



Supporting regional integration and an African Higher Education space European Commission Education and Culture DG



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Accra, Ghana

Support to regional cooperation

- Support can be provided at three levels: national, regional and **Intra ACP** through respective strategy papers agreed upon between relevant parties including EU member states represented in the beneficiary countries.
- **Instruments vary** according to the situation of each country:
 - a) - project approach;
 - b) - sector-wide support; and
 - c) - general budget support



Support to regional cooperation

- **ACP Higher Education sub-sector needs to respond to a number of key development issues:**
 - need to stimulate potential for economic growth by increasing the number of **highly qualified professionals** available in the ACP countries
 - need to improve **the quality** of locally provided Higher Education in the ACP countries
 - importance of building **capacity of ACP HEI** by promoting both cooperation between ACP HEI and between ACP and European HEI
 - importance of promoting **inter-cultural dialogue** and understanding among European and ACP countries.



Programmes under implementation

EDULINK (ACP higher education institutions)

- The overall objective of the EDULINK Programme is to foster capacity building and regional integration in the field of higher education through institutional networking, and to support a higher education system of quality, which is efficient and relevant to the needs of the labour market, and consistent with ACP socio-economic development priorities.
- The programme purpose is to strengthen the capacity of ACP Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) at their three constitutive levels:
 - Institutional/administrative
 - Academic and
 - Research and Technology



The programme aims at achieving the following results:

- Enhanced contribution to national and/or regional policies and implementation plans for regional co-operation in higher education;
- Increased inter-institutional networking between HEIs in the ACP regions and in the EU;
- Creation of better regional conditions for effective networking of higher education centres in research, and science and technology innovation;
- Enhanced management and financial administration capacity of HEIs;
- ACP HEIs become regional and/or international poles of attraction;
- Creation of a suitable institutional framework to pursue academic excellence in higher education;
- ACP countries are enabled to develop or reinforce their strategic expertise in fields linked to the socio-economic development of the country/region.



Some examples

NETRIS — Network of Regional Integration Studies

- establish and coordinate a network of ACP HEIs working within the field of comparative regional integration
- strengthen the research and training capacities of the partners in the field of regional integration studies, to stimulate mutual learning, shared practices and collective dissemination, and encourage policy relevant research
 - College of Europe/ UNU-CRIS, Belgium
 - Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
 - Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun
 - Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal
 - University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 - University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa
 - University of the South Pacific, Fiji
 - University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago
- 3-year project with total budget of EUR 636.280



Some examples

AUDIS — African Universities International Dimension Strengthening

- create better regional conditions for effective networking and build the capacity of African universities to develop and carry out internationalisation policies and projects in the teaching and research sectors
- reinforce the management and financial administration capacity of African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by creating and strengthening policies and services related to international relations
 - University of Padova, Italy
 - Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
 - Coimbra Group Office, Belgium
 - University of Agostinho Neto Luanda, Angola
 - University of Abomey Calavi, Benin
 - University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
 - University of Cape Verde, Cape Verde
 - University of Kinshasa and University of Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo
 - Mekelle University, Ethiopia
 - Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
 - Gaston Berger University, Senegal
 - University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 - University of Lomé, Togo University of Lomé, Togo
 - University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
- 2-year project with total budget of EUR 554.431
- Associates: University of Western Cape, South Africa and Flemish Interuniversity Council, Belgium among others.



Next phase

EDULINK II

- Some fine-tuning currently underway
- 20 million foreseen for phase II
- Call likely to be published in Autumn 2010 with deadline in early Spring

For more information:

<http://www.acp-edulink.eu/>



Erasmus Mundus

- Cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with Third-Countries
- Contributes to the development of human resources and the international cooperation capacity of Higher education institutions in Third Countries by increasing mobility between the European Union and these countries
- Provides support to:
 - **higher education institutions** that wish to implement joint programmes at postgraduate level ([Action 1](#)) or to set-up inter-institutional cooperation partnerships between universities from Europe and targeted Third-Countries ([Action 2](#));
 - **individual students, researchers and university staff** who wish to spend a study / research / teaching period in the context of one of the above mentioned joint programmes or cooperation partnerships ([Action 1](#) and [Action 2](#));
 - **any organisation active in the field of higher education** that wishes to develop projects aimed at enhancing the attractiveness, profile, visibility and image of European higher education worldwide ([Action 3](#)).



