



Supporting Alliance for African Mobility

SEMINAR IN BRUSSELS 2023

A journey towards internationalization

What will you find?



Quick recapitulation



Learning journey



Quality results



Suggestions Mailbox



Final credits

WWW



Link directory

01

Quick recapitulation

The second SAAM seminar “A Journey towards Internationalization” was held in Brussels from the 28th of February to the 2nd of March, bringing together more than 60 participants from 24 African and European countries.




Following the success of the first seminar in Brussels in 2022, SAAM organized the second international training in the EU capital **from the 28th of February to the 2nd of March.**

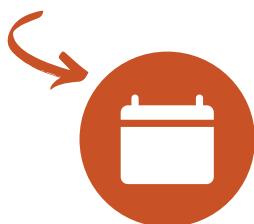
The 2023 training focused on establishing an international department to continue the exchanges between Africa and Europe even after the project's funding period ends. The objective was to encourage centers involved in the project to apply for new projects, create new partnerships, join existing networks, and inspire other centers to do the same.

During the 3-day seminar, networking, successful international networks and funding opportunities were presented and partners were taught how to create an internationalization strategy.

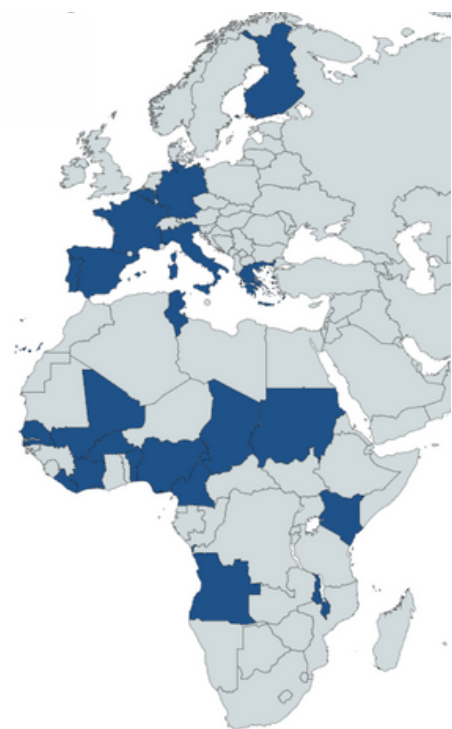
The event was hosted by two important European networks that are also partners of SAAM, the **European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVBB)** and the **European Forum for Vocational Education and Training (EfVET).**

 **24** different African and European countries were represented in the SAAM Seminar in total!

Check the agenda of the Seminar



Check the website publications



Besides the organizing team (the promoter San Viator, the coordinator Asociación Mundus and the hosting entities), each training session was enriched by the participation of other experts. There were **experts from the EU institutions** who took time to explain the current interests of the European Commission, how the financing works and how specific programmes like the virtual exchanges or the Capacity Building in VET work. We also had the pleasure of listening to points of view from other fields such as **universities** and of course we have the collaboration of the **SAAM partners** who moderated and facilitated the different workshops and agreed to make brief presentations on specific topics.

This document gathers all the information explained during the training sessions (*see section 2. Learning journey*), but the Seminar was much more than that! You can have a look on all the photos we include here and in all the stories we share on social media.

Watch here the video summary

[Click here](#)



Watch here the video summary of each day

The SAAM partner **Baraa Bahri** from **WeYouth Organization** has created a summary video of each day of the seminar. These videos perfectly capture the work and the joyful spirit of the event. **Enjoy them!**



DAY 1



DAY 2



DAY 3

02

Learning journey

The second SAAM Seminar allocated each day to a particular subject concerning international projects and mobility programmes: Networking and EU priorities, funding opportunities and developing an internationalization strategy. Each working session started with keynote speakers and included several workshops.



TUESDAY, 28TH OF FEBRUARY

Networking: looking for partners and building partnerships



The main theme on Tuesday was to create spaces and activities for **organic dialogue and networking**. Participants had the opportunity to interact with each other, **creating new synergies and contacts, and strengthening existing ones**. Therefore, there were **presentations** of existing international networks at the European and African level, in addition to **internal activities** for the participants.

