

EU-Africa cooperation through Erasmus+:

Opportunities for sub-Saharan Africa

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects between the 27 EU Member States plus six* other European countries associated to the programme, and countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including sub-Saharan Africa and the Southern Mediterranean. Countries from these two regions can join with European partners in a range of mobility and cooperation projects. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been with the sub-Saharan African region so far in the ongoing Erasmus+ programme.

In most African countries, the EU supports an Erasmus+ National Focal Point to help promote these opportunities.

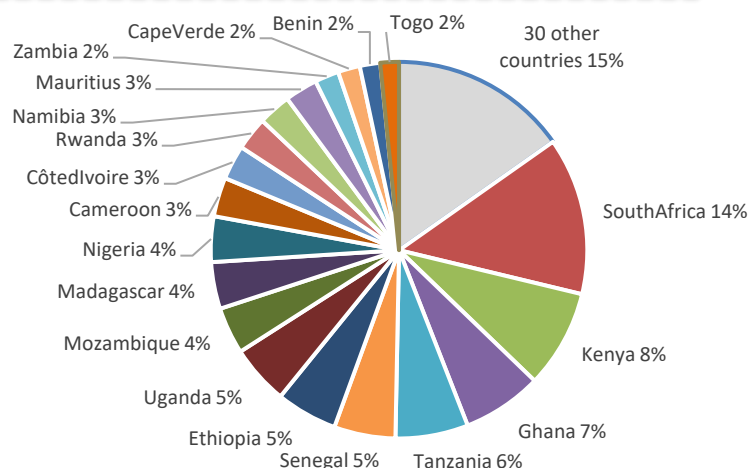
* In 2023 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

International Credit Mobility

Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

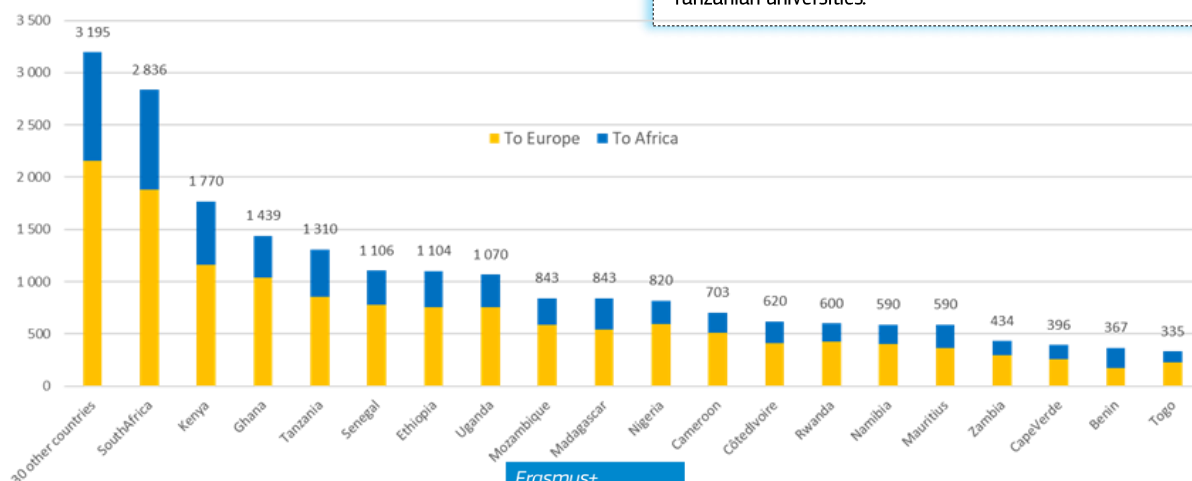
There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in sub-Saharan Africa and apply on behalf of their partners.

The first two annual selections of mobility projects have resulted in over 3 300 bilateral partnerships with 48 sub-Saharan African countries. They plan **mobility for almost 11 250 students and staff**: 68% of these are Africans.



Over the first two years of the programme (2022-23), 48 sub-Saharan African countries have forged mobility partnerships with Europe. For example, in 2023, nine Malawian universities were involved in mobility agreements with 16 universities in 11 European countries, from Romania to Iceland. One of these universities, Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) also has partnerships with Zambian and Tanzanian universities.

