

# ACCESS

*African Center for Career Enhancement and Skills Support*

## Status Quo and Outlook



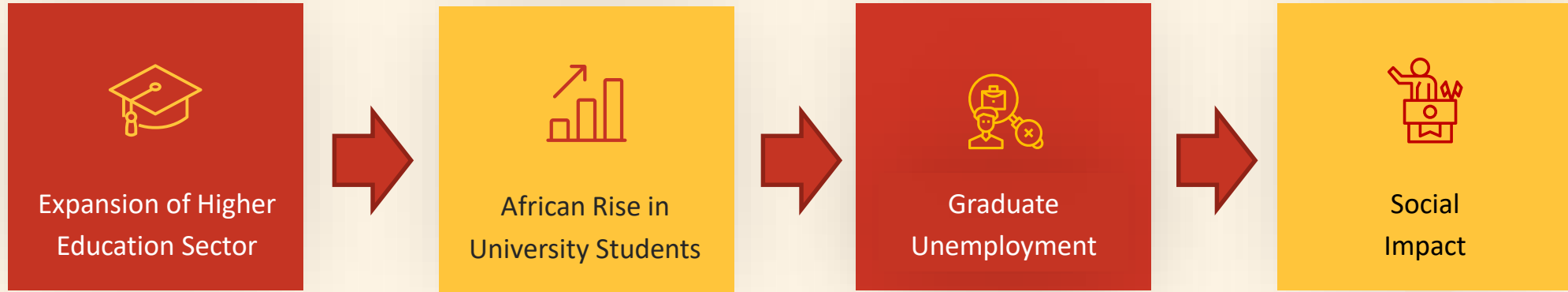
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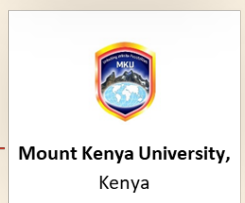
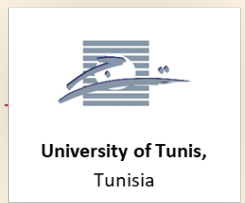
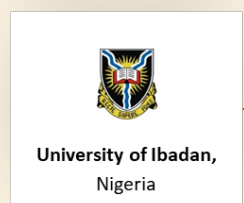
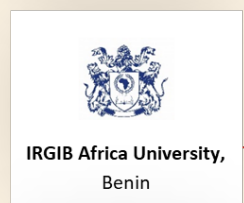
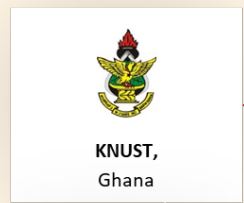
**Prof. Dr. Utz Dornberger**

