



- **THE 15th IUCEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEETING**

- **17th JULY 2024, JUBA – SOUTH SUDAN**

- **THEME: «Innovative Leadership and Governance Approaches in Higher Education: Towards EAC Common Higher Education Area»**

- **Panel Discussion I:**

- **Harmonisation of National Policies and Systems for the East African Common Higher Education Area**

- **Prof. Kabule Wetu Weva, Permanent Secretary, National Commission for Higher and University Education, Democratic Republic of Congo**

Introduction

**Harmonisation
in Higher
Education
enables:**

- **student and staff mobility,**
- **mutual recognition of qualifications,**
- **collaborative research within the region.**

Overview of Higher Education Landscape in DRC



Over 800 **Public & Private** institutions,
Universities, Pedagogical Institutes and
Technical Institutes.

**Over 650,000
students.**

Harmonisation Policy Framework in DRC

based on Bologna Process Reform

Bologna process
is an idea of
harmonisation.

- To allow for a smooth transition between different institutions across countries.
- To allow a similarity for students to transfer credits.
- It recommends the mobility of students, teaching staff and researchers.
- **National Commission for Higher and University Education** oversees procedures for accreditation and programs according to **Bologna Process** and **African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education Standards**.

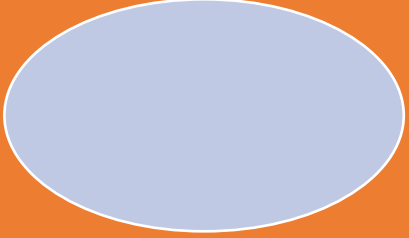
Harmonisation Policy Framework with IUCEA

- **The first Workshop in Kinshasa by IUCEA this last April made the Institutions attentive to IUCEA harmonisation requirements & its membership qualification.**

DRC Collaboration with IUCEA Institutional members of other countries:



Joint projects and policy dialogues with other IUCEA national Institutions for mutual recognition.



Joint Research Projects and Academic Exchanges between English and French IUCEA members



Joint Scientific Projects and Activities such as Regional conferences, harmonized curricula development.



Benefits of Harmonisation for DRC



Quality Improvement of our curriculum and teaching methods.

Improvement of practices and standards of our Quality Assurance Mechanisms.

Increasing Mobility of our Student and Staff.

Recognition of DRC Degrees and diplomas.

Enhanced research and innovation through regional partnerships.

Major Challenges:

Political Instability: Conflicts and political unrest that could affect benefits of harmonisation with other IUCEA members.

Administrative Instability within: Instability of Vice Chancellors, General Directors, Deans ...

Financial Constraints: Limited budget allocations for higher education for infrastructure, faculty, research and resources.

Resistance to Change: Institutional and cultural resistance to harmonisation policy reforms.

Capacity Building and Training for Stakeholders: Training educators and administrators to implement effectively new policies and standards of sustained regional harmonisation.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE OUTLOOK



Harmonisation is key to improving higher education quality and fostering regional cooperation.

DRC has made significant progress but needs continued efforts to fully align with IUCEA objectives.

Call to Action:

Encourage all stakeholders to actively participate in harmonisation initiatives.

Emphasize the importance of sustained collaboration between both regional English and French members.



Merci

For your attention