Project Mobility Report Highlights

1st – 10th March 2024

Strengthening Capacity for ICT Usage and Policy Reforms for Relevant and Quality master's Research Process Management in Uganda's HEIs (ICT-4MRPQ)



https://ict-4mrpq.uccsri.com/

A project implemented by

Co-funded by the European Union

Cover photo:
Project team members from VU Amsterdam, ULISBOA, MUBS, MUST, Makerere University, NCHE, Kyazze, Kankaka & Co. Advocates, UCCSRI pose for a photo at VU Amsterdam

Background:

In an era where ICT, digital innovation, sustainability are at the forefront of global challenges, the ICT-4MRPQ project emerges as a means of progress for Uganda's higher education sector. A consortium of distinguished institutions, including Makerere University Business School (MUBS), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), Universidade de Lisboa (ULISBOA), and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam), along with Kyazze, Kankaka & Co Advocates, this initiative is aiming to revolutionize Masters' research processes through the strategic adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Under the stewardship of Project Coordinator, Prof. David Katamba, the project's objectives are carefully aligned with enhancing research quality, ensuring relevance, and advocating for policy reform within Uganda's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). By integrating ICT solutions such as E-Supervision, mobile applications, tracking progress, research manuals and handbooks, research themes, and virtual meetings, the project not only aims to streamline the entire research journey from enrolment to post-assessment but also to minimize carbon emissions, reflecting a deep commitment to environmental sustainability. This mobility exercise is guided by objective No. 6 of the ICI-4MRPQ project. That is:

> **"To promote local and international mobility and cooperation in exchanging good practices among and between NCHE, individual HEIs in Uganda and HEIs in Europe at institutional level fostering systemic improvements in master's degree research process quality and innovations management."**

Activity 1: Project mobility programme and first thematic seminar (ULISBOA and VU Amsterdam)

The ICT-4MRPQ project recently marked a significant milestone with the completion of a 7-day international mobility programme, showcasing the collaborative spirit of the participating partners. From March 1st -9th, 2024, team members embarked on an enlightening journey to ULISBOA and VU Amsterdam, fostering cross-cultural exchange, research, e-student supervisions, upskilling and academic enrichment.



Photo: Project team members attend a presentation by the Deputy Rector- ULISBOA

Activity 2: ULISBOA: A Fusion of Culture and Innovation



Photo: Project team members attend a presentation by administration and lecturers on research management and collaborations.

The mobility programme commenced at ULISBOA, where participants were treated to a rich tapestry of cultural and academic experiences. The visit, spanning from March 1st to 5th, began with a cultural exchange activity, allowing partners to immerse themselves in Lisbon's historical view. The following days were dedicated to exploring ULISBOA's esteemed institutions, engaging in mobility training across various departments, and forging connections with industry leaders at the Instituto Superior Técnico. These interactions provided invaluable insights into enhancing the master's research process, research management, collaborations and underscoring the importance of practical, industry-aligned research.

Activity 3: VU Amsterdam: Bridging research and real-world application

The journey continued at VU Amsterdam, from March 6th - 9th, 2024, where the focus was on advanced research methodologies, program management, and the integration of technology in education. Participants had the opportunity to delve into qualitative research techniques, governance models for higher education institutions, and the pivotal role of student associations in academic life. Seminars on support infrastructure highlighted the importance of internationalization, innovative teaching methods, and the creation of conducive learning environments, thereby enriching the participants' perspectives on modern educational practices.



Photo: Some of the ICT-4MRPQ project team members at the 1st Thematic seminar at VU Amsterdam

A model for change in Uganda's higher education and research: implications and future directions

The ICT-4MRPQ project, through its international mobility programme, not only boosts academic collaboration but also serves as a means for transformative change in Uganda's higher education

sector. By leveraging the expertise and resources of its partner institutions in Europe (ULISBOA & VU Amsterdam), the project is set to enhance the capacity of HEIs in Uganda to produce relevant, high-quality research outputs that are important for the nations and world's development and environmental sustainability goals.



Photo: Prof. Christopher Wickert, ICT-4MRPQ Project coordinator at VU Amsterdam addressing project partner team members at the School of Business and Economics, VU Amsterdam

The international mobility programme and first thematic research seminar at ULISBOA and VU Amsterdam highlights the project's commitment to embracing global best practices in ICT integration and research management. As the project advances, its focus on policy reform, seamless research journey, environmental responsibility, and the cultivation of research areas critical to Uganda's future holds the promise of shaping a more informed, sustainable, and technologically adept higher education system.

