



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

Welcome to the July edition of the ASAF Newsletter! Surprised because our last newsletter reached you only a few weeks ago? Well that's good news: A short-term interval means that there has been a lot going on within ASAF in June!

Our goal is to keep you up to date on ASAF's activities and latest achievements, so here you go with the latest news from and for ASAF. We are happy that – despite COVID-19 – ASAF found suitable ways and alternatives to keep on „meeting“ and developing.

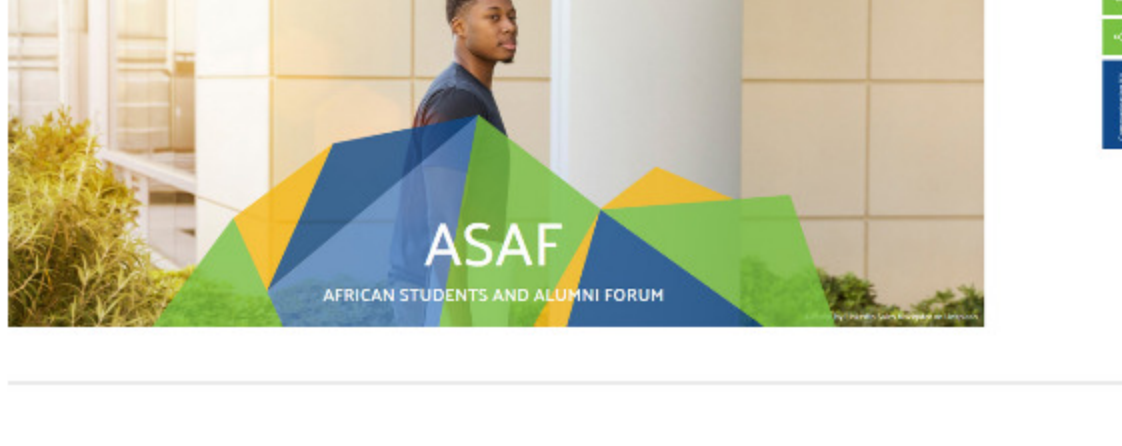
Enjoy!
Your ASAF team

ASAF website LIVE since 06 July 2020

We are pleased and proud to announce that the **official ASAF website** has finally been launched on **06 July 2020**! You can now check out and navigate through the [website here](#).

Many thanks go to the **ASAF IT Development and Logo Task Forces** who participated in creating the layout and design which come into full effect through this new website.

Each of you has done a great job, the result is fresh, appealing, and up to date!



ASAF style guide available in online Community

Great news! The ASAF style guide is now uploaded and accessible in the ASAF online Community. What does the ASAF style guide contain and what is its purpose?

The style guide is meant to provide guidelines for the way ASAF should be presented from both a language and graphic perspective. Therefore, the used and accepted colours, fonts, types of logo, claims and other design elements to present ASAF are outlined in this official document.

ASAF members can find the guide in the public group „Promotion Kit“ in the general group list or by simply [clicking here](#).

Not an ASAF member yet? Check out the [eligibility criteria](#) here or directly [apply here](#)!

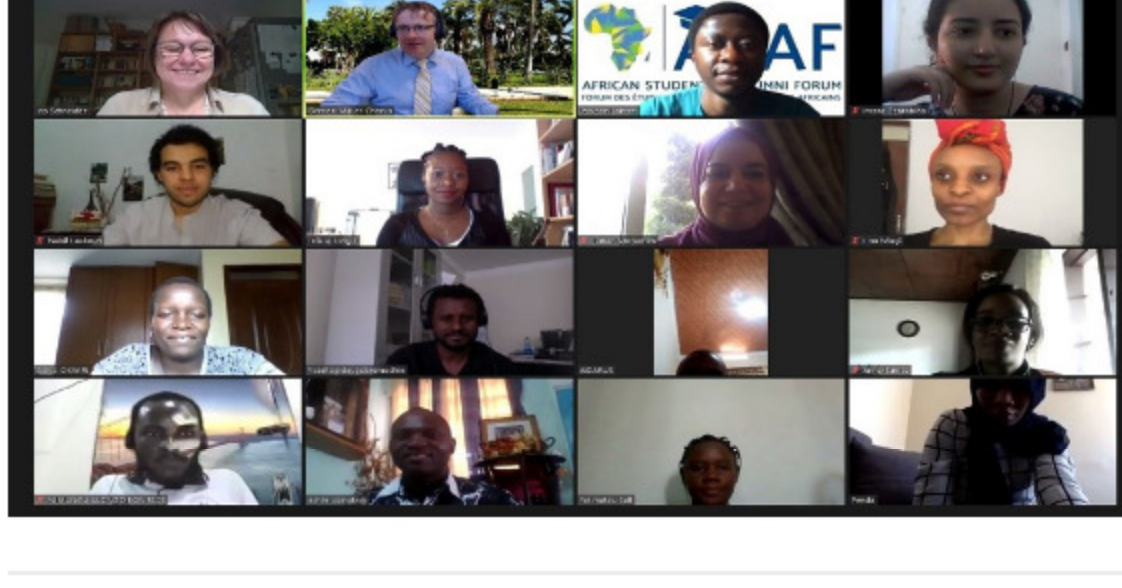
ASAF Report

BY NABIL LAAKOUN

Strategic Development Meeting– 27/28 June 2020 - online

On 27 and 28 June 2020, me and 15 other members were honoured to participate in the ASAF Strategic Development Meeting 2020. The meeting would normally have taken place in Dakar - Senegal. Sadly, COVID-19 had a different opinion. In other words, we had to do it virtually and from distance. ASAF members from 10 different African countries met online and shared their ideas with the others actively.

