

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

Oslo Norway 24-26 February 2010

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The Project in brief

- Erasmus Mundus Action 4 project (2008-2010): Enhancing the 'attractiveness' of European higher education
- Fostering trust and exchange
- Raising awareness on higher education **access and retention issues** in Africa and Europe as critical in understanding the **environments in which universities operate**
- **mobility and cooperation between universities** in Europe and Africa, in particular with regards to student and staff mobility, promoting staff retention in Africa and other brain drain concerns
- Better coordination and collaboration between **universities, development and donor organisations**
- The **European dimension** (intra-European coordination) in promoting capacity building partnerships with African universities: institutional, national and European level policies and programmes...

Project activities

- **Desk research - survey**
- **3 workshops** – interactive, theme focused
- an **outcome report** comprising of case studies, thematic articles, survey results, events
- a **white paper** targeted towards governments and donors, on supporting university partnership in development cooperation
- Final **policy conference** in Brussels (Sept 2010)
Results present to government/donor organisations

The partner consortium

- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions
- European Access Network (EAN)
- European Student's Union (ESU)
- Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR-UOS)
- European University Association (EUA)





European University Association (EUA)

- Brussels, Belgium
- Independent membership organisation
- Represent the interests of 800 European Universities and 34 national rectors conferences across 46 countries
- Promote coherence in European higher education and research
 - Consultative member of the Bologna process
 - Close cooperation with European Commission (e.g. on all boards of the DG Research)
- Enhance cooperation and exchange between universities – within Europe, and beyond
- global interregional dialogue and cooperation



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Association of African Universities

AAU



Quick Facts about AAU



- Established in 1967 in Rabat, Morocco
- Apex H.E. African organization for consultation, exchange of information and cooperation among universities in Africa
- Headquarters permanently located in Accra, Ghana since 1970
- Has 228 members from all over Africa
- Funded by membership subscriptions & through projects. Govt of Ghana provides Secretariat.



Objectives

- To be the voice of African HE within & outside Africa
- Foster collaboration among its members
- Provide support to their core functions of teaching, learning, research and community engagement
- Facilitate critical reflection on, and consensus building around, issues affecting HE and the development of Africa

In 2007, AAU designated the lead implementing agency for African Union's Second Decade of Education Action Plan



AAU CORE PROGRAMME (2009-2013)

“Renewing and Networking African HEIs to Meet Local & Regional Challenges”

1. Renewal & Strengthening of African HEIs

- Leadership & Management Development in HE
- Improving ICT/RENs
- QA & Harmonization of African HE
- *Promoting Internationalization of HE*
- *Strengthening University-Industry Linkages*



“Renewing and Networking African HEIs to Meet Local & Regional Challenges”

2. African HEIs Responding to Local & Regional Challenges

- Meeting MDGs/Reducing Poverty
- *Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa*
- Coping with HIV & AIDS

3. Promoting Knowledge Generation & Dissemination

- Database of African Theses & Dissertations (DATAD) -
- Academic Mobility (Staff & Student Exchanges)

Current European Funded Programmes (1)



Programme/Project /Activity & Objective	Donor/Development Agency
<p>Leadership Development (LEDEV): <i>To enhance leadership skills of university leaders in the promotion of innovation & management of change through workshops</i></p>	<p>African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Sida (Sweden)</p>
<p>Management Development (MADEV): <i>To enhance development of professional skills of managers of HEIs through workshops</i></p>	<p>ACBF, Sida, Carnegie</p>
<p>Academic Staff Exchange: <i>To support African HEIs in teaching, research & outreach by exchange of academic staff</i></p>	<p>ACBF, Sida</p>
<p>Small Grants for Dissertations & Theses: <i>Facilitate completion of research dissertations and theses by graduate students in African universities by providing them with small grants</i></p>	<p>Sida</p>

Current European Funded Programmes (2)



Programme/Project /Activity & Objective

Donor/Development Agency

African Universities Responding to HIV/AIDS: *Strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment & care among AAU member institutions through advocacy, training & research*

Sida (Lusaka)

Mobilization for Regional Capacity Initiative (MRCI): *Renewal & strengthening of African HEIs & networks to act as catalysts for poverty reduction*

Department for International Development (DfID), UK

Information Resources: *To enable the AAU to publish its research and other materials and to disseminate them widely within and outside Africa*

