

# Internationalization & Capacity Building in HE: Africa-Europe Collaborations

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*Africa- Europe Conference on Higher Education Collaboration  
Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019*

# Setting the context

- \* Background
- \* Africa and Internationalization
- \* The Rise of HE Partnerships
- \* Europe- Africa Partnerships
- \* Can equal partnerships be realized?
- \* Asymmetries in Partnerships
- \* Good practices in HE partnerships
- \* Role of partnerships (for African Universities)
- \* Recent developments in Africa
- \* Future of Europe –Africa HE Partnerships

# Africa and Internationalization

- Internationalization is impacting on Africa's higher education in unprecedented ways.
- It is one of the main drivers of change in Africa's higher education.
- These transformations have positive and negative consequences of Africa's HE.
- Africa engages with internationalization to pursue certain rationales i.e. strengthen research, curriculum development, institutional capacities, improved academic quality
- Several challenges, risks and contextual implications
- Several opportunities amid limited capacities to benefit from internationalization.
- Africa thus engages with internationalization in different ways compared to other world regions.
- **Africa has to be an active player in the global knowledge society and is a new promising frontier for internationalization**

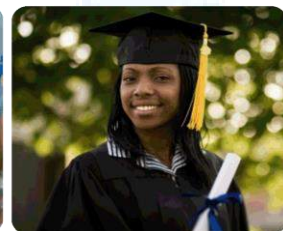
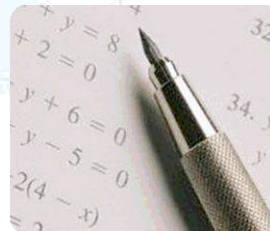
# The Rise of HE partnerships

- \* What are they are what are the rationales?- different regions or countries have different rationales.
- \* The different frames of partnerships (from lens of Africa)
  - (i) North-South Partnerships
  - (ii) South- South partnerships
  - (iii) Intra- Africa partnerships
  - (iv) Regionalization (and nationalization) of partnerships- intra-regional collaborations/intergration/harmonization

All the above frames of partnerships are important and play different roles and none replaces the other

# Europe – Africa HE Partnerships

- \* Europe has a long history and tradition in HE- influenced most world regions.
- \* Modern African HE in Africa- largely a result of European influence
- \* A history of partnerships- Africa/Europe.
- \* An important role in the development of Africa's HE
- \* Knowledge production models and education practices.
- \* Europe remains Africa's most preferred region for collaborations & mobility
- \* European educational policies have in a way shaped policy developments in Africa
- \* Geographical proximity of Europe
- \* Role of Europe in knowledge society
- \* New EU- Africa programs
- \* The rise of new actors/dynamics- China, India etc



# Role of partnerships (for African Universities)

- \* Strengthening research capacities/knowledge production
- \* Enhancing institutional capacities e.g. governance, academic quality
- \* Curriculum innovations and strengthening
- \* Specialized training
- \* Institutional capacities
- \* Enhanced policy/strategy development
- \* Building the next generation of African scholars
- \* Improved learning experiences/outcomes
- \* Strengthening quality
- \* More possibilities to respond to local challenges
- \* Knowledge exchanges/New opportunities – for students, staff

# The role of leadership



- \* National/System level
- \* Executive
- \* Faculty level
- \* Facilitating/Supportive units

# Asymmetries in Partnerships

- \* Partnerships have largely been unequal-Differences in power relations
- \* History and the colonial legacy- Are perceptions changing?
- \* Imbalances in partnerships- Does Africa have anything to offer?
- \* Africa's challenges and capacity/funding deficits compound the asymmetries.
- \* Better chances for a better future
- \* Knowledge dominance and the construction of knowledge- many knowldges do exist
- \* Ownership of knowledge outcomes- Are African scholars mere data collectors for western counterparts?
- \* Structural barriers e.g visas, access to opportunities
- \* Reality- we live in an unequal world- and this could be escalating
- \* Higher education systems, structures and conditions are different
- \* The rise of competition in HE



# Good practices in HE partnerships

- \* No one size fits all- differences will always be there
- \* Balance between competition and cooperation
- \* Power, influence and imbalances
- \* Deal with barriers, risks and negative outcomes
- \* From development cooperation to knowledge exchanges
- \* Are the interests the same? -Mutuality- win win for all
- \* Sustainability- e.g link to SDGs, continental, regional, national agendas/priorities.
- \* How to deal with unintended consequences
- \* How can universities help create a better world?

# Recent developments in Africa



- \* The rapid expansion of the HE sector in almost all African countries
- \* **Continental HE initiatives** e.g. Africa's Agenda 2063/ CESA 2016-2025/Addis Convention/ African centres of excellence/ African Qualification Framework/ New mobility programs/Focus on research and doctoral education/ Continental Free Trade Area -Growing Intra-Africa partnerships
- \* **Regional initiatives**- EAC, SADC, ECOWAS- regional university associations(networks)/ harmonization/ regional quality assurance frameworks/ Mutual Recognition Agreements/ Common HE Area- linked to continental agenda.
- \* **Institutional Level**- several new developments, governance reforms, ICT,
- \* **Globally**- the renewed interest and support to Africa's HE by international agencies/nations
- \* Africa's Higher Education Summit 2015 & COREVIP Conference 2015- key role of internationalization
- \* **African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE)** -Renewed call for internationalization and partnership

# Future of Europe – Africa HE Partnerships

- \* Europe will continue to be a major partner for Africa
- \* Several initiatives going on between the two regions
- \* New opportunities (and even risks)
- \* Africa's youthful population- a big resource
- \* Africa's young HE system- has more room for innovations
- \* Commitment through internationalization/ partnerships
- \* Link to local priorities/DSGs at different levels
- \* New ways of doing things
- \* Address challenges/ barriers- leaving no one behind
- \* Better partnerships- A better world/ more opportunities and accomplishments



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