

Conference

# **Applied Sciences as drivers for regional innovation ecosystems in Africa**

**5-6 September 2023**

**Renaissance Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels**

## **About the conference:**

Building upon previous Africa related events<sup>1</sup> and a continuous engagement in fostering stronger Europe-Africa cooperation, DAAD Brussels is organising this conference in partnership with the European Commission, OBREAL Global, EURASHE, EDUFI, Nuffic and a network of German Universities of Applied Sciences strongly engaged in Africa.<sup>2</sup> It seeks to explore and promote the benefits of applied sciences as drivers for regional innovation in Africa. Against the background of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Africa-EU Joint Vision for 2030, the Global Gateway Strategy, the EU-AU Innovation Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063, the need for a stronger focus on applied sciences is paramount.

In an ever more competitive environment and an increasingly challenging geopolitical scenario, whose consequences have made it even more urgent for both continents to accelerate the fulfilment of the commitments made at the last EU-AU Summit in February 2022, strong Europe and Africa cooperation, as well as between and within sub-regions in Africa, is essential to lead the global recovery and achieve our common objectives.

Progressing to a knowledge-based economy and putting skilled human capital at the heart of Africa's agenda is essential for building the continent's strategic autonomy, strength and resilience to address major challenges and this is a core enabler of all areas of the Africa-EU Partnership. Moreover, to foster regional development and innovation and to successfully implement ambitious policy objectives such as the Green Transition, a shift in focus to education, training and applied research is needed. This calls for a needs-based approach and a continuous dialogue between different education sectors and employers. Universities with a focus on applied sciences are particularly well placed to engage in this dialogue. Besides the various dimensions they can cover, there is a strong need for sharing good experiences and discussing what works well.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. Africa-Europe Conference on Higher Education Collaboration "Investing in people, by investing in higher education and skills in Africa" (Brussels, 24.10.2019)

<sup>2</sup> University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan Triesdorf, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences.

The conference is structured in three parts. A public conference on Day 1 targeting practitioners and policy experts that will set the scene and examine the various dimensions of the topic. On Day 2, (higher) education cooperation projects that successfully applied to a call for participation will discuss and share practices in policy workshops clustered around four thematic tracks: (Renewable) Energy and Green Transition; Agriculture and Food Security; (Public) Health; IT/Technology and Innovation. Finally, on Day 3 a policy dialogue (by invitation only) will analyse and discuss the outcomes of the event and discuss pathways to strengthen the role of applied sciences in the future of Europe-Africa collaboration.

**Aims of the conference:**

- Discuss the contribution of the applied sciences in fostering innovation and job generation in Africa.
- Examine the complex interactions of regional innovation ecosystems.
- Contribute to the further development of the EU-Africa Partnership in the field of higher education and research.
- Discuss the importance of the Global Gateway as a framework for further cooperation.
- Present different successful cooperation projects between academia and industry on both continents.
- Engage in a dialogue with industry and other related education sectors (TVET) on training human resources and the mutual learning between stakeholders.

## Draft programme

### 5 September 2023

Translation ENG <> FR is provided

<b>08:30 – 09:30</b>	<b>Welcome Coffee and Registration</b>
<b>09:30 – 09:50</b>	<b>Opening ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Erica Gerretsen, Director INTPA.G - Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, European Commission</li></ul>
<b>09:50 – 10:20</b>	<b>Keynote Speeches - The role of applied sciences as drivers for local, regional, and international innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prof. Uta Feser, President, Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, Germany</li><li>• Prof. Olusola Bandele Oyewole, Secretary General, Association of African Universities</li></ul>
<b>10:20 – 11:20</b>	<b>Examples from different Knowledge Regions (I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yasmine Sabek, Transport for Cairo, Egypt</li><li>• Prof. Harmony Musiyarira, Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Namibia</li><li>• Prof. Leonardus Vergütz, Mohammed 6 Polytechnic University (UM6P), Morocco</li><li>• Dr. Liliana Pasecinic, Deputy Head of Unit for Member States Partnerships and International Relations, Joint Research Centre, European Commission</li><li>• Moderation: Prof. Carsten Lorz, Vice President for International Affairs and Diversity, Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, University of Applied Sciences</li></ul>
<b>11:20 – 11:35</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:35 – 13:00</b>	<b>World Café – Necessary conditions for successful start-ups, innovation and entrepreneurship</b>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>

<p><b>14:00 – 15:00</b></p>	<p><b>Examples from different Knowledge Regions (II)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Susan Musembi, Coordinator Bioentrepreneurship and Enzyme Manufacturing Initiative, Kenyatta University, Kenya</li> <li>• Prof. Rosemond Boohene, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana (online)</li> <li>• Prof. Ndèye Coumba Touré, Rector, USSEIN, Senegal</li> <li>• Prof. Eugene Cloete, CEO, Cape Higher Education Consortium, South Africa (online)</li> <li>• Moderation: Elizabeth Colucci, Director, International Project, OBREAL</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:00 – 15:30</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>15:30 – 16:30</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion – Skills for the Green Transition. An Employer and Industry perspective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faldi Samaai, CEO, Nadeson Consulting, South Africa</li> <li>• Yaya Ouattara, CEO, Access to Finance and Investment for SMEs, Côte d’Ivoire (online)</li> <li>• Dr. Farshida Zafar, Erasmus Centre for Entrepreneurship, the Netherlands</li> <li>• Deirdre Lennan, International Cooperation Officer, DG INTPA, European Commission</li> <li>• Moderation: Prof. Kay Pfaffenberger, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences</li> </ul>
<p><b>16:30 – 16:45</b></p>	<p><b>Final reflections</b></p>
<p><b>16:45 – 17:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hans Stausboll, Director, DG INTPA A, European Commission</li> </ul>

## **6 September 2023**

**Policy workshops for selected participants in four thematic tracks.** The aim of these workshops is to gather evidence from cooperation projects that need to be taken account when the EU-AU policy agenda further.

<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>	<b>Welcome Coffee and Registration</b>
<b>09:00 – 12:45</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – (Renewable) Energy and Green transition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project presentations</li></ul>
<b>09:00 – 12:45</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – Agriculture and Food Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project presentations</li></ul>
<b>09:00 – 12:45</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – (Public) Health (Hybrid)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project presentations</li></ul>
<b>09:00 – 12:45</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – IT/Technology and Innovation (Hybrid)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project presentations</li></ul>
<b>12:45 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – (Renewable) Energy and Green transition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drafting of policy messages</li></ul>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – Agriculture and Food Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drafting of policy messages</li></ul>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – (Public) Health (Hybrid)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drafting of policy messages</li></ul>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Policy Workshop – IT/Technology and Innovation (Hybrid)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drafting of policy messages</li></ul>
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Guided city tour of Matongé (African neighbourhood of Brussels)</b>

**Free time to discover Brussels, Network etc.**