



ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

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1. Introduction

OBREAL Global is an inter-regional association which unites members and partners across continents with a shared **vision**, to build sustainable South-South-North cooperation based upon reciprocity, mutual knowledge transfer, and a commitment to common global challenges. This vision is one that has evolved since the association's creation in 2006, where it first concentrated on Latin America – Europe relations. Primarily uniting in its membership of higher education institutions and associations as well as research organisations, the association has grown and shaped its vision, responding to global trends and the need for more dynamic inter-regional partnerships.

2022 has continued a period of growth and expansion, through which OBREAL has further positioned itself in the policy landscape, articulated with a robust project portfolio. OBREAL Global "Chapters" in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, India and Africa, driven by member institutions, have been further developed, albeit different in nature and in composition. These Chapters, and the inter-regional Chapter Board that has been established as a consultative body, continue to be the building blocks of the association. The inter-connectivity of them, and the 'inter-regional' agenda, remain OBREAL Global's core business.

In the course of 2022, OBREAL Global also launched further actions to promote **inter-regional dialogue** on key issues of common interest, namely on core themes as agreed by the Chapters for the 2022-2025 strategic plan: **Internationalisation of learning, digitisation, international research management and the role of universities in local development**, to name a few.

The following is the second Annual Activity Report that OBREAL Global has published, which takes stock of actions that OBREAL Global has taken with members and partners, notably in three principles areas: Knowledge Production, Capacity Building and Inter-regional Policy Dialogue. The report also provides an overview of new members which have joined the association and brief summaries of ongoing projects.



1.1 Mission, values and objectives

Coherent with 2021, OBREAL Global continues to deliver upon its mission, defined values and objectives:

Mission

- Promote dialogue and synergies between the governmental, academic and social sectors, taking into account the specificities and heterogeneity of each region of the world;
- Build inter-regional, South-South-North and global bridges to enhance development in the higher education and research sectors, specifically through multi-regional collaborative projects.

Vision

- Facilitate and achieve sustainable South-South-North cooperation based on reciprocity, mutual knowledge transfer and commitment to common global challenges.

Underpinning this are four values, which form the principles by which the association engages in knowledge production and projects: Innovation, Inclusiveness, Diversity and Sustainability.



2. Activities 2022

2.1 Interregional Dialogue

With international travel opening up in 2022 after an intense period of cooperation primarily conducted in a virtual setting, OBREAL took advantage of hybrid formats and physical conferences to organize inter-regional dialogue activities.

The approach in 2022 primarily entailed **complementing and synergizing with major higher education and policy-oriented frameworks**, such as those of the European Union and of UNESCO. These initiatives a) promoted inter-regional dialogue on specific themes linked to the OBREAL Global project portfolio, and b) served to connect members and strategic partners around a broader policy agenda and feature distinct perspectives from the global South(s). Finally, OBREAL Global was honoured to **host in Barcelona the annual forum of the 'Donor Harmonisation Group (DHG)'**, a grouping of agencies and organisations that fund and advocate programmes for higher education in development cooperation.

2.1.1 Pre-event of the Africa-EU-Week / Africa-Europe: Enhancing Higher Education Systems through Regional and Inter-Regional Approaches

Co-hosted by OBREAL and the European University Association (EUA), this virtual dialogue event was an official pre-event of the Africa-EU Summit, organised during the EU's 'Africa Week'. It shared distinct experiences and examples of Africa-EU higher education collaboration, but also pointed to the importance of further investment in enabling frameworks and capacity building at various levels. In view of what was the upcoming Africa-EU Summit, it recalled the commitment of the EU-Africa Partnership's 2018 Abidjan statement for growth, development and equity. It drew upon the Abidjan commitment to meet global and local challenges by prioritising education and research.

The event traced the wealth of cooperation that has ensued in the sector since Abidjan and charted the course for the next phase, notably in promoting the inherent linkages between higher education and other policy areas, such as research, trade and sustainable development, and the role of regional and continental policy frameworks.

