

From Globelics to Africalics



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Globelics – www.globelics.org

- **Global network on the**
- **economics of**
- **learning,**
- **innovation and**
- **competence building**
- **systems**

The evolution of Globelics

- Initiated around 2000 by western scholars coming from Innovation Studies (Freeman, Nelson, Soete and myself) in and Scholars from BRICS (Cassiolato, Muchie, Joseph and Gu). Gradually more scholars from development studies.
- 15th conference will take place in Accra, Ghana..
- First Globelics Academy in Lisbon 2003. Location shifts between Tampere, Finland and South Africa,
- Regional ics: first Asialics, Lalics and Africalics now building Eurolics. Development problems in Europe!
- Support from Sida to travel and to Africalics.

Global Interdisciplinary Research Network that combines:

- Economics of innovation with twists in the direction of inclusion and sustainability.
- Sociology of science with twist in the direction of economic development.
- Development studies with twists in the direction of Science policy, knowledge management and innovation policy.

Typical themes:

- National systems of innovations versus Global Value Chains.
- Different regional perspectives on the role of the university system.

Research priorities for Africalics illustrating a Globelics perspective on UN SDGs

1. The role of **gender** in Africa's innovation systems.
2. The role of the **state** in promoting innovation and development
3. **Work organization** and innovation in formal and **informal sector**.
4. Overcoming **natural resource** curse through expanding manufacturing and **service** activities.
5. National strategies to stimulate spill overs from **BRIC-presence** in Africa.
6. **Engineering and design** capacity building and economic development in Africa.
7. Building **Low-carbon** Innovation Systems.
8. **Agroindustrial innovation** systems and food security.
9. The role of **financial institutions** in relation to innovation.

The purpose

- To contribute to scientific capacity building linking the field ‘innovation studies’ to the field development studies and using ‘networking’ as the major tool.
- To contribute to the knowledge base for strategies and policies linking innovation to economic development.
- A platform for South-South collaboration – cf this year’s innovation report from UNCTAD..
- A MODEL for low-cost multilateral Capacity Building – platform – cf. Africalics.

Activities

- Annual conference (typically 200 papers accepted out of 500 full paper proposals).
- Annual Academy with research training – no 9 in Tampere?
- Regional meetings and academies in Asia, China, Russia, India, Latin America.
- Meeting place for major projects such as:
 - **Catching-up** (Nelson),
 - **Brics-project** (Cassiolato),
 - **Unidev-project** (Brundenius)
 - **Innovating out of Poverty** (Djeflat)

Mode of operation

- Low cost and informal structure – a Scientific Board and a Secretariat located in Rio since 2016 with support from Sida.
- Big names as speakers come pro bono to give lectures at conferences and academies.
- Local and regional funding gives commitment!! Support for travel from the South and for activities in Africa from Sida, Sweden.
- But this should be seen just as ‘seed money’ until local platforms become self-sustained and independent of donor support.

Impact

- Affecting the research agenda locally
- Exploiting synergies globally and regionally
- 500 full papers every year on innovation, competence building and economic development.
- Annually at least 100 Ph.D. students at global and regional academies
- Affecting the policy agenda (President in Senegal and the Vice President in Argentina opened Globelics conferences)

□ **Thanks for your attention**