

Facts and figures about the DIGU project

- **Participants:**
5 African and 8 Catalan universities
- **First meeting:**
Discussion and exchange between 15 African university leaders and managers and 25 leaders and managers from Catalan universities
- **Second meeting:**
Around 50 participants in each of the 4 seminars organised in 4 African countries
- **Third meeting:**
Closing conference with representatives from all universities and organisations involved in the DIGU project



For more information:
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University Cooperation Programme with Africa



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The Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP), composed by the Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Universitat de Girona (UdG), Universitat de Lleida (UdL), Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), is promoting a strategic cooperation programme with universities, associations, university networks and research centres in sub-Saharan Africa. This programme represents one of the priorities established in the International Projection Plan for Catalan Public Universities 2010 – 2015 approved by ACUP in 2009.

The main objective of this cooperation is to create stable, long-term alliances in the three main university areas: training, research and knowledge transfer. In addition, there will be a special focus on university management, an essential area for guaranteeing the efficient functioning of universities.

Following the current efforts of improving the coordination between, and the concentration of, development cooperation activities, the eight Catalan public universities and a series of African universities propose to work together in a common framework. Within this framework, there will be joint projects with the participation of all public Catalan universities as well as bi-lateral projects between African and Catalan universities.

For the 2010 - 2011 period, the university cooperation programme with Africa will be centred on the following main areas:

- University management:**
- Spanish-African Higher Education Management Platform:** the ACUP will create a joint platform to foster the discussion and reflection on some of the key topics that affect university management in Africa with the aim to create new knowledge and good practices, and to train university leaders and managers.
- Inter-university collaboration projects on university management:** a number of specific projects, with special emphasis on information and communication technologies (ICT), will accompany the theoretical reflection and put into practice the main results obtained through the exchange of ideas.
- Training and research:**
- Platforms of reference:** The ACUP will create, together with the African universities platforms of reference with a strong impact on the regional development to reinforce high level research and training capacities.

Institutional Development and University Management Project (DIGU Project)

In order to initiate and lay the foundations for a close and effective cooperation with Africa, the eight Catalan universities members of ACUP together with five African universities organised throughout 2009 the first DIGU project. The African universities which participated in the project were:

- University of Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal
- Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
- National University of Equatorial Guinea
- University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon

The project was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Catalan Agency for Cooperation for Development (ACCD). It also had the support of the Casa Africa and the Catalonia-Africa Institute (ICA).



Objectives:

The DIGU project is based on four main objectives:

- To establish stable relationships with African universities
- To reinforce the institutional capacities of participating universities through training, visits abroad and mobility of university leaders and managers
- To exchange experiences and good practices
- To create a knowledge network among the participants

THE PROJECT WAS STRUCTURED IN 4 STAGES

Preparatory:

Through a series of visits to the universities participating in the DIGU project the current situation of higher education management at the African universities was analysed and specific needs in the area of university management identified.

First meeting: Barcelona - Catalonia

During one week, 15 university leaders and managers from African universities, together with 25 leaders and managers from Catalan universities, worked on a number of different topics identified as priorities in the area of university management for the African universities. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Catalan universities.

Second meeting: Africa

Each university participating in the DIGU project organised a seminar on a subject of particular interest to their university inviting different local and Catalan experts. These seminars enabled the participation of a larger number of people from each of the African universities as well as other universities from the participating countries. During these meetings work on specific future collaboration projects between the African and Catalan universities was initiated.

“The University and its future – challenges for administrative and research management”
– Cheikh Anta Diop University



“Setting up the Licence-Master-Doctorate system (LMD)” – National University of Equatorial Guinea



“The role of the university for development through research management”
– University of Yaoundé I

“Quality Management Assurance”
– Eduardo Mondlane University and University of Antananarivo

