

EDITORS' NOTE

Welcome to the first edition of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project "Implementation of Digital Excellence and Establishment of Competitiveness Centres in Tourism and Hospitality Education in South-East African Countries" - DEXIT e-newsletter! In this first issue, we share highlights from the Kick-Off Meeting held at University of Antananarivo, Madagascar (23rd –28th February 2026).

This marked the first face-to-face gathering of participants from multiple universities, countries, and government stakeholders. The event strengthened collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation across the DEXIT project.

The meeting provided a shared understanding of project goals and established key connections among partners, laying a solid foundation for the project's upcoming activities.



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DEXIT PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

The Kick-Off Meeting brought together project partners, universities, and government collaborators from the East African region to:

- Introduce the DEXIT objectives, work plan, and expected outcomes
- Foster networking and collaboration among international participants
- Explore knowledge exchange and understand tourism education partnerships in the region

The Project Coordinator shared updates on:

- Strategic next steps after the kick-off meeting
- Timelines for training sessions and workshops
- Coordination mechanisms for partner collaboration and reporting

This ensured all participants remain aligned with DEXIT objectives.

Key highlights included:

- Interactive sessions to build understanding of project deliverables
- Presentations from partner universities showcasing ongoing initiatives and insights from industry stakeholders
- Setting up a list of tasks for future activities and work teams

This meeting laid a strong foundation for DEXIT's future activities, ensuring partners are aligned and ready to drive innovation in digital exchange and tourism education.



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Erasmus+ Capacity Building in
Higher Education

ABOUT THE DEXIT PROJECT

The DEXIT project focuses on modernising Tourism and Hospitality education at partner Higher Education Institutions through the integration of advanced digital competencies, with particular emphasis on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), smart tourism technologies, and data-driven decision-making.

The project aims to support three Sub-Saharan African countries: Lesotho, Madagascar and Mauritius in development of T&H industry through modernization of T&H education on academic and professional level.

Project outcomes and tangible results:

- Modernisation of curricula in T&H,
- Introducing digital skills, knowledge and technologies in T&H (GIS in T&H),
- Enhance cooperation between universities and stakeholders,
- Establish Centres of Competitiveness.

The project consortia consist of five educational institutions and one ministry as full partners as well as three governmental organizations and one university as associated partner from partner countries and four universities from programme countries.

PARTNERS CORNER

PARTNER CONSORTIUM:

- University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Leretholi Polytechnic, Lesotho
- University of Antananarivo
- University of Technology, Mauritius
- Université des Mascareignes
- Lund University, Sweden
- University of Nicosia, Cyprus
- University of Rijeka, Croatia
- National Institute of Tourism and Hotellery, Madagascar
- Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, Madagascar

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS:

- Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Mauritius
- Ministry of Tourism, Mauritius
- Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation
- University of Mauritius

UNIVERSITY OF ANTANARIVO- MADAGASCAR

The University of Antananarivo is the leading public university in Madagascar located in the capital city. Established in 1955 as the Institute for Advanced Studies, it became the University of Madagascar in 1961 and took its current form in 1988. Today, the university's main campus in Ambohitsaina hosts several faculties, including:

- Law and political sciences
- Economics, Management and Sociology,
- Letters and Humanities
- Science
- Medicine

As Madagascar's top university, it plays a central role in research, knowledge production, and professional training. One of its standout departments is the Department of Geography, part of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities. The department trains students in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from their first year, equipping them with digital and spatial analysis skills that are essential for modern tourism development.

Thanks to this training, students can identify, map, and promote geosites which are natural and cultural sites that have great potential for tourism. This expertise strengthens the university's contribution to the DEXIT project by supporting sustainable and digitally-driven tourism in Madagascar. The department's GIS knowledge is a key asset for the creation of geoparks, helping the University of Antananarivo play a leading role in innovative and sustainable tourism initiatives.

KEY DECISIONS PER WORK PACKAGES

At the Kick-off Meeting the most attention has been devoted to WP1 and WP2. In WP1 Draft Project Management Plan has been presented in detail and management procedures explained as well as the financial management rules. Also, project bodies, Project Management Committee and Quality Assurance and Steering Committee have been established, committee members have been determined. Also, WP and Task leaders have been determined, and task members determination process is initiated.

In WP2 all tasks have been discussed and launch of activities for T2.1 including need analysis survey, T2.3 including development of project curricula and T2.5 finalizing equipment specification and preparing procurement, while for T2.4 dates of first teacher training in Lund have been proposed.

Under T2.2 necessity exactly to specify expectations of Sub-Saharan partners regarding establishment of Centers of Competitiveness has been emphasized. It has been agreed to launch survey aiming to clarify expectations and define common understanding of planned Centres.

Discussion related to WP3 was focused on preparation of Communication Plan and Dissemination & Exploitation Plan, as well as establishment of project website and platform. Finally, Quality Assurance Plan in WP5 has been discussed and its development agreed.

The Kick-Off Meeting in Antananarivo was a major milestone for DEXIT, strengthening partnerships and providing a shared understanding of project objectives.

Thank you to all participants for their energy, dedication, and collaboration. Together, we are driving digital exchange and innovation in tourism education.

WORK PACKAGES ACTIVITIES

- WP1 – Project Management and Coordination
- WP2 – Curricula Development and Centres of Competitiveness preparation
- WP3 – Modernised Curricula and Centres of Competitiveness Implementation
- WP4 – Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation
- WP5 – Quality Assurance and Sustainability

DEXIT WEBPAGE



PROJECT WEBSITE | www.dexit-project.eu

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