

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

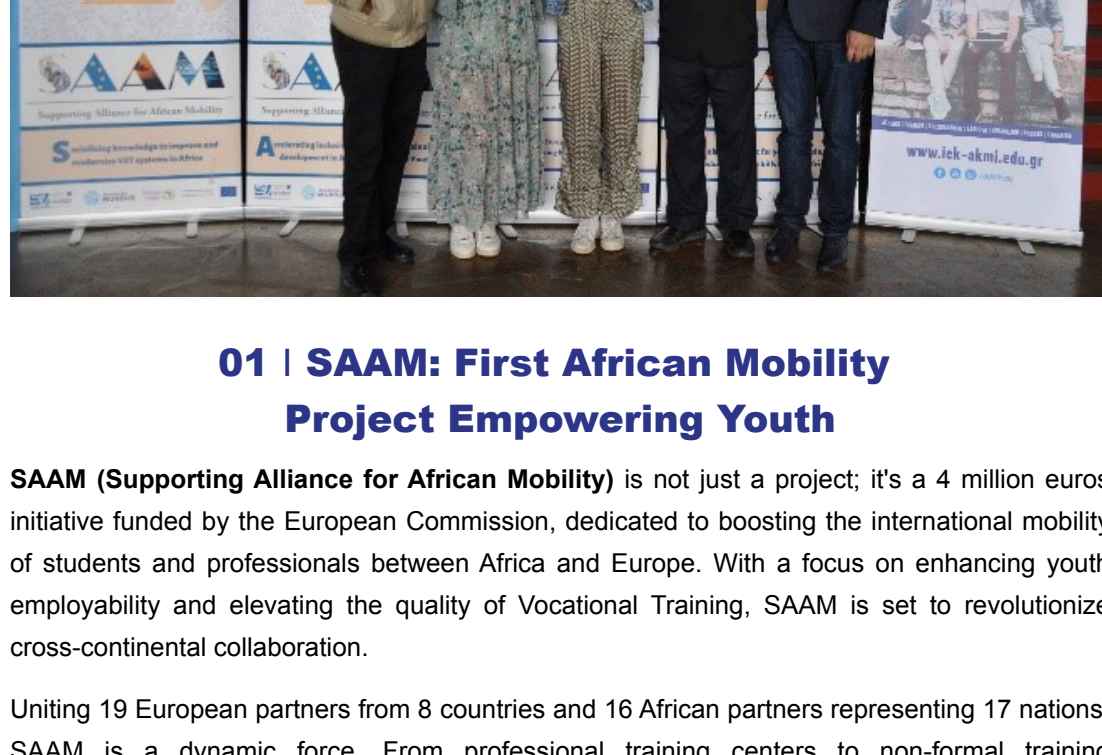
AKMI INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS' NEWS

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**01 | SAAM: First African Mobility Project Empowering Youth**

**SAAM (Supporting Alliance for African Mobility)** is not just a project; it's a 4 million euros initiative funded by the European Commission, dedicated to boosting the international mobility of students and professionals between Africa and Europe. With a focus on enhancing youth employability and elevating the quality of Vocational Training, SAAM is set to revolutionize cross-continental collaboration.

Uniting 19 European partners from 8 countries and 16 African partners representing 17 nations, SAAM is a dynamic force. From professional training centers to non-formal training organizations, congregations, and educational networks, it engages a diverse array of entities, including NGOs working in youth training and umbrella European organizations. SAAM's impact extends across the entire spectrum of education and youth employment.

Officially launched in January 2020, SAAM unfolds in three phases, each with unique mobility flows:

**European VET Teacher Exploration:** Over 100 European VET teachers embark on a two-week journey to African VET centers, studying and observing educational systems. Engaging in job-shadowing, they compile comprehensive reports on their experiences. Returning to Europe armed with data, ideas, and firsthand knowledge, these teachers collaborate to bridge the gap between European and African VET systems, exchanging content, methodologies, technologies, and management strategies.