Sub-Saharan Africa – 11 250 people on the move, 2022-2023



Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJM Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: <https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>

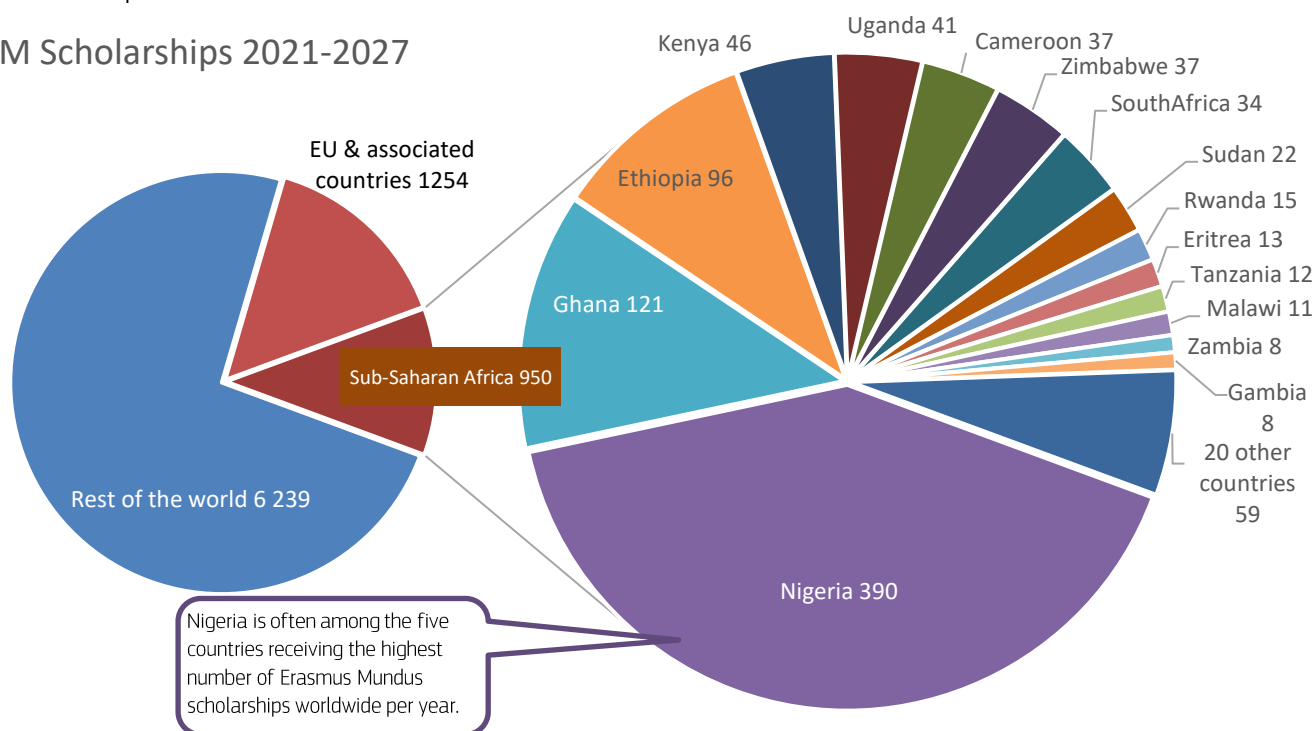
Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the regions for which the EU funds additional scholarships.

Institutions from African countries can also deliver these programmes: as applicants setting up the consortia; as full partners who officially award degrees; or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity – providing lecturers, hosting fieldwork, promoting the course – but do not award the actual joint degree.

Partners from sub-Saharan Africa

Universities from Burkina Faso, Senegal, South Sudan, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda are involved as full hosting partners in EMJMs operating in the 2021-2023 period. In the same period, sub-Saharan African organisations have taken part in Erasmus Mundus programmes as associated partners 63 times, representing a wider range of 18 countries.

