



*Towards a coordinated vision of Europe-Africa higher education partnership: supporting institutional capacity building in Africa*  
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**WG: Building and sustaining staff capacity**

**Experience of digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi : partnership with the Inter-university Council of the French-Speaking Community of Belgium - University Commission for Development (CIUF/CUD)**

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# The University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC)

## Creation

Created in 1970, it's the first comprehensive public university in Benin

## Main fields of training:

Science, Agriculture, Medicine, Literature and Social Sciences, Law, Economics and Management, Administration, Sport, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Civil Engineering...



# The University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC)

## 🌐 Academic facilities

17 faculties, schools and colleges distributed on 8 campuses



# The University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC)

 **Administration** : led by :

- elected Rector and Deputy Rectors
- appointed Secretary General and Accountant



Secretary General



# ***HUMAN RESOURCES***

- 65 000 students in 2010 :
- 950 teaching staff in 2010 :
  - **69** Full Professors
  - **126** Associate Professors
  - **308** Senior Lecturers
  - **447** Assistants (PhD)

# ***HUMAN RESOURCES***

- **Ratio Staff : Students is 1 : 68**
- **Rate of Students enrolment : 20 %**
- **PhD Students : 250**



# ***MAIN INNOVATIONS***

➤ A platform has been created by the University data processing specialists for the students online enrolment since the beginning of the academic year 2009-2010. This innovation allows the immediate handing over of the students cards

# ***MAIN INNOVATIONS***

- In accordance with the decisions of the West African academic organizations (REESAO, CAMES) the Licence Master Ph.D (LMD) reform is in progress :
  - ✓ development of reference documents
  - ✓ preparation of legal texts
  - ✓ training of teaching and administrative staff

# The UAC and the CIUF/CUD

🌐 From 1997 to 2007, two five-years programmes of institutional cooperation based on human resources development, laboratory equipments, administration support, pedagogic reforms had been implemented



# The UAC and the CIUF/CUD

- The third programme (2008-2012) is built on the UAC **strategic plan** entitled : « *For a renovated university, engine of development* »
- The **main objective** of the programme is : « *The teaching and research quality developed around four thematics that have priority for the development of Benin is improved* »

# The UAC and the CIUF/CUD

- **Four thematic activities** (Master programmes) :
  - Production, management and transformation of agricultural resources
  - Training of the secondary school teachers
  - Development of information and communication technologies (ITC)
  - Developement of renewable energies

# The UAC and the CIUF/CUD

## **Four transversal activities :**

- Support to the administrative procedures setting up and staff training
- Support to the LMD reform implementation
- Support to document resources
- Development of the computer science services for teaching, research and administration (***digital expansion*** )

# The UAC and the CIUF/CUD

● The programme is managed by a **Steering Committee** located in the UAC and the CIUF/CUD universities



# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

## The general needs and request

- **2003 : african universities, partners of the CIUF/CUD (Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, Burundi, Rwanda), had technical access difficulties to the international telecommunications network**
- **Request from the UAC was sent to the CIUF/CUD to support the conception and setting up of the technical processes which enables easy access to Internet and the offices connection through the Intranet network system**

# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

➤ Professor Marc Lobelle from the Catholic University of Louvain, led in 2003 a technical audit mission in the University of Abomey-Calavi. This audit evaluated the technical aspects and the telecommunication environment

# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

➤ The UAC technical group drew up a master plan which allowed since 2005 the development of infrastructures in 6 of the 8 campuses. In this process the **CIUF/CUD** gave its support to the University of Abomey-Calavi



# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

- This master plan will allow efficient administrative, academic, financial, research and social management



# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

## Achievements

➤ Since July 2007, the University of Abomey-Calavi has been connected to the Internet network system via Benin Telecoms (the public telecommunications office in Benin)