**African Teacher Empowerment:** More than 100 African teachers travel to Europe for a month of training and job shadowing. Armed with new tools and methods, they return to implement positive changes in their centers, contributing to the overall advancement of Vocational Training in Africa.

**Student Mobility Experience:** The final flow sees over 300 students transported to various European countries. Stationed in 30 hosting centers, they undergo varying lengths of stays, combining periods at VET centers with professional traineeships in European companies. These experiences not only enhance students' personal and professional capacities but also contribute to their empowerment upon returning home.

**AKMI's Remarkable Contribution**

**AKMI** is the only Greek partner of the consortium, providing its network and expertise in the VET sector. Below we can see some of the milestone activities that AKMI participated in:

**SAAM 1st International Meeting – Nairobi, Kenya | May 2021**

This marked the inaugural meeting of the project, convening all partners (approximately 50 people) in Kenya in May 2021. The primary aim of this gathering was to foster acquaintance, elucidate the project's phases and implementation methodology, and to introduce the hosting partner, Don Bosco Boys Town. The occasion also provided an opportunity to engage with their teachers and students.



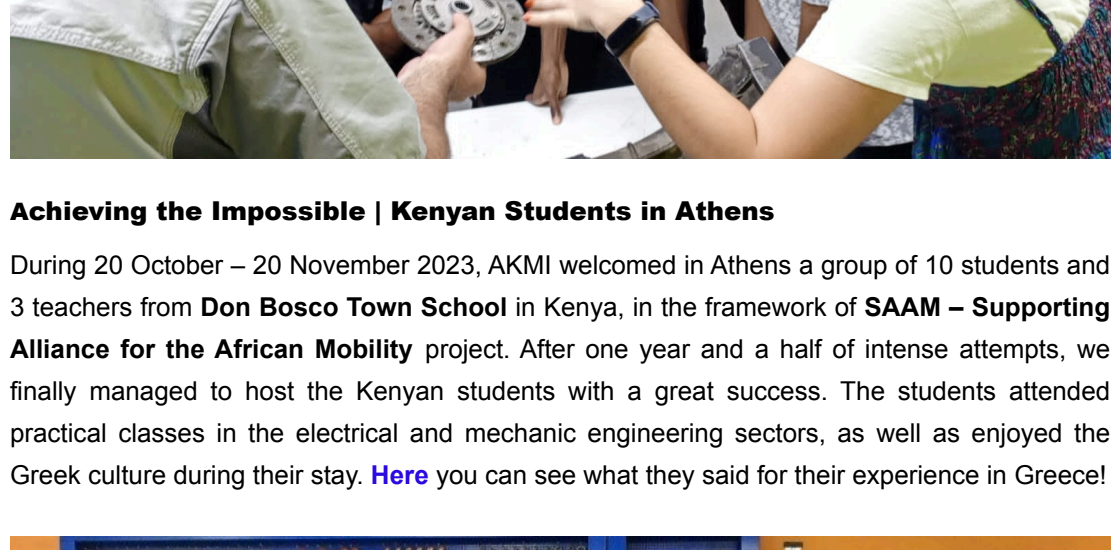
**Peer Mobilities from EU to AU – Liberia, Tunisia, Kenya, Ivory Coast | 2021-2023**

Have you ever imagined how is a VET School in Liberia? AKMI travelled to Liberia, Kenya, Tunisia, and Ivory Coast during the period 2021-2023, aiming to understand first the VET System in these countries and see how a VET school is functioning, what type of equipment is available and what are the needs of the school and of the learners. We also managed to meet with local and national authorities and discuss how the VET sector could be developed in the country and which are the primary areas of improvement that should be highly considered.



