



Advanced training week (Advance Skill Course)

ASC

**University of Cape Coast
19 –23 January 2026**

The future of Africa-Europe cooperation in Higher Education

UNITAFRICA (TNE23-00050 CUP D81I24000280007)

CALL FOR INTEREST

DD. 5714/2025 Reg. n. 0313974 - 19/09/2025

PNRR M4, C1, INV3.4 “Iniziative educative transnazionali – TNE”, ex D.D. MUR n. 167/2023
TNE23-00050 CUP D81I24000280007

Responsabile del procedimento: Alice Trentini
Area della Formazione e Dottorato

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ART. 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

University of Bologna and University of Cape Coast, within the framework of the PNRR TNE project "UNITAFRICA", funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), CUP D81I24000280007 led by University of Brescia, announces a call for interest for the nomination of university staff to take part in the Advanced training week (Advanced Skill Course - ASC) on **"The future of Africa-Europe cooperation in Higher Education "**. The call for interests is targeted to participants from the following universities:

University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
University of Cape Coast (Ghana)
University of Nairobi (Kenya)
Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (Senegal)
University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
University of Pretoria (South Africa)
Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
University of Zambia (Zambia)

Staff of the University of Bologna will participate in the ASC activities, as well, facilitating training classes.

ART. 2 COURSE DESCRIPTION and GOALS

The future of Africa-Europe cooperation in higher education is based on establishing sustainable, equitable partnerships to cultivate knowledge societies and address sustainable development challenges. This includes scaling up academic and scientific cooperation, enhancing skills development, facilitating students' and researchers' mobility, and supporting knowledge circulation and co-creation between and within the European and African continents. This is also in line with the objectives of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda to 'Strengthen people, communities, and institutions' and 'Generate impact by design' that see the circulation of people and knowledge and the principles co-creation and co-ownership, sustainability and openness as agents for building

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knowledge economies and societies and foster innovation ecosystems to enhance socio-economic and cultural impact.

The ASC aims at exploring promising practices and innovative models of sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships between Africa and Europe in the fields of a) international mobility, b) collaborative research and c) Joint University-society engagement initiatives. The ASC will address three Key tracks and one cross-cutting topic, each Key track will have a specific focus as follow:

<p>KEY TRACK 1 – International Mobility [innovative and flexible mobility experiences between Europe and Africa and within the African continent]</p>	<p>FOCUS ON:</p> <p>Europe-Africa mobility - Challenge-based mobility experiences: Projects/programmes/schemes representing good practices and innovative programmes engaging students from the EU and African universities in field work activities, innovative formats of international winter/summer schools or other international collaborative initiatives addressing societal challenges, embedding SDGs and development issues</p> <p>Europe-Africa mobility - Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good practices for the promotion of mobility opportunities geared toward African students; - strategies to attract exchange students from Europe (promotion of academic offer; raise awareness of the quality of the HEIs academic offer; develop international modules addressed to exchange students, etc); - how to manage the selection process of students and staff in collaboration with the partner university - good practices in engaging students and staff with fewer opportunities (strategies and tools for promoting inclusion and engaging students and staff facing barriers in accessibility and outreach; promotion of Erasmus+ ICM scholarships, etc) - scaling up mobility: success stories of Erasmus+ ICM exchanges <p>Intra-Africa mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good practices for the promotion, management and the selection of students and staff (strategies and tools for promoting African partners as a
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	<p>study/research destination within the EU Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme projects your institution participate in)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - challenges and good practices of recognition of semester abroad (credits recognition) within the EU Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme projects your institutions participate in or within other mobility schemes moving students within the African continent. - Projects/case study of mobility schemes funded by African Union, African national governments, African regional institutions, etc.: presenting good practices of innovative schemes promoted by African institutions to support students' mobility among African countries (also at regional level) or between Africa and Europe <p>Other mobility schemes: any other project/case study you want to present being a good practice or not that served as 'lesson learned' to refine your strategies and initiatives in mobility of students and staff</p>
KEY TRACK 2 - Collaborative research	<p>FOCUS ON:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint international research projects based on equitable collaboration frameworks: amplifying African scholarly voices in research - Joint international research projects based on knowledge co-production for regional development - projects/initiatives that are good practices of international collaborations and research that address local problems while contributing to global challenges - any other case study you want to present being a good practice or not that served as 'lesson learned' to refine your strategies and initiatives in collaborative research
KEY TRACK 3 – Joint University-society engagement	<p>FOCUS ON:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education projects that you consider to be a success story of cooperation between EU and African universities



	<p>also highlighting the involvement of non-academic partners or stakeholders in the partnership or in the project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - joint projects engaging European and African universities in co-creation initiatives with non-academic actors (NGOs, local authorities, companies etc.) to address local and global challenges (SDGs) - projects based on participatory approaches involving Citizen Science actions, Participatory Action Research, Living Labs, Science Shops, Community-based Participatory Research that are good practices and that involved a joint participation of EU and African universities - any other project/case study you want to present being a good practice or not that served as 'lesson learned' to design joint University-Society actions to address local challenges and global challenges (SDGs)
<p>CROSS-CUTTING TOPIC: funding Africa-Europe cooperation in Higher Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU and other European donors' programmes - AU and other African donors' programmes - Project writing and management 	

ART. 2.1 Methodologies

The ASC will comprise a discussion forum on Africa-Europe cooperation in higher education, encompassing the three university missions of education (including mobility), research, and outreach, and exposing participants to various examples from within African higher education institutions. The learning approach proposed by the ASC is based on three components:

- sharing models, trends, best practices and current debates on the topics
- showcasing real-life experiences and examples and discussing on scalable models
- working groups on developing strategies/initiatives/projects, integrating education/research and outreach at the global level

Classes are based on a participatory and horizontal approach, with attendees/participants presenting and sharing their experiences, followed by an active debate moderated by facilitators. In addition, the ASC will offer sessions to deepen knowledge on financial funding mechanisms to develop joint projects among African and European (Italian) universities, to explore the novelties in EU and other African and international donors' programmes and to consolidate project writing and management practices.

