UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO

UnitAfrica

TNE UNITAFRICA: Closing Meeting

EMPOWERING ACADEMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ITALY AND AFRICA TO FOSTER THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN A MUTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

25th-26th February 2026
Bari, Italy

Finanziato dall'Unione europea NextGenerationEU

Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca

Italiadomani
PIANO NAZIONALE DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BRESCIA

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Aligned with the overarching goals of the TNE UNITAFRICA Project - to foster cooperation between Italian and African universities through innovative teaching methods and training opportunities- the final meeting in Bari represents a key milestone for strengthening collaboration between Italian and African partners.

The workshop aims to: present the project's final outcomes, assess their impact, discuss opportunities and challenges, plan long-term developments, and explore strategies for future sustainability.

CONTENTS

The meeting will begin with an overview of the project's overall structure, activities, major deliverables, timelines, and the six work packages (WPs):

- WP1: Coordination
- WP2: Network and Digital Platform
- WP3: Innovative Education for Master & PhD Studies
- WP4: Skills Development
- WP5: Impact Evaluation
- WP6: Communication and Outreach

Interactive sessions will then focus on the strengths and weaknesses of innovative teaching methods, training opportunities, mobility programs, and the shared research agenda. These discussions will engage participants in identifying key challenges and exploring potential strategies for the future.

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 25th February

MORNING SESSION I: Official opening

09:30 | REGISTRATION

10:00 | OFFICIAL OPENING and INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS
Roberto Bellotti, Rector of the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" (UNIBA)
Francesco Castelli, Rector of the University of Brescia (UNIBS)
Michele Mazzola, General Directorate for Internationalization and Communication, Ministry of University and Research (MUR)
Lorenza Gambacorta, Deputy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
Elisa Masi, Manager of Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

10:40 | WELCOME REMARKS and PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Annalisa Saracino, Delegate for International Cooperation with African countries, UNIBA

10:50 | MAIN LECTURE: The Role of University Cooperation between Italy and Africa: The TNE UNITAFRICA Project: Results, Strengths and Weaknesses
Sabrina Sorlini, Scientific Coordinator of the UNITAFRICA Project, UNIBS

11:20| Coffee break

MORNING SESSION II: Universities, Cooperation and Science Diplomacy. Italian African Dialogues for Innovation in Teaching

Session Chairs: John Amuasi, KNUST, Ghana - Luigi Milella, UNIBAS

11:40 | LECTURE: Assessing the final impact of the TNE UNITAFRICA Project
Roberto Valentino, UNIPR

12:00 | Courses for master and PhD students
David Kirimi Mbui, Kenyatta University, Kenya

12:10 | Advanced skills courses
Mauro Giudici, UNIMI

12:20 | Student mobilities
Incoming African Students from UCAD & UGB, Senegal (on-line)
Carlotta Avena, UNITO

12:30 | Experiences from teaching staff mobilities in conflict-affected contexts
Maria Sassi, UNIPV

12:40 | GENERAL DISCUSSION and Q&A

13:30 | Lunch time

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AFTERNOON SESSION: Analysis of the Project's Strengths, Weaknesses and Improvement proposals

Session Chairs: Sónia Vaz Semedo, Universidade de Cabo Verde - Tommaso Salamone, UNIPI

14:30 | LECTURE: Building synergies in administrative functions: focus on UNITAFRICA mobility
Aiko Terao, UNIBS - Marco Oliva, UNIPV

14:50 | LECTURE: Connecting Higher education systems: experiences among UNITAFRICA partners
Anisa Khan, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

15:10 | LECTURE: Co-design and mutual learning
Cheikh Abdoul Khadir Diop, UCAD Dakar, Senegal - Gianluca Di Rosario, UNIBS

15:30 | LECTURE: The Unitafrica PIT between present and future
Sheetal Soni, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - Marcella Distefano, UNIME

15:50 | GUIDED DISCUSSION and Q&A
Discussants: Sintayehu Yigrem Mersha, Hawassa University, Ethiopia - Gian Battista Parigi, CICOPS, UNIPV

