

African Academic Credit System (ACTS)

Report of the Policy Country Visit to CAMEROON

(Yaoundé, 18th October 2024)

Date: Friday 18th October 2024 – 11.00 – 12.00

Location: Ministry of Higher Education (MINSUP) – Secretariat General, Yaoundé, Cameroon

ACTS Experts who participated in the visit:

- Larissa Odzebe Gidisu (AAU)
- Senghane Mbodji (Senegal Higher Education Expert)
- Wail Benejelloun (Higher Education Expert of OBREAL)
- Pablo Beneitone (Higher Education Expert of OBREAL)

List of participants from Cameroon are in the Appendix

The meeting gathered the Secretary General of MINSUP, Prof. Wilfred Ngabsa, Presidents and Vice Presidents of public and private universities, Deans of Faculties, Directors of national schools, representatives from private higher education institutions, and representatives of the Directorate of University Accreditation and Quality.

1. Purpose of the site visit

The objective of the visit was to present the ACTS initiative under the HAQAA3 project, to share an overview of credit systems in Africa and in Cameroon, and to engage in policy dialogue regarding the relevance, feasibility, and potential integration of the ACTS in the national higher education system. In particular:

- Validation and enrichment of the data provided by the countries through the responses to the State of the Art Questionnaire, with a particular focus on data on Cameroon.
- Presentation of ACTS initiative and its importance for international mobility and academic recognition.
- Discussion with participants for the identification of the main challenges for the implementation of ACTS at the national level.

2. Description of the visit

The visit focused on the presentation of the report from the survey on the Credit System being implemented in Cameroon and also on getting an understanding of how the credit system is being implemented and the related challenges. This document records the main aspects to be retained from the interactions that took place at the meeting and, in the end, presents the opinion of the members of the ACTS Technical Team on the possibilities and challenges of Cameroon's participation in the implementation phase of ACTS.

The opening session was chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education, who welcomed all participants and reaffirmed the commitment of the Cameroonian authorities to support initiatives aimed at strengthening higher education in Africa. The ACTS expert team presented the

HAQAA3 initiative, an overview of credit systems across Africa, and the state of implementation in Cameroon.

3. Systematisation and analysis of topic exchange during the visit

Main aspects to be retained:

The discussion highlighted several important dimensions for ACTS implementation, including:

- The need to ensure access to documents and data related to intra-African student mobility, which can support better tracking of African youth integrated into higher education systems in host countries.
- The importance of updating data on the higher education systems of Chad and Gabon, due to their close academic ties with Cameroon, and the necessity of improving the comparability and transparency of their qualifications.
- The relevance of considering community frameworks such as CEMAC and organizations like CAMES in the definition and implementation of ACTS.
- The need to define credits in the LMD system in terms of learning outcomes and student workload, including equivalency between face-to-face and virtual learning modalities.
- The necessity of harmonizing curricula following the implementation of ACTS, drawing from the good practices of the ECTS in Europe.
- The opportunity to build upon lessons learned from the Bologna Process.

Summary of proposals and recommendations:

- Integrate the consideration of regional community frameworks (e.g., CEMAC, CAMES) in the development of ACTS.
- Include the analysis of student migration trends within Africa as part of ACTS policy development.
- Ensure that ACTS is based on learning outcomes and student workload, adapted to the LMD system.

4. Opinion of the ACTS Technical Team on Cameroon's participation in the implementation phase

The meeting reflected a high level of institutional engagement and regional awareness. The ACTS team considers that Cameroon has strong potential to support and contribute to the implementation phase of ACTS, particularly due to its academic openness, experience in managing regional student flows, and the presence of diverse institutional actors. Moving forward, the focus should be on coordinating existing community frameworks, aligning national reforms, and promoting active participation in the ACTS pilot phase