

European
Commission

Supporting the harmonisation of higher education programmes and the creation of a distinctive, attractive and globally competitive African higher education space

Facts and figures

- ❖ European Commission contribution: € 5 million (100% of budget)
- ❖ Duration: 2015-2019
- ❖ Action of the 2014 Annual action programme of the Pan-African Programme

HARMONISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA

The experience undertaken in Europe through the Bologna Process has underlined the importance of harmonisation mechanisms to ensure comparability in the standards and quality of higher-education qualifications between countries. Convinced of the interest and benefits linked to the portability of qualifications for students and higher education institutions, African universities have undertaken a similar process with the support of their European counterparts.

Objective

The objective of the project is to contribute to and support the harmonisation of higher education programmes and the creation of a distinctive, attractive and globally competitive African higher education space.

Activities

Under the first component - the "[Tuning Africa](#)" initiative, study programmes as well as teaching, learning and assessment methods are revised in order to better reflect the competences and skills that are required for a given discipline. The initiative covers 8 subject areas (Agriculture, Applied Geology, Civil Engineering, Economics, Higher Education Management, Mechanical Engineering, Medicine and Teacher Education) and involves 120 universities from 41 countries as well as regional bodies in charge of higher education and students.

Under the second component – "[Harmonisation, quality assurance and accreditation](#)" (HAQAA), activities aim to develop a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system in Africa, with a view to facilitate mutual recognition of academic qualifications across the continent and enhance the mobility of students and academics. With the support of their European counterparts, a group of African representatives from academia and the bodies in charge of managing quality and accreditation in higher education develop a common understanding and African standards on quality accreditation and consolidate a quality culture in Africa so as to make African universities more competitive on the international scene.

Implementation

The programme is implemented by the DG for Education and culture (DG EAC) of the European Commission.