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ERASMUS + SEED PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2025



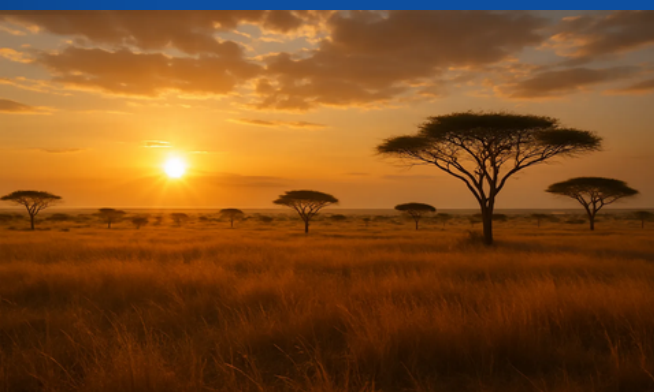
About Erasmus + Seed Project

The SEED Project – Capacity Building in Higher Education for Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development – is a three-year Erasmus+ funded initiative that brings together universities and partners from Malawi, Zambia, Ireland, Italy, and Belgium.

Project Objectives

- Build the capacity of HEIs to design and deliver flexible training.
- Develop short microcredentials that equip learners with practical skills for sustainability.
- Strengthen university–community partnerships for local enterprise and climate resilience.
- Support policy integration of microcredentials into higher education systems.

SEED connects academic innovation with community needs, promoting sustainable development through international collaboration.



Kick-off Meeting in Zambia



SEED partners from Malawi, Zambia, Ireland, Italy, and Belgium gathered from 26–29 March 2025 for the project's first transnational meeting. Hosted by Mulungushi University and Kwame Nkrumah University, the event marked the formal start of collaboration and focused on how higher education institutions can support communities in facing climate change and building sustainable local enterprises.

Visit to the Ministry of Education



On Friday, 25 April 2025, partners visited the Zambian Ministry of Education in Lusaka, where they met with senior officials and the National Erasmus Officer. Leaders emphasized the importance of HEI–community partnerships, international collaboration, and lasting bonds of friendship. The ministry welcomed the SEED initiative and pledged continued support for the development of microcredentials and innovative learning opportunities.

Why SEED Matters

The SEED project responds to urgent challenges facing higher education and communities in Africa. Climate change and economic pressures require new ways of teaching that are flexible, practical, and directly linked to local needs. Through international collaboration, SEED partners are working to co-create solutions that build resilience, support innovation, and empower universities to play a stronger role in sustainable development.

Building Capacity Through Collaboration

By connecting partners from Malawi, Zambia, Ireland, Italy, and Belgium, SEED is creating a shared platform for knowledge exchange. The project strengthens staff skills, develops new teaching resources, and promotes partnerships with local enterprises and policymakers. This approach ensures that the outcomes are not only academic but also practical and responsive to community priorities.



<https://seed.maynoothuniversity.ie/>

MOBILITY WEEK AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY



Building a Shared Vision

Partners from Malawi, Zambia and Ireland, came together at Maynooth University for a week of training and collaboration, with partners from Italy and Belgium joining online.

The programme focused on strengthening higher education systems and building a shared understanding of how microcredentials can support sustainable community enterprise development in Africa.

Exploring Microcredentials

During the week, partners engaged in workshops on the design and role of microcredentials within higher education. Sessions highlighted Ireland's experience in developing short, flexible courses that respond directly to local enterprise and community needs. Partners from Malawi and Zambia explored how these models could be adapted to their own contexts, with a focus on sustainability and enterprise development. Practical exercises helped participants begin mapping existing resources and identifying areas where new courses could strengthen climate resilience and sustainable local innovation.



Learning from Farmers

Partners visited local enterprises including McFadden's Social Farm, Derrybeg CSA Farm, Strawchip Ltd, and Graze Dairies. These visits showed how community initiatives combine sustainability, enterprise, and education—providing inspiration for future course development in Malawi and Zambia.



