



SAAM is a pilot action of educational mobility between Africa and Europe in the field of vocational training.

This newsletter gathers the most relevant milestones achieved since our first newsletter publication in September 2020.

What will you find?



First mobilities

- Kenya
- Cameroon
- Ivory Coast
- Cabo Verde



Who is who ?

- Partners introduction
- Interview: Father TJ (Don Bosco Tech Africa)



Mom! We are famous

- The best dissemination activities that took place in the last months

WHAT IS SAAM?

In case you need a summary

SAAM in 4 numbers:

24 countries: 8 countries from European Union and 16 from Africa.

32 partners: 17 partners from EU and 19 from Africa, who are VET centres, youth organizations and institutions. They all bring their knowledge in their specialty.

3 fields involved: Agriculture, Hospitality and Tourism, engineering and manufacturing

4 million Euro: funded by the AU-EU Skills for Youth employment program

SAAM in 3 steps:

More than 100 EU staff from European VET centers will travel to Africa.

For a **two-week job-shadowing** when they will observe the VET system in Africa and then gather information with the aim of **creating a report** that will support the building of a strategy to improve the different centers

1

African staff will travel to Europe. For a seminar in Brussels about Educative Mobility followed by a few weeks stay in a European VET

center. Thanks to this mobility African staff will be able to design an action plan to **implement an international department** in their VET center. After that, EU mobility experts will travel to each partner country in Africa to support the execution of the plan.

2

More than 300 African VET students will travel to Europe: A mobility project is an experience abroad that is a chance to learn, discover and develop new abilities. They will come back **more empowered**

3

SAAM in 3 goals:

- ✓ To pilot an action of educational mobility between vocational training entities connecting Africa and Europe
- ✓ To exchange knowledge, methodologies and good practices among VET centers in Africa and Europe
- ✓ To improve knowledge, technical and pedagogical skills of VET staff and centers

MOVING TOGETHER.. IN REAL GROUND!



First journeys to Africa: Mobility experts have touched the ground and meet the partners face to face!

The first **mobilities** on real ground have finally happened and they could not have been more amazing!

Discovering the countries of the project, visiting the **VET centers** and getting to know the partners in person is an incredible experience. **Let's learn a little bit more about these first mobilities!**



KENYA

Beatrice Bellet and Enrique Miana from Asociación Mundus travelled to **Kenya** last **January**, from the 25th to the 30th. This was the first mobility of experts to take place. They visited the SAAM partner school in **Nairobi, Don Bosco Boys Town Institute**. This center is part of the Don Bosco Tech Africa network.

We have been very lucky because **the project has never stopped** despite the terrible circumstances we have had. However, this experience showed us that **there is nothing like face-to-face work and personal conversations** to strengthen ties.

Since day one, Beatrice and Enrique felt very welcomed in the community. The first day they already met **Brother Francis** and visited **Don Bosco Boys Town**.

There is nothing like face-to-face work to strengthen ties

In Kenya, Beatrice and Quique also met the **teachers, the students and the Salesian family**. They presented SAAM and some related aspects like **the Erasmus programme or the European Commission**.

Another important part of this mobility, as for the rest, was **visiting companies** where students can carry on their **VET internships**. For instance, they went to **DT Dobbie** and got to know **Andrew Kinyua**, director of the plant.

"In the future it is very interesting to have workers who have been able to do their internships in European companies because it opens our eyes to different working methods"

Everyone showed interest in SAAM, from the teachers of the school to the directors of companies: "In the future it is very interesting to have workers who have been able to do their internships in European companies because it opens our eyes to different working methods", **Andrew Kinyua** said to Beatrice and Enrique when visiting his company.



Kenya memory wall



CAMEROON

From the 13th to the 25th of March, **Hugo Fernández and Sergio Lagarde** (Asociación Mundus) were in Cameroon visiting two SAAM partners: Institut Technique Don Bosco Ebolowa and CFPJ de Baré.

First they went to **Ebolowa**. There, they had the chance to meet the team of the **Institut Technique Don Bosco**. While they were there, they could enjoy a **Doors Open Day**, an amazing opportunity to talk to the students and know a bit more about the center facilities.

In **Ebolowa**, Hugo and Sergio also visited several **companies** and the **National Employment Fund** to learn about the job situation and the employability of the country. All this data is fundamental to continue developing the SAAM project.

"Joining Don Bosco's community for several days was an amazing experience!"