Keynote speakers

Strategic partnership between Africa and Europe



- **Mr Nicholas Ouma**

**Senior Youth Advisor at the African Union Commission
Department of Education, Science, Technology and
Innovation (ESTI)**

 @nichoms

 [About ESTI \(African Union\)](#)

Mr Nicholas Ouma is an **Education and Skills Development professional** at the African Union Commission - Department of Education Science Technology and Innovation (ESTI) where he serves as a Senior Youth Advisor. He has **over 20 years of experience** spanning across functional initiatives and outcomes within **Education, Employment, Youth Development and Empowerment spaces**, with a focus on development and implementation of **policies and programmes at both National and Continental Levels**. Nicholas is also a connoisseur of creative and performing arts and a youth mentor. Prior to his present role at the African Union Commission, he previously served as a high school teacher, university lecturer and County Director of Youth Development in Taita Taveta County, Kenya. Nicholas has a Master of Education degree in Educational Communication and Technology from Kenyatta University, Kenya.



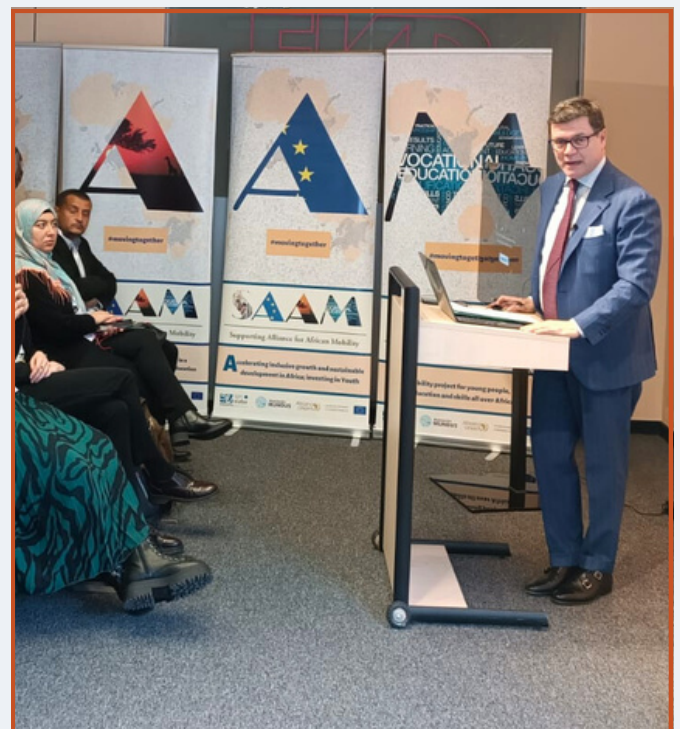
- **Mr Nicola Bellomo**
Head of Pan-African Affairs Division (AFRICA.1) at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

 @nicolabellomo

 About EEAS (European Union)

Mr Nicola Bellomo is currently the **Head of Pan-African Affairs Division (AFRICA.1) at the European External Action Service**. Before holding this position, Mr Bellomo has worked for several **EU Delegations** and has also been the **EU Ambassador** in different countries. He is an expert in EU and international affairs with more than 30 years of experience.

The European External Action Service is the **European Union's diplomatic service**. Since 2011, the EEAS carries out the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy to promote peace, prosperity, security, and the interests of Europeans across the globe. **The Africa-EU Partnership** is key for both continents and Mr Bellomo as Head of Division of Pan-African Affairs (AFRICA.1) shared how education and skills development are drivers of development and key priorities in that partnership.



Workshops

Speed dating

Speed networking is an effective method for participants to introduce themselves, exchange information, and expand their professional contacts. In this format, participants engage in a series of short exchanges over a set period of time. SAAM participants mixed and interacted, strengthening relations and building up new connections.



Thematic tables

Four thematic tables focused on the VET transversal topics and key priorities of the Erasmus programme (Entrepreneurship, Digitalization and VET 4.0, Inclusion and Diversity, Green and sustainable VET) allowed participants to share good practices on each topic, in a fair-style format.



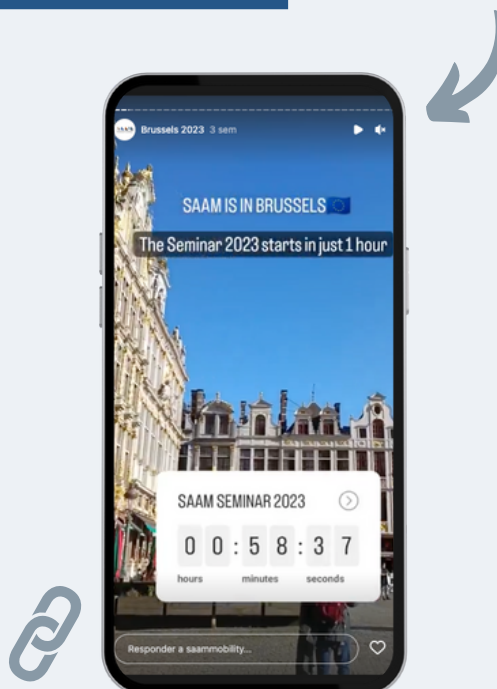
Need Analysis Lab

The first dialogue and brainstorming activity involved thinking about the needs and challenges that communities and centers had around the selected priorities, and then clustering and organizing them to work on them during the following sessions.



DON'T FORGET

You can watch the SAAM Instagram stories of the Seminar here:



WEDNESDAY, 1ST OF MARCH

Funding opportunities



The idea on Wednesday was to present the available **funding opportunities in the Erasmus+ programme** and to understand how to devise projects, basic concepts of project management jargon, and co-create initiatives that could be presented as business ideas in future deadlines.

Keynote speakers

Funding opportunities for African entities to be partners or applicants in the Erasmus+ Programme

- Virtual exchanges in higher education and youth call



- Mr Roland Farkas
Project officer at Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

 Roland Farkas

 About EACEA

Mr Roland Farkas is **project officer at EACEA**, the executive agency of the European Commission that manages funding for education, culture, audiovisual, sport, citizenship and volunteering.

The main objective of his presentation in the SAAM Seminar was to present opportunities for interested organisations within the **virtual exchanges** in higher education and youth call for proposals. It is launched for the third time within the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027. Virtual Exchanges are online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development. They make it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) without physical mobility.

• Capacity building in the field of Vocational education and training



- Ms Silvia Homberger
Project officer at Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)



About EACEA

Ms Silvia Homberger works since 2018 as **Project Adviser** in Unit Skills and Innovation in EACEA. Before that she was a **Project Officer** in the European Commission, DG CONNECT.

Her participation focused on **Capacity Building in the field of Vocational Education and Training**. Capacity building projects are international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States, third countries associated to the programme and third countries not associated to the programme. They aim to support the relevance accessibility responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in third countries not associated to the programme.

Expert interventions

Tips and tools for funding opportunities



- Ms Myrto Siapardani
Project Manager at AKMI



About AKMI

After an explanation from EACEA officers, it was time to ground the ideas presented on Virtual Exchange and Capacity Building in vocational training. Therefore, **Myrto Siapardani, project manager of AKMI**, presented to the partnership **tools and advice to go from a project idea to project creation**, passing through the concept note.

She explained the process she uses in project design and creation, moving from needs to objectives, from ideas to activities, and from activities to results.

"Beyond SAAM": the experience of African entities with Erasmus+ funded projects



• Mr Ntale Geoffrey
CEO of Kreatree



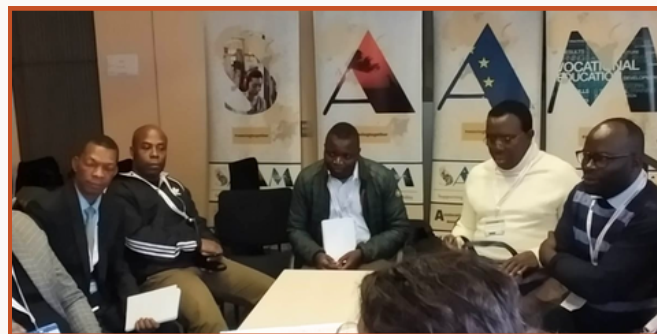
About Kreatree

Ntale Geoffrey, CEO of Kreatree, a software and training company based in Uganda, connected online to explain from an African perspective **how to access European funds** with their own ideas. Since African entities cannot be applicants for the presented calls, Geoffrey explained his successful case of how to understand the calls, how to navigate the European Commission's website and understand priorities, and how to design projects that address the needs of African local contexts. Finally, he explained **tools and tricks for searching for partners** and creating a robust partnership.

