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Press release

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**Leipzig University as a development facilitator:
Contributing to improving access to African labour markets and the Agenda 2030 global sustainability goals, through the African Centre for Career Enhancement and Skills Support (ACCESS).**

The International SEPT Program at the Leipzig University, Germany, together with six African partner universities¹ from Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tunisia, have established the *African Centre for Career Enhancement and Skills Support (ACCESS)* project. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it aims to support African universities in building a needs-based knowledge and technology transfer, to improve access to labour markets for African university graduates.

Within the next five years, the project, together with local economic and development cooperation partners and actors, will develop and implement interdisciplinary concepts to increase the employability of students and graduates from African universities. This is against the backdrop of the high² number of unemployed African university graduates, regardless of the growing number of universities for the continent's young population. The leader of the ACCESS project, Prof. Dr. Utz Dornberger, points out that “the number of African university graduates continue to increase massively over the next few years. We must, therefore, work together with our colleagues in Africa to offer young talents a professional future at their own doorstep. ACCESS can make a significant structural and methodological contribution in this regard and upscale its interventions to a network of 30 universities”.

ACCESS is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) under the “Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation (exceed)” programme. With “exceed”, the DAAD supports the establishment of international university networks on four continents with funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Seven German universities, including the University of Leipzig, will receive a total of 30.8 million Euros by 2024.

More information about ACCESS is available at <https://access-centre.org/>.

Contact: info-access@uni-leipzig.de

¹ African partner universities are IRGIB Africa University, Benin; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana; Mount Kenya University, Kenya; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; INES-Ruhengeri, Rwanda; and University of Tunis, Tunisia.

² British Council (2014): Going Global 2014. Can higher education solve Africa's job crisis? Understanding graduate employability in Sub-Saharan Africa.