



## DEVCO support to higher education (DEVCO internal)

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EU recognizes the important role higher education plays for development. Higher education increases entrepreneurship and intergenerational mobility, can create jobs and contribute to a stronger civil society and better governance. One key aim of higher education is to take able students to the stage where they can contribute to the national development of their country; this level of education is crucial for building a strong human capital base – training professionals such as teachers, doctors and engineers. African higher education is undergoing a major transformation driven by the quick expansion of the system, but massification has put the quality of higher education under severe pressure, the graduation rates remain low and Sub-Saharan Africa still has the lowest tertiary enrolment of any world region.

The EU Development policy Agenda for Change (2011) underlines the necessity to enhance EU support for quality education to give young people the knowledge and skills to be active members of an evolving society. Our priorities in higher education come from our broader development policy: focus on low-income countries, partner country priorities and needs and ensuring the participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, groups and institutions.

DG DEVCO's regional support to higher education in focuses on the development and modernisation of higher education, enhancing the **capacities and expertise** of university staff, and improving the **skills** and **employability** of students. It is a **balanced mix of actions**, which addresses the individuals, institutions and higher education system. The two main components of our support are i) the capacity building of higher education institutions and ii) mobility of students, academics and staff.

In 2014-2020 DG DEVCO supports higher education through its contribution to the Erasmus+ programme and different initiatives under Pan-African Programme The new programme Erasmus+ combines the previous programmes, such as Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Edulink and ALFA, under one roof. The support from development cooperation instruments to Erasmus+ in 2014-2020 is 1.45 BN EUR.<sup>1</sup> Under Pan-African Programme DEVCO is supporting a range of initiatives (apprx. 40M€ for 2014-2017), such as the Pan-African University and Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme (South-South mobility), the Harmonization of Higher Education Programme and the Pan-African Masters Consortium in Interpretation and Translation (PAMCIT). There are also on-going initiatives in Asia, such as EU SHARE programme and the European Higher education fairs in Central Asia and Asia. Higher education is also a proposed component in several bilateral programmes in Africa, such as Angola, Mauritius and South Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> DCI 710 M, EDF 85 M (planned), ENPI 659 M

## 1. Erasmus+

Through the **capacity building** action of **Erasmus+** programme we will be supporting modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education, through activities such as curricula development, improving teaching methods and materials, strengthening university governance and creating better links between higher education and the world of work. The structural projects of capacity building action of Erasmus+ will focus on impact on national systems through modernisation of policies, governance and management. **Erasmus+ mobility action** provides **scholarships** and mobility grants to students and university staff to study or engage in research within the EU. This will have an impact on the personal development and employability of students and staff, but will also build the capacity of participating institutions through organizing and implementing mobility projects.

## 2. Pan-African Programme

Through the Pan-African Programme, the EU supports the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme, which aims at contributing to the production and retention of high-level African human resources by offering mobility scholarships for Masters and PhD degrees in key areas relevant to Africa's social and economic development. It is a genuine **South-South** cooperation programme as it focuses on the regional knowledge and expertise (contribution under the Pan-African Programme is 20M€ over 2014-2017)<sup>2</sup>.

- The Pan-African Programme envisages a contribution to the **Pan-African University** (10 M€ in 2014-2020), a flagship initiative of the African Union Commission, which aims at establishing five regional thematic networks of high quality African universities, each specializing on specific academic domains, and coordinated by a regional hub. By creating regional thematic hubs and “satellite campuses” linked to those hubs, it is foreseen that the Pan-African University include up to 55 African institutions. each specializing on specific academic domains, which are:
  1. The Institute for Governance, the Humanities and Social Sciences of Central Africa, based at the University of Yaoundé II, in Soa, Cameroon;
  2. The Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation of East Africa, based at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Juja, Kenya;
  3. The Institute for Life and Earth Sciences (including Health and Agriculture) of West Africa, based at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria;
  4. The Institute on Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change of North Africa, based at the University of Tlemcen, Algeria;
  5. The Space Sciences hub in Southern Africa – location yet to be decided.

The programme also supports the **The Harmonization of Higher Education Programme** (EU contribution 5M€), which aims to create a distinctive and globally competitive African higher education space, through enhanced intra-African collaboration.<sup>3</sup> Another targeted programme, the **Pan-African Masters Consortium in Interpretation and Translation** (PAMCIT) (EU contribution of 4.7M€) will train students to work as highly qualified

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<sup>2</sup> EU has supported South-South mobility in Africa since 2010 under the Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme (EU contribution during the previous programming period: 45M€ - 40 Million from EDF and 5 from DCI South Africa).

<sup>3</sup> This is to be achieved through two interlinked areas of focus: the *Tuning and Harmonisation* initiative and (support to) the *Harmonisation, Quality and Accreditation*.

translators/conference interpreters/public service interpreters to meet emerging needs on the African continent.

### **3. Initiatives in Asia**

#### **EU SHARE: EU Support to higher education in ASEAN region (from 2007-2013)**

The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality, regional competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions contributing to an ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond. The purpose of the programme is (1) to contribute to harmonisation of ASEAN higher education area through the formulation of ASEAN higher education frameworks taking into account the EU experience and (2) to support mutual recognition and student mobility among higher education institution in ASEAN and EU and to strengthen people-to-people connectivity.

**European higher education fairs in Central Asia and Asia** have two core objectives: 1) to promote study opportunities in the EU to students from Asia and Central Asia; 2) to showcase and to promote cooperation in the higher-education sphere between the EU and countries in Asia and Central Asia.

To conclude, the EU support to higher education through DG DEVCO funds<sup>4</sup> provides comprehensive support to inclusive and sustainable development of higher education in the partner countries. The national ownership is a key priority for our current and future support and therefore our programmes are aligned with the regional needs and priorities and developed in agreement with regional organisations. The EU supports strengthening the capacity of existing local institutions, while prioritizing also the disadvantaged individuals and institutions and South-South mobility.

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<sup>4</sup> In addition to support given by DG DEVCO, DG Education and Culture also supports higher education in Africa through its Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, which offers scholarships for doctoral degrees.