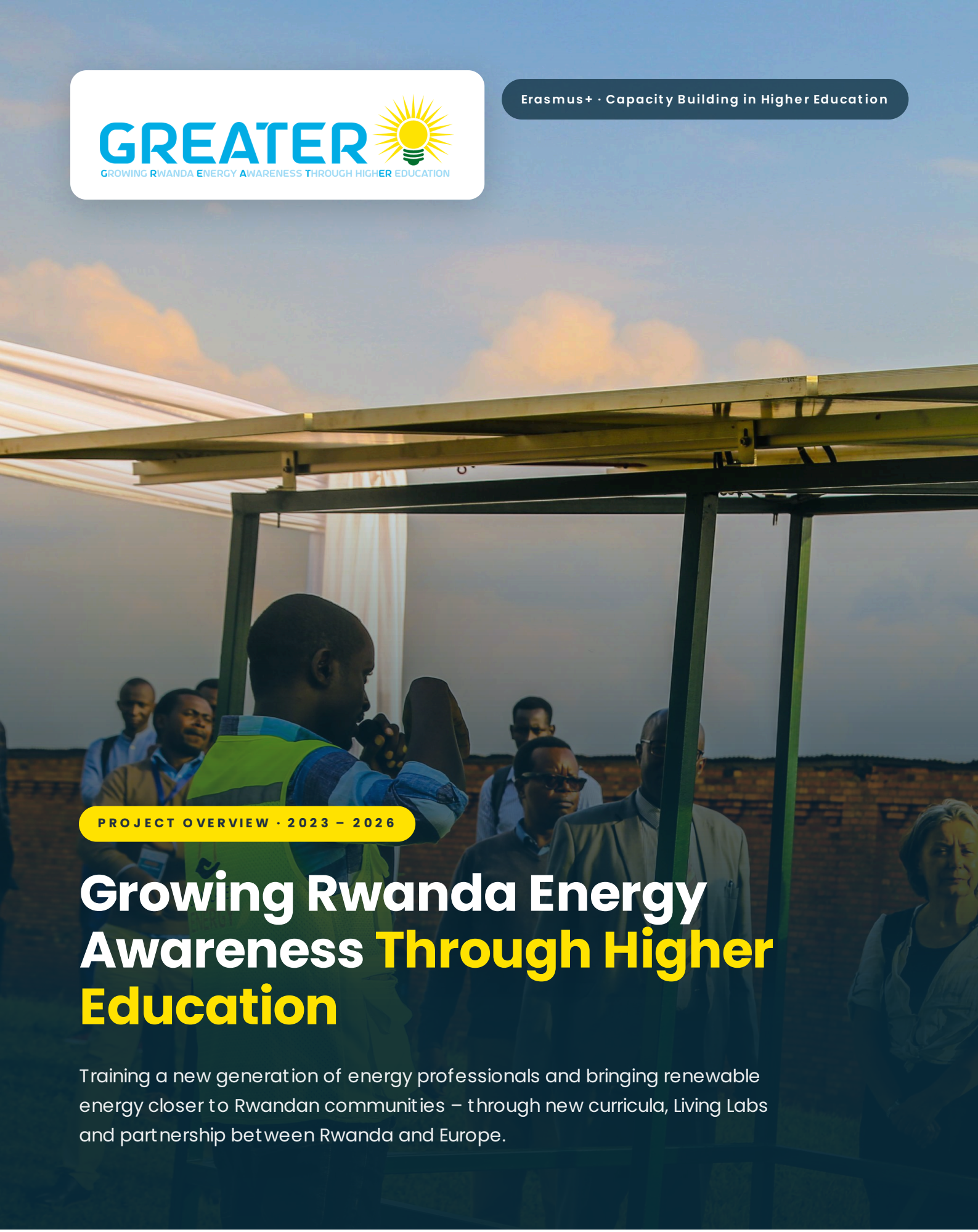
GREATER

GROWING RWANDA ENERGY AWARENESS THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

Erasmus+ · Capacity Building in Higher Education



PROJECT OVERVIEW · 2023 – 2026

Growing Rwanda Energy Awareness Through Higher Education

Training a new generation of energy professionals and bringing renewable energy closer to Rwandan communities – through new curricula, Living Labs and partnership between Rwanda and Europe.

Co-funded by the European Union

www.greaterproject.eu

8 partner institutions · Rwanda · Italy · Germany

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Education at the heart of Rwanda's energy transition

Rwanda's social and economic growth depends on a successful energy transition. To close the energy gap and give the whole population equal access to electricity, the country plans a widespread use of renewable energy sources.

In line with national strategies for energy development, low-power, off-grid and distributed power generation will play a key role. This calls for two things at once: a new generation of skilled professionals, and the widest possible diffusion of green awareness in Rwandan communities.

GREATER – Growing Rwanda Energy Awareness Through Higher Education – tackles both needs through an inclusive, user-participated design process. Four Rwandan and four European institutions work together, coordinated by the University of Parma, with funding from the European Union's Erasmus+ programme.

KEY FACTS

PROGRAMME
Erasmus+ – Capacity Building in Higher Education (2022 call)

GRANT AGREEMENT
No 101083081

START
1 January 2023

CONSORTIUM
8 institutions – 4 in Rwanda, 4 in Europe

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS
9, including the Rwandan Ministry of Education and national energy companies

COORDINATOR
University of Parma, Italy

EXPECTED EU CONTRIBUTION
Up to €800,000



Participants examining solar power equipment during a GREATER activity in Rwanda.