Project Director, ACCESS, *Leipzig University*

# Challenges



# ACCESS Structure and Action



**Employability  
Research**



**Capacity  
Building**



**University  
Business Linkage**



**African German  
Entrepreneurship Academy**

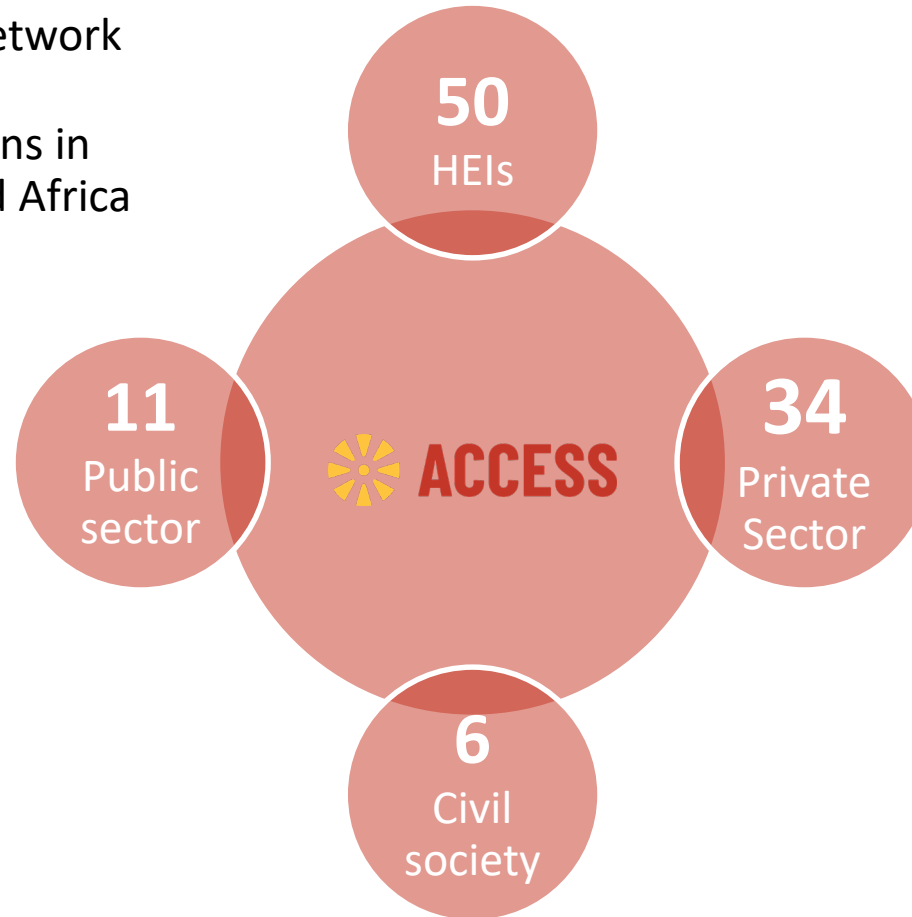
# Highlights & Achievements (2020 – 2022)



# The ACCESS Network



Growing network  
with **101**  
organisations in  
Europe and Africa



## Beneficiaries:



- **500** supported beneficiaries
- **4000** unsupported beneficiaries
  - Lecturers, researchers
  - Students (bachelor, master and PhD)
  - Private and public sector

# Employability Research

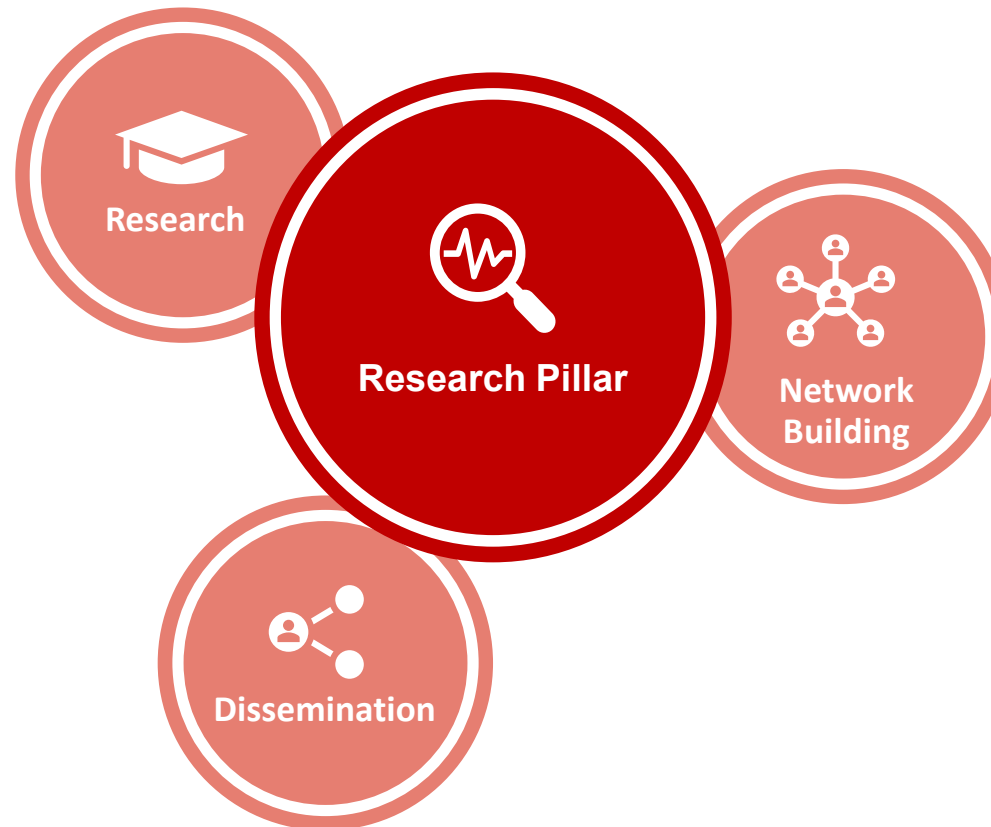


01

- 12 PhD research projects
- **Research Project:** “Getting a Job in Informal Economies in Africa”; > 1440 respondents in 6 African countries
- 47 Short-Term Fellowships