Highlighted themes were:

- Regional/continental higher education reform processes in Africa and Europe, and the opportunities for learning from each respective process;
- Development of regional approaches for quality assurance and recognition, as an essential driver for the relevance and pertinence of higher education and enabler for intra- and interregional collaboration and mobility.

2.1.2 Side Events to the WHEC: The role of development cooperation and higher education in interregional South-South-North cooperation

2.1.2.1. Cocktail and panel discussion on universities and the SDGs

In the framework of the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), on 17 May, OBREAL – in cooperation with German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Latin American Higher Education Space (ENLACES) and the Association of African Universities (AAU) – organized a cocktail and panel debate on “Higher education and the SDGs: inter-regional perspectives” at the University of Barcelona Historic Building and Gardens.

While it is unanimously recognized that higher education institutions are major contributors to most SDGs - through teaching, research and outreach to society -, the way this is understood, implemented and assessed by the higher education sector varies greatly across different parts of the world. The goal of the event was three-fold:

- 1) Shed light on the different visions for the relationship between higher education and the SDGs, as seen from different world regions and their representative higher education organisations;
- 2) Share, in a very pragmatic manner, some of the most current initiatives related to how the higher education sector is embracing and contributing to the SDGs, and how this is measured.
- 3) Provide an interregional networking space around this important issue.

Panelists from OBREAL and partner organisations (ENLACES, DAAD, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the African and Malagashy Council for Higher Education (CAMES) and Universities Caribbean) shared their perspectives with over 150 participants from around the globe, present in Barcelona for the UNESCO WHEC.

2.1.2.2. Virtual Dialogues on Open Science with EU-LAC Foundation

As part of its work plan for the South American Chapter and related to a transversal thematic work area, OBREAL and the EU-LAC Foundation co-organised virtual dialogues on Open Science. This intended to provide training and capacity building on topics such as data management, the new generation of bibliometrics, editing and indexation of scientific journals, and management of institutional data repositories and research results.

The activity was coordinated closely with UNESCO, GUNI, CSUCA, the Ministry of Science and Technology in Argentina, LINED, Red de Repositorios de Acceso Abierto a la Ciencia, IAI Berlin and the Generalitat de Catalunya. The objective was to stimulate reflection on trends and political instruments for Open Science and create pathways for implementation in Latin America and Europe.

2.1.3 Hosting of the Donor Harmonisation Group (DHG) for Higher Education

OBREAL was proud to host the annual [Donor Harmonisation Group \(DHG\) Forum 2022](#) from 23-25 November. The forum brought together **prominent agencies, international organisations and associations dedicated to supporting and funding higher education in development cooperation.**

OBREAL worked closely with the Hk-Dir of Norway, a DHG Steering Committee member, to define the theme and programme related to 'Creating Reciprocal, Mutually Beneficial Partnerships to Address Local and Global Challenges'.

Over 90 participants from over 30 organisations and agencies joined the meeting, including OBREAL strategic partners such as the DAAD and OBREAL Inter-Chapter Board Members (AAU, Universities Caribbean, ASCUN, CSUCA). Discussions and experiences were shared on such issues as co-designing development cooperation programmes, building capacity of partners in the global South to manage projects, and supporting higher education systems in conflict situations. A dedicated session was also organised by the European Commission, Directorate Generals INTPA (International Partnerships) and EAC (Education and Culture), on 'Team Europe' approaches in development cooperation, around which EU Member States pool capacities and resources. Finally, participating organisations discussed different ethical guidelines for effective cooperation.



The DHG Forum 2022 served as an important platform for key stakeholders to **exchange ideas, forge partnerships and collectively address pressing challenges in the field of higher education and development cooperation**. The event also facilitated the establishment of new relationships between OBREAL and key international organisations and agencies in the development cooperation field.

