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NSC

organizes a training on the SGI for its managers

Aqua Power

an innovation that wins the Level Up Makutano 2026 award.



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The secretariat



Patriotic awakening: an imperative for science and



Professor
Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President

Far more than a mere emotional exaltation of belonging to a nation, patriotic awakening stems from a higher civic consciousness. It is the act by which the citizen recognizes their historical, moral, and political place within their homeland. This awakening is essential for science and development and presupposes an understanding of the common good as well as an internalization of national duty—pillars indispensable to the consolidation of the state, social cohesion, and the dynamics of development.

Under the leadership of the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), the call for a major national campaign of patriotic awakening resonates, in this 53rd edition, as a scientific and academic imperative. This approach is justified because patriotic awakening is, above all, a light that ignites in the soul: it is the moment when the individual understands that they are not an isolated existence, but a living part of an organic whole. Being patriotic goes beyond the celebration of symbols; it is acknowledging that our personal destiny is inseparable from the collective destiny.

In the field of research, this awakening translates into the ability of researchers to unite to address the vital challenges facing the country. The signing of new partnerships is a concrete illustration of this. By pooling our expertise in climate and the environment, we affirm our commitment to taking control of our ecological destiny and protecting our resources for the benefit of future generations. Authentic patriotism stems from a profound conviction: individual happiness cannot be lasting without the progress of the national community.

Ultimately, the nation is not "others," it is "ourselves."

This "scientific patriotism" is also manifested in the celebration of local ingenuity. The success of solutions such as Aqua Power proves that Congolese innovators hold the keys to addressing real-world challenges. Supporting these initiatives means choosing technological autonomy over dependence. If words are flowers, actions are fruit; and a nation is not nourished by speeches, but by sincere efforts and exemplary behavior: rigorous work, respect for the law, protection of public assets, and the fight against corruption.

Finally, being a patriot today means remaining vigilant in the face of global issues that impact our land, whether it be mining or systemic crises related to water and gender. Patriotism is a unifying force that transcends ethnic, regional, and political divisions to remind us of a higher truth: before our differences, we share a common homeland.

This issue of the Science and Technological Innovation Bulletin invites every researcher and every citizen to see science as the ultimate tool for the defense and influence of the Nation. May this awakening be the driving force behind our future discoveries, because ultimately, patriotic awakening remains the primary imperative for science to serve sustainable development. The homeland is not merely a land we inhabit; it is a memory, an identity, and a responsibility that bears the traces of our ancestors and the hopes of future generations.

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO and Patrick MUYAYA attend the presentation of the UNISIC PSD

The Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, and her colleague from Communication and Media (CM), Patrick MUYAYA, attended the presentation of the Strategic Development Plan (PSD) of the University of Information and Communication Sciences (UNISIC) on March 19, 2026 in Kinshasa..

During the ceremony, the President of ESURSI praised the initiative, describing it as historic. She emphasized that this plan marks the "birth" of a new era for UNISIC, in line with the national vision of investing in intellectual capital.

According to her, this project aims to make the university a hub of innovation in communication and information,



Family photo with their Excellencies from ESURSI and Communication and Media



H.E.M Marie SOMBO, Minister of ESURSI

capable of combining academic theory and professional practice in a context marked by the challenges of cyber-communication. She also highlighted the social dimension of the plan, recalling the importance of exclusivity and the existence of an interministerial decree guaranteeing equitable access to higher education for people living with disabilities.

For his part, the Minister of Communication and Media, Patrick Muyaya, advocated for closer ties between UNISIC and public media outlets, particularly the Congolese National Radio and Television (RTNC) and the Congolese Press Agency (ACP). He believes this

collaboration will allow students to benefit from a gradual professional immersion.

Along the same lines, he emphasized the support for modernizing the university's infrastructure, particularly through the creation of a modern radio and television studio designed to enhance students' practical skills.

Through this roadmap, UNISIC aims to become a national and regional leader in communication training, while simultaneously improving the employability of young graduates in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Finally, the Rector of UNISIC, Professor Espérance Bayedila, indicated that this plan aims to strengthen the quality of teaching, promote scientific research,



The Rector of UNISIC, Prof. Espérance BAYEDILE



H.E. Marie Patrick MUYAYA, Minister of Communication and Media

and equip the university with modern infrastructure adapted to the demands of the digital age.

She stressed the need to make the institution a true innovation laboratory, where theoretical training is closely linked to professional practice, in line with real-world situations. Inclusion is also a priority, with a firm commitment to fully integrating students with disabilities into this transformation process.

Christian MAZONO and school newspaper/ UNISIC

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO is mobilizing ESU establishments for the major national campaign of patriotic awakening.



The Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, called on all Higher and University Education establishments to actively mobilize within the framework of the Great National Campaign of Patriotic Awakening entitled "Let's Talk Patriotism and Civic Duty".

