

Participating organisations and agencies

Access to success: Fostering trust and exchange between Europe and Africa

Workshop 2: Towards a coordinated vision of Europe-Africa higher education partnerships: Supporting institutional capacity building in Africa

Oslo, 24-26 February 2010

The All-Africa Students Union – AASU – is a continental representative organisation of democratic student unions founded in 1972 with 51 member unions from Francophone and Anglophone Africa. It is affiliated to the International Union of Students (IUS). AASU has a Consultative Status with UNESCO and ECOSOC, is accredited with UNCCD and enjoys a cordial working relationship with the UN system. The activities of AASU are carried out within the framework of its constitution. These are, among others: To develop working relation/co-operation with other sub-regional, regional and international youth and student organizations, governmental, inter- and non-governmental organisations on issues of common concern and interest; i.e. Access to Education, Democracy, project on HIV/AIDS, ICT in Higher Education in Africa, Gender issues and Academic freedom.

The AAU (Association of African Universities) is an association of 125 higher education institutions in Africa. It is a forum of consultation, exchange of information and cooperation among its members. The objective of the AAU is to be the voice of African universities within and outside Africa. Further information can be obtained from AAU's website: www.aau.org.

The African Development Institute (ADI) of the African Development Bank, established in 1992, first developed training activities for Bank staff and later extended those activities to staff of the institution's regional member countries with a view to helping build capacity in these countries. Following the institution's reorganization in 2001, ADI's activities were refocused, enabling it to focus on activities that could help staff of the Bank's regional member countries by developing their capacities and disseminating Bank-generated knowledge. The ADI conducts training and other capacity development activities to support the effectiveness of Bank-financed operations, the design and implementation policies for long-term economic growth and competitiveness, and the strengthening of national and regional development institutions on the continent.

The African Union (AU) is Africa's premier institution and principal organisation for the promotion of accelerated socio-economic integration of the continent, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples. The AU is based on the common vision of a united and strong Africa and on the need to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society, in particular women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion amongst the peoples of Africa. As a continental organisation it focuses on the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent as a prerequisite for the implementation of the development and integration agenda of the Union.

The Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) is made up of the eight public universities in Catalonia with the aim of providing an essential voice for them. The ACUP both represents and promotes them. The Association's mission is to support the work of its member universities and unite their strengths so that they may share knowledge and good practice. It therefore also calls for a diverse higher education sector that offers benefits to everybody.

The ACUP fosters activities that contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of Catalonia. The priority is the promotion of quality university training and research, which allow firm advances in the building of a society based on knowledge. At the same time, the ACUP encourages efficient cooperation between the associated universities and other organisations on both national and international level, through the exchange of information and studies, reports and recommendations. The Association therefore acts as a coordinator of the university community in defining the priorities of the Catalan university system and the collective negotiation of the interests of public universities with the Catalan Parliament and the Generalitat de Catalunya.

The (AECID) Spanish International Cooperation Agency, and in particular the Department of University Cooperation, develops different programs focused on the exchange of Spanish and foreign graduate students between universities. AECID also supports the development of different cooperation projects born in the universities.

The Carnegie Cooperation of New York was established by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 "to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding". It is one of the oldest, largest and most influential of American grant making foundations. The foundation makes grants to promote international peace and to advance education and knowledge - primary concerns to which founder Andrew Carnegie devoted the foundation. The Corporation's program for Higher Education and Libraries in Africa works within South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania to enhance the capacities of educators, researchers and academic leaders; to improve the use of information and communication technologies in teaching, research and management; and to create public and university libraries to deepen academic research and public access to information and knowledge. These goals represent integrated pathways toward strengthening the next generation of academics and university leaders in Africa.

Centre for International Mobility (CIMO), Finland, administers scholarship and exchange programmes and is responsible for implementing nearly all EU education, training, culture and youth programmes at national level. CIMO also promotes and organises international trainee exchanges.

The Commission of Commonwealth Scholarships. Established by Act of Parliament some 50 years ago, the Commission is a non-departmental public body responsible for maintaining Britain's contribution to the international Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. The Commission offers fully-funded Scholarships for study in the United Kingdom toward Masters or doctoral degrees and Fellowships that allow for mid-career academics and professionals to update their technical skills. The Commission receives an annual budget of around £14 million from the UK Government.

Alumni of the Commission's programmes represent practically every country in the Commonwealth (now numbering 54 with the admission of Rwanda) and it has a specific tranche of Scholarships designated for members of staff at universities in the developing Commonwealth (primarily in Africa).

Association of Italian University Rectors (CRUI). Established in 1963 as a private association of Rectors, the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) has over time acquired an acknowledged representative role, as well as a practical capacity to influence the development of the university system, through its intense activity of study and experimentation. As the representative body of Italian universities, CRUI disseminates innovative approaches to higher education, projects and programmes among the universities.

CRUI is today able to implement its European strategy in order to facilitate the creation of the European Higher Education and Research Area. Since 2001, as a bi-product of the Conference of Italian University Rectors, the CRUI Foundation has engaged in managerial and operational tasks to develop projects and services in conformity with the strategies of the Conference. The close integration of the CRUI and the CRUI Foundation makes the pursuit of innovative goals for the university system more direct and effective.