**SAAM Seminars – Brussels, Belgium | 2022 - 2023**

During SAAM project, two specialized seminars took place in Brussels. The first one was about "Capacity Building for Leadership in VET Mobility between Africa and Europe" and the second one was about "Internationalization opportunities for the African Region". Both events had as ultimate goal to prepare the African staff so that they can establish an international department in their VET centers and expand their opportunities in EU funded projects.



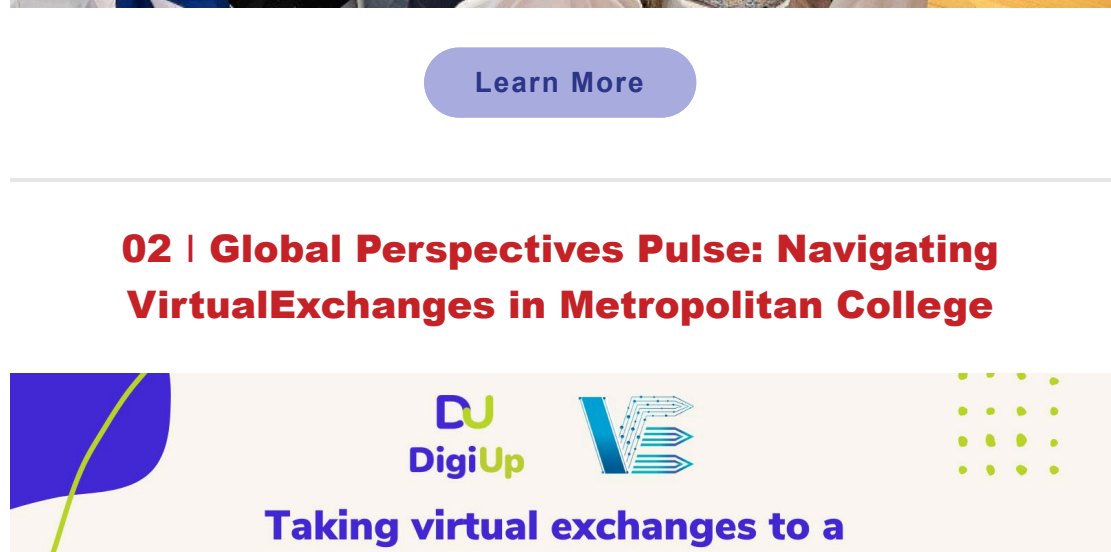
**Peer Mobility from AU to EU – Liberia, Tunisia | 2022**

After a year of travelling from Greece to Africa, it was finally the time to host our African peers. **Fr. Sony** from Don Bosco technical High School (Liberia) and **Alessandra Grisoni** from **Youth (Tunisia)** travelled to Athens and they had the opportunity to visit AKMI's premises, observe our working methodology, discuss with our teachers and directors and transfer all the best practices back to their schools.



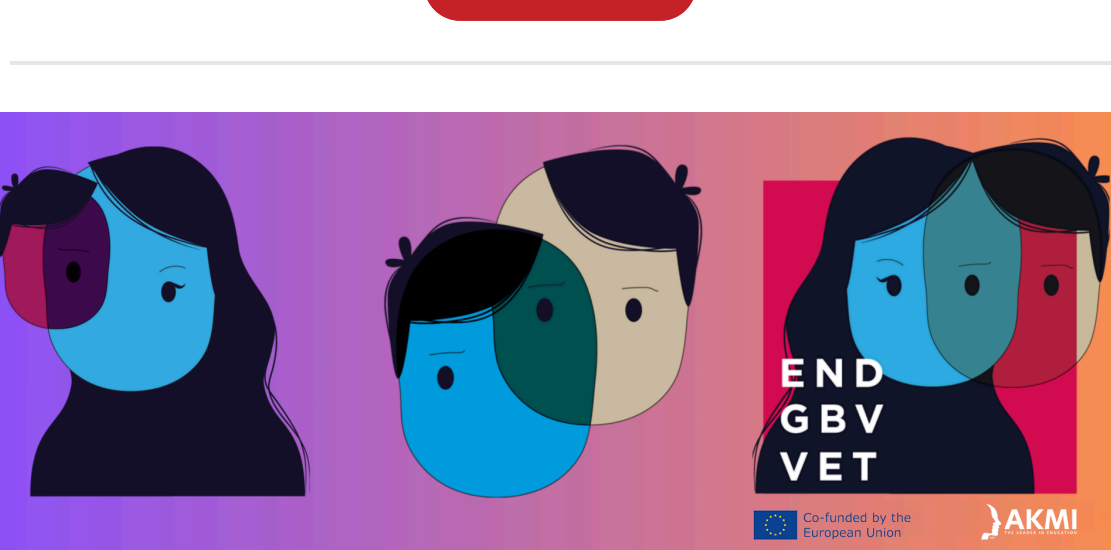
**Achieving the Impossible | Kenyan Students in Athens**

