



Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

With the May edition of our ASAF newsletter, we would like to inform you about ASAF's progress during the past three months.

Despite the CORONA pandemic, which has been and is still challenging our plans and next steps, we were able to achieve some major goals thanks to the plentiful resources and the commitment of our ASAF members.

Please find ASAF's latest developments, important news from both the African and European Union as well as interesting and worth-knowing information from ASAF's sister organisations on the following pages.

Until then stay safe and sound,
Your ASAF team

Official ASAF Logo

We are pleased to announce that the official ASAF logo and style guide for ASAF'S corporate identity and corporate design have been finalised by mid-May. Based on the results of our online survey conducted with the ASAF members back in February, and several feedback loops, including the European and African Union, the final product is a catchy and modern logo which already has been applied in the design of this newsletter.

The African map, surrounded by a circle, is the key feature of the ASAF logo. The circle itself has been chosen to reflect mobility and inclusion, two crucial factors of ASAF's identity. To display the academic dimension, a graduation hat has been added; the three-colour scheme, consisting of the colours of the African Union (green), the European Union (blue) and yellow (standing for knowledge and intellect), represents ASAF's diversity and educational dimension.

The full style guide will be shared with members of the ASAF Community soon.

Many thanks for the valuable input go to the 486 (!) ASAF members who took part in the online logo survey, and above all to the **Corporate Design - Logo Task Force** for the work and dedication to the process.

Statement on COVID-19 to all ASAF members

As already mentioned in the introduction, and being an undeniable fact, we are currently facing difficult times due to the pandemic. However, our member Felix Donkor found the right words dedicated to all ASAF members in order to motivate us to keep on growing and to stick together in these times. Thank you for taking your time to share with us the specific actions as outlined by the World Health Organization to tackle the virus together as well as to encourage ASAF members to take action and to support each other, e.g. by sharing creative ideas, in this motivating and positive statement on COVID-19 to the community.

Registered ASAF members can find the whole statement from 23 April 2020 in the news feed of the [ASAF Online Community](#).

In this regard, the great work of the Translation Task Force is to be mentioned, whose members did more than well in their first task which consisted of translating (and proofreading) the English version of the statement into French. Thank you for being a crucial part of ASAF by guaranteeing its bilingualism and thus making content accessible both for our English and our French speakers, thus facilitating bigger outreach on the African Continent.

ASAF task forces in progress

Regarding the latest ASAF milestones, the activation and work of some of our task forces will be listed below to keep you up to date:

- The Corporate Design - Logo Task Force played an important role during the logo development process by sharing ideas, impressions, and helpful feedback regarding the proposals for the official ASAF logo.
- The IT Development Task Force has been working on both the navigation, and the content of the future ASAF website. Without your commitment, the development of the ASAF website (which is planned to be launched by mid-June) would not be possible!
- The Translation Task Force completed its first tasks by translating and proofreading the above-mentioned statement on COVID-19 from EN into FR, as well as by proofreading the French website content. Thank you for contributing to ASAF's bilingualism and for your proficiency!
- The Social Media Task Force has gathered diverse and important content to activate ASAF members and/or reach out to potential ASAF members via Social Media. Thank you for sharing your ideas, we can not wait to see them implemented via ASAF's Social Media channels.

Not a follower yet? Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) (Linkedin still in progress).

Are you an ASAF member keen on joining one of our task forces to help ASAF grow faster? Check out the different task forces in the group list of our [Online Community](#) and apply for the task force that best suits you!

Africa Day 2020: Silencing the guns

25 May is African Union Day, or Africa Day. Even though this year's offline events and social gatherings cannot take place as planned, we would like to encourage you to [get informed about](#) this year's theme of the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which is 'Silencing the guns'.

New strategy between the African Union and the EU

"Together we can build a more prosperous, more peaceful and more sustainable future for all." - Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

In the framework of the ongoing negotiations towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa, the European Commission and the European External Action Service have announced their intention to work with Africa to address five key global trends:

1. The Green Transition and Energy Access
2. The Digital Transformation

3. Sustainable Growth and Jobs
4. Peace, Security and Governance
5. Migration and Mobility

This new strategy is outlined in a joint communication published on 09 March 2020. Among other things and of special interest for ASAF, the document includes recommendations for supporting academic mobility between European and African countries. For further information, the factsheet as well as the full joint communication, [click here](#).