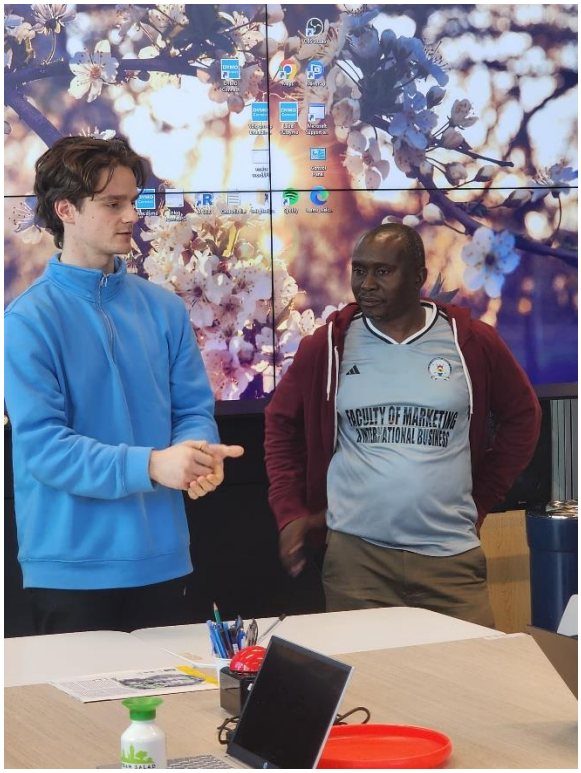


Photo: Overall Project Coordinator, Prof David Katamba at the Centre for Teaching and learning at VU Amsterdam



Photo: Project team members at VU Amsterdam

The ICT-4MRPQ project highlights the role international collaboration and digital innovation in enriching higher education and research. Through its ongoing efforts, the project aims to inspire a new generation of researchers equipped to tackle the challenges of the 21st century, thereby contributing to Uganda's academic and societal growth.




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Appendix 1: Agenda /Program of the mobility

International Mobility -and 1st Annual Thematic Seminar

3rd to 9th of March 2024

(WP1, WP6 and WP8)

PROGRAMME

March 2, Saturday	
All day	Arrival to Lisbon
March 3, Sunday	
All day	Cultural exchange – Campus tour and Visit to Lisbon
March 4, Monday	
8h30 – 9h00	**University of Lisbon** - Meeting at the Rectory
9h00 – 10h30	Presentation of ULisboa and Uganda Partners
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee break
11h00 – 13h00	Visits to the Departments of Health and wellbeing, Digital Platforms, International Relations, Upskills training hub, Communication, Rankings, Student's Association
13h00 – 14h30	Lunch at the Rectory
14h30 – 16h00	Master Journey @Ciências
16h00 – 17h00	LASIGE - Computer Science and Engineering Research Centre
March 5, Tuesday	
8h30 – 9h00	Meeting at School of Engineering
9h00 – 12h00	Master Journey@ Instituto Superior Técnico
	LARSyS – Laboratory for Robotics and Engineering Systems
	IN+ Center for Innovation, Technology and Policy Research
12h00 – 13h30	Lunch at IST
13h30 - 15h30	School of Social and Political Sciences (ISCSP) - Master Journey @ISCSP
15h30 – 18h30	Industry Visit
19h00 – 22h00	Dinner

March 6, Wednesday	
Morning	Departure to Amsterdam
17h30 – 18h30	**VU Amsterdam** - Campus tour and reception
18h30 – 22h00	Dinner at Campus restaurant
March 7, Thursday	
9h00 – 10h30	*Theme Teaching*: MSc Business Administration; presentation by program directors incl. thesis coordinators
11h00 – 12h45	Lecture visit (MSc; Business Ethics)
12h45 – 13h30	Lunch
13h30 – 15h00	*Thematic research seminar*: Qualitative research methodology
15h00 – 15h30	Coffee break
15h30 –16h30	*Theme Governance*: Presentation by VU-SBE study advisors
16h30 – 17h00	*Theme Support Infrastructure*: Presentation by Aureus student association
18h00 – 22h00	Dinner with entire team (Restaurant *Hasta la Vista*)
March 8, Friday	
9h00 – 10h30	*Theme Support Infrastructure*: Presentation by International & Diversity Office
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12h00	*Theme Support Infrastructure*: Presentation by VU Center for Teaching and Learning
12h00 – 13h00	Lunch
13h00 – 14h30	*Theme Support Infrastructure:* Visit of VU University library incl. tour
14h30 – 15h00	Coffee Break
15h00 - 17h30	*Industry visit:* VU StartHub entrepreneurship accelerator
March 9, Saturday	
All day	Cultural Exchange - City and boat tour in Amsterdam (with personal guide)

Appendix 2: List of participants



Strengthening Capacity for ICT Usage and Policy Reforms for Relevant and Quality Masters Research Process Management in Uganda's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) – ICT-4MRPQ

International Mobility - 1st Annual Thematic Seminar

6th to 9th of March 2024 – VU, Netherlands

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