2.1.3.1. DHG Pre-event: The Role of Development Cooperation and Higher Education in South-South-North Interregional Cooperation

As a pre-event to the DHG Forum OBREAL, in collaboration with the [Ministry of Education of Argentina](#), the pro-tempore presidency of [CELAC](#) (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the [Generalitat de Catalunya](#), hosted on the **23rd of November** an unprecedented interregional dialogue at the prestigious Palau de Pedralbes in Barcelona. Titled “The Role of Development Cooperation and Higher Education in South-South-North Interregional Cooperation”, the event welcomed high-level government representatives from countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Mexico, Argentina, Senegal, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa, as well as delegates from the African Union Commission, Spain, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Catalonia and Norway. The Interregional Dialogue also witnessed the active participation of universities and university associations from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

Thematic issues addressed were “The necessity of South-South cooperation in higher education and research towards common challenges: Life Long Learning & Employment”, “South-South cooperation in higher education and research towards common challenges: Research & Open Science” and “Policies and frameworks for the role of the higher education sector in local and regional development: Current examples and future potential of S-S cooperation”.

Delegates expressed a commitment to hosting follow-up dialogues of the same nature and applauded the specific focus on Africa and Latin America as partners in defining higher education cooperation agendas.

2.2 OBREAL Global Regional Chapter Activities

2.2.1 India Chapter

The OBREAL Global India Chapter, constituted in May 2020 and chaired by Simbiosis International University (SIU), has primarily targeted internationalisation of Indian higher education for its focus. The Chapter launch coincided with a new Indian strategy for the internationalisation of the HE sector and was hence timely. The core objectives were defined as:

- a. Promoting South – South - North dialogue with associations and higher education organisations of different regions, to share common issues and good practices and appropriately influence policies of respective countries.
- b. Building bridges between different regions based on national priorities
- c. Adopting a synergetic approach to collaborative projects to promote digitisation in internationalisation
- d. Forging partnerships with industry associations and developing projects related to the need for upskilling.

Amongst the specific activities of the Chapter in 2022 were:

1. Programming and sponsorship of the SIU-AIU Conference on “Interregional Cooperation for Effective Internationalisation of Higher Education”: <https://symbiosis.ac.in/pdf/IHE-2022-Brochure.pdf>
2. Organising high level panel discussions in the 17th FICCI Higher Education Summit on November 17-19, held in New Delhi, India with the support of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India: **Global Destination for Higher Education: Advantage INDIA.**

2.2.2 Central America Chapter

Chaired by CSUCA, the Central American Chapter extended its 2021 workplan, focusing on three main areas of intervention:

- 1) Training and capacity building in internationalisation of the curriculum and internationalisation at home, as well as innovation in teaching.
- 2) Preparation and submission of project proposals, notably on teaching, climate change and environmental sustainability, and Open Science and scientific capacity.

3) Inter-regional dialogue and capacity building linked to Open Science

Activities in 2022 included virtual focus groups with CSUCA member universities in Central America to assess training needed and interests as it relates to digitalization and internationalization. From this experience, a virtual training programme on COIL – Collaborative Online International Learning – was prepared with experts from the University Veracruzana and ANUIES.

2.2.3 South American Chapter

Co-chaired by ASCUN and Grupo Montevideo Association of Universities (AUGM), the South America Chapter has targeted primarily two key issues:

- 1) Capacity building related to the internationalisation and digitalisation of learning
- 2) Data collection on higher education trends in Latin America

On the later, the chapter progressed with the development and piloting of a survey for a major study on *Trends in higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean* (TRESAL), targeting higher education institutions and university associations across the region. The survey was conceived by a working group of OBREAL, ASCUN, ANUIES (Mexico) and LINED Argentina, which defined questions to generate comparable university perspectives on trends shaping the higher education sector, from internationalisation, to the sustainable development goals, as well as digitalisation and teaching and learning innovation.

The objectives of TRESAL are:

- a) Generate data that supports the definition of public policy;
- b) Strengthen the role of associations as key actors in regional integration, notably by consolidating ENLACES as a central actor;
- c) Strengthening access to more objective knowledge that highlights major trends in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The survey and study has official backing from ENLACES, the Latin American Higher Education Space, and will be a concrete contribution to defining a voice for ENLACES as an articulation space and association of associations.