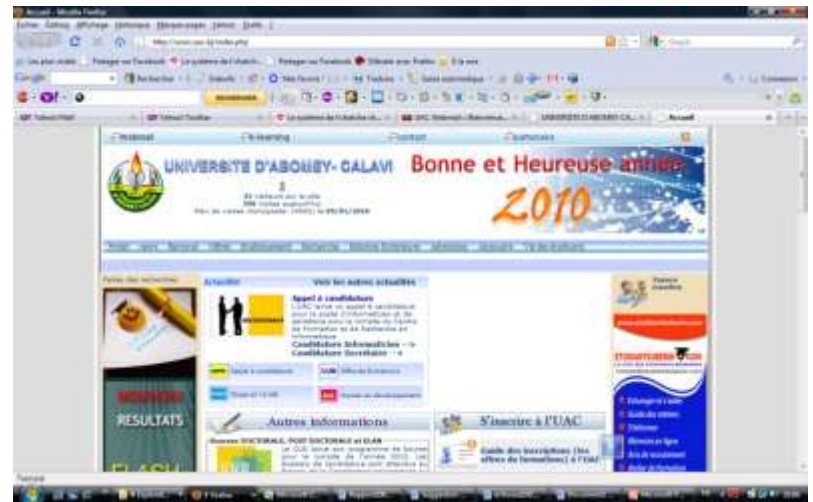
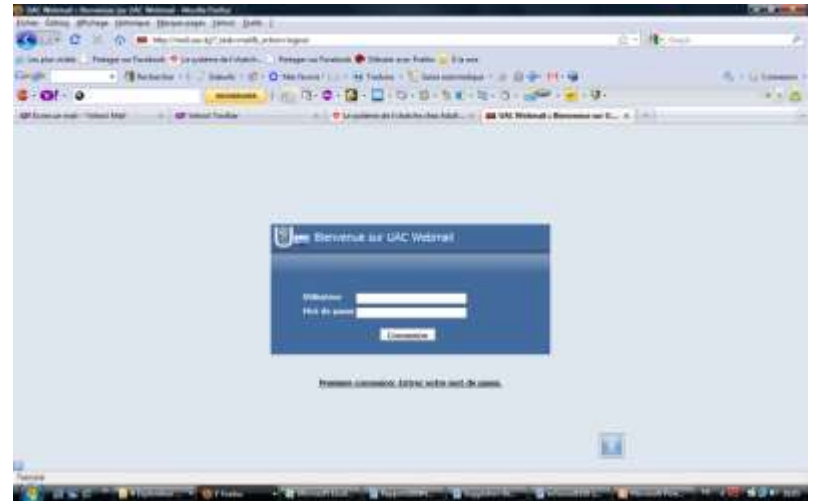
## 🌐 Achievements

- July 2007, acquisition of the domain ***uac.bj*** via Benin telecoms
- Specific configurations have been realized in order to make the servers respond to this new domain



## Achievements

➤ In the same month, the website ([www.uac.bj](http://www.uac.bj)) and the webmail (<http://mail.uac.bj>) were officially created and opened to the public. As regards the webmail, more than 1500 e-mail are created for administrative and teaching staff of the University of Abomey-Calavi



## 🌐 Achievements

➤ all the entities of the University of Abomey-Calavi have been progressively connected: about twenty sites were taken into account in five campuses

