



## **"Building Together: Enhancing European and African Collaboration in Research and Innovation"**

27 November 2024

Department of Economics and Management – University of Pavia  
Via S. Felice 5 – 27100 PAVIA – ITALY

9:00 – 17:00

In an increasingly interconnected world, the necessity for robust and sustainable partnerships between Europe and Africa in research and innovation has never been more vital. This conference aims to foster a collaborative spirit by bringing together leading professors from both continents and representatives of public institutions to explore synergies, share knowledge, and co-develop solutions to global challenges.

By harnessing the diverse strengths and perspectives of European and African academic institutions, we can drive forward pioneering research that addresses critical issues such as climate change, public health, technological advancement, and sustainable development. This collaboration not only propels scientific and technological progress but also stimulates socio-economic growth and development in both regions.

This event is part of the initiatives scheduled to celebrate the 40th anniversary of CICOPS and the 50th anniversary of EADI. The experts of the event will include members of two important European networks, the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and the Working Group “Global Partnership” of the Coimbra Group, alongside representatives from African universities and Italian public institutions. The participation of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation will further enrich the discussions. Sub-Saharan Africa has always been at the forefront of Italy’s development cooperation activities, and the Italian government has recently reinforced its strategic priority for the African continent by announcing a “Mattei Plan for Africa.” With both Italian and European dimensions, this plan is inspired by a non-predatory cooperation model based on equal partnership and shared development to address multiple global challenges together.

Furthermore, building strong networks and creating opportunities for joint research initiatives ensures that our academic communities stay at the forefront of global innovation. This event



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represents a significant step towards a more inclusive and impactful future for research and education across Europe and Africa. By working together, we can create a unified research environment that benefits both continents, fostering innovation, mutual understanding, and a shared commitment to solving the world's most pressing problems.

## **Programme**

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:00 Opening Remarks

10:00 – 10:45 Keynote Address: “Mattei Plan for Africa: Advancing Europe-Africa Research Collaboration”

The Mattei Plan for Africa initiative is a testament to the enduring commitment to fostering sustainable and equitable research partnerships between Europe and Africa. This keynote will explore the Piano Mattei initiative's vision, objectives, and impact, highlighting its role in advancing collaborative research and innovation efforts that address shared global challenges

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Panel Discussion: “Current Challenges and Opportunities in Collaborative Europe-Africa Research”

This panel discussion seeks to delve into the current challenges and opportunities in Europe-Africa collaborative research, aiming to foster a deeper understanding and stimulate actionable strategies for effective partnerships. Three main aspects will be discussed: Importance of Collaborative Research, Current Challenges, and Opportunities.

12:30 – 13:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Round Table: “Developing Sustainable Solutions to Global Challenges”

This round table discussion aims to build on the insights from the preceding panel on collaborative Europe-Africa research, focusing on the development of sustainable solutions to these global challenges. This round table seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and generate innovative strategies that can be implemented globally.

15:00 – 16:30 “Sharing experiences”

The exchange of knowledge and experiences among academicians is a cornerstone of academic advancement and innovation. This dedicated section of the event aims to provide a platform for academicians from Europe and Africa to share their experiences, challenges, and successes in collaborative research.

16:30 – 17:00 Closing Remarks and Future Directions



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