Africa-UniNet | Funding 2020

With Africa-UniNet an instrument has been created to enable and strengthen existing and new interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research cooperation between Austria and African countries.

Africa-UniNet was initiated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and launched by the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH) and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) in order to create a long-term, stable basis for cooperation between Austrian and African universities and research institutions. Africa-UniNet intends to promote new contacts and deepen existing scientific cooperation.

http://www.africa-uninet.at

Africa-UniNet promotes excellent research based on mutual knowledge exchange. It creates a space for international cooperation between researchers and with other actors by financing cooperative research projects. While the thematic scope of the projects is not restricted, they set out to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time they enhance the scientific foundation of the involved institutions and reinforce the formation of the network itself by promoting new partnerships between Austrian and African universities and research institutions and by strengthening existing ties. Overall, they form the basis of a strong and profound Austrian-African Research Network – the Africa-UniNet.

Africa-UniNet endeavours to provide infrastructural and administrative structures that promote partnership-based cooperation between actors on a personal and institutional level. Projects can be submitted and coordinated by non-Austrian and Austrian partners alike. The General Assembly – in which all member institutions have equal voting rights – co-determined the orientation of the following financing measures within the Africa-UniNet statutes and in accordance with the special guideline of the Federal Ministry of Finance GZ 41.906/0003-V/7/2018 "Measures for Internationalisation".

First Call for Africa-UniNet Research Cooperation Projects | 1 August 2020 – 30 September 2020

Africa-UniNet funds international research cooperation projects with at least one Austrian and at least one African university / university of applied sciences / research institution. Only active members of Africa-UniNet are eligible to apply. Both the African institution and the Austrian institution may assume the coordination of the project.
The aim of the projects is to promote excellent research and to contribute to the SDGs. They reinforce the formation of the network itself by creating new cooperation and by strengthening existing partnerships between Austrian and African universities and research institutions. They enhance the partnership between Africa-UniNet members and put the network on a profound scientific basis.

**Africa-UniNet Research Cooperation Projects**

Different types of project activities can be submitted for funding:

- Joint work on research questions
- Joint development and implementation of research-based teaching and training
- Joint development and implementation of trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, alumni meetings
- Joint work on publications
- Joint supervision of students

All activities of the international research cooperation projects have to be research-centred and contribute to the SDGs.

In view of the current COVID-19 situation, activities have to be planned accordingly in order to ensure a safe-guarding of the project results, even if travel restrictions apply. The maximum project duration is two years.

**Funding framework and eligible costs:**

- Maximum of 10,000 euros in case of two partner institutions per year (maximum of 20,000 euros for 2 years)
- Further 5,000 euros per additional partner institution, with a maximum of 6 partner institutions and a total of maximum of 30,000 euros per year (maximum of 60,000 euros for 2 years)
- Duration: up to 2 years

Funding can be provided for mobility costs (travel expenses), monthly scholarships or daily allowances as well as for equipment & material. For detailed information on the eligible costs, please refer to the Guidelines for Reporting.
A complete project application consists of the following parts:

1) Project proposal (pdf), max. 10,000 words
   - Abstract
   - Partner institutions, team members and description of the partnership
   - Project design including research question(s) and methodology
   - Activities and time schedule
   - Contribution to the SDGs
   - Gender and diversity perspective
   - Sustainability and application of results
   - Risk matrix and monitoring
   - Confirmation and signature of the project coordinator

2) Budget (excel file)

3) Appendix
   - CVs of involved researchers
   - Letters of intent signed by the management of the participating institutions

How to apply:

- Only active member institutions are eligible.
- Maximum of 2 applications per submitting institution.
- Submission only via the Africa-UniNet representative of the coordinating institution (bundled so that the maximum number of 2 submissions will not be exceeded).
- Application documents can be downloaded from the Africa-UniNet website.
- Completed application documents (1. Project proposal, 2. Budget sheet, 3. Appendix) will be sent via email by the respective Africa-UniNet representative of the coordinating institution to africa-uninet@oead.at. Please note that applications that are not submitted by the Africa-UniNet representative will not be considered.
- All documents have to be in English.

Schedule and selection:

Call open: 1 August 2020 – 30 September 2020

Check of the formalities: by the Africa-UniNet Office / OeAD, October 2020
Application was submitted within the deadline, by the Africa-UniNet representative of the coordinating institution
- Eligibility of institutions
- Complete application, including signatures
- Compliance with financial regulations

**Review process:** November and December 2020

Formally correct proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation group consisting of independent reviewers.

The reviews will consist of a scoring matrix (max. 100 points) and narrative assessments.

**Evaluation criteria will be:**

- Project design, quality of the project proposal and the partnership, contribution to the formation of the network (max. 50 points)
- Contribution to the SDGs, integration of a gender and diversity perspective (max. 20 points)
- Sustainability and application of results (max. 20 points)
- Risk management and cost-effectiveness (max. 10 points)

**Preparation of a funding suggestion on the basis of the review process:**

Ranking on the basis of the reviews. In order to facilitate a fair distribution, the best applications of each submitting institution will be ranked first, the second best ones will follow.

**General Assembly & BMBWF: January 2021**

Online resolution on the funding suggestion, forwarding to the BMBWF for approval

**Start of the projects:**

After approval by the BMBWF the contract will be signed. Earliest possible project start will be 1st of March 2021.

**Reporting:**

All projects must submit a mid-term as well as a final report. Please refer to the Guidelines for Reporting. Detailed reporting requirements will be stipulated in the contract.