



Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education Erasmus-EDU-2023-CBHE Project 101128508

Final Conference

Competence-based doctoral training in agricultural value chains and rangeland management in East Africa - Collaborative curricula and stakeholder engagement

Nairobi, September 1-3, 2026



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Co-funded by
the European Union

ADVALUE at a Glance

Project overview on milestones and deliverables.

1 September 2026

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Nuertingen-Geislingen University



Erasmus+ Project 101128508 — ADVALUE



Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening
Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education

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in East African Doctoral Education

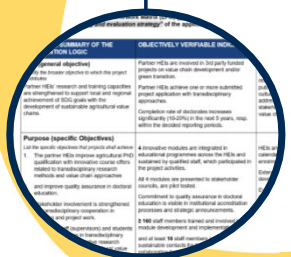
[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [PARTNERS](#) [MODULES](#) [ACTIVITIES](#) [NEWSLETTER](#)



EU-Kenya cooperation to boost the transformative impact of higher education

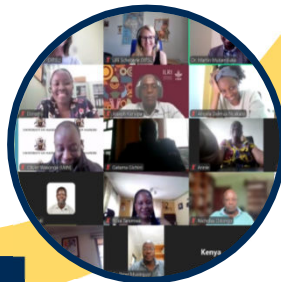
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how it started –
before the project



Aim and concept –
WP1 management

for whom –
WP2 stakeholders



Mutual learning
WP3 capacity build



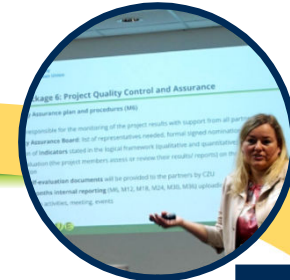
Core activities
WP4 modules



Challenges

- Failure to translate and communicate the science
- Mismatch of competences
- Poor timely completion
- Balance between research and teaching

