



European Commission Response to Higher Education in ACP Countries

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The European Union and the African - Caribbean - Pacific (ACP) States

The Cotonou Agreement, a Partnership for Development

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm]

THE 1993 ACP-EC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (COTONOU AGREEMENT), WHICH IS THE MAIN INSTRUMENT OF THE ACP-EC PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT, WAS SIGNED IN COTONOU, BENIN, ON 23 JUNE 1993. THE AGREEMENT IS A PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IS A COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF THE ACP STATES, TO THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE COTONOU AGREEMENT.

- European Union Member States and Overseas Territories (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion)
- European Union New Member States (Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia)
- European Union Candidate Countries
- ACP-EC Economic Partners of the ACP-EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement (AE)
- Caribbean associate members of the ACP-EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CA)
- Pacific Countries members of the ACP-EC Cotonou Partnership Agreement (PA)
- European Commission Directorate-General for Development



The EU priorities

- The primary and overarching objective of EU development policy is the **eradication of poverty** in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – primary education is therefore the priority (MDG 2).
- The European Commission (EC) has a **comprehensive approach to Higher Education** (HE) to ACP countries (Cotonou Agreement) in the context a “policy mix” that recognises the role that HE institution (HEI) can play in national poverty reduction strategies
- The 10th EDF Intra-ACP strategy supports the **knowledge triangle:** Education, Research and Innovation (capacity, applied research, ICT infrastructure,...).

Policy – aid delivery methods

- Support can be provided at three levels: national, regional and **Intra ACP** through their respective strategy paper agreed upon between relevant parties including EU member states represented in the beneficiary countries.
- The **instruments** can be according to the situation of each country:
 - a) - project approach;
 - b) - sector-wide support *; and
 - c) - general budget support *.

* with variable tranches linked to performance.

The EU approach to Higher Education

ACP Higher Education sub-sector needs to respond to a number of key development issues:

- need to stimulate potential for economic growth by increasing the number of **highly qualified professionals** available in the ACP countries
- need to improve **the quality** of locally provided Higher Education in the ACP countries
- importance of building **capacity of ACP HEI** by promoting both: cooperation between ACP HEI and between ACP and European HEI
- importance of promoting **inter-cultural dialogue** and understanding among European and ACP countries.

Programmes under implementation (9th EDF)

- **EDULINK** Cooperation Programme in HE - 2006 - € 35M
- Support to **mobility of academics and students** from ACP countries to EU HEI:
 - Erasmus Mundus Classical – Master Programmes (now Action 1) – 2006 – € 5M
 - Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (now Erasmus Mundus Partnerships – Action 2) – 2007 – € 5M
- **Support to Fast Track Initiative** – 2007 – € 63M
- **ACP Science and Technology** – 2008 - € 35M

EDULINK – Status of Implementation

- **Capacity building and regional integration** in the field of higher education through institutional networking, and to support a higher education system of quality.
- HE Institutions participate in a competitive procedure of **Calls for Proposals**. The best ones are awarded grants of up to EUR 1M.
- 3 Calls published, 406 valid proposals received, between 500 and 700 HE Institutions participating in each Call
- **66 Projects selected** involving around 340 HEI from EU and ACP.

ACP Science and Technology – Status of Implementation

- To support ACP countries and ACP stakeholders in the **formulation and implementation of S&T policies**.
- The programme emphasizes the promotion of interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development along **three main axes**:
 - 1: Co-ordination and networking in applied research
 - 2: Instruments for collaborative research
 - 3: Management of research activities and reinforcement of research quality
- Call closed in March 2009, 200 eligible proposals received and **36 grants awarded**

Erasmus Mundus Classical – Master Programmes (now Action 1) – Status of Implementation

- **Facilitate linkages between the EU and the ACP** region in the field of higher education and enabling ACP students to undertake postgraduate studies in Europe.
- Students apply directly to the Accredited Mundus courses
- Receiving Universities conduct selection procedure
- Masters Programmes for students starting in the academic year 2007/08
- 3963 ACP applications spread across 80 MA courses
- **130 MA grants awarded** in addition to the 141 awarded from the EC core budget

Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window - (now Erasmus Mundus Partnerships – Action 2) - **Status of implementation.**

EuropeAid

- Education Agency publishes a Call for Proposals with various Lots of which **ACP Lot** is one
- EU and ACP Universities form a consortium: EU universities host all the students, EU and ACP universities host scholars and hosting institutions approve the final selection
- **2007 Call produced good results:** it attracted over 8000 student registrations and 3200 applications; the participation of the ACP Universities is considered geographically balanced
- **184 scholarships** in total: 149 MAs and 35 academic exchanges
- Very good response in terms of Target Group 3: vulnerable groups (**refugees**)

Future – 10th Intra-ACP EDF: the knowledge triangle response

- Continuation of **EDULINK** with € 20M for next call, evaluation of the programme is now ongoing. Programme will be fine-tuned.
- Continuation of **ACP Science and Technology** with € 20M for next call.
- Continuation of **Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window** – Action 2 : € 30M for 5 Calls for Proposals, inclusion of Sandwich PhDs, no student flow from EU to ACP – academics yes; maximum 10% of “mobilities” per ACP country
- New programme- **Intra ACP Mobility** Programme (Africa Nyerere component € 30M + Caribbean and Pacific component € 10M)
- New programme – **the first ACP Research** – (component A € 15M + component C&P € 5M)
- New programme – **ACP Connect** - (A € 12M + C&P € 1M)

Further Information

- For more information on the ongoing ACP Lot 10 project
www.erasmusmundus10.net
- For more information on Erasmus Mundus
http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm
- For further information on the past guidelines, information on other regions, list of selected projects etc.
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/index.htm>
- For more information on EDULINK
<http://www.acp-edulink.eu/>
- For more information on Science and technology
<http://www.acp-st.eu/>
- EuropeAid
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm