

# Internationalization & Regionalization: The East African Community

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# Regionalization of Education in the EAC

- The EAC is a regional intergovernmental organization of six partner states (*Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda*)
- Treaty for re-establishment of EAC was signed in 1999 and came into force in 2000.
- EAC Secretariat is based in Arusha, Tanzania
- The EAC is composed of *180 million* citizens majority of whom are the youth.
- EAC is one of the fastest growing economic blocks.
- Has widened and deepened cooperation amongst the partner states in different spheres.
- Four pillars (*Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation*) – should lead to an East African Federation- a sustainable East African economic and political block.



## EACs 5<sup>th</sup> Development Strategy

- The EAC has developed its 5<sup>th</sup> Development Strategy 2016/2017-2020/21.
- Theme: *Accelerating a people-centred and market-driven integration*.
- Strategy is informed by **EAC Treaty**, **EAC Vision 2050**, **AUs Agenda 2063**, the SDGs and other development frameworks at intra and inter-regional levels, continental and global levels.
- It takes into account the obligations of the Community and the achievements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Development Strategy.
- Existing and emerging regional development issues and priorities.
- Aims at transforming the EAC into a **stable, competitive and sustainable middle-income region by 2021**.

# Educational Cooperation at EAC

- A long history of cooperation in education especially between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
- EAC recognizes that most of its aspirations can only be achieved through high quality and relevant education and training.
- In Article 102 & 103 (a) of the EAC Treaty, **Partner States undertake cooperate in education, human resource development and in the development of Science & Technology** - fundamental role of STI in regional integration & socio- economic development.
- EAC **Vision 2050 & 5<sup>th</sup> Development Strategy**-further underscore this.
- Supportive policy frameworks have been developed
- Dedicated and specialized institutions i.e **EASTECO & IUCEA**

## Some Developments in Education

- (i) Harmonization of education systems of partner states
- (ii) Regional quality assurance frameworks
- (iii) Mobility programs/frameworks for staff and students.
- (iv) Mutual recognition agreements (academic qualifications)
- (v) Establishment of centres of excellence in different fields
- (vi) Development and follow ups on regional policies and frameworks
- (vii) Programs to integrate the EAC school going youths into the community
- (viii) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
- (ix) Marginalized/Disadvantaged members of society
- (x) Establishment of dedicated/specialized institutions to pursue key agenda  
e.g Inter- University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) & East African Science  
and Technology Commission(EASTECCO).

# The Inter- University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)

- A semi-autonomous institution of EAC responsible for coordination of higher education in EAC.
- Some achievements:
- Development of a robust QA system ( quality guides, regional qualification framework, benchmarks for academic programs)
- Transformation of EAC into a common HE Area (common regional frameworks).
- Harmonization
- Mobility- Staff Mobility Framework (2014) & Students Mobility Policy (2015) and implementation of MRAs.
- Engagement with government and private sector – annual Forum, APPPF
- (un)employment/relevance – “skills without jobs, and jobs without people” – the mismatch, scoping study, entrepreneurship
- Regional STI hubs – centers of excellence initiatives
- Collaboration in R&D
- Policy frameworks
- Centres of Excellence- several initiatives e.g ACEII, World Bank support, AfDB-health, GIZ- ICT, Strengthening post-graduate education and collaborative research

# East African Science & Technology Commission (EASTEKO)

- Institution of the EAC based in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Established based on Article 103 of EAC Treaty with mandate *to promote and coordinate the development, management and application of Science & Technology to support the regional integration and socio-economic development of the EAC.*
- EAC has identified research, science, technology and innovation as key means for advancing growth, reducing poverty and realizing a middle income knowledge-based society by 2032.

## **Strategic Framework;**

- Support for evidence based policies- regional policies for STI, quality & standards, IP, Bio-technology, Sustainable Agriculture, knowledge management
- Promotion of STI knowledge and innovation- enhancement of STEM education, scientific research, collaborations, networks of R&D institutions and commercialization of innovation and technology.
- Application of STI for socio-economic development- agriculture, energy, biotechnology, ICT and export oriented industrial development and trade.