During 20 October – 20 November 2023, AKMI welcomed in Athens a group of 10 students and 3 teachers from Don Bosco Town School. In one year, in the framework of SAAM – Supporting Alliance for the African Mobility project. After a year and a half of intense attempts, we finally managed to host the Kenyan students with a great success. The students attended practical classes in the electrical and mechanic engineering sectors, as well as enjoyed the Greek culture during their stay. [Here](#) you can see what they said for their experience in Greece!



After all these years of moving around, in February 2024 took place the final meeting of SAAM in Cabo Verde, where partners presented the final results of the project and celebrated the successful conclusion of its mission aimed at boosting vocational training mobilities between Africa and Europe, alongside capacity-building initiatives.

AKMI, as the **exclusive Greek partner** in the SAAM project, gained invaluable insights and experiences that enriched its involvement in vocational education and training (VET). Through participation in international meetings in Nairobi and peer mobilities to Liberia, Tunisia, Kenya, and Ivory Coast, AKMI deepened its understanding of diverse VET systems. Hosting African peers in Athens facilitated knowledge exchange, contributing to AKMI's expertise in the sector. The specialized seminars in Brussels enhanced AKMI's capacity for leadership in VET mobility and internationalization opportunities. Successfully hosting Kenyan students in Athens not only demonstrated AKMI's commitment but also expanded its practical knowledge. Overall, AKMI's engagement in SAAM empowered the institution with a diverse skill set and global perspective in vocational training, reinforcing its position as a key player in cross-continental collaboration.



[Learn More](#)

**02 | Global Perspectives Pulse: Navigating Virtual Exchanges in Metropolitan College**



**DigiUp Project:** Our mission is to bring together students, academic staff, and young individuals from Europe and Sub-Saharan countries. Through collaborative virtual activities, we aim to develop both digital and soft skills, enhancing career opportunities using the EU competences frameworks of **DigCompEdu** and **DigComp 2.1**. Over 100 participants actively engaged in our Welcome Activities, virtually exploring partner universities and sharing traditional meals online. The masterclasses of DigCompEdu kicked off on December 4th, with **Metropolitan College** hosting 150 educators and learners worldwide in an online activity on professional engagement.

**Virtually Edu Project:** Join us in fostering intercultural anti-discriminatory dialogue through online activities. Our goal is to enhance the youth dimension in the EU's relations with Eastern Neighborhood countries, focusing on cybersecurity and combating fake news. In the upcoming months, virtual exchange activities and a **Digital Skills Hackathon** await our multicultural student groups.

**Virtue Eu Project:** At the core of our mission is instilling European and universal values of democracy and active citizenship among young people in Europe and the Balkans. We strive to foster inclusive societies and empower the next generation. Virtue Eu aims to equip youth with skills, knowledge, and a strong sense of identity, transforming them into active citizens and enhancing their employability. Join students and academics from around the world in our virtual activities. Each semester concludes with an online **Debates on Active Citizenship**, where winners get the chance to present their speeches in the EVBB annual conference!

