



## RUFORUM 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

### CONCEPT NOTE

## TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION MODELS: EVIDENCE FROM PRACTICE



## THEME

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**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:**

Chevron

**Date:** 3<sup>RD</sup> December 2025

**Time:** 14:00-16:30 SAT

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

## Background

It is less than five years to reach 2030, yet education quality remains at cross-roads in most of the developing global south. Further, global disruptions are similarly causing rapid changes in the education in the global north. Together, therefore, there is a recognition that leaders from government, industry and civil society ought to urgently grasp the social, political and economic costs of inaction and rethink how to transform education for a sustainable, and inclusive future of humanity. Currently, technological advances offer greater opportunities for disrupting the education sector as both an enabler and a driver of transformative change. Moreover, technological advances and global opportunities, individual aspirations and career trajectories are increasingly diverse calling for education systems to be flexible, adaptation and personalized.

The question many institutions of higher learning face is, “how to design and provide transformative education in a manner that produces graduates equipped with the requisite world-of-work skills in a rapidly changing world.” The answer to this question lies in how education institutions could leverage their collective strengths to improve education quality and support cross-learning for improvement, while unlocking opportunity for equitable and sustainable development. Accordingly, over the last 15 years, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) has enabled Universities in Africa and Europe to explore varied transformative education actions to improve institutional processes, practices, systems and people.

Currently RUFORUM is implementing the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa’s Growth and Development (TAGDev), a ten-year old programme that involves over 60 universities. Cognisant of the need for cross-learning within the continent and with other regions of the world, RUFORUM supports its members to engages Europeans and other Universities in collaborative teaching learning and research. A case in point is the European Union supported Erasmus+ projects which have been implemented for a decade and involve 25 consortiums.

This session brings together TAGDev implementing universities, other higher education institutions, Erasmus+ project teams, and regional networks that are reimagining how education can prepare young people to thrive as intra and entrepreneurs in dynamic labour markets. Across Africa and Europe, many “capacity building in higher education projects” are experimenting with innovative and learner centred models – such as: challenge-based learning, competence-based education, and blended and virtual mobility – that connect academics with real-world problem-solving and innovation. This process also reimagines how higher education institutions and systems relate to and work with regulator and accreditation processes.

## OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this session is to gain lessons from actions taken within and between Africa and Europe in order to better the design and implementation of transformational education engagements, as well as to guide future designs of such initiatives. This will be accomplished by presenting success stories and challenges demonstrating how universities provide students with the necessary skills, mindsets, and experiences for employability, innovation, and leadership. The specific objectives of the session are:

1. Reflect on what makes piloted approaches effective, how their results could be sustained beyond project life, and explore how institutions can embed them into curricula, governance structures, and long-term strategic development.
2. Co-create a shared roadmap for expanding and assuring the sustainability of transformative education practices linking higher education to the world of work.
3. Initiate a process for developing a collaborative publication entitled “Transformative Education: From Islands of Success to Scale and Sustainability across Africa and Europe.” This book will capture the insights, evidence, and perspectives shared by participants, serving as both a record of achievement and a roadmap for the next phase of educational transformation.

## CONVENERS

This session is collaboratively organised by RUFORUM, Mastercard Foundation supported Education Collaborative programme, Erasmus+ projects- ABC BlendEd , AgrGROW , AgrCBE , TRUCE , & AgriBIZZ , and the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC), with the support of the ATHENA European University Alliance.

## APPROACH

The session will feature project showcases, poster presentations, and reflections from academic leaders and practitioners, followed by collaborative discussions aimed at identifying concrete pathways for scaling innovation across regions.

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<sup>1</sup>African BlendEd Course: Novel pedagogies boosting employability and socio-economic prosperity.

<sup>2</sup>Climate-Smart agropreneurship education for livelihood and sustainability in eastern and southern Africa.

<sup>3</sup>Enhancing adoption of competence based agricultural curricula in HEIS in east Africa.

<sup>4</sup>Transitioning higher education regulators and universities to competence-based education in East And West Africa.

<sup>5</sup>Climate-smart agropreneurship education for jobs and sustainability in western Africa.

TUESDAY 3rd December, 2025

**Venue:** Chevron

**Registration Link:** <https://ruforum-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/k6p1GI0RQ3mzLOhxfYjEmQ#/registration>

**Session Moderator:** Dr. Yeukai Mlambo, Mastercard Foundation

**Rapporteurs:** Emmanuel Okalany; Yamungu, Nimrod, Virginia, Ingweye, Dr. Kulabako Mary

| Time               | Event                                                                                                 | Person in-charge                                                                       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:45-14:10        | Arrival, Registration and Videos                                                                      | Emmanuel Okalany                                                                       |
| 14:10-14:30        | Key note: Transformative Education in Complex and Transitioning Global Societies                      | Professor Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai, Director General, Ghana Tertiary Education Commission |
| 14:30-14:45        | Discussant: Pathways to transformative Education                                                      | Professor Nuno Escudeiro, Polytechnic Institute of Porto, Portugal                     |
| 14:45-15:45        | Fireside chat: Transformative education models from across Africa and Europe                          |                                                                                        |
|                    | Leading actions for adoption of problem based learning in Europe and Africa.                          | Professor Eija Laitinen (HAMK), Finland                                                |
|                    | Breaking barriers for experiential entrepreneurship in an African University                          | Professor Patience Mshenga, Egerton University and Laikipia University, Kenya          |
|                    | Engaging higher education regulators to effect national and regional scale change in higher education | Professor Basil Mugonola (Gulu University, Uganda:                                     |
|                    | Creating models convergence and scale through the Education Collaborative                             | Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga, Ashesi University, Ghana:                                      |
| <b>15:45-16:00</b> | <b>Discussions</b>                                                                                    |                                                                                        |
| 16:00-16:30        | Artificial Intelligence and transformative pedagogies in education                                    | Professor Jalal Charaf, Chief Digital Officer, UM6P, Morocco                           |
| <b>16:30-16:45</b> | <b>Discussions</b>                                                                                    |                                                                                        |
| 16:45-17:00        | Recap of Key Issues Emerging                                                                          | Emmanuel Okalany, RUFORUM Secretariat                                                  |