



An Africa–Europe Partnership on Education and Research

DESCRIPTION /

The recently adopted AU-EU Innovation Agenda marks a crucial step towards enhancing innovation exchange over the next decade. Initiatives like Regional Centres of Excellence in SubSaharan Africa, as part of the Global Gateway Investment Package, and Research Excellence Clusters further aim to strengthen collaboration in education, research, and innovation. While progress is underway, there is a need to boost innovation capacities on both continents in a world facing technological, cultural and economic change. Strengthening investment in Education and Research through Africa–Europe collaboration promises positive outcomes for young people. Capacity-building initiatives and mobility programs across Africa and Europe can equip them with crucial skills for the job market in emerging fields like digital technology and green transition, while also promoting cross-cultural learning and embracing global citizenship. Ultimately, these efforts yield mutual benefits for both continents.

Questions will include:

- How can Africa and Europe collaborate further to enhance digital skills innovation, aligned with the recently adopted AU-EU Innovation Agenda?
- With 2024 being the AU Year of Education, how to ensure that initiatives intertwine with Africa's educational needs to effectively address the continent's innovation and research needs?
- How can mobility programs between Africa and Europe, such as Erasmus+, be enhanced and scaled up to maximize their impact on equipping young people with essential skills?

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION /

The session will be held on **Wednesday, April 17 2024**, and will take place in-person in Brussels from **14:30 to 16:00** CET at Townhall Europe, located at **Square de Meeûs 5-6**. There will also be possibility to join online.

To ensure sufficient time to address any remaining issues before the start of the session, you are kindly asked to arrive at the location by **14:15**. Someone will greet you and take you to the correct room. After the session, cocktails will be served, and you will have an opportunity to engage with the participants.

SCENARIO /

14.15 – 14.30 Arrival and registration

(15 min)

14.30 – 15.30 Session: **AN AFRICA–EUROPE PARTNERSHIP ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

(1h)

Moderator: Youssef Travaly

- **Cheikh Saad Bouh Kamara** – President of University of Nouakchott Al Aasriya. Mauritania.
- **Roberto Zanino** – Rector's delegate for International University Networks at Politecnico di Torino, Italy.
- **Fadila Boughanemi** – Deputy Head of Unit DG Research and Innovation, European Commission.
- **Amelia Francis** – Head of Programme SDG Challenge at Soapbox, South Africa (online).
- **Adrian Veale** – Policy Officer of Africa & Capacity Building for Higher Education DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission.
- **Jimmy Hendry Nzally** – Researcher at the political science department at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).
- **Peter Kwasi Kodjie** – Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU). Ghana.

15:30 – 16:00 – Q&A

(30 min)