

African Academic Credit System (ACTS)

Report of the Policy Country Visit to KENIA

(Nairobi, 9th September 2024)

Date: Monday 9th September 2024 – 15.00 – 17.00

Location: Safari Hotel (in the framework of the 13th Annual East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum)

ACTS Experts who participated of the visit:

- Ana Maria Nhampule (Higher Education Expert of Mozambique)
- Pablo Beneitone (Higher Education Expert of OBREAL)
- Apiyo Okwiri (Project manager OBREAL)
- Robert Ayine (IUCEA)

List of participants from National authorities:

- Mike Kuria - Commission Secretary – Commission for University Education in Kenya

1. Purpose of the site visit

- Validation and enrichment of the data provided by the countries through the responses to the Mapping Study Questionnaire, with a particular focus on data on Kenya.

2. Objectives of the meeting:

- Presentation of ACTS initiative and its importance for international mobility and academic recognition.
- Discussion with HEC authorities for the identification of the main challenges for the implementation of ACTS at national level.

3. Description of the visit

The primary aims were to validate the ACTS country survey of Kenya and review the challenges, prospects, and gains associated with ACTS, and to outline a clear way forward for successful implementation.

Prof. Kuria explained that every institution has its own institutionalized credit system that guides admission and it is based on a maximum amount of up to 49% of the graduation load of a programme that can be transferred to another institution. There are also provisions within the policies that allow for students to complete their education cycle at another university. This is under the Universities standards & guidelines for academic programmes.

The barrier to implementation of a credit system at national level is the challenge of recognition and equating of qualifications. In terms of what should be done to implement a credit system, a directive has been issued to finalize the development of a credit transfer system which is under way.

After brief introductions led by Robert Ayine, there were presentations by Pablo Beneitone and Anna Maria Nhampule on the state of the art on the ACTS, which emanated jointly from the collaboration between the AU and the EU. Pablo Beneitone gave a historical account of the phases of HAQAA starting from its inception in 2015. He mentioned 5 phases of the ACTS going forward namely updated State of the Art in Africa on academic credits; lobbying for ACTS at regional and national level: Workshops and national visits to public authorities, piloting the ACTS: 100 universities from 10

African countries to revise study programs; piloting the ACTS: Assigning credits to the degree programs, and developing the ACTS User's Guide. Pablo Beneitone alluded to the workload range of 1350-1850 and 60 credits per academic year, which hinges on number of credits instead of contact hours.

Anna Maria Nhampule presented preliminary findings on the state of the ACTS survey report in terms of the current situation regarding academic credits in higher education in African countries, and narrowed it down to Eastern Africa and Kenya, with a view to gathering contributions for its validation and enrichment. She began with the conceptual and methodological framework of the State of the Art study. It emerged that several countries in Africa had implemented national credit systems and qualifications framework under the aegis of the AU member states. Countries were at various stages of the implementation and had experienced varied successes.

4. Commitment of the policy authorities with ACTS implementation phase

The Commission for University Education expressed their willingness to be part of the implementation phase of ACTS

5. Opinion of the ACTS Technical Team on Kenya's participation in the implementation phase

The meeting concluded with a consensus on the importance of a coordinated effort to overcome the challenges associated with ACTS implementation. In the opinion of the ACTS Expert Team, Kenya offers wide possibilities for participation in the implementation phase of ACTS.

The commitment of the Commission for University Education can play a relevant role in the coordination and management of activities at the national level, with the engagement of the selected HEIs and with wide possibilities of extending the implementation of ACTS to other HEIs, as one of the impact results of the pilot implementation.