



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

EU-AU MODULE LAUNCH
A Comparative Analysis of the European Union and African Union Regional Integration Models

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
DEPARTMENT OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

12 January 2026

Time: EAC 9.00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Mode: Hybrid (Physical – Chandaria Auditorium and Virtual)

Background

Regional integration is a central pillar of contemporary international relations, global governance, and sustainable development. Across regions, integration frameworks are increasingly relied upon to address transboundary challenges such as trade, peace and security, climate change, public health, and digital transformation.

The **European Union (EU)** represents the most advanced and institutionalized model of regional integration globally, characterized by supranational governance, pooled sovereignty, and legally binding frameworks. The **African Union (AU)**, on the other hand, reflects Africa's evolving integration trajectory, grounded in pan-African ideals, intergovernmental cooperation, and development-oriented regionalism, as articulated in **Agenda 2063**.

Despite growing Africa–Europe cooperation, there remains a critical need for **structured, comparative, and Africa-based academic training** that systematically examines these two integration models. Addressing this gap is essential for nurturing a new generation of African scholars, diplomats, policymakers, and practitioners with informed perspectives on regionalism.

In response, the **Department of Diplomacy and International Studies at the University of Nairobi**, with support from the **European Union**, is launching a new **Master's-level teaching module titled “Comparative Study on the European Union and the African Union.”** The module will be offered initially for **three academic years** and embedded within the University's Master's programmes in International Studies and related fields.

The formal launch of this module provides an opportunity to showcase EU–Africa academic cooperation, articulate the intellectual and policy relevance of comparative regionalism, and engage key stakeholders from academia, diplomacy, and development practice.

Overall Objective

To strengthen academic capacity and policy-relevant knowledge on regional integration in Africa through the launch and implementation of a comparative Master's-level teaching module on the European Union and the African Union.

Description of the Teaching Module

The module “**Comparative Study on the European Union and the African Union**” is designed as a graduate-level course combining theoretical foundations with applied comparative analysis. Key areas of focus include:

- Historical evolution of the EU and AU
- Institutional structures and governance systems
- Legal frameworks and decision-making processes
- Economic integration and development models
- Peace, security, and conflict management mechanisms
- External relations and global influence of regional organizations
- Comparative lessons, challenges, and future reform pathways

The module will be delivered through lectures, seminars, case studies, and guided research assignments, ensuring a balance between academic rigor and policy relevance.

Launch Event Description

The **Module Launch Event** serves as the formal introduction of the programme to the academic community, development partners, and policymakers. The event will:

- Publicly inaugurate the teaching module
- Highlight the European Union's support and partnership
- Provide an overview of the module's academic content and objectives
- Facilitate dialogue on the relevance of comparative regional integration studies

The event will feature keynote remarks, including a launch address by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, alongside contributions from EU representatives, faculty members, and invited experts.

Target Beneficiaries

- Master's students in Diplomacy, International Relations, and related disciplines
- Academic staff involved in teaching and research on regionalism

- Early-career scholars and researchers
- Policymakers and practitioners engaged in Africa–Europe cooperation

Sustainability and Follow-Up Activities

The teaching module will be offered for **three consecutive academic years**, with content periodically reviewed to ensure relevance and quality. As an **ancillary and complementary activity**, an **annual Summer Camp on Comparative EU–AU Regional Integration** will be organized at the end of each teaching cycle to deepen experiential learning, practitioner engagement, and applied comparative analysis. The Summer Camp will reinforce, but not substitute, the core teaching function of the module.



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| Time | Item |
|------------------|--|
| 9.00-9.30 a.m. | Introduction & Welcome (Moderator & MC: Prof Patrick Maluki & Peter Mbuva) Prof. Margaret HUTCHINSON <i>Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi</i> Presentation on 36 Years of Jean Monnet Actions: The EU Commission's Jean Monnet Program Prof. Jean Marc TROUILLE <i>Jean Monnet Chair University of the Peloponnese, Greece/University of Bradford, United Kingdom</i> |
| 9.30-10.00 a.m. | Module Launch/Keynote Address <i>Moderator: Prof. Patrick MALUKI</i> Keynote Address Ambassador Henriette GEIGER <i>Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat</i> |
| 10.00-10.30 a.m. | Tea Break |
| 10.30-12.30 p.m. | Presentations/Sample Lectures 1. Prof Jean-Marc Trouille (General Advice on Research Funding Applications) Ambassador Roeland van de GEER (Africa and Europe Facing the 21 st Century: the Case for Inter-University Cooperation) <i>Former EU Ambassador to South Africa, Mozambique & Tanzania and EU Special Envoy to the Great Lakes</i> 2. Ambassador Dr. Libérat MFUMUKEKO (AU Institutions) <i>Head of Missions & IDA Borrowers Representative (World Bank) and former EAC Secretary General, 2016-2021</i> 3. Prof Asteris HULIARAS (Lives in Parallel: Jean Monnet and Tom Mboya on Regional Integration) <i>Jean Monnet Chair on EU Relations with Less Developed Countries Department of Political Science and International Relations University of the Peloponnese</i> |
| 12.30-1.00 p.m. | End of Program/Closing -EU Delegation to Kenya/Jean Monnet Network -UoN, Dept of Diplomacy (Prof Patrick Maluki) |