



ERASMUS+ STUDENT AND
ALUMNI ALLIANCE

Africa-Europe Dialogue: Investing in people and building contacts between them through educational mobility, under Education + Mobility + Youth Nexus

Africa-Europe Dialogue on Education, Mobility, Youth

Objectives

Robust partnerships are seen as a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the Africa-Europe Dialogue on Education, Mobility, Youth follows from the Joint Africa-EU Partnership which looks at working towards a people-centered partnership and delivering direct benefits for African and European citizens (Joint Africa-Europe Strategy, 2007). The core focus of the Dialogue includes investing in people by investing in education and skills whilst feeding into the proposed Africa Alumni Programme (being conceptualised by the AU and EU). It echoes the African Union's Vision 2063 and the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investment in youth. The Dialogue builds a strategic long-term process in the run up to the AU-EU Summit in 2020.

Moreover, it gives focus to the African Continental Free Trade Area launched in March 2018, envisioning free movement of goods and people across Africa (as experienced in the EU), suggesting opportunities for mutual learning and mutually beneficial cooperation in the context of continent-to-continent free trade agreement between the EU and Africa. It further highlights, voices and addresses some pressing socio-economic issues in our contemporary society: impact of slavery and colonial past, Françafrique, post-colonialism, distractive factors of aid, profile of illegal migrants: migration and expats discourse, hate speech, racism in its multiple facets, fear of brain-drain and returning graduates' nexus. The spiral of hate, violence and populism against diversity is ever growing and requires urgent attention and action. The power of youth policies, youth work and youth research is crucial to addressing these challenges and need to be recognized, harnessed and valued.

Critical questions

Growth entails competitiveness, and both come with investments in high-level skills, higher education and research fields, which drive sustainable growth and competitiveness. Furthermore, these modern knowledge and skills enhance TVET and secondary education, as well as primary schools, supporting frugal innovation and blended learning. This comes with the acknowledgement that today (due to democratization of the access to knowledge through ICT), people can enjoy multiple learning paths, and there is no one approach fitting all (alternatives to formal schooling often address better the learning needs and the ground realities). Investments in higher education and international learning mobility remain marginal and often neglected. This is reflected in the State of Education in Africa Report 2015 which points that 137 million young people between ages 20-24 will have a secondary education in 2030, and (only) 12 million, a tertiary education. The same report points out that a one-year' increase in average tertiary education levels translates into a 12 percent increase in GDP. This is a substantial contribution to global development.

Launch

The Dialogue will be launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14-16 May, 2019

Organizers

The Africa-Europe Dialogue on Education, Mobility, Youth is under the auspices of the Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Alliance, comprising the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association, garagErasmus Foundation, OCEANS network and Erasmus Student Network.

The Dialogue is supported by the European Union with the endorsement of the African Union Youth Envoy. The Dialogue has been organized in close cooperation with the Addis Ababa University and the Ethiopian Institute for Higher Education.

Contacts

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