This virtual meeting had as its pillars four important components: ASAF's mission, vision, strategy, and membership. In order to move forward at a steady pace, we divided ourselves into small groups of 3 or 4 members to discuss the above-mentioned issues during several break-out sessions. Coming from different countries and cultural backgrounds, the diversity led to the flourishing of enriching ideas. In the end, we were able to put together a whole collection of ideas that will enable ASAF, in the near future, to better target its mission, vision, strategy and membership. And as a kind of crowning glory of our meeting, we were honoured to present and divulge our ideas in front of Mrs. Fiorella Perotto who represents the European Commission.



ASAF Skills Development Trainings 2020

The ASAF Skills Development Trainings were a series of **online trainings** offered to ASAF members **from 24 June to 07 July 2020**. All trainings focussed on the challenges and advantages of working remotely and virtually in order to respond to the current COVID-situation.

The 23 offered trainings were divided into 3 Online Academies (held in English) for up to 200 participants, 14 webinars for medium groups (up to 30 participants and available in both English and French) and 6 workshops for small groups of only 10 persons maximum (held in English).

The topics covered were:

- Online Academy *Remote Work & Collaboration*
- Webinar *Successful virtual collaboration*
- Webinar *Managing Home-office – How to work efficiently from home*
- Webinar *Resilience in times of crisis*
- Webinar *Living in a VUCA world*
- Workshop *Leading across distance – What changes in virtual environments?*
- Workshop *Trusting is good – control is better? The role of trust in remote teams*
- Workshop *Teamwork across distance – new soft skills for remote collaboration*

During these interactive sessions, ASAF members gained crucial skills regarding remote work and could exchange their experiences and impressions.

Here are some impressions from our members who participated in one of the trainings:

The ASAF online Skill Training for me was...



„...very informative. A lot of information was given and I learned new things and even I have a different view of remote work and I am actually analysing how it can contribute to improve the work performance, how it can be used to reduce unemployment mostly in the sub Saharan African countries and how it can contribute to work with people or companies or institutions located far away from the skilled person.“

– Joseph Honore Nguetti



„...beneficent & conveniently covering all aspects of remote work.“

– Rasha Soliman



„...a smart opportunity to meet other members and meet 'virtually' other persons from the organisation team in this period of pandemic.“

– Nabil Laakoun



Council of European Union adopts conclusions on Africa

On 30 June 2020, the **Council of the European Union adopted conclusions** *“on the path to a deeper and stronger partnership, living up to the European and African aspirations”*.

These Conclusions, which are largely inspired by the EU Communication [“Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa”](#) adopted on 9 March 2020, contain several references to education, skills, mobility and youth issues, primarily presented under point 2. A *Partnership for Digital Transformation* and 3. A *Partnership for Sustainable Growth and Jobs* (pages 5 – 9 of the [Joint Communication which you can read here](#)) . The approval of conclusions on Africa emphasises the importance of a **stronger EU-Africa partnership**.

To read the **full press release**, [click here](#).



Surveys on COVID-19 impact on student mobility – results online

In May 2020, the European Commission ran two surveys to collect the views of mobility participants and higher education institutions on how the COVID-19 outbreak has affected the ordinary course of their projects and activities respectively:

1. **Coronavirus - European Universities Initiative impact survey:** a survey with the 114 higher education institutions taking part in the first 17 European Universities. The survey was run to better understand the way European Universities jointly address common challenges brought by the crisis but also to grasp the extent to which being part of a European University has contributed to alleviate such impact. [Please find the results here](#).
2. **Coronavirus - learning mobilities impact survey,** sent to 57,000 participants representing all types of mobility supported under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. The survey was run to collect the views of mobility participants on how the Covid-19 outbreak affected the ordinary course of their mobility activities. [Please find the results here](#).

Please note that there is no distinction made between EU and non-EU countries/participants in these surveys. However, the results are very interesting and revealing!



E-learning platform Trace Academia

Trace Academia, “a place to share and follow research”, is a new free online-learning platform that gives young people around the world access to education. As part of the section “culture” of the platform [trace.tv](#), Trace Academia presented its vision to empower African youth all over the world in April 2020.

The informative and entertaining platform provides vocational training, entrepreneurship, soft skills & wellbeing courses, and can even help young people find their dream job.

Curious? Check out [Trace TV Africa here](#) or **go directly** to [Trace Academia here](#).

Most importantly: Enjoy, have fun, and discover a new motivating and entertaining way of education!



As you can see, all parties involved – that is to say the ASAF community with its committed members, the European Commission, and the Service Provider – are currently adapting the services and support for ASAF to cope with the pandemic and safeguard its further development.

We will do our best to keep on finding solutions, and we are convinced that the conducted ASAF Skills Development Trainings on working and collaborating successfully from distance are a first step into the right direction.

Until then, stay healthy!



Contact information:

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