

PEERS

Africa-Europe Partnership to Exchange on Education Reforms

Overview

The Africa-Europe Partnership to Exchange on Education Reforms (PEERS) was born out of a deep conviction that building and sharing knowledge among peers, coordinating education policies at the regional level, and strengthening cooperation between Member States are key to developing high-quality education policies that meet the challenges facing the youth of tomorrow. The same understanding was used at the start of the European Education Area, which has resulted in enhanced coordination and better alignment of education policies across European Union member states.

At the heart of these dynamics, **regional economic communities drive and facilitate the development of knowledge,**

data, and alliances between countries to build and strengthen design, implementation and monitoring of **quality, gender-responsive, inclusive, green and digital education policies.** At stake is quality education, improved academic achievement and skills, and the development of opportunities for African youth to break the cycle of poverty and build more peaceful societies.

PEERS is an initiative for and within two of the Regional economic communities in sub-Saharan Africa: the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC). In the 20 countries they represent, 89% of 10-year-olds cannot read or understand a simple text (ADEA, 2025)

and 50 to 60% of young people lack basic skills when they enter the labor market (IUCEA 2024). Faced with climate risks and the digital divide that exacerbate disparities, it is urgent that countries accelerate their responses to the education crisis in order to prepare young people for the challenges that await them.

Good practices exist within states, but they are not systematically documented or shared. Regional economic communities are aware of the challenges and issues facing African education policies, but their capacity for action is too often limited. For five years, PEERS will support their agenda, challenges, and capacities in the service of high-quality education policies.

Key information

 **Total budget:** €15 million

 **Focus:** ECOWAS (12 states) and EAC (8 states), representing 711 million people in need of quality education services

 **Duration:** June 2025 to June 2030

 **Contribution:** Sustainable Development Goal 4, African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 26-35)

 **Implementing agencies:** Expertise France (EF), Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI), Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Gender and inclusion



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34 million girls are outside the education system in sub-Saharan Africa and 42% do not reach secondary education. (ADEA, 2025) Children with disabilities and migrant children are not sufficiently taken into account in education policies.

Green / Climate Change



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40 million children have their education disrupted by climate disasters, with no risk reduction strategy in place. Acquiring green skills through the education system would prepare young people to contribute to green economy and strengthen their resilience to climate challenges. (UNICEF, 2025)

Digital



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The digital gap is an obstacle to continuity in education. Digital resources are rarely available in local languages, and teachers are insufficiently trained in digital education. A lack of digital literacy can be a barrier to entering the job market.

Contributions of PEERS to Regional Economic Communities and their Member States

Regional coordination for the development, implementation, and monitoring of education policies

Strengthened coordination of education policies between Member States will enhance regional integration and resource sharing. PEERS will support working groups and forums for dialogue within regional economic communities on three priority themes, with a view to promoting collective learning and the coordinated development of high-quality education policies.

Peer learning and identification of best practices

Gender, Green, and Digital: best practices exist in many ECOWAS and EAC member states; also in the EU. PEERS will offer opportunities for study trips, exchanges of best practices, and collaboration between the Regional economic communities, as well as between the Regional economic communities and Europe.

Use of scientific data in policy development and harmonization

To ensure a solid evidence-base which can inform policies, data circulation and validation needs to be strengthened. PEERS will support the analysis of existing data, its dissemination, and its generation when it is lacking, in order to promote the development of education policies based on scientific evidence. Regional economic communities are gaining international influence, thanks to their data-based recommendations.

PEERS will launch its activities in January 2026

Education experts, policymakers, education policy stakeholders, and specialists in priority areas (Green / Gender-Inclusion/ Digital) are invited to register now to learn more about the launch of the activities and opportunities for participation.

Scan the QR code and fill out the form to stay informed and benefit from the program.



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