Both experts agree: "Joining Don Bosco's community for several days was an amazing experience".

After the experience in Ebolowa, Hugo and Sergio went to **Baré** where they met the **PROCEFFA** team.

During the stay in Baré, the experts got to understand how the PROCEFFA platforms works. From the very first day, **the Baré VET centre** team was ready to meet them and start working.

Besides presenting SAAM and the Erasmus programme, they did a lot of guided activities with the students and the trainers. For example, they encouraged the young people to express their **fears of travelling to Europe and also their expectations**. That was a great moment to solve their doubts.

Our experts had a lot of meetings and visited several **companies**. Hugo and Sergio felt very grateful for everything PROCEFFA showed them.



As Beatrice and Enrique did in Kenya, Hugo and Sergio spent some time enjoying the **landscapes, the wildlife and the tasty food** Cameroon offer.

When they returned to Spain, they could not stop talking about the fruits and the banane plantain.

"It is not until you immerse yourself in the school life that you realise how the center really works"

At the end of the experience, it was clear for the experts that ***The Voyage*** is an amazing and very necessary tool nowadays. However, it can not replace the actual experience on-site: ***"It is not until you immerse yourself in the school life that you realise how the center really works and what are the personal circumstances and professional aspirations of the students"***, explained Hugo Fernández.

Cameroon memory wall



IVORY COAST

Enrique Miana from Mundus and Markus Espeter from EVBB travelled to Ivory Coast in April. In this visit, they met the SAAM partner in Duékoué: **Don Bosco CPAR centre.**

In the centre, the experts had many meetings with the staff, the teachers and the students.

The first day after the arrival, for instance, they met **Father Trésor, Father Blaise and Sister Yesenia.**

Markus and Enrique also had the opportunity to meet a lot of **students** and they even visited the houses and the families of some of them. Most of them had not heard before anything about **Erasmus**, so it was very interesting for our experts to explain what the programme is for the very first time.



"The Don Bosco Centre here in Duékoué is a small oasis"

The area of the centre includes a boarding school zone, workshops, classrooms, a culture centre, a church, a dining room, a seminar room and many other things.

"The Don Bosco Centre here in Duékoué is a small oasis built for education and wellbeing of young people", explained Markus and Quique.

Our experts also visited other parts of the country and enjoyed the wonderful landscapes that the country offers.

They also had a meeting with the **European Delegation in Ivory Coast** while they were in **Abidjan**:

"We finished the meeting with lots of positive energy, synergies in our work and plans for a joint way forward keeping in touch", Markus and Quique commented after the encounter.

Ivory Coast memory wall



CABO VERDE

Beatrice Bellet (Mundus) and Marco Sebastiani (San Viator) went to **Cabo Verde**, also in April.

There, in Praia, they spent one week with the **EHTCV (Escola de Hotelaria e Turismo de Cabo Verde)** staff and students.

The centre is perfect for its purposes: **"The premises are perfect, clean, modern and give the opportunity to the students to learn by doing"**, explained the experts.

In the school you can even find a restaurant open to the public where the students cook and serve to practice in a real experience. In the sessions they shared with the students, they saw how focused they all are on their studies and how much they like the idea of going and studying abroad without losing the focus



on their professional goals.

Beatrice and Marco carried on some activities to discover the fears and expectations the students have.

Companies for internships

Our travellers visited some companies that offer internships for the students: **Hotel Pèrola, Hotel Pestana Tropico and Hotel Oasis Praiamar.** They all are very happy with the work of the EHTCV students.

This mobility was a success in terms of institutional work too.

European Union representatives, the Spanish Ambassador (María Dolores Ríos Peset) and the Portuguese Ambassador (António Albuquerque Moniz) attended a SAAM presentation event that managed to catch the national media attention.

This event was so fruitful. **Our experts got to explain SAAM in detail but also learnt from the perspective of the institutions working in Cabo Verde. The hospitality and tourism school could also explain what SAAM means to them as well.**

Cabo Verde memory wall



Travel diaries





Honoré Barka Koda: "A chance to meet each other"

Honoré Barka Koda is the Project Manager and Partnership Development in **PROCEFFA** (Plateforme pour la Promotion des Centres Éducatifs Familiaux de Formation par Alternance). We talk to him to know his thoughts on the first mobilities of experts. One of them, the **Cameroon** mobility, included a visit to his organisation. According to him, this experience was a good way of explaining SAAM to the students and teachers. **Read more about it.**



We used the mobility of experts in Cameroon as the perfect excuse to interview the project manager of one of our partners in that country: **Honoré Barka Koda** from **PROCEFFA**.