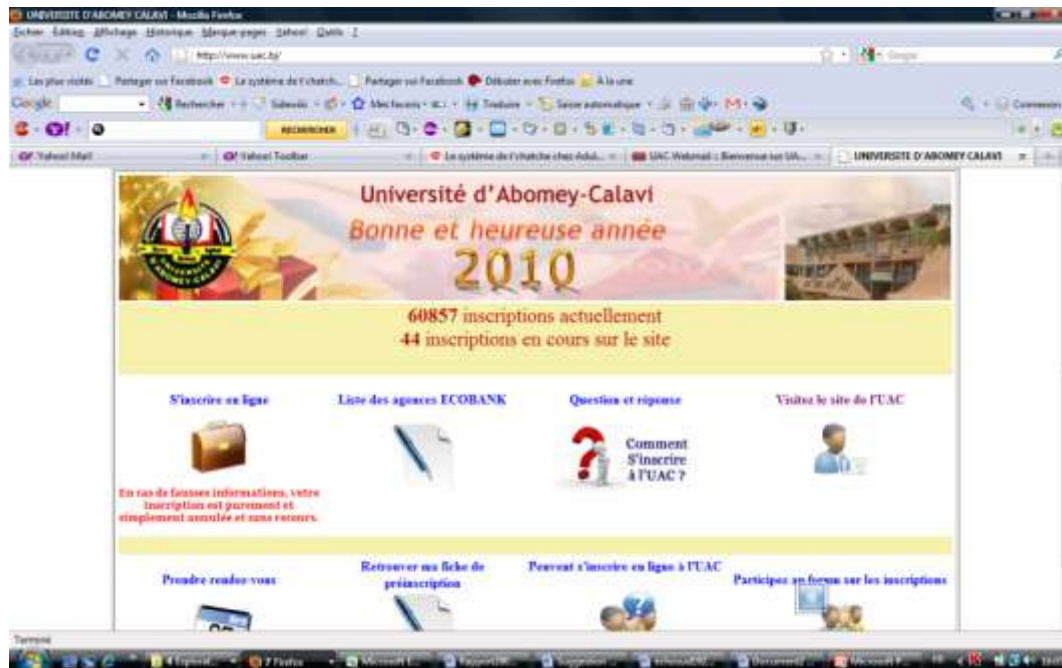


## Achievements

➤ These infrastructures allowed:

✓ to have an online students admission programme:

- with the online enrolment experienced since the beginning of the academic year 2009-2010, an improvement is visible: a part of the enrolment formalities is carried out online and students receive their cards immediately after the enrolment process