Workshops

Project design

Throughout the day, participants worked at the thematic tables from the previous day, generating project ideas around the selected needs. The tables were facilitated by project experts from the partnership. The creation process began by identifying needs, selecting objectives and priorities, target groups, activities, resources, and partnerships.



THURSDAY, 2ND OF MARCH

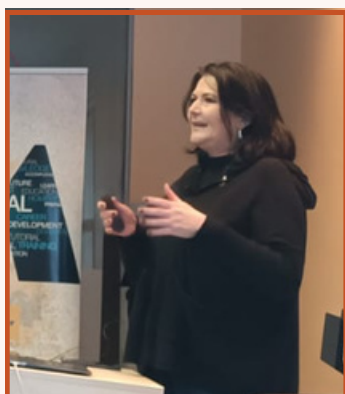
Internationalization



Finally, Thursday was dedicated to working on the internationalization strategy of VET centers. The objective was to inspire African partners and provide them with the necessary tools to create their own strategy.

Keynote speakers

International Partnerships



• Ms Deirdre Lennan

Head of Sector Human Development at Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European Commission



About DG INTPA

Ms Deirdre Lennan has worked for **international cooperation in education** since 1992, covering the Western Balkans, the Russian Federation and then the Mashrek region (Egypt, Lebanon and Syria in particular). Then between 2009 and 2021, she was responsible for education policy issues with Africa at the European Commission's **Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture** and overseeing all Erasmus activities with Africa.

In the run up to the February 2022 6th EU-AU Summit, she moved to the **Directorate General for International Partnerships** where she lead the team in charge of **human and social development** in the framework of the overall Africa-EU partnership and has now moved to the unit in charge of regional programmes for Sub-Saharan Africa in the field of human development.

In the second SAAM Seminar, she shared her expertise regarding international partnerships.

Expert interventions

International strategy



- **Mr Alfredo Garmendia**
Head of International Department at San Viator



About San Viator

Mr Alfredo Garmendia is the head of International Department of **Centro San Viator (Spain)**, the entity that promotes the SAAM project.

San Viator participates in many international projects and the department that Alfredo leads is in charge of the **internationalization process** of the center. He shared his expertise with the Seminar participants by explaining the importance of having an internationalization strategy for an educational center, he gave tips on how to create one and offered explanatory materials.

Showcase of international strategy



- **Ms Dolores Sánchez Bengoa**
Vice-president and professor for International Business and Intercultural Studies at the University of Applied Management Studies of Mannheim



About the Shared Value Lab Africa

Prof. Dr. Dolores Sanchez Bengoa is since 2016 Vice-president for International Relations at the **University of Applied Management Studies in Mannheim, Germany**.

Since 2018 she is a board member of EVBB. In 2022 she founded at the university the Shared Value African Lab to strengthen the relations with Africa. She graduated from Leeds Metropolitan University.

Her main responsibilities include the development of international co-operations, lecturing at postgraduate and master level, researching and supervising Master and PhDs. She also participates in EU projects related to intercultural management education. Her professional interests focus on issues dealing intercultural management, cross-cultural communication, or intercultural knowledge transfer. Over the last 25 years Dr. Bengoa has accumulated an extensive intercultural experience by working, teaching, researching, and living in seven European countries. She has published over 35 academic papers, book contributions and conference proceedings in numerous rated journals.

In the seminar, **she explained to the partnership her experience of over 20 years leading the internationalization of her university and how she has defined her own strategy.** In addition, she presented the Shared Value African Lab, in which they have already developed several training and technical management projects. Anyone can use this platform and we highly recommend that you join it.

Workshops

Human library

In a format similar to a human library, European partners with years of experience in Erasmus and a well-defined strategy for internationalizing their centers explained how to develop and implement strategies. African participants moved around the room, listening to experiences and taking notes to create their own unique strategy.



GOOD PRACTICES OF NETWORKING AND SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE

During the seminar, each day a couple of networks were presented as good examples of places to find partners for new projects and ensure the sustainability of the SAAM collaboration. There were presentations of external networks, of some networks that are part of the SAAM partnership and of course the SAAM network, the project's own network, was also presented.