EMJM Scholarships 2021-2027



CCD-STeDe: CLIMATE CHANGE AND DIVERSITY

This two-year Erasmus Mundus Joint Master on "Climate Change and Diversity: Sustainable Territorial Development" (CCD-STeDe) aims to prepare experts in the area of sustainable territorial development in the context of global climate and environmental emergencies.

The University of Padova leads a wide international consortium that includes Université Joseph Ki Zerbo (Burkina Faso), specialising in territorial management and the University of Johannesburg (South Africa) with its environmental management expertise. Other partners are from Ecuador, Belgium, France and Portugal.

Erasmus Mundus and sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2023



950 scholarships
for nationals of sub-Saharan
African countries



187 instances of organisations
from the region involved

EMMIR – European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations

Over its two-year programme, EMMIR equips students with the knowledge and skills to deal with issues of migration in and to Europe in global contexts. The programme is unique in its North-South-South-trialogue of partners from Africa (South Africa, Sudan and Uganda), Asia and Europe.

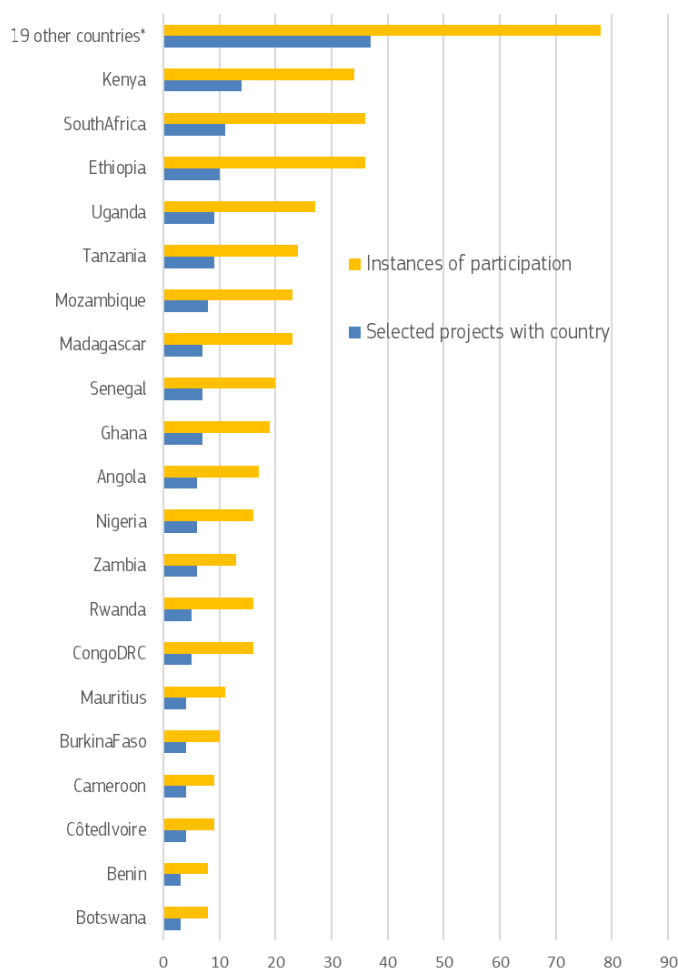
EMMIR provides state-of-the-art education in studying migration and cultural exchange, also enabling students to gather practical experience. Its graduates are connected to an international network of alumni/ae plus a range of other academic and non-academic stakeholders involved in matters of migration and intercultural relations. As a hub for migration studies, EMMIR will also impact on the institutions involved, communicating and implementing ideas of Europe, of diversity and internationalisation.

Capacity Building in Higher Education

Capacity-Building projects in Higher Education are 2 to 3 year-long projects implemented by multilateral partnerships of Higher Education institutions from both European and African countries with the aim of modernising higher education institutions and systems in the Partner Countries.

Capacity-Building projects not only promote cooperation between European and African regions but they also contribute to curriculum development activities, modernisation of governance and management of higher education institutions and systems and strengthening relations between higher education and the wider economic and social environment.

Over the two selections since 2021, there have been 531 instances of participation by institutions from sub-Saharan Africa in 78 projects selected to benefit higher education in the region.



