

European Commission Response to Engagement in Higher Education in ACP Countries

Raul MATEUS PAULA

Head of Unit C4, Centralised Operations for the ACP Countries,
European Commission, EuropeAid Cooperation Office



The European Union and the African - Caribbean - Pacific (ACP) States

The Cotonou Agreement, a Partnership for Development

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm]

The trade, aid and political Agreement signed in Cotonou, Benin, in June 2000, between the 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific ACP States and the EU entered into force on 1st April 2003. The partnership sets ambitious goals for the next 20 years centred on the reduction of poverty, the provision of robust political and improved governance. A spirit of making ACP-EU development co-operation more efficient and acknowledge mutual responsibilities.

European Union Member States and French Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion).

European Union New Member States (May 2004).

European Union Applicant Countries.

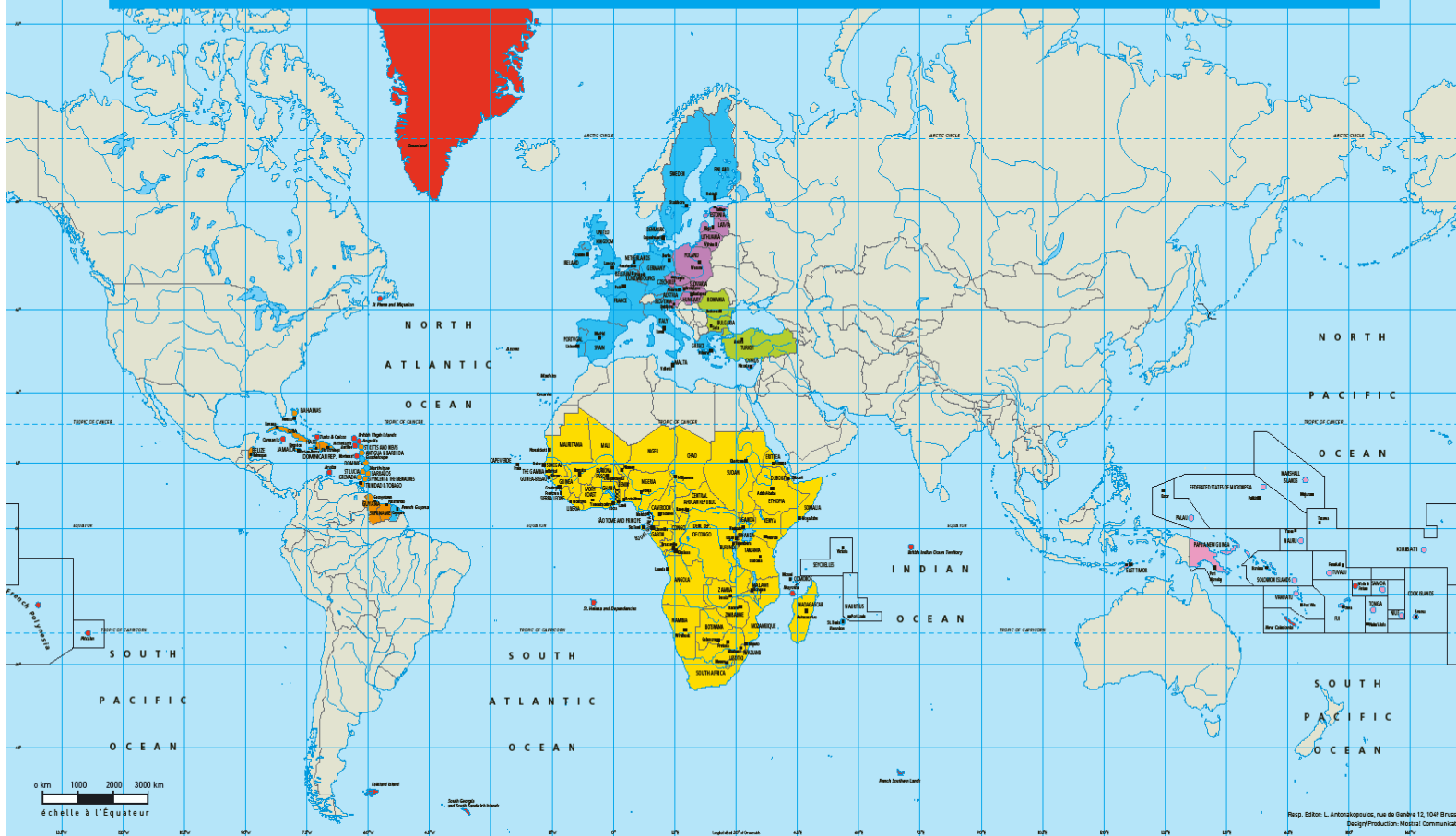
African countries members of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement (48).

Caribbean countries members of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement (10). Cuba is member of the ACP Group but not of the Cotonou Agreement.

Pacific countries members of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement (14). East Timor has officially joined the ACP group in May 2003. The country has not yet signed the Cotonou Agreement.

Overseas countries and territories (OCTs). Currently there are 28 OCTs which have special relations with France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands or Denmark.

