



Education and Culture DG



Africa-EU Strategy and Higher education

**Launch of Harmonisation of African Higher Education and Tuning
Yaoundé, 23-25 January 2011**

Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (I)

- The **African Association of Universities Declaration on the African University in the Third Millennium** (2001), calls for ‘the revitalisation of the African University, for a renewed sense of urgency in acknowledging the crucial role it should play in solving problems facing [the] continent’, and urges African universities to ‘give priority to effective and positive participation in global action, exchange and application of knowledge’, and calls upon African governments to assume responsibility for sustaining their universities, in partnership with other stakeholders
- The **2nd Decade of Higher Education for Africa (2006-15) of the African Union** confirms the urgent need to revitalize African higher education institutions and promote regional cooperation



Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (II)

- The **Declaration of the 2009 UNESCO World Higher Education Conference**, that calls for 'partnerships and concerted action at national, regional and international levels to assure the quality and sustainability of higher education systems worldwide
- The **European University Association Prague Declaration (2009)** stressed the role of higher education in solving the financial crisis, and committed to 'enhancing global collaboration, partnership and presence beyond Europe as a priority for an ever greater number of universities with diverse missions, to ensure strategic presence and promote a more international outlook among students and staff alike, and, in particular in times of global financial crisis, to demonstrate active solidarity and cooperation



Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (III)

The 2007 [Joint Africa-EU Strategy](#) and first Action Plan (2008-2010) emphasize the importance of cooperation with Africa in higher education to build high-quality tertiary capacity through networking, mobility of students and scholars, and institutional support and innovation. The Africa-EU [Strategic Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment](#) foreseen in the Action Plan further stresses these objectives. Fostering higher education in Africa is instrumental both for growth and jobs and for providing schools with more qualified teachers.



Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (IV)

- A repeated refrain from the "[Developing links: EU-Africa Cooperation in Higher Education through Mobility](#)" Conference held in December 2008 was the need to revitalise and reform higher education in Africa and to do so in cooperation across national boundaries, to establish compatible structures and systems, which would facilitate mobility and higher education cooperation within Africa (through mobility schemes such as Nyerere) as well as between Africa and Europe and other parts of the world (through programmes such as [Erasmus Mundus](#) or [EDULINK](#)). An African [Tuning Project](#) building on the Tuning Educational Structures in Europe and Latin America Projects was suggested and very much supported by the representatives of African and European Universities and by the European and [African Union Commission](#)



Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (V)

- At the April 2009 [Bologna Ministerial Meeting](#), non-Bologna countries, including Ethiopia, debated on world wide cooperation and partnership in higher education with a view to developing partnership between the 46 Bologna countries and countries from across the world, fostering mutual understanding and learning in the field of higher education, and laying the ground for sustainable cooperation in the future. The Forum expressed the desire to establish dialogue on recognition policies and to explore the implications of the various qualifications frameworks in order to further mutual recognition of qualifications and cooperation on specific topics such as quality assurance and the establishment of compatible structures.



Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (VI)

- The 11 May 2010 **European Council conclusions** on the internationalization of higher education : international academic cooperation should continue to be an important means for the EU to support the modernization efforts of its partners. The Council asks the European Commission to continue to support international higher education partnerships, international academic cooperation and capacity-building actions, and to facilitate policy dialogue in higher education with interested third countries.
- The 2010 revisions to the **Cotonou Agreement** which recognize the need to improve education and training at all levels, to work towards recognition of tertiary education qualifications, to establish quality assurance systems for education, including education and training delivered on line or through other non-conventional means, and to build technical capacity and skills.



Policy dialogue in higher education with Africa (VI)

- The 2010 **Joint statement of the African Association of Universities and the European University Association** on the role of higher education in the Africa-Europe strategic Partnership for submission to the Africa EU Summit.
- The 10 November 2010 **European Commission Communication to the Parliament and Council on the consolidated EU-Africa relations (Africa-Europe 2020)** which provides higher education a prominent place in the thematic partnership for Migration, Mobility and Employment.



Africa-EU 2010 Summit



- African Union and European Union Heads of State, November 2010, Libya
- Overarching Summit theme "Investment, economic growth and job creation«.
- The development of Africa's vast human capital requires a focus on skills-development, innovation and entrepreneurship, which should be complemented with a comprehensive approach to social and labour market policies.
- The Africa-EU Summit side event on higher education in Cape Town recommends to Heads of State that they recognise that relevant, innovative curriculum development engaging stakeholders, academics and students is essential to establish a distinctive African Higher Education Area, and to meet the need for the high level competences required by Africa, will support and encourage inter-university and inter-regional curriculum reform and development partnerships as 'beacons' of good practice'.



2011-2013 Joint Action Plan Deliverables (I)

Nyerere Programme.

- The aim of this AUC programme is to contribute to high level African human resource development and retention; while supporting intra-African academic mobility, and thereby mitigate the effects of brain drain. Under this partnership the EC has committed €35m to enlarge the Nyerere scheme. This enhanced scholarship programme was launched in November 2010. Under the scheme, more than 2000 African students, scholars and academic staff will receive scholarships for master and PhD level studies and to allow exchange of academics and university administrative staff.



2011-2013 Joint Action Plan Deliverables (II)

The Pan African University

- The Pan-African University is a concept by the African Union, aiming to exemplify excellence, relevance and global competitiveness of African higher education and research. It is a network of African higher education and research institutions, with thematic hubs in each of the five geographic regions of Africa (Eastern, Western, Central, Southern and Northern Africa). The first 3 thematic institutes were launched in December 2011.



2011-2013 Joint Action Plan Deliverables (III)

African Higher Education Harmonisation and Tuning.

- This initiative aims to review the state of implementation of mutual recognition of higher education certificates and qualifications in Africa. It will involve assessment of the potential of using the European approach of 'Tuning' (<http://tuning.unideusto.org/tuningeu/>) .
- The initiative includes the implementation of the African Quality Rating Mechanism, the popularisation of the revised Arusha convention, and the development of a roadmap for the harmonisation of higher education in Africa. A pilot phase on the potential of using the Tuning approach is expected to begin in 2011.



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