



SAIS 2

RE:innovation

CHALLENGE PROJECTS

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF BOTSWANA'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM THROUGH CO-CREATION AND FORESIGHT



“This project will assist the creation of valuable insights and innovation sparks to be captured in participating SMMEs and companies’ strategy and innovation work. It will do this by facilitating the exploration of global future impacts and driving forces in order to create better visions of the future and so to build resilience.”

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 has left many SMEs and startups in Botswana on the brink of halting their operations. This situation is exacerbated by the SMMEs’ lack of preparedness and difficulties in accessing digital solutions that can mitigate the risks.

The project will utilise team-based group work activities to provide SMMEs and startups with the skills they need to create innovative solutions that augment their businesses’ resilience to external shocks. The companies participate in the projects as co-creation partners and are involved in defining the context for future projects, which ensures the relevance of the projects from the businesses’ points of view. The collaboration focuses on learning by doing and is results-oriented.

Demola Global and the University of Botswana, through the University–Industry–Government Co-Creation platform, the Computer Science Department, and the Business School, are responsible for forming and guiding teams through the process, methods, and training.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- To inculcate an innovative approach and proactive culture of solving problems during adversity.
- To develop rapid proof of concepts together with SMMEs and demonstrate the resilience of working online solutions.
- To work with SMMEs in the Botswana ecosystem (including startups) to validate a technology-enabled service that improves recovery during unforeseen circumstances.
- Conduct knowledge sharing seminars on creating business value through mega trends future foresight.
- Promote global collaboration and diversity in working teams.
- Train participating organisations on the process of adapting well in the face of adversity.



Project Partner

Demola Global, Finland

DEMOLA



Project Coordinator

The University of Botswana



Implementing Country

Botswana

Finland

