



African Union



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP  
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## "Investing in people, by investing in higher education and skills in Africa"

### Press Release, 25th october 2019

Investing in skills and the young generation is key for sustainable social and economic development. At the Brussels conference “[Investing in people, by investing in higher education and skills](#)” policy makers and representatives of from the higher education sector from Africa and Europe highlight the important role of higher education in forging a strong Africa-EU partnership that is responding to the demands of its young generation.

#### KEY

- Considering the predominantly young population in Africa, education and skills need to be placed at the forefront of an Africa-EU partnership aimed at building a prosperous, safe and sustainable world.
- Higher education plays a crucial role in shaping the two continents' future, by providing prospects to young people, educating the leaders of tomorrow and supporting economic and social development.
- Europe and Africa face comparable challenges in the field of higher education: quality, providing study courses relevant to the labour market, the role of higher and vocational learning in developing knowledge and skills, mobility and international partnerships, staff development and creating an inclusive and accessible higher education system for all.
- Sharing good practices in Africa-Europe higher education collaboration is key. The conference has allowed more than 400 representatives from higher

education and the policy sphere to discuss the challenges and opportunities that stem from higher education. A poster session has presented a wide range of initiatives implemented by African and European partners.

- The organisation of this conference is a strong symbol from all parties of their commitment to further strengthening European-African collaboration in higher education.

## CONFERENCE

The organization of this conference is a joint initiative by the European Commission, the African Union Commission and four member state organisations that have a long-history of cooperation with the African continent - the German Academic Exchange Service, the British Council, Campus France and Nuffic in the Netherlands.

The following themes have featured prominently in the discussions of the event:

- Higher Education Institutions as job generators – matching skills with labour market requirements;
- Supporting refugee and IDP's access to higher education;
- Capacity building and curriculum development through international partnerships and innovations;
- Quality assurance and relevance of study programmes;
- Building skills and capacity in the next generation of university staff;
- The role of higher and vocational education and training in developing knowledge and skills - the case of agri-food transformation.

## CAMPUS FRANCE ACTIVITIES WITH THE AFRICAN

Campus France has been involved in the organization of the conference and has been in charge of workshop A “ Higher Education Institutions as job generators – matching skills with labour market requirements “.

Campus France, which has a network of 256 overseas offices, including 55 in Africa, carries out numerous activities with the African continent, including counselling students, managing scholarship programmes and promoting French higher education. Campus France is also involved in the field of professional integration and entrepreneurship through its dedicated programme MEETAfrica or the organization of events such as “Afrique: destination emplois”.

French HEIs hosted nearly 158,000 students from the African continent in 2017-2018, representing 46% of all international students in France.

## CAMPUS FRANCE

- A staff of 220 people in Paris and in the 5 regional delegations, in Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Strasbourg and Toulouse;
- More than 250 Campus France offices located in more than 125 countries within the French diplomatic network;
- More than 370 French educational institutes and research bodies are part of the Campus France Forum.
- 50 events staged each year ; 720,000 annual visitors ;
- 30,000 mobile students & scholars under management ;
- 80 websites, 32 languages, 18 millions visits/year ;
- 1.7 million followers on social network ; 300,000 alumni in the France Alumni network
- 30+ institutional publications

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