16:20 | CLOSING REMARKS FOR DAY 1
Annalisa Saracino, UNIBA - Sabrina Sorlini, UNIBS

SOCIAL PROGRAMME of the 1st Day

17:30 | 19.00 | Networking and Social Events

20:00 | 22.00 | CONFERENCE DINNER

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Thursday, 26th February

MORNING SESSION I: Long term vision

Session Chairs: Daniel Duah, KNUST, Ghana - Emanuela Gamberoni, UNIVR

09:00 | From CUCS to Unitafrica Alliance
Guido Zolezzi, Coordinator of CUCS and Unitafrica Alliance, UNITN - Emanuela Colombo, CRUI, Delegate in National Council for Development Cooperation (CNCS), POLIMI

09:30 | INTERACTIVE GROUP WORK
Proposals for Future Pathways for the African Italian Alliance

Group 1 (Blue – Aula Magna Room) Educational Activities
Coordinators: Thomas Kivevele, Nelson Mandela, AIST, Tanzania - Laura Viganò, UNIBG

Group 2 (Green – Biblioteca Room) International Mobilities and Administrative Tasks
Coordinators: Umulkher Ali Abdillahi, MMUST, Kenya - Katiuscia Cipri, UNIPR - Marco Oliva, UNIPV - Aiko Terao, UNIBS

Group 3 (Red – Don Tonino Bello Room) Research
Coordinators: Kajal Chhaganlal, UCM Mozambique - Francesco Di Gennaro, UNIBA

10:30 | Coffee break

10:50 | SUMMARY REPORT of the THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Group 1 Educational Activities

Group 2 International Mobilities and Administrative Tasks

Group 3 Research

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Thursday, 26th February

FINAL SESSION: Step towards the Italy-Africa Alliance

Session Chairs: Pius Mgeni, RUCU, Tanzania - Emanuela Colombo, POLIMI

11:40 | ROUND TABLE
Strategic priorities and needs in the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa
Advisory board member:
Eugenio Cavallo - Laura Pacifici Noja - Fabio Santoni - Luca Tiano
Rectors & Delegates:
- Elena Bresci, UNIFI, Rector Delegate
- Manuel Chenene, UEM (Mozambique), Rector Delegate
- Abdoulaye Deme, UGB (Senegal), Vice Rector
- Daniel Duah, KNUST (Ghana), Rector Delegate
- Jemal Yusuf Hassen, HU (Ethiopia), Rector
- David Kirimi, KU (Kenya), Rector Delegate
- Gaudence Nishimwe, RP (Rwanda), Rector Delegate
- Carola Ricci, UNIPV, Rector Delegate
- Stefania Recalcati, UNIMI, Rector Delegate
- Enrico Salvati, UNIUD, Rector Delegate

12:40 | LECTURE: Looking ahead for the UNITAFRICA Project
Sabrina Sorlini, Scientific Director of the UNITAFRICA Project, UNIBS

13:00 | LECTURE: Launching the Alliance Charter
Guido Zolezzi, Coordinator of CUCS and Unitafrica Alliance, UNITN

13:20 | FINAL REMARKS
Annalisa Saracino, UNIBA - Sabrina Sorlini, UNIBS

13:30 | Lunch time

SOCIAL PROGRAMME of the 2nd Day

15:00 | 19:00 | Networking and Social Events

19:00 | 23:00 | GALA DINNER

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INFO

Venue
Aula Magna Aldo Cossu
Palazzo Ateneo
Piazza Umberto I, 1
Bari (Italy)

General Information
All Sessions in Aula Magna room will take place both in person and online

Scientific Secretariat
Maria Carmela Dargenio, UNIBA
Carlotta Avena, UNITO
Gianluca Di Rosario, UNIBS
Francesco Di Gennaro, UNIBA

Scientific Coordinators
Annalisa Saracino, UNIBA
Sabrina Sorlini, UNIBS

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The Organizing Secretariat and CME Provider

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