European Commission Directorate-General for Development



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Policy

- The policy of the European Commission (EC) is to provide support to Higher Education in ACP partner countries in the context of a balanced approach to investment across the education sector as a whole.
- The primary and overarching objective of EU development policy is the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Policy

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 supply of high level qualified human resources available to ACP economies
- need to **improve the quality of locally provided Higher Education** in the ACP states
- importance of **building local capacity** by promoting both: cooperation between ACP tertiary education institutions and between ACP and European universities
- importance of **promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding** among European and ACP countries.

Programmes – 9th EDF and still ongoing

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- **EDULINK** Cooperation Programme in Higher Education - 2004 - EUR 35 000 000
- **Programme for Science and Technology Innovations and Capacity Building** – 2007 - EUR 35 350 000
- An initial Contribution to the **Erasmus Mundus Classical – Master Programmes** (now Action 1)– 2006 – EUR 5 000 000
- First contribution to the **Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window** (now Erasmus Mundus Partnerships – Action 2) – 2007 –EUR 5 000 000

EDULINK –Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

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- 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.
- HE Institutions participate in a competitive procedure of Calls for Proposals. The best ones are awarded grants of up to EUR 1M.
- 3 Calls published, 406 valid proposals received, between 500 and 700 HE Institutions participating in each Call
- 66 Projects selected involving around 340 HEI from EU and ACP.

Science and Technology – Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

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- The overall objective of the PSTICB programme is to support ACP countries in formulating and implementing S&T policies that can lead to sustainable development and to poverty reduction through economic growth and progressive integration in the world economy.
- The programme will emphasize the promotion of interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development along three main axes:
 - 1: Co-ordination and networking in applied research
 - 2: Instruments for collaborative research
 - 3: Management of research activities and reinforcement of research quality

Science and Technology – Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

- Budget per project between € 350 000 and a maximum of € 1 million
- Competitive procedure- calls for proposals where groups of institutions (consortia) apply for funding with a concrete project proposal
- Institutions eligible for this programme are ACP national and regional S&T organizations, research institutions, universities, government ministries and public institutions dealing with research policies, ACP national research networks, relevant civil society and private sector actors and similar EU actors working in partnership with ACP counterparts
- Call published in October 2008 and closed in March 2009
- 200 eligible proposals received
- Expecting to fund between 35 and 40 projects

Erasmus Mundus Classical – Master Programmes (now Action 1)– Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

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- The Project's purpose is **to facilitate linkages between the EU and the ACP** region in the field of higher education thereby encouraging and enabling ACP students to undertake postgraduate studies in Europe. This will in turn contribute to **reducing skilled manpower shortages and to improving political, economic and cultural links between the EU and the ACP region** which are the overall objectives of the Project.
- Students apply directly to the Accredited Mundus courses
- Receiving Universities conduct selection procedure
- Masters Programmes for students starting in the academic year 2007/08
- 3963 ACP applications spread across 80 MA courses
- 130 MA grants awarded in addition to the 141 awarded from the EC core budget

Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window - (now Erasmus Mundus Partnerships – Action 2), Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

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- Overall objective:
 - Contribute to **reducing skilled manpower shortages** and to **improving political, economic and cultural links between** the EU and the ACP region
- Specific objective:
 - **Facilitate linkages between the EU and the ACP region in the field of higher education** thereby encouraging and enabling ACP students and academics to undertake postgraduate studies in Europe.

Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window - (now Erasmus Mundus Partnerships – Action 2), Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

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- Education Agency publishes a Call for Proposal with various Lots of which ACP Lot is one – competitive procedure where the best consortium wins
- EU and ACP Universities form a consortium
- EU universities host all the students, EU and ACP universities host scholars
- Both EU and ACP universities participate in the organisation and preparation of mobility
- The winning consortium is responsible for publication for prospective students which come from ALL ACP countries
- Hosting institutions approve the final selection

Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window - (now Erasmus Mundus Partnerships – Action 2), Objectives, Main Features, Status of Implementation.

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- 2007 Call produced very good results – ACP Selected project scored very highly in comparison to all the other regions
- Call for students attracted over 8000 registrations and 3200 applications
- The mobility flow started on time and is ongoing – no specific problems were reported
- Participation of the ACP Universities – geographically balanced and active
- 184 scholarships in total – including 149 MAs and 35 academic exchanges
- Very good response in terms of Target Group 3 – vulnerable groups (refugees)

Future – 10th EDF

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- Continuation of **EDULINK** with € 20 000 000 for next call, evaluation of the programme is now ongoing. Programme will be fine-tuned.
- Continuation of **Science and Technology** with € 20 000 000 for next call.
- Continuation of **Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window – Action 2**
 - Budget of € 30 000 000 split over 5 Calls for Proposals
 - Inclusion of Sandwich PhDs
 - No student flow from EU to ACP – academics yes
 - Maximum 10% from one country
- Development of a new programme- Intra ACP Mobility Programme
 - Africa Nyerere component - € 30 000 000
 - Caribbean and Pacific components - € 10 000 000

Further Information

- For more information on the ongoing ACP Lot 10 project www.erasmusmundus10.net
- For more information on Erasmus Mundus http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm
- For further information on the past guidelines, information on other regions, list of selected projects etc. <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/index.htm>
- For more information on EDULINK <http://www.acp-edulink.eu/>
- For more information on Science and technology <http://www.acp-st.eu/>
- EuropeAid http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm