

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

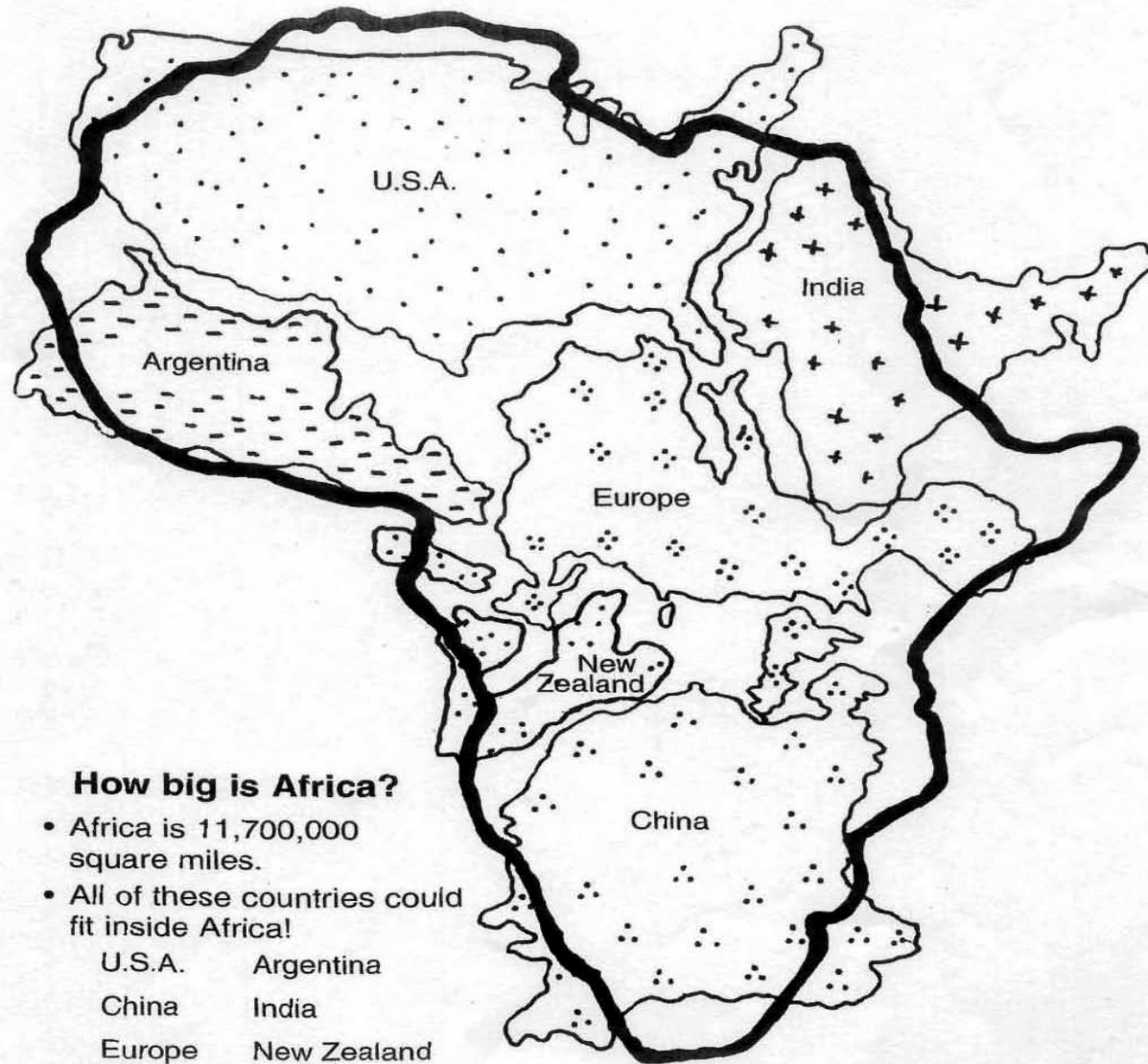
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Setting the context

- * 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

Africa Is Big!



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**

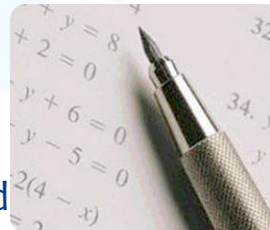
The Rise of HE partnerships

- * 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, India



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

Asymmetries in Partnerships

- * 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 knowldges 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**

Insights from Some African Countries & Institutions

- * 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

Future of Europe – Africa HE Partnerships

- * 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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