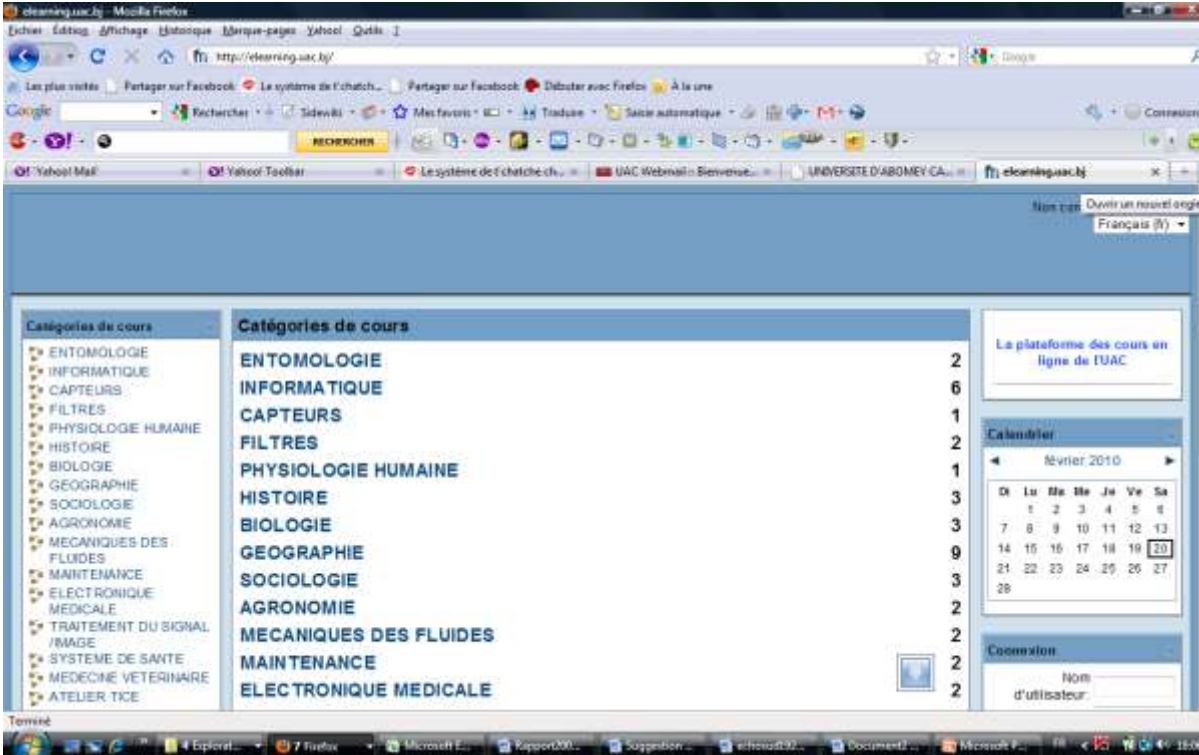
## 🌐 Achievements

- **These infrastructures allowed:**
  - ✓ **to have online access to students academic results**
  - ✓ **to enhance the visibility of the cooperation between the UAC and other partners**



## Achievements

✓ using online platform for courses : Moodle and Claroline have been installed on the server of the University of Abomey-Calavi and many teachers use them



The screenshot displays the elearning.uac.bj website interface. The browser window shows the URL http://elearning.uac.bj/. The page features a navigation menu on the left with a list of course categories. The main content area displays a table of course categories with their respective counts. A calendar for February 2010 is visible on the right side of the page, along with a login section.

Catégories de cours	Catégories de cours	
ENTOMOLOGIE	ENTOMOLOGIE	2
INFORMATIQUE	INFORMATIQUE	6
CAPTEURS	CAPTEURS	1
FILTRES	FILTRES	2
PHYSIOLOGIE HUMAINE	PHYSIOLOGIE HUMAINE	1
HISTOIRE	HISTOIRE	3
BIOLOGIE	BIOLOGIE	3
GEOGRAPHIE	GEOGRAPHIE	9
SOCIOLOGIE	SOCIOLOGIE	3
AGRONOMIE	AGRONOMIE	2
MECANIQUES DES FLUIDES	MECANIQUES DES FLUIDES	2
MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE	2
ELECTRONIQUE MEDICALE	ELECTRONIQUE MEDICALE	2

# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

## **Other possibilities**

- ✓ possibility of having genuine statistics: automatic generation of statistics (number of enrolled students per entity, ratio, etc) is now a reality, for it has always been difficult for both the university managers and the public to have access to these data
- ✓ possibility of managing time-tables (Schedule) and course rooms via online system
- ✓ possibility of quick delivering various certificates to students

# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

## Other possibilities

✓ The OKAPI software developed by a computer scientist from the Catholic University of Louvain has been adopted by the University of Abomey-Calavi and will be used for the management of the staff's career

# Experience of the digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi

## Other possibilities

### ✓ Virtual Library:

- the KOHA software will be used to put the University Library online
- an interconnection is being developed between the central Library and the faculties, Colleges and Institutes libraries
- the result thereafter can be the setting up of a virtual Library which will benefit both teaching staff and students

# Conclusion

🌐 The cooperation programme between the UAC and the CIUF/CUD has led to capacity enhancement of the community of Abomey-Calavi University by allowing:

- provision of two strong communication tools: the website periodically updated and the webmail which benefit staff as far as professional e-mails are concerned
- teaching, administrative staff and students to have Internet in the offices, amphitheatres and laboratories

# Conclusion

- the development of tools highly profitable to Training and the Administration:
  - ✓ online human resources management software
  - ✓ online library catalogues
  - ✓ platform for online courses, for production of statistic data and administrative files, for the management of Schedules and lectures

# Conclusion

- The digital expansion in the University of Abomey-Calavi is a programme that benefit transversaly to the whole university in all dimensions: administration, teaching and research

# Conclusion

🌐 The digital expansion programme supports the whole partner programme of the CIUF institutional cooperation but also to other foreign partners' interventions which benefit from the infrastructure : NPT projects (Netherlands) for website hostings, ARHES project (France) for the LMD implementation

# Coordination teams

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**Thank you for your interest!**

