



INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA

Sensitisation on the Research Excellence Framework for Higher Education in East Africa

Date: Wednesday, 06 May 2026

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

[Join Here Via Teams](#)

CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 Background

The Research Excellence Framework for Higher Education in East Africa (REFHE-EA) was developed by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) as a regional guide to strengthen research quality, governance, productivity, and impact across higher education institutions (HEIs). The framework responds to persistent challenges in the region, including weak research governance and management systems, limited research capacity and infrastructure, low research productivity and impact, and inadequate collaboration and funding mechanisms.

REFHE-EA provides a structured approach anchored on principles of research quality, research governance and management systems, research quality dimensions, and assessment and implementation mechanisms. Effective implementation of this framework requires targeted capacity building for key stakeholders including university leadership, researchers, research managers, and policymakers. The framework itself emphasizes capacity building as a central component of research governance and implementation.

This virtual sensitisation workshop is designed as an entry point to create awareness, build interest, and prepare stakeholders for deeper engagement and equipping stakeholders with the necessary knowledge, tools, and skills for implementation. The overall goal is to build institutional and individual capacity for the effective implementation of REFHE-EA across the region.

2.0 Purpose of the Workshop

To create awareness and enhance understanding of REFHE-EA among higher education stakeholders in East Africa.

3.0 Objectives

The workshop aims to:

- i. Raise awareness of the REFHE-EA framework for research quality, governance, and impact.
- ii. Highlight the roles of institutions and stakeholders in implementing REFHE-EA.
- iii. Promote initial dialogue and interest in adopting the framework across HEIs.

4.0 Key Workshop Themes

The virtual workshop will cover:

- i. Introduction to REFHE-EA, rationale and objectives
- ii. Principles of Research Quality
- iii. Overview of Research Governance and Management
- iv. Introduction to Research Quality Dimensions
- v. Implementation Overview

5.0 Methodology

The virtual workshop will adopt a sensitisation-oriented approach, including:

- Presentations
- Interactive Q&A sessions
- Live polling and feedback.

The session will be open and accessible to a broad audience, focusing on awareness creation rather than in-depth technical training.

6.0 Target Participants

The workshop will bring together:

- Directors of research and innovation
- Research managers and administrators
- Academic and senior researchers
- Representatives from National councils/commissions for higher education
- Representatives from Councils/ Commissions for STI
- Representatives from Research funding agencies

7.0 Date and Modality

The sensitisation workshop will be held on **Wednesday, 6th May 2026 at 10:00am-12:00 noon**. The modality of the workshop will be Virtual (Online). The workshop link is: [HERE](#)

8.0 Expected Outputs

The expected key outputs are:

- Increased awareness and understanding of REFHE-EA.
- Broad stakeholder engagement across the region.
- Enhanced interest in adopting and implementing the framework.
- Foundation for participation in subsequent capacity building activities.