



Building Skills, Shaping Futures

How Article26 Is Transforming Agile Education in Rwanda

What is Article 26 and how did it come about?

The Article26 program, developed and implemented by Maxpert from Germany, was launched in response to a pressing need for accessible, high-quality Professional Scrum certifications and Agile training in Rwanda. This need was identified through direct inquiries from organizations such as Kepler College and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Rwanda, and further validated by comprehensive research.

Maxpert, a training and consulting organization, with its extensive expertise, experience, and global network, was uniquely positioned to design a solution that would create long-term impact. Central to Maxpert's motivation is a deep

sense of responsibility—to give back and contribute to sustainable development. Guided by the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inspired by Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which asserts that everyone has the right to education, the company committed itself to this cause.

“Many communities suffer from limited access to professional training due to inadequate infrastructure and financial constraints,” said Max Stilp, Founder of Article26. “At the same time, large-scale projects across the continent often encounter significant project management challenges, with delays and budget overruns threatening their success. There is also a shortage of well-trained professionals and educators.”

This commitment was further strengthened by the overwhelming interest shown during the eLearning Conference on the Ivory Coast. The Article26 program addresses critical barriers to training and workforce development in Africa. By delivering free Scrum training programs, Article26 enhances economic growth, improves the long-term prospects of local communities, and generates employment opportunities.

"The Article 26 Scrum Training Program provided me with a flexible and engaging learning experience that fit seamlessly into my busy schedule. The practical approach and accessible learning materials made complex concepts easy to grasp. Scrum has transformed how I plan and organize my work, and I'm excited to integrate Agile principles into my teaching and research. I highly recommend this program for anyone looking to enhance their productivity and adaptability in today's dynamic environment."

— Brenda Tatenda Masocha, Lecturer at Rwanda Polytechnic



Implementation and Delivery

Maxpert's Article26 program was implemented through a unique, socially driven education model designed to make high-quality professional training accessible to underserved communities. At the heart of the initiative is an educational platform that connects global companies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), learners, and educational institutions. Clients from the Global North purchase eLearning courses on the platform, and in doing so, automatically sponsor free access for students and practitioners in developing countries. This model helps cultivate future-qualified talent in emerging markets.

The Scrum training program is a core part of the initiative, designed around Agile principles and structured to emphasize real-world application of the Scrum framework. The learning experience is modular, covering core elements such as Scrum Accountabilities, Events (Sprints, Retrospectives), and Artifacts (backlogs, Increments), and is tailored to meet learners where they are—offering additional courses in ITIL and Project Management to align with prior knowledge and learner interests.

Each group of learners experiences a blended learning environment that combines both online and offline components. The journey begins with an onboarding session, followed by seven structured learning sessions—with some of them being in person. The course supports self-paced learning and includes dedicated sessions for hands-on

application and exam preparation for the globally respected Professional Scrum Master I (PSM I) certification from Scrum.org.

“For Scrum.org, the Article 26 program is a meaningful step toward helping people and teams deliver valuable products in Africa,” said Eric Naiburg, COO of Scrum.org. Supporting both community empowerment and business development by expanding people’s ability to successfully leverage Scrum across Rwanda, we are proud to be a part of this initiative.”

What makes the program stand out was its commitment to practical, engaging education. Learners participate in team exercises, role-playing, and case studies—along with creative tools including play-based prototyping kits—to help make complex concepts tangible and enjoyable. A scenario used in the training is building a new airport, which is something that is currently planned in Rwanda. The real life scenarios provide better understanding to the students and educate them on something new. Soft skill labs are also used, focusing on essential career skills like communication, time management, data analysis, roadmapping, and AI literacy.

Instruction is led by experienced facilitators, who bring real-world insight and personal coaching to every session. In collaboration with partners like Kepler College, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MINICT), and GIZ, the program also incorporates real-world enterprise projects. These projects give participants the opportunity to gain hands-on experience while contributing to meaningful initiatives in their communities.



“Kepler is one of the first colleges in Rwanda to offer a Bachelor's Degree in Project Management,” said Stilp. “So the connection between Article26/Maxpert, Kepler, and Scrum.org is a natural fit.”

In addition to the program, Article 26 also has hosted Hackathons with the staff of MINICT. In 2024, they held a hackathon with a scenario in which the government wanted to implement agile internally for international collaborations.

Through this innovative delivery model, Maxpert not only provides professional certifications but also fosters local collaboration, real-world readiness, and long-term career growth.

“We work to shape a future worth living around the world. This is GIZ’s vision and long-term goal,” said Stilp. “GIZ provides tailor-made, cost-efficient and effective services for sustainable development.”

Results and Benefits

Article 26 has enabled 142 participants to become certified in PSM I so far, all of whom have demonstrated a strong grasp of Scrum fundamentals. This course



significantly enhanced their project management capabilities and opened new career opportunities, as Scrum expertise is increasingly valued across industries.

"The Article26 Scrum Training Program completely transformed my approach to project management. Before, I had a strong theoretical foundation, but this program helped me bridge the gap between knowledge and real-world application. Through hands-on learning and practical exercises, I gained the confidence to implement Scrum practices in my work—like the Scrum events, which have already improved team alignment. The skills and certification I earned even helped me secure two new roles!"

I highly recommend this program to anyone looking to advance their career with practical, globally recognized skills."

— Fabrice Ishimwe, Digital Marketing Specialist & Traffic Manager Intern, Kepler

Beyond individual growth, the program created a ripple effect in the broader community. It helped build a local pool of Agile professionals equipped to drive innovation and lead complex projects. The initiative also contributed to the development of a stronger Agile ecosystem in Rwanda, promoting collaboration, adaptability and sustainable growth.

About Maxpert

We are only successful if you are! - As one of the first accredited IT Service Management training centres, we have over 30 years' experience in successfully training and developing your staff. When your business needs to change, when processes and technologies need to be redesigned, we are the people to call! We ourselves have undergone a remarkable transformation from an IT systems house to a consultancy and training organisation. We now successfully advise companies on the use of project management, service management, agile methods and modern approaches such as design thinking. What sets us apart is the

way we deliver the content - there is no room for boring theory! Instead, we focus on a strong combination of practice and theory - our motto is 'put it into practice'!

About Scrum.org

Scrum.org, the Home of Scrum, was founded by Scrum co-creator Ken Schwaber as a mission-based organization to help people and teams solve complex problems. We do this by enabling people to apply Professional Scrum through hands-on training courses, globally recognized certifications and ongoing learning all based on a common competency model. Scrum.org supports people wherever they are on their learning journey from beginner to highly experienced practitioner, helping them to grow over time with ongoing learning opportunities and resources. Community members share knowledge and gain new insights from each other leveraging forums, blogs and more.

