

Strengthening Africa–Europe cooperation through digital education and capacity building

17 December 2025

Sala Giulio Cesare

Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi - Via Vittoria Colonna 11, Roma

In a global context where Africa is increasingly emerging as a key player in sustainable development, innovation, and international cooperation, education and digital transformation play a strategic role.

In this perspective, Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, the first Italian digital university, is proud to host the conference dedicated to the collaboration between **Unimarconi** and the **Pan African University (PAU)**, the academic institution of the **African Union** committed to training the next generation of leaders, researchers, and professionals across the continent.

The event represents an opportunity for dialogue and joint planning, aligned with both European and Italian strategies toward Africa, particularly within the framework of the **Mattei Plan**, which identifies education, innovation, and partnership as key pillars of a renewed and balanced cooperation.

During the conference, the first outcomes and operational roadmap of the Unimarconi – Pan African University agreement will be presented, including:

- the development of joint master's programs;
- the creation of an AI Capacity Building Toolkit for secondary school teachers;
- the digitalization of master's programs offered by PAU institutes;
- infrastructural and multimedia support for the e-learning courses of **PAVEU – Pan African Virtual and E-University**;
- the development of remote laboratories to support research at PAU.

This initiative stems from the shared vision that Africa's future will be built on equitable access to knowledge, quality education, and the responsible use of technology as a driver for growth, inclusion, and empowerment.



Strengthening

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10:00 – Opening Session

Institutional Greetings

- Alessio Acomanni, President, Guglielmo Marconi University
- Giorgio Silli, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

10:30 – Keynote Addresses

- Giangiaco^o Calovini, Member of Parliament and Rapporteur for the Mattei Plan
“The Mattei Plan and Academic Cooperation as a Driver of Development”
- Jean Koulidiati, Rector, Pan African University (African Union)
“The African Union’s Vision for Education and Digital Innovation”
- Cristina Petracchi, Head of E-Learning Academy, FAO
“FAO elearning Academy: Engaging with Academia to develop the next generation of leaders for agrifood systems transformation”

11:30 – Presentation of the UniMarconi – PAU operational roadmap

- Arturo Lavalle, Director of Research & Development and International Relations, Guglielmo Marconi University
- Erick Tambo, Head of PAVEU – Pan African Virtual and E-University

12:30 – Q&A and Closing Remarks

Open discussion and Q&A with the speakers

12:45 – End of Session