[Learn More](#)



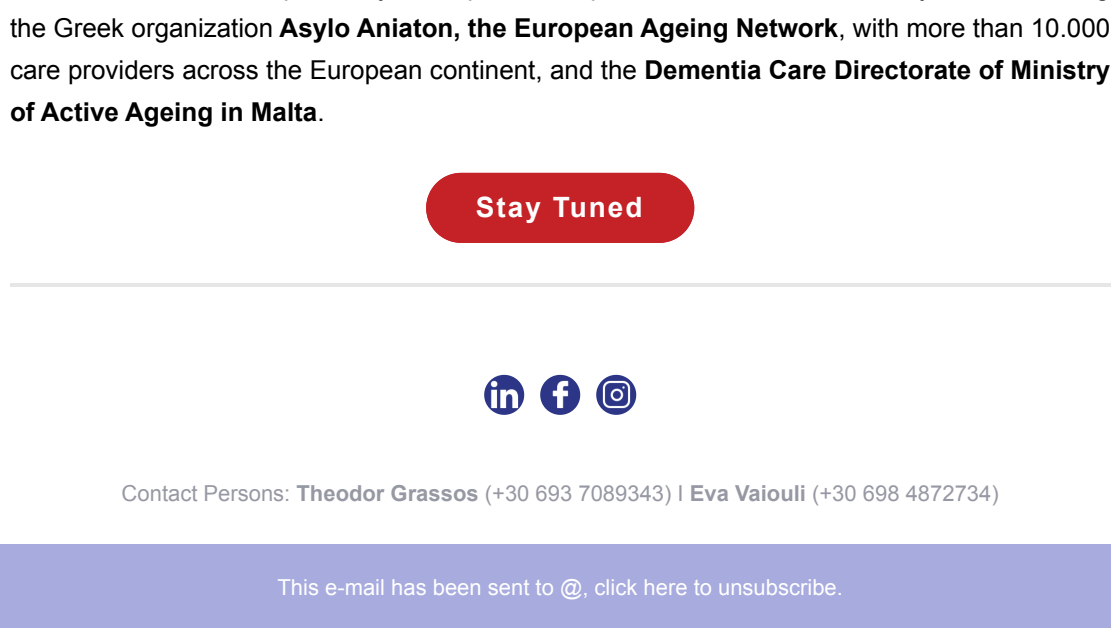
**03 | END GBV in VET: Call for expression of interest to become VET Ambassadors**

We are excited to announce the launch of our END GBV in VET Ambassadors Initiative, and we would like to invite you to be a part of it!

The END GBV in VET project aims to tackle gender-based violence in vocational education and training by providing training to interested students, teachers' staff, and parents to better address GBV, and to offer support and consultations through full service offices on campus.

**AKMI** is participating in this project along with VET Institutes and experts from Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain. In this regard, we are inviting Students, Teachers & VET Staff as well as Parents to take part in the END GBV in VET Ambassadors Alliance.

[Learn More](#)

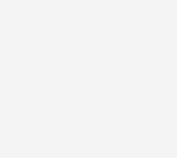


**04 | New project with MC as a LEAD partner was granted under EU4HEALTH call**

"**Care4Elders**" project, with Metropolitan College as a lead partner was recently granted under the EU4HEALTH call, signifying a major advancement in dementia care. This project promises to reshape elderly healthcare by developing innovative, patient-centric strategies and integrating digital tools into everyday healthcare practices.

Its primary aim is to substantially improve the quality of life for those affected by dementia, thereby marking a notable progression in public health and enhancing long-term care services. The consortium, is composed by six experienced partners in the field of elderly care, including the Greek organization **Asylo Aniaton**, the **European Ageing Network**, with more than 10.000 care providers across the European continent, and the **Dementia Care Directorate of Ministry of Active Ageing in Malta**.

[Stay Tuned](#)



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