

African BlendEd Course: novel pedagogies boosting employability and socio-economic prosperity

Konstantinos Karampidis¹, Giorgos Papadourakis¹, Nuno Escudeiro²

¹Hellenic Mediterranean University
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Heraklion, Crete 71410, Greece
{karampidis@hmu.gr}
{papadour@hmu.gr}

²Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto
Porto, Portugal
{nfe@isep.ipp.pt}

Abstract: Developing curricular activities involving students from different countries and disciplines, collaborating as a team to complete projects that generate relevant outputs to the local communities, improves students' enthusiasm as well as core competences for the labour market such as teamwork, entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and communication skills. African BlendEd Course (ABC) is a three year's European funded project which main objective is to address and enhance the aforementioned competences. The project's consortium comprises of eleven partners coming from seven countries. The project continues the succesfull cooperation -since 2008- among European universities -also participating to ABC- who created and kept developing the BlendEd project. The purpose of the ABC BlendEd project is to empower African universities in the area of Agriculture to setup and run such courses and to escalate the model to other areas in Africa. The objectives of the project are to foster student employability and generate added value to the local communities, stimulate the adoption of BlendEd courses by its key stakeholders, students, teachers, and beneficiary companies and promote multiplier effects to mainstream the adoption of BlendEd courses in Africa.