This initiative, launched by the Government of the Republic and coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Patriotic Awakening, aims to strengthen patriotic awareness, civic discipline, and civic engagement among Congolese youth through various educational and community activities.

A national campaign to strengthen civic values

Supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), this campaign will run from February to June 2026 and includes several activities in higher education institutions, notably: conferences and debates in universities and higher institutes, the establishment of Model Patriot Clubs, civic clean-up initiatives as part of the "Bopeto ya Bilenge" program, and the organization of a major national forum, "The Patriots' Meeting," scheduled to take place at the People's Palace esplanade.

These activities aim to promote a sense of responsibility, patriotism, and the active

involvement of young people in building a strong and united nation.

Schedule of Activities in Universities

Awareness-raising and mobilization activities in higher education institutions will be organized progressively according to a schedule for each university district. :

- February - March 2026: Lukunga District (UPN, UPC, Academy of Fine Arts, ISAU, etc.)
- April 2026: Funa District (USK, UC Cardinal Malula, IFAD, UC Don Bosco, etc.)
- May 2026: Mont-Amba District (ULK, UT Bel Campus, UCC, UNIKIN, etc.)
- June 2026: Tshangu and Lukunga Districts (CEPROMAD, Rev. Kim, UNISIC, INBTP, etc.)

The pre-mobilization teams will contact each institution to coordinate the practical aspects related to logistics, conference spaces, and student mobilization.

Call for the involvement of higher education institutions

Within this national framework, school principals are invited to:

- Facilitate the reception of teams from the Ministry of Youth and Patriotic Awakening;

- Mobilize students and academic staff for active participation;
- Disseminate campaign messages through internal institutional channels;
- Encourage the creation and support of Model Patriot Clubs;
- Support civic actions planned within the framework of the "Bopeto ya Bilenge" program.

A contribution to national cohesion

The participation of higher education institutions in this campaign is an essential contribution to promoting republican values, strengthening national cohesion, and training responsible, aware, and committed young people for the future of the country.

The Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) is counting on the involvement of all stakeholders in the sector to ensure the success of this initiative of national importance.

Minister's Communications Unit and
Christian MAZONO/NSC

NSC Activities

The NSC is organizing SGI training for its managers



The CBs and CDs of the PS/NSC are in training on the SGI

The National Scientific Council (NSC) organised a training on the application of the integrated management system (SGI) in order to improve the quality of service and strengthen the capacities of the heads of division and heads of office of the Permanent Secretariat of the NSC, on March 20, 2026 in Kinshasa.

This session was led by Mr. Stevens MPELO, assisted by Mr. Ephraim YABA. In his opening remarks, the trainer outlined the training's objective, highlighting the two aspects of the integrated management system: ensuring the presence of NSC Permanent Secretariat staff and managers at their workplaces, and facilitating teleworking.

The trainer explained that the system is identified by the abbreviation "SIGC-NSC" and that the website can be accessed via the following link: sigc.lovable.app in browsers such as Google Chrome, Safari, and Firefox..

Attendance management

The system is automatically locked at 6:00 AM and unlocked at 4:00 PM. Agents and managers are asked to specify their arrival and departure times on the days they are scheduled to work.

Task assignment

The system provides access to a

dashboard that allows Office Managers or Division Heads to schedule tasks by specifying the responsible agent, the task itself, its duration, and its level (urgent, medium, low, high). This system enables remote monitoring of the execution of tasks assigned to agents.

The practical part involved creating an account, and to do so, the following procedure is recommended:

Click on Google Chrome and paste the link sigc.lovable.app;

- Click on "Register,"
- enter your first and last name,
- select your rank,
- enter your email address,
- create a password containing one uppercase letter, lowercase letters, special characters, and numbers (maximum 10 characters),
- click on "Create an account,"
- click on "Enroll agents,"
- check the list of available agents,
- click on "Enroll my agents".

To assign tasks:

Click on the icon in the far left corner above,

- Click on Assign a task,
- click on New mission,
- enter the mission title,
- enter a detailed description,
- click on Agent,
- select the agent's name,
- click on Priority to select High, Medium, Low, or Urgent,
- enter the deadline,
- click on Attach documents,
- click on Assign the mission and then confirm..

Regarding the monitoring of the attendance list :

- Click on my clocking-in to mark the arrival and departure times.
- Clock in and then scan the QR code.

In fact, the NSC would like to introduce an innovation in the way it tracks the activities assigned to agents.

LUVANDU MBENZA

Echoes of Research Institutions

METTELSAT, UNIKIN, UOB, CEEDD and WASARU sign a strategic partnership for climate and the environment



URF-GRN



UNIVERSITE
DE KINSHASA



METTELSAT



UOB
UNIVERSITE
OFFICIELLE DE
BUKAVU

In a global context marked by the climate emergency, the Democratic Republic of Congo has just taken a decisive step by structuring its scientific response through the signing, on February 18, 2026, of a protocol to an important agreement.

