PAMCIT: the African Master’s in interpretation & translation network

Nina OKAGBUE
PERMANENT COORDINATOR, PAMCIT
UNON, Nairobi
nina.okagbue@unon.org

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#UnivUN17
To start

PAMCIT:

• 6 top African universities
• The best translators and conference interpreters on the continent
• Immense multilingual talent in Africa: nurture it for international demand
A look back

Once upon a time...

In the beginning...
A look back

2008 – a lunch in Brussels

2009 – The African Project

2011 – early stages of PAMCIT
Today

December 2015 – signature

July 2016 – PAMCIT Secretariat begins operations

Support: EC, UNON
Why we are here

Common:
• Experiences
• Concerns
• Challenges
• Objectives
• Ambitions
Why does PAMCIT exist?

- High demand for interpreters & translators
- Difficulty finding trained/qualified language professionals
- Role of skilled professionals
- Impact on quality of work, sustainability/credibility of the profession
Meeting the need

PAMCIT offer:

• 2-year MA based on EMT and EMCI curricula
• Leading universities
• Adapted facilities
• Practitioner-trainers from Africa and Europe
What we do: Harmonisation

6 African centres of excellence

Advanced School of Translators & Interpreters (ASTI), University of Buéa,
Cameroon

Image: University of Buea web site
What we do: Harmonisation

6 African centres of excellence

Faculty of Al-Alsun, Aïn Shams University
Egypt

Image: Aïn Shams University web site
What we do: Harmonisation

6 African centres of excellence

University of Ghana
Ghana

Image: University of Ghana web site
What we do: Harmonisation

6 African centres of excellence

University of Nairobi
Kenya

Image: University of Nairobi web site
What we do: Harmonisation

6 African centres of excellence

Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique
Mozambique

Image: Universidade Pedagógica de Moçambique web site
What we do: Harmonisation

6 African centres of excellence

Université Gaston Berger
Senegal

Image: Université Gaston Berger web site
What we do: Harmonization

Since July 2016:

• Agreements – 5 universities
• Aïn Shams in process
• Course harmonization – March 2017
• Harmonized selection, assessment, teaching approaches
What we do: Support to universities

Translators, interpreters & trainers:
• Teaching, trainer training
• Practical knowledge, diverse perspectives
• Build relationships between institutions
What we do: Support to universities

Since July:

• 7 visiting trainers – EC, Instituto Camões, etc.
• Remote assistance – UN New York
• 3 trainer training events
• Support – AIIC Africa training committee
• Discussions – EC DGT; EMCI; EMT
What we do: Funding to universities

Funding for:

- External trainer remuneration
- Trainer skills building – training, exchange visits
- Visiting trainers
- Facilities, equipment, didactic tools, pedagogical resources
- Communication, coordination, grant management
What we do: Funding to universities

Since July 2016:

• Grants to all 5 operating universities
What we do: Selection & assessment

- Competitive examinations
- Evaluation – language proficiency, general knowledge, understanding, aptitude
- Budget for intake announcements
- Selection/assessment panels and advisory
- University networks - OIF, Instituto Camões, embassies...
What we do: Selection & assessment

Since July:
• 120 new students in Master’s programmes across 5 universities
What we do: Funding for students

- Tuition fees
- Other study-related expenses
- Study visits
- Internships
What we do: Funding for students

Since July:
• 125 students -
• 66 students – tuition support
• 1 PhD student
What we do: International & professional exposure

- Study visits - Universidad La Laguna, Universidade de Lisboa, etc
- In discussion – Université Saint-Joseph, London Metropolitan University
- Internships – UN HQ, AU, AfDB, ECOWAS, Pan-African Parliament, ICC, FAO...
What we do: International & professional exposure

Since July:

• 59 internships – UN HQ, AU, AfDB, ECOWAS, Pan-African Parliament, ICC, FAO, government ministries
• Post-study internship/employment offers
• Study visits
What we do: Employment

- Graduate visibility initiatives
- Opportunities – Rio Olympics 2016
What we do: Employment

Since July:

• 46 graduates – regular work
• 20 graduates - bureaux
To summarise – since July:

**Universities**
- 5 operating
- 1 in progress

**4 major languages**
- All official AU languages
- 4 of 6 official UN languages

**Harmonisation**
- Master’s programmes
- Selection, assessment

**Students**
- 125 new Master’s
- 1 PhD

**Grants**
- 5 universities
- 126 students

**Trainers**
- Visiting trainers
- Trainer training
- Exchange visits

**Student mobility**
- Study visits
- Internships

**Employment opportunities**
What next? Communication & visibility

- Attract students, trainers, partners, opportunities
- Brand awareness
- Visibility and messaging
What next? Communication & visibility

Build recognition, demand & support:
• Brand identity
• Communication strategy
• Web site
• Social media
What next? Safeguard the profession

- Practices & attitudes vs. quality
- Staff cuts
- Rate cuts
- Working conditions & practices
- Grey market
- Dialogue – fora, articles, etc.
What next? More expertise

- African languages
- Public service interpreting
- Sign language
- Machine translation for other languages
- Africa-specific research (e.g. migration flows and language mediation)
In closing

• Sustainability
• EC funding - 2018
• Partners required
Gracias | Спасибо | Merci | Thank you | 谢谢 | شكرا
Questions? Comments?

Running out of time?
Please follow up with the main speaker by email: nina.okagbue@unon.org