Challenges - WP5
quality strategies



Reflecting – WP6
project quality



Sharing wider –
WP7 dissemination

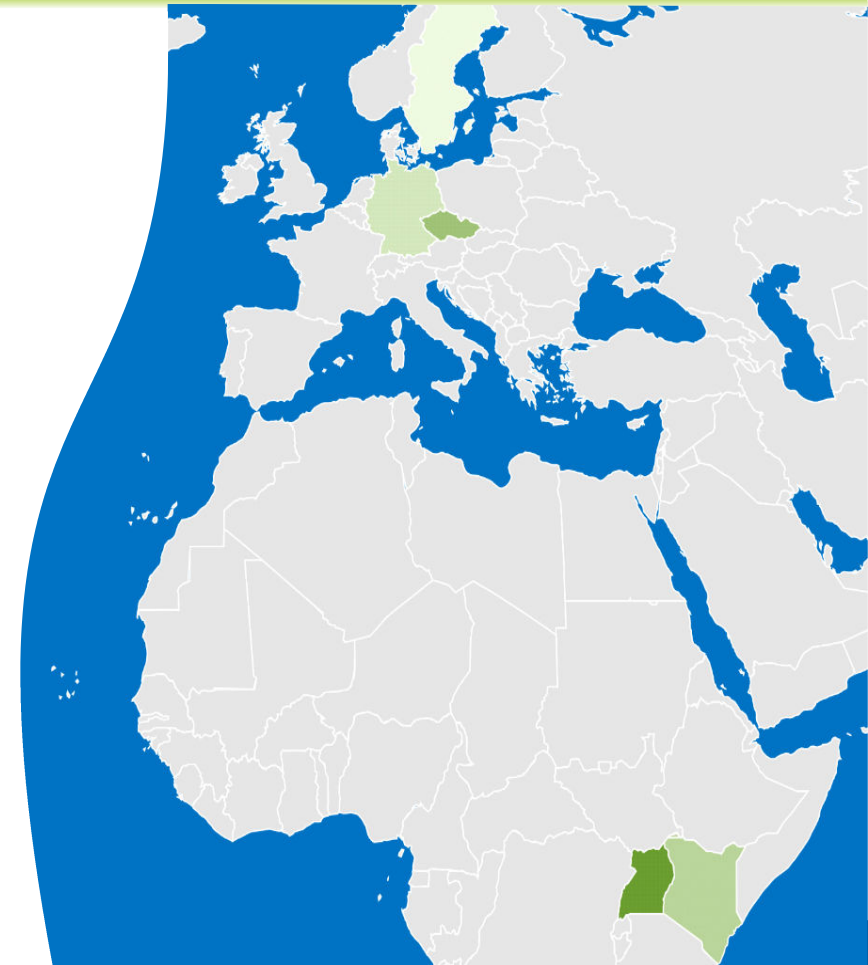
How it started



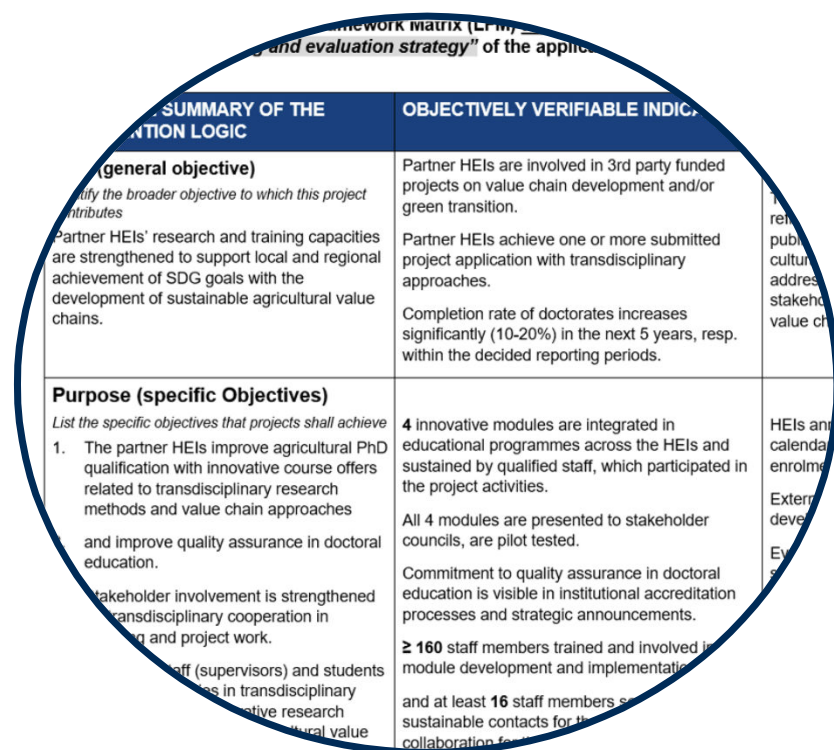
- Erasmus + programme: Key Action 2
 - Cooperation among organizations and institutions
- 2022 first proposal
- 2023 approval of the second try
- 01.01.2024 – 31.12.2026
- 1 of 11 projects targeting on the green deal
- Kenyan/ Ugandan regional project in the field of doctoral education

Partnership

1. Nuertingen-Geislingen University, NGU, Germany
2. German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, DITSL, Germany
3. Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, CZU, Czech Republic
4. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences , SLU, Sweden
5. Makerere University Kampala, MAK, Uganda
6. Uganda Christian University, UCU, Uganda
7. University of Nairobi, UoN, Kenya
8. Pwani University Kilifi, PU, Kenya
9. Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, Uganda
10. European Alliance in Agricultural Knowledge for Development, AGRINATURA
11. National Agricultural Research Organization, NARO, Uganda
12. National Council of Higher Education Uganda, NCHE, Uganda
13. Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, KALRO, Kenya
14. Kenya Ministry of Education Science and Technology, MoEST, Kenya



Work package 1: Project aims, concept and management



Wider objective: Partner HEIs' research and training capacities are strengthened to support local and regional achievement of SDG goals with the development of sustainable agricultural value chains.

Specific objectives

1. The partner HEIs improve agricultural PhD qualification with innovative course offers related to transdisciplinary research methods and value chain approaches.
2. Stakeholder involvement is strengthened for transdisciplinary cooperation in teaching and project work.
3. Academic staff (supervisors) and students gain competencies in transdisciplinary approaches and innovative research topics in the sphere of agricultural value chain management.
4. Quality assurance in doctoral education is further developed and strengthened through joint analysis and activities.

