

## **UACES Scholarship 2010**

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### **Outline of project**

The research project evaluates *security* cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Africa primarily through the African Union (AU). The convergence of security within an inter-regional framework is considered something new in EU-Africa relations. I argue that the previous institutionalisation of economic cooperation provides the basis for new security cooperation, which potentially alters existing EU-Africa relations. The thesis applies new institutional theory to the empirical concept of inter-regionalism to develop *institutionalised inter-regionalism*. This serves as a framework for analysing EU-Africa cooperation.

The thesis makes a qualitative comparison of two examples of security cooperation implemented under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). It identifies the conditions under which these examples have resulted in a substantive change from previous EU-Africa engagement. The thesis finds that where there is a division of labour among the members of the dominant partner group (the EU) change is most likely. The purpose of this research trip was to conduct additional interviews to fill in remaining gaps in the thesis and corroborate some of my initial findings with EU and AU institutional actors.

### **Academic achievements**

During my time in Addis Ababa, I conducted a number of formal interviews with new contacts in the EU Delegation Office, the AU, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the African Institute for Security Studies (ISS). I also followed up with old contacts in these organisations through informal follow up interviews. Through these old contacts, I was able to gain access to internal and unpublished documents which gave even more critical insight to my subject. The data collected during my stay in Addis Ababa was primarily to fill in the gaps from my initial fieldwork and share some of my findings to previous respondents.

### **Use made of resources, facilities abroad**

The resources provided by UACES and the European Commission were used primarily to cover the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs. Additionally, I made daily use of the African Union Library where I had guest access.

### **Positive and negative aspects**

My time in Addis Ababa was very positive. Interviews with officials of both the AU and EU were perfect to 'triangulate' my initial findings about the nature of EU-Africa cooperation. Conducting the research in just before the African Union Summit in Kampala (Uganda) based on the year themed peace and security was perfect timing to get the in-depth information.

The only 'negative' aspect of my time in Addis was the short length of stay. The impact of the recent financial crises on resources and time constraints to finish my thesis meant that I could not have spent more time. It would have been interesting, for instance, to get feedback from AU and EU officials on outcomes of the Kampala Summit. Nevertheless, the interviews yielded very good results and confirmations that benefit my research project.

I am especially grateful to the UACES and the European Commission for their generous funding which has been integral to the completion of my research project.