

IQ-GEAR's August 2026 Newsletter is here!



Recently, Ambo University, Addis Ababa University (College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine), Hawassa University, Jimma University and Ghent University have united forces into a University Network called IQ-GEAR (acronym for Interuniversity Collaboration for Quality Graduate Education and Research in Ethiopia). The vision of IQ-GEAR is to transform both postgraduate education and research quality, and to become a driver of equitable and sustainable development in Ethiopia. The main missions are **(i)** to deliver higher quality and inclusive postgraduate education, **(ii)** to improve research practices, and interuniversity/disciplinary research, **(iii)** to improve ICT and library services that enhance (i) and (ii), and to **(iv)** improve engagement of stakeholders that enhance (i) - (iii).

A word from the coordinators

Dear IQ-GEAR members, colleagues and friends,

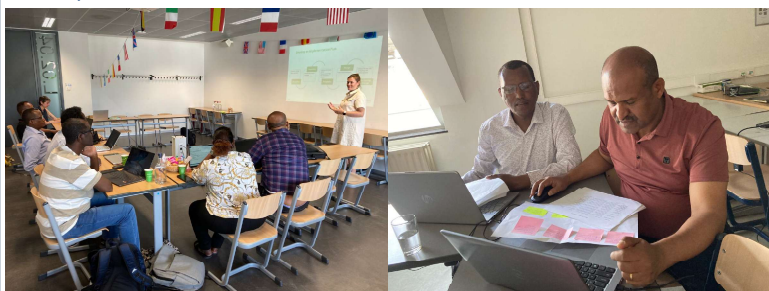
It is our honor to share with you our newsletter of the IQ-GEAR project. In this issue, we focus on (i) the efforts to develop and evaluate an e-portfolio for monitoring the progress of PhD students towards the identified competencies, (ii) the donations of ICT equipment and ICT training, (iii) outputs of the Ethiopian SuperStars project and (iv) our annual workshop held at Jimma University.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the academic mission led by the rector of Ghent University (November 21 – 25).

Enjoy reading the newsletter and stay safe, Kas and Bruno

IQ-GEAR e-portfolio

Between July 4 and 11, the members of subproject 1 met at Ghent. During this one-week workshop, the members (i) assessed the usability of the current e-portfolio, (ii) participated in an implementation workshop organized by Artevelde University of Applied Science, (iii) discussed the technical implementation of the e-portfolio with Rudy Gevaert (subproject leader of ICT) and (iv) developed an action plan to expand the usability test to PhD supervisors and PhD students in Ethiopia.



Left panel: SP1 members participating in an implementation workshop organized by Artevelde University of Applied Science; **Right panel:** Dr. Lemessa (Ambo University) and Dr. Teklu (Jimma University) discussing the implementation of the IQ-GEAR e-portfolio.

Donation of ICT equipment and ICT training



ICT equipment was donated to and distributed among the four partner universities (**left panel**). In addition, Yonas Teshome (Ambo University) trained the Hawassa University ICT team on Proxmox Virtualization (**right panel**).

Ethiopian SuperStars: Output

The project trained a total of 26 (5 female) Ethiopian Superstars in a train-of-trainer to deliver a PhD supervision training within an Ethiopian context. Fourteen of these Ethiopian Superstars already trained more than 267 (62 female) PhD supervisors across 12 African universities (8 in Ethiopia (267 supervisors), 2 in Tanzania (5), 1 in Zambia (3) and 1 in Mozambique (2)). The universities in Ethiopia included Addis Ababa University (22), Ambo University (40), Arba Minch University (32), Bahir Dar University (35), Gondar University (14), Hawassa University (45), Jimma University (35) and Mekelle University (34). The research as well as two universities in Tanzania (5), one in Zambia (3), and one in Mozambique (2).



Left panel: Prof. Tsige (Jimma University) and Prof. Achamyelesh (Hawassa University) delivering a for/by ladies only PhD supervision training at Ras Hotel (Addis Ababa); **Right panel:** 12 newly certified Ethiopian SuperStars from Arba Minch University (3), Bahir Dar University (4), Jimma University (2) and Mekelle University (3)



Dr. Teklu and Prof. Zeleke (Jimma University) delivering the PhD supervision training in Tanzania to representatives of 4 African research institutes

Annual IQ-GEAR workshop at Jimma

On August 28 and 29, we organized our annual IQ-GEAR workshop entitled 'Strengthening Doctoral Education: From Supervision to Research Excellence'. During the workshop we (i) provided an update on both the IQ-GEAR and the Ethiopian SuperStars projects, (ii) organized a panel discussion on how to integrate the PhD supervision training into the Ethiopian universities, and (iii) invited PhD students to present their research work during the Buna Session XL.

Seventeen PhD students across 7 universities certified for their oral scientific presentation during the Buna Session XL.

