



## IPORA

is an international transdisciplinary research network, created to study the major challenges facing the African continent and to find concrete solutions



Interdisciplinary  
Policy-Oriented  
Research on Africa



## Newsletter #3

March 2026

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### EDITORIAL

This March, the IPORA network is preparing for an important moment in the life of the network: the IPORA General Assembly and Scientific Conference 2026, which will take place from 31 March to 3 April at Addis Ababa University.

This annual gathering rotates between partner institutions of the network. After Abidjan three years ago, Rabat two years ago and Bordeaux last year, the 2026 edition will be hosted by Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, reflecting the shared leadership and international character of the IPORA network.

The conference will provide an opportunity to explore major challenges addressed by the network—ranging from health and food security to environmental sustainability, urban governance and social justice—while strengthening the dialogue between researchers, institutions and partners engaged in Africa–Europe cooperation.

We look forward to welcoming many of you in Addis Ababa or online for these important discussions and exchanges.

In the meantime, this March issue continues to highlight the diversity

of activities taking place across the network: conferences, research initiatives and academic events that illustrate the dynamism of the IPORA community.

As always, we warmly encourage you to share news of your activities so that the newsletter can continue to reflect the richness and diversity of our collective work.

The IPORA Editorial Team

## **Upcoming** **IPORA General Assembly & Congress**

***Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***  
***March 31 to April 3, 2026***

See more on "Events" section



## **NEWS FROM THE FIELD**

### **Past**

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### **Combined impact of air pollution and extreme heat on the risk of transmission of respiratory diseases in northern Ivory Coast (Korhogo)**

**Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire - March 1st, 2026**

Start of sociological and health surveys in March.

It should be noted that this transdisciplinary research project examines the joint impact of air pollution and extreme heat on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases in Korhogo, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. The methodology is based on the deployment of sensors for fine particles (PM2.5), the analysis of health registers and

sociological surveys to assess real exposure and the perception of risks by populations. The final objective is to constitute a scientific database to set up an early warning system and guide sustainable urban development policies in the face of climate challenges.

*V Yoboué (UFHB), O Marcy (UB), G Kouamé (PACCI) and M Doumbia (UFHB/UPGC)*



## EVENTS

### Past Events

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#### Scientific days **Scientific Days PACCI / PRISME-CI** **Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - February 2-3, 2026**

The scientific days of the PACCI / PRISME-CI program were held on 2 and 3 February 2026 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, under the theme "30 years of health research: achievements, innovations and perspectives."

The event also marked the 30th anniversary of the PACCI programme.

Across two days, the programme featured a rich scientific agenda, including:

- plenary sessions on HIV, non-communicable diseases, viral hepatitis, emerging infectious diseases, ageing and tuberculosis;
- discussions on equitable research partnerships and research funding;
- roundtables on integration of research into policy;
- a symposium on data protection and regulatory aspects of health research in sub-Saharan Africa.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage, **Pierre Demba**, met with

PACCI programme leaders and their French partners, highlighting the strong interest and support of health authorities for this major scientific initiative.





### Round Table and Masterclass **ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHES AND ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGES** **HYBRID - February 13, 2026**

On 13 February 2026, the fourth round table of the series "*Social Sciences in Action*" took place at the International University of Rabat, with the support of the IPORA project.

Discussions explored how social sciences analyze the political, social and territorial dimensions of environmental disasters and ecological challenges.

A masterclass for PhD students was also organized in the afternoon.

## Upcoming Events

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### Webinar **AN ASPIRATIONAL APPROACH TO PLANETARY FUTURES** **HYBRID - March 17, 2026 - 14:30 CET**

As part of the SPES (Sustainability Performances, Evidence and Scenarios) project, the University of Florence is organizing an open webinar featuring a keynote by Pedro Conceição, Director of the UNDP Human Development Report Office. The discussion will build on a recent article published in *Nature*, which proposes an ambitious approach aimed at empowering people to shape a better future for all life on Earth.

The webinar will explore conceptual frameworks, indicators, models and policy pathways that can support the transition toward

sustainability.

Researchers, students and anyone interested in the challenges of planetary sustainability are warmly invited to join.

Link to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/XklCclqxQry9wS-eyDbLQA>

**General Assembly & Conference**  
**IPORA GENERAL ASSEMBLY & SAEAP SCIENTIFIC**  
**CONFERENCE 2026**  
***HYBRID - March 31 to April 3, 2026***  
***Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***

From 31 March to 3 April 2026, members and partners of the IPORA network will gather for the IPORA General Assembly and annual scientific conference, hosted this year by Addis Ababa University. The event is organized in partnership with the University of Bordeaux, the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (Abidjan), and the International University of Rabat, and will take place in hybrid format (in person and online).

These days will be an opportunity for the network to share ongoing research, exchange ideas across disciplines, and strengthen collaborations around key themes such as health, food and nutrition security, environmental challenges, urban governance and social justice.

We look forward to welcoming many of you in Addis Ababa or online for this important moment in the life of the network.

See the preliminary program on our IPORA Website:

<https://ipora.network/news/ipora-scientific-conference-2026/>

# IPORA

## STRENGTHENING AFRICA-EUROPE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP

for improving intersectoral governance

- 2026 -



Addis Ababa - Ethiopia  
31 March - 3 April



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### Summer School

#### **BORDEAUX SUMMER SCHOOL 2026**

**June 8 to 12, 2026**

**Bordeaux**

The 2026 Bordeaux Summer Schools programme is now open for registration, offering nine international summer schools across a wide range of disciplines. Each year, the University of Bordeaux welcomes graduate students and early-career researchers from around the world for high-level, research-driven training.