Meet the neighbours of the neighbours during COVID-19 times

“Meet the neighbours of the neighbours during COVID-19 times” is a European Commission initiative of cultural breaking-out for youth from Europe, Africa and the Mediterranean bringing the EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL online and freely accessible through the streaming platform FestivalScope.org. Around 40 high-quality films about the respective cultures, providing for a mutual understanding and build solid basis to strengthen fertile inter-cultural dialogue will be available on a first-come first-served basis for up to 1000 users for each film **until 04 June 2020**. Please find the access to the 20 European feature films for audience from Africa here:

<https://www.festivalscope.com/all/festival/meeteu>

For more information and screening schedules please visit:

<https://cultureexchange.eu/>

Enjoy the movies!

ASAF is part of the Pan-African programme to support the Africa-EU strategic partnership. Within this programme, and together with HAQAA2 and Tuning3, ASAF forms the AU-EU Higher Education Programme, which aims at enhancing human capital development in Africa. It is a pleasure to inform you about the achievements of our sister programmes with which ASAF aims to collaborate closely in the future.

Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation initiative 2 (HAQAA2)

HAQAA2's main objective is “to improve the quality and harmonisation of African higher education and support students' employability and mobility across the continent”. The specific objectives are the further enhancement of quality assurance culture in higher education institutions; enhancing capacities of quality assurance agencies to implement African standards and guidelines for quality assurance and cross-regional coordination; strengthening capacities of the AU in implementing the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF).

HAQAA2 is intended to build upon, upscale and promote the results of HAQAA1 (2015-2018) which has underpinned and advanced the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) via

1. Continental training for nationally elected QA professionals on a 'common understanding for quality in Africa',
2. Developing, consulting and endorsing African Standards for Quality Assurance in higher education (ASG-QA),
3. Further promoting and implementing the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM),
4. Developing a methodology for evaluating quality assurance agencies in Africa according the ASG-QA and piloting this in eight countries,
5. Generally promoting the PAQAF via a website and database of QA professionals and planting the seeds for a network of ambassadors for HAQAA and PAQAF, more widely.

For more information please consult the HAQAA website or use this link:

<http://haqaa2.obsglob.org/>

For more initiatives on any of the above activities, please contact haqaa@obreal.org

Tuning Africa

According to the African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25) "harmonized education and training systems are essential for the realization of intra-Africa mobility and academic integration through regional cooperation".

Tuning Africa helps to harmonise ("tune") higher education programmes in Africa through crossborder academic collaboration in order to facilitate intra-Africa and international academic exchanges and to improve the quality and relevance of curricula. The curricula developed through Tuning Africa are both tailored to local socio-economic needs and comparable across different African countries in terms of structures, programmes and teaching.

The Tuning Africa community includes 107 universities in 41 African countries. Overall, they have so far revised 60 programmes, designed 30 new programmes in 8 academic disciplines and 9 joint programmes and trained 840 academic staff. Tuning Africa is planned to be further extended to other African countries and universities. The Tuning methodology was first developed in the European Union and is now used around the world.

For further information on Tuning Africa, consult [their website here](#).

Relaunch Website OCEANS Network start of May

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the new website of the international

OCEANS network (Organisation for Cooperation, Exchange and Networking: Student & Alumni network of international exchange programmes) which has been launched on 07 May 2020. Feel free to check out the new modern and appealing design, which makes the [new website](#) much more responding and therefore represents a crucial step towards an increased visibility and outreach of the network to externals.

OCEANS gathers, like ASAF, students and alumni with international mobility experiences gained under ERASMUS+ focussing on the international credit mobility with a global focus. Supported by the same division of DG EAC, it is kind of a sister network of ASAF.

What's next?

- The next ASAF milestone will be the launch of the official ASAF website by mid-June 2020.

Contact information:

Topics concerning general questions about ASAF or mobility:

info@asaf.africa or call +49 221 25997921.

Technical assistance: it-support@asaf.africa or call +49 221 139319-0.

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