

REAL PROJECT

# NEWSLETTER

MONDAY

1 SEPTEMBER, 2025



EFFECTIVE EDUCATION IS THE  
CORNERSTONE OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

## ABOUT REAL

Reforming higher education in Laos:  
installing the culture of comprehensive  
Internal quality assurance is necessary for  
implementing an outcomes-based  
approach



To promote the structural reform for  
the effective implementation of the  
outcomes-based approach, creating  
strategies, mechanisms, and resources  
essential to modernize the Lao Higher  
Education System



Erasmus+ Key Action 2

Capacity Building in Higher Education, Strand 3

Duration: 48 Months

1 February 2025 - 31 January 2029

# OBJECTIVES

1. Relevance: Make higher education meet the socio-economic needs of Laos.
2. Feasibility: Support sustainable improvements and innovation in programs.
3. Effectiveness: Build academic and institutional capacity for teaching and reform.
4. Engagement: Involve national and institutional authorities to ensure structural reform.



# PARTNERS

Lao PDR:

- Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES)
- National University of Laos (NUOL)
- Souphanouvong University (SU)
- Savannakhet University (SKU)
- Champasak University (CU)

Europe:

- University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- Asociación de Educadores y Expertos Tuning (Spain)
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)
- Université de Poitiers (France)



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## REAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AT NUOL

1. NUOL hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting (GMI) REAL Project during 31 March - 2 April 2025. The Meeting brought more 90 participants, including experts and representatives from Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), National University of Laos (NUOL), Souphanouvong University (SU), Champassak University (CU), and Savannakhet University (SKU), and representatives of the 17 higher education programmes directly involved in the project and resource persons from the project European partners.

2. On 3 April 2025, NUOL organized the 1<sup>st</sup> REAL First Open Session where representatives from the REAL programme teams explained how the structural reform will be achieved and how students, academics, labour market representatives, and other key actors - including upper secondary school teachers and learners - can get involved and contribute to the success of the reform to more than 30 employers representing from diverse industries in Lao labour market, such as tourism and hospitality, transportation, food processing, banking, hydropower, and agriculture.

3. On 22 May 2025, NUOL organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Dissemination event at NUOL to share about the outcomes of REAL GMI to more than 40 university staff and academics and also follow the work progress of the REAL Program Team (RPT) who are working on preparing graduate profiles and stakeholder consultation. The team also discuss the workplan of the project.

4. From April - July 2025, all the RPT of NUOL have consulted with various stakeholders to complete assigned tasks on graduate profile and review the course learning outcome (CLO) and program learning outcome (PLO) related to programs of English language, business management, livestock, logistics and transportation, and food technology.



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This proactive approach ensured that project outcomes were shared widely, building momentum and a collaborative spirit among the university's academic community.

## REAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AT SU

Following the first General Meeting, Souphanouvong University organized a series of "Building Up the Structural Reform" events. These organic meetings were designed to effectively disseminate the project's work to a broader audience, including professors and key university members. The events were instrumental in raising awareness about the project's goals and fostering institutional buy-in for the IQA reforms across the four key programs: Electrical Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, English Language, and Tourism & Hospitality.



Through new academic programs in English Language, Tourism & Hospitality, Electronic Engineering, and Veterinary Medicine, Souphanouvong University is aligning education with the needs of society and the labor market. These steps highlight how effective education is the key driver of sustainable development.

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## REAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AT SKU

In early May, the REAL-SKU team held its first Structural Reform Build-Up Meeting at Nongpue Campus, Savannakhet University.

The session brought together 17 key stakeholders, including the university president, deans from the Faculties of Agriculture & Environment and Engineering, department leaders, the Head of the Quality Assurance Division, and faculty members.



Presenters highlighted the main outcomes from the recent General Meeting and presented the next set of activities and deliverables planned through July.

This milestone event reflects SKU's strong commitment to institutional growth and advancing quality standards in higher education.

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## REAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AT CU



On May 5, 2025, Champasack University organized the REAL Project Information Session, chaired by Dr. Phonesavanh Thepphasoulithone, President of Champasack University and Manager of the REAL Project. The event brought together 60 participants, including 28 members of the REAL Project team, as well as deans, department heads, center directors, and lecturers representing six faculties.

The information session of REAL covered are 1.) Overall REAL project, 2) Line 3: Ensuring of Effectiveness Teaching, 3) Line 2: Ensuring Feasibility of HE programs, 3) Line 1: Ensuring Relevance of HE studies. The aim of the information session were to 1) transfer the information of REAL project, 2) transfer knowledge or lesson acquired during the GM1 held at NOUL on 30 March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

At the end of the session, the participants

- Gained a broad understanding of the overall REAL Project, including its goals, partner institutions, and its role in enhancing internal quality assurance and aligning higher education with labor market demands.
- Deepened their knowledge of the three core components of the project—Line 1 (Relevance), Line 2 (Feasibility), and Line 3 (Effectiveness)—through presentations and shared experiences from the General Meeting in Vientiane.
- Strengthened their conceptual and practical grasp of how each project line contributes to outcomes-based education and the project’s overall impact.
- Enhanced team collaboration and planning within the REAL Programme Team, particularly in finalizing consultation strategies with key stakeholders and preparing for the next phases of implementation, including teaching strategy selection and syllabus development.



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## EXPECTED POLICY- LEVEL DELIVERABLES (MOES)

- WP2 – Relevance: Stakeholder engagement guidelines (July 2028)
- WP3 – Feasibility: Credit transfer guidelines for mobility & recognition (Sept 2028)
- WP4 – Teaching: CPD policy measures for lecturers on OBE & IQA (Nov 2028)
- WP5 – Sustainability: Reform Sustainability Plan (1st version Jan 2027, final 2029)

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**THANK YOU**