Towards Open Science Communities development in Sub-Saharan Africa Region – OSCAR 2.0

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Presentation Outline

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Introduction

- OSCAR 2.0 project aims to foster the effective digital transformation of education and science in the Partner Countries (PCs) of Zambia and Botswana to develop digital infrastructure and connections, where heightened reliability, capacity and security will support regional economic integration by boosting engagement of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in implementation of Open Science principles and values in each Partner Country.

- The project`s impact will be sustained through developed integrative Open Science environment and research operational framework. Its primary outcome will be the development of Open Science infrastructure, including platforms and hubs, along with nurturing human capital through training of researchers in methodologies, competencies, and knowledge, particularly focusing on early-stage researchers. Additionally, the project will work towards implementing efficient institutional policies and standards to support Open Science initiatives.

- At the end of OSCAR 2.0 project, we expect to tackle the main challenges taking into consideration national, institutional, and individual levels. This way, the competitiveness level of HE and research in each PC will be raised based on the development of OS principles. This will improve the quality and significance of HEIs in society as poles of excellence and increased standards.

What is Open Science?

- Open Science is about making scientific research, data, and dissemination accessible to all levels of an inquiring society, to enable **the openness, enhancement, and reuse of knowledge**.

- It encompasses all stages of the research cycle, including the conception, design, running, analysis, and dissemination of results.

- It also emphasizes **collaboration, data sharing, and the transparent and open exchange of ideas**, including peer review and evaluation of findings. Open Science is a form of open collaboration that amplifies the impact of research and encourages more efficient uses of resources. (EPFL, 2024)

Strategic Objectives

- **SO1:** To promote Open Science culture and build national and university.

- **SO2:** To enhance university transition for sustainable Open Science practices.

- **SO3:** To advance university Open Science infrastructure.

- **SO4:** To embed Open Science in university policies and to advance national regulatory framework.

4 Pillars ↔OSCAR 2.0

- **BUILDING NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONSENSUS ON OPEN SCIENCE**

BOOST INCLUSIVE, RESPONSIBLE AND COLLABORATIVE OPEN SCIENCE ECOSYSTEM in each PC. Within the WP will be prepare a large collection and analyses of relevant statistical data on OS implementation at national level and engagement of HEIs and civil society in OS.

- **UNIVERSITY TRANSITION TO OPEN SCIENCE PRACTICES**

REFORMING UNIVERSITY OPEN SCIENCE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, will contribute to advance OS regulatory framework of each PCHEI in order to strengthen effective, inclusive, and responsible digital transformation of education and science at institutional level.

- **EMBEDDING OPEN SCIENCE IN INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES** ADVANCING UNIVERSITY OPEN SCIENCE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRACTICES by bolstering OS infrastructure development and embedding OS courses in existing formal and informal curriculum (by designing new Lifelong Learning courses).

- **CITIZEN OF SCIENCE**

FOSTERING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY MECHANISMS IN SCIENCE will be establishment of Science Shops 2.0 (Open Science & Citizen Science Communities) in each PCHEIs

Approach- Mixed

- Mobility
- Curricula
- Research
- Blended Training – Workshops
- Educational Activities
- Dissemination

Deliverables

D1.1. Project Management Handbook

D1.2. Project Brand Book

D1.3. Project webpage

D2.1. Operational plan

D2.2. Monitoring & Evaluation Manual

D2.3. Progress report

D2.4. Final external evaluation report

D3.1. Open Science Country profiles

D4.1. Open Science infrastructure development plan

D4.2. Open Science formal and informal curriculum

D5.1. University Open Science policies

D6.1. SCIENCE SHOP 2.0 Handbook

D7.1 Dissemination and Exploitation strategy

D7.2 Sustainability and impact maximisation report

The Partners

BE NR/AE	BE/TP name	Acronym	Country
BE 001	University of Zambia	UNZA	ZM
BE 002	University of Barotseland	UBL	ZM
BE 003	Botho University	BOTHO	BW
BE 004	University of Botswana	UB	BW
BE 005	Joint Minds Consult	JMS	BW
BE 006	Botswana Institute for Technology Research and	BITRI	BW
BE 007	International School for Social and Business Stu	ISSBS	SL
BE 008	European Policy Development and Research Ins	EPDRI	SL
BE 009	Deggendorf Institute of Technology	DIT	DE
BE 010	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	VU	NL

Funding & Budget

OSCAR 2.0 is a project funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme, with ten institutions in five participating countries

S/N	COO	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	AMOUNT (€)
1	BEN	University of Zambia	Zambia	**134 327.00**
2	BEN	University of Barotseland	Zambia	**108 832.00**
3	BEN	Botho University	Botswana	**105 738.00**
4	BEN	Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation	Botswana	**34 024.00**
5	BEN	Joint Minds Consult	Botswana	**37 491.00**
6	BEN	University of Botswana	Botswana	**103 596.00**
7	BEN	Deggendorf Institute of Technology	Germany	**58 632.00**
8	BEN	European Policy Development and Research Institute	Slovenia	**100 471.00**
9	BEN	International School for Social and Business Studies	Slovenia	**50 405.00**
10		Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands	**66 431.00**
			TOTAL (EUR)	**799 947.00**

UNZA Launches Open Science Project with EU and Partner Institutions

Conclusion -Impact

- The Impact – are many. Apart from overall project impact

- UNZA is the overall coordinator of the project – shows trust in our institutions and government

- Mobility – movement of people between and amongst the countries

- Exchange of ideas between various institutions

- Strengthened collaborations between our institution

- Bonds, Friendships created between the peoples of Africa and Europe; this is the real impact.

- Thank you to the EU for making it possible for us to make these lasting friendship