This initiative involves the National Meteorology and Satellite Remote Sensing Agency (METTELSAT), a public technical institution, and a multidisciplinary consortium of academic and scientific partners including the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), the Official University of Bukavu (UOB), the Center for Environmental Studies for Sustainable Development (CEEDD), and WASARU (Water and Sanitation in Rural and Urban Areas). This collaborative effort, spearheaded by Director General Joseph Itela Ylondo and Professor Dr. Fils Makanzu Imwangana, promises to transform environmental risk management by placing innovation and high-precision data at the heart of public action.

The foundation of this partnership lies in a clear objective: to shift from reactive crisis management to a genuine culture of anticipation. By combining METTELSAT's core aviation capabilities with the Consortium's research expertise, the country is establishing a robust mechanism for developing early warning systems for climate risks (floods, droughts, high winds, heat waves, bushfires) and implementing an air quality monitoring system. This relies on reliable data to strengthen the resilience of populations in the face of natural disasters.

From a technical standpoint, the agreement is structured around three major pillars that directly impact the daily lives of Congolese people. First, expanding the national meteorological observation network, with the installation of automatic rain gauges in critical areas, will enable the activation of early warning systems for floods and high winds. Second, air quality monitoring will be facilitated by the consortium's technological expertise, particularly through the WASARU organization. The DRC will now produce daily air pollution bulletins, integrating satellite data and ground-based measurements. Finally, the fight against erosion, particularly in Kinshasa and Bukavu through the Co-Urgent project, will benefit from innovative predictive models and nature-based solutions to curb the advance of urban gullies.

One of the most significant innovations of this protocol lies in the principle of resource pooling and open data sharing. This technology transfer is bidirectional: while METTELSAT benefits from strengthened technical capacities and data collection equipment, universities gain access to valuable climatological archives for applied research. This collaboration ensures that technological innovation does not remain confined to laboratories but directly serves the protection of local communities. By translating complex data into alerts accessible via media and digital platforms, the partnership ensures inclusive



The Mettelsat team and the UNIKIN-UOB-CEEDD-WASARU Consortium

and multilingual communication.

Beyond technical cooperation, this agreement represents an act of scientific sovereignty. By directly involving national researchers in the production of strategic documents and the METTELSAT Action Plan, the country strengthens its autonomy. This unified approach to international technical and financial partners strengthens the DRC's position on the global climate stage.

BALOGIJE SELENJE Jean-Luc/
RCMD/Bunia

Women's Month: DYFERSCO/ATSRC organizes a scientific morning in Kinshasa



H.E. Marie Patrick MUYAYA, Minister of Communication and Media

The Congolese Women in Scientific Research Network of the Center for Research in Applied and Technological Sciences (DYFERSCO/ATSRC) organized a scientific morning to launch the activities of Women's Month, on March 11, 2026 in Kinshasa.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Director General of ATSRC, Professor Jean Noel MPUKU KANYNDA. Following him, the Director of Human Resources at CRSAT, Ms. Germaine MUKENDI, speaking as the representative of the women of ATSRC encouraged the women of this research institution to fully embrace this month. The President of DYFERSCO, Ms. Annette MUJINGA, for her part, welcomed the large turnout of women researchers gathered in the room, who are ready to take up the challenges of the fight against inequalities of all kinds.

The scientific session was led by researcher MBIYA KADIESA Laurette, Research Assistant in the Information and Publication Department (DISP) at ATSRC. She addressed the theme: "The collective journey

towards full and complete gender equality."

The expert and lawyer began her presentation by stating that the march towards gender equality is a global collective endeavor, marked by legislative efforts (ratification of protocols, adoption of laws), initiatives for economic empowerment, and the fight against gender-based violence. She emphasized that it is a long, gradual, and constantly evolving process; it is not a destination already reached, but rather a social, political, and cultural dynamic that mobilizes societies worldwide.

Although significant progress has been made regarding formal rights, gaps remain in political representation and equal pay, leaving effective parity still incomplete, she stressed. The researcher identified several forms of discrimination and violence against women, including any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or differential treatment based on sex that aims to compromise or prohibit women's recognition, enjoyment, or exercise of their rights, as well as discrimination based on marital status. She illustrated several examples of violations of women's

rights: sexual violence in peacetime and/or wartime, sexual harassment in the workplace, underpayment of wages, deprivation of property rights, domestic violence, mistreatment during a deceased husband's funeral, female genital mutilation, forced water collection, and forced marriage. The speaker also discussed the factors that contribute to the violation of women's rights. These include, among others: age, socioeconomic status, racial or ethnic origin, religion, nationality, health status (HIV-positive or disability), poverty, language, Indigenous population, migrants, internally displaced persons (due to war or climate), refugees, intolerance, etc.