Being the second country hosting SAAM experts, his opinion and thoughts on the experience is very valuable. Also, this is an incredible opportunity to know more about **Honoré**, his work in **PROCEFFA** and his role in **SAAM**.

What is PROCEFFA and what is your role in the organisation?

PROCEFFA is a platform that brings together 17 civil society organisations promoting vocational training centers called "CEFFA". I am in charge of Projects and Partnership Development within PROCEFFA.

Brief description of your role in SAAM

As a project manager, I monitor the implementation of the SAAM project with the training centers benefiting from PROCEFFA. I also ensure the external and internal visibility (dissemination) of the activities of the SAAM project.

How would you summarise the experience of receiving SAAM mobility experts in your country?

After the Kenya experience, PROCEFFA and the Baré CPJB were honored to host the mission of mobility experts in Cameroon. It was a remarkable experience which not only enabled PROCEFFA and CFPJ de Baré to better take ownership of the SAAM project, but also to educate our experts, Hugo and Sergio on the vocational training approach of the centers of the PROCEFFA.



Why do you think these mobilities are important?

Mobility is important because it is an opportunity for partners to get to know each other, share their experiences and capitalize on good practices.

What would you highlight from these mobilities?

My expectations for mobility is to improve the training of young people through the sharing of experience and the capitalization of good practices between training centers in Africa and Europe.

Did this mobility change somehow the idea you had of SAAM?

This mission of mobility experts made it possible to provide clarifications and reassure trainers and learners about the fears expressed during the implementation of phases 2 and 3 of the project.

What was the reaction in the centre when the experts arrived?

The mobilization observed during the visit of our experts rightly reflects the enthusiasm of trainers and learners for the next stages of the SAAM project.

What do locals think of SAAM after the mobility of experts?

The inhabitants of the city welcomed the SAAM project after the interview granted to Sergio LAGARDE by the "Radio de la Biodiversité" of Baré, which project will help to ensure quality training for the young people of the CFPJ.





The Voyage is still ON!

As you already know, the methodology *The Voyage* seeks the simulation of an actual journey to Africa but virtually.

Through different prepared online sessions, peer groups are working in the WP4 as if they were in each African country. **We present here all the current updates about this innovative methodology!**

WP4 and The Voyage

SAAM's final goal is to create a large community between Africa and Europe to foster the exchange between the two continents of knowledge, best practices, teachers and students. In order to achieve that, SAAM's first step is to get to know **the context and the reality of the African VET partners** in the different countries.

To do so, the Work Package 4: **"Study and Observation of the African VET system"** aims to provide the tools to the partners to share experiences, know-how and teaching methodologies to bond between each other, to exchange and to connect.

This **Workpackage** is led by **EVBB**, European Association of Institutions for Vocational Training who is providing the tools for the partners to create a report about the state-of-art of our African SAAM partners.

WP4

"Study and Observation of the African VET system"

Led by:





WP4 and The Voyage

This work was meant to be implemented on-site when the European staff would visit the African partners. Since **COVID-19** came, mobilities got cancelled and SAAM needed to readapt the course to continue the journey. **That is why we have implemented an online working methodology called “The Voyage”**. This methodology seeks the simulation of an actual journey to Africa but virtually.

Through different prepared online sessions, peer groups are working in the WP4 as if they were in each African country. Thus, **session 1** was about preparing the suitcase, **session 2** about having the first breakfast, **session 3** about simulating a visit tour inside the school and interacting with the school team and the last session about getting memories from the trip.

With no doubts, one of the main strengths of SAAM is the will of the whole partnership to make it and to succeed despite the circumstances.



MEET THE PARTNERS



Father TJ (DBTA): "My excitement would be the excitement of the young people!"



FEATURED INTERVIEW - NEWSLETTER 2

Father TJ is the **Executive Director for Don Bosco Tech Africa**. As the Executive Director, he oversees the overall running of the network office, represents DBTA at various forums and signs official contracts with other organisations. **Let's get to know him more!**



DBTA coordinates from Kenya a lot of the school centres that participate in SAAM.

Father TJ represents **DBTA** in **SAAM**. He has signed the official contract with San Viator. From now on, he will also take up role in the steering committee.

