

UNICA RECTORS SEMINAR

***“STRENGTHENING THE AFRICA – EUROPE COOPERATION:
THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY NETWORKING***

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EUA's changing role in Africa cooperation

- Always: dialogue
- From 2008 - series of Erasmus Mundus projects
 - mobility, brain drain & brain circulation
 - inclusion
- White paper on EU-Africa cooperation
- Quality assurance
- Global initiative on doctoral education
- Followed EU-Africa strategy

Presently

- Involvement in
 - HAQAA (Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation)
 - Steering Committee & mobility working group of the EU's **Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship Initiative**
- Dialogue – mainly with the Association of African Universities, and through the [Global University Associations' Forum](#)

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)

Growing interest in collaboration with Africa

- Increased political & economic interest
 - Pan-African & regional integration approaches
 - African Union
 - African Continental Free Trade Agreement (incl. services)
 - Growing importance of HE & research
 - intra African and African EU

Priority on capacities for science including higher education of the AU-EU cooperation and related partnerships - 2022

Why cooperation on capacities for science and higher education is important

Strengthening scientific capacities in Africa is a key priority of the AU-EU relation and is structured along four areas of cooperation: human capital development, science advice for policy, open science and gender.

Human capital development

Investment into human capital development is a key factor to tackle current and future crises and contribute to the development of skills for more resilient societies.

The objective is to promote and coordinate existing cooperation, academic mobility, fellowships and doctoral training programmes to reinforce the AU-EU cooperation and to support emerging areas in critical domains such as the digital agenda, the green economy, innovation, artificial intelligence.

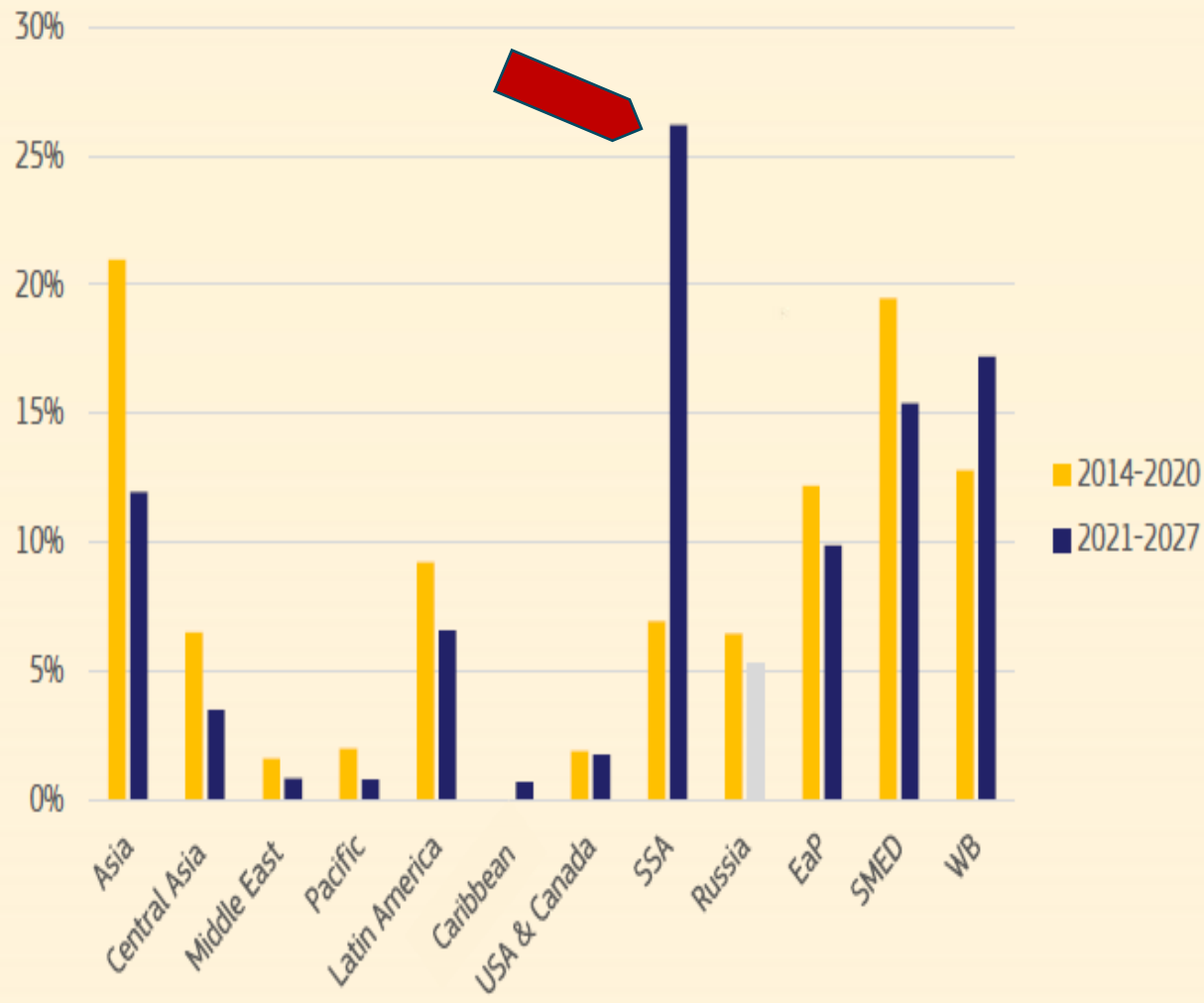
https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/regional-dialogues-and-international-organisations/eu-africa-cooperation/capacities-science-and-higher-education_en