The survey and work plan for TRESAL's roll out were publicly presented back-to-back with OBREAL's General Assembly in the margins of the WHEC 2022, on May 17 at the University of Barcelona. The presentation marked the commencement of a pilot phase, in which the survey was tested on a sample of universities across the continent before its formal roll-out.



The first results of the TRESAL pilot were presented at FIESA – the annual conference of internationalization of higher education in Argentina, in November 2022 at the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata.

2.2.4 Caribbean Chapter

Chaired by Universities Caribbean, the Caribbean Chapter officially launched in 2022. It first appointed a steering committee, which subsequently agreed to a work plan around key themes:

- Universities and creative industries
- Climate change
- Gender balance in higher education

Amongst the activities of the Chapter in 2022 were:

- Two virtual meetings on the Steering Committee
- The organisation of a launch event and first workshop embedded within the annual 'One Caribbean Solutions' conference, tackling priority themes from an inter-regional perspective.

On the latter, the launch activity was organised in Baranquilla, Colombia, coinciding with the recent acceptance of the University Simon Bolivar into OBREAL's membership. In addition to presenting the Chapter's work plan, OBREAL organised an inter-regional panel discussion on "What can Universities do to Sustain Creative Industries", with speakers from Mozambique, Ireland, Aruba, India and Colombia: <https://obreal.org/launch-of-the-obreal-global-caribbean-chapter-at-one-caribbean-solutions-symposium/>

2.2.5 Africa Chapter

The OBREAL Africa Chapter continued to be shaped through several new project awards, and the ongoing EU service contract related to the HAQAA2 initiative (described in the project section of this report) which paved the way for MoUs between OBREAL and African regional partners and associations. The Chapter gained relevance and momentum in the lead



up to and wake of the Africa-EU Summit, which defined priorities and investments for higher education, research, innovation and regional integration.

In addition to the webinars organised to forecast and also debrief on the Africa-EU Summit (see section “Inter-regional Dialogue”), OBREAL also provided an official response to the consultation on the Africa-EU Innovation Agenda.

Other activities beyond the project portfolio included:

- Officially joining the Network of Financial and Technical Partners of CAMES, which meets annually in the margins of the Council of Ministers sessions which CAMES convenes;
- Financially supporting EAQAN – the East African Quality Assurance Network – in the commissioning of an external assessment of its functions and statutes.

2.3 Membership meetings

Regional Chapter Chairs' Meeting / Inter-Chapter Board

The Chairs of the different Regional Chapters of OBREAL Global (India, Africa, South America, Central America and the Caribbean) were gathered for a first Inter-Chapter Board meeting on 7 March, 2022. The meeting was a means to clarify the role of the Board, present specific works plans and initiatives of chapters, and table a first draft of the 2022-2025 strategic plan.

OBREAL Global General Assembly

OBREAL's 2022 General Assembly took place on 17 May in the margins of the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference in Barcelona. It was offered in a hybrid format. The OBREAL Activity Report 2021 was presented as well as the 2022-25 strategic plan. This included reflections on opportunities for interregional cooperation presented by AAU and ENLACES, both members of the Inter-Chapter Board. Examples of projects were given that feed different OBREAL strategies, in addition to the outputs of the Vita Global project, as a flagship project for inter-regional cooperation.

OBREAL European Partners and Members meeting in Tarragona

OBREAL invited its European members to a second annual meeting, on 7 November, in the margins of the Vita Global final conference hosted by the Universitat Rovira I Virgili in Tarragona. Following up upon the first European members meeting which took place at University College Cork in 2021 in the wake of the pandemic, the meeting was the



opportunity to present the current project portfolio and the 2022-2025 strategic plan. EU members were invited to table project proposal ideas and express priorities. The International Burch University (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the Tampere University of Applied Sciences (Finland), were amongst new European member who attended.

