

Workshop 3: Perceptions of the Erasmus Mundus programme in third-countries.

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International student mobility programs: African Responses to the Erasmus Mundus Program



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What is ANIE?

- ANIE- African Network for Internationalization of Education
- Membership based organization established in 2008
- Developed out of a research projects involving 16 African countries
- Focuses on international dimension of HE in Africa
- Activity areas
 - Research on internationalization in Africa
 - Capacity building for institutions/individuals e.g via workshops, ISAS etc
 - Organizing policy dialogue sessions
 - Convening- conferences
 - New generation of researchers
 - Dissemination framework- AFIRE
- Secretariat based at Moi University, Kenya

Africa & the Knowledge society

- Africa is the world's second-largest continent
- Total 975,330,899 people
 - Over 2300 HEIs
 - About 6.2 million students
 - Public and Private participation
 - Gross Enrolment in HE is 5%
 - Accounts for 1.5 % of research publications
 - Spends less than 0.3% of GNP on research



Rationale

- Africa desperately needs a strong HE sector to assist in its rapid development (leap frog)
- Cannot afford to lose its trained manpower to other regions
- Needs to produce, seek & adapt knowledge to overcome its developmental challenges
- Must be part of global knowledge economy – locally relevant and globally competitive
- Because of limited resources, this can only be achieved by collaboration among African countries & their HE systems
- Hence the need for a strong continental HE ‘space’ & partnerships

Today's Globalized World



Flow of people, culture, ideas, values, knowledge, technology and economy across borders, facilitating a more interconnected and independent world"

Knowledge Counts

Internationalization

- Globalization/internationalization- old phenomena/new realities
- Main drivers of change in HE- also in Africa
- Varied definitions and meanings
- Diverse implications for HE in different contexts
- Varied manifestations/developments in Africa
- Africa responds in ways peculiar to its circumstances
- Differing rationales, challenges, risks etc
- Mobility is an important activity in internationalization
- New opportunities, attendant risks & challenges
- How do we grapple/respond?