02

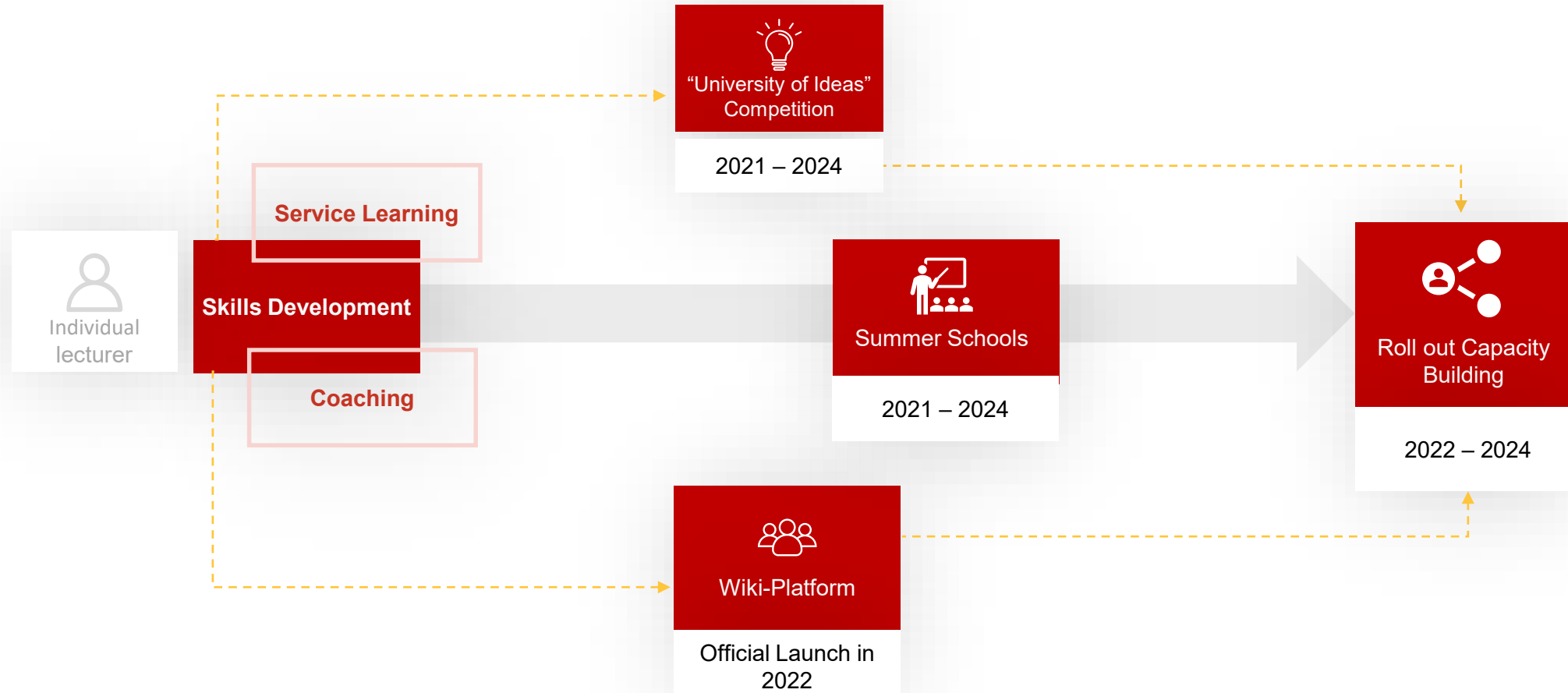
- 6 Publications
- 12 International Conferences participation in Africa and Europe



