

ACCESS TO SUCCESS

Fostering trust and exchange
between Europe and Africa

Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange between Europe and Africa

Erasmus Mundus Action 4 Project (2008-2010)

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Association



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES

اتحاد الجامعات الافريقية



UNIVERSITETS- OG HOGSKOLERÅDET
The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions

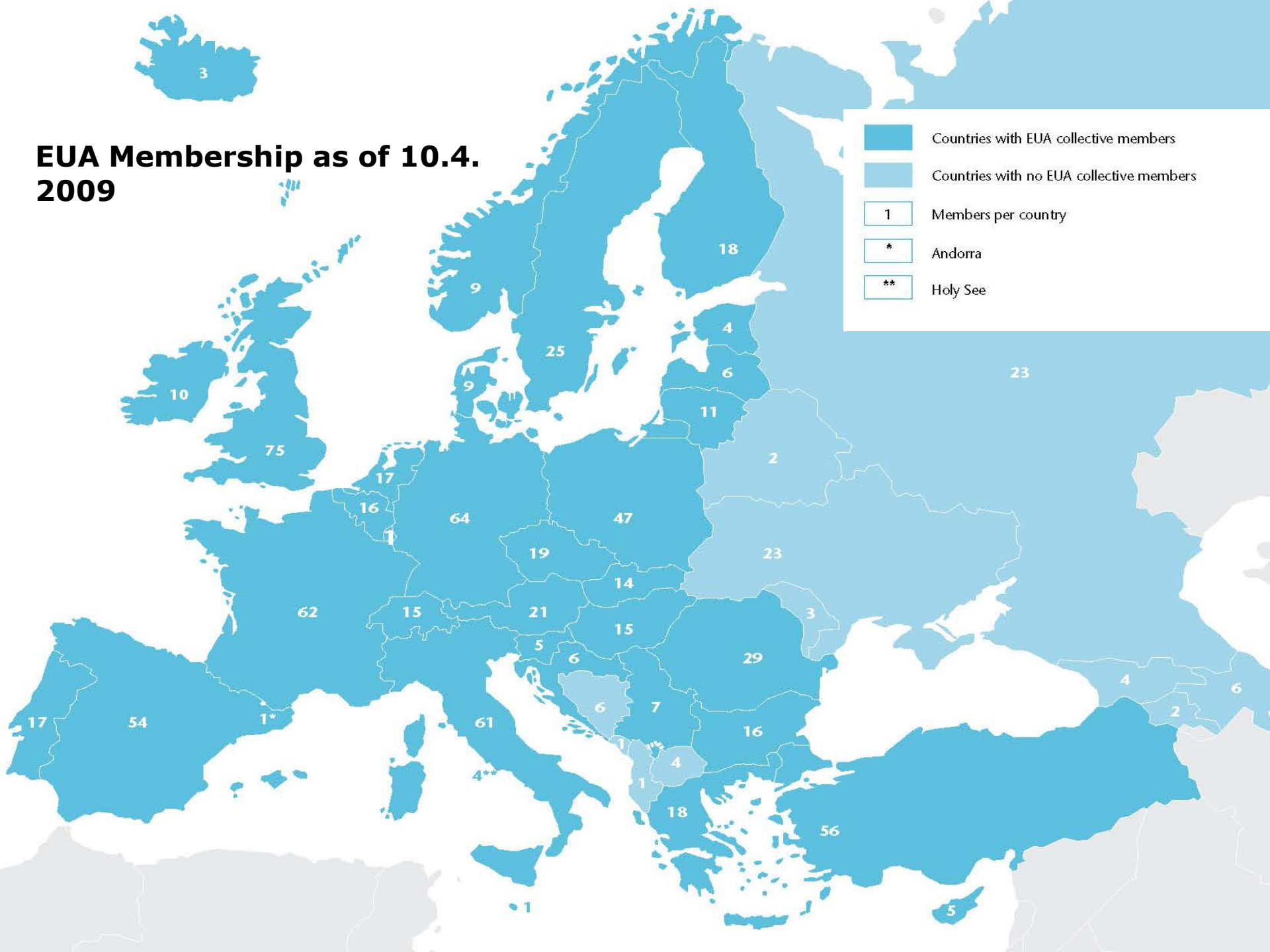


With the support of the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Commission

