

The Power of the Network



Why SARUA?

Our growing network of over 60 members offers a dynamic membership proposition centred on coordinated collaboration for innovation and sensemaking. Rooted in our conviction that SADC higher education institutions need to be engaged with their societal contexts, we work together as a peer-led network in communities of practice to develop the capacity of our members to be responsive to regional development needs, and to embrace change with agility and resilience.



Our Value Proposition:

- Cultivating a 'global-local' mindset promoting south-south-north dialogue and collaboration and integrating international best practices.
- Promoting engagement through the co-production of relevant knowledge.
- Fostering leadership and professional development.
- Providing an inclusive space for innovation, capacity development, and best practice exchange.
- Serving as a trusted partner in regional projects, securing grants, and implementing initiatives.
- Promoting efficiency through effective operational systems.



Our Strategic Focus Areas:

- Knowledge Co-Production
- Leadership and Professional Development
- Institutional Quality Management
- Higher Education Digital Transformation



Membership Benefits:

- Embedding internationalisation initiatives within global and regional contexts.
- Shaping a shared agenda for regional development.
- Contributing to peer-led capacity development programmes and discussions.
- Accessing a regional higher education management information system.
- Establishing direct linkages to global higher education networks.

Our Track Record:

- Producing planning and position papers for informed decision-making. For example, our report on engagement (<https://b69743.n3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Participatory-Approaches-to-achieve-sustainable-development-goals-in-SADC-HEIs.pdf>).
- Coordinating the development of climate change curriculum materials by regional experts – available on our website for use by any SADC higher education institution. (<https://sarua.africa/sarua-climate-change-and-sustainable-development-capacity-programme/>).
- Contracted by the GIZ to support the development of a regional programme in Industrial Pharmacy (<https://sarua.africa/industrial-pharmacy/>).
- Conducting studies on regional priorities and institutional capacity. For example, our report on the State of Play on Internal Quality Assurance (<https://b69743.n3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/State-of-Play-of-Internal-Quality-Assurance-in-the-SADC-2.pdf>).
- Advocating for higher education interests within the SADC. Example: The consultative workshop for regional vice-chancellors on the proposed SADC University of Transformation in January 2023. Examples: Our communities of practice for institutional quality management, and climate change.
- Establishing Communities of Practice for ongoing collaboration.
- Participating in regional quality assurance initiatives. We are the SADC implementation partner for the Harmonisation of Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation Initiative. (<https://sarua.africa/haqaa/>).

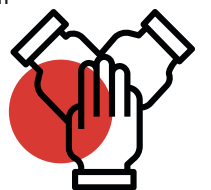


Current Initiatives:

- EngageSDG: Promoting the capacity of higher education institutions in the SADC for participatory knowledge production. An Erasmus Plus funded project – <https://sarua.africa/sdgenage/>.
- Our programme on societally impactful research, funded by the IDRC in Canada. (<https://sarua.africa/incentives-for-conducting-societally-impactful-research/>).
- Consultative process on a framework for digital transformation amongst our network members.

Future Initiatives:

- The Higher Education Reform Africa project (an Erasmus Plus proposal).
- The project on instructional design for learning and teaching innovation (an Erasmus Plus proposal).
- Offering leadership and professional development programmes for our network members.



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