Among the proposed programmes, several themes are particularly relevant to IPORA members, including economic foresight, data-driven decision-making, innovation systems, and the analysis of global risks and crises. Topics such as information design, patent data analysis, artificial intelligence (NLP), blockchain, and financial systems provide valuable insights into how emerging tools and technologies

can inform public policy, global governance, and sustainable transitions

To explore the full programme and learn more about the available summer schools, please consult the link below.

Contact: [summerschools@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:summerschools@u-bordeaux.fr)

Registrations will close on March 27

Website: [https://www.u-bordeaux.fr/en/education/study-offer/bordeaux-summer-schools?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.u-bordeaux.fr/en/education/study-offer/bordeaux-summer-schools?utm_source=chatgpt.com)



## COURSES

### **New Partnership** **BxSE JOINS THE ADEPT NETWORK**

***February, 2026***

Bordeaux Sciences Économiques (BxSE) has joined the Alliance for Data, Evaluation, and Policy Training (ADEPT) as a new pathway university for learners who have completed the Data, Economics, and Design of Policy (DEDP) MicroMasters, offered by MITx and J-PAL.

ADEPT, convened by J-PAL and Community Jameel, aims to build a global network of professionals trained in data analysis, impact evaluation and evidence-based policymaking. In line with this vision, BxSE will now recognize the DEDP MicroMasters credential for advanced standing in its Master's in Development Economics, allowing admitted students to waive the first semester of the program.

The MicroMasters is an interdisciplinary program combining economics, statistics and policy design, with courses such as randomized evaluations and development policy. Participants typically dedicate around 12–15 hours of study per week, combining lectures, assignments and supervised online exams.

The Master's program at BxSE features affordable tuition fees and is

partly taught in French.

Applications are open until **16 March**.

Website link: <https://economie.u-bordeaux.fr/formations/masters/eco-dev/m1-economie-du-developpement>



## PUBLICATIONS

### Published Publication

#### **Feasibility and results of joint ambulatory monitoring of exposure to particulate matter pollution and lung function in children in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, a cross-sectional observational study**

**Pajot A, Yapo M, Liousse C, Doumbia M, Gnamien S, Ahoua S, Dje S, Dick Amon Tanoh F, Fayon M, Yoboue V, Marcy O**

February 2026

This study assesses the feasibility of simultaneously measuring individual exposure to fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and respiratory function in children living in Abidjan using portable devices.

Twenty-nine children aged 7 to 17 were monitored for seven days using a combination of personal PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensors and ambulatory spirometers to collect real-time data.

The study shows that these devices are usable and well accepted by children. It highlights very high levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure—well above WHO recommendations—as well as substantial variability in respiratory measurements, and suggests a transient decrease in lung function in the hours following pollution peaks. These findings demonstrate the value of this type of individual monitoring to better understand the effects of air pollution on children's respiratory health

in African urban settings and support the need for larger-scale studies in this field.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2025-109615>



### Edited Book

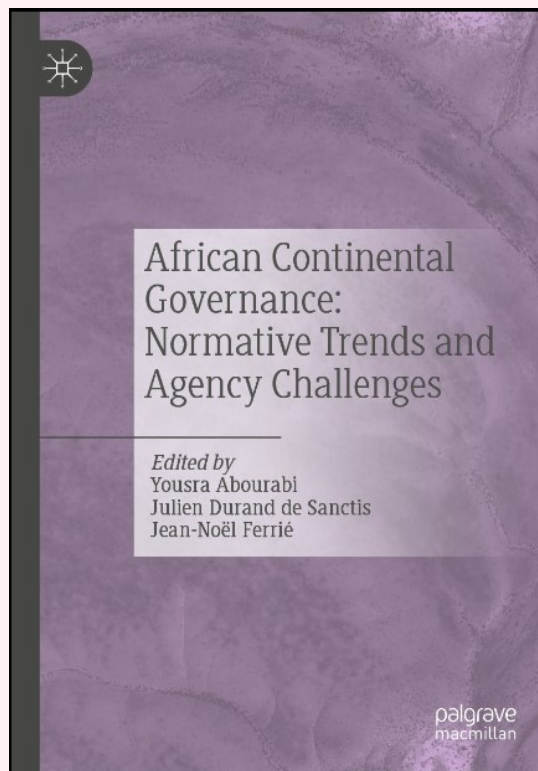
## AFRICAN CONTINENTAL GOVERNANCE: NORMATIVE TRENDS & AGENCY CHALLENGES

**This publication is a collective volume, co-edited by Professors Yousra Abourabi, Julien Durand De Sanctis and Jean-Noël Ferrié, to which Prof. Zineb Omary contributed by authoring a chapter**

The book explores governance dynamics at the continental level in Africa and examines how African actors contribute to shaping and transforming international norms across a range of policy areas, including migration, climate change, security and social issues. Particular attention is given to the concept of **African "agency"** and the ways in which African institutions and stakeholders actively participate in global governance processes.

Link to publication :

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-04431-0>



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and how to share your information, please write to:  
**Zainab CHERRAT - [zainab.cherrat@uir.ac.ma](mailto:zainab.cherrat@uir.ac.ma)**



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