EDULINK, ACP Science and Technology, ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development Results and impacts 2012 – 2018

EDULINK, ACP Science et Technologie, Programme de recherche Caraïbes et Pacifique pour le développement durable

## Résultats et effets 2012 – 2018







ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Science and Technology II (S&T II)

Programme de Coopération ACP-UE pour la Science et la Technologie (S&T II)

ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development

Programme de recherche Caraïbes et Pacifique pour le développement durable





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# Résultats et effets 2012 – 2018



#### EDULINK II ACP-EU Co-operation Programme in Higher Education



EU-ACP networking and scientific knowledge exchange during the International Symposium, ISSEDD – Toamasina (Madagascar).

#### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD October 2013 – June 2017

#### CONSORTIUM

- University of Torino, Italy
- Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), Université de Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques (ESSA), Université de Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Institut Supérieur des Sciences Environnement et Développement Durable (ISSEDD), Université de Toamasina, Madagascar
- Faculté des Sciences et Techniques, Université des Comores (FST-UDC), Comoros

#### Associated partner:

• Fondazione CRUI per le Università Italiane, Italy

#### **PROJECT CONTACT**

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PROJECT WEBSITE Facebook Page: Projet Egale http://www.egale.unito.it/ Education policy, Administrative management

# EGALE – Gathering universities for quality in education

#### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Transition to the Licence-Master's-Doctorate (LMD) system was achieved by developing the skills of administrative and managerial staff to international standards for HEI management. PhD curricula were developed in the field of Agriculture and Food Security, as well as courses on Internationalisation, the LMD system, and PhD development. An e-learning system was introduced at the HEIs. Agreements were drawn up for the SEADD-VALCOBIO international consortium, involving the universities of Torino, Comoros and Madagascar (Antananarivo, Toamasina and Mahajanga).

#### BACKGROUND

The project was set up to support sustainable development for food security in Madagascar and Comoros, by strengthening the capacities of local Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as contributors to regional strategic plans in agriculture. The specific aim was to improve the capacities of the HEIs to train qualified human resources in the field of sustainable agriculture and food security at both administrative and academic levels. To achieve this aim, the project has facilitated the transition of academic programmes within the partner institutions to the international Licence-Master's-Doctorate (LMD) system.

The project has also sought to overcome the isolation of Madagascar and Comoros by increasing scientific knowledge exchanges within the partnership, by strengthening the linkages with the local Ministries of Education and by establishing an international consortium for programme development, research, and staff-exchange in the field of food security and sustainable agriculture. This included the development of an e-learning system.



Field trip: Overview of agriculture and fishing in Comoros.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

## International consortium and skills development

Training administrative and technical staff on the Internationalisation process and Bologna process included managerial and administrative skills for internationally funded projects and the provision of support to students and university staff. Skills development also included the development and planning of an international PhD programme on agriculture, food security and the environment.

#### Improvement of academic capacities

Academic staff were selected to increase their scientific and pedagogic expertise. Their training included developing skills in the management and delivery of distance learning programmes, thereby increasing the capacity of the partner HEIs to offer higher education to a wider population via a distance learning platform.

#### Networking and visibility

Awareness of local stakeholders was raised via various media to enhance future sustainability.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

The project was assessed on a regular and strategic basis to ensure its continued relevance and ongoing benefits to the target group.





UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO









### Outputs

#### **Capacity building**

- 22 female and 16 male administrative/ technical staff trained through 3 e-learning modules on management developed to international standards.
- 16 female and 14 male academic staff trained through 4 scientific e-learning modules on:
  - research planning;
  - horticulture and fruit production chains;

# Outcomes

- Improved academic knowledge of food
- security and sustainable agriculture.Improved research and laboratory



#### Usage

- At ISSEDD, 20 PhD applications have been received for the year 2016-2017 and student enrolment has doubled for the same year compared to 2014-2015.
- FST-UDC is planning to introduce scientific training to the e-learning system and partner HEIs are looking to further utilise the e-learning system to manage other courses.

#### **Policy implications**

 Increased administrative and academic capacities in sustainable agriculture and food security will contribute to the national strategies of Comoros and Madagascar in higher education, specifically tailoring higher education to local needs, - environment protection;

- tropical farming and climate change;
- food security and food safety.
- 6 co-tutored PhD theses (4 month mobility period in Italy). 5 lectures given by the PhD students at UNITO, 3 manuscript drafts, 3 abstracts presented at international congresses.
- · E-learning platform introduced as an

official means for course delivery at the partner HEIs.

#### Visibility

- 1 mid-term scientific symposium (Madagascar) and 1 final scientific workshop (Comoros).
- techniques adopted by 6 PhD students.
- International consortium 'Réseau pour la Sécurité Alimentaire, Développement

Durable, Valorisation et Conservation de la Biodiversité (SEADD-VALCOBIO' established.

international quality assurance, the introduction of e-education and promoting student mobility and exchanges.

#### Sustainability

- SEADD-VALCOBIO is committed to increasing its membership, especially from the countries of the Indian Ocean. The University of Mahajanga (Madagascar) has already successfully acceded and HEIs in Mauritius and Reunion are in the process of acceding.
- A joint application with the University of Antananarivo under Erasmus+ (International Credit Mobility, Madagascar) was awarded a grant.



Delivery of certificates to part of the trained administrative staff (ENS).



Informative measures on processed local food during project visibility activity at Comoros.

#### **TESTIMONIAL**



Claude Omer Andrianarimanana, Director, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar

"Open online distance learning will help to resolve the shortages of resources and infrastructure whilst increasing the intake capacity of the institution. The training is less expensive compared to what currently exists and by training more PhD students we are able to increase the number of teachers available. PhD students will benefit from mobility to other universities due to the recognition of diplomas and experience."

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research http://www.acp-hestr.eu/

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