The researcher further described the goal of the fight for gender equality, which is based on the principle that all citizens have the same rights, so that women and men must be subject to the same conditions of access to resources and opportunities, as well as the same control over them.

She also stated that equality between men and women exists when both sexes can share power and influence equitably;

Echoes of Research Institutions



when they have the same chances of achieving financial independence through work or entrepreneurship; and when they benefit from equal access to education with the opportunity to develop their ambitions, interests, and personal aspirations. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world, he emphasized.

The speaker listed several legal instruments relating to women's rights: the Universal Declaration of Women's Rights (1948), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Charter) (1981), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), and the Constitution of the DRC of February 18, 2006.

The assistant presented possible avenues for the fight for gender equality, including :

- Autonomisation économique et juridique : Eradicate discriminatory laws, ensure equal rights, including access to employment, property, and fair wages;
- Political representation and leadership: Accelerate parity in decision-making positions and in parliament, where women

are underrepresented despite slow progress;

- Education and combating stereotypes: Promote a culture of equality from school onwards, deconstruct patriarchal norms;
- Combating violence: Intensify the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, particularly in conflict and crisis zones where women are more vulnerable.

The speaker listed several challenges facing the DRC, including girls' education, reducing maternal mortality, and women's economic integration, which require legal reforms and targeted investments.

She also highlighted the many achievements that have marked this journey: civil rights; access to employment; the legal framework (laws against discrimination); political representation; education (increasing enrollment of girls); changing attitudes; and shared family roles.

The speaker emphasized the importance of women becoming more aware and taking control of their own destinies. Equality is not a gift but something that must be won through sacrifices and hard work in various professional and other spheres. She affirmed that the commitment of men and young people to promoting gender equality is essential for lasting change.

The speaker went on to say that the fight for gender equality began decades ago and unfortunately continues to this day, despite the multitude of legal instruments put in place. Progress has been made in recent decades, demonstrating positive developments. This journey toward gender equality is a collective endeavor that requires constant vigilance at every level, education, and commitment from everyone. This path is not linear, but each step forward contributes to building more just, balanced societies that respect human dignity.

Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a fundamental human right but also essential for accelerating sustainable development, she said.

That is why women must not give up.

She concluded by saying that they must continue the fight to ensure that international, regional, and national communities

are sufficiently aware of and recognize women's rights to equality with men, non-discrimination, the protection of human dignity, legal personhood, the protection of privacy, and so on.

She emphasized that women must find strategies to enjoy or exercise these rights without any obstacles related to age, sex, race, religion, nationality, health status, or armed conflict.

The speaker concluded her presentation by expressing her hope that the struggle would remain continuous, waged daily and in all essential sectors.

The Director General closed the scientific session by urging women to pursue better education, as everything rests on a solid foundation of education provided by families, an indispensable lever that should contribute to a significant increase in awareness among those involved in implementing resolutions

ATTITUNGU SANGOL Dieudonné/
ATSRC

Echoes of Research Institutions

Ersuma raises awareness among students in the DRC about alternative dispute resolution methods.



More than one hundred students from three major Congolese universities were introduced to arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods, mechanisms increasingly considered essential levers for securing the business environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on March 14, 2026 in Kinshasa.

Organized at the Protestant University of Congo (UPC), this conference brought together students from the University of Kinshasa, the Catholic University of Congo, and UPC with experts in Business Law. The initiative is jointly led by the Transforme project and the OHADA Regional Graduate School of Magistracy (ERSUMA).

At the close of the meeting, Janvier Kiambu, the legal expert for the Transforme project, emphasized that promoting these legal mechanisms aims primarily to strengthen legal certainty, a key element for attracting investment and supporting business growth.

Strengthening legal certainty

"The Transforme project supports entrepreneurship, SME growth, job creation, and economic diversification. However, this momentum cannot develop sustainably without a reliable business environment. Promoting arbitration contributes precisely to strengthening this legal security," he explained.

This conference for students marks the culmination of a week of activities dedicated

to ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution). On March 9 and 10, 2026, two awareness-raising days were held at the Pullman Hotel in Kinshasa, bringing together students and young professionals to discuss the challenges of OHADA law and commercial arbitration. Following this, three days of workshops were also organized at the Federation of Congolese Businesses (FEC) for member organizations of the Congolese employers' association. The meeting aimed to encourage businesses to make greater use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to avoid lengthy and costly legal proceedings.

Involve the students

These initiatives are part of a broader effort to strengthen legal capacity in the DRC. Training sessions had already been held in Kinshasa and Matadi, while other workshops on the procedures of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) took place in Kananga and Mbuji-Mayi.