The SAAM seminar aimed to present international impact networks on both continents, with the goal of showcasing both sides of the same coin: working for the development and training of future youth.

External networks

TVET Cluster



- **Ms Unami Dube Mpofu**
Head of Unit Skills and Employment for Youth at the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)



About AUDA-NEPAD

Ms Unami Dube is a consummate **organisational development expert** with extensive inter-disciplinary expertise working in the private and development cooperation sectors engaged in policy advocacy, development programming in small to medium scale enterprise development, agriculture policy development, youth training and skills development.

AUDA-NEPAD is responsible for coordination of the **African Union TVET Cluster** which is one amongst the 8 Clusters under the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-24), which brings together governments, partners and TVET practitioners to share and find solutions to common challenges. Ms Dube coordinates the Skills Initiative for Africa Financing and Technical components which promote public private partnerships to improve employment prospects for young people.

Ms Dube presented the **TVET Cluster** in the SAAM Seminar. She explained the benefits of the network, its members, organizational structure, and future work objectives. Find more information about the network in the link below.

ENE & GRETA Networks



- **Ms Susanne Nielsen**

Human Capital Development Expert at the European Training Foundation (ETF) and coordinator of the partnership 'Greening Responses to Excellence through Thematic Actions' (GRETA)



About ETF

Susanne M. Nielsen holds a Master of Political Science with her thesis on European integration. She has 25 years of international working experience in the field of economic growth, education and training and labour market reforms. She has vast experience in provision of policy advice and support in relation to VET policies and structural reforms. She is **Human Capital Expert at the European Training Foundation (ETF), an EU Agency of the European Commission.**

She is country responsible for Ukraine and is leading ETFs green VET partnership – GRETA (Greening Responses to Excellence through Thematic Actions) that is supporting greening of VET. GRETA is a sub-initiative of the ETF Network for Excellence that is an international network of more than 250 CoVEs and VET providers world wide.

As good practices of international networks, ETF presented the ENE and GRETA networks. She explained their work, the benefits of belonging to the networks, and invited the partnership to join for free.

Networks inside the partnership

EVBB



- **Mr Theodor Grassos**
Secretary General at EVBB



About EVBB

The European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVBB) is a European umbrella association of non-profit providers of Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Its objective is the qualitative improvement of vocational education and training in Europe and beyond and to increase the efforts designed to promote VET as a first choice. EVBB has more than 74 members coming both from the private and the public sector and covers all fields related to initial, advanced and further education and training.

Mr Theodor Grassos, secretary general of the network, presented it in the seminar.

EfVET



- **Ms Valentina Chanina**
Secretary General at EfVET



About EfVET

EfVET is an European-wide professional association which has been created by and for providers of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in all European

countries. Its mission is to champion and enrich TVET through transnational cooperation and building a pan-European network of institutions that could lead European VET policies.

Ms Valentina Chanina, secretary general of EfVET presented the network and shared different videos that summarise what means to be part of it.

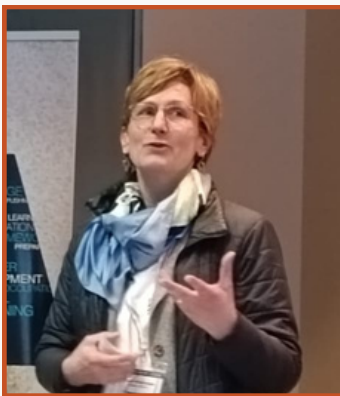
 What is EfVET? Our Mission? What can EfVET do for its members?



 EfVET Thematic Team event in Lyon, France 2022



YES Forum



- Ms Annett Wiedermann
Project Manager and Director at YES Forum



About YES Forum

Founded in 2002, YES Forum is a European network of organisations working with and for young people with fewer opportunities. By promoting their social inclusion and developing their professional skills, we act to improve the life chances of vulnerable young people. YES Forum aims to create positive change to combating poverty and inequalities across Europe.

Ms Wiedermann took the time during the seminar to explain YES Forum in detail and the present and future activities of the network.