3. New members and agreements

3.1 New members

Europe

Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic
Universidade Beira Interior, Portugal
International Balkan University, North Macedonia
Georgian Technical University, Georgia
Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
TU Berlin, Germany

Africa

Universidade Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique

Latin America

Universidad de Panamá, Panama
Université des Antilles
Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar, Colombia
Universidad Simon Bolívar, Colombia
Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina
Universidad Nacional de Hurlingham, Argentina
Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional, Argentina
Universidad Nacional del Noroeste de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Universidad Nacional de Sant Martín, Argentina

3.2 Joint work plan with the EU-LAC Foundation

The European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation) and OBREAL Global have sealed their willingness to cooperate in 2021 by signing a [framework](#)

[agreement](#) that establishes the basis for the development of programmes and activities of mutual interest. The agreement, among other activities and actions, entails the joint organisation of seminars, workshops and publications, with the aim of strengthening the historical and contemporary links between the two regions, recognising the evolution of relations between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the development of the countries that make up the bi-regional community.

In 2022 OBREAL and the EU-LAC Foundation coordinated for the World Education Conference in May a session on Open Science.

3.3 Support the FAUBAI 2022 Virtual Conference

OBREAL signed a partnership agreement with the Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI) to support the organisation of the 2022 FAUBAI Virtual Conference (25-27 April). The Conference general theme was *Known Concepts, New Meanings, How can the future of the internationalization of higher education be projected?*

4. Projects in brief

HAQAA2

Harmonisation of African Higher Education, Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) is an initiative that has been established to support the development of a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system at institutional, national, regional and Pan-African continental level. It is funded by the European Union Commission, in the context of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. Phase one ([HAQAA1](#)) was implemented from 2016-2018. HAQAA 2 (2019 – 2022) is intended to build upon, upscale and promote the results of HAQAA1.

OBREAL Global coordinates this contract with the Association of African Universities (AAU), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The partnership also relies on six regional strategic partners: SARUA (SADC), NAQAAE (Northern Africa), IUCEA (East Africa), CAMES (francophone Africa), CNAQ (Mozambique), ANAQ-Sup (Senegal).

2022 was a busy year for the final year initiative. The following provides some highlights:

- Internal quality assurance training continued for different African regional cohorts of university professionals. In addition, dissemination projects were awarded to

graduates of the training, as a means to further develop national policies and implement African continental tools for integration in the higher education sector.

- External reviews of quality assurance agencies in Africa were conducted, to support development of quality assurance systems in line with African Standards and Guidelines
- Focus groups were held in different African countries to recall and debate the possible establishment of an African Credit Transfer System
- A study was conducted to map higher education data gaps in Africa and strengthen regional processes to gather comparable data for policy making
- A Technical Working Group which has investigated the feasibility for the set-up of a Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency produced recommendations for the African Union Commission on a phased-in approach for the agency's establishment.

MIMIR ANDINO

MIMIR ANDINO (Modernization of Institutional Management of Innovation and Research in the Andean region and Latin America), is a project co-funded by the European Commission, within the framework of the Erasmus + CBHE program (capacity development in the field of higher education). With a duration of 3 years, the Mimir Andino project is designed primarily to help and encourage partner universities in South American (and specifically Andean) countries to better understand the status quo of their research management approaches, from performance and Evaluation up management structures and effectiveness.

The project developed a research management model that will help partner universities to achieve their research and innovation objectives with respect to national and regional development. The model takes into account European practices and maps the environment and existing research activities as well as policy contexts and investments. It helps the South American partners to identify areas of change, improvement objectives and a trajectory to excel in regionally relevant research.

The project is coordinated by ASCUN with partners/OBREAL Global members in Colombia, Chile, Peru, Italy, Sweden and Spain.

Amongst the project activities of 2022 was the conclusion of pilot projects related to the implementation of the research management model at each partner university and a final 2-day hybrid dissemination conference in October, organised by ASCUN and OBREAL in Barranquilla, Colombia, to present to the international community the results of the project. HE experts and stakeholders (such as policy makers, employers and research agencies) from both regions were invited, in addition to representatives from the leadership of partnership



institutions and R&I managers (130 presential participants and 97 virtual participants from 9 countries, as well as more than 700 views on YouTube.