DiGE – Digit@lly Together for Gender Equality Youth organisations from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda are joined by partners from Bulgaria, Cyprus and Spain to address the intersection of gender and technology in the youth sector – two areas that have contributed significantly for major societal gaps and will most probably have further implications for the widening the disparity among men and women across the world. Young people – primarily from vulnerable backgrounds -- develop employability-related skills and youth organisations extend the reach of the project in African countries.

Capacity-building projects 2022-2023



78 projects



531 Instances of participation

from sub-Saharan Africa

Examples of CBHE projects

DIGIGRAD

DigiGradAfrica aims to enhance the quality and relevance of training for graduate students and young researchers, especially for the attainment of Africa regional and global development goals, through harnessing the opportunities provided by digitalization and internationalization. Led by the African Network for the Internationalisation of Education, it involves 13 partners from Belgium, Burundi, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands, South Sudan and Spain.

QA DOC

Led by the Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar in Senegal, this project aims to assess quality of doctoral studies in universities in DR Congo, Guinea and Senegal. It also works to build capacity in education ministries and national quality assurance (QA) agencies to create and apply evaluation standards for doctoral education and research. It builds on good practice developed in France, Portugal and Spain, which also allows the project to reinforce research and collaborative doctoral degrees involving the African and European partners.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Virtual exchanges are online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development between individuals from African countries and their peers in Europe.

This type of projects aim at making it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) without physical mobility. They take place in small groups and are always moderated by a trained facilitator, and include activities such as online-facilitated discussions, trainings, interactive open online courses, etc.

African organisations from 14 different countries are involved in 13 projects focused on sub-Saharan Africa: Kenya and Tanzania are the most involved countries. Project not only focus on digital skills, but also on women's rights, health, religious dialogue, financial literacy and sustainability.

Capacity Building for Vocational Education (VET)

This action is new to the international dimension of Erasmus+ in 2022. It supports multilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those from sub-Saharan African (and three other regions). They aim to support the relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and

Design together - Designing VET curricula through innovative approaches This Greek-led [project](#) involves partners from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Tanzania, working alongside partners from Germany and Portugal. It focuses on training VET providers in developing curricula that are in line with the imperatives, on the one hand, of the labour market, and on the other hand of the digital era. A common training framework provides the structure and intercultural approach.

VET4GREEN - Developing Capacities in the Area of VET for Green Energy Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa The project will make VET courses more innovative and labour-market oriented and make students better prepared for success in the green energy sector. The needs of the underrepresented groups and persons coming from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds are taken into account among of the target groups from Poland, Sweden, Cameroon, Kenya, Somalia, and Rwanda.

countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development.

Out of the 58 projects selected worldwide, 42 projects were selected with 139 instances of participation from sub-Saharan African countries.

Capacity Building for Vocational Trainings for sub-Saharan Africa, 2022-2023



42 projects



139 instances of
participation

Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world through networks. These opportunities elicit great interest from

countries outside Europe too and figures refer to the higher education activities opened to third countries, to international networks and to other discontinued types of international projects.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Four Jean Monnet modules are managed by African universities in Cape Verde, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda. The decision to fund Jean Monnet Networks with a focus on Africa has resulted in two networks of this sort.

SREUG – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is a Jean Monnet module offered by the Mountains of the Moon University in Fort Portal, Uganda. It compares policy and practice in this domain between Uganda and Belgium, to initiate dialogue and develop knowledge among students, academics, practitioners, and policy makers in Uganda and Belgium. It will also disseminate results of a comparative study on SRHR policies in Belgium and Uganda through an international peer-reviewed journal in order to promote EU policies beyond the EU.

Jean Monnet Networks with a focus on Africa

POLYCVIS NETWORK: Confronting the polycrisis in Europe and Africa - Seven sub-Saharan join two North African and 11 European partners in this network

AFRIQUEUROPE: The European Union and Africa in a Multi Crises World brings together 30 African and four European partners.

More information:

Erasmus+ website: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Erasmus+ projects & results: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Erasmus+ National Focal Points in Africa: <https://erasmus-networks.ec.europa.eu/organization/national-focal-points>