SAAM Network



- **Ms Rita Festi**

Project Manager at Scuola Centrale Formazione (SCF) and leader of the SAAM Network (WP8)



SAAM website

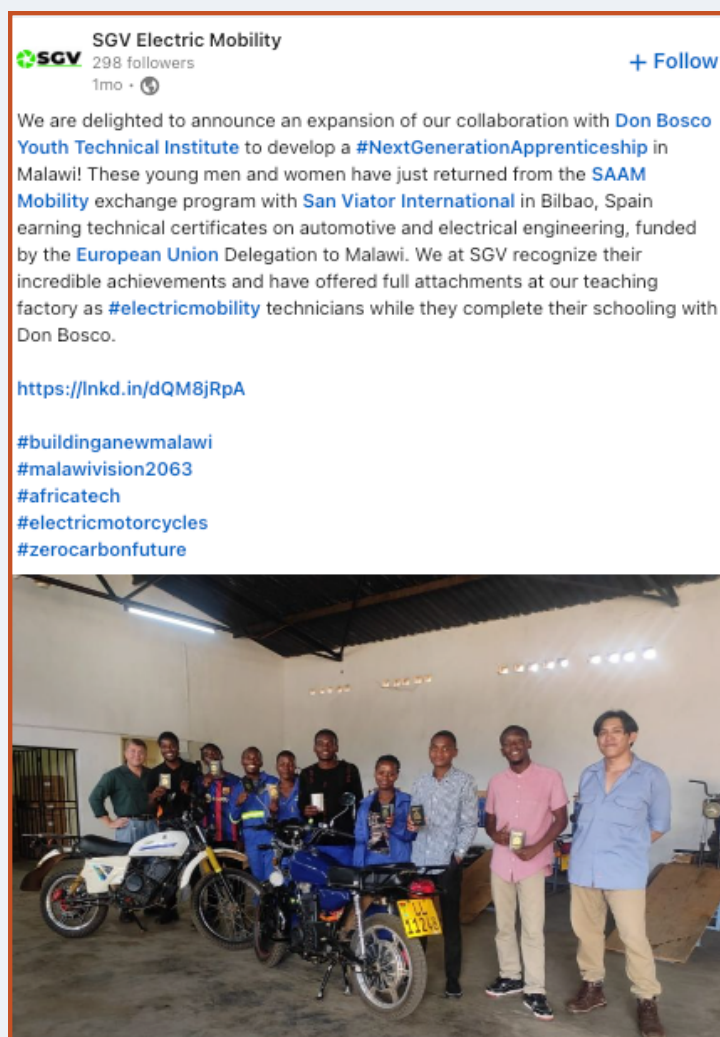
Very soon **SAAM is going to launch its own network. It will be hosted on the SAAM website and instructions on how to register will be shared.** The idea is that it will be a platform that guarantees the sustainability of the partnership and where new projects of different thematic arise. It will be accessible to anyone who is interested.

Ms Festi, the person in charge of this work package, presented in Brussels the sketch of what this network is going to be and what it is going to mean for the partnership.

SAAM STORYTELLERS

In SAAM, we are already achieving an intercontinental impact thanks to the piloting of mobilities between Africa and Europe, both for teacher and student mobilities. Additionally, there are many positive consequences that are staying in the communities where we work and many collaborations between organizations that are resulting from this project.

At the SAAM seminar, we had the opportunity to hear many of these experiences and legacies that SAAM is leaving behind. Among all of them, we can highlight the case of Malawi, where students who did their internships at Centro San Viator in Soperua learned how to assemble and disassemble electric motorcycles. Thanks to this new skill, the company **SGV Electric Mobility** went to the center after the mobility and offered them a collaboration agreement and internships for the group of students.



SAAM UPDATES

During the 3 days of activities, the SAAM partners also had time to talk about the progress of the project itself. SAAM enters its last year with a lot of planned activities, but it is also the moment in which many tasks are coming to an end and that allows us to discover in detail the results of this pilot between Africa and Europe.

In the seminar, in addition to learning more about the SAAM Network (see the previous section), the advances of work package 4 (African VET study and observation) and work package 7 (mobility of African students) were also presented. And as in every SAAM event, the next project milestones were also presented.

Work Package 4 (African VET Study and Observation)



Katerina Michou, researcher at EVBB, presented the state of the art of the work package 4 report, explaining how the report on the state of the art of the African professional training system has been structured.

During the mobility of European peers to Africa, each peer carries out a quantitative and qualitative report on the national and regional vocational training system, as well as an analysis of the African schools we visited. In this way, we can draw a state of the art of vocational training, highlighting its strengths and areas for improvement, which is the basis for the subsequent capacity building developed in the project.