Work package 1: coordination of activities

> 50
STAFF INVOLVED

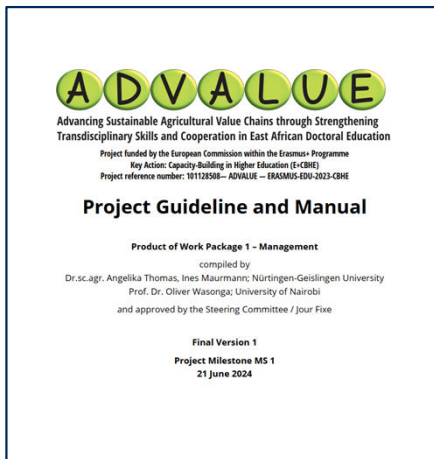
7
WORK PACKAGES

11
WORKING GROUPS

6
**STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**

- **80** module working group meetings (mostly online)
- **> 25** online jour fixe meetings in the consortium
- **18** online questionnaires for feedback | **178** responses from participants
- **232** travels funded by project (55% male / 45% female attendance, despite 16.6% higher travel costs)
- **25** deliverable reports (15 accomplished by final conference)
- **8** project milestones

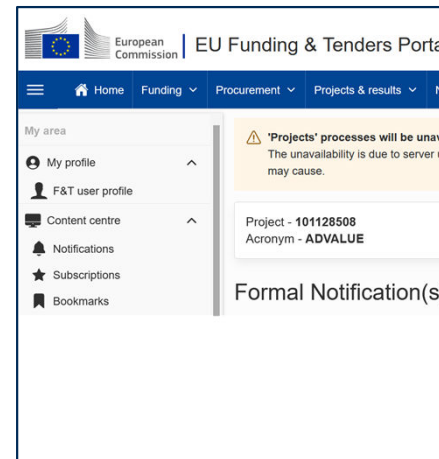
Work package 1 - milestones and deliverables



MS1 Project guideline (Project is constituted with working groups and contacts)



D1.1 Kick-off meeting conducted > decision making, communication and cooperation base



D1.2 First progress report submitted and accepted

Ongoing and upcoming tasks

- 1.5 SteCom meetings and monthly jour fix**
- 1.6 Financial management and reports**
- 1.7 Progress and final report to EACEA**

Work package 2: Stakeholder Involvement, P6 UCU | P2 DITSL



Stakeholder needs and involvement interest is defined for transdisciplinary approaches and innovation processes.

Why?

> To ensure relevance, innovation, and societal impact of doctoral education in East Africa.

Levels of interest and influence?

- > National quality standards (national agencies, ministries)
- > Stakeholder activity on local, regional, .. International level
- > Higher education institutions interest groups

How?

> Mainly focus group discussions (analysis in connection with WP5)

Work package 2: Stakeholder Involvement – network establishment & outreach

> 16

Stakeholder Discussions

> 22

External Stakeholder during pilots

Uganda Organizations

- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
- Alliance Bioversity International - CIAT
- Dairy Development Authority | Bugema Univ.
- National Forestry Resources Research | FAO | USAID
- University Regional Center for Crop Improvement
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries
- National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute
- Wildlife Conservation Society | NALIRRI | Kyambogo Univ.

Kenya Organizations

- Ministry of Education | AFA | NACOSTI | KALRO
- Chuka University | Egerton University
- ILRI | icipe | Moi Univ. | Plant Village | Syngenta
- State Department of Higher Education Research
- African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)
- CIAT | ICRISAT | CoELIB Center of Excellence
- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS)

Transdisciplinary Conference & Student Experience Sharing

Hosted at Pwani University, combining research dissemination with interactive student study trip experience sharing.

34

Students

8

Staff

3

External Participants

Work package 2: milestones and deliverables

ADVALUE Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education	
Project funded by the European Commission within the Erasmus+ Programme Key Action: <u>Capacity-Building in Higher Education</u> (E+CBHE) Project reference number: 101128508—ADVALUE—ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE	
D3 deliverable – report Stakeholder involvement at local HEIs is established at project begin and maintained	
Work Package No	WP2
Deliverable Related No	D2.1
Deliverable No	D3
Deliverable Name	Stakeholder involvement at local HEIs is established at project begin and maintained
Description	2-3 pages, english reports of 4 HEIs on stakeholder involvement (meeting, list of representatives, presentations) and intended type of continuation.
Lead Beneficiary	UCU
Type	R
Dissemination Level	SEN

D2.1 Stakeholder involvement at local HEIs is established at project begin and

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D4 deliverable – report Stakeholder needs and involvement interest is defined for transdisciplinary approaches and innovation processes	
Work Package No	WP2
Deliverable Related No	D2.2
Deliverable No	D4
Deliverable Name	Stakeholder needs and involvement interest are defined for transdisciplinary approaches and innovation processes
Description	English report on the findings of stakeholder demands and description of, how involvement is established at HEIs. 10-20 pages
Lead Beneficiary	UCU

D2.2 Stakeholder needs and involvement interest is defined for transdisciplinary

Ongoing tasks

D2.2 (D4) Stakeholder needs and involvement interest is defined for transdisciplinary approaches and innovation processes

prolonged as continuous activities to establish stakeholder dialogue and engagement

