FONDAZIONE
BANCO DI SICILIA

Senghor Agency for African talents project

Mission

To incentivate the academy education for the next executive African class. As a matter of fact, they have been planning to create a specialized agency for the european academy promotion in order to strengthen the cultural relationships between Europe and Africa.
The Agency takes down the name of Leopold Senghor, poet and President of Senegal who first came out with the expession "Eurafrica" to point out the tight connection between the two Continents.

The agency is aimed at filling the gap of cultural relationships between Italy and Africa which is witnessed by the small number of African students coming to study in Italy. Asian Countries can be considered as a pattern to their programmes focused not only on financial connections but also on cultural exchanges and training.

Agency activities:

- European universities Marketing and promotion
- Care of potential african students
- Distance learning
- Administrative and bureaucratic assistance
- University students recruiting
- Internship programmes
- Recruting on behalf of African and European companies in Africa
- *Induction* campus

So far, universities in England, Spain and Italy have expressed their interest in this project.

Applicants

- African students obtaining a diploma who want to enroll to the university
- Final year university students willing to continue their studies (master-research-doctorate)
- University students spending an unpaid work experience at a European university or company
- Professors from African universities willing to better their education in Europe.

It is extimated that in 7 years, 15.000 african students will come to Europe.

African Countries involved:

Camerun, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Green Cape, Ghana, Angola, Ethiopia, Uganda, Marocco.

Investments

€ 1 million for the first three years.

Means

The agency is going to be a Joint Stock Company with Fondazione Banco di Sicilia as a founding member. That is due to the fact that the Agency (once established) will be a profit institution, making money and able to pay its members.
Two different types of sharing are expected:

- as a founder member at the time of the deed partnership in order to get tax breaks
- as a service users after the agency establishment

The venue and the person in charged for the agency's start up haven't been chosen yet.

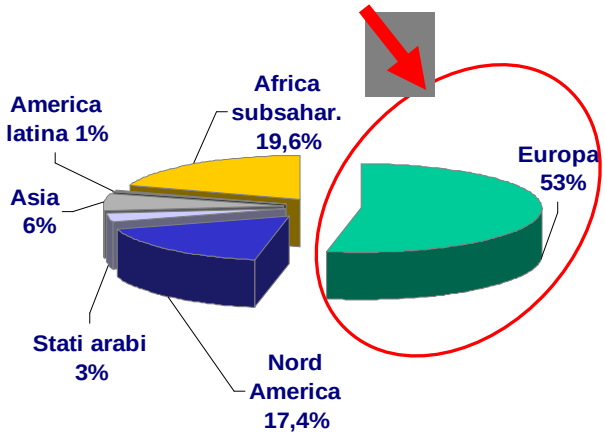
Benefits

- Europe:
    - European education and training of the next African executive class (students number and African universities networking extension)
    - New relationships between African and European universities.
- Africa:

- Qualified training and education of the executive class.
- Access to post university courses and skilled professors
- *brain drain* reduction

– African and European companies
  - Available African skilled staff

Africa Students abroad. Context data
African students abroad are almost 200.000* (1 every 18 students), of which 102.019 in Europe (almost 53%). France, 43%; UK, 25%; Portugal and Germany (with 10% flow per Country).



Italy still attracts few students (only 1.5% of the total flow almost 4.656 students) interested in engineering, medicine, economy and pharmacy.

Students mostly come from **Camerun (30%)**, **Marocco (21%)**, **Tunisia (12%)**, **Egypt (5%)**, **Republic of Congo (4%)** and **Democratic Republic of Congo (3%)**.

Due to the tight relationships between Africa and China, African students are always more inclined to go to the Asian Countries. Today 15.000 young Africans are studying in China (during the last China-Africa summit, it was announced that every year, almost 5.000 students go to specialize in China, while the number of Chinese culture institutes in Africa which is 18 today it will increase).

Some other Asian Countries such as India, Malasya and Thailand are about to start new cooperation programme with Africa.

* Global Education Digest of Unesco