

Press Release

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UNIHUBS Project Enters Implementation Phase Following International Training and 4th Partners' Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya

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For more information about the project, visit www.unihubs.eu

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UNIHUBS Moves from Planning to Implementation

The EU-funded UNIHUBS Project has successfully delivered its International Training Activity and 4th Partners' Meeting, held from 2nd to 6th March 2026 at the University of Nairobi's C4DLab, Kenya. This event marks a major milestone in the project's progress, as the consortium now moves from conceptual development and co-creation to practical implementation across partner institutions.

About the UNIHUBS Project

UNIHUBS, an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project, brings together universities and innovation ecosystem actors from Africa and Europe. The African partners include the University of Nairobi, Kibabii University, Kumasi Technical University, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Hapa Space, Buni Hub, the University of Iringa, and Mbeya University of Science and Technology. The European partners include Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Macedonia, and Stimmuli for Social Change.

The project aims to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance digital innovation skills, and improve graduate employability. The Nairobi training built directly on earlier project phases, including the needs analysis and co-creation workshops, by operationalising the developed educational framework in real teaching and learning environments.

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Nairobi Training Brings Partners Together

The University of Nairobi hosted the training at its innovation hub, C4D Lab. The event brought together academic staff, innovation hub practitioners, and project partners from Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, the Netherlands, and Greece. It created a collaborative space for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and practical experimentation. In doing so, it reinforced the project's goal of bridging the gap between higher education, industry, and innovation ecosystems.

Leadership Highlights the Role of Universities in Innovation

Prof. Francis Nyongesa, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Nairobi, formally opened and closed the programme. In his remarks, he stressed the need for higher education institutions to move beyond traditional teaching approaches and to focus more strongly on innovation, commercialisation, and societal impact. His message reflected the broader ambition of the UNIHUBS project, which seeks to position universities as active contributors to economic and technological development.



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Training Focuses on Testing and Refining the Educational Framework

The core objective of the training was to pilot-test and refine the UNIHUBS educational framework and its associated learning tools. At the same time, the programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of educators and innovation practitioners to deliver these tools effectively.

Participants took part in practical sessions that simulated real classroom and innovation hub environments. These sessions included collaborative teaching simulations, action-learning workshops linking universities with industry partners, live testing of the UNIHUBS online learning platform, and co-creation activities aimed at adapting educational materials to local contexts. Through this hands-on approach, the project ensured that its outputs remain practical, relevant, and scalable.

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UNIHUBS Strengthens Innovation-Driven Pedagogy

The training also reinforced the pedagogical foundations of the UNIHUBS initiative. These foundations include experiential learning, problem-based learning, structured reflection, and ecosystem immersion. The project uses these approaches to equip students with the technical, entrepreneurial, and soft skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

By embedding these principles into teaching and learning practices, UNIHUBS supports a shift towards more interactive, student-centred, and innovation-driven higher education systems.

Partners Review Progress and Set the Next Steps

Alongside the training, the 4th Partners' Meeting gave consortium members the opportunity to review progress and coordinate the next phase of implementation. Discussions focused on finalising the Action Learning Scheme, developing pilot implementation and evaluation frameworks, and strengthening dissemination and communication activities under Work Package six. The partners agreed on clear timelines and responsibilities, which will help maintain alignment across the consortium and sustain momentum towards key project deliverables.

Key Outcomes of the Nairobi Engagement

The Nairobi engagement produced several important outcomes. First, it created a trained cohort of educators and Digital Innovation Hub practitioners who are now equipped to implement the UNIHUBS framework within their institutions. Second, it enabled the consortium to validate and refine educational materials and digital platforms through real-user testing. Third, it strengthened collaboration between universities and innovation ecosystems, laying a solid foundation for sustained partnerships and joint initiatives. The feedback gathered during the training will guide ongoing improvements to the project's tools and methodologies and will help ensure their effectiveness across diverse institutional contexts.

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UNIHUBS Responds to Identified Capacity Gaps

This phase of the project directly addresses the capacity gaps identified in earlier research, including weaknesses in digital pedagogy, entrepreneurship education, and university industry collaboration. By focusing on applied training and practical implementation, UNIHUBS continues to respond to these challenges through targeted, evidence-based interventions that aim to transform higher education systems across the participating countries.

Looking Ahead to the Next Phase

The UNIHUBS consortium will now proceed with the pilot implementation of its educational framework across partner institutions, supported by continuous monitoring and evaluation. The project will also continue to refine its digital learning platforms, expand its international course offerings, and strengthen collaboration between universities, innovation hubs, and industry stakeholders. The next consortium meeting is scheduled for November 2026 in Tanzania, where the partners will further assess implementation progress.



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Conclusion

The successful delivery of the International Training Activity and 4th Partners' Meeting in Nairobi shows that the UNIHUBS project has moved decisively from planning to action. By translating innovative ideas into practical solutions, the project is enhancing the relevance and impact of higher education. Through collaboration, capacity building, and innovation-driven learning, UNIHUBS continues to contribute to more inclusive and future-oriented higher education systems in Africa and Europe

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