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EUROPE-AFRICA QUALITY CONNECT: Building Institutional Capacity Through Partnership



Higher Education in Africa

Need for QA

Progression of number of students in African HE system

- 1960 21,000
- 1983 473,000
- 1991 2.7 million
- 2006 9.3 million students

Yet, only 5% of the college age population is in higher education in Africa,

Demand will grow especially as the success of “Education For All” at the primary level produces more secondary school graduates” (Hayward 2012: 21).

Europe-Africa Quality Connect: Building Institutional Capacity through Partnership (QA Connect)



Partners



Co-funder



ERASMUS MUNDUS

Project main theme:
Apply IEP approach for QA
in African universities

Project period:
October 2010 to
September 2012.

General aim

To enhance cooperation and exchange between the institutions of Africa and Europe, and improve the operational contacts between AAU and EUA.

Goals

- To strengthen universities and ensure the achievement of their mission.
- To contribute towards internal QA development as a crucial element for advancing national and regional QA.
- To foster exchanges and networking between European and African QA peer experts through mutual training exercises.
- To help the exchange and collaboration among African universities on the topic of QA.

Specific Questions?

- Is the IEP approach – with certain adaptations – applicable to the various African contexts?
- Is it an effective and efficient means to contribute to the strategic institutional development of African universities?
- If that is the case, how could an evaluation programme be developed and sustained in order for African universities to benefit beyond the actual pilot project?

Key Activities

1. **Training workshop for experts** (4-6 May 2011, Dublin, Ireland) to discuss the suitability of the IEP guidelines for this project.
2. **Evaluation of the five institutions** (September 2011 to March 2012), including two site visits by the expert teams and a final evaluation report for each university, posted on the project website.
3. **Post-evaluation workshop** (18-20 April 2012, Aveiro, Portugal) to assess and discuss the concrete experiences of both the evaluation teams and the universities.
4. **Dissemination conference** (21-22 June 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), to discuss the outcome of the project and make recommendations for its wider application, and also to promote the results to donors and governments.