

With the support of the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Commission

Enhancing Europe-Africa university partnership: A contribution to development cooperation

Dissemination conference of the 'Access to Success' project

28 September 2010
Belgian Senate, Brussels, Belgium

14:00 Press conference

15:00 Welcome and opening of the conference

- *Marleen Temmerman, Member of the Belgian Senate*
- *Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, European Commission (tbc)*
- *Professor Jean-Marc Rapp, President, European University Association*

16:00 Presentation of the 'Access to Success' project recommendations

- *Lesley Wilson, Secretary General, European University Association*
- *Pascal Hoba, Head of Communication & Services, Association of African Universities*

16:30 Taking forward the 'Access to Success' project recommendations

Panel discussion with:

- *Charles Goerens, Member of European Parliament, Vice-chair, Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly*
- *Sigmund Grønmo, Rector, University of Bergen, Norway*
- *Tolly Mbwette, Vice-Chancellor, Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania*
- *Olusola Oyewole, Senior Expert Higher Education, African Union Commission*
- *Peter Materu, Lead Education Specialist, The World Bank*

Chair: Lesley Wilson, European University Association and Pascal Hoba, Association of African Universities

17:45 Closing words

- *Mr. Jan Trzuszczynski, Director General, DG EAC, European Commission*

18:00 Cocktail reception

The Access to Success Project: *Fostering trust and exchange between Europe and Africa*

*An Erasmus Mundus project - 2008-2010
developed and implemented jointly by AAU, ESU, EUA, UHR, and Vlir-UOS*

The 'Access to Success' project aimed at enhancing higher education exchange and cooperation between Africa and Europe, by addressing several issues of mutual interest in higher education development with a view to enhance understanding and trust, contribute to policy development, and stimulate the launch of concrete cooperation initiatives.

The project brought together university leaders from Africa and Europe, as well as representatives from development cooperation agencies, governments, students and the European Union and African Union Commissions.

Structure

The project consisted of two phases: a fact-finding phase in which surveys were carried out in both Africa and Europe (Nov. 2008 – Oct. 2009) on how institutions are coping with access and retention in higher education, and a dissemination and dialogue phase that facilitated opportunities for exchange on cooperation and capacity building. Three workshops were organised in this second phase (Nov. 2009 – May 2010) on access and retention, donor coordination in higher education/research cooperation with Africa, and intra- and inter-regional academic mobility. The dissemination conference concludes the projects' activities.

Project Outcomes and recommendations

The outcomes of the three workshops were consolidated into project recommendations and were validated by the project consortium partners, a small focus group of experts and by the project participants. These recommendations address a variety of different actors relevant to Europe-Africa higher education cooperation. Important themes highlighted are: the role of universities in development, structuring capacity building partnerships, mobility programmes, strategies to redress brain drain and regional higher education harmonization, An online publication gathering good practices and case studies from Europe-Africa university collaboration will be published.

Most of the topics addressed are valid for cooperation with most emerging countries in higher education. However, given the project's focus, the recommendations deal specifically with capacity building in African universities, Africa-Europe university collaboration and the Africa-EU strategic partnership as a policy vehicle.

The recommendations are timely, given the upcoming Africa-EU Summit and the various initiatives launched in the framework of the Africa-EU strategic partnership. They illustrate how a bi-regional stakeholder contribution to such a political process can actually take shape.

Partners

The Erasmus Mundus project "Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange between Europe and Africa" (2008-2010) is undertaken by the European University Association (EUA), together with the Association of African Universities (AAU), the European Students' Union (ESU), the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR), the Flemish Inter-University Council for Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS), and the European Access Network (EAN).

For further information on the Access To Success Project:

<http://www.accesstosuccess-africa.eu/web/>