Work package 3: capacity building, P9 RUFORUM | P1 NGU



capacity building takes place throughout the whole joint development activities,

- knowledge sharing among the partners
- pilot teaching activities
- organized online events
- Study trips

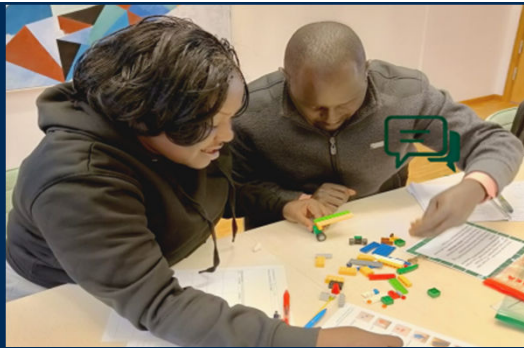
> 4
Study trips

> 22
Public online events

> 81
participants

232 + 37
Funded travel

Work package 3: study trips combined with joint meetings and MWGs



Module 1 study trip at SLU, Sweden 30th September – 4th October 2024 and 3-16th May 2026



Module 2 at DITSL, Germany, 31st August – 12th September 2025, plus Tropentag



Module 4 study trip at CZU, Czechia 9-16th October 2024 and 12-25th April 2026



Module 3 study trip at NGU, Germany, 31st August – 12th September 2025, plus Tropentag

Work package 3: milestones and deliverables

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D5 deliverable – report
Overview on training demand and planned activities elaborated

Work Package No	WP3 - Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building
Deliverable Related No	D3.1
Deliverable No	D5
Deliverable Name	Overview on training demand and planned activities elaborated
Description	5 pages concept paper, English, electronic; internal document 1-2 pages questionnaire
Lead Beneficiary	RUFORUM
Type	R
Dissemination Level	SEN



D3.1 Overview on training demand and planned activities elaborated.

MS2 study trips, Intern. experience exchange and capacity building intensified

Ongoing and open tasks

- D3.2 Online staff and student trainings/ exchange conducted and training kit composed. (Month 32 = August 2026)**
- D3.3 Activity plans for future training activities and knowledge exchange. (M36)**

Work package 4: Development of advanced PhD Modules, P4 SLU | P5 MAK



Core activity in the project

- > to develop 4 modules on doctoral level, relevant in content and research methods
- > to be integrated in the partner institutions study programmes
- > plus basis for inter-institutional, joint co-operation and network activities
- > main activities in the module working groups

A D V A L U E

Essential Skills in Scientific Research.
Module 1 for doctoral education



ADVALUE Module 1 - Essential Skills in Scientific Research - comprehensively introduces to the key concepts and practices of scientific research

Addresses the demand and interest to improve research skills

A D V A L U E

Transdisciplinary Research.
Module 2 for doctoral education



ADVALUE Module 2 – Transdisciplinary Research.

Introduces new concepts, leading to a paradigm shift and new perspectives

A D V A L U E

Sustainable rangeland management.
Module 3 for doctoral education



ADVALUE Module 3 – Sustainable Rangeland Management.

Combines up to date demand in research and development as underlined by the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists

A D V A L U E

Sustainable Agricultural Value Chain
Development. Module 4 for doctoral education



ADVALUE Module 4 – Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains.

Provides concepts to analyse, research and develop the complexity of value chains on different scales

A D V A L U E

ADVALUE - Final Conference - The project at a glance - A.Thomas 1.9.2026

Work package 4: milestones and deliverables

- MS3 Draft Syllabi of 4 new modules are elaborated
- MS4 Pilot trainings for 4 modules successfully implemented with participants of all partner HEIs
- MS5 revised final module descriptions
- D4.1 MWG meetings, contacts and cooperation established
- D4.2 Final syllabi elaborated with subtopic descriptions and specified learning methods
- D4.3 Subtopic materials of modules elaborated and available (M33)
- D4.4 Sequence of online trainings and offline pilot workshops for 4 modules is planned and coordinated
- D4.5 Complete training documentation and evaluation reports are available to partners (M33)
- D4.6 Official approval of modules at partner HEIs (M35)

