



## Newsletter Article

### Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) and Makerere university “kick-off” implementation of ENRICH project in Uganda

*By Maxwell Otim Onapa and Deborah Kasule - UNCST*

The UNCST is proud to partner with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scotland), African Virtual University (Kenya) , Moi University (Kenya), Mzumbe University (Tanzania), Inter-University Council for East Africa), Directorate of Research Management and Development (Kenya), Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology to implement the ENRICH project coordinated by the University of Alicante, Spain.

Following a Kick-off meeting of the ENRICH project at the University of Alicante 24-25 February 2014, UNCST has already swung into action and pursued the following tasks.

#### 1. *Constitution of the project governance structure*

UNCST has appointed the different individuals to take up roles in the project as presented in the table below

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Position</b>
Management Board	Dr. Peter Ndemere	Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)	Executive Secretary
Quality Board	Ms. Mary Susan Aboo	College of Engineering Design, Art & Technology Makerere University	Coordinator Centre for Research in energy and Energy conservation
Project Coordinator	Dr. Maxwell Otim Onapa	UNCST	Deputy Executive Secretary
Working Group Member	Dr. Julius Ecuru	UNCST	Assistant Executive Secretary/Head S&T Management Division
Working Group Member	Ms. Deborah Kasule	UNCST	Head, S&T Outreach & Information Management Unit
Working Group Member	Mr. John Bosco Etoori	UNCST	Volunteer CAIC Division

2. *ENRICH partnership Agreement*

As part to the requirement for the project implementation, UNCST has already signed a partnership agreement with the University of Alicante.

3. *The national Kick-off meeting*

UNCST and Makerere University, its national partner held a successful local version of the project kick-off meeting in Makerere University on the 26 June 2014. The meeting was hosted by the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Ernest Okello Ogwang.

The meeting brought together Project coordinators of the respective partner institutions and working group members, namely: Dr. Maxwell Otim Onapa (UNCST), Associate Prof. Gerald Eilu (Makerere University), Dr. Julius Butime (Makerere University), Dr. Samuel Bagabo (Integrated Rural Development Initiative), Ms. Deborah Kasule (UNCST) and Ms. Lillian Tukahirwa (Makerere University). Partners discussed progress in project implementation, clarified roles and agreed on timelines and strategies for optimizing institutional resources to ensure success of the project.

We captured one of the moments of the meeting as shown in the picture below.



**Some of the members of UNCST & Makerere University ENRICH project implementation teams pose for a photograph after the 1<sup>st</sup> joint partners' meeting which took place in office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics' office**

During the meeting it was noted that project implementation was on-going with no major challenges. The UNCST team reported that the data collection tool was tested on selected stakeholders in June 2014 and that they had already embarked on collecting data on the Status of STI activities and Management in Uganda. They however noted that the pilot exercise was a bit

challenging because many of the energy sector stakeholders don't have access to internet, while others found challenges in self-administration of the questionnaire.

*Way forward*

UNCST observes a need for a more user-friendly format that is flexible enough to administer in hardcopy, as e-mail attachment, or telephone interview. This suggestion has been shared with partners at African Virtual University who have administrative rights over the instrument and it will hopefully be resolved shortly.