

The section SCIENTIA of the Vice Rectorate of the United Nations University (UNU) in Europe supports the development of research and science based policy programmes and explores innovative pathways to advance capacity development with a special focus on e-learning and knowledge management in the higher education context in developing countries.

Recognizing the critical role of knowledge, science and technology for Africa's development, UNU is working towards enhancing knowledge, research and quality education.

S Strategic Partnerships
C Capacity Development
I Internationalisation of Science
E Enhancement of UNU's activities in Africa, Europe & CIS
N Networking
T Technology and Science for Development
I Innovative Knowledge Exchange
A Africa Focus

Want to find out more?

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Vice Rectorate in Europe

SCIENTIA



Science Policy Higher Education, Science & Technology

International Science Policy Forums

As a contribution to the efforts towards creating appropriate strategies for Africa's development, UNU-ViE brings in its academic expertise in several consultation processes with multilateral and national entities from the field of Science and Technology: NEPAD, G8, TICAD and AMCOST.

Activities

- Advocacy
- Policy recommendations
- Support to elaboration of policy programmes
- Participation in policy processes
- Institutional capacity development
- International cooperation projects

Science for Sustainability

Science plays a crucial role in ensuring a sustainable future. Through international cooperation SCIENTIA helps to create a common understanding, turning the sustainability concept into research and practice.

In a project with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) SCIENTIA facilitates a science policy dialogue between Germany and South Africa, India and Russia to establish common research agendas for sustainability. SCIENTIA supports the preparation of the bilateral scientific expert meetings and conferences.

Strategic Planning & Partnerships

Africa Roadmap

UNU plays a strategic role in Africa as a dialogue facilitator, a capacity builder, a provider of postgraduate training and a promoter of innovation.

Motivated by the challenges of the African continent, e.g. lack of human and institutional resources, SCIENTIA is developing a roadmap for UNU's activities in and on Africa. Those activities aim to foster knowledge creation with a strong emphasis on home-grown and participatory "made-to-fit" solutions linked to UNU's continuing efforts to promote endogenous capacity development.

E-Learning Strategy

SCIENTIA makes a decisive effort to bring together UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes

Innovative Knowledge Exchange

Today there is no more doubt about the role of educational technologies as a means to enable higher education institutions to increase the outreach and the quality of their programmes significantly.

SCIENTIA concentrates on strengthening capacities (systemic, institutional and individual) in a higher education context. We promote knowledge creation and sharing in state-of-the-art educational technologies and innovative practices with a special emphasis on Africa.

Cross-cutting Themes

SCIENTIA focuses on

- pilot projects in the field of capacity development
- participatory approaches and collaborative processes

concerned with e-learning worldwide to build a UNU consolidated strategic approach to e-learning for capacity development.

SCIENTIA is engaged in the development of a strategic concept and implementation plan. The section creates and maintains networks and relevant partnerships.

How we do it

- Mapping out existing relations
- Strategy papers
- Roadmap implementation (UNU Africa Roadmap)
- Online educational community

- visual thinking and graphic facilitation
- e-learning and knowledge management

Outcomes

- Research & policy papers
- Electronic format dissemination (mailing list, newsletter)
- Online community (e-learning)
- Learning Management System (LMS): e.g. Moodle
- Online learning materials

SCIENTIA uses a holistic approach to education and learning. Pilot projects in cooperation with international partners include the creation of an e-learning centre at the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon, and introducing e-learning into the teaching and learning practices in East African universities in the area of Integrated Watershed Management Education.