Erasmus+ budget for third country cooperation: More than a quarter for Africa cooperation

2021-2027: 2.174 billion EUR

2014-2020: 1.932 billion EUR

Budget per region



Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package

strong, inclusive, green and digital recovery and transformation by:

- Accelerating the green transition
- Accelerating the digital transition
- Accelerating sustainable growth and decent job creation
- Strengthening health systems
- Improving education and training

150 Bill EUR investments

Role of university associations and networks

Actors – but also platforms for exchange and collaboration – including with international partners

Complexity of exchange & collaboration – also due to different political & academic cultures

Ethics

Policy monitoring & policy making

Funding

Importance of policy development

EUA's response to the European Education Area (2020)

Partnerships and collaboration with third countries and regions are a key feature of European higher education, and crucial for the quality of its education and research. **European higher education has much to share, but also much to gain in collaboration.** It will be important to have **a more seamless transition between exchange and cooperation inside and outside of Europe** and to **ensure that this is reflected in the next generation of funding programmes for education and research.**

Example: European alliances

For 60% of respondents it is very or somewhat important to broaden the geographical scope of the European Universities Initiative from current EU and Erasmus+ partner countries and allow participation of further countries, while 40% are neutral or do not find it that important at this stage.

79% of respondents have ongoing collaborations with partners in Europe outside the EU.

EUA survey 2020

Consortia, networks, alliances – the logic of inter- institutional collaboration

- High emphasis on inter-institutional collaboration
- Tempus, Erasmus Mundus e.a.
- From inter-academic / inter-faculty towards inter-institutional partnerships
- European DNA? Form follows funding?
- European alliances - good frameworks for international partnership?

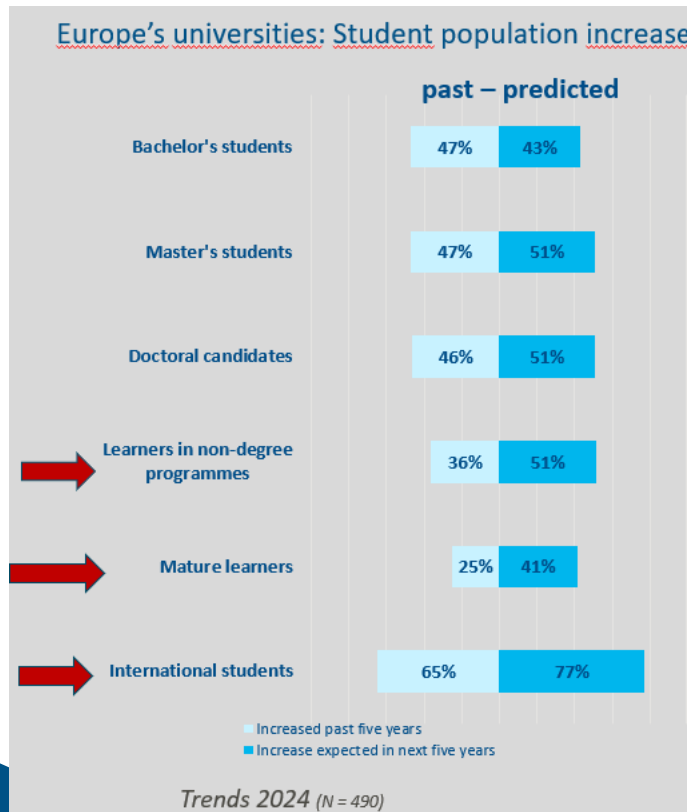
Points for consideration in EU-Africa interinstitutional collaboration

- What can we share – what can we learn?
- How to make exchanges more balanced?
- Equal partnership
- Connect African colleagues/ institution in global collaborations

Pro	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networked approaches • Sharing reflections and resources • More visibility & impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and work intensive • Flexible & sustainable

Time to rethink internationalisation?

- **Politics, geopolitics, economics** – impact on higher ed & research collaboration
- **Student mobility:** between old goals and new realities
 - Bologna Process & EU benchmarks
 - Green, inclusive mobility
- **Rise of virtual exchanges**
 - 64% use them, of which $\frac{3}{4}$ only 2020 –
 - Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ under Erasmus blended mobility
 - 20% plan to ...
- **International students**
 - decreasing domestic student populations
 - limit numbers / discussion about migration



Thank you for your attention!
Questions? Let's discuss?

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