Sida

Access to Success: *Fostering trust & exchange between Europe & Africa*

European Union

Themes and events

Workshop 1: Access and retention

17-20 November 2009 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Workshop2: Towards a coordinated vision of Europe-Africa higher education partnerships: Supporting Institutional capacity building in Africa

25-26 February 2010 Oslo, Norway

Workshop 3: Mobility between Africa and Europe

3-4 May 2010 Accra, Ghana

Outcome conference : Presentation on the white paper

September 2010 Brussels, Belgium

ACCESS TO SUCCESS

Fostering trust and exchange
between Europe and Africa

Workshop 1: Access and Retention in Europe and Africa, Addis Ababa, 17-20 Nov 2010



Workshop 1: Preparation phase

- 2 institutional surveys (Africa and Europe)
 - Desk research
 - General Institutional policies on access and retention and featured case studies/good practice
 - 60 questionnaire received in Europe, 40 in Africa
 - Analysis and final report (preliminary results on www.accesstosuccess-africa.eu)
- 2 student focus groups
 - Student views on access and retention
 - Stockholm, Sweden 15 October
 - Addis Abba, 17 Nov.

Workshop 1: Access and Retention

- 1) Examine institutional practice and policies regarding access and retention in Europe and in Africa
- 2) Use the issue as a base for dialogue between European and African universities: identify mutual priorities, critical issues, and areas of cooperation
- 3) Recommendations:
 - Universities: best practices in access and retention
 - Governments + donor organisations: considerations for capacity building partnerships, mobility and brain drain

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



Oslo, Norway

24-26, February, 2010

Goals of workshop 2

- Role of universities in development – partnership with national agencies, foundations and other multilateral donors together
- Examine existing models of higher education partnership and capacity building between Europe and Africa
- Debate possibilities for improved coordination of such policies and programmes
- European Dimension
- Consider the EU-Africa strategy and the role of HE

Expected workshop outcomes

- Summary Report
- Friday afternoon: Reflections/ observations of the General Rapporteur
- Follow-up: all powerpoints + reader available at www.accesstosuccess-africa.eu
- Contribution to White paper & Outcome Report
- Outcome conference in Brussels, Sept. 2010
- Contribution to next EU-Africa Summit?
- Future initiatives?



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Fostering trust and exchange
between Europe and Africa

Europe-Africa HE Partnerships



International Cooperation & Partnerships

Extracts (1) from

UNESCO WCHE July 2009 Communiqué

- International cooperation in HE should be based on solidarity and mutual respect and the promotion of humanistic values and intercultural dialogue.
- HEIs worldwide have a social responsibility to help bridge the development gap by increasing the transfer of knowledge across borders, especially towards developing countries, and working to find common solutions to foster brain circulation and alleviate the negative impact of brain drain.
- International university networks and partnerships are a part of this solution and help to enhance mutual understanding and a culture of peace.

International Cooperation & Partnerships

Extracts (2) from

UNESCO WCHE 2009 Communiqué

- Partnerships for research and staff and student exchanges promote international cooperation. The encouragement of more broadly based and balanced academic mobility should be integrated into mechanisms that guarantee genuine multilateral and multicultural collaboration.
- Partnerships should nurture the creation of national knowledge capabilities in all involved countries, thus ensuring more diversified sources of high quality research peers and knowledge production, on regional and global scales.





Objectives of Partnerships

1. Improve quality of HE in Africa while meeting huge demand for access to HE
2. Facilitate use of ODL (inc. e-Learning) in HEIs in Africa
3. Promote research & postgraduate training in African HEIs
4. Assist HE in Africa to solve national development problems
5. Capacity-building (governance, management, planning, etc.) in African HEIs
6. Foster mutual understanding & cooperation between African & European HEIs



Guiding Principles for Partnerships

1. Ensure buy-in at both top & bottom levels
2. Area & activities to meet priority needs of African partner
3. African HEI to be involved from conception of project & to play equitable role in management of partnership
4. If possible involve more than one African HEI – encourages regional networking within Africa
5. Involve African Diaspora in European HEI if possible
6. Plan for long-term sustainability of partnerships

ACCESS TO SUCCESS

Fostering trust and exchange
between Europe and Africa



THANK YOU