How did DBTA get involved in SAAM?

We got involved in SAAM through our office in Brussels called Don Bosco International (DBI). Secondly, we were the best suited with a large network of training centers in Sub-Saharan Africa, spread over 35 countries and with over 100 training centers.

How would you describe the project SAAM?

It is a great initiative for exposure and learning, both for the European partners and for the African partners.

Is it the first time you work in a project of this scope? If not, please briefly explain your past experience.

In a strict sense, yes. But through the Social Structure Fund Program of the BMZ, we have had exchange visits within Africa for our Job Service Officers. They have learnt a lot from one another.

What have you already learned from SAAM?

It is difficult to say as of now as it is too early. But from the few visits by the Mundus personnel, I can already see change in



It is a great initiative for exposure and learning, both for the European partners and for the African partners



perceptions about Africa.

How has the pandemic affected your work in SAAM?

It has delayed greatly the project implementation as Mobility is the central part of this project.

Can you explain a day in your life as a member of SAAM?

As the director of DBTA, my day as a member of SAAM would entail compliance with Project regulations, communication with the centers in under DBTA and communication with Mundus and San Viator.

What is your favorite aspect of being part of SAAM?

My favourite aspect would be to see the young people benefiting from this project, both in terms of exposure and learning.

I would like to see SAAM covering all corners of Africa and DBTA being a strong partner in SAAM

What is the thing about SAAM that excites you the most?

My excitement would be the excitement of the young people as they journey the SAAM experience.

How do you imagine SAAM in 10 years from now?

I would like to see SAAM covering all corners of Africa and DBTA being a strong partner in SAAM.

What do you think are the strengths of the project?

The strengths of this project according to me are: a) Youth focus b) Exposure to different cultures c) Strong partners

What do you consider the most important challenges SAAM may encounter?

Some of the challenges SAAM may encounter are: a) Logistical issues b) government bureaucracy (At Africa level and EU level) c) Effects of Covid 19 pandemic d) Issues related to lack of sufficient knowledge of cultural and economic matters.

An organization that coordinates 102 VET centers across 34 African countries. Thanks to its experience on vocational education and training, it has a deep knowledge of the different local contexts and a holistic strategy. BTA's biggest contribution for SAAM at the beginning was finding VET centres in Africa.

They are playing an important role on coordinating the different African partners and organizing the logistics and plan for the student mobilities in Europe. They will also work with CNOS-FAPS on creating an ambitious international plan in the aim of establishing a mobility department in every African VET center of the project.



Promotor:

Coordinator:



European partners



African partners



MOM! WE ARE FAMOUS!



Besides the terrible circumstances due to the COVID-19, SAAM is getting some recognition all around the world! SAAM has appeared on local newspapers, national TV and some project representatives have met the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with very good results!



During our mobility of experts in Cape Verde, SAAM has appeared on the national TV of Cape Verde

SAAM meets the General Directorate for Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain



Don Bosco Tech Africa: VET as a bridge between Europe and Africa: The SAAM Project





NAIROBI HOSTS THE 6TH ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS ASSEMBLY OF DON BOSCO TECH AFRICA (AND SAAM PARTICIPATES!)

Meeting with different embassies and EU delegations in the countries visited by our mobility experts



SAAM appears on local newspaper in Basque Country

Sopuerta comanda un Erasmus+ de alumnado africano

REPRESENTANTES DE SAN VIATOR VIAJAN A CABO VERDE PARA ARRANCAR UN PROYECTO DE INTERCAMBIO ESTUDIANTIL

COMING SOON...



FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING

NAIROBI 2021

30 MAY - 4 JUNE



From 30 May to 4 June, we will held the first international meeting in Nairobi (Kenya). After many months of working together through the computer, we are finally getting to know each other in person!

In the meeting, there will be 14 African countries represented and 6 European countries represented, besides the promotor (San Viator) and the coordinator (Asociación Mundus).



Why Kenya?

Kenya is a key country as our main African umbrella organization, Don Bosco Tech Africa, works from there.

The main purpose

Gathering all the partners coming from Europe and Africa for one week and working together. This week will be full of very interesting and necessary work, but we will have plenty of time to know more about us personally and to visit the wonderful area of Nairobi.

We will keep you updated!

TO LEARN MORE



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I WANT TO BE PART OF THE SAAM COMMUNITY



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