For the organizers, involving students is a strategic choice. "It is important to raise awareness among those who will practice OHADA law tomorrow, become arbitrators, or create arbitration centers," emphasized Janvier Kiambu, noting that law students represent the future actors in commercial justice.

Stimulate research

Beyond raising awareness, the initiative also aims to stimulate academic research on these

issues. Students are encouraged to produce scholarly work on arbitration, mediation, and other dispute resolution mechanisms.

To extend the impact of these activities, the organizers announced the establishment of monitoring and collaboration mechanisms with universities. In particular, partnerships could be created between Ersuma and the Faculty of Law at UPC, with the prospect of developing a certification program in arbitration and mediation.

A strategic tool

The conference was led by the Director General of ERSUMA, Karel Osiris Dugué, accompanied by experts Djibo Boli Bintou and Achille Ngwanza, with support from the National Center for Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation (CENACOM).

In a context where the DRC is seeking to improve its business climate and attract more investment, promoting a culture of arbitration and mediation appears as a strategic tool. Beyond legal texts, it is also trust in dispute resolution mechanisms that shapes the credibility of an economic environment.

Jérémie ASOKO/Forum des As

At The Time Innovation

Aqua Power: an innovation that wins the Level Up Makutano 2026 award.



Focused on the theme "The Art of Becoming," the Level Up Makutano 2026 edition, considered a "business booster," closed its doors on March 14, 2026, at the Sultani River Hotel in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As with every edition, Level Up continues to grow and inspire a whole generation of entrepreneurs, creators, and leaders. A total of eleven determined women, each with an innovative project, were in the running, supported by experienced coaches who helped structure their ambitions, as well as talented designers whose goal was to bring their visions to life and support all the projects.

After listening to the 11 candidates, their pitches, and discussions with the jury, three projects stood out:

MoDurable, led by Lisa Bwalelo, a startup that transforms textile waste into furniture and design objects "Made in DRC"; CinqPains, initiated by Prisca Yoka, a bakery that uses local cassava flour to produce bread; and

AquaPower, presented by Bienvenue Bomashi, a solution that transforms the power of water into usable energy using a water wheel to produce

clean electricity while improving access to water. Designed for rural and peri-urban areas, this technology powers lighting, recharges equipment, and supports local economic activities.

Ultimately, the AquaPower project won the grand prize at the 2026 edition, along with a check for \$10,000 to further its development. The First Lady of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, was chosen to present the check. Her presence was seen as a show of support for this initiative promoting women's entrepreneurship, organized during March, Women's Rights Month. Bienvenue Bomashi, a hydroelectric engineer and president of the Coalition of Women Entrepreneurs of Congo, expressed her satisfaction at being the winner of this edition, stating that her project was selected because of its multifaceted impact on Congolese society. "First of all, I am overjoyed. I thank the Creator above all, the one who created energy, the one who created water: Yahweh. I understand that justice exists. All the projects that were presented were good, but if some were chosen, it is because they have an impact. There is an economic impact, a social impact, and above all, an environmental impact. We are here to produce

water and electricity, even in the villages," she told the press after the event.

According to the 2026 winner, this award recognizes the skills of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She also emphasized that the other candidates had appreciated her project during the selection process.

"This recognition represents the knowledge and ability to recognize the value of women. We know how to value women, and this is truly a recognition of women. It's a time of recognition. I already had a very good project. Even on the day we were selected, some colleagues told me, 'Madam, this is really a very good project,' she added in her reaction.

For her part, Nicole Sulu, the visionary and initiator of the event, thanked the First Lady, Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, for her presence despite her many responsibilities. According to her, this presence is a source of motivation and encouragement for Congolese youth and women.

"Your presence speaks volumes, not only to all these young women who support me, but also to me personally. As we have written, your presence

At the time of innovation

offers all these young people a precious point of reference: that of a role model who uplifts by example, who protects by conviction, and who guides with unwavering support. Thank you for being this mother figure who blesses, this mother figure who encourages, this mother figure who offers us her help. We also had a small gift for you. It may not be much, but it is a symbol to remind you that your presence, your support, your gaze, and your guidance continuously transform lives," emphasized Nicole Sulu, founder of the Makutano Network. Level Up Makutano is an event that goes far beyond a simple competition. According to the organizers, each project, idea, and initiative becomes a story to follow, a promise of innovation, and a breath of fresh air for the DRC. Level Up is seen as a true ecosystem

where entrepreneurship, fashion, and leadership converge to create a concrete and lasting impact for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It is also an interactive business booster, designed to inform, support, and connect entrepreneurs who have a project but don't know how to find funding, acquire the necessary skills, or develop their network. Launched in 2021 by Nicole Sulu, founder of the Makutano business network, this series of events allows leading figures in the DRC's public and private sectors to reach out to less experienced entrepreneurs. The main objective: to foster the development of the country and the continent. Level Up Makutano was created in 2021 by Nicole Sulu, founder of the Makutano business network.