Next Steps Together

The mobility concluded with practical planning sessions, where partners outlined the first steps in creating and piloting microcredentials. This included preparing training materials, strengthening communities of practice, and setting a pathway for validation in partner universities.



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ERASMUS + SEED PROJECT

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS - JUNE TO OCTOBER 2025

OCTOBER
2025



June-July 2025 – Preparing the Ground

Partners advanced institutional processes, shared procurement information, and completed survey and focus group research. Dissemination also gained momentum, with SEED logos added to institutional webpages and early press releases distributed locally. These steps laid the groundwork for upcoming training and ensured that partners were aligned on project expectations and outputs.

August 2025 – Shaping the Next Steps

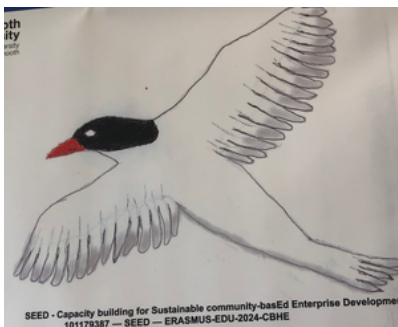
Work in August focused on preparing for the online microcredential training sessions. Partners identified priority staff to attend and began mapping the resources available at their institutions. These actions helped refine readiness assessments and positioned partners to actively contribute to the design and piloting of microcredentials later in the year.

September 2025 – Training Mobility at Maynooth

The highlight of the period was the mobility week hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland. Partners engaged in workshops on microcredential development, visited local farms and enterprises, and built stronger international networks. This event provided both knowledge and inspiration, creating a shared vision for adapting microcredentials to the Malawian and Zambian higher education systems.

October 2025 – Quality and Planning Ahead

In October, partners focused on quality assurance and forward planning. Deliverable D5.1, the Quality Control and Impact Assessment Plan, was reviewed with input from all partners. Attention also turned to the design of online training sessions, ensuring that the next phase of the project continues to build on strong foundations.



<https://seed.maynoothuniversity.ie/>

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY, ZAMBIA



SEED platform is now active on KNU web website

The photos and highlights from the first Transitional Partner Meeting held in Zambia, co-hosted by Kwame Nkrumah University (KNU) and Mulungushi University, are now available on the KNU SEED Project platform under the Projects section. The platform is now live and active — be sure to visit and explore!

The KNU SEED Project team also took part in the Microcredential Training Workshop hosted by Maynooth University in Ireland from 1–5 September 2025. The training combined interactive sessions with inspiring field visits to local farms, where participants gained valuable insights and practical experience. It was a truly rewarding and memorable week for the team! 🌱



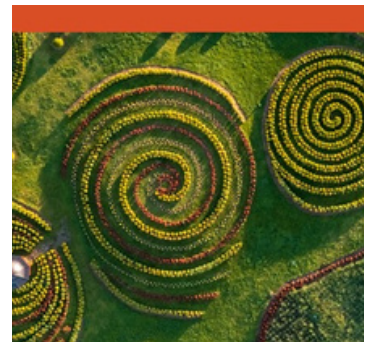
MZUZU UNIVERSITY, MALAWI



Faculty of Board members sensitized on SEED Project

As part of the ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the Capacity Building for Sustainable Community-Based Enterprise Development (SEED) Project, the Faculty Board members of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at Mzuzu University participated in a sensitization session.

The session introduced participants to the objectives, implementing partners, funding framework, duration, target beneficiaries, and project methodology. This engagement forms part of Deliverable T6.2 on Dissemination and Exploitation Activities, aimed at ensuring that key university stakeholders are informed and actively involved in the project's implementation and outcomes.



INSTITUT DE HAUTE FORMATION AUX POLITIQUES COMMUNAUTAIRES (IHF), BELGIUM



Erasmus+ Capacity Building project SEED

IHF Europe, based in Brussels, is committed to fostering innovation in education, sustainable development, and international cooperation. The organisation takes part in the Erasmus+ Capacity Building project SEED – Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development, contributing to quality assurance and dissemination activities that enhance the project's visibility and ensure its long-term impact in line with Erasmus+ standards.

