Internationalization & New Developments in Africa's Higher Education: Opportunities for Collaborations

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Setting the context

- Background
- Africa and Internationalization
- The Rise of HE Partnerships
- Europe-Africa Partnerships
- Can equal partnerships be realized?
- Asymmetries in Partnerships
- Good practices in HE partnerships
- Role of partnerships (for African Universities)
- Recent developments in Africa
- Future of Europe–Africa HE Partnerships
How big is Africa?
- Africa is 11,700,000 square miles.
- All of these countries could fit inside Africa!
  U.S.A.   Argentina
  China    India
  Europe   New Zealand
Africa: Some Facts

- Africa is the world's second-largest continent
- Has 55 states/countries
- Over 1.2 billion people and 6.2 million HE students
- Growing public & private participation
- Gross Enrolment in HE is 7% (fastest growing)
- Accounts for 1.5% of research publications
- Spends less than 0.3% of GNP on research
- Quality and global competitiveness?
- Responsiveness to local demands and global realities?
- Lack of differentiation- universities want to be everything to everyone!
- At the periphery of global knowledge society
- Needs a strong, relevant & competitive HE sector
- Due to limited resources, collaborations and partnerships are crucial
- AFRICA IS GROWING!
Africa & Internationalization

* Africa is vast and diverse - home to over 1 billion people (youth boom)
* HE comparatively recent
* Based on colonial legacy and strong European traditions
* Internationalization has been part of the system from the onset
* 1980s HE in Africa faced serious decline - the lost decade
* Africa's HE is part of the global HE system
* Fastest growing HE sector (no. of institutions, enrolments, programs)
* Varied manifestations & implications of internationalization - compared to other regions
* Africa responds in ways peculiar to its context - history, economy, geography, politics (Teferra, 2008)
* How do we grapple & respond to a future engulfed in complexity and uncertainty?
* New debates……
* New opportunities (Jowi, 2018)
Africa and Internationalization

- Internationalization is impacting on Africa's higher education in unprecedented ways.
- It is one of the main drivers of change in Africa's higher education.
- These transformations have positive and negative consequences of Africa's HE.
- Africa engages with internationalization to pursue certain rationales i.e. strengthen research, curriculum development, institutional capacities, improved academic quality.
- Several challenges, risks and contextual implications.
- Several opportunities amid limited capacities to benefit from internationalization.
- Africa thus engages with internationalization in different ways compared to other world regions.
- Africa has to be an active player in the global knowledge society and is a new promising frontier for internationalization.
The Rise of HE partnerships

* What are they are what are the rationales?- different regions or countries have different rationales.

* The different frames of partnerships (from lens of Africa)
  (i) North-South Partnerships
  (ii) South- South partnerships
  (iii) Intra- Africa partnerships
  (iv) Regionalization (and nationalization) of partnerships- intra-regional collaborations/integration/harmonization

All the above frames of partnerships are important and play different roles and none replaces the other
Europe – Africa HE Partnerships

* Europe has a long history and tradition in HE- influenced most world regions.
* Modern African HE in Africa- largely a result of European influence
* A history of partnerships- Africa/Europe.
* An important role in the development of Africa's HE
* New partnerships for HE in Africa supported by American Foundations
* The EU and the Bologna process
* G8 support to HE in Africa- NEPAD & centres of excellence
* **2007 Joint Africa- EU strategy** (partnerships for capacity building in HE)-access/ICT
* Knowledge production models and education practices.
* Europe remains Africa's most preferred region for collaborations & mobility
* European educational policies have in a way shaped policy developments in Africa
* Geographical proximity of Europe
* Role of Europe in knowledge society
* New EU- Africa programs
* The rise of new actors/dynamics- China, Ind...
Role of partnerships (for African Universities)

- Strengthening research capacities/knowledge production
- Enhancing institutional capacities e.g. governance, academic quality
- Curriculum innovations and strengthening
- Specialized training
- Institutional capacities
- Enhanced policy/strategy development
- Building the next generation of African scholars
- Improved learning experiences/outcomes
- Strengthening quality
- More possibilities to respond to local challenges
- Knowledge exchanges/New opportunities – for students, staff
The role of leadership

- National/System level
- Executive
- Faculty level
- Facilitating/Supportive units
Partnerships have largely been unequal—Differences in power relations

History and the colonial legacy—Are perceptions changing?

Imbalances in partnerships—Does Africa have anything to offer?

Africa's challenges and capacity/funding deficits compound the asymmetries.

Knowledge dominance and the construction of knowledge—many knowledges do exist

Ownership of knowledge outcomes—Are African scholars mere data collectors for western counterparts?