03

- **ACCESS Conferences**
  - 2021 (Online) - “Work and Economic Futures”
  - 2023 (Nigeria)

# Capacity Building



# Previous Summer Schools (2022 – 2023)



4 Summer Schools (1 Virtual | 3 in-person)



170 (30% women) direct participants



**IRGIB Africa University,**  
Cotonou, Benin  
March/April 2022



**Kwame Nkrumah University of Science  
and Technology (KNUST),** Kumasi, Ghana  
May 2022



**Mount Kenya University**  
Thika and Nairobi, Kenya  
May 2023



# Capacity Building – Wiki



[www.wiki.access-centre.org](http://www.wiki.access-centre.org)

The screenshot shows the ACCESS Wiki interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Sort' dropdown menu set to 'Name'. Below this, the content is organized into 'Shelves'. Each shelf has a red header with a book icon, a title, a brief description, and a small icon indicating when it was created and updated. The shelves are numbered 1 through 8:

- 1. Start**: This is an area with information how to start working with the ACCESS WIKI. Created 2 years ago, Updated 10 months ago.
- 2. Collaboration and Teamwork**: Collaboration and teamwork are important capabilities required in the labour market. Therefore, this bookshelf provides an deeper... Created 2 years ago, Updated 1 year ago.
- 3. Communication Skills Development**: We communicate in every situation, even without words. We almost never work completely alone - even if it is remote. We need to... Created 1 year ago, Updated 1 year ago.
- 4. Innovation Skills**: Innovative Thinking is an important capability required in the labour market. Therefore, this bookshelf provides an deeper insight... Created 2 years ago, Updated 1 year ago.
- 5. Intercultural Competence...**: This book shelf deals with the development of intercultural competences at a university setting. Emphasis is given to tools whi... Created 2 years ago, Updated 1 year ago.
- 6. Entre- and Intrapreneurial Skills...**: When undertaking their trainings, individuals have in mind creating their own businesses or using the creative faculties for th... Created 2 years ago, Updated 10 months ago.
- 7. Digital Tools**
- 8. E-Coaching and E-**

01 Collaboration and Teamwork

02 Communication Skills

03 Innovation Skills

04 Intercultural Competences

05 Entre- and Intrapreneurial Skills

06 Digital Tools

07 E-Coaching and E-Teaching

# University Business Linkages (UBL)



## Knowledge Commercialization

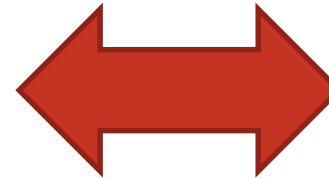
- Patenting/Licensing
- Academic entrepreneurship

## Talent Transfer

- Internships
- Service learning
- Joint curriculum development
- Further Education/Training

## Academic Engagement

- Contract research
- Collaborative research
- Consulting



## Development of Transfer Strategies

**Development of UBL Structures**  
(TT Offices, Entrepreneurship Centers, Career Services, etc.)

**Staff Development for Creation and Management of UBLs**

# University Business Linkages (UBL)



## Research & Consulting

Development of tailor-made transfer strategies for key partners

Identification of UBL and Career Enhancement activities

Employment Promotion Assessment Tool



## Network

University of Ideas Competition

Train of Trainer + roll-out regional HEIs networks

Identification of International project funding within UBL



6 University Transfer Strategies + 20 UBL Measures

# “University of Ideas” Competition



**Innovative ideas** that stimulate the development of new formats and digital tools in education, university-business linkages, and career enhancement.



Lecturers or academic staff at a university in the Global South



You can participate as a single person or as a team.



