

EDITORS' NOTE

Welcome to the second edition of the DEXIT e-Newsletter (April–June 2026), featuring the latest developments from 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).

We are pleased to present the second issue of the DEXIT newsletter. This edition focuses on the activities carried out during the period April – June 2026.

In this issue, we highlight the consortium meeting and GIS training hosted by Lund University, key decisions from the third Project Management Committee meeting, introducing Lerotholi Polytechnic, Lesotho, and the pioneering microcredential initiative at the University of Technology, Mauritius. We also congratulate **Dr. Iva Cibilić** on her outstanding PhD achievement in augmented cartography for tourism.

DEXIT PROJECT MEETING IN LUND, SWEDEN

DEXIT Project Meeting in Lund University, Lund, Sweden 9-12 June 2026: Advancing Collaboration and Project Implementation

The DEXIT consortium gathered at the Lund University, Lund, Sweden, for a dynamic four-day meeting bringing together partners from Europe and Africa to review progress and strengthen strategic coordination across the project.

Partners assessed key achievements since the project launch, including completed activities and deliverables across all work packages. Discussions placed strong emphasis on the development of the Centres of Competence, consolidation of partner needs assessments, identification of equipment requirements, and alignment of next-phase implementation activities.

The meeting also served as a platform to reinforce consortium collaboration and ensure coherent progress across all project dimensions. Key focus areas included communication and dissemination strategies, stakeholder engagement, quality assurance mechanisms, and preparation for the upcoming consortium meeting to be hosted by the University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM).

GIS Capacity-Building Training – Strengthening Digital Skills for Tourism Innovation

Dedicated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training sessions formed a central component of the Lund programme, equipping partners with advanced technical skills for application in tourism and hospitality education.

Participants engaged in hands-on training using QGIS software, building competencies in spatial data analysis, tourism mapping, accessibility assessment, and sustainable destination planning. The sessions were strongly practice-oriented, enabling participants to work with real-world tourism case studies adaptable to their institutional contexts and emerging Centres of Competence.

This training significantly enhanced partners' capacity to integrate GIS tools into tourism education and destination management practices, reinforcing the DEXIT project's broader objective of driving digital transformation, innovation, and competitiveness in tourism and hospitality education across South-East Africa.

A heartfelt thank you to Lund University for hosting this valuable training week, and to all our partners for their enthusiastic participation and meaningful contributions.



Co-funded by the
European Union

This project has been funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the granting authority. Neither the EU nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

**PROJECT
COORDINATOR**
Prof. Željko Bačić



**University of Zagreb
Faculty of Geodesy
(UNIZG)
Croatia**

Project Duration
2026 – 2029

Project No. 101236641

Erasmus+ Capacity
Building in Higher
Education



UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MAURITIUS: FIRST TO PILOT A MICROCREDENTIAL ON TOURISM

University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) is first institution in the country to pilot a specialized microcredential: Responsible Tourism and Sustainable Travel Practices.

This course has been developed in collaboration with the Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Mauritius (AHRIM) and Constance Ltd with the aim to upskill the local workforce to meet modern eco-conscious demands.

Course Highlights

- Structure: 2 Credits | 60 Total Learning Hours | 6 Weeks
- Delivery: Flexible Blended Learning (Online interactive tools + field applications)
- Target Audience: Students, hotel staff, tourism operators, and public officials.

Core Focus & Assessment

The module bridges sustainable tourism principles with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) metrics. Learners master green consumer behavior, sustainability tracking, and stakeholder engagement.

PHD DEFEND ON AUGMENTED CARTOGRAPHY IN TOURISM

Congratulations to Dr. Iva Cibilić on Her PhD Achievement in Augmented Cartography for Tourism

The Faculty of Geodesy at the University of Zagreb proudly celebrates the successful PhD defence of **Iva Cibilić**, teaching assistant at the Chair of Cartography. Under the supervision of **Associate Professor Vesna Poslončec-Petrić**, Iva defended her doctoral dissertation, *Development of a User-Oriented Methodology for the Usability of Augmented Maps Based on the Cartographic Communication of Tourist Maps*, on **16 March 2026** at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Geodesy.

