

NEWS

5TH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK

From 17 to 21 October 2016 a network of 55 African Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa will hold in Cape Town (South Africa) the 5th African Higher Education Week. The RUFORUM Biennial Conference, which will take place simultaneously, aims to provide a platform for a development on agricultural research and where it is possible to share findings and experiences at the higher education level. The improvement of education and agriculture represent thus, a way to reach the final objective which is the rise of people's livelihoods.

This year's Biennial Conference will focus on the theme of "Linking Universities with private Sector, Governments, and Other Stakeholders in support of Agricultural Development in Africa".



EU AND ACP COUNTRIES START WORKING ON A POST-COTONOU AGREEMENT AND ON THEIR FUTURE PARTNERSHIP.

Future relations between European Union and ACP countries were a key topic discussed during the 31st session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly which took place in Windhoek (Namibia) from 13 to 15 June 2016.

The debate was focused on the post Cotonou Agreement, which has been signed in 2000 and comes to the end in 2020. All of representatives from both EU and ACP countries seemed to agree on giving this topic a certain priority; this partnership is in fact considered by both sides as a unique and powerful tool that shaped the ACP-EU relationship for the last 50 years in the continuation of the Yaoundé and Lomé Conventions.

During the session other topics were discussed and as a result of the assembly work, three resolutions have been adopted. The first is related to the principles of democratic governance: the objective is to improve participatory governance through decentralisation and strengthen democracy and local governance. The second resolution aims to improve the intra-African trade through the provision of a continental free trade area for Africa, shaped on the model of EU structures. Such an agreement is seen as potentially beneficial for Africa, ACP countries and EU as well. The third resolution concerns migration flows between ACP and EU Member States: the implementation of joint strategies for common management is considered to be essential.



EDITORIAL

Not knowing the other takes to inevitable misunderstandings, which can become a permanent source of conflicts and even violence. The University must be a place of knowledge transfer, since the strictly academic to those that cannot be learned in manuals or in traditional lessons, but that derives from the conviviality, the interaction, the complicity born from a common experience.

Projects such as ANGLE contribute without any doubt to intensify this complicity or that knowledge, fundamental to an effective comprehension of the other, who callously begins to assume characteristics and facets that transmute themselves in an approach between cultures and ways of being.

The experience of the University of Porto in this aspect has been exemplary. The mutual learning (between regular students and students who come within the framework of the above-mentioned project) works as the necessary link between the several worlds which confront themselves, interacting.

The new Erasmus + programme opens new perspectives by allowing the bilateral mobility and by including as possible partners countries that were not contemplated until now. There is the need to seize these opportunities, there is the need to boost a responsible mobility, there is the need to establish unlikely partnerships.

The University of Porto is prepared to the challenges of the present and faces with serenity the future, in the certainty of, as Rimbaud said "Je es un autre" ("I is somebody else").

ANGLE PROJECT DEADLINE EXTENDED

ANGLE

The deadline for the conclusion of the ANGLE project has been postponed from the 14-07-2016 to the 14-01-2017.

This postponement approval came from a request the consortium made to the EACEA in order to allow some of the Master students still in mobility to successfully conclude their mobility and obtain their degree with the support of the project. By extending their mobility from 22 to 24 months (the maximum mobility duration allowed by the Programme rules for Full Master students), the consortium is allowing that the students who experienced some set-backs regarding the writing of their thesis conclude their master courses with success and quality.



TESTIMONIAL

My name is Ravaka and I am from Madagascar. I applied for the ANGLE project in order to undertake a complementary Master course with the duration of 1 year in the area of Urbanism and Territorial Planning at the Université de Liège. My mobility period at Liège (Belgium) was a very enriching experience, especially because my field of specialization demands the learning of my host city.

This was the first time I left my country. The adaptation was not easy, but the mechanisms put in place by the project's coordination for this end were effective at the level of the integration of the newly-arrived students. The different services provided during the mobility period were also very effective.

The change of study context was also a new learning experience for me. The educational system was very different from the one of my home institution and the fact that I was a foreigner also made things a bit of a challenge. However, being a foreigner also favours the creation of bonds between different people, especially between other foreigners. Through my training in Belgium, these 12 months allowed me to discover several developed countries, a mirror of Europe.

I was able to visit several countries, establish new relationships and work with people from several nationalities in a multidisciplinary environment. This path taught me patience, curiosity, to give value and many other qualities related to the several aspects of life. The previously mentioned characteristics considerably contribute to my training in order to ensure a future career.

I address my sincere thanks to the ANGLE coordination team and wish good luck and courage to the new grant holders.



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PARTNER COUNTRY'S PROFILE

FEATURED REGION: AFRICA
COUNTRY NAME: SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Location:
Central Africa

Official Language: Portuguese

Currency: Dobra (STD)

Food: In Sao Tome and Principe basic food is represented by fish, seafood, beans, maize and cooked banana. Tropical fruits such as pineapple and avocado are also a significant component of its cuisine. The use of hot spices and coffee is prominent; the last one is used in various dishes as a spice or seasoning.

Quick summary: Sao Tome and Principe consists of two archipelagos around two main islands: Sao Tome and Principe. It was uninhabited until the arrival of the Portuguese explorers in the late 15th century. The rich volcanic soil and close proximity to the Equator made Sao Tome and Principe ideal for sugar cultivation, followed later by cash crops such as coffee and cocoa.

Sao Tome and Principe is the second-smallest African country after Seychelles, as well as the smallest Portuguese-speaking country. Its people are predominantly of African and Mestiço descent, with most adhering to Roman Catholicism.



FEATURED REGION: CARIBBEAN
COUNTRY NAME: JAMAICA

Location:
Greater Antilles

Official Language: English

Currency: Jamaican Dollar (JMD)

Food: Jamaica is famous for the Jamaican Jerk Spice; Jerk is a special style of cooking typical of this country in which meat is dry-rubbed or wet marinated with a very hot spice mixture: the Jamaican Jerk Spice. It is mainly applied to pork or chicken. Two famous products made in Jamaica are the Red Stripe beer and the Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee.

Quick Summary: Previously inhabited by the indigenous Awrak and Taíno people, Jamaica came first under Spanish rule taking the name of "Santiago" and later it was conquered by England and renamed as Jamaica. This name comes from Xaymaca, an indigenous word meaning "Land of Wood and Water" or "Land of Springs". Nowadays Jamaicans are predominately African descendent.

Jamaican culture is very strong and spread worldwide: music and dance are two significant examples. Indeed musical genres such as reggae, ska and, more recently, dancehall and ragga, are all originated in the island's recording industry.

