EngageSDGs

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CONNECT	LEARN	APPLY
People, practice and place	Tools that travel	Action that lasts

EngageConnect Special Edition
THE FINAL STRETCH IS FULL OF MOTION
September 2026

Three years of co-creation have brought the project to a live moment: tools are ready, stories are ready to travel, and the community is ready for what comes next

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The Final Stretch is Full of Possibilities

Three years of collaboration, experimentation and shared learning have brought EngageSDGs to an important milestone. As the project enters its final phase, the focus is on sharing lessons, strengthening capacity and ensuring that the tools, partnerships and networks developed through the project continue to support participatory approaches to higher education across the SADC region and beyond.

This edition highlights three major milestones: the launch of the Engage2Impact capacity-development programme, the consortium's final review meeting at University College Cork, and EngageSDGs Live, our final dissemination and legacy conference. Together, these activities mark not an ending, but a transition from project delivery to long-term impact.

AT A GLANCE

01 LEARN **Engage2Impact** Free, online and self-paced. A practical course for participatory work, with a certificate at the end.	**02 REVIEW** **University College Cork** 5–9 October. Study visit, final review, evidence audit and planning for what comes next.	**03 SHARE** **EngageSDGs LIVE** 22 October. A public celebration of tools, stories, recommendations and future commitments.

BUILDING CAPACITY
Engage2Impact

A practical online short course designed to equip participants with participatory skills, tools and knowledge to advance the SDGs in higher education and community contexts.

REFLECT AND REVIEW
University College Cork

Partners come together to review achievements, share evidence, consolidate learning and plan for the sustainability of key project outcomes.

SHARE AND SUSTAIN
EngageSDGs Live

A public conference showcasing project achievements, practical tools, lessons learned and future opportunities for collaboration across the SADC region and beyond

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NOW OPEN

Engage2Impact: A Short Course designed for Lasting Impact

The Sustainable Development Goals require more than awareness. They require practical skills, collaboration and action.

Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals requires more than awareness. It requires the skills, knowledge and confidence to work collaboratively with communities, partners and stakeholders to create meaningful and lasting change.

Engage2Impact is a free online capacity-development programme designed to equip academics, researchers, students, community-engagement practitioners and changemakers with practical participatory approaches that can be applied in teaching, research and community engagement.

Built around real-world challenges and opportunities, the course explores how participatory methods can strengthen connections between higher education institutions, communities and the Sustainable Development Goals. Rather than focusing only on theory, the programme provides practical tools and examples that participants can apply in their own contexts

What will participants gain?

- Practical participatory skills and approaches.
- A deeper understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to higher education.
- Tools to support community engagement and real-world impact.
- Access to interactive, self-paced learning from any device
- A certificate of achievement recognising successful completion.

Five modules for Practical Impact

- Introduction to Participatory Approaches and the SDGs
- Foundations of Participatory Approaches and the SDGs
- Partipatory Methods
- Case studies for the SDGs in the SADC Region
- Resources and Tools for Participatory Approaches

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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

University College Cork Hosts Final Consortium Study Visit, Partner Planning and Review Meeting

From 5-9 October, partners will gather at University College Cork for the project's final study visit, planning meeting and review session. The meeting provides an opportunity to reflect on progress, showcase pilot experiences and ensure that project achievements are positioned for long-term sustainability.



The meeting will focus on:

- Sharing lessons and experiences from pilot projects across partner institutions.
- Reviewing project evidence, deliverables and milestones.
- Exploring examples of engaged scholarship, sustainability practice and community partnerships.
- Planning sustainability pathways for project outcomes such as the Integrated Participatory Framework, Digital Academic Ecosystem, Engage2Impact and Community of Practice.

The goal is simple: to ensure that the value created through EngageSDGs continues to benefit institutions, communities and future collaborations long after the project concludes.

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SAVE THE DATE

EngageSDGs Live: Building the Future of the Engaged University

On 22 October 2026, the consortium will host EngageSDGs Live, the project's final dissemination and legacy conference. Under the theme Building the Future of the Engaged University, the event will bring together higher education leaders, academics, students, community partners, policymakers and development practitioners from across the region and beyond.



Why Attend?

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Discover innovative participatory approaches advancing higher education and sustainable development.
- Learn from universities and communities across the SADC region.
- Explore practical tools, resources and lessons learned through EngageSDGs.
- Connect with researchers, practitioners and institutional leaders.
- Contribute to conversations about the future of the engaged university.



What to Expect?

The programme will feature:

- The EngageSDGs journey and key milestones.
- Pilot stories of transformation.
- A live Integrated Participatory Framework experience.
- The Digital Academic Ecosystem.
- The Engage2Impact programme.
- Future-focused discussions and recommendations.
- The launch of the Community of Practice.

More than a showcase of project outputs, the conference aims to create a space for dialogue about how participation, partnership and purpose can continue strengthening higher education throughout the region

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WHY THIS MATTERS

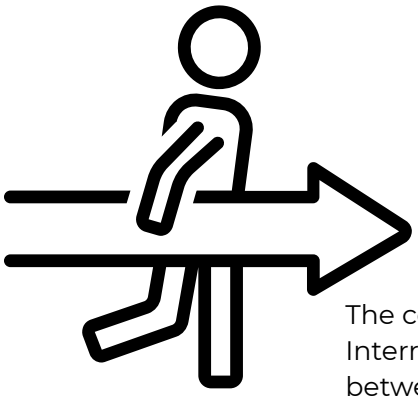
From Deliverables to Transformation

The completion of a project is not simply about closing activities and submitting reports. It is about ensuring that knowledge, relationships and resources remain useful and accessible to the people who need them most.



The lasting legacy of EngageSDGs includes:

- The Integrated Participatory Framework.
- The Digital Academic Ecosystem.
- Engage2Impact.
- A growing Community of Practice.
- Evidence and lessons from pilot projects.
- A regional network committed to socially responsive higher education.



LOOKING AHEAD

The consortium is exploring opportunities to contribute to the Fourth Interregional Dialogue in Addis Ababa and to develop stronger connections between the EngageSDGs Community of Practice and related European networks. These discussions reflect a shared commitment to extending the reach and impact of participatory approaches beyond the lifespan of the project.

As the final months of EngageSDGs unfold, the focus remains clear: strengthening capacity, sharing knowledge and building partnerships that will continue to create impact long into the future.

The project may be approaching its final milestone, but its legacy is only beginning.

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Thank you to everyone for your hard work and contributions to the project. Let's continue to collaborate effectively and achieve our goals together.

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