Clément MUAMBA/Actualité.cd and Christian MAZONO/NSC

Read for you

At the heart of the crisis: The Swedish Fund is transforming lives in the DRC



In a context marked by massive displacement and persistent instability in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sweden has emerged as one of the most committed partners in supporting vulnerable populations. Through its support for the Crisis Response Plan (CRP), implemented by several national organizations with technical support from UNDP, it has funded multi-sectoral actions that are sustainably improving the living conditions of communities in North and South Kivu.

Strengthening women's empowerment and economic resilience.

One of the major components of Swedish support focuses on women's leadership and economic empowerment. Thanks to this funding: More than 400 women have been supported in income-generating activities (IGAs) in territories such as Masisi, Nyiragongo, Rutshuru, Kalehe, Minova, and Uvira. More than 30 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) have been established, bringing together several hundred women. Safe spaces for women, market sheds, and small economic infrastructure have been built or rehabilitated. These initiatives promote women's economic independence while strengthening their central role in community

stability.

[Supporting the livelihoods of affected households](#)

Economic recovery was another major pillar of Swedish funding: 400 people supported in individual income-generating activities; 100 beneficiaries supported in emergency agriculture; 500 beneficiaries involved in temporary jobs through the Cash for Work/HIMO mechanism; and the establishment of 20 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)/Mutual Aid Societies (MUSOs) with 500 members. These actions enable households to

Echoes of Research Institutions



access income, strengthen their autonomy, and rebuild their livelihoods.

Promoting social cohesion and preventing conflicts

Faced with persistent tensions, Swedish support has strengthened community peace mechanisms: 44 community-based conflict alert and prevention structures have been created or revitalized; 164 social cohesion activities have been conducted within communities; 28 community conflicts have been resolved through supported mediation mechanisms; peace shelters have been built; and studies on local conflict dynamics have been carried out. These initiatives contribute to strengthening dialogue, reducing tensions, and stabilizing the most affected areas.

Swedish support has reached a significant number of beneficiaries: 1,184 people supported through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), including 989 women and 195 men; 1,053 beneficiaries reached through income-generating activities (IGAs); and 775 people involved in temporary employment. The strong participation of women demonstrates Sweden's particular attention to gender dynamics in a crisis context.



Through its financial and political commitment, Sweden is positioning itself as a key partner for the stabilization and resilience of the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. Its targeted and multidimensional support has not only provided immediate responses to humanitarian needs but has also laid the foundations for sustainable recovery for thousands of families affected by the conflict. The interventions funded by Sweden confirm that solutions to the crisis in eastern

DRC require an integrated approach: protection, empowerment, infrastructure, livelihoods, and social cohesion..

communication Unit of PNUD

UNESCO designates Medellín as World Book Capital 2027



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated the city of Medellín, Colombia, as the World Book Capital for 2027. The city has seen a 542% increase in the number of bookstores over the past seven decades, placing it at the top of the country's national reading index. This designation follows the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee, composed of booksellers, publishers, and authors.

According to UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany, books tell more than just stories. They are a source of creativity and learning. Medellín has become an international benchmark for urban and cultural transformation, where books and libraries play a crucial role in fostering positive social change. The designation of Medellín as World Book Capital 2027 sends a powerful message about how culture can contribute to building peace and social cohesion. The second largest city in Colombia, Medellín boasts more than 110 bookstores and 25 libraries, many of which have been established in former prisons or police stations. Once marked by long periods of conflict, the city is now internationally recognized for its urban and cultural innovation, where books and libraries provide essential refuges and places of resistance. Medellín now embodies the power of culture in the service of peace and reconciliation. UNESCO and the World Book Capital Advisory Committee have recognized Medellín for its strong commitment to cultural mobilization and its proven capacity to host major cultural initiatives. UNESCO World Book Capitals are committed to promoting books and reading for all and advancing the values of dialogue, creativity, education, and cultural diversity, with a particular focus on young people and vulnerable communities. This designation also reaffirms the essential role of books as catalysts for more inclusive, equitable, and peaceful societies.

This initiative is part of UNESCO's efforts to strengthen reading and literacy ecosystems worldwide. For example, the Centroamérica Lectora project, funded by AECID from 2020 to 2023, helped expand access to books and reading in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, while also strengthening their publishing ecosystems. In Ethiopia, another project funded by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is currently focusing on developing literature for children and young people. Medellín, the 27th city to hold this title since 2001, will host a series of activities designed to strengthen the city's public policy on reading, writing, and storytelling. The celebrations will begin on April 23, 2027, World Book and Copyright Day.

About the World Book Capitals

Cities designated as UNESCO World Book Capitals commit to promoting books and reading for all ages and audiences, both within the national territory and beyond, and to organizing a program of activities for one year.