International pilot phase

> 42
Online events,
22 offered publicly

4 modules
21 subtopics

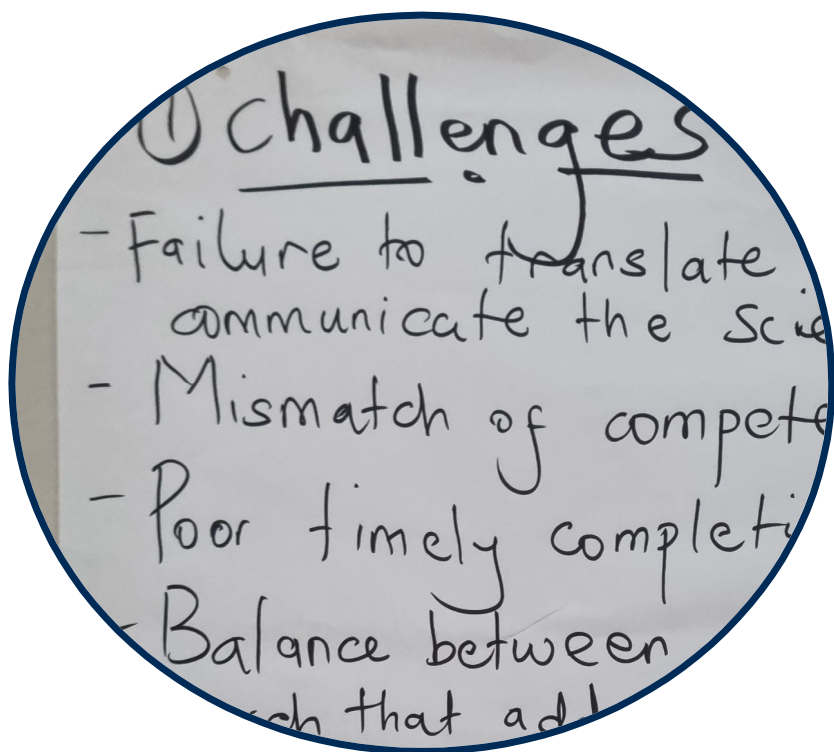
1,561
Online attendencies

68
In person sessions

163
Involved staff &
students

96%
Overall satisfaction

Work package 5: Quality Strategies for Doctoral Education, P5 MAK | P3 CZU



WP5 addresses the questions

- What are the objectives to improve doctoral education (frameworks, policies, needs and demands)
- And the links to address relevant problems and contribute to innovative solutions for development objectives of respective countries
- What are the challenges involved
 - For students
 - Staff/ supervisors
 - Administration and institutional capacities
- What could be the strategies and measures to improve the situation, address the challenges

4-25%
Baseline on PhD
completion rate

Work package 5: milestones and deliverables

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D14 deliverable - report
ADVALUE modules fulfil commonly agreed quality standards in doctoral education

Work Package No	WP5
Deliverable Related No	D5.1
Deliverable No	D14
Deliverable Name	ADVALUE modules fulfil commonly agreed quality standards in doctoral education
Description	English paper 1-2 pages, agreement document on standards to be applied for the ADVALUE modules
Lead Beneficiary	MAK
Type	R

D5.1 ADVALUE modules fulfil commonly agreed quality standards

Challenges

Students



Limited orientation and follow-up beyond coursework
Poor planning and short-notice communication
Rigid or unclear study structures
Limited access to research infrastructure (literature, tools,

Academic



Low commitment of PhD students (many are employed)
Limited PhD students with weak research background
Chronic funding shortfalls
Challenges in guiding research concept development
Age-gap resistance and low motivation focused on title
Limited facilities and poor literature access

D5.2 Needs analysis on improving doctoral education is updated and discussed

Ongoing and open tasks

- D5.2 Publication on Needs analysis on improving doctoral education is updated and discussed with wider audience**
- D5.3 Consultation among project and network partners result in activity plans or strategic documents for continuous improvement of quality standards in PhD**

Work package 6: Project Quality Control and Assurance, P3 CZU | P7 UoN

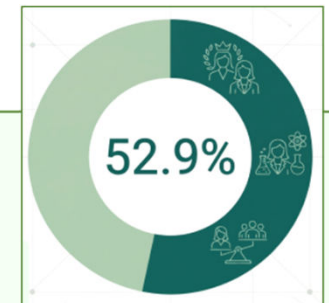


WP6 is about achieving good results in a good way.