The Italian Network of Universities for Development Cooperation (CUCS) is a network of 30 universities in Northern Italy, working together in the field of cooperation and development, sharing knowledge, capabilities and competencies. The network, formed in 2004 by MAE and CRUI (Rectors Conference), engages in project elaboration, academic and professional development, international exchanges, training and guidance. As a university network, CUCS can act as an interlocutor for development programmes in complex fields that require a participatory, integrated and multidisciplinary approach and a coordinated effort by the three main actors in cooperation: the State, civil society and the university.

Commission universitaire pour le Développement (CUD) is a standing committee of the Interuniversity Council of the French speaking Universities of Belgium (CIUF). It is the VLIR-UOS sister organization. CUD coordinates teaching, research and institutional support projects of its member universities in the area of the University Development Cooperation. CUD initiates numerous activities in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Carribean. Its main objective is to support Universities in Developing Countries as development actors by strengthening them in their fundamental missions: training, research and services to society.

DAAD is an organisation of the institutions of higher education and student bodies in the Federal Republic of Germany, founded in 1925, and refounded in 1950. It is an institution for the promotion of international academic exchange, and an intermediary for the implementation of foreign cultural policy, national academic policy and for the educational cooperation with developing countries.

DAAD is the National Agency for the EU ERASMUS programme, information center for ERASMUS Mundus, Europass, TEMPUS/cooperation between EU and non-EU countries and Bologna process. It is the IAESTE National Committee for the exchange of student trainees, and the office of GATE-Germany (Higher Education Promotion Consortium).

The DAAD sponsors undergraduates, graduates and doctoral students, artists, interns, scientists and academics from Germany and abroad in over 200 programmes and in all disciplines. The DAAD funds short- and long-term individual scholarships; group study visits; the exchange of academics; guest lectureships and the placement of Lektors for German language and German Studies at universities abroad; project-linked academic cooperation between institutions of higher education in Germany and abroad; internationalisation programmes of German universities; and German-related degree programmes, centers and universities abroad.

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development research. Providing grants for research activities and research capacity building is part of Denmark’s international development cooperation. Like other elements of Danish development assistance, development research may contribute to making it possible for the developing countries to reap the benefits from globalisation. Promoting the UN Millennium Development Goals is an important element of the Danish Government’s development policy priorities and, consequently, of development research. It is an overarching goal to achieve a strong sense of coherence between development research, the development assistance policy and practical assistance cooperation.

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs research support covers three main targets: (i) support to research project including research capacity building in the developing countries, (ii) support to centers and networks (iii) support to international research. Furthermore, support will be provided in the form of travel grants for students working on Masters’ theses.

DG Education and Culture, European Commission, (EAC). DG EAC’s action in education and training is to improve the quality of learning systems and provide greater opportunities for people at all stages of their lives. While each Member State is in charge of its own education and training system, co-ordinated action can help achieve common aims. The European Commission focuses on two aspects: firstly, co-operation with national authorities and European stakeholders on improving policies and exchanging good practice, and secondly the development and administration of funding programmes.

DG Research, European Commission, has as its mission to develop the European Union’s policy in the field of research and technological development and thereby contribute to the international competitiveness of European industry; to coordinate European research activities with those carried out at the level of the Member States; to support the Union’s policies in other fields such as environment, health, energy, regional development etc; and to promote a better understanding of the role of science in modern societies and stimulate a public debate about research-related issues at European level.

EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission, is responsible for implementing external aid programmes and projects across the world. It works closely with EU neighbouring countries, Russia, the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions, Latin America and Asia. EuropeAid aims to deliver development aid in an efficient and effective way. The focus is on maximising the value and impact of aid funding by making sure support is provided in a speedy and accountable fashion.

The European Access Network (EAN) is the only European-based independent not-for-profit organisation with a mission to widen access and participation in higher education for under-represented groups. Access, equity, diversity and inclusion are the four pillars of the EAN. Under-representation can be for reasons of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, geographical location, or earlier educational disadvantage.

The European University Association (EUA) represents and supports higher education institutions in 46 countries, providing them with a unique forum to cooperate and keep abreast of the latest trends in higher education and research policies. Members of the Association are European universities involved in teaching and research, national associations of rectors and other organisations active in higher education and research.

EUA plays an essential role in shaping tomorrow's European higher education and research landscape thanks to its unique knowledge of the sector and the diversity of its members. The Association's mandate in the Bologna process, contribution to EU research policy-making and relations with intergovernmental organisations, European institutions and international associations, ensure its capacity to debate issues which are crucial for universities in relation to higher education, research and innovation.

Foundation for Community Development (FDC) is a Mozambican non governmental organisation with a mission to empower communities to fight poverty and improve their living conditions.

The International Network for Higher Education in Africa (INHEA). Established in 2003, the Network is intended for use by scholars, experts, practitioners, policy makers, funders, students, and others engaged in research and development related to higher education in Africa. As interest in higher education in Africa grows and as research and related publishing gathers momentum, this information resource has an important role to play in helping to organise and make sense of emerging developments. A host of institutions and organisations are engaged in activities that affect higher education development in Africa. The goal of the forum, therefore, is to engage all stakeholders in African higher education through a central point of reference.

