Africa-UniNet | Information 2023

About Africa-UniNet

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 Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (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 BMBWF GZ 41.906/0003-V/7/2018 "Measures for Internationalisation".

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Fourth Call for Africa-UniNet Research Cooperation Projects | 1 September 2023 – 30 November 2023

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. **Minimum qualification for the project coordinator is a PhD. Contact persons and team members need to be at least PhD students (MA students are not eligible).**

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.

Funding framework and eligible costs:

Funding can only be provided for **mobility costs**, i.e. travel expenses and subsistence and accommodation costs during project-related travels. Exception: up to EUR 3,000 per project can be allocated to equipment and materials – specific requirements apply.

- Maximum of EUR 10,000 in case of two cooperating institutions per year (maximum of EUR 20,000 for 2 years); Further EUR 5,000 per additional cooperating institution per year (EUR 10,000 for two years);
- Maximum of EUR 20,000 for 2 years in case of two cooperating institutions
- Maximum of EUR 30,000 for 2 years in case of three cooperating institutions
- Maximum of EUR 40,000 for 2 years in case of four cooperating institutions
- Maximum of EUR 50,000 for 2 years in case of five cooperating institutions
- Maximum of EUR 60,000 for 2 years in case of six or more cooperating institutions

- Duration: up to 2 years

For detailed information on the eligible costs, please refer to the document **Funding Framework and Eligible Costs.**

Application documents

Application documents can be downloaded from the Africa-UniNet website: https://africa-uninet.at/en/activities/the-4th-call-2023

The Africa-UniNet templates of the project proposal and the budget sheet have to be used. A template for the letters of intent is also provided, it can however be adjusted to fit the requirements of the respective institutions. There is no template for the CVs, nevertheless, each CV must not exceed 4 pages.

Content of the project proposal

- Abstract
- General information
- Cooperation and partnership
- Project design and scientific quality
- Contribution to the SDGs and gender and diversity issues
- Sustainability and application of results
- Risk management and cost-effectiveness

Complete application

A complete application consists of 4 documents:

1. **Project proposal (word doc)** AND
2. **Project proposal (pdf)**
    - Including signature of the project coordinator.
    - The project proposal must not exceed 10,000 words.
    - The project proposal must be in English.
    - All involved institutions have to be **active member institutions of Africa-UniNet**. Please have a look at the Contact List of Africa-UniNet Representatives for the 4th Call 2023.
    - Minimum qualification of project coordinator: PhD; Contact persons and team members need to be at least PhD students (MA students are not eligible).
3. **Budget sheet (excel file)**
    - The budget limit must not be exceeded.
    - Only mobility costs are eligible – please refer to the document Funding Framework and Eligible Costs 4th Call.

- If equipment costs are budgeted, they must not exceed EUR 3,000 **for the entire projects.**

4. **Appendix (pdf)**
    - CV of project coordinator and contact persons (max. 4 pages each)
    - Letters of intent of each participating institution, signed by an authorised signatory of the respective institution

How to apply

- **Only active Africa-UniNet member institutions are eligible to participate**. Refer to Contact List of Africa-UniNet Representatives for the 4th Call 2023 available on the website.
- **Maximum of 2 applications per coordinating 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 (word), 2. Project proposal (pdf), 3. Budget sheet (excel), 4. Appendix (pdf) – 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. The receipt of applications is acknowledged by Africa-UniNet per email. In case you did not get an acknowledgement within one week please get back to us.*

Formal requirements:

- Application was submitted within the deadline, by the Africa-UniNet representative of the coordinating institution.
- Not more than 2 applications per coordinating institution.
- Complete application, including signatures.
- Eligibility of institutions.
- Eligibility of project coordinator, contact persons and team members.
- Compliance with financial regulations.
- All documents have to be in English.

Reviews and Selection Process

Formally correct proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation group consisting of independent reviewers. They will assess the project proposals individually and send them to the Africa-UniNet Office. 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) | *Sections 2-4, CVs, Letters of Intent, Budget Sheet*
- Contribution to the SDGs, integration of gender and diversity perspective (max. 20 points) | *Section 5*
- Sustainability and application of results (max. 20 points) | *Section 6*
- Risk management and cost-effectiveness (max. 10 points) | *Section 7, Budget Sheet*

Ranking on the basis of the average score of the reviews (maximum score 100). In order to facilitate a fair distribution, preference is given to highest ranking project proposal of each submitting institution above the set threshold. The list of selected projects has to be approved by the General Assembly and the BMBWF.

Schedule

Call open: 1 September 2023 – 30 November 2023
Eligibility check: by the Africa-UniNet Office / OeAD, December 2023

- Application was submitted within the deadline, by the Africa-UniNet representative of the coordinating institution. Not more than 2 applications per coordinating institution.
- Complete application, including signatures.
- Eligibility of institutions.
- Eligibility of project coordinator, contact persons and team members.
- Compliance with financial regulations.
- All documents are in English.

Please note that the receipt of applications is acknowledged by Africa-UniNet per email. In case you did not get an acknowledgement within one week please get back to us

Review process: January – April 2024
General Assembly & BMBWF: tbd

Start of the projects

After approval by the BMBWF the contract will be signed. Earliest possible project start will be **1 June 2024.**

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.