Structural barriers e.g visas, access to opportunities

Reality—we live in an unequal world—and this could be escalating

Higher education systems, structures and conditions are different

The rise of competition in HE

Better chances for a better future
Good practices in HE partnerships

* No one size fits all - differences will always be there
* Balance between competition and cooperation
* Power, influence and imbalances
* Deal with barriers, risks and negative outcomes
* From development cooperation to knowledge exchanges
* Are the interests the same? - Mutuality - win win for all
* Sustainability - e.g link to SDGs, continental, regional, national agendas/priorities.
* How to deal with unintended consequences
* How can universities work together for a better world? - the SDGs
Africa is the most mobile continent- outflows of students

Most African researchers attained their trainings abroad

Main sending countries- Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia (in Botswana, more students study abroad than in the country)

Main receiving countries- South Africa, Egypt

Africa Flagship Universities

African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)
Kenya (Moi University)

* An East African country of 47m people.
* About 40 universities and 600,000 students
  - 23 public/17 private universities
  - Strong history of collaborations
* Major areas – Health, Agriculture, Engineering, Tourism, Business
* Moi University - 2nd University established in 1984
  - Flagship programs in Health, Education, Law etc
* Many collaborations - AMPATH
* www.mu.ac.ke
University of Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal

- West African-French speaking
- 16 M people
- French education traditions
- 10% Gross enrolment ratio
- 5 public/ 71 private
- Cheik Anta Diop- main one on French speaking west Africa.
- Regional centres
- Comprehensive university
- Strong in internationalization
Nigeria (University of Ibadan)

- Biggest economy in Africa
- Over 200m people
- 10.5% Gross Tertiary enrolment
- 40 federal universities; 44 state universities and 69 private
- Leads in Knowledge production in Africa
- University of Ibadan is the flagship university
- Shifting focus to graduate training and research
Ghana (University of Ghana)

- West African country-stable democracy
- 28.3 million people - former British colony
- 10 Public Universities, 4 private
- 16% Gross Tertiary enrolment ration
- Seat of Association of African Universities
- University of Ghana - pioneering in most fields
- Focus on graduate training
- Strong partnerships
University of Cape Town

- Has 55 million people
- Rainbow nation
- Higher Education and Knowledge hub in Africa
- 11 universities, 6 comprehensive universities and
- 9 universities of technology
- Minimal private HE
- Major destination for international students
- University of Cape Town
- 5 of SA universities always ranked in top 500.
- High academic quality
- Strong internationalization
Barriers to Partnerships/mobility

- Funding - main challenge
- Visas issues
- Language issues
- Access to information on available opportunities
- Weaknesses in international offices
- Weak institutional collaborations
- Credit transfers
- Incompatibility of systems
- Semester dates esp for exchange
- Inadequate policies and strategies
- Rise in nationalism/looking inwards
- Perceptions/ stereotypes - negative
Recent developments in Africa

* The rapid expansion of the HE sector in almost all African countries
* **Continental HE initiatives** e.g. Africa's Agenda 2063/ CESA 2016-2025/Addis Convention/ African centres of excellence/ African Qualification Framework/ New mobility programs/Focus on research and doctoral education/ Continental Free Trade Area -Growing Intra-Africa partnerships
* **Regional initiatives** - EAC, SADC, ECOWAS- regional university associations(networks)/ harmonization/ regional quality assurance frameworks/ Mutual Recognition Agreements/ Common HE Area- linked to continental agenda.
* **Institutional Level** - several new developments, governance reforms, ICT,
* **Globally** - the renewed interest and support to Africa's HE by international agencies/nations
* Africa's Higher Education Summit 2015 & COREVIP Conference 2015- key role of internationalization
* **African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE)** - Renewed call for internationalization and partnership
Europe will continue to be a major partner for Africa
Several initiatives going on between the two regions
New EU-Africa engagements- Brussels Oct 2019
New opportunities (and even risks)
Africa's youthful population- a big resource
Africa's young HE system- has more room for innovations
Commitment through internationalization/ partnerships
Link to local priorities/DSGs at different levels
New ways of doing things (DAAD, NUFFIC, NORPART, APPEAR, SARECO, Other EU programs etc)
Address challenges/ barriers- leaving no one behind
Better partnerships- A better world/ more opportunities and accomplishments
Opportunities for Collaborations

* Several opportunities for collaborations – Slovenia/African countries
* Africa's youth boom - international students/exchanges - especially when students numbers seem to be going down in Slovenian universities
* Doctoral training/research - key focus for Africa and expanding in Slovenia - room for collaborations.
* Slovenia already has experience/infrastructure for internationalization-
* Good mindset - e.g. Study Slovenia/Programs in English/Exchange programs
* Attractiveness of Slovenia
* Existing EU programs
* Capacities exist - CMPE
* Identify and exploit niche areas
* Strategies for Internationalization exist - University of Ljubljana
* Open up more horizons for students and staff
* New opportunities in TVET
* Slovenia not having strong collaborations with Africa - (one with SA/Cape verde)
The shape of things to come

- Mobility will grow in importance - (5.8 m by 2025) - Open Doors 2018, USA increased by 7%
- Impacts will escalate – both good and ugly - the world is not flat
- Changing global demographics - favorable for Africa if turned into an opportunity.
- Rise of the BRIC economies/ impacts of BREXIT
- Mobility may continue to take a more regional dimension.
- Commercialization/global race for talent/rankings and branding.
- English as the international language
- Current economic crisis could impact the future of mobility - negatively or positively
- Decline in government funding - Africa
- Transnational higher education could increase especially in regions where local capacities are low
- Strategic partnerships, alliances and networks - could take centre stage
- Expansion of HE Participation in developing countries
- If unabated, the risks for developing countries could be compounded
- How will Slovenia/ Africa respond?
- Will it lead to more global polarization and imbalances?
- The call for global responsibility/ rethinking of internationalization is timely!
- Europe remains a priority region for Africa's internationalization - history, proximity, language...new developments
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