This requires

- to report and reflect what we did
- maybe adjust what we plan and how we do it
- exchange on how we perceive and evaluate our progress and cooperation
- be open to address gaps and take up tasks otherwise overlooked (Gender Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (GEID))
- Involve external view and assessment

> Gender balanced leadership
Institutional Capacity Building
Gender-Responsive PhD Curriculum
Global & Regional Alignment



Work package 6: milestones and deliverables

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M6 Milestone – report

ADVALUE Project Quality Assurance Plan

Work Package No	WP6 - Project Quality Control and Assurance
Deliverable Related No	D6.1 Project monitoring and self-evaluation implemented
Milestone No	M6
Milestone Name	Quality assurance plan established and agreed
Description	Guideline for all project partners; written in English
Lead Beneficiary	P3 CZU
Type	R

D6.1 (M6) quality assurance plan implemented and quality control reports

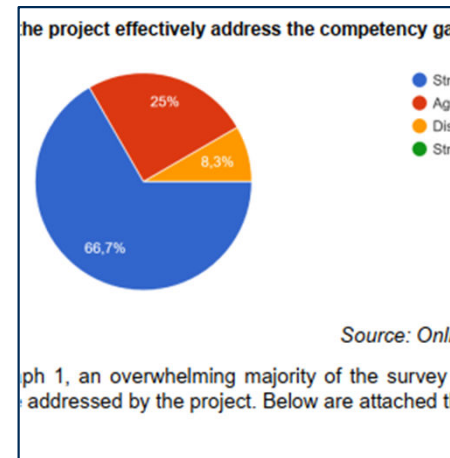
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D18 deliverable – report

Project guidelines for gender equity, inclusion and diversity created and a gender contact person for all consortium partners assigned

Work Package No	WP6
Deliverable Related No	D6.2
Deliverable No	D18
Deliverable Name	Project guideline for gender equity, inclusion and diversity created and a gender contact person for all consortium partners assigned
Description	Reference/ declaration in English on website; written, English guideline for all project partners
Lead Beneficiary	CZU

D6.2 Project guideline for gender equity, inclusion and diversity created, gender contact



D6.3= MS7 External project quality control on interim stage conducted

Ongoing and open tasks

D6.4= MS8 Final external evaluation report (M35)

Work package 7: Dissemination and Network Activities, P8 PU | P9 RUFORUM

51
events

**Conference
contributions**

8
newsletters

**Transdisciplinary
conference in Pwani**

760
Unique visitors

**Other workshops and
joint activities**

Work package 7: milestones and deliverables

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M6 Milestone – report

ADVALUE Project Quality Assurance Plan

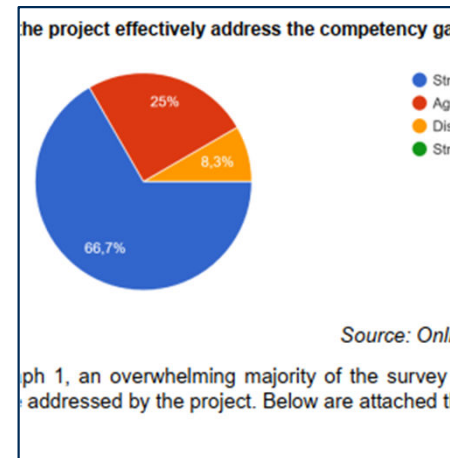
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Deliverable Related No	D6.1 Project monitoring and self-evaluation implemented
Milestone No	M6
Milestone Name	Quality assurance plan established and agreed
Description	Guideline for all project partners; written in English
Lead Beneficiary	P3 CZU
Type	R

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Lead Beneficiary	CZU



Ongoing and open tasks

D7.4 2nd project conference conducted (Nairobi)

D7.5 Exploitation of project results (M35)