Vita Global

Vita Global – OBREAL Global trademark ‘multi-regional’ project (coordinated by University Roviri I Virgili - URV) funded under the Erasmus+ CBHE programme, unites a unique consortium that brings together universities from diverse and mostly non-urban regions in South America, Georgia, Europe and South Africa. Launched in 2018, the project has allowed these universities to map and compare their contribution, via teaching and research, to local development and local economies, especially in the viticulture and wine-related sectors.

The project embeds the development of modules in specific disciplines – viticulture, wine tourism, sensory analysis, wine marketing and sustainability – into wider staff training exercises, so as to foster deeper ‘North-South-emerging country’ strategic partnerships in teaching and learning.

In 2022, the piloting of six innovative study modules was completed in the partner universities. In addition, the final project conference took place in Tarragona at the URV on 8-9 November, where partners presented plans to launch new collaborative study programmes and further embed the modules in existing curricula. In addition, a ‘White Paper’ was launched, a major knowledge product related, on ‘Modularisation, Flexibilisation and internationalisation of higher education”, extracting lessons from the Vita Global project and citing major trends in this field.

HERESA

Inspired by the European Union funded network of ‘Higher Education Reform Experts’ (HERE) in EU neighborhood countries, HERE SA, coordinated by the Network of Universities of Technology in South Africa – THENSA - with the support of OBREAL Global, has launched a similar network at the national level in South Africa. Funded by the Erasmus+ CBHE programme, the network is comprised of academic leaders in South African universities of technology, that were strategically selected given their roles in overseeing and guiding teaching and learning at their institutions, and potential to be catalysts for change in the HE sector. The HERE SA project trains and capacitates these individuals to enable them to advise their institutions and the sector on holistic higher education development to meet labour market and societal needs. The project also supports teaching and learning reform, especially as it pertains to Work Integrated Learning (WIL), Competence Based Learning (CBL) and Entrepreneurship Education (EE).





In collaboration with project partner SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority), a policy brief on Work-Integrated Learning was developed in 2022. In addition, partner universities took part in study visits to Finland, Sweden and Ireland, (to OBREAL member universities) and submitted road maps for their new strategic plans related to the focus areas of the project.

EQUAM LA

EQUAM LA is an Erasmus+ project that aims to advance the Latin American Higher Education Space in areas such as recognition of degrees and credits across borders by reinforcing and connecting quality assurance systems for higher education, in which universities and QA agencies are key partners and drivers. It is coordinated by the University of Murcia and includes OBREAL members and partners in Colombia, Argentina, Nicaragua and Panama. A quality assurance tool kit was further developed and tested in 2022.

NEPREV

The NEPREV project is setting up a multidisciplinary joint master programme open to Tunisian, European, and African participants and dedicated to the Next Production Revolution: confluence of digital technologies (e.g. 3D printing, the Internet of Things, advanced robotics) new materials (e.g. bio- or nano-based), new processes (e.g. data-driven production, artificial intelligence).

The master is expected to help to reinforce the role of Tunisian universities in connecting with their socioeconomic environment and bridge the gap between academic research and industry.

PRICNAC

PRICNAC, funded by the ACP Innovation Fund and coordinated by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) office for Central Africa and the Great Lacs, focuses on a) unlocking the inclusive innovation potential of ACP countries; b) supporting their transition to knowledge-based economies to foster sustainable development and poverty reduction; c) contributing to the creation of an enabling and inclusive environment for research and innovation.

PRICNAC's specific objectives include:

OS1 : Set up structuring activities in Central African countries targeting the four axes of the ACP Innovation Fund and responding to the societal challenges of these countries.

OS2: Create a PRICNAC network to strengthen links between the various innovation players in Central Africa.



OS3: Link research-innovation systems in Central Africa with those on the African continent as a whole, as well as with Europe and other developing regions of the world, with a view to sharing best practices.

OS4: Boost social, solidarity-based and inclusive entrepreneurship for young people, in order to promote their employability and self-esteem.