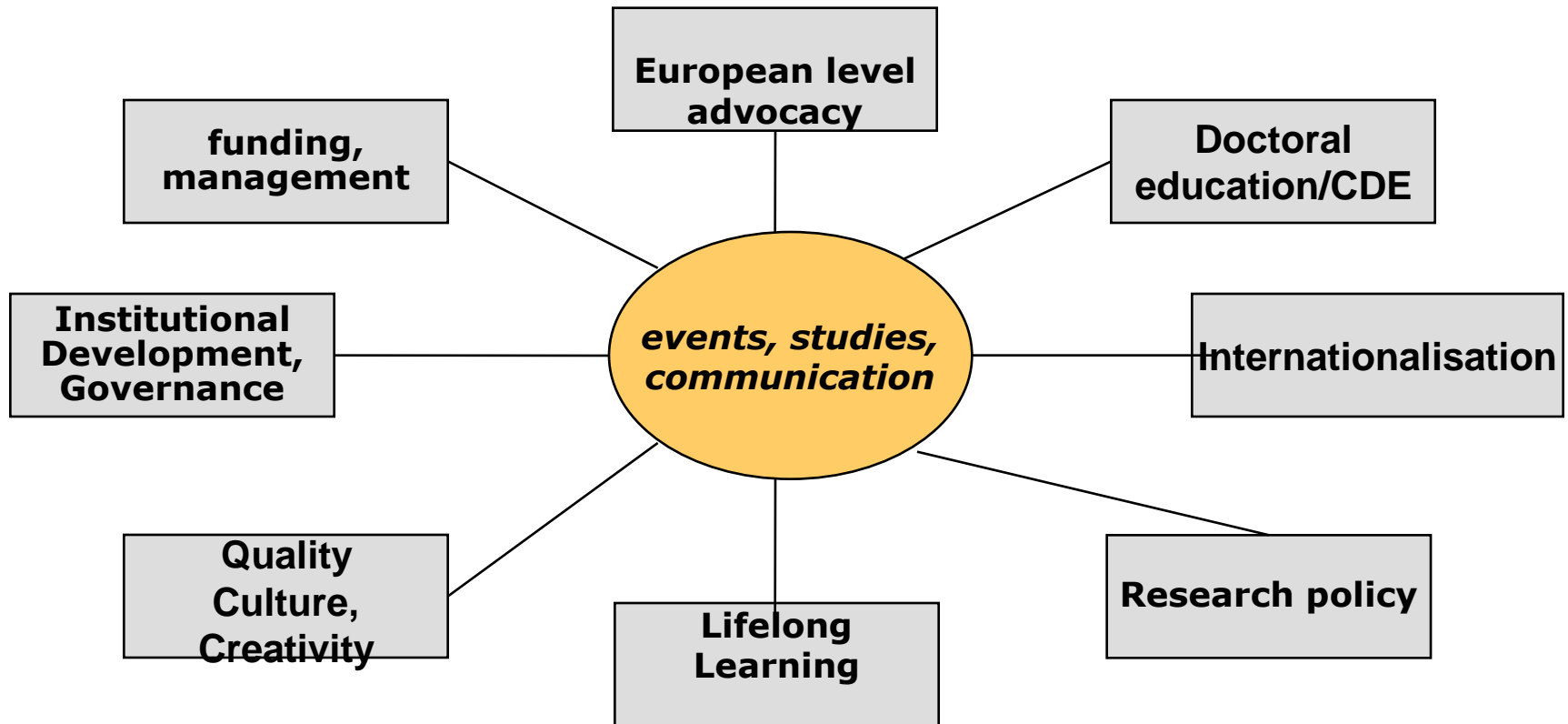
Introduction to EUA

- Membership organisation of 850 members: universities and national rectors' conferences in 46 countries
- Mission: To ensure that universities have the means to fulfill their three-fold public mission (research, teaching and service to society)
- Activities: Policy development, projects, research and publication
- Active in EU and in a wider Europe: Unique overview of different processes that take place at different levels

EUA Membership as of 10.4. 2009



EUA Policy Areas and Activity



**Supporting the development of the
European Higher Education and Research Area**

EUA International Agenda

- Promote dialogue, exchange and cooperation with partners based on the principle of equal partnership, and considered as an opportunity for **mutual learning** for the benefit of all
- Offer partner organisations (university associations and university networks in other parts of the world) the opportunity to engage in a **dialogue** on the changing role of the university in society
- Engage in **joint initiatives and projects** with selected international partners. Activities will focus on higher education policy issues and institutional development and involve members