Medellín, the twenty-seventh city to hold this title since 2001, succeeds:

Madrid (2001), Alexandria (2002), New Delhi (2003), Antwerp (2004), Montreal (2005), Turin (2006), Bogotá (2007), Amsterdam (2008), Beirut (2009), Ljubljana (2010), Buenos Aires (2011), Yerevan (2012), Bangkok (2013), Port Harcourt (2014), Incheon (2015), Wrocław (2016), Conakry (2017), Athens (2018), Sharjah (2019), Kuala Lumpur (2020), Tbilisi (2021), Guadalajara (2022), Accra (2023), Strasbourg (2024), Rio de Janeiro (2025) and Rabat (2026).

About the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.

The UNESCO World Book Capital Advisory Committee brings together representatives from various organizations including the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF),

the International Authors Forum (IAF), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the International Publishers Association (IPA) and UNESCO.

About UNESCO

With 194 Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) contributes to peace and security by promoting multilateral cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, communication, and information. UNESCO coordinates a network of more than 2,000 World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves, and global geoparks; several hundred creative, learning, inclusive, and sustainable cities; and more than 13,000 affiliated schools, university chairs, training centers, and research facilities, with a global network of 200 National Commissions. Headquartered in Paris, the Organization has offices in 54 countries and employs more than 2,300 people. Its Director-General is Khaled El-Enany.

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." – UNESCO Constitution, 1945

Press Office/UNESCO

PUBLIC-SECTOR RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES IN THE D.R. CONGO

RIHS (Research Institute in Health Science)

Objective: To improve the state of health of the population through research in the following fields: pharmaceutical, medical, anthropological, psychological or socio-cultural.

Address: 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211

ATSR (Applied and Technologic Sciences Research Center)

Objectif: Mettre au point des matériaux, des appareils, des méthodes ou procédés Objective: To develop materials, equipment, methods or processes with a view to finding solutions to the population's urgent problems in various fields: housing, rural development and the modernization of the society.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Jeannoel.mputu@gmail.com; Tel: 0821138261

RCHS (Research Center in Human Sciences)

Objective: To ensure the human development of the Congolese people through the study of its social, economic and political dimensions with a view to identifying the factors that have a positive or negative influence on its development.

Address: 33, Av. comité urbain C/ Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821

RCMT (Research Center in Mathematics Teaching)

Objective: To carry out research in the field of mathematics teaching with a view to improving quality.

Address: 84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe; E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail.com; Tel: 0815031877

GRC (Geophysical Research Center)

Objective: To provide the country with a national geophysical observation network, for the global study of the internal behavior of the earth in the DRC.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe (within GMRC); E-mail: tondozi@gmail.com; Tel: 0854426228

AIPS (African Institute of Prospective Studies)

Objective: To carry out forward-looking studies in order to propose solutions to crises and problems linked to the evolution of African societies.

Address: Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtarcbangu@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0996658741

MDR (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Matadi)

Objective: To carry out operational research in central Congo in the field of applied linguistics of African cultures and applied sciences

Address: Hôtel de la porte Matadi; E-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel: 0815037949

NCPIR (National Committee for the Protection of ionizing Radiation)

Objective: - Regulatory authority for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation in the DRC management of radioactive sources of radioactive materials such as uranium.

Address: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665

AEC (French Atomic Energy Commission)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate scientific and technical research in various fields of science and industry, concerning the use of atomic energy and space research.

Address: UNIKIN building; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel: 0808643248

CGI (Congo Geographic Institute)

Objective: Production of the base map of the DRC at a scale of 1/50,000 and its derivatives.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240

GMRC (Geologic and Mining Research Center)

Objective: To carry out studies and analyses to improve knowledge of the soil and subsoil of the national territory.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe; E-mail: rolandkakule@gmail.com; Tel: 0851506161

NIASR (National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research)

Objective: To promote the development of agriculture in the Congo. To maintain varieties, multi-local trials, and its farmers, management and conservation of germplasm. Set up a program to monitor and evaluate research activities.

To disseminate new varieties. Give the emerging technical department its reason for being, with a view to producing basic and pre-basic seed. Resume publication of the agricultural magazine to disseminate research results.

Address: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP :2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikankonde@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620

RCALC (Research Center into African Language and Culture)

Objective: To coordinate and carry out all research projects concerning African languages and cultures.

Address: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/ Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320

AFRC (Agro-Food Research Centre/Lubumbashi)

Objective: To identify processes for processing and preserving basic local agricultural products. To improve the quality of imported or locally produced foodstuffs by applying approved standards and quality control.

Help the technological development of the existing agro-industry by providing them with technical assistance wherever possible.

Address: 1, Av. Président ILEO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002

IRSS (Institut de Recherche en Science de la Santé)

Objectif : Améliorer l'état de santé de la population par des recherches dans les domaines : pharmaceutique, médical, anthropologique, psychologique ou socioculturel.

