



"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

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.

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. 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 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

- **Francesco Brendolise**, Pavia City Councilor for Social Policies, Housing, and Social Inclusion, International Cooperation, and Twinning, Director SISTERR
- **Antonella Forlino**, ProRector for Internationalisation, President of the Center for Global Strategic Engagement, University of Pavia, Italy

10:00 – 10:45 Keynote Address: “The more, the better for all: AICS’ experiences in supporting Euro-African partnerships to generate, disseminate and use knowledge.”

- **Andrea Merli**, Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, Desk for South-East Africa, EU Cooperation Unit

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

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

- **Chair: Davy David Okello Owiny** (BVM, MSc, PhD) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Gulu University, Uganda

Panelists:

- **Gerda Kuiper**, University of Cologne, Germany, Coimbra Group
- **Maria Sassi**, University of Pavia, Italy, CICOPS Vice President, EADI Country Representative
- **Mercy Liharaka Kidaha**, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
- **Achille Ephrem Assogbadjo**, University of Abomey Calavi, République du Bénin

12:30 – 13:30 Networking Lunch



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

- **Chair: Gian Battista Parigi**, Rector’s Delegate for International Cooperation, University of Pavia, Italy, CICOPS President, SISTERR President

Panelists:

- **Peter Knorringa**, Co-Convenor EADI Working Group Frugal Innovation and Development, International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, Director International Centre for Frugal Innovation
- **Nils Gunnar Songstad**, University of Bergen, Norway, Coimbra Group
- **Joyce Jerotich Lelei**, Egerton University, Kenya
- **Chimwemwe Msosa**, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences, Malawi, CICOPS Fellow 2024

15:00 – 16:30 “Sharing experiences”

- **Chair: Paola Minoia**, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society of the University of Turin, Italy, EADI Local Director

Panelists:

- **Marek Frankowicz**, Jagiellonian University, Poland, Coimbra Group
- **Gian Battista Parigi**, University of Pavia, Italy
- **Flora Josiane Chadare**, National University of Agriculture, Cotonou, République du Bénin

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