



BlendedED

**ABC Project: Transforming Education Through Collaboration and
Community Innovation**

**Konstantinos Karampidis, Giorgos Papadourakis, Giorgos Kornaros
Hellenic Mediterranean University, Crete Greece**



**African Blended Course to build bridges!
A project course unit empowering students to the labour
market.**

“A well-established model to enhance education, cultural awareness & employability”

imec istart

Interdisciplinary international student teams are working together, both physically and virtually, for a period of 4 months in collaboration with startup founders as real clients in the field.

The projects focus on developing a working proof-of-concept for a challenge from a company, including a Marketing & Business Plan.



imec istart



ADVANTAGES FOR STUDENTS

- ✓ Develop & enhance your personal and professional **competences**
- ✓ Work in an exciting **multicultural, multidisciplinary** environment
- ✓ Get experience in working within a **remote team**
- ✓ Gain **international contacts, partnerships** and strengthen your **international network**
- ✓ Promote **teamwork and communication skills** in international context
- ✓ Find your **talent**
- ✓ Boost your **employability**
- ✓ Overcome **international mobility** barriers

Course plan in three stages

A - PREPARATION

1. New edition organization (September)
2. Call for challenges (Praxis platform, companies, October)
3. Select challenges according to learning outcomes and available competences
4. Invite students (November till December)
5. Select students (December, January)
6. Invite supervisor teachers
7. Create teams
8. Kick-off logistics (prep phase, f2f meeting, travel and accommodation, January).

B - DEVELOPMENT

1. Launch the course edition (early February)
2. Preparatory phase (2 weeks before kick-off): team website (who we are), cultural stereotypes
3. Kick-off meeting (**physical**, 5 working days, end of February): team building, know the client and the challenge, know the team, know the ECTS-budget, organize work and tools, seminars / workshops (agile development, intercultural team work, ...), pitch and discuss proposal with the client, peer evaluation round 1
4. Team work at a distance, at home institution (**virtual**): regular meetings online, groupware platforms, distributed development environment
5. Peer evaluation round 2 (mid-term, April)
6. Closing logistics (closing f2f meeting, travel and accommodation, March/April).

C - CLOSURE

1. Closing meeting (**physical**, 5 working days, end of June): finalize deliverables (product, business plan, marketing campaign, ...), pitch and discussion with teachers and client representatives, peer evaluation round 3, assessment, give grades
2. Course edition debriefing: things to improve, preliminary organization of next edition
3. Final dinner.

ABC Blended Aim & Objectives

- The aim 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.

ABC Blended - Workplan

The ABC BlendEd work plan is organized in three technical work units (Design, Implement and Mainstream) plus a project management unit.

The Design unit is devoted to analysing the specific circumstances of the African higher education market and design a BlendEd course by adapting the model currently in use in Europe; it delivers the course syllabus and didactic materials.

At the Implement unit we will run three pilot editions of the course. Implement is intertwined with Design in an iterative and incremental process to design, pilot, evaluate and adapt the BlendEd course during three academic years aiming to have it fine-tuned to the Africa reality. Mainstream focuses on dissemination and assuring sustainability.

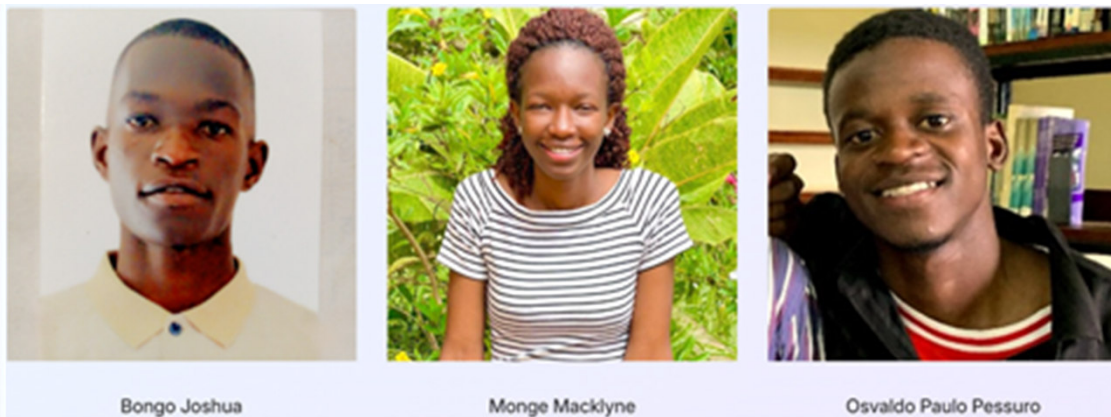
ABC Blended - Results

In three years, we expect to have an effective BlendEd course running and generating relevant outputs in the field of agriculture, 10 examples of sound results produced by the course and transferred to the local communities, an active Community of Practice developing the BlendEd paradigm in Africa.

