



INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA

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Office of the Executive Secretary



Our ref/

18th November 2022

IUCEA, Member Universities/Institutions

Dear Vice Chancellor, Rectors, Provost, Principals, Directors

RE: TRAINING ON DIGITAL SKILLS FOR UNIVERSITIES

IUCEA in partnership with the German Agency for International Corporation (GIZ) is implementing a training program on, “Digital skills for Universities in times of the Covid 19 pandemic” in the East African Community (EAC) countries. The initiative is premised on the understanding that Covid 19 pandemic has adversely affected the education systems in the East African Community. Lockdowns in several EAC Partner States led to the disruption of study programs and teaching because the universities were largely unable to quickly adapt to the new situation and to virtual teaching or learning, which requires didactic competencies. It has also been noted that most universities could not adopt and/or integrate tools such as the open-source versions of Learning Management Systems (LMS) into their Information Technology infrastructure to aid in virtual teaching and learning. While the Covid 19 pandemic brought to the fore the need to prepare for such emergencies, it has reinforced the need to embrace digital solutions and virtual learning in higher education as the emergent norm.

As one of the interventions, a Digital Skills training has been initiated to contribute equip the EAC universities with the requisite skills necessary for building capacities and competencies for online learning and teaching. The training will be done between January to July 2022 and it will include: online didactics and digital tools; open-source systems for online teaching; e-resources; online formative and summative assessments; quality assurance and installation and integration of learning management systems.

In that regard, Pan Africa Christian (PAC) University, from Kenya, was competitively selected to be the consulting organization to carry out this training.

For the training to be impactful, therefore, a certain number of universities per country will be selected. At least 10 staff members per university will be trained as critical change agents in online teaching. Out of the selected universities, at least

four (4) trainees from each university shall be women. Each University will be expected to use these trainees to train the rest of the university community.

Furthermore, considering the essential personnel who would be needed to bring about a sustainable transformation in a university, the following categories of personnel will guide the selection in each university:

- ✓ IT system administrator, a staff who supports online learning
- ✓ an ERP students' data support staff or equivalent, faculty members, quality assurance officer
- ✓ Either the DVC AA or Registrar Academic Affairs, and a senior library staff member

To kick start this training program, a survey to gauge interest and carry out needs assessment was found imperative to fine tune the training tools.

To express interest in the training therefore, kindly fill an online questionnaire by clicking on the link below:

<https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/m9HT3s6S> (Note: you may get this message on your task bar-- *A new version of this form has been downloaded. Refresh this page to load the updated version. Please do refresh*)

We will appreciate to receive your filled questionnaire by **Friday 3rd December, 2021 19:00 hours EAT**, for proper and timely planning. Please note that any responses received after that date and time will not be considered.

The information provided will determine the selection of the universities to be considered for the training. More details about the training will be communicated to the selected universities only. For further inquiries on this, please contact by email: exsec@iucea.org and cc: bruhinda@iucea.org, vc@pacuniversity.ac.ke

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.



Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

cc. Prof. Margaret Muthwii
Vice Chancellor - PAC University