**1000 €** for three (3) winning ideas. Integration into IN4IN network, where feasible.

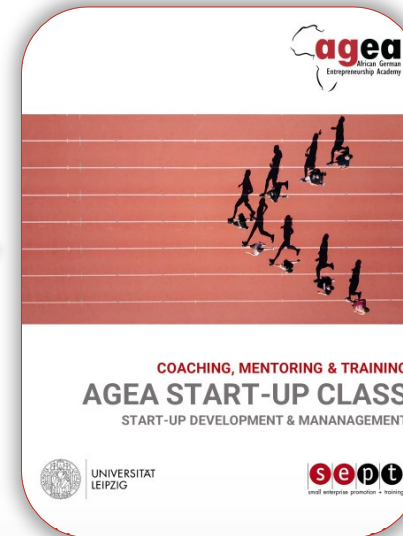


[www.access-centre.org/idea-competition](http://www.access-centre.org/idea-competition)

## Results 2020 – 2022

- **131** participants (lecturers and professors)
- **> 40** universities
- **16** countries in the global south
- **9** Winners (Benin, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Vietnam)
- Strengthened contact within the growing network beyond the geographic scope of ACCESS.

# Entrepreneurship Promotion at African HEIs



Supporting African HEIs to develop systems/measures for promoting academic entrepreneurship

[www.ageacademy.de](http://www.ageacademy.de)



# AGEA Business Idea Competition



**30 Countries**



**434 Business Ideas**



**9 winners**

Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda, Namibia and Kenya



**> 50,000 € Prizes**

## Past Winners



**2021**  
REALNUTRI Rice Flour, Kyambogo University, Uganda

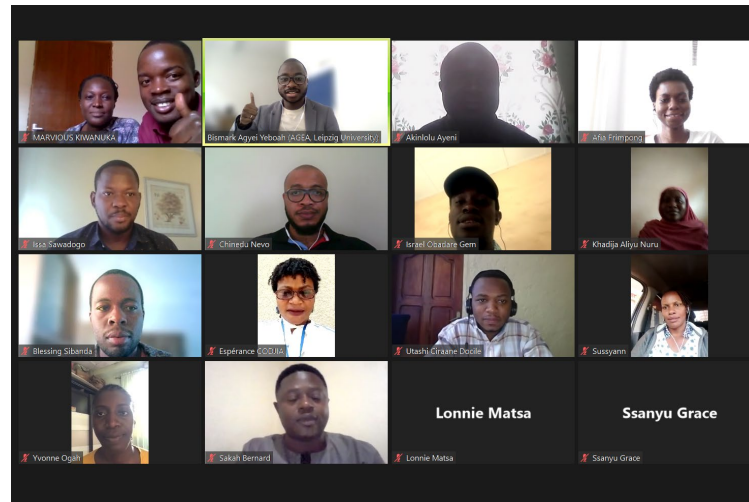
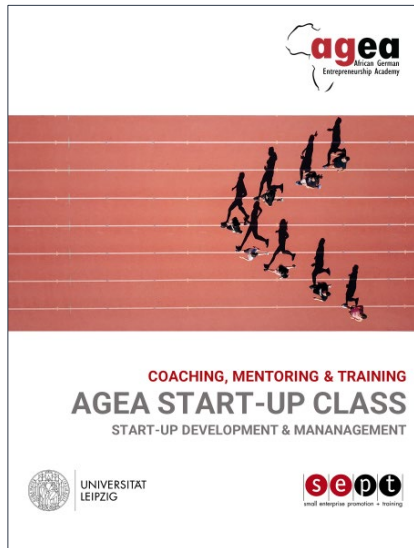


**2022**  
WAH Insecticide, University for Development Studies, Ghana



**2023**

# AGEA Start-Up Class



- 10 weeks online training “Innovative Business Model Development”
- 2 Editions held (2022 & 2023)
- 20 start-up project teams (students, lecturers and researchers) participated
- 10 African universities (Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda).

# Outlook (2023 – 2024)

# Outlook 2023/2024



## Employability Research



- **Research Conference** in Tunisia (2024)
- **Handbook** Employability Research in Africa
- **Research Book** on Informal Jobs Profiles



## Capacity Building



- **ToT** in E-Coaching and Activating Teaching Methods
- Expand use and further development of **Wiki**



## University Business Linkage



- **University of Ideas Competition** 2023/24
- Transfer **Workshop Series**
- Employability Promotion **Assessment Tool**



## African German Entrepreneurship Academy



- **Start-up Class** 2023 and 2024
- **Business Idea Competition** 2024

# Spin-Off Projects



- Creating resilient logistics and supply chains through digital solutions
- October 2022 – December 2025
- 3 Partners: Germany, Ghana, and Tunisia



