

RECOMMENDATIONS

3RD CONFERENCE FOR A EURO-AFRICAN ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP

BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER: THE ROLE OF ACADEMIC COOPERATION IN SHAPING A NEW SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROJECT FOR YOUTH

INTRODUCTION

The 3rd Conference for a Euro-African Academic Partnership focused on "**Building the future together: the Role of academic cooperation in shaping a new project of socio-economic integration for Youth**", building on the experience of the "Teramo Declaration" of 2019, provided a unique opportunity for African and European higher education institutions, and intergovernmental organizations to share experiences. Furthermore, the exercise aimed to foster the development cooperation initiatives for youth empowerment through innovative and sustainable heritage promotion in Africa.

The participants at the Conference expressed their confidence that Euro-African cooperation will foster better collaboration between the continents in favour of future generations.

The discussion was articulated in three Thematic Sessions (TS):

- **TS I: Collaborative Europe-Africa postgraduate education programs and academic cooperation to boost employability and entrepreneurship.** The session aimed to illustrate "good practices" in the postgraduate education programmes between Europe and Africa, tailoring the impact of academic cooperation toward employability and entrepreneurship.
- **TS II: Accelerating Youth employment to eliminate Extreme Poverty Among Youth Through Capacity-building.** The session proposed interesting legal, ethical, and professional implications in cultural and natural heritage conservation and management. The discussion offered examples of interrelationships among education, entrepreneurship, and employability. Furthermore, it proposed establishing a mutual recognition framework of awarded degrees (SDG1, SDG4, and SDG8).
- **TS III: Digital technologies and innovation capacity to promote the growth of sustainable development.** The new challenges start from a paradigm shift towards the digital world including innovations in conservation and scientific protocols, the transfer of technologies and development strategies.

The discussion led to the following recommendations, divided into three macro areas:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Euro-African partnership, through its action, will support:

- The **creation and strengthening of cultural and professional training programs** and paths at all levels of higher education by facilitating the mobility of young students between continents to enable them to connect, network and lead the development of their country.
- Promote the development of extensive **digitization initiatives for training**, starting from the primary education up to higher education for promotion and conservation of cultural heritage in Africa;

TOWARDS A EURO-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The establishment of a consolidated inter-institutional Euro-African partnership may:

- Facilitate the **creation and strengthening of academic and professional training programs for research teams** to address today's challenges. Thus also creating job opportunities for young people;
- facilitate the creation of a **forum of experts from Europe and Africa**, including young people, to discuss the development of awareness programs, also aimed at governments, through the use of new technologies;
- Promote **initiatives on a bilateral and multilateral level** by investing in young people and new professionals in order to create opportunities for shared narratives and alternatives and the sustainable development of society.
- Promote research and initiatives to **strengthen infrastructures** and disseminate knowledge accessible to all.

ROAD MAP FOR A FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

In view of ensuring a concrete follow up, The Euro-African partnership will:

- Establish a **Euro-African Working Group**, involving representatives of the partners, who will undertake to propose for the next edition of the Conference, to be held in a year, a five-year action plan to achieve the objectives relating to the proposed themes.
- Promote the exchange of information and **establish a stable platform for dialogue and comparison** to share inclusive strategies that take into account the variety of cultural expressions;

*Signed by
the participants of the 3rd Conference for a Euro-African Academic Partnership,
2 October 2021*