

Collaborative online International Learning (COIL) workshop

The Department of Biochemistry pioneered the first COIL workshop in East Africa which took place in Heron Portico Hotel in Nairobi from 14th -16th February 2024. Dr. Ezekiel Onyonka Mecha who is a senior Lecturer at the Department of Biochemistry led his two other colleagues namely Prof. Florence Indede of Maseno University and Dr. Ann Kirugumi of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology together with experts from Kibabii University (Prof. Maiyo) and Leibniz University Hannover, Germany (Prof. Marcus Hoppe) to organize the first COIL workshop in East Africa. The workshop brought together participants from 17 Higher Academic Institutions in Kenya who included Deans, Directors of institutions, chairpersons of departments and Directors of International Offices. The theme of the workshop was “THE ROLE OF COLLABORATIVE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING (COIL) AND VIRTUAL EXCHANGES IN PROMOTING INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME IN HIGHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN KENYA”.

This intensive training course was part of the National Multiplication Trainings (NMT) of the DIES programme (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) coordinated by DAAD. NMT is one of the training courses under the DIES programs with the aim to strengthen DIES alumni in their role as multipliers in the field of higher education management and to promote the sustainability of DIES trainings. It is jointly initiated by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors Conference (HRK) with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ). This workshop provided an in-depth application of COIL illustrating how virtual exchange can enable geographically distant students and staff to team up and develop core competencies and skills required for internationalization. The workshop also offered an opportunity to explore the possibilities of combining the lessons learned in online education and international collaborations and linkages. Present in the workshop was representatives from the Ministry of Education, Kenya, CUE, IUCEA, DAAD, East African Qualification Network and media houses (KTN and Standard group).

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/education/article/2001490171/universities-challenged-to-seek-regional-partnerships>