



**PRESS  
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## Implementation of “OVERSTEP pilot project (EAC-2019-0572): a joint alliance to develop a mobility scheme and share best practices between African and European VET systems”.

PONTECAGNANO FAIANO (SALERNO, ITALY)  
SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2023

**FMTS Experience SRL, a company of the FMTS Group, leading organisation in Italy in the field of transnational mobility and lifelong learning, is proud to share the initial concrete results emerging of a groundbreaking project aimed at fostering the modernization of Vocational Educational Training (VET) systems of several African regions through the international mobility of African students, recent graduates, and African/European teachers.**



**Figure 1.** 1st Transnational Partners Meeting in Pontecagnano Faiano (Italy) in November 2021.

### Details of the project

The project titled " OVERSTEP pilot project (EAC-2019-0572): a joint alliance to develop a mobility scheme and share best practices between African and European VET systems" is a comprehensive programme initiated in 2019 and planned to last until April 2024. The project was born within a transnational partnership composed of 3 European VET providers: FMTS Experience (Italy), NewDeal Institut (France) and ForMalta (Malta/Spain) and 11 African VET School/training providers of the following African countries:

**BENIN** – Lycée Technique, Tertiaire et Industriel de Djakotomey (Benin)

**CAMEROON** – Institut Supérieur d’Agriculture et de Gestion D’Obala and Institut Supérieur des Sciences Agronomiques de l’Environnement et de l’Entrepreneuriat Rural

**CAPO VERDE** – Escola Basica e Secundária “Olavo Moniz”

**GABON** – Lycée Forestier et agricole “Maurice Betote”

**IVORY COAST** – Lycée Professionnel Hôtelier D’Abidjan

**KENIA** – Thika College of Banking and Accountancy

**NIGERIA** – Federal University of Technology Akure – F.U.T.A. Secondary School

**SENEGAL** – Ecole National de Formation Hôtelière et Touristique “Cheikh Amala Sy”

**SOUTH AFRICA** – Unicom Agricultural Secondary School

**TUNISIA** – Lycée Agricole de Thibar





**Figure 2.** Students and graduates from Cameroon and Tunisia at the headquarters of FMTS Experience, Pontecagnano Faiano (Italy)

The general aim of the project is that of contributing to the exchange of good practices between the European and African VET Schools/training providers and to act on the strengthening of the links between the African VET system and the labor market. To pursue this goal, OVERSTEP foresees the mobility of 80 African staff members, 80 European staff members, and 200 African learners (100 students and 100 recent graduates). European/African teachers will be involved in a 15-day job shadowing experience in African/European schools while the African learners will have the opportunity of a “on the job” training experience in European companies operating in the sectors of Tourism and Hotel services, Agriculture and Food Processing.

### Impacts on beneficiaries

Despite a considerable slowdown of the activities due to the Covid Pandemic since March 2020, the project has already impacted 33 African staff members, of which 21 are directly involved in the staff mobilities and 12 are accompanying teachers, 28 European staff members, and 67 African learners, of which 37 are recent graduates and 30 are students. So far, the project team has collected positive feedback and significant recognition for its efforts, from both African learners and African/ European teachers.

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*Within the framework of projects linking these two continents, indeed Overstep is the very first project of this scale to offer Europe-Africa mobility for these sectors. We have exchanged impressions and got to know better our respective countries, languages, food, music, culture, and traditions, to get rid of prejudices and find the common points that bring us together [...].*

**Carmina MARTINEZ**, teacher at CIPFP CHESTE, Valencia after visiting Thika College of Banking and Accountancy in Kenya.



**Figure 3.** The Director of the Thika College of Banking and Accountancy, Kenya, Mr. Julius M. Kahara, welcoming 3 European teachers during the 1st day of mobility in August 2023.

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*As we come to the end of our internship and return to our country, Cameroon, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the experience we have had, which will enrich our professional integration. We hope that this project will continue to perpetuate the cooperation between Italy and Cameroon.*

**Donard Espoir ADIA A MBATHONGA** and **Isabelle Michelle ETE OMBOLO**, ISSAEER, Obala at the end of their mobility in Battipaglia, Italy, hosted at the company FarmLab.



**Figure 4.** The Spanish teacher Maria Remedios Monserrat Ferrando from IES MARIA IBARS, Valencia, interviewed by a Kenyan student on the differences between Kenya and Spain's VET education systems.



Following, the impressions of a teacher from Nigeria, after his mobility in Bordeaux, France, in June 2023:

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*The experience is highly satisfactory. I was exposed to best practices and teaching methods in the areas covered by the project”. [...]*

Mr. **Anthony IKUYINMINU**, teacher at FUTA Secondary School, Akure, Nigeria returning from his mobility in Bordeaux, France in June 2023.

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*We have learned the Spanish language and we have had a training about teaching methodologies, that I have found very useful to enhance our teaching methods and gain time during classes.*

**Maimouna GUEYE**, teacher at ENFHT, Dakar, Senegal after her mobility in Valencia, Spain.

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*I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all my OVERSTEP colleagues for their trust and support during their fortnight of international mobility in Bordeaux. Their open-mindedness and good humour made these educational and cultural exchanges a real success for my mission with them and for the successful continuation of the Overstep exchanges.*

Mrs. **Marie-Bernadette BOULAY HAIS**, Directrice Déléguée aux Formations Professionnelles et Technologiques LYCEE LA RUCHE & CFC St Christoly Bordeaux.

**Figure 5.** A student from the Lycée Agricole de Thibar, Tunisia, who has successfully completed the Spanish language course provided during her mobility in Valencia.



**Figure 6.** The Director of the Lycée Forestier et Agricole Maurice Betote, Mr. Jean Jacques Houphouet attending the Journées Nationales des Diasporas et de l'Afrique (JNDA), during his mobility in Bordeaux, France.



**Figure 7.** Students and graduates from ENFHT in Dakar, Senegal, after a working session with European teachers.



**Figure 8.** Students and graduates from the ISAGO, Cameroon, during the 1st post-mobility dissemination event.

The results coming from the first mobilities implemented from 7 AU sending countries (Cameroon, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Senegal, South Africa, Benin, Gabon) and involving VET teachers and school staff have shown a great improvement in the skills, abilities, and potential development of internationalization activities of their sending institutions:

- 100% of participants declare to have Improved language skills and would recommend the mobility experience to colleagues.

Participants have self-assessed the potential positive impact on their sending organization as follows:

**82%** consider the possibility of using new teaching and practices at sending institution

**94%** 94% consider the possibility of creating opportunities for the launch or development of new educational activities.

**100%** 100% will be reinforcing a positive attitude of sending institution towards sending more staff on teaching assignments, job shadowing or training abroad.

**100%** 100% consider that the experience will be able to strengthen sending institution's efforts to internationalize its activities.

In the next months, local events will be organized by the partner African schools, to share results, experiences, best practices and opportunities related to mobility programs for VET students, graduates, teachers and staff.

**For further information about the project:**

**WEBSITE**  
[www.overstep.eu](http://www.overstep.eu)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
 