data, data science and predictive analytics for the fields of logistics and supply chain management. Prof. Engel is also involved in the organisation of the IoT Hackathon, which is offered by tutors and professors from HNU and the University of the Western Cape.



**Prof. Dr.
Jürgen Grinninger**

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Professor Dr. Jürgen Grinninger joined HNU in 2020. He is responsible for the part-time Systems Engineering degree programme and the Digital Operations Lab at the Leipheim extramural learning site. He is currently responsible for the International Virtual Academic Collaboration project at the Africa Institute. The aim of the project is to establish a global supply chain network between university institutes for project-based learning in the context of Industry 4.0. HNU's partner in the project is the University of the Western Cape.



**Prof. Dr.
Dany Meyer**

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Professor Dr.-Ing. Dany Meyer has been a professor of software engineering since 2013. Her main research interests lie in the didactics of software engineering and the development and application of machine learning algorithms. As part of the project "Big Data in Logistics", she developed teaching formats with a focus on applications in the field of IoT and data analytics. She is part of the team that regularly leads multinational hackathons and excursions with the University of Western in Cape Town.

AFRICA INSTITUTE TEAM



**Prof. Dr.
joerg-Oliver Vogt**
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Prof. Dr. Vogt has been Professor of Information Management at HNU and Head of the Automotive Information Management programme since 2009. Mobility and logistics as well as data science are his areas of interest. Since 2017, he has been involved in the DAAD project Big Data for Logistics at the Africa Institute, working with our partner university, the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, to establish new master's degree programmes and deepen cooperation. This work is to be expanded in the direction of Uganda and additionally include the topics of entrepreneurship and intelligent transportation systems. The aim is to strengthen the transfer of knowledge to the economy of both countries, e.g. through the founding of startups by the graduates.



**Dr.
Felix Holl**
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Felix Holl is a research assistant at the DigiHealth Institute and a doctoral student at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. He completed his Bachelor's thesis at the Africa Institute in 2014 with field research in Cameroon on mobile health applications. After his Master in Global Health Sciences and various projects in Africa, Felix Holl has been back at HNU since 2018. In 2018, he held a lectureship in the Health Information Management programme at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. He is also on the leadership team of the Global Health Informatics Working Group of the American Medical Informatics Association. At the Africa Institute, Dr. Holl has been active in several applications for third party funding grants targeted for African countries.



**Prof. Dr.
Johannes Schobel**
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Prof. Dr. Johannes Schobel is a research professor for "Digital Medicine and Care" in the Faculty of Health Management since 01 March 2021. Together with the Africa Institute and partners from various African countries, he is working on project proposals in the area of "mHealth applications". In the context of teaching activities, joint lectures have already been held with the "Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences" in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



**Prof. Dr.
Walter Swoboda**
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Prof. Dr. med. Walter Swoboda is a research professor and heads the "DigiHealth" institute at the Faculty of Health Management. Together with the Africa Institute, he works on projects in the field of medical informatics, where he is particularly interested in the ethical implications of the use of digital technology in medicine.



**Prof. Dr.
Heiko Gewalt**
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Prof. Dr. Heiko Gewalt is research professor of Information Management at Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences and Director of the Center for Research on Service Sciences (CROSS). His research focuses on the use of digital resources by the aging generation, HealthIT, and IT Management. He is a frequent speaker on conferences contributing to these matters and his work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals. He is the lead of the project INFINITY which focuses on improving food security in Mauritius.



Maximilian Haug
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Maximilian Haug is a PhD student at Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences. He holds a Master of Science in information management from Neu-Ulm University and a Bachelor of Engineering in industrial engineering from Technical University Ulm. His research interests include technology adoption and information dissemination on social media. He administers the communication and funding of the project INFINITY which focuses on improving food security in Mauritius.



Lydia Adane Kassa

Lydia Adane Kassa studied Information Management and Corporate Communications at Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences. She joined the Africa Institute in November 2021 as a student assistant, supporting the Strengthening Aquaculture Industry through Renewable Energy (STAIRE) project, as well as the planning and execution of international events and trade fair appearances. Currently, she is actively involved in the newly introduced Strengthening Circular Economy for Agribusiness (SCEFAB) project, contributing to various tasks.



Christine Ogolla

Christine Ogolla studied Master's in Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development at Neu-Ulm University. She's been a student assistant at the Afrika Institute since February 2023, contributing to projects like PROCEED, STAIRES, DLSE, and Rwanda CAE projects. This year Christine has been active in the DLSE and Rwanda CAE projects, and the design of the Institutional report 2024.



Marina Hurnus

Marina Hurnus studied Game Production and Management at Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences since 2020. She joined the Africa Institute in September 2021 as a student assistant and supported various activities, like coordination of international events and the design of the previous annual status reports. She was also responsible for updating the website and creating texts and graphics in the field of public relations.



Lukas Portius

Lukas Portius has been studying Business Administration at the University of Applied Sciences in Neu-Ulm since 2022. He currently joined the Africa Institute in November 2024 and is supporting the SCEFAB project as a student assistant.

PHOTO BOARD



PREVIOUS REPORTS



For information on our previous projects, please scan the QR code below to refer to the 2023 annual report:



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*Prof. Dr. Dany Meyer (Left), Mrs. Oluka Nagitta (Center), and
Prof. Dr. Uta Feser (Right) during the Africa Day of Enterprises at
Vöhlenschloss.*

