



UNITAFRICA

Empowering the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa for fostering the quality and effectiveness of the higher education systems in a mutual learning environment
TNE23-00050 - CUP D81I24000280007

Course	Food Communities and Local Development in Senegal – UNITAFRICA Training course
Organizing Institutions	University of Turin – Department of Cultures, Politics and Society
Target participants	Master students, Professors, Administrative staff, Researchers, PhD, Stakeholders
Objectives of the course	The course aims to provide an interdisciplinary understanding of urban food systems and their role in local development, with a particular focus on Dakar (Senegal). It explores key environmental, social, and economic challenges related to food security, while fostering dialogue among academic, institutional, and civil society actors. The course also seeks to strengthen academic cooperation between Italy and Africa by promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices within a framework of mutual learning.
Strategic thematic area (select below*)	2. Rural development, land management, agrifood and food supply chains
Abstract (max 300 words)	The course “Food Communities and Local Development in Senegal” addresses the topic of food systems in the urban context of Dakar, analyzing their dynamics, critical issues, and potential in relation to sustainable local development. Through academic contributions and moments of discussion among different actors, aspects such as the structure of the urban food system, climate variability and its effects (in particular rainfall and flooding), as well as the role of public policies and local initiatives are explored in depth. Particular attention is given to the enhancement of traditional food practices, school feeding, and urban agriculture as tools to promote food security, social inclusion, and urban resilience. The course also promotes dialogue between universities, local institutions, and non-governmental organizations, creating a space for discussion on experiences and best practices developed in Italian and Senegalese contexts. Included within the framework of the UNITAFRICA project, the course contributes to strengthening international academic cooperation and to building a shared learning environment between Europe and Africa. Contents: • Analysis of the urban food system of Dakar; • Rainfall variability and climate impacts;



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	• Urban flood management; • Enhancement of traditional food dishes; • School feeding and food security; • Urban agriculture and local development; • Role of institutions and NGOs in food systems; • Comparison between Italian and Senegalese experiences. Teaching Methods: The course was conducted through a combination of: • lectures delivered by professors and researchers; • thematic presentations on case studies; • round tables with the participation of institutional representatives and civil society organizations; • discussion and exchange among participants. The teaching activities took place in person, with the possibility of online participation, and in the French language.
Period	24/03/2026 (1 day)
Place	UNITO (CPS), Room LL6, Campus Luigi Einaudi, Lungo Dora Sienta 100, 10153 Torino, Italy
Teaching delivery mode	In person/Online
Language	French/English
Final test	No formal final assessment is provided; learning evaluation takes place through active participation in sessions and discussions.
How to apply	Registration procedures are communicated through the official channels of the University of Turin and the UNITAFRICA project.
Contacts	Prof. Egidio Dansero
Extending programme	Course content: The program included contributions from professors and researchers from the University of Turin and Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, as well as representatives of local institutions (Region of Piedmont, Municipality of Turin, Municipality of Chieri) and NGOs. The activities were structured into thematic sessions and round tables dedicated to the analysis of food systems, climate resilience, and local development policies, with moments of multi-actor dialogue.



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* STRATEGIC THEMATIC AREAS of TWO TRAINING MODULES

1. Rural development, land management, agrifood and food supply chains;
2. Health, water and hygiene, One Health;
3. Sustainable Energy, environment and natural resource management;
4. Entrepreneurial and industrial development for local prosperity;
5. Cultural heritage and sustainable tourism;
6. Social Sciences and humanities.
7. Ecological transition and digitalization