The dissertation was evaluated by an international examination committee comprising **Associate Professor Ivka Kljajić** (University of Zagreb), **Professor Željko Bačić** (University of Zagreb), and **Assistant Professor Dušan Petrović** (University of Ljubljana).

Iva's research makes significant original contributions to the field of technical sciences by advancing the application of augmented cartography in tourism. The dissertation introduces a user-oriented methodology for the design and usability evaluation of augmented tourist maps, empirically validates the concept of augmented tourist maps through the effective distribution of information between printed and virtual layers, and provides practical guidelines for the development of future augmented tourist maps.

In recognition of the scientific quality and originality of the dissertation, the examination committee proposed that the Rector of the University of Zagreb award the doctoral degree ***summa cum laude***, the University's highest distinction for doctoral research.

We warmly congratulate **Dr. Iva Cibilić** on this outstanding academic achievement and wish her continued success in her future research and professional career.



LEROTHOLI POLYTECHNIC (LP): ADVANCING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM THROUGH INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP), established under the Lerotholi Polytechnic Act of 1997, is one of Lesotho's leading institutions of higher learning dedicated to technical education and vocational training. With a rich history dating back to 1905, the institution has evolved significantly from an enrolment of approximately 50 students to a vibrant academic community of over 3,000 students today.

LP comprises five major academic units: the School of Engineering and Technology, the School of the Built Environment, the School of Enterprise and Management, the School of Continuing Education, and the Artisan Training Institute. The institution currently offers more than twenty-five programmes at Certificate, Diploma, and Degree levels, reflecting its strategic vision of transforming into a University of Technology.

The institution is committed to developing quality skills through education, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship while responding to emerging national and global needs. Through its academic programmes and strategic collaborations, LP seeks to contribute meaningfully to addressing economic, social, and cultural development challenges in Lesotho and beyond.

As part of its commitment to international collaboration and sustainable development, Lerotholi Polytechnic participates in the DEXIT Project through the Tourism Management Programme under the School of Enterprise and Management. The DEXIT Project creates a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, capacity building, and strengthening tourism education among partner institutions.

Through this collaboration, the Tourism Management Programme aims to enhance teaching and learning approaches, strengthen digital and sustainable tourism competencies, and equip graduates with skills relevant to the rapidly changing tourism industry. Participation in DEXIT further aligns with LP's strategic vision of producing graduates who are innovative, entrepreneurial, and responsive to the demands of an evolving global environment.

Lerotholi Polytechnic remains committed to creating enabling platforms that foster excellence, innovation, and sustainable development while building partnerships that create lasting impact locally, regionally, and internationally.

KEY DECISIONS PER WORK PACKAGES

The 3rd Project Management Committee meeting was held in Lund, and the work package status updates and progress reports from the respective Work Package (WP) leaders were discussed.

WP1, presented by Ž. Bačić, covered project management, financial matters, submission of deliverables, engagement with associated partners, and the launch of the QASC.

WP2, presented by D. Tenenbaum, provided updates on Task 2.1 (survey), Task 2.2 (special point), and the launch of Tasks 2.3 and 2.5.

WP3, presented by L. M. Morenammele, focused on the formalization of courses and national training, including stakeholder engagement.

PARTNERS CORNER

PARTNER CONSORTIUM:

- University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Lerotholi 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

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

WP4, presented by P. Ramsook Munhurrin, reported on completed deliverables, strategies for project promotion and dissemination, and the use of the project's communication and dissemination tools.

WP5, presented by K. E. Georgiou and M. Krstinić-Nižić, addressed the execution of internal quality assurance activities, including deliverables and events.

A summary of the preparatory activities for establishing the Centers of Competitiveness, including an analysis of progress, discussion of findings, and the next steps, was presented by Z. Švekro-Grdić and M. Krstinić-Nižić.

The meeting concluded with announcements of upcoming project events, including the PMC and QASC meetings, as well as events to be held in Mauritius and Croatia.

Thank you to all our partners for their continued collaboration and commitment as we work together to advance innovation and digital excellence in tourism and hospitality education across South-East Africa.

DEXIT WEBPAGE



PROJECT WEBSITE | www.dexit-project.eu

Co-Funded by the European Union

Newsletter edited by: Prabha Ramseook Munhurrin and Perunjodi Naidoo (University of Technology, Mauritius)