Access to Success: Project objectives in brief

- Enhance Africa-Europe institutional cooperation and partnership
- Promote the role of universities in development
- Foster dialogue between institutions, policy makers + donor organisations

The partner consortium

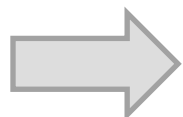
- European University Association (EUA)
- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Flemish Interuniversity Council for Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS)
- Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR)
- European Access Network (EAN)
- European Students' Union (ESU)

Special project attributes

- Brought together different actors with intertwined agendas: universities, government, donors, agencies
- Examined the overlap of development agendas and HE modernisation/internationalisation
- Focussed on institutional development rather than disciplinary or sectoral capacity building: perspective of the entire institution
- Bi-regional approach (as opposed to bilateral), with a focus on regional political actors and the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership

Project activities

- Parallel institutional surveys on access and retention issues in Europe and Africa
- Dialogue meeting of university leadership
- Student focus groups
- 3 thematic workshops: Addis Ababa, Oslo, Accra
- Final dissemination conference (Brussels)



white paper on supporting university partnership
in development cooperation

Strategic project themes

- Access and Retention
 - Universities in their social environment
 - How to respond to a growing and increasingly diverse student body
- Mobility
 - Inter- + intraregional academic mobility: prospects for regional HE integration
 - Brain drain: realities, risks and strategies to mitigate
- Cooperation
 - Partnership models: Provision, structure and principles
 - Exchange and coordination between development actors

Why access and retention as a starting point?

- Fostering mutual understanding of the challenging social, economic and regulatory environments in which universities operate
- A foundation for discussion capacity building partnerships
- No teacher, no learner- rather all partners are teachers and learners

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Workshop 1 Access and Retention in Europe and Africa, Addis Ababa, 17-20 Nov 2009



Workshop 2: Towards a coordinated vision of Europe-Africa higher education partnerships: Supporting institutional capacity building in Africa



Oslo, Norway

24-26, February, 2010

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Workshop 3: Intra & interregional mobility



Accra, Ghana, 3-5 May,
2010



Some observations

- Enthusiasm from European institutions and agencies (including 'new' actors from Eastern European countries), demonstrating the demand for regional level dialogue
- A clear hole exists between regional policy processes and institutional engagement-
- University associations can be stronger partners in development policy making



AFRICA-EUROPE HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: MEETING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

WHITE PAPER

**Outcomes and recommendations of the project:
“Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange
between Europe and Africa”
(2008-2010)**

Structure

1. The contribution of higher education to development and the role of universities in Africa
2. Africa-Europe university cooperation
3. Strengthening intra-African cooperation in higher education and the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership
4. The Way Ahead: An agenda for future action by actors responsible in both Africa and Europe

Premise

- Higher education is of critical importance to the long term development of knowledge societies
- Africa and Europe need each other
- Governments, donors and universities have to reconsider their role as development actors in light of changing relationship between higher education, research, development cooperation and capacity building

Recommendations to

- Governments
- Universities in Africa and Europe
- Development cooperation agencies
- Regional and national university associations
- African Union Commission and European Union Commission

Valorising results/ sustainability (1)

- White paper inspired a joint EUA-AAU statement (endorsed by both associations) to be tabled at Africa-EU Summit (November 2011)
- EUA and AAU are subsequently supporting the EC planned side-event on higher education for the Africa- EU Head of State Summit

Valorising results/ sustainability (2)

- Follow-up projects inspired from project results
 - CODOC: Cooperation on Doctoral Education between Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe (EMA3)
 - Europe-Africa Quality Connect (EMA3)

Valorising results/ sustainability (3)

- Potential follow-up projects under the Edu-Link programme and other programmes (new partnerships formed amongst project participants)
 - Research capacity development in Africa (Irish-Africa Partnership)
 - Leadership training in Africa (Association of Catalan Universities)
 - Coordination meetings of HE agencies (initiated by Nuffic)

Valorising results/ sustainability (4)

- Generating greater involvement of African institutions in Europe-Africa cooperation programmes
 - Info session on EC programmes in education, research and development cooperation for African participants (Brussels, September 2010)
 - Awareness raising of Europe- Africa Strategic Partnership (political agenda)
 - Stronger stakeholder input into African Union higher education agenda

Thank you for your attention!

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