



UNIVERSITETS- OG HØGSKOLERÅDET  
The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions



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*
- *Professor Is-Haq Olanrewaju Oloyede, President, Association of African Universities*

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

Panel discussion with:

- *Eva Joly, Member of European Parliament, Chair Committee on Development (tbc)*
- *Lex Bouter, Rector, Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands*
- *Tolly Mbwette, Vice-Chancellor, Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania*
- *Vera Brenda Ngosi, Director, Human Resources Science & Technology, African Union Commission*
- *Sibry Tapsoba, Head African Development Institute, African Development Bank*

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

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/>