

Thursday, 11 December 2025

Aula Magna Rettorato (Blended mode)

9:00-9:45 | Welcome point and registration of participants

9:45-11:15 | **THE UNITAFRICA PROJECT, An Italian Bridge to the Sub-Saharan African Academy**

Giovanna Spatari, University of Messina (Italy)
Francesco Castelli, University of Brescia (Italy)
Institutional greetings

Marcella Distefano, University of Messina (Italy)
Conference presentation

Francesca Pollicino, University of Messina (Italy)
TNE Experiences in UNIME

Sabrina Sorlini, University of Brescia (Italy)
The UNITAFRICA Project: Results Achieved and Future Prospects

11:15-11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30-13:30 | Chair | **Sabrina Sorlini**, University of Brescia (Italy)

Emanuela Colombo, Politecnico di Milan (Italy)
From Capacity Building to Capacity for Science : A Paradigm Change

Luigi Milella, University of Basilicata (Italy)
Innovation and Cooperation: Tools, AI and Best Practices at the UNITAFRICA 2025. Staff Week.

Roberto Valentino, University of Parma (Italy)
Impact Assessment: Preliminary Results

Annalisa Saracino, University of Bari (Italy)
The presentation of final conference in Bari

12:30-13:30 | Q&A Session

13:30-14:45 | Light Lunch

15:00-17:45 | **The International Protection of the Right to Higher Education: Instruments, Experiences and Perspectives**

Marcella Distefano, University of Messina (Italy)
Remarks on Access to Higher Education in International Law

15:15-16:45 | General Issues - Chair | **Simon Tanner**, University of Messina (Italy)

Zamankwali Thandeka Njobe, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)
Exploring AI, Digital Inequality, and Access to Quality Higher Education in Africa: Developing an Afrocentric Framework for Digital Justice

Carola Ricci, University of Pavia (Italy)
From Legal Commitment to Practice: Advancing Equitable Access to Higher Education Through the Global Recognition of Qualifications

Siphehile Mhlonishwa Mbatha, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)
They Must Leave "Abahambe": The impact of Anti-Migrant Protests on Immigrant Children's Right to Education in South Africa

Gutema Adem Deko, Madda Walabu University (Ethiopia)
Access to Higher Education and Vulnerable Groups

Francesca Pollicino, University of Messina (Italy)
Bridging Borders Through Education: The EU Legal Framework on Student Mobility and Knowledge Circulation

16:45-17:45 | Selected Topics

A.C. Onuora-Oguno, W.O. Egbewole, University of Ilorin (Nigeria)
From Formal to Substantive Equality: Rethinking the Philosophy of Quality Legal Education for Persons with Disabilities in Nigerian Universities

Giuseppe Gallo, University of Messina (Italy)
The Protection of the Right to Education in Africa: A Gender Perspective

Protais Niyonshima, Rwanda Polytechnic (Rwanda)
Empowering Female Students as a Pathway to Quality Higher Education: Lessons from Rwanda Polytechnic

Simona Pinton, University of Padova (Italy)
The Right to Higher Education after Mass Atrocities: Legal Perspectives from Rwanda

Joseph Uwineza, Rwanda Polytechnic (Rwanda)
AI and the Right to Quality Education: Challenges and Opportunities in African Polytechnics

Elena Girasella, University of Messina (Italy)
The Rise and Fall of the Right to Education for Foreign Students. Constitutional Responsibilities and Academic Hospitality in Times of Crisis

17.45 | Open Discussion

20:00 | Conference Dinner in Messina

Friday, 12 December 2025

Salvatore Pugliatti Hall, Department of Law

9:00-13:00 | **Traditional and Innovative Teaching in UNITAFRICA Project: Instruments, Experiences and Perspectives**

Chair | **Dario Bruneo**, University of Messina (Italy)

Alessio Lo Giudice, Candida Milone, University of Messina
Welcome Remarks

Emanuele Brianti, University of Messina and Delegate for Innovative Teaching and Faculty Development (Italy)
Advancing and Innovating Academic Teaching at UniMe

Maria Irrera, University of Messina (Italy)
The creation of the UNITAFRICA Website and the Edugain Federation

Edoardo Caristi, B4NEXT
The PIT as an Innovative Teaching Tool in the UNITAFRICA Project

Daniela Prestipino, University of Messina (Italy)
PIT and Personal Data Processing - GDPR Application and Compliance

11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break

Daniela Melfa, University of Messina (Italy)
Internationalisation or Other Epistemologies Entering Universities

Mauro Giudici, University of Milan (Italy)
An Experience of Interactive Teaching with International Students to Improve Transversal Skills

Mary Ellen Toffle, University of Messina (Italy)
Mal d'Afrique: Lessons Learned in Ethiopia

12:30-13:00 | Q&A Session

13:00-14:30 | Light lunch

15:00 | Guided Tour of Taormina and Dinner

Saturday, 13 December 2025
Tommaso Cannizzaro Hall, Rettorato

9:00-10:00 | **The UNITAFRICA Alliance:**
Beyond Teaching, Towards Research

Chair | **Guido Zolezzi**, University of Trento (Italy)
The UNITAFRICA Alliance: summary of related project activities

Nicola d'Alberton, University of Trento (Italy)
The UNITAFRICA Webinar Experience.

Alessandro Sebbio, University of Messina (Italy)
An Italian Feedback

10:30-11:30 | Informal Session

Thematic Groups as a bottom-up initiative within the UNITAFRICA project

Bilateral Meetings for New Academic Cooperation Initiatives

12:00 | Visit to the Duomo of Messina

13:00 | Light Lunch

Italian Universities

Università di Brescia (Coordinator), Politecnico di Milano, Università di Bergamo, Università Alma Mater Studiorum di Bologna, Università di Firenze, Università La Statale di Milano, Università di Padova, Università di Parma, Università di Pavia, Università di Pisa, Università di Torino, Università di Trento, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università di Verona, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Università Aldo Moro di Bari, Università della Basilicata, Università di Messina, Università Federico II di Napoli, Università di Genova, Università di Udine.

WP Leaders

UNIBS, POLIMI, UNIBA, UNIBAS, UNIME, UNIPR, UNITN



African Universities

78 Universities in 18 Countries West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal), East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia), Central Africa (Cameroon) and Southern Africa (Namibia and South Africa)

www.unitafrica.it



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October 1, 2024, - March 31, 2026



11-13 December 2025 | University of Messina

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