



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

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CENTRO DI ECCELLENZA

**DSPS**  
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**Scuola di  
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CENTRO DI ECCELLENZA JEAN MONNET



**FESTIVAL  
D'EUROPA 2019**

**2 May, 2019** 9.15 am | 7.00 pm  
**Novoli | Social Sciences Campus**  
Building D15 | room 004  
Piazza Ugo di Toscana 5, Florence

# EU- Africa Relations and Future Challenges

## Closing the gap between rhetoric and reality?

Over the past two centuries Africa played a very important role for Europe and viceversa; albeit for different reasons, this will be the case also for the coming decades. The European Union and its Member States can hardly ignore this continent: not only is it just across the Mediterranean sea, but it has - and will continue to have - the youngest demographic profile in the world, while European population is increasingly ageing and diminishing in size. The recent migratory crisis shows blatantly that what happens in apparently remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa can have an impact on European domestic politics, by influencing partisan competition, and triggering new dividing lines in our political systems. Furthermore, like in the case of the Ebola pandemic, geopolitical turmoil taking place somewhere in the Horn of Africa or in Central Africa cannot be sealed-off easily. In an increasingly interdependent world, the future of European democracy also depends on how we interact with countries outside of Europe, and Africa - let's not forget it - is a very close neighbor.

Against this backdrop, the workshop intends to discuss recent developments in four major policy areas that appear crucial for the future of EU-Africa relations, particularly for the political implications at the supra-national, and the national levels of government. The four areas are: security, migration, trade and development cooperation. In addressing the main issues that are at stake in each of these fields the core question that needs to be investigated is the following: is the EU effectively pursuing a forward-looking strategy aimed at establishing a mutually -reinforcing partnership, as reflected in the official discourse? Or, has the EU been trapped - in spite of its commitments - in a backward-looking strategy, that still reflects the asymmetrical relations typical of colonial times, and inadvertently favors the position of emerging illiberal powers?

**ONE-DAY WORKSHOP**  
by Valeria Fargion

- 9.15 am **Opening Address**  
**Fulvio Conti** Dean of the School of Political Science, University of Florence  
**Laura Leonardi** Director, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, University of Florence
- 9.30 am **Panel 1**  
**The EU and Conflict Resolution in Africa**  
*Chair* **Marco Mayer** LUISS-Rome  
*Speakers*  
**Federica Bicchi** Schuman Centre, EUI  
**Daniela Irrera** University of Catania  
**Lorenzo Angelini** European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)  
**Reuben Joseph Babatunde Lewis** Transnational School of Governance, EUI
- 11.30 am Coffee break
- 12.00 pm **Panel 2**  
**The EU and the migratory conundrum**  
*Chair* **Gustavo De Santis** University of Florence  
*Speakers*  
**Martin Ruhs** Deputy Director Migration Policy Centre, EUI  
**Mauro Lanati** Migration Policy Centre, EUI  
**Andrea Stocchiero** Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale e FOCSIV
- 1.30 pm Lunch
- 2.30 pm **Keynote Speech**  
**Towards a Europe-Africa Alliance**  
**Stefano Manservigi** Director-General, DG DEVCO
- 3.00 pm **Panel 3**  
**European Development Cooperation at cross-roads:  
past achievements and future opportunities**  
*Chair* **Maria Stella Rognoni**, University of Florence  
*Speakers*  
**Valeria Fargion** University of Florence  
**Marco Mayer** LUISS, Rome  
**Arrigo Pallotti** University of Bologna  
**Tanya Cox** Director CONCORD Europe  
**Niels Keijzer** German Development Institute
- 4.30 pm Coffee Break
- 5.00 pm **Panel 4**  
**EU trade policy and African economic development:  
a contested nexus**  
*Chair* **Jean Leonard Touadi** Senior Advisor, FAO, Partnership Division  
*Speakers*  
**John Akokpari** Department of Political Studies, University of Cape Town  
**Giorgia Giovannetti** School of Economics, University of Florence and EUI  
**Thilo Bodenstein** Central European University
- 6.30 pm **Closing Keynote speech**  
**The Prospects for Democracy in Africa**  
**Mamoudou Gazebo** University of Montreal

