



RUFORUM 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

Higher education regulators consortium co-creation
engagement workshop



THEME

Positioning Africa's Universities and the Higher Education Sector to effectively impact development processes on the continent

Hosts:

The Government of Botswana and
RUFORUM member Universities in Botswana led by Botswana University of
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Venue:

Gaborone International conference Center, Gaborone, Botswana

Date: 27th – 29th November 2025

Time: 08.00-17:00 Central African Time (CAT)

Contact Persons: Mr. Emmanuel Okalany (e.okalany@ruforum.org)

Background

African Heads of State have repeatedly called for accelerated education reform and transformation to address persistent challenges: high out-of-school rates, widespread learning poverty, an impending shortage of 17 million quality teachers by 2030, and alarmingly high youth unemployment. Current education systems are often perceived as failing to equip youth with 21st-century competencies for the job market. Recognizing that continental challenges require collaborative solutions, the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev 2.0) program is engaging with National Education Regulators to catalyze this reform. The inaugural Higher Education Regulators Consortium (2024, Namibia) identified key priorities: strengthening quality assurance, reducing regulatory red tape, developing relevant tools/guidelines, building stakeholder capacity, and increasing regional cross-learning to facilitate accreditation and labor mobility. This Pre-AGM workshop is designed to advance these priorities through collaborative action.

Objectives

The workshop aims to advance the higher education transformation agenda by:

1. Strengthening cross-regional learning and establish robust south-south and north-south partnerships.
2. Building capacity in strategic higher education engagement with development partners and stakeholders in Africa and Europe leveraging existing financing instruments within the European Union.
3. Advancing higher education transformation initiative through co-creation of investment initiatives that support tools and guidelines, learning models' development and management systems, processes and practices.
4. Establishing a community of practice for transformative education among higher education regulators, universities and private sector to foster continuous mutual learning and collaboration.

Approach

This Consortium event will take on a facilitated collaborative and co-creational engagement approach. It will involve a series of key note presentations, working group sessions, brainstorming, mind-mapping and design thinking. These approaches are aimed at catalysing building working relationships, stronger appreciation of processes in various countries and deeper insights on how structured collaborations will be organized. Further, it will support the processes

leading to collaborative projects for submission to Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education (CBHE) call for proposals.

Expected Outcomes

- A clearly defined agenda and framework for regional collaboration among Higher Education Regulators.
- Identification of priority investment initiatives (tools, guidelines, learning models) for higher education transformation, complete with action plans.
- Formulation of collaborative project concepts ready for refinement and submission to relevant funding calls, particularly Erasmus+ CBHE.
- Establishment of a Community of Practice structure, enhancing mutual support and continuous learning among participating stakeholders.

Venue: Moremi 2 &3

Session Chair: Professor Mary Jossy Nakhanda Okwakor

Rapporteurs: Okalany Emmanuel

Time	Activity	Person in charge
08:00-08:15	Arrival and Registration	Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, Program Officer-Alumni and Transitions
08:15-08:30	Introductions	Moderator
08:30-08:45	Setting the Scene: Purpose of the Consortium Engagement	Mr. Emmanuel Okalany
08:30-09:00	Opening Remarks and Higher Education in Transitions: Call for Reform	Prof. Patrick Okori, Executive Secretary
09:00-09:30	TAGDev 2.0 Program Overview and Early Results: Building on the momentum	Prof. Anthony Egeru, Program Manager-Skilling and Engagement for Community Development
09:30-10:00	Discussions	Moderator
10:00-10:30:	Health Break	
10:30-12:30	European Union Global Gateway for Engagement: Strategic focus for Capacity Building in Higher Education	Mr. Emmanuel Okalany
12:30-13:00	Discussions and Key Issues Synthesis	Moderator
13:00-14:00:	Lunch Break	
14:00-14:30	Regional Collaborative Initiatives for Education Transformation: Experiences from European Erasmus Collaboratives	Prof. Nuno Escudeiro, Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto, Portugal
14:30-15:00	Discussions and Emerging Issues	Moderator
15:00-15:30	Imagining Education in the 21st Century: Innovations for Closing the Learning Gap	Dr. Dieter Dohmen-UniLaSalle, France
15:30-16:00	Discussions and Key issues	Moderator
16:00-16:45	Group Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Needs mapping• Opportunities identification• Gaps identifications per consortium	All Groups
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks	Emmanuel Okalany

Day Two: 28th November, 2025: Building Team Convergence and Exploring Innovative Actions

08:15-08:30	Registration	Emmanuel Okalany
08:30-09:30	Working Group Presentation feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malawi and Kenya 2. Nigeria and Zimbabwe 3. Ghana and South Africa 4. Benin and Morocco 5. Uganda and Cameroon 6. Ethiopia and Tanzania 	Group Leaders
09:30-10:00	Transformative Education: What is it and how can we know it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group 	Moderator
10:00-10:30:	Health Break	
10:30-11:00	Transformative or Innovative Education: What is it and how can we know it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group 	Moderator
11:00-12:00	Group Presentations	Group Leaders
12:00-12:30	Transformative Education and Transformative Processes in the Kenya Commission for University Education	Dr. Urbanus N. Mutwiwa, Deputy Commission Secretary for Accreditation, Commission for University Education, Kenya
12:30-13:00	Discussion and Key emerging issues	Moderator
13:00-14:00:	Lunch Break	
14:00-16:00	Fireside Chat: Transformative Initiatives Driving Higher Education Reforms <p>Group 1: Representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zimbabwe • Malawi • Tanzania • Nigeria <p>Group 2: Representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda • Ethiopia • Cameroon <p>Group 3: Representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morocco • Benin • Ghana 	Moderator

16:00-16:20	Frameworks for Competence Based Education	Prof. Nuno Escudeiro, Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto, Portugal
16:20-16:40	Lessons from Transformative Pilots	Prof. Basil Mugonola, Gulu University, Uganda
16:40-17:00	Discussions and Closing	Moderator

Day Three: 29th November, 2025: Translating Conversations into Investment for Change

Date and Time	Activity	Person in-charge
08:15-08:30	Registration	Emmanuel Okalany
08:30-09:00	Recap of Day One and Day 2	Representative from Malawi
09:00-10:00	Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Calls for Proposals	Emmanuel Okalany
10:00-10:30:	Health Break	
10:30-12:00	Working Groups: Deep Dive into Call Guidelines and Templates	All teams
12:00-13:00	Innovative Components for Project Promotion	All Teams
13:00-14:00:	Lunch Break	
14:00-16:00	All Regulators Transfer to the TAGDev 2.0 Consortium for Session on Curriculum Reform: Lessons Sharing	
14:00-16:30	Consortium Team members remain working on the respective Documents specific sessions/segments to be guided by the facilitator	Emmanuel Okalany
16:30-17:00	Education Regulators return to session for recap and close-out	All Teams