## International Credit Mobility



- PhD and Young research Short-term Scholarships
- Accepted proposal for 2023-2026
- 5 Partners: Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda



## Western African Green Medicine



- Introductory project financed by German Ministry for Research and Education
- Creation of Start-ups in Plant-based Medicine using German Funding





# New Proposals



## More Entrepreneurial Life Southern Africa



- Proposal to Erasmus CBHE
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Blue Economy in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 8 Partners: Poland, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG

NELSON MANDELA  
UNIVERSITY



University of Fort Hare  
Together in Excellence



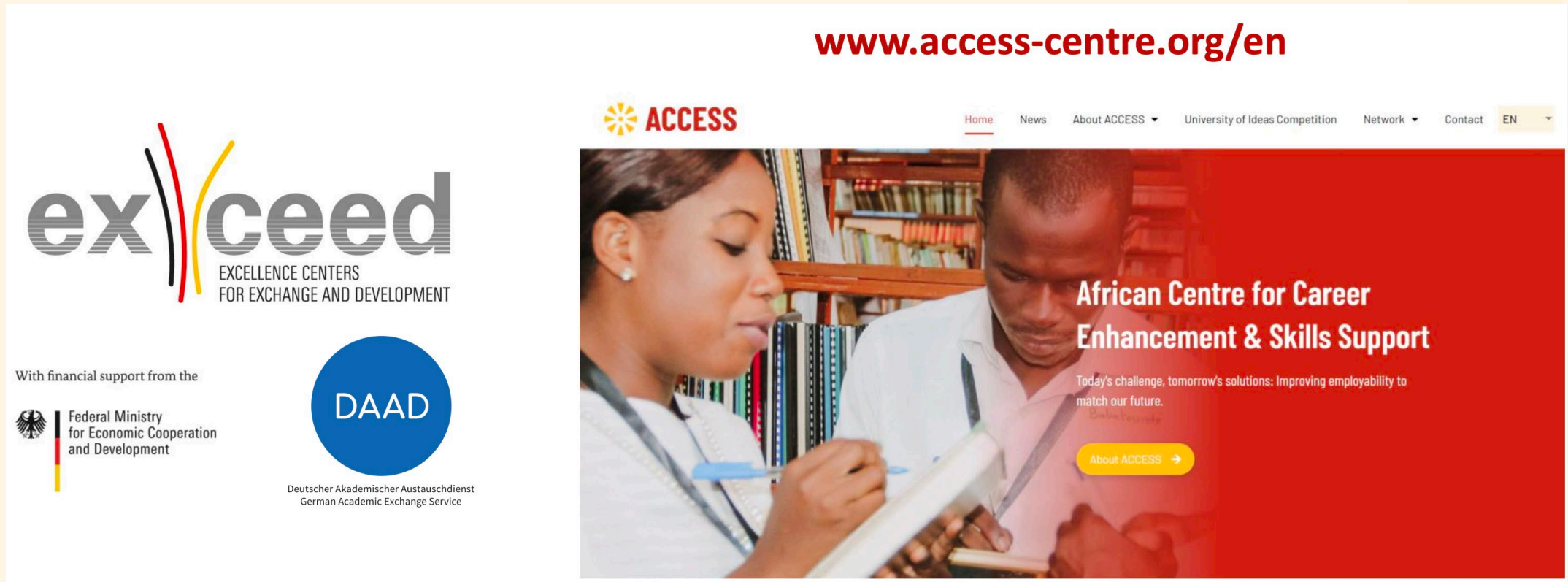
TAKORADI  
TECHNICAL  
UNIVERSITY



Pwani  
UNIVERSITY



# The ACCESS Project




[www.access-centre.org/en](http://www.access-centre.org/en)

**ACCESS**

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EXCELLENCE CENTERS  
FOR EXCHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

With financial support from the  
 Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

**DAAD**  
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

**African Centre for Career  
Enhancement & Skills Support**

Today's challenge, tomorrow's solutions: Improving employability to  
match our future.

[About ACCESS →](#)



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