

East African Higher Education Network on Sustainable and Energy Efficiency Campus Development – SUCCEED Network

The objective of the project is to promote East African university campuses as “living laboratories” for sustainability and energy efficiency. University campuses and Higher Education Institutions in general have a great potential to become key players to promote sustainability and energy efficiency, starting within their own campuses. Specifically the project aims to establish a sustainable campus development platform to foster collaborative learning and actions for energy access and efficiency. Top level management staff will be targeted to increase awareness and improve institutional frameworks with regard to campus energy access and efficiency.

Increased academic co-operation between the universities via an on-line platform (SUCCEED) on energy efficiency and renewable energy is intended to enhance the capacity of academic staff to modernise their educational programmes and increase the courses on offer in renewable energy.

Contract
FED/2013/320-274

Co-ordinator
University of Alicante

Partners
Université du Burundi
Moi University
University of Rwanda
Mzumbe University
Makerere University

Associate(s)
Inter-University Council
for East Africa (IUCEA)

Project duration
36 months

EU grant
EUR 495,100.58

ACP regions and countries involved

EAST Africa:
Burundi,
Kenya,
Rwanda,
Tanzania,
Uganda

Technical Assistance Unit

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Challenge

Several official documents released by the European Commission revealed that Energy is one of the hottest topics that need to be tackled in the East African Region. Currently, the East African Region is facing serious energy deficits and high-energy costs. The deficit in electricity supply and the lack of access to sustainable energy services hampers the satisfaction of basic human needs. The EU-EA Regional Strategy Paper reveals that 70% of the total inhabitants do not have access to sustainable energy sources. This leaves the region on a high dependence on fossil fuels, energy insecurity and high-carbon emission systems, which together with climate change provoke a very complex situation for the region. One direct consequence is the deforestation taking place in the analysed countries, due to the overdependence on bio-energy (woods).

The EA Region experiences unsustainable energy practices which prevents its countries from reaching acceptable standards of socio-economic development. Most recently, the EC Country Strategy Papers stated as common problems in these countries:

- Lack of regional and national policies on EE and RE that match the decision maker’s decisions and the society needs;
- Poor infrastructures to produce, store and distribute energy in a more sustainable way;
- Lack of professionals trained in EE and RE.

Due to the innovative nature of this field (specially RE), universities, as providers of research and edu-

cation, can play a crucial role in overcoming these problems.

Focus

SUCCEED aims to promote East Africa Universities university campuses as “living laboratories” for sustainability and energy efficiency, and specifically the project will establish a sustainable campus development platform to foster collaborative learning and action for energy access and efficiency, with the idea of contributing to solve the problems described before.

Rationale

Having stated that EA HEIs are key players to promote sustainability and energy efficiency schemes, a detailed analysis of the EA HEIs participating in SUCCEED project was carried out in order to identify their internal policies in this topic (sustainability, energy efficiency, etc.), and their local and national context in this sphere. The main results can be summarized as follows:



Kampala 1st workshop (February 2014)



Implemented by the ACP Secretariat



Financed by the European Union



Mombasa 2nd workshop on fundraising

- Weak institutional capacity: Most EA HEIs doesn't have the institutional capacity to implement EE & RE measures/teaching in their campuses, or have little knowledge on how to manage and implement such issues. It is also common that poor or inexistent horizontal sustainable and energy policies are included in their institutional strategic plans;
- Lack of relevant and updated Renewable Energy courses coping with the challenge of interdisciplinarity: Only a few EA HEIs are in the position of offering relevant courses covering some energy topics. The only way to carry out a real interdisciplinary course could be to create a cooperation scheme for developing joint courses;
- Poor Regional Cooperation: Despite the fact that few EA HEIs have some joint initiatives promoted basically by IUCEA, poor or inexistence activities are promoted in the field of energy. Currently no HE network exists at a regional level (EA) covering sustainable and energy topics, despite of the importance of the topic for those countries;
- Poor interaction between EA HEI's & Local/ National stakeholders in the field of energy: Only some basic cooperation activities are developed in this field with regional and national authorities.

SUCCEED project will directly address the identified problems with a set of activities targeting to improve institutional, academic and cooperation building. By achieving its specific objective SUCCEED project will promote EA HEIs as 'living laboratories' on EE and RE area, improving their institutional background, enriching their academic offer and attracting relevant stakeholders for establishing new cooperation schemes in the field of energy.

Method

The SUCCEED project is organised following a logical distribution of actions:

- Institutional building;
- Academic building;
- Cooperation building;
- Networking & Sustainability.

The **methodology specifically employed** for each set of activities is the following:

Institutional Building Activities that will articulate the Management Approach within the participant organisations with regard to campus sustainability, particularly on aspects related with energy access and efficiency.

Academic Building Activities that will facilitate the capacity of the academic staff to modernise their educational programmes and increase the course offer in renewable energy

Cooperation Building Activities that will promote cooperation activities with relevant local and national stakeholders (public and private) in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy

Networking & Sustainability activities that will support strategic alliances between East African HEIs and guarantee the sustainability of the activities initiated by the project;

Results

- Enhanced contribution to national and regional policies and development plans for cooperation in higher education, specifically in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Increased inter-institutional networking between HEIs in the ACP and with EU HEIs, including institutions offering teacher training, degrees and diplomas contributing to regional solutions to teacher shortages;
- Improved management and financial administration of ACP HEIs, via institutional building activities focused on developing sustainable and energy efficiency schemes in EA HEIs campuses
- Upgraded qualifications of academic staff of ACP HEIs, via workshops and seminars in energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Improved institutional frameworks to pursue academic programmes and academic excellence in ACP HEIs;
- Increased mobility of postgraduate students and teaching staff through the provision of joint programmes, by new short courses developed by the consortium plus a future cooperation in a joint Postgraduate Degree in Renewable Energy;
- Delivered study programmes in high level skills required by the national and regional labour markets, via contact and dialogue with local and national stakeholders to find out the profile of professional needed for the energy sector in each country.

Programme theme(s)

Energy access and efficiency

Sector

Energy Efficiency:

- Sustainable and Energy Efficiency Campus Development
- Efficient Management of the University in the field of Energy
- Academic staff

Keywords

Energy Access and Efficiency

Energy Efficiency and Sustainable practices at university campuses

E-courses on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Higher Education cooperation in the field of energy

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