

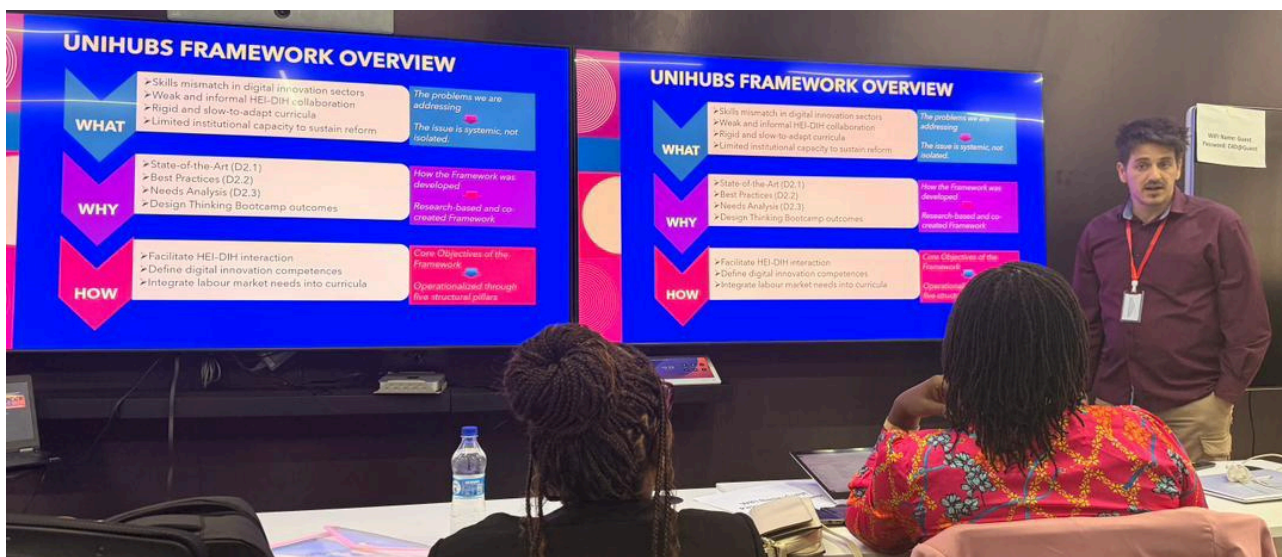


NEWSLETTER

March 2026

5th edition of the UNI HUBS Newsletter

UNI HUBS International Training and Partnership Meeting Held at the University of Nairobi, Kenya



The UNI HUBS International Training and Partnership Meeting was successfully held from 2nd to 6th March 2026 at the University of Nairobi – C4DLab, Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together project partners, educators, innovation ecosystem actors, and other key stakeholders under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education programme to strengthen collaboration, exchange knowledge, and advance the goals of the UNI HUBS Project.

For more information about our project, visit: www.unihubs.eu



The UNI HUBS consortium



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UNI HUBS is an international initiative that seeks to strengthen the capacity of Higher Education Institutions in Kenya, Ghana, and Tanzania by connecting them with Digital Innovation Hubs and European partners from the Netherlands and Greece.

The project focuses on improving the relevance of higher education to the digital innovation labour market through curriculum modernisation, innovative teaching, experiential learning, and stronger links between academia and industry.



A Week of Learning, Collaboration, and Innovation

Hosted at the vibrant innovation space of C4DLab, the five-day training and meeting provided an important platform for structured workshops, collaborative sessions, peer-learning activities, and strategic discussions. The programme created room for participants to share experiences, review project progress, reflect on achievements, and align on the next steps for implementation.

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A Week of Learning, Collaboration, and Innovation

The training centered on the broader UNIHUBS vision of fostering innovation in African Higher Education Institutions and making university education more responsive to labour market demands. In line with the project’s active learning agenda, the sessions highlighted practical, learner-centred approaches that connect academic knowledge with real-world innovation practice. These approaches include training, brokerage, placements, reflection, and refinement, all aimed at improving student employability and strengthening partnerships between universities and innovation hubs.

A major highlight of the event was the presence and leadership of Prof. Francis Nyongesa, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, who officially opened and closed the international training and meeting. His participation underscored the University of Nairobi’s commitment to innovation, digital transformation, and international academic collaboration.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Nyongesa welcomed participants to the University of Nairobi and emphasized the importance of sustained partnerships between universities, innovation hubs, and industry players in shaping a future-ready higher education system. At the closing session, he commended the partners for their active engagement, shared vision, and commitment to building stronger institutional pathways for digital skills development and innovation-driven learning.



A Week of Learning, Collaboration, and Innovation



Focus Areas of the Training

The Nairobi training reflected the key pillars of the UNIHUBS project. Discussions and learning activities drew from the project’s emphasis on experiential learning, problem-based learning, reflection cycles, and ecosystem immersion. These pedagogical foundations are central to UNIHUBS because they prepare students not only to acquire knowledge, but also to apply it in practical settings, collaborate across borders, and respond to real labour market challenges.

Participants also engaged with the evolving UNIHUBS educational framework, including the International Course (MOOC), which was designed as an interdisciplinary and practice-oriented learning programme. The MOOC includes four core modules:

- Business Development Models and Strategies
- Technology Transfer and Data-driven Innovation
- Digital Marketing Strategy and Execution
- Soft Skills Development for Digital Innovation Professionals

Together, these modules are intended to build entrepreneurial thinking, improve digital innovation competencies, strengthen employability, and support students to thrive as professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers, and innovators.

Strengthening Africa–Europe Collaboration

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One of the strongest outcomes of the meeting was the reinforcement of collaboration among African and European partners. The training created space for peer exchange on curriculum innovation, digital skills development, technology transfer, employability pathways, and action-learning models. It also deepened institutional relationships among partner universities and innovation ecosystem actors, which remain essential to the long-term sustainability of the project.

In the spirit of UNIHUBS, the event encouraged participants to think beyond conventional teaching and to embrace educational approaches that are inclusive, practical, and scalable. The discussions reaffirmed the value of brokerage events, internships, innovation challenges, service-learning, and virtual mobility as powerful tools for exposing students to real innovation ecosystems and preparing them for the future of work.



Strengthening Africa–Europe Collaboration



Looking Ahead

As the training and meeting came to a close, participants left Nairobi with renewed commitment, fresh insights, and a stronger shared sense of purpose. The event marked another important milestone in the UNIHUBS journey and reinforced the project's mission to support African Higher Education Institutions in becoming more innovative, more collaborative, and more relevant to the digital labour market.

The University of Nairobi's hosting of the event at C4DLab, together with the leadership shown by Prof. Francis Nyongesa, contributed significantly to the success of the programme. The knowledge shared, partnerships strengthened, and ideas generated during the week will continue to shape the implementation of the UNIHUBS project across partner institutions.

The UNIHUBS International Training and Partnership Meeting in Nairobi was more than a project event. It was a practical demonstration of what international cooperation, shared learning, and innovation-driven higher education can achieve. As the project moves forward, the outcomes of this training will help drive curriculum transformation, institutional capacity building, and stronger university–innovation ecosystem collaboration across Africa and Europe.