



PRESS RELEASE

Plasma University Contributes to Major SMILE Project Milestone as Consortium Submits First WP2 Deliverable to the European Commission

Mogadishu, Somalia — Plasma University (PU) is proud to announce its vital contribution to the successful submission of **Deliverable D2.1 – Report on the Co-Creation Workshop** under Work Package 2 (WP2: Capacity Building through Training and Infrastructure Development) to the European Commission via the SYGMA platform.

This technical deliverable represents the first key milestone in the SMILE project's mission to strengthen the internationalization of Somali Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and enhance their integration into global academic networks.

As a core project partner, PU played an active role in the collaborative co-creation workshop hosted at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara. During the workshop, representatives from PU worked alongside European and local consortium partners to assess institutional needs, establish training priorities, and design a customized capacity-building framework tailored to the realities of higher education in Somalia.

The newly submitted report outlines a structured training framework focused on five pivotal internationalization pillars:

- **Academic Collaboration:** Building robust cross-border research and academic links.
- **Staff Mobility:** Enhancing professional growth for academic and administrative staff.
- **Inclusion Strategies:** Fostering accessible and equitable higher education environments.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Bridging the gap between academia and industry.
- **Virtual Mobility:** Expanding global learning opportunities through digital platforms.

The successful completion of D2.1 demonstrates the strength of collaborative partnership and shared commitment among the project partners. PU actively contributed its institutional perspective during the Ankara workshop, helping ensure that the upcoming training programs are aligned with the practical needs of faculty, staff, and students. This milestone represents an important step toward strengthening internationalization efforts and expanding global opportunities for higher education institutions across Somalia.

Looking Ahead: The Implementation Phase

With Deliverable D2.1 officially complete, PU is moving into the next operational phase of WP2. University staff will collaborate closely with European and Somali partners to co-develop interactive training materials and learning resources.

In the coming months, academic and administrative personnel from PU will participate in both online and in-person training sessions led by European partner institutions. These sessions are designed to equip staff with practical tools, methodologies, and frameworks to strengthen international partnerships and drive institutional growth.

PU remains dedicated to driving the success of the SMILE project and continuing its mission to deliver world-class, globally connected education in Somalia.



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