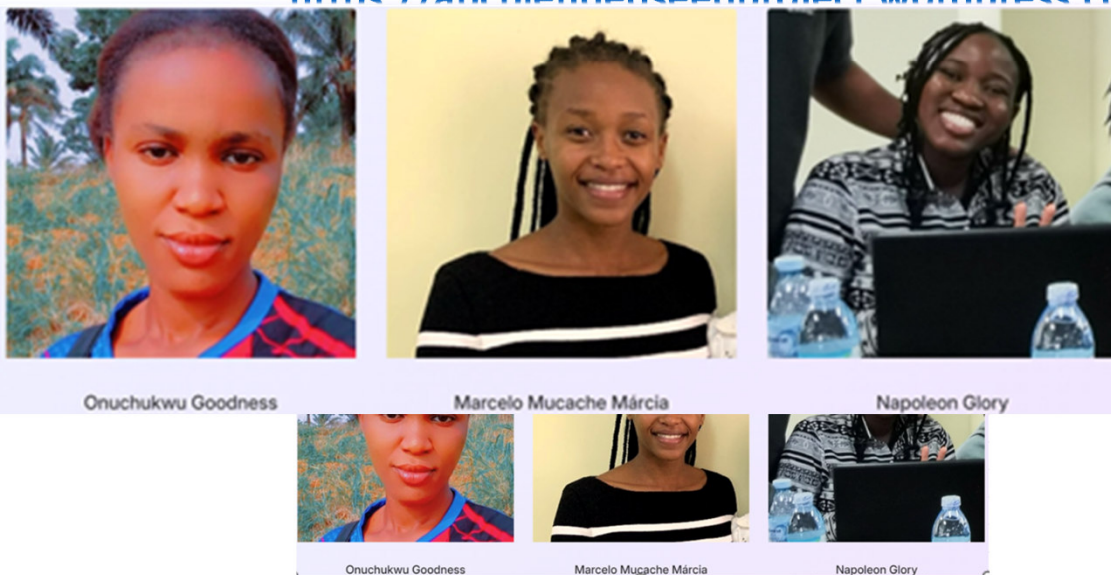


BlendedED

2023-24
projects



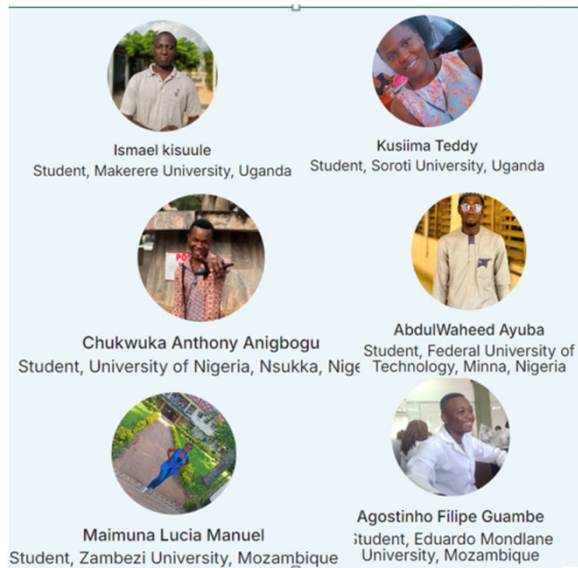
<https://abchlandseedproject.wordpress.com/>



2023-24 projects

WASTE

<https://pigandpoultrywastemanagement1.wordpress.com/gallery-page-explore-our-waste-management-gallery/>



2024-25 projects

Removal of Astringent Taste from Cashew Nuts (Nigeria)

- **Challenge:** Enhancing the market value and consumer appeal of cashew nuts by eliminating their natural astringent taste, a common barrier to consumption.
- **Solution:** Developed advanced processing techniques, including heat treatment and natural enzyme applications, to remove astringency while preserving nutritional value.
- **Impact:** Improved market acceptance by 50% and increased local farmer income by 20%. Aimed at scaling production for export markets.
- **Duration:** January 2025 – December 2025
- **Team:** Grace, Joab, Rachel, Jeremiah, Leticia



2024-25 projects

Land Suitability Analysis for Oil Palm and Cassava (Nigeria)

- **Challenge:** Identifying optimal land for oil palm and cassava cultivation to maximize agricultural productivity and support farmer livelihoods.
- **Solution:** Implemented GIS-based mapping and soil analysis to determine suitable regions, providing detailed reports to farmers and agricultural cooperatives.
- **Impact:** Enabled 300 farmers to optimize land use, increasing yields by 30%. Supports sustainable land management practices.
- **Duration:** February 2025 – November 2025
- **Team:** Latiif, Ruth, Ferro, Favour, Jorge, Merab



2024-25 projects

Improving Maize and Soybean Quantities in Angonia (Mozambique)

- **Challenge:** Enhancing the supply of maize and soybean to meet the demand of the local feed processing factory in Angonia.
- **Solution:** Introduced high-yield seed varieties and modern farming techniques, coupled with training programs for 150 farmers.
- **Impact:** Increased production by 40% and strengthened the local food supply chain. Aimed at reducing import dependency.
- **Duration:** March 2025 – October 2025
- **Team:** Simon, Felicia, Felix, Jacklin



2024-25 projects

Promoting Livestock Feed Production in Angonia (Mozambique)

- **Challenge:** Addressing the scarcity of natural pasture grasses, especially during summer when grazing lands are limited.
- **Solution:** Developed a conservation program using drought-resistant forage crops and storage techniques for year-round feed availability.
- **Impact:** Reduced livestock mortality by 15% and improved milk production by 25% for 200 herders.
- **Duration:** April 2025 – December 2025
- **Team:** Chelsea, Bedan, Specioza, James





BlendedED

Thank you