The project consortium includes OBREAL and its strategic partners AAU and CAMES, as well as RIEFAC, *Réseau des experts en Ingénierie de formation de l'Afrique Centrale et des Grands Lacs*.

In 2022, the PRICNAC project issued a call for 'micro-project's on different priorities areas related to the innovation agenda in Central Africa: This included digital numeracy, the role of indigenous communities in innovation and strengthening public-private partnerships for tech transfer. The consortium received and evaluated project proposals, mainly from three Central African countries (Cameroun, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad). Five projects have been preliminarily accepted, and a second call will be issued in 2023. These micro-projects address: entrepreneurship training in agro-businesses and urban mobility, employment for young entrepreneurs, harnessing indigenous population knowledge to combat climate change and installing 'fablabs' in secondary schools.

SUCCESS

In 2022, over 30 participants from 11 institutional partners gathered in Barcelona for a study visit as part of the EU-funded SUCCESS Project under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Program. The event, hosted by OBREAL, focused on fostering entrepreneurial culture and collaboration between universities and enterprises. Key activities included presentations on the CTI Platform, visits to the University of Barcelona's Startup Center and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, and discussions on project progress and upcoming initiatives. The visit provided valuable insights, networking opportunities, and reinforced the project's objectives.

ONLINE HE

The ONLINEHE, an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project coordinated by CARDET, aims to develop the capacity of HE faculty, academics, learning designers and teaching staff in the integration of eLearning in course design and teaching of courses. It is developing innovative quality resources for HE faculty members to support the adoption of eLearning in higher education. It is also raising awareness for the need and value of integrating eLearning in HE in close collaboration with all stakeholders, including policy makers.

In 2022, OBREAL Global participated in a training activity in Cyprus, contributing its expertise in international cooperation in higher education. Key outcomes include





strengthened partnerships and progress toward addressing sector challenges, highlighting OBREAL's commitment to fostering global collaboration.

START CIRCULAR

START CIRCULAR, an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership, aims to equip entrepreneurial graduates to drive sustainable business development and strengthen university-SME collaboration in teaching and training. It aligns with the European Green Deal's goal of transitioning to a clean, circular economy by promoting resource efficiency, reducing waste, and creating green jobs. The project responds to the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP 2021) by fostering higher education systems that generate leaders in this field. It addresses challenges posed by COVID-19 and encourages universities to adopt interdisciplinary, cross-border approaches, with a focus on entrepreneurship, sustainability, and innovative business models. Key project outputs include an "Integrated entrepreneurship management model for circular economy" and Sustainability Labs.

In 2022 the project was launched at the University of Montpellier (coordinator) with the participation of all partner institutions. During this official launch, that was held back to back to the site visit to the Sustainability lab of the University of Montpellier, the UM and OBREAL presented the project and the action plan for the first year of the project. The project also launched the development of a 'Model' for university driven entrepreneurship in the circular economy sector.

"Consolidation of the South-South-North Dialogue on Higher Education and Related Matters"

OBREAL has coordinated the project "Consolidation of the South-South-North Dialogue on Higher Education and Related Matters" within the framework of a call issued by the Generalitat de Catalunya. The objective of these grants is to fund the promotion and international projection of Catalan entities, as well as the European and international organisations and networks with which they actively collaborate. The project contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Department of the Generalitat responsible for external action and is explicitly aligned with one or more Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and the National Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.





AGREEMED

The AGREEMed project seeks to enhance aquifer management in Mediterranean agricultural basins, focusing on pilot areas in Morocco, Tunisia, and Jordan. It aims to improve water management capacities through scientific research, innovative technologies, and inclusive governance. By integrating nature-based solutions, advanced data models, and non-conventional water technologies, AGREEMed seeks to ensure sustainable aquifer management while addressing water scarcity. The project also emphasizes stakeholder involvement and broad dissemination of its outcomes across the Mediterranean region.

As an associated partner, OBREAL participated in the project activities, contributing to the implementation of the initiatives and supporting the overall objectives of the project.