The Inter - University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is an institution of the East Africa Community that is charged with coordinating all academic and research activities of member universities of East Africa Community partner states.

The Irish-African Partnership for Research Capacity Building (IAPRCB) is a three year pilot project (2008-2010) which brings together all nine universities on the island of Ireland and universities in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda in a unique, high-level partnership to develop a coordinated approach to research capacity building in order to make an effective contribution to the reduction of poverty.

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is a Norwegian directorate under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), in charge of development projects. Norad aims to be the centre of expertise for evaluation, quality assurance and dissemination of the results of

Norwegian development cooperation, jointly with partners in Norway, developing countries and the international community; ensure that the goals of Norway's development policy are achieved by providing advice and support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norwegian foreign service missions; and administer the agency's grant schemes so that development assistance provided through Norwegian and international partners contributes effectively to poverty reduction .

Nuffic is the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education. It facilitates international collaboration in higher education in Europe and with developing countries. It promotes Dutch higher education abroad and administers cooperation and fellowship programmes on behalf of the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The European Commission and other agencies. It has 10 education support offices in countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Education (NUFU) supports independent academic cooperation based on initiatives from researchers and institutions in the South and their partners in Norway. The goal of the NUFU programme is to support the development of sustainable capacity and competence for research and research-based higher education in developing countries relevant to national development and poverty reduction, and to contribute to enhanced academic collaboration in the South and between South and North.

The programme is financed by Norad and administered by SIU. Programme is based on an agreement between Norad and SIU with a total budget frame of NOK 300 million for the current programme period (2007-2011).

NUGS was formally known as the National Union of Gold Coast Students and was formed in 1959 to give students a national platform for a single voice. NUGS became formal with its current name (NUGS) in 1965 when three Universities came together to form a multi-level governance structure for the administration of students affairs at the national level.

SAIH is a Norwegian organisation, based on solidarity and development cooperation. SAIH was founded in 1961, and has organisational membership consisting of all Norwegian national students unions and organisations, student parliaments at universities and university colleges, university boards, and a range of workers' unions (among them the national teachers union, the researchers' union etc). SAIH's slogan is "Education for development", and SAIH supports educational development projects run by local partners in Africa and Latin America. In Africa, SAIH has cooperations in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Higher education and research is one of SAIH's priorities, and SAIH has been part of several "three-part-cooperations" between Norwegian universities and university colleges and universities in the South. SAIH also has local chapters at universities and colleges in Norway, mobilizing students in Norway to do information work and political advocacy work aimed at issues related to education and development.

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) is an administrative agency under the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (KD), with its own Board of Directors. SIU is a knowledge- and service organisation with the mission of promoting and facilitating cooperation, standardisation, mobility, and the overcoming of cultural barriers to communication

and exchange within the realm of higher education on an international level. The centre is charged with coordinating national measures according to official Norwegian policy within the field of internationalisation. The centre is Norway's official agency for international programmes and measures related to higher education. It is commissioned by several national and international public organisations to administer programmes within all levels of education.

In addition to programme administration, SIU is responsible for promoting Norway as an education and research destination, as well as providing information and advisory services within the field of internationalisation in education.

SARUA (Southern African Regional Universities Association) is a membership based organisation which is open to the public universities in the 15 SADC states of the Southern African region. At the time of its establishment, SARUA undertook to do two things:

1. To address the capacity and research needs of SADC higher education institutions
2. Through higher education to address the social, cultural and economic development priorities of the region.

The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education is a central official authority, which has from the government been given the responsibility to carry out evaluation, legal inspection and statistical analysis and follow up studies of Swedish higher education.

The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) is a co-operative body for higher education institutions in Norway. Founded in 2000, following the merger of the Norwegian Council of Universities and the Norwegian Council of University Colleges, UHR aims to promote the development of Norway as a knowledge-based society of high international standard.

UHR facilitates co-operation and co-ordination among Norwegian higher education institutions. Furthermore, UHR advocates shared positions on central issues concerning higher education and research policy towards the Norwegian government, parliament and the wider society.

Universities Denmark is an association of the eight Danish universities. Universities Denmark works to promote the Danish Universities nationally, regionally as well as internationally.

VLIR stands for Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (Flemish Interuniversity Council), an umbrella consultation body between the six Flemish universities and the various governments responsible for higher education and research policy. VLIR-UOS, being the office for university cooperation for development, was created in 1998 within the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR). **VLIR-UOS** is responsible for the policy and the management of the funds that are made available for university cooperation for development by the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC). VLIR-UOS has an annual budget of ± 33 million euros.

Zemen Development and Management Institute (www.zemeninstitute.com) is an education and training provider institute in Ethiopia whose primary purpose is to develop professional human



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resource capacity in the horn of Africa through the provision of short trainings and tertiary level education programmes in management and development. The tertiary level education is so far being delivered in cooperation with some known UK institutions, like Castle College Nottingham, Cambridge International College and Cambridge University-International Examinations International.