Erasmus Mundus

- 2010 call closed on 30 April
- Award decision planned for July 2010
- Action 2 : € 6 million for ACP countries, € 4.8 for South Africa.
- Postgraduate and doctoral students only, inclusion of Sandwich PhDs, no student flow from EU to ACP – academics yes.
- South Africa partnerships must include at least one of the 12 South African HEIs indicated as universities of technology (UoTs) and historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs). Thematic fields.
- ACP: not more than 10% of same nationality. No thematic preferences.

For more information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/about_erasmus_mundus_en.php



Policy dialogue in higher education

- 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

- 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

- 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

- The primary and overarching objective of EU development policy is the **eradication of poverty** in the context of sustainable development– primary education has therefore been the priority with a **comprehensive approach** to Higher Education in the form of a “policy mix” that recognises the role that HE institution (HEI) can play in national poverty reduction strategies.
- **One of the proposed 2010 amendments of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement goes beyond basic education and makes specific reference to « improving education and training at all levels, working towards recognition of tertiary education qualifications, establishment of quality assurance systems for education, including education and training delivered on-line or through other non-conventional means, and building technical capacity and skills”.**



Policy dialogue in higher education

- Access to Success Project
- Tuning Feasibility Study
- Higher education AU-EU Summit side event in November 2010



Tuning Feasibility study: objectives

- To contribute to the modernisation of tertiary education in African countries
- To support the development of partnerships between countries in Africa and between African countries and other parts of the world
- To foster mutual understanding and learning in Higher Education
- To establish a basis for sustainable cooperation
- To raise general understanding and awareness in African Universities of the opportunities offered by the Tuning approach
- To assess the extent to which a Tuning project is appropriate for African Higher Education Institutions and what the appropriate scale should be
- To identify priority subject areas and explain why these are appropriate
- To identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in the implementation of a Tuning project
- To make proposals for a pilot project in a selected number of countries with associated validation and follow up



Tuning Feasibility study

- Tuning focuses not on educational systems, but on educational structures with emphasis on the subject area level, that is the content of studies.
- Whereas educational systems are primarily the responsibility of governments, educational structures and content are that of higher education institutions and their academic staff.
- The Tuning approach has been developed by and is meant for higher education institutions.



Tuning Feasibility study: outcomes

- A high quality feasibility study on whether a Tuning Approach would be relevant for Africa
- Regional and country reports: covering the whole continent, possible priority areas, common factors, differences and potential for regional and Pan African cooperation, resources, limitations, challenges.
- Persons targeted/involved/interviewed:
 - National authorities (Min Ed, Min Lab)
 - University authorities
 - Academic staff
 - The African Union Commission
 - University associations,
 - Student representative bodies
 - Alumni
 - Employer representative bodies
 - Accreditation and quality assurance agencies
- A contribution to the AU-EU Summit side event on higher education (November 2010)



Tuning Feasibility study: outcomes

Region	Country	(Lead) Experts	Date	
Northern Africa	1. Algeria	John Reilly Pierpaolo Faggi	Late July 2010	
Central Africa	2. Burundi 3. Cameroon	Béatrice Delpouve Dominique Breillat	First week July Before 15 Oct.	
Eastern Africa	4. Kenya 5. Ethiopia	Margret Schermutzki Karola Hahn Pieter Boele van Hensbroek	November	
Western Africa	6. Ghana	Louise Van Leeuwen Hanneke van Bruggen	August	
	7. Senegal	John Reilly Louise Van Leeuwen	November	
Southern Africa	8. South Africa	Karola Hahn Arlene Gilpin	Last week July	
	9. Malawi	Karola Hahn Hanneke van Bruggen	Mid September	

2010: Opportunities for higher education

- Erasmus Mundus 2010 applications
- Erasmus Mundus « Access to Success » project
- Tuning feasibility study
- Major review of international development cooperation (UN review of progress on MDGs, September 2010 in New York)
- Amendments to the next 5-year Cotonou Agreement make specific reference to tertiary education, quality assurance, recognition of qualifications and innovation.
- Autumn: 2nd phase of Edulink programme to be published
- Autumn: launch of Nyerere programme
- 29-30 November: AU-EU Summit of Heads of State in Tripoli and side event on higher education



Thank you for your attention

For further information:

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