The report will be open source at the end of the project, and its final version will be presented at the next SAAM meeting in July.

Work Package 7 (mobility of African students)



Mirco Trielli, trainer and coach at YESForum, is the person in charge of leading the preparation of students prior to their mobility to Europe.

Mirco has developed an online course with synchronous and asynchronous parts, along with a handbook that he presented during the seminar. The idea is not only to train the students during the SAAM project, but also to provide tools for African partners to do so in future projects.

All this training will be open source at the end of the project.

SAAM next steps

To close the event, the SAAM team presented the upcoming events and activities for the project. The project will end this year after implementing all its activities, so all teacher mobilities between Europe and Africa, as well as the two student flows to Europe, must be completed. SAAM will end with a two-month student mobility program with internships in companies as the final major activity.

Finally, the schedule of events is as follows:

1. Work Package leaders and Steering Committee meeting
2. SAAM leaders event
3. Final event

And obviously the student, staff and expert mobilities continue!

04

Quality results

As in every SAAM event, after the Seminar, the Quality team sent a form to evaluate the the training contents and all the organizational aspects. In this section, you can see some of the participants' comments.



"The training session was very interesting in that it improved my skills on the networking process and the development of projects on different themes such as digitalization"

"I had practical experience in building networks. The presentations about new EU calls and initiatives at the EU AU level were very interesting"

"The time allocated to each workshop was insufficient because many interesting reflections were arising"

"The training allowed us to make new contacts with some organizations present at the training. In addition, it allowed us to better understand the different stages of development of an Erasmus project"

"I think the workshop on project design was very useful to understand in depth the needs of some African VET Centres that I never met before and a context that is unknown to me. It was also an occasion to discover interesting good practices and activities already put in place in some African countries, which in some cases come from partners' experiences in SAAM"

"The workshop work did not only made it possible to share experiences and good practices, but also to build joint projects"

"A relevant presentation was given regarding each agenda item, and we had time to work in groups"

05

Final credits

The success of the SAAM Seminar was a collective effort of various parties, including the experts, the partners, the organisations who hosted us, and the organizing team. A heartfelt thank you to all involved!



- **Promotor:** San Viator (Spain)
- **Coordinator :** Asociación Mundus (Spain)
- **Hosting organisations:** EVBB and EfVET (Belgium)

- **African partners:**

- École Professionnelle Salesienne Saint Jean Bosco (Benin)
- Dom Bosco Training Center Mabubas (Angola)
- Centre de Formation Professionnelle Artisanal Rural (Ivory Coast)
- Institut Technique Don Bosco Ebolowa (Cameroon)
- PROCEFFA (Cameroon)
- Don Bosco Boys Town Technical Institute (Kenya)
- Don Bosco Youth Technical Institute (Malawi)
- Don Bosco Technical High School (Liberia)
- Centre de Formation Professionnelle de Don Bosco (Senegal)
- ESMP (Senegal)
- St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre (Sudan)
- WeYouth Organization (Tunisia)
- Escola de Hotelaria e Turismo de Cabo Verde (Cabo Verde)
- John Bosco Institute of Technology Onitsha (Nigeria)
- Centre Privé de la Formation Professionnelle Don Bosco Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)
- École Professionnel Don Bosco N'Djamena (Chad)
- Centre Père Michel de Bamako (Mali)
- Don Bosco Tech Africa (Kenya)

- **European partners:**

- San Viator (Spain)
- Mundus (Spain)
- AKMI (Greece)
- EVBB (Belgium)
- EfVET (Belgium)
- Tech Don Bosco Spain (Spain)
- Kpedu - Central Ostrobothnia Vocational College (Finland)
- SEPR (France)
- Escola Pia (Spain)
- CIFP Profesor José Luis Graiño (Spain)
- IKASLAN (Spain)
- CNOS-FAP (Italy)
- ANESPO (Portugal)
- Scuola Centrale di Formazione (Italy)
- YesForum (Germany)
- CPIFP Corona de Aragón Spain (Spain)

06

Link directory



AGENDA



WEB PUBLICATION



VIDEO



PHOTOS



Supporting Alliance for African Mobility

#movingtogether

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