D7.1 Dissemination strategy and plans documented by the partnership

D7.2 Project website installed and maintained

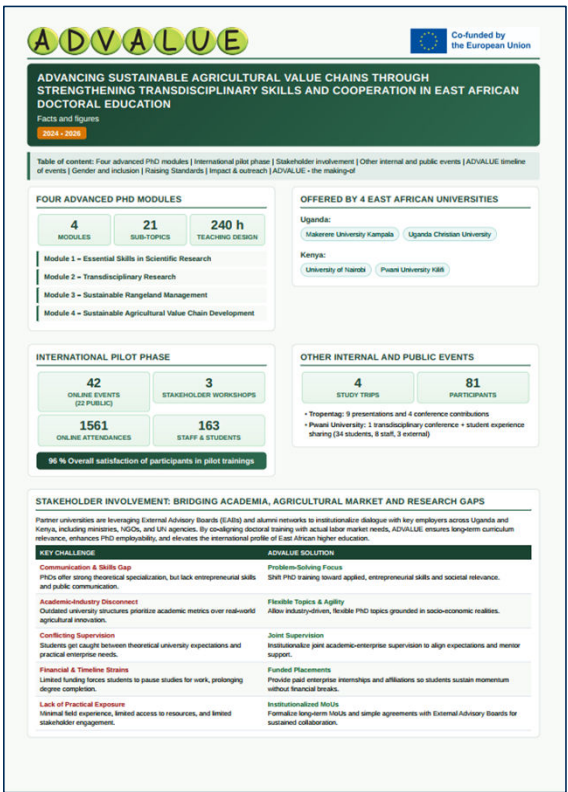
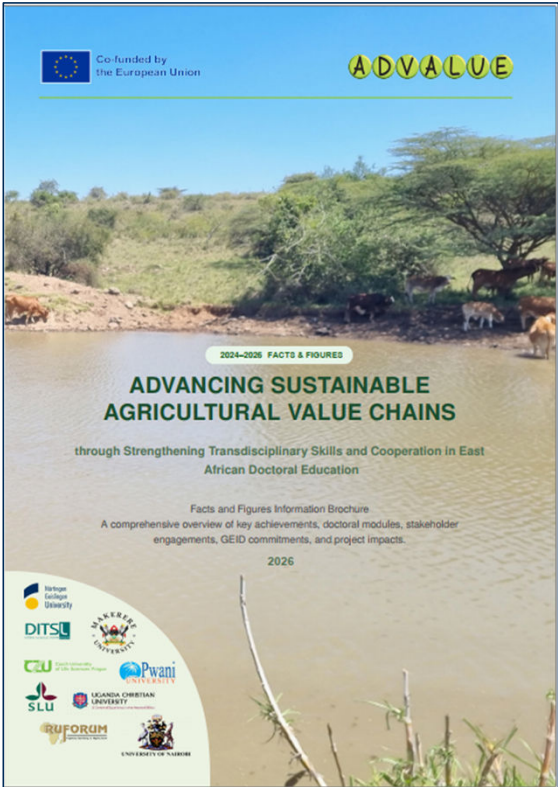
D7.3 1st project conference conducted (Kampala)

ADVALUE timeline

 March 2024	Kick-off plus 1st Steering Committee Meeting (SteCom), Nuertingen, Germany
 Sep. 2024	2nd Steering Committee Meeting, online
 Sep.–Oct. 2024	Staff EU visits / module 1 to SLU, Alnarp, Sweden
 Oct. 2024	Staff EU visits / module 4 to CZU, Prague, Czechia
 Oct. 2024	Joint EU meeting of SLU and CZU staff visitors, Prague + hybrid
 March 2025	Project midterm conference, 3rd SteCom, quality strategy workshop, Kampala, Uganda
 Yearly	Local WP2 meetings in Kampala, Mukono, Nairobi, and Kilifi
 Aug. 2025	Pilot online events for module 1 Block seminar, MWG & stakeholder workshop, Kampala
 Aug.–Dec. 2025	Pilot online events for module 3
 Sep. 2025	Staff & Student EU visits / module 3 (Nuertingen) & module 2 (Witzenhausen)
 Sep. 2025	Joint EU meeting 2 plus Tropentag, Witzenhausen & Bonn 4th SteCom, online
 Oct. 25–Feb. 26	Pilot online events for module 2
 Dec. 2025	Pilot block seminar for module 2, MWG & stakeholder workshop, Kilifi, Kenya
 Jan. 2026	Pilot block seminar for module 3 plus MWG meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
 Feb. 2026	Pilot block seminar for module 4, MWG & stakeholder workshop, Mukono, Uganda
 March–Apr. 2026	5th SteCom (online) Pilot online events for module 4
 Apr.–May 2026	Student EU visits: CZU/module 1 (Prague) & SLU / module 4 (Alnarp)
 Sep. 2026	Project final conference, SteCom and quality strategy workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

Interested?

ADVALUE facts and figures brochure and fact sheet



Looking forward to our programme and intensive and fruitful exchange



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ADVANCE

**Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through Strengthening
Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in East African Doctoral Education**

Erasmus+
project
conducted
by:



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A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa



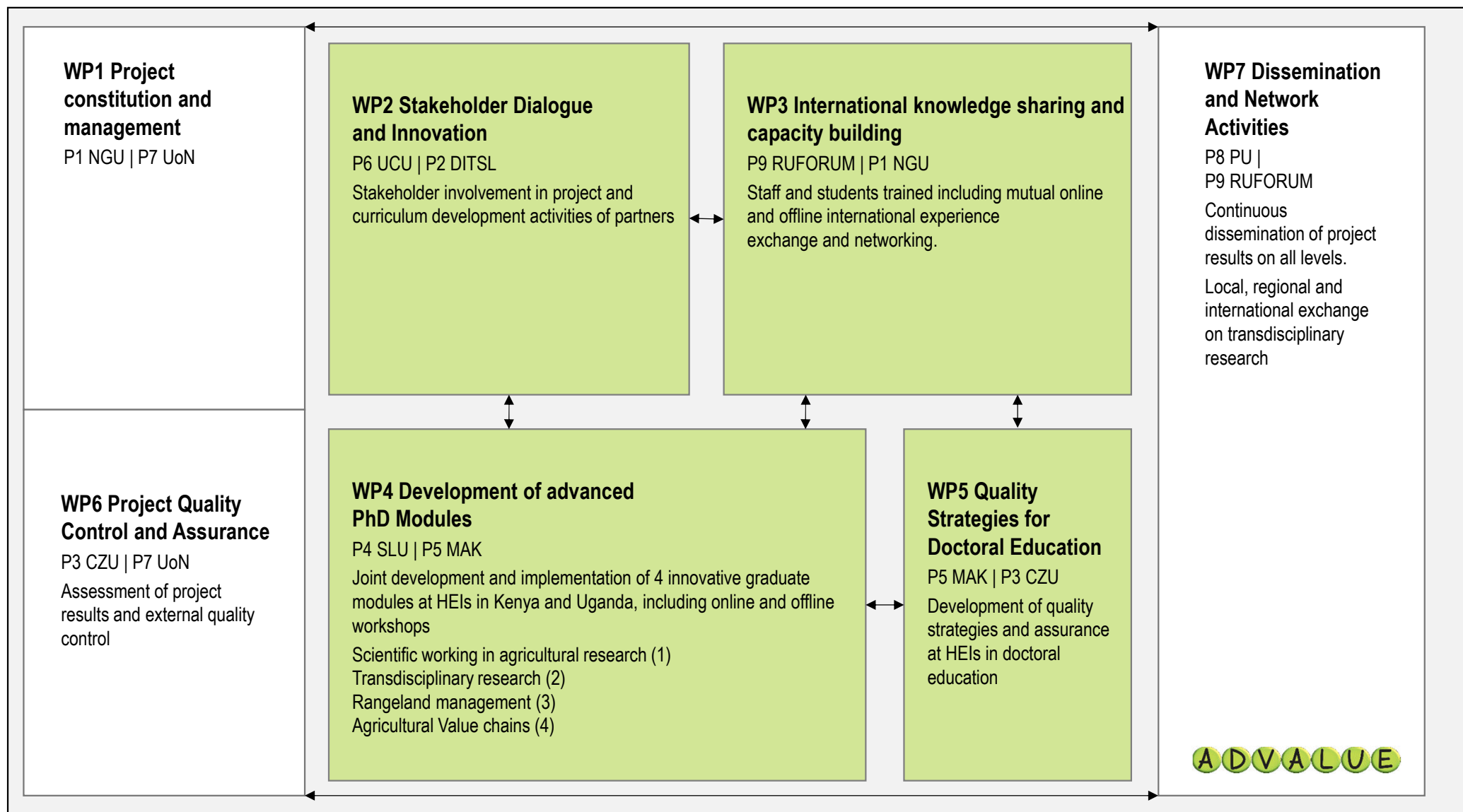
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and
supported
by:

European Alliance in Agricultural Knowledge for Development, Belgium; National Agricultural Research Organization, Uganda; National Council of Higher Education Uganda, Uganda; Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, Kenya; Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Kenya

Annex: project structure and work packages



4. Project structure: Work package and Module Leads

WP1	Project Constitution and Management	P1 NGU P7 UoN
WP2	Stakeholder Dialogue and Innovation	P6 UCU P2 DITSL
WP3	International Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building	P9 RUFORUM P1 NGU
WP4	Development of advanced PhD Modules	P4 SLU P5 MAK
WP5	Quality Strategies for Doctoral Education	P5 MAK P3 CZU
WP6	Project Quality Control and Assurance	P3 CZU P7 UoN
WP7	Dissemination and Network Activities	P8 PU P9 RUFORUM



Module lead/ coordination	EA	EU
Scientific working	P5 MAK	P4 SLU
Transdisciplinary research	P8 PU	P2 DITSL
Rangeland management	P7 UoN	P1 NGU
Agricultural Value Chains	P6 UCU	P3 CULS

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