ART. 2.2 Prospective participants

Participants are identified among staff of the universities listed at art. 1 and should respond to the following professional profiles:

- Researchers and faculty involved in international collaborations and/or covering institutional roles for international relations, education, research and outreach at the university/department/school level
- Early career researchers/lecturers at African universities involved in international cooperation projects
- Senior university administrators (senior officers/senior administrative staff) involved in planning and management international relations activities, research and innovation development activities, outreach activities at university/department/school level

ART. 3 REQUIREMENTS AND NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Each university listed at art. 1 is invited to nominate up to three participants¹ according to the description of the prospective participants (art. 2.2) and to their availability to represent their own institution in one of the three Key tracks described at art. 2 (International mobility; Collaborative research; Joint University-society engagement initiatives). It means that participants are responsible to present a case study in one of the three Key tracks and be open to active discussion, cooperation, debate, collaborative and interactive activities.

In addition, we expect that each institution is going to nominate prospective participants according to the following criteria:

- a) participants must be employed or formally affiliated to the university
- b) the three nominations must cover all the three Key tracks (one nomination for each Key track)
- c) nominations must respect gender balance principles
- d) participants must be fluent in English (at least B2 level)

Participants must meet all the above-mentioned requirements and must also guarantee their full attendance for all five days of the Training week.

3.1 Nomination procedure

Each university is required to nominate up to three (3) prospective participants sending an e-mail to the following address arin.coopsvil@unibo.it by **October 20th, 2025** specifying in the subject line "Nominations for UNITAFRICA training week – University of [NAME OF THE INSTITUTION]".

Via the abovementioned e-mail each university should send:

- the list of the three nominees (full name and surname as per ID document/Passport)
- curriculum vitae of the three nominees that specify the current role covered at the University
- ID document/Passport of the three nominees

¹ The University of Cape Coast as Host University can nominate up to a maximum of 10 representatives that will participate in the ASC activities.

- abstracts (one per each nominee; maximum one-and-a-half-page length) that describe the project/initiative/case study associated to one of the three tracks the nominee wants to present during the ASC. The abstract should include:
 - name of the project/initiative/case study
 - actors involved (universities, other organisations)
 - only if relevant a short reference to models, trends and current debates applicable to the topic/project/case study presented
 - main objectives, activities, solutions and methodologies adopted
 - strengths and weaknesses, barriers and constraints
 - lesson learned, solutions adopted, guidelines and recommendations

The abstract must describe the project/case study the nominee wants to present during the ASC. The project/case study must fall under one of the three Key tracks: a) International mobility; b) Collaborative research and c) Joint University-society engagement initiatives. In the abstract, we strongly recommend focusing mainly on methodologies adopted, scalable solutions, strengths and weaknesses analysis, recommendation and lesson learned. The audience will be heterogeneous and will not be necessarily represented by academic staff from the same field of research/study. Therefore abstracts (and presentations during the staff week) should address mainly transversal aspects of the project/initiatives that can be discussed and shared within the multidisciplinary and diverse group.

The University of Bologna and the University of Cape Coast reserve the right to accept or not to accept the nominations shouldn't they fully align or be clearly coherent with the ASC key contents and approach. In the latter case the University of Bologna and the University of Cape Coast will contact individual universities for additional information.

ART. 4 CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

The nominees will receive a letter from the University of Bologna and must confirm their acceptance **within five (5) days** of the notification by sending the signed acceptance form to: arin.coopsvil@unibo.it.

Upon acceptance, participants commit to complying with all administrative procedures required by the University of Bologna and University of Cape Coast. This includes, but is not limited to, signing the ASC agreement and fulfilling visa requirements.

ART. 5 FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND BENEFITS

Mobility costs (accommodation and travel expenses, excluding visa costs) will be covered only to international attendees. Room and board will be granted only for the ASC week (maximum 6 days). In the event of a late withdrawal, participants will be required to reimburse the full cost of travel and accommodation already incurred on their behalf.

All selected participants will receive information about expenses coverage and shall not incur any cost beforehand. Neither the University of Bologna nor the University of Cape Coast will reimburse any cost incurred by individual participants or their home university to participate in the ASC.

If the Staff Training Week is cancelled for any organisational, financial or force majeure reason, neither the invited universities nor the nominees shall have any claim against the University of Bologna and the University of Cape Coast.

Furthermore, by attending the ASC, all participants will benefit from the following:

- opportunities for academic networking, including exchanges and collaborative initiatives
- exposure to innovative learning environments, based on case studies sharing and discussions
- potential to establish long-term collaborations in research, teaching and outreach.

ART. 6 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Selected participants are required to obtain the following insurance coverage by the home university or personally:

- **third-party liability insurance** covering any unintentional damage caused to persons or property during participation in ASC
- **personal accident insurance** covering injuries sustained during participation in course activities at the ASC premises
- **individual health insurance** covering medical and hospital expenses for the entire duration of the course

ART. 7 PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Information on the processing of the personal data disclosed through the applications to participate in this call is published on the University website, "[Information for students on personal data processing](#)".

The Data Controller is Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, with registered office at Via Zamboni 33 – 40126 Bologna.

ART. 8 CONTACTS

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, invited partner universities can send an email to arin.coopsvil@unibo.it.

Head of University of Bologna Education and PHD Programme Division
Dott.ssa Alice Trentini