



Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
The EU and Regional Integration in the EAC

'Jean Monnet in Africa'

University of Bradford (United Kingdom) in partnership with
PIASS Huye (Rwanda), Gulu University (Uganda), University of the Peloponnese (Greece),
Inter-University Council for East Africa (Uganda) and
East African Community Academic Network in Regional Integration (EAC).



The EU, the EAC, and the Role of Regional Integration in African Development

28-29 February 2024

**Protestant Institute of Arts & Social Sciences
Huye, Rwanda**



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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Jointly organised by:

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence '*Jean Monnet in Africa*', University of Bradford, UK
The Protestant Institute of Arts & Social Sciences (PIASS), Huye, Rwanda
The EAC Academic and Research Network for Regional Integration (EACANRI)

Partner institutions:

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)
The East African Community (EAC)
The EU Delegation to Rwanda
The European Union's ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Programme

University partners:

The University of Bradford, UK
Gulu University, Uganda
Bujumbura International University (BIU), Burundi
The University of the Peloponnese, Greece
The University of Rwanda

This international conference is organised jointly by **the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence** '*The European Union and Regional Integration in the East African Community*', also known as '*Jean Monnet in Africa*', based at the University of Bradford, UK, and **the Protestant Institute of Arts & Social Sciences** (PIASS) in Huye, Rwanda, where the event takes place. It is organised in close coordination with the ***Inter-University Council for East Africa*** (IUCEA) and the ***EAC Academic and Research Network for Regional Integration*** (EACANRI), founded in Bujumbura in 2022 and launched in Kigali in June 2023.

Rationale:

Jean Monnet in Africa is a research project funded by the European Commission's ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Programme. It is a follow-up project building on the past activities and achievements of the Jean Monnet Network *The EU, Africa and China in the Global Age* (EU-EAC), an event-intensive, sustainability project completed in 2021. This network, the first of its kind with a focus on regional integration studies in Africa, which led to the creation of EACANRI, comprised eight partner institutions, based essentially in EAC countries. The new, *Jean Monnet in Africa* project, brings together European and African academics, policy makers and civil society. It focuses on addressing issues of regional integration in the EAC and its member states. It generates knowledge and insights aiming to inform and support both EAC and EU policymaking. It includes active outreach and educational work that aims to spread knowledge to wider society about European, African and, more specifically, East African integration and endeavours to provide concrete, workable solutions that support East African integration efforts.

The *Jean Monnet in Africa* project plans a series of international conferences jointly with EACANRI, PIASS and Gulu University, in several EAC member states, in 2024 and beyond. The second conference, which will follow up this one, will be scheduled at Gulu University in Uganda at Spring 2024.

The project has at its heart the conviction that integration is a powerful driver of sustainable development, wealth generation, peace and security for the African continent, and that universities have a significant role to play in generating awareness on this among the new generations of young people who will be tomorrow's professionals, practitioners and decision makers in a rapidly changing Africa.

The project aims to launch a collective African and European reflection about the role that regional and continental integration will play in furthering the development of the African continent, with particular focus on Eastern Africa and the EAC, and the role that external actors like the European Union can play beyond its traditional role of aid donor. This reflection, which is of high importance for policy makers, both in the EU, the EAC and the AU, will be conducted in both an economic and geopolitical perspective, in close cooperation between (East) African and European academics, think tanks, diplomats and practitioners.

These conferences will also be organised under the thematic umbrella of '*35 Years of Jean Monnet Activities*', alongside other events planned by the Jean Monnet Community around the world, to celebrate 35 years of Jean Monnet Actions, and reflect on the present and future of European integration.

The conference at PIASS Huye examines how regional and continental integration can contribute to boosting economic and industrial development in Africa and create a favourable cooperative framework for sustainable development.

We invite proposals that analyse aspects linked to this overarching approach.

The conference will explore particularly, though not exclusively, the following themes and their relevance for African integration:

- EU-EAC relations and cooperation - The EU as a partner for (East) African integration.
- Economy, business, and integration - The impact of integration on economy, growth, markets, business, and private sector development.
- Trade and integration- Perspectives for regional and continental integration in Africa. Integration and development. Africa-EU trade, Africa-China trade, and the AfCFTA. Africa as a potential economic bloc in the 21st Century. The AfCFTA and the growth potential of a rising intra-African trade.
- External actors and integration - The EU's Global Gateway, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and African economic integration. Africa from development aid to large-scale investments: how can external actors like the EU contribute more effectively to African development and industrialisation?
- Regional / continental integration and institution-building in Africa – Lessons from the EU?
- The role of integration in promoting democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law.

- Social aspects - Education and regional integration. The impact of integration on migrations. Perspectives of integration for the African youth.
- Security issues, conflict resolution and conflict management in Africa: can integration be a solution? Which role for Europe?

The conference aims to have a balanced participation of both African and non-African attendants. Participation will include research scholars, analysts, policy makers and practitioners. Ample time will be devoted to engaging in debates between academics, policymakers and the audience.

Abstract proposals of 300 words maximum should be sent **by 5 January 2024** to Prof. Jean-Marc Trouille: j.m.l.trouille@bradford.ac.uk and Prof. Penine Uwimbabazi: u.penine@gmail.com

A selection of papers will be published in a select volume to be published by Routledge (subject to approval). Some of the presented papers will be published online in a Jean Monnet Paper Series.

Lunches and coffee breaks will be provided during the conference. There is no conference fee. Participants will need to pay for their travel, accommodation and, if applicable, visa costs. Help will be provided to finding accommodation and arranging transfers from Kigali Airport to Huye.

For further information, please contact Prof. Jean-Marc Trouille: j.m.l.trouille@bradford.ac.uk or Prof. Penine Uwimbabazi: u.penine@gmail.com .



INTER - UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA
(IUCEA)

"Quality Education for Development"



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