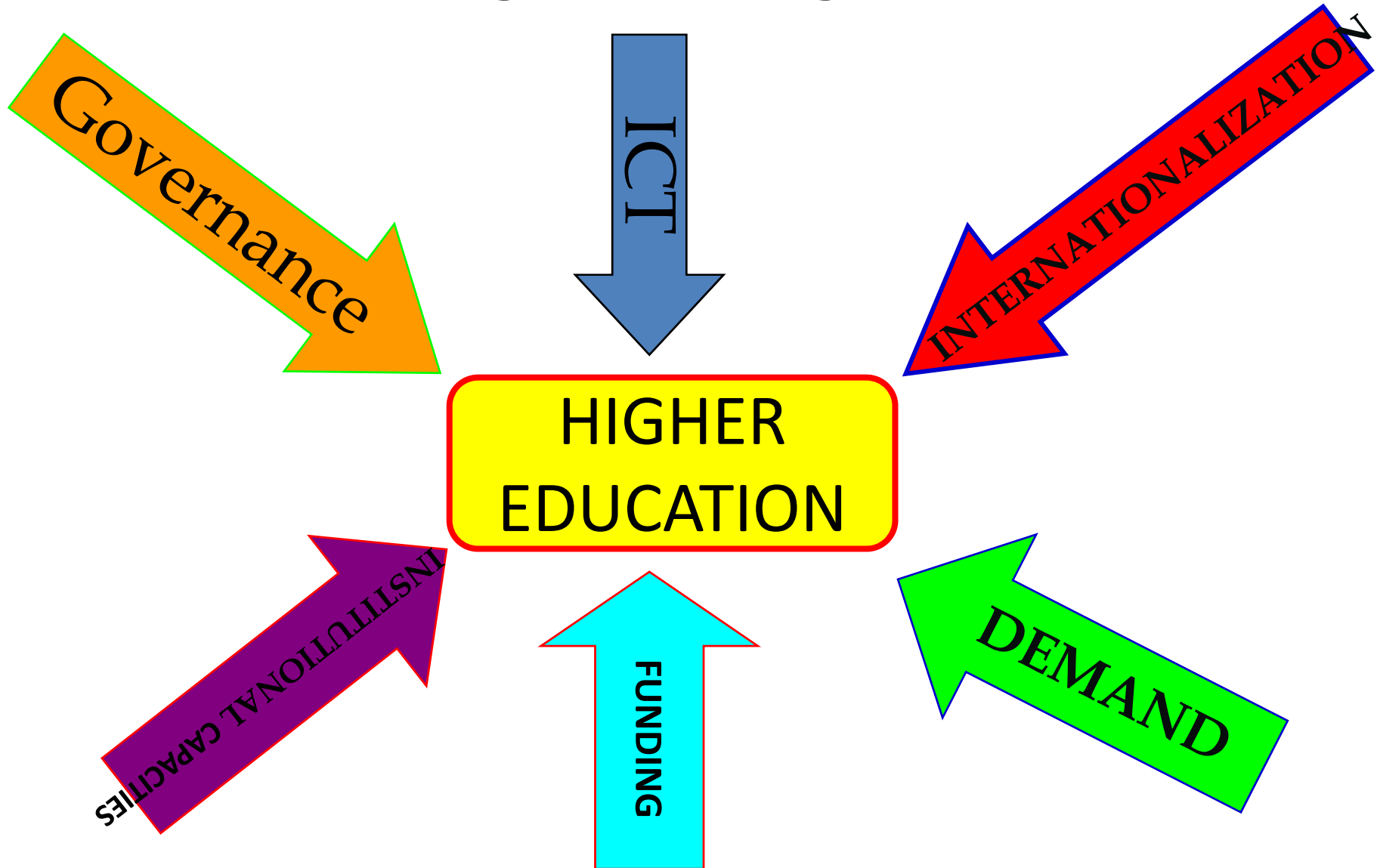
Europe-Africa HE Relations

- Modern HE in Africa- recent phenomenon
- Modeled on European traditions
- North- key player in dev of Africa's HE
 - Institutional capacity, policies & cultures
 - Infrastructure, curricular issues
 - Research & knowledge production
 - Consequences- realities

Continued developments in recent years

So....the past and the present have been of shared experiences....especially with some countries in Europe

Challenges Facing Africa's HE



Myriad Challenges

- Africa's HE & Research Space presently made up of disparate HE systems (Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, Arabophone)
 - This handicaps academic mobility within Africa
 - Because of under-funding & 'massification', quality of African HE has suffered
 - Research output and postgraduate training very low due to lack of research-strong academics
 - Low ICTs use prevents research produced in Africa to be available to the rest of the world
 - Insufficient differentiation and articulation limits lifelong learning opportunities etc
- #All these amid many opportunities

Dimensions of Internationalization



What does Africa want from internationalization

IAU 3rd Global Survey -2009

- Main Rationales: Research/institutional capacity
 - Expected benefits: Curricular innovations, building African academic community, enhanced research
 - Main risks: Brain drain, curricular influences, commercialization
 - Main Challenges: Funding, capacity, infrastructure, quality, policies, strategies, resources
 - The unknown? & unintended consequences
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- How do these compare with Europe? Where are the commonalities?
 - How does Africa respond/ position itself?
 - * Europe remains Africa's preferred region for future internationalization!
 - Student mobility- key

Erasmus Mundus!

- What is it?
- Who is it for?
- What is it for?
- Will it always deliver value?
- How it can add more value for Africa?
- Are there any risks?

What does Africa know about it?

- Known by African HE practitioners
- Participating institutions
- Scanty knowledge of activities/ opportunities
- Few know of opportunities for African universities (e.g AAU)
- Enhancement of quality in HE
- Intercultural understanding- cooperation
- Attracting the best students from 3rd countries
- European higher education area.....focus
- What are the benefits for 3rd countries?

Benefits/opportunities for Africa

- Strengthening research capacities of African institutions
- Developing new generation of scholars for Africa
- New window for institutional collaborations
- Enhancement of joint researches/ technical support
- Opportunities for publications
- Training in specialized knowledge areas/ development of expertise
- Africa's centers of excellence
- Double degrees/ Curriculum strengthening/innovations
- Africa's presence in Europe HE- number of African students participating
- Opportunities for reverse mobility
- Use of infrastructure/ facilities
- Cultural diversity.....new ways of doing things
- International experience
- Developing more structured partnerships
- The program is unique in linking mobility to partnerships

What could be done differently?

- More publicity for the program in 3rd countries
- Create fora for discussions with 3rd countries on their needs e.g Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association
- Mobility choices are limited- within the partnership
- The program is administratively bureaucratic
- Reporting to EC is a heavy responsibility
- Communication between partners
- The program has lots of constraining rules
- Sharing of researches/international experiences in 3rd countries
- Common events for Erasmus Mundus community
- Immigration issues- visa processing
- Diversity of opportunities
- Mutual respect- spirit of partnership
- More discussion/consultation on the future of the program
- Open more opportunities for students from 3rd countries
- Should be an avenue for more broader cooperation
- What have been the outcomes so far, for 3rd countries?

Are there any risks?

- There could be risks and unintended consequences
- The risk of brain drain- serious consequences
- Relevance of the international experience to Africa's situations
- Role of 3rd country institutions?
- The focus on Europe?

Africa's Higher Education and Research Space (AHERS)

Emerging intra-Africa initiatives

- Implementing Arusha Convention
- Harmonization of Degree Structures and Credit Transfer
- Promoting Quality Assurance
- Promoting Research & PG Training through RCEs
- Using ICT more Effectively
- Promoting Open & Distance Learning and OERs
- Building on Regional Initiatives (AArU, CAMES, IUCEA, SARUA,)

Conclusion

- Historically Europe's contribution has been enormous- not sufficient
- Europe still plays a leading role in Africa's HE
- Europe still preferred region for collaborations with Africa
- Need for more strategic & mutual collaborations/partnerships to develop/strengthen capacity
- Challenges could be huge/comparable- but can be surmounted
- Erasmus Mundus program – could be one of the ways of attaining the African promise.
- It demonstrates the added value N-S partnerships
- Will enable Africa take advantage of global opportunities and mitigate the risks and challenges
- Prioritization - greater outcomes
- A brave new world is possible- these are exciting times for AFRICA!



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