

## **African Academic Credit System (ACTS)**

### **Report of the Policy Country Visit to COTE D'IVOIRE**

#### **(Abidjan, 21<sup>ST</sup> October 2024)**

**Date:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – 11.00 – 12.00

**Location:** Location: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) – Tour B, 15th Floor, Plateau, Abidjan

#### **ACTS Experts who participated in the visit:**

- Pablo Beneitone (Higher Education Expert of OBREAL)
- Senghane Mbodji (Higher Education Expert of Senegal)
- Adewale Obadina (AAU)

#### **List of participants from Cote d'Ivoire are in the Appendix**

The meeting gathered Technical Advisors to the Minister, Vice Presidents of Universities, representatives from the Directorate of Public Higher Education (DSUP), the Directorate General for Quality in Higher Education (DGQE), and a representative of private higher education institutions.

### **1. Purpose of the site visit**

The objective of the visit was to present the ACTS initiative under the HAQAA3 project, to provide an overview of credit systems in Africa, and to engage national stakeholders in dialogue on the positioning, implementation, and relevance of a continental credit system in the Ivorian context. 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 Cote d'Ivoire.
- 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 Cote d'Ivoire 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 Cote d'Ivoire's participation in the implementation phase of ACTS.

The opening session was chaired by Professor Merawa Mohammadou, Technical Advisor to the Minister, who welcomed participants and reaffirmed Côte d'Ivoire's readiness to support all initiatives aimed at strengthening higher education in Africa. Following a round of introductions, the ACTS experts and a representative of the Association of African Universities presented the current state of credit systems in Africa.

### 3. Systematisation and analysis of topic exchange during the visit

Main aspects to be retained:

Several key observations and reflections were shared during the discussion:

- The naming of the credit system should avoid being geographically restrictive; references to Africa in the title may present challenges.
- The importance of ensuring that the system enables visibility and comparability of programs while maintaining alignment with global standards.
- The credit definition should incorporate workload, disciplinary orientation, and competencies to be acquired by students.
- The outcomes of Tuning Africa I and II projects, which emphasized student workload, should be integrated into the development of ACTS.
- The national LMD reform in Côte d'Ivoire has incorporated a credit system since 2009, which is a valuable basis for ACTS implementation.

Summary of proposals and recommendations:

- Ensure the credit system remains open to global recognition while remaining rooted in African realities.
- Capitalize on prior regional initiatives such as REESAO, CAMES, RESIRAC, CEMAC, and Tuning Africa I & II.
- Inform the Minister of MESRS about Côte d'Ivoire's interest in participating in the ACTS pilot phase.

### 4. Opinion of the ACTS Technical Team on Cote d'Ivoire's participation in the implementation phase

The visit demonstrated a strong institutional interest and policy maturity regarding the development of academic credit systems. Given its early adoption of a credit-based LMD system since 2009 and engagement with continental initiatives, Côte d'Ivoire is well positioned to contribute actively to the pilot and implementation of ACTS. Coordination with the MESRS and follow-up communication with national authorities will be essential for next steps.