Adresse : 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211

CRSAT (Centre de Recherche en Sciences Appliquées et Technologiques)

Objectif: Mettre au point des matériaux, des appareils, des méthodes ou procédés en vue de trouver des solutions aux problèmes urgents de la population dans divers domaines de l'habitat, du développement rural ainsi qu'à ceux liés à la modernisation de la société.

Adresse: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Jeannoel.mputu@gmail.com; Tel: 0821138261

CRESH (Centre de Recherche en Sciences Humaines)

Objectif: Assurer la promotion humaine des congolais par l'étude de ses dimensions sociales, économique et politiques tendant à déceler les facteurs qui influencent positivement ou négativement sur son développement.

Adresse: 33, Av. comité urbain C/ Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821

CREM (Centre de Recherche en Enseignement de la Mathématique)

Objectif: Effectuer des recherches dans le domaine de l'enseignement des Mathématiques en vue d'améliorer la qualité.

Adresse :84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe; E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail.com; Tel: 0815031877

CRG (Centre de Recherche en Géophysique)

Objectif: Mettre à la disposition du pays un réseau national d'observation de géophysique, pour l'étude globale de comportement interne du globe terrestre en RDC.

Adresse : 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe(enceinte du CRGM); E-mail: tondozi@gmail.com; Tel: 0854426228

INADEP (Institut Africain d'Etudes Prospectives)

Objectif: Effectuer des réflexions anticipatives afin de proposer des solutions aux crises et aux problèmes liés à l'évolution des sociétés africaines

Adresse : Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtarcbangu@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0996658741

CRMD (Centre de Recherche Multidisciplinaire de Développement/Matadi)

Objectif: Mener des recherches opérationnelles dans le kongo central dans le domaine de la linguistique appliquée des cultures africaines et des sciences appliquées

Adresse: Hôtel de la porte Matadi; E-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel: 0815037949

CNPRI (Comité National de Protection contre les Rayonnements Ionisants)

Objectif: Réglementer, contrôler à travers des inspections; autoriser la possession, l'emploi et le déplacement des matières nucléaires et radioactives ainsi que d'appliquer les mesures de coercition, le cas échéant. C'est l'Autorité de régulation dans le domaine de l'utilisation des matières nucléaires et radioactives.

Adresse: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665

CGEA (Commissariat Général à l'Energie Atomique)

Objectif: Effectuer, promouvoir et coordonner la Recherche Scientifique et technique dans divers de la science et de l'industrie, intéressant l'utilisation de l'énergie atomique et la recherche spatiale.

Adresse: Enceinte de l'UNIKIN; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel: 0808643248

IGC (Institut Géographique du Congo)

Objectif: Production de la carte de base de la RDC à l'échelle de 1/50.000 et ses dérivées.

Adresse: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240

CRGM (Centre de Recherche Géologique et Minière)

Objectif: Effectuer des Etudes et Analyses permettant une meilleure connaissance du sol et sous-sol du territoire national

Adresse: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe; E-mail: rolandkakule@gmail.com; Tel: 0851506161

INERA (Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomique)

Objectif: Promouvoir le développement de l'agriculture au Congo. Maintenir des variétés, essais multi- locaux, et ses paysans, gestion et conservation du géomplasm. Mettre en marche un programme une programme suivi et évaluation des activités de recherche. Vulgariser les nouvelles variétés. Redonner à la direction technique en gestation une valeur traduisant bien sa raison d'être en vue d'une production de semences de base et de prébase associée. Reprendre la publication de la revue agricole pour diffuser les résultats de recherches.

Adresse: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP :2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikankonde@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620

CRICA (Centre de Recherche en Langue et Culture Africaine)

Objectif: Coordonner et réaliser tous les projets de recherche concernant des langues et cultures africaines.

Adresse: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/ Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320

CRAA (Centre de Recherche Agro-Alimentaire/Lubumbashi)

Objectif: Identifier les procédés de transformation, de conservation des produits agricoles locaux de base. Améliorer la qualité des aliments importés ou fabriqués localement par l'application des normes approuvées et un contrôle de qualité. Aider le développement technologique de l'agro-industrie existante en leur apportant dans la mesure du possible une assistance technique.

Adresse: 1, Av. Président ILEO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002

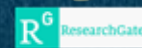


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1. to deliberate on the guidelines and priorities of the scientific and technological research plans and programs to be carried out in the country ;
2. to deliberate on the allocation of resources from the State budget to scientific and technological activities;
3. supervising the financial management of research centers and institutes
4. approving the budgets of the Research Institutes and Centers and submitting them to the Minister for Scientific Research for approval
5. approving the organic regulations of the Research Institutes and Centers;
6. proposing to the Minister for Scientific Research the appointment and promotion of scientific and administrative personnel.

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