

Sub-Saharan African higher education cooperation: Lessons from Access to Success

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AGS - Compostela - UNICA seminar
4 June, 2013

EUA's International Agenda: Objectives

- Improve understanding of the relationship between the EHEA and the wider world
 - ✓ Understand where different agenda's are interlinked (research excellence, battle for brains....)
 - ✓ Provide information on development trends in other regions
 - ✓ Understand global imbalances
- Respond to the interest in regional HE convergence processes
 - ✓ Who is learning from Bologna....Is it a reference for quality?
- Support internationalisation strategy development
- Promote mobility beyond Europe and equitable international partnerships

EUA and AAU in partnership

Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange between Europe and Africa (2008-2010)

- ✓ Enhance Africa-Europe institutional cooperation and partnership
- ✓ Promote the role of universities in development
- ✓ Foster dialogue between institutions, policy makers + donor organisations



Premise

- Higher education is of critical importance to the long term development of knowledge societies
- Africa and Europe need each other
- Governments, donors and universities have to reconsider their role as development actors in light of changing relationship between higher education, research, development cooperation and capacity building

Special project attributes

- Brought together different actors with intertwined agendas: universities, government, donors, agencies
- Examined the overlap of development agendas and HE modernisation/internationalisation
- Focussed on institutional development rather than disciplinary or sectoral capacity building: perspective of the entire institution
- Bi-regional approach (as opposed to bilateral), with a focus on regional political actors and the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership

Key themes

- Common HE challenges: Access and retention
- Collaboration, coordination and practice sharing of international donors in the HE and research sector
- Mobility: Within African and between Europe and Africa
- Capacity building partnerships
- The role of university leadership



AFRICA-EUROPE HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: MEETING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

WHITE PAPER

**Outcomes and recommendations of the project:
“Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange
between Europe and Africa”
(2008-2010)**

Recommendations: development cooperation agencies

- Enhance concrete collaboration with other agencies and develop joint European-level projects
- Staff capacity building and leadership training are two areas where many different agencies have programmes - seek to combine forces
- Develop needs based, flexible partnership programmes (that entail mutual benefits and *reciprocity* in student/staff exchange)
- Consider funding two-way mobility

Recommendations: university associations

- Develop dialogue platforms to engage universities in the Africa-EU Partnership and provide a stronger, regional HE stakeholder voice in this process
- Develop collaborative, bi/multi- regional projects specifically in the field of graduate/doctoral education
- Support both the internationalisation of universities and promote development cooperation as an important component

Recommendations: universities

- Integrate development cooperation into internationalisation strategies
- Consider innovative partnerships models with long-term strategic perspectives (including joint-degrees) to strengthen N-S and S-S collaboration- The financial/ressource challenges assumed in managing such programmes need to be addressed by funders
- Develop institutional strategies to combat brain drain and engage the diapora

Impact

- Developed guiding principles for EUA's international strategy
- Provides a mandate for EUA in development cooperation
- Drew attention of university leadership to the important role of development cooperation in internationalisation
- Referenced by the Migration, Mobility, Employment Partnership (MME) of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership
- Inspired spin-off projects



Building Institutional Capacity Through Partnership

A Pilot Project



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Europe-Africa Quality Connect

- 2 year project co-funded by the European Commission Erasmus Mundus programme
- Based on an open and flexible institutional quality audit methodology (IEP)
- 5 institutions in Africa evaluated by a expert teams composed of European and African members
- Project entailed workshops and conference to discuss the approach and share practice in QA on Europe-Africa level

Core of IEP methodology

- Four questions:
 - ✓ What is the institution trying to do?
 - ✓ How is the institution trying to do it?
 - ✓ How does the institution know it works?
 - ✓ How does the institution change in order to improve?

- Methodology was strongly embraced by the African universities that participated
 - Praised suggestions for developing internal quality assurance processes and involving external stakeholders in evaluating the university.
 - Raised important questions that will be discussed at national level with the authorities



**COOPERATION
ON DOCTORAL EDUCATION
BETWEEN AFRICA, ASIA,
LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE
(2010-2012)**

- Tri-regional comparative survey on doctoral education trends
- Workshop series exploring role of doctoral education partnership in development
- S-S and N-S-S dimension/ multi-regional dimension

CODOC messages

- Convergence in doctoral education discourse across the globe
- Need to create a more balanced international research community to which doctoral education cooperation is inherent
- Need for and interest in greater S-S/S-emerging country partnerships- What is Europe's role in this?

Thank you!

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