



Science and Research in the **Africa** Just **Energy transition**

Insight on Science Diplomacy within the AU-EU
partnership and the Italian Mattei Plan



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Department of Energy
EN:lab Building – Council Room
via Lambruschini 8, Milano

October 8th 2024

3.00-6.30 pm

<https://leap-re.app/event-394>

In the current era of great uncertainty and unpredictability, **science and research** may be considered as intercultural values, representing a sort of universal language to support international and intergenerational dialogue and to jointly solve the complex global challenges affecting our society.

At global level, this consideration is embedded in the extraordinary call for universities engagement followed by the launching of the **UN Agenda 2030 and the SDGs** and is also a key pillar in the **UNESCO Medium-Term strategy 2022-2029**.

At EU level, the EU commission launched in 2021 the Alliance for Science Diplomacy and activated early in 2024 the working groups that respond to the Global Service Facility of the DGRD to promote new paradigms of international cooperation and science diplomacy. More specifically **capacity for science** is also central in the political dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation between the EU Commission and the African Union.

At Italian level, during the **Italian Presidency of the G7**, the role of Science and international cooperation is taking space and it is remarkable that the Prime Minister has also launched early this year the **Mattei Plan** as a strategic long-term instrument to empower the peer-to-peer cooperation between Italia and Africa where education and research have to play role as remarked by the launching of the **NRRP calls for Transnational Education** by the Ministry of University and Research.

The event aims to deepen the role of **Science, Education and Research in the AU-EU partnership on STI with a focus on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Celebrating the new EC communication, the AU Education Year, The G7 presidency of Italy and the launch of the Piano Mattei**. The specific added value of Science education and research to anchor locally and in the long-term any innovation processes (both technical and social) will be discussed. The consequent opportunities to foster public-private collaboration, enable sustainability and replicability will be also highlighted with examples remarking the opportunity for mutual learning from multi-stakeholders experiences. In the light of the **Africa Energy Challenge** and its impact at global level, the session will deepen two directions:

- **Institutional capacity building** and capacity for science as a tool for strengthening local human capital and empower international cooperation;
- **Research as an enabling supply chain for local innovation** as a method to support multi-stakeholder projects for promoting local development.

PROGRAM

3.00-4.30 pm

Welcome remarks

Donatella Sciuto, Rector, Politecnico di Milano

Abdellatif Zerga, Director, Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Science (PAUWES), African Union Commission

Giuseppe Mistretta, Deputy DG for Global Affairs, Director for Africa, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Stefano Del Debbio, Head of Unit, Task Force on Mattei Plan Implementation, Government of Italy

Rosalinde Van der Vlies, Director of the Clean Planet Directorate, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission - online

Keynote speech: The Just Energy Transition "with" Africa – Challenge and Opportunities

Daniel Wetzel, Head of Tracking Sustainable Transitions Unit, International Energy Agency (IEA)

4.30-5.30 pm

Capacity for Science and Science Diplomacy in the AU-EU partnership on STI

Moderator – Alberto Magnani, Il Sole 24 Ore

Lukovi Seke, Strategic Initiatives, Directorate of Technical Co-operation and Programme Funding of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) - online

Laurent Bochereau, EU Science Counsellor to the African Union

Vincent Chauvet, CEO of LGI Sustainable Innovation, Coordinator of the LEAP-RE flagship project

Nickson Bukachi Onger, Senior Policy Officer Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, African Energy Commission (AFREC) - online

Tinyiko Ntshongwana, Deputy Director, Africa Multilateral Cooperation, Department of Science and Innovation, Republic of South Africa

5.30-6.30 pm

Institutional Capacity Building and Research as strategic asset of the Mattei Plan

Moderator – Massimo Zaurini, Africa e Affari

Alessandro Boero, Promotion and Coordination of International Research, Italian Ministry of University and Research - online

Vincenzo Lorusso, Policy Officer in International Cooperation for DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Christian Thiel, Head of Unit at Joint Center Research (JRC), European Commission

Barbara Mineo, Head of Local Development Programs and Business integration, ENI

Roberto Ridolfi, Member of the Mission Board of EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

6.30-6.45 pm

Debrief and Launch of the LEAP-RE Stakeholder Forum

Emanuela Colombo, Rector's Delegate to Science Diplomacy, Politecnico di Milano

6.30-8.30

Networking aperitive