



EDULINK II
ACP-EU Co-operation Programme
in Higher Education

Embedding Entrepreneurship in African Management Education



MBA class edition 1.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A strategic alliance between HEIs in Sierra Leone, Kenya and Italy aimed at the execution of a Master in Social Entrepreneurship at UNIMAK, Sierra Leone.

Academic and administrative staff have been trained in the design and implementation of an entrepreneurial management programme.

The MBA editions have been attended by 33 students (edition 1), 39 students (edition 2) and 36 students (edition 3 – ongoing).

The support offered to UNIMAK has included the installation of an e-learning platform and training on the use of said platform.

BACKGROUND

Since the end of its 11 year civil war in March 2002, Sierra Leone's economy has been recovering largely due to the rehabilitation of arable land and increased private investment. However, the poor infrastructure, weak education system, lack of markets and weak capacity to manage resources mean that its full potential is currently untapped. This is particularly true in the northern province with over 50% of the population where the majority of the people are involved in running family businesses or working as smallholder farmers and cattle herders. Makeni hosts the only provincial university in the country.

Sierra Leone has approximately 41,300 square kilometres of agricultural land of which 25% is classified as arable. Only 15% of the arable land is currently under cultivation. It is a country of significant economic potential with a long coastline and possesses the climatic and geographic ingredients necessary for sustaining productive agriculture and fishing industries.

The aim, therefore, was to facilitate UNIMAK to train and support young, local entrepreneurs involved in the start-up of economically viable and environmentally sustainable businesses in the sectors of agriculture and energy access and efficiency.

METHODOLOGY

The project aimed at strengthening the academic, management and administrative capabilities of UNIMAK in implementing and running the MBA with a focus on agrifood and energy access.

In order to transfer the necessary skills, a training methodology previously successfully implemented at Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya, has been transferred (with significant recourse to South-South exchanges) enabling UNIMAK to autonomously manage a higher education programme.

The training process consisted of the following steps:

- Capacity assessment and identification of the new competencies necessary for the staff at UNIMAK.
- Development of a training and supervision programme.
- Training: 'preparatory training', 'training on the job', 'distant training' and 'monitoring and supervision'.
- Follow-up on training results and acquired competencies through a rolling assessment during the academic year.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2013 – October 2018

CONSORTIUM

- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Milan, Italy
- University of Makeni (UNIMAK), Sierra Leone
- Tangaza University College, Nairobi, Kenya

PROJECT CONTACT

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PROJECT WEBSITE

<http://altis.unicatt.it/altis-mba-global-mba-in-impact-entrepreneurship-makeni-sierra-leone>
<http://e4impact.org/mba-sierra-leone/>

RESULTS

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- 20 UNIMAK academic staff trained in designing and implementing an economically sustainable entrepreneurial management programme in the sectors of agriculture and energy access.
- 20 UNIMAK staff trained in selecting business models, structuring viable business plans and supporting of the start-up of agricultural and energy based businesses.
- 3 UNIMAK management staff trained in managing an economically sustainable entrepreneurial management programme on agriculture and energy access.
- A complete mapping of the Sierra Leonean business ecosystem with 50 plus partners and over 300 prospective students.
- Remote interaction training sessions.
- 4 workshops in Accra (Ghana) with 8 UNIMAK lecturers trained by 4 UCSC lecturers and 4 Tangaza lecturers.
- 2 training sessions on Renewable Energies and Agriculture and Food business - Makeni with UCSC lecturers.
- Business Coaching in Accra (Ghana) and Makeni (Sierra Leone).
- The 3 MBA editions have been attended by:
 - 33 students (edition 1)
 - 39 students (edition 2)
 - 36 students (edition 3 – ongoing)
- Installation of the ICT laboratory at UNIMAK.

Networking

- 12 networking events.
- Establishment of the E4Impact Foundation, a strategic alliance between HEIs in SL, Kenya and Italy.

↑ Outcomes

- Accreditation of MBA in Social Entrepreneurship from Tertiary Education Commission of Sierra Leone.
- UNIMAK leading HEI in Sierra Leone in entrepreneurship related to agriculture and energy access.
- UNIMAK capable of training social entrepreneurs in the agrifood and energy sectors.

🎯 Impacts

Usage

- 108 Sierra Leonean entrepreneurs have attended the MBA programme enabling them to connect their business projects with the latest scientific and academic knowledge.
- A repository of practice has been established and will support the adaptation of existing curricula as well as the development of other business-related programmes.

Policy implications

- The increased number of qualified professionals with an enhanced understanding of social entrepreneurs' needs will be able to contribute more effectively to the decision-making process.

Sustainability

- UNIMAK is capable of delivering the MBA with complete autonomy with up-to-date learning materials and equipment.



Kenyan lecturer in Sierra Leone.



MBA Business Model Competition.

TESTIMONIAL



Peter A.B. Lansana,
Lecturer, University
of Makeni.
Sierra Leone

“The project has enabled me to sharpen my managerial skills and broaden my vision of social entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone. The final beneficiaries are benefiting from the training, coaching, mentorship and networking and the stakeholders have been introduced to strategies in running private businesses. Benefits

will be evident by training entrepreneurs that will contribute to the economic development of the country.”

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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