

## **UACES Scholarships 2017**

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### **Outline of the project**

The research project evaluates interregional security cooperation between Africa and the European Union (EU) primarily through the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Despite the fact that for instance the EU has supported African capacity building extensively and joint military operations have been undertaken, so far our understanding on the effectiveness of these efforts remains rather limited. Developing an analytical framework for assessing the effectiveness of interregional relations, the project aims to expand knowledge on the conditions of effective interregionalism. Concerning the dependent variable, my conceptualisation of effectiveness includes both internal (goal-attainment) and external (problem-solving) perspectives. The independent variable, the scope of interregional security relations, links two strands of literature that barely speak to each other: interregionalism and inter-organizational literature. It is conceptualized by referring to the quality of interaction, the coherence of the regional entities as well as resource exchange between the partners. I assume that effectiveness increases through intensive coordination of the partners. I apply the framework to EU-Africa relations within the framework of the African Peace Facility by focusing on specific cases such as the joint engagement in the Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia, and with regard to the EU's support to African capacity building. The purpose of this research trip was to conduct interviews with stakeholders in Africa and to access the archives and libraries of relevant institutions.

### **Academic achievements**

During my time in Addis Ababa and Abuja, I conducted a number of semi-structured research interviews with contacts of the EU-Delegation, the African Union, the ECOWAS, the UN as well as regional experts and military staff. Through these contacts I was able to collect important data on day-to-day interaction between the partners and with regard to specific files of interregional interaction. In addition, I accessed the library of both the AU and the ECOWAS.

### **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. During my stay in Abuja I additionally met with staff from the University of Abuja and was able to work at an office at the university.

### **Positive and negative aspects**

My time in Addis Ababa and Abuja was very positive. I was able to conduct very interesting interviews and had a great support from the interview partners as well as the staff from the University of Abuja. Overall, it were two very inspiring and productive research trips. The only negative aspect of the trip was the closure of the airport of Abuja in March and April 2017. As a consequence, I had to change my travel plans and made two trips to Africa in spring 2017.

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.