What GREATER sets out to do

01 **8 new or renewed curricula** in smart and green energy, built on strong digital and Internet-of-Things foundations.

02 **Practice-oriented training**, supported by new lab facilities at the Rwandan partner institutions.

03 **A network of 4 Living Labs**: real-life sites with smart, renewable-energy power stations, open to local communities.

04 **Community engagement** from the earliest design phases, with attention to youth and people with fewer opportunities.

WHAT GREATER DOES

Four areas of work, one goal: a sustainable energy future

Curriculum Development

Designing and implementing innovative curricula in smart and green energy technologies to equip the next generation of energy professionals.

Living Lab Establishment

Creating real-world learning environments, or "living labs", to provide hands-on experience with renewable energy solutions – hubs for experimentation, innovation and community engagement.

Community Engagement

Involving local communities to promote awareness of renewable energy technologies and their benefits, through workshops, training sessions and outreach that foster a sense of ownership.

International Collaboration

Fostering strong partnerships between European and Rwandan institutions to share knowledge, expertise and resources.

Co-designed with the people it serves

Representative stakeholders take part in all design activities from the earliest phases, through a collaborative design-thinking process. This keeps outcomes consistent with community needs and expectations – in educational goals, employability and socio-economic benefits.

Engagement that works both ways

At the input side, insights from the community drive the design of education. At the output side, beyond academic results, transfer activities bring outcomes to industry and to different community segments – especially youth and people with fewer opportunities.



Hands-on workshop, GREATER Week at INES-Ruhengeri, Musanze, September 2023.



Practical training session during a GREATER summer school.



Short course participants at Hochschule Niederrhein, Krefeld, Germany, April 2024.

LIVING LABS

Clean energy where people live and learn

Living Labs are real-life locations, open to local communities and equipped with smart, renewable-energy power stations. For students, they are realistic learning environments; for residents, a hub to meet and get familiar with green technologies.



INES-RUHENGERI · GAKENKE DISTRICT

Busengo Living Lab

Solar-powered, with a tailoring workshop, clean-cooking and water-purifying demonstrations and PV panel self-assembly.

Inaugurated 19 September 2024



UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA · BUGESERA DISTRICT

Bugesera Living Lab

A smart irrigation system powered entirely by green energy, designed to help farmers manage water efficiently in the face of drought.

SDG event, 20 September 2024



RP TUMBA COLLEGE · RULINDO DISTRICT

Muyanza Living Lab

A 6 kW solar system brings electricity to residents of the Muyanza model village who could not afford a grid connection.

Set-up launched 9 July 2025



UTAB · BYUMBA

Byumba Living Lab

The Living Lab site of the University of Technology and Arts of Byumba, completing the GREATER network of four.

Site visit, September 2023

MILESTONES & RESULTS

From kick-off to lasting institutional impact

8
partner institutions in Rwanda, Italy and Germany

4
Living Labs run by the Rwandan partner institutions

20 + 6
lecturers and students trained at European partners

6 kW
solar system at the Muyanza Living Lab

97
entries to the GREATER Art Contest on renewable energy

100+
participants at the Final Conference, with 42 speakers and panellists

2023

- **1 January** – project start
- **6 February** – kick-off and 1st General Assembly, INES-Ruhengeri
- **29 August** – official launch and 2nd General Assembly, University of Rwanda, Kigali
- **29 September** – GREATER Week, hands-on training at INES-Ruhengeri, Musanze

2024

- **15 April** – two-week short course in Germany, H-BRS and Hochschule Niederrhein
- **16 April** – 3rd General Assembly, Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg
- **2 September** – 4th General Assembly, hosted by RP Tumba College
- **3–12 September** – Summer School at RP Tumba College: PV panel making and IoT
- **19–21 September** – Busengo Living Lab inauguration and SDG events with INES, UR, RP and UTAB

2025

- GREATER Art Contest "The Power of Creativity: Green Energy for Tomorrow" opens
- **9 July** – Living Lab set-up launched in Muyanza Village, RP Tumba College
- **8–12 September** – Summer School at UTAB on green energy and digital technologies

2026

- **3 September** – Final Conference & Exhibition "From Project Outputs to Lasting Institutional Impact", Rwanda Polytechnic – Kigali College, with the Art Contest award ceremony and national media coverage



GREATER Final Conference & Exhibition, Rwanda Polytechnic – Kigali College, 3 September 2026.



The Power of Creativity. The GREATER Art Contest invited participants in Rwanda to share photographs, paintings and short films about renewable energy. Of 97 entries, 46 went forward to the jury; the winners were announced at the Final Conference.

PARTNERSHIP

Eight institutions, one shared goal

PROJECT COORDINATOR

University of Parma (Università di Parma)

Italy

PARTNERS IN EUROPE

CNR-IMEM, National Research Council
ITALY

Hochschule Niederrhein
GERMANY

Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg
GERMANY

PARTNERS IN RWANDA

INES-Ruhengeri
RWANDA

Rwanda Polytechnic
RWANDA

University of Technology and Arts of Byumba
RWANDA

University of Rwanda
RWANDA

Nine associated partners support the project, including the Rwandan Ministry of Education and national companies active in the energy sector.

Let's keep building Rwanda's clean-energy future together

To learn more about GREATER, its results and Living Labs, or to explore collaboration with the partnership, get in touch with the project team.

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