

Supporting capacity building in Mozambique





While there have been significant reforms to revitalise TVET in Mozambique, there are still challenges at the policy, system and local levels, particularly a lack of institutional capacity and capability. We have worked directly with the country's TVET sector to support the national policy aspiration of **building a 'quality, efficient and effective education system that responds to the needs of human development'** by facilitating International Skills Partnerships that have strengthened institutional capacity through the sharing of best practices and expertise.

Embedding soft skills in the tourism and hospitality curriculum

South Eastern Regional College, in Northern Ireland, partnered with three institutes of technical and professional education in Mozambique – Instituto Comercial de Maputo, Escola Técnica de Mumemo and Instituto Industrial e Comercial Eduardo Mondlane de Inhambane – to help build staff capacity and embed soft skills development in the travel, tourism and hospitality curriculum.

With all project partners located in key strategic areas for Mozambique tourism – Inhambane province having the greatest potential for tourism in Mozambique, and Maputo city and the wider

Maputo province both offering potential for the blue economy and wildlife-based tourism – the partnership aimed to **enhance the institutes' role in supporting the national objective of developing young people's tourism skills** and encouraging self-employment.

South Eastern Regional College supported the Mozambique institutes to implement real-life projects that would enable trainees to apply skills in meaningful contexts, with South Eastern Regional College providing key support based on their knowledge and experience of using project-based learning approaches.



South Eastern Regional College engaged with staff and students during their visit to partner institutions in Mozambique
© South Eastern Regional College

In each institution, trainees took forward a key pilot project in collaboration with external stakeholders to further develop their soft skills – the development of a visitor centre at Escola Técnica de Mumemo, the creation of a popular culinary experience at Instituto Industrial e Comercial Eduardo Mondlane, and the design and development of a guided tour package for 18-to-35-year-olds at Instituto Comercial de Maputo. Specialist project-based learning pedagogy mentors from South Eastern Regional College supported teachers at each institute to develop the mindset, skillset and toolset to embed the approach in their curriculum.

During their visit to Northern Ireland, the partners from Mozambique saw first-hand how South Eastern Regional College uses project-based learning to develop soft skills. They also strengthened their understanding of UK TVET practices, such as institutional governance, approaches to employer engagement and quality assurance, and how enterprise and entrepreneurship are embedded in curriculum.

While visiting Mozambique, South Eastern Regional College evaluated the implementation of each institution's projects, which all demonstrated an improvement in trainees' skillsets.

Impact

By embracing the project-based learning approach, the Mozambique partner institutes have improved their pedagogy and strengthened the pedagogical skills of their trainers, while trainees have **increased their capacity to work in teams and solve real-life problems**. The institutes have also **developed stronger relationships with other institutions** and enhanced employer engagement.

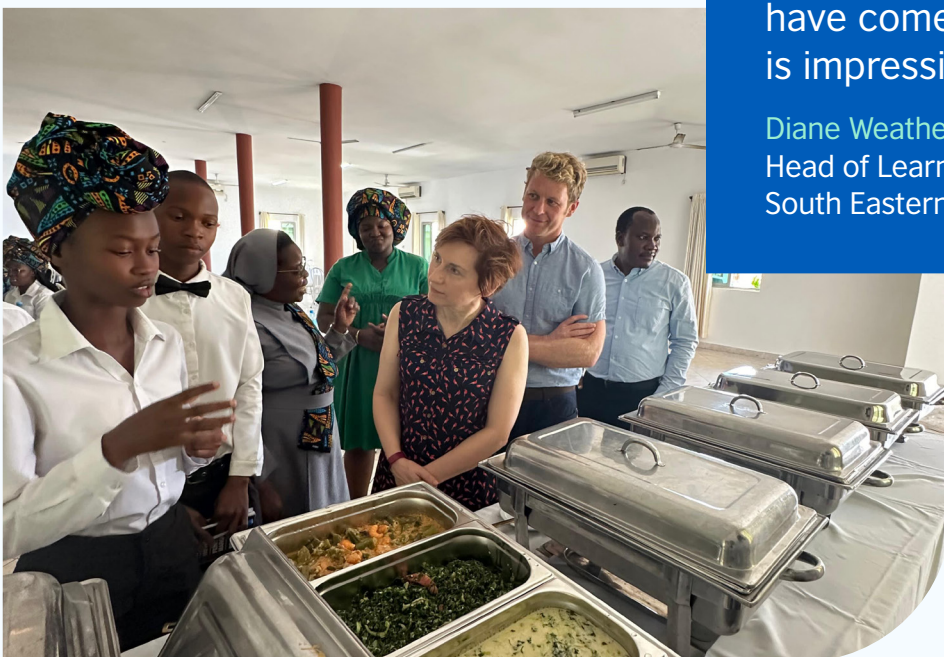
All three pilot projects successfully achieved their outcomes, and the institutes are now keen to explore how to apply their new pedagogical approaches to other curriculum areas.

For South Eastern Regional College, the opportunity to build strong connections with partners in Mozambique has paved the way for further exchanges and future collaboration, particularly in hospitality, travel and tourism.



We have learned so much from our three international partners, who have really inspired us. How far our partners and their students have come in such a short time is impressive.

Diane Weatherup,
Head of Learning Academy,
South Eastern Regional College



South Eastern Regional College assessed student-led projects during their visit to Mozambique
© South Eastern Regional College