

Máster Oficial Interuniversitario  
Ciencias sociales del desarrollo:  
Culturas y desarrollo en África



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(Camerún)



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# CULTURES AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Euroafrican Master  
on  
Social Sciences of Development

# What is CUDA?

- CUDA is a **platform of afro-european university cooperation** nourished by 8 universities: U. Antananarivo, U. Barcelona, U. Cheikh Anta Diop, U. Lleida, U. Pompeu Fabra, U. Ramon Llull, U. Rovira i Virgili, U. Yaoundé I.
- Its initial core is a **master on social sciences of development**, taught simultaneously in 4 campus: Cameroon, Madagascar, Senegal and Spain (Catalonia).

[http://www.urv.cat/masters\\_oficials/en\\_africa.html](http://www.urv.cat/masters_oficials/en_africa.html)

Màster promovido por:



CUDA  
is a  
civil society & university  
joint project

# GOALS

- To introduce **cultural factors** in African university *curricula*, from indigenous knowledge to traditional governance.
- To reinforce **African universities** structures, promoting the qualified **renovation** of its scholar staff.
- To promote durable **research and cooperation synergies between African and European scholars and students** (future work teams).

# PROGRESSIVE AND OPEN

- Phase 1: Common Design (2009-2010)
- Phase 2: Courses implementation (2010-2012, 2012-2014)
- Phase 3: Common virtual training platform (2014-1015)
- Phase 4: Single title
- Later on: Much more than a master.

# *Phase 1: 2009-2010*

# COMMON DESIGN

- . Summing up of perspectives: meetings in Barcelona, Dakar and Antananarivo.
- . A single scholar axe: the need to incorporate local knowledge in development training.
- . A single studies planning.



- . *Background:* previous strong personal and research links (ARDA)
- . *Funding:* Institut Catalunya-Àfrica (promotion), Agència Catalana de Cooperació per al Desenvolupament

# *Phase 2: 2010-2012 / 2012/2014*

## COURSES IMPLEMENTATION

- . Actual teaching in 4 campus
- . Professors exchange (first level)
- . Synchronization (in progress)
- . Common training activities (2014)



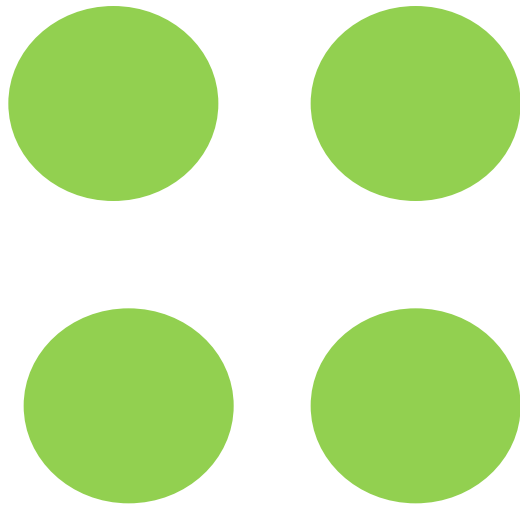
- . *Background:* experience in EEES adaptation, previous local masters
- . *Funding:* Registration Fees, Ministry of Science (MICINN; *only 2010-2011*), convergence of activities. Considering UE callings for next phases.

*Phase 3: 2014-2015*

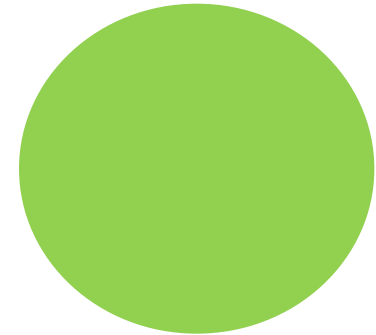
# COMMON VIRTUAL PLATFORM

*Phase 4: > 2015*

# A SINGLE TITLE



4 campus  
Common programmes  
and resources



A single scholar space



# Much more than a master!

CUDA is already inspiring “spin-off” initiatives:

- . Student postmaster collaboration (Wiriko...)
- . Research networks (SACUDA...)
- . Survey of new members (Mozambique, UE...)

...



# Learnings and challenges

- Crisis is not a definite obstacle is **personal commitments** are strong in all the partner institutions. Incorporation of **young scholars** is a key question.
- **Private involvement** (Institute Catalunya-Africa) is decisive to maintain the project during the difficult moments, but CUDA and cooperation with Africa have to rely on a **strong public policy**. UE institutions should send clearer and louder messages to member governments (eventually to Spanish and Catalan ones) promoting interuniversity and euroafrican collaborations.

# Learnings and challenges (cont.)

- **Funding** instability is a source of inefficacy and a brake for any project with Africa. Resolving funding challenges and shortages is a dynamic and creative enterprise that requires:
  - . convergence and expenses-sharing with other activities (CUIMPB, JGD, ICA, African Insights...);
  - . network operating and mentality (ARDA, SACUDA...), with specific support to African partners (infrastructure and wage deficits...);
  - . lobbying for a stronger cooperation commitment of European (and Spanish) Universities, providing administrative support and logistic facilities to projects;
  - . asking for clear rules and incentives for interuniversity arrangements in "CUDA centres (reinvestment of fees, scholar acknowledgement of tasks...);
  - . studying the addition of European partners, in order to reinforce the project and attend UE calls.

# Learnings and challenges (end)

- Diverse **administrative cultures** (including scholar calendar, bureaucratic links and rhythms, fees...) require **flexibility** and ask at the same time for a very **resilient organizing scheme** in CUDA (or any other afroeuropean project). This should be taken into account by European education and research officers.
- **Diversity management** is not a straight forward matter, but it is the key of African development, university knowledge production and transfer comprised.

Thank you!

Albert Roca (University of Lleida)  
CUDA Coordination