



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

### Key Conference Facts

**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 highlighted the important role of higher education in forging a strong Africa-EU partnership that is responding to the demands of its young generation.**

The organisation 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 (DAAD), the British Council, Campus France and Nuffic Netherlands.

- 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 will allow 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 to further strengthening European-African collaboration in higher education.

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

- Higher Education Institutions as job generators – matching skills with labour market requirements;
- Supporting refugees' and IDPs' 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.

The event provided [sector-specific policy recommendations](#) on how to further develop the chapter "Investing in people by investing in education and skills" of the Africa-Europe Alliance, first announced by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in September 2018. One central demand is that higher education and skills will feature prominently in the 6th Africa-EU summit, which is due to take place in 2020 in Europe.

## **Contact**

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