



Funding dimensions

Africa-UniNet Office | OeAD
Vienna, 31st of January 2020

Context

- Coherence with the Africa-UniNet statutes and the work programme
- Compliance with the Special Directive GZ 41.906/0003-V/7/2018 “Maßnahmen zur Internationalisierung” of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)
- The framework of the SDGs
- Operationalization within OeAD processes

Compliance with BMBWF

Special Directive of the BMBWF

- Africa-UniNet is financed by the BMBWF
- Cooperation projects with a focus on research are eligible
- Mobility costs
- Monthly scholarship or daily allowances
- Small amount for equipment & material
- Limits on project duration and maximum amount granted

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

Africa-UniNet statutes

- Professor exchange and short-term research stays of scientists at member institutions
- Training / teaching courses
- Workshops, seminars, conferences
- Alumni activities
- Project applications for Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, national funding agencies

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Africa-UniNet and the SDGs



- Scientific research and teaching should contribute to a sustainable world that is worth living in
- Wide thematic scope, room for creative openness and innovation in research
- Questions and possible solutions to global challenges must be placed on a broad international and transnational basis
- Interdisciplinary & transdisciplinary approaches and research methods needed

➤ Africa-UniNet as an instrument to enable and strengthen international and inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation within the framework of the SDGs

Operationalization within OeAD processes

- OeAD is the central service agency for European and international mobility and cooperation programmes in education, science and research
- Experience in cooperation between Austrian universities and scientific institutions in African countries
- Promoting an international network of knowledge that includes universities, research institutions and civil society
- Creating spaces for exchange at eye-level



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Guiding principles



- Promote partnership-based cooperation
- Correlation between input-output-outcome
- Practicability and feasibility
- Transparent and balanced selection process

Call for Cooperation Projects 2020

- International cooperation projects
- At least one Austrian and at least one African member institution
- Membership: accepted by General Assembly and payment of membership fee
- The project can be coordinated by either of the member institutions
- The projects contribute to the SDGs and help to create new cooperation or strengthen existing partnerships between Austrian and African institutions

Africa-UniNet Cooperation Projects

- Within the framework of the cooperation projects proposals for different types of project activities can be submitted
 - Joint work on research questions
 - Joint development of research-based teaching
 - Joint development of trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, alumni meetings
 - Joint work on publications
- All projects have to be research-centred
- SDG relevance must be clearly shown

Further possible dimensions...

- Gender and diversity
- Systems approach
- Applicability and impact potential
- Open data
- Open access
- Strengthening of African publishers and journals
- etc.

Funding framework

- EUR 10,000 in case of two partner institutions
- A further EUR 5,000 per additional partner institution
- Maximum of 6 partner institutions, total of EUR 30,000
- Duration: 1 year

Eligible expenses 1

- Travel costs: up to EUR 1,500 maximum per trip
 - Flight / bus / train, and transport to and from the airport
 - Use of public transport, only economy class tickets
 - Visa costs
- Scholarship / daily allowance
 - PhD students: Scholarship of up to EUR 1,250 maximum / month
 - For stays of up to 12 days: EUR 100 / day
 - Scientists (post-doc): Scholarship of up to EUR 1,400 maximum / month
 - For stays of up to 14 days: EUR 100 / day

Eligible expenses 2

- Equipment & material
 - Has to be specifically relevant for a project
 - Up to a maximum of EUR 3,000 per project
- Invoices and reporting documents will be specified in the call documents
- Information & administration:

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Timeline 1

- Call open: 1 July 2020 – 31 August 2020
 - Maximum of 3 applications per institution
 - Submission via the **Africa-UniNet representative of the institution** (bundled so that the maximum number of submissions will not be exceeded)
 - Applications must not be APPEAR applications
 - Only active Africa-UniNet member institutions are eligible
- Check of the formalities: by the OeAD, September 2020

Timeline 2

- Review process: September 2020 to January 2021
 - Depending on the number of proposals 1-2 reviewers per proposal
 - The suggestion that part of the membership fees should be used to pay external reviews was accepted by the GA on 31st of January 2020. For 100 applications à 2 expert opinions each the costs will amount to 20,000 euros.
- Preparation of a funding proposal on the basis of the external reviews
 - Ranking on the basis of the reviews, with an attempt at a fair distribution – the best applications of each submitting institution will be ranked first, the second best ones will follow, etc. This procedure was accepted by the GA on 31st of January 2020.

Timeline 3

- **Evaluation group:** from February 2021 onwards
 - Decision on the funding proposal according to the ranking, based on the available funding
 - Possibly a meeting before the General Assembly, or by circular resolution
 - On 31st of January 2020 the General Assembly empowered the Africa-UniNet office at OeAD to set up and establish the Evaluation group

Timeline 4 & Available funding

- General Assembly: from February 2021 onwards
 - Resolution on the funding proposal, forwarding to the BMBWF for approval
- Start of the cooperation projects
 - After approval by the BMBWF the contract will be drawn up
- Africa-UniNet Cooperation Projects | Call 2020
 - EUR 280,000 of guaranteed funding provided by the BMBWF (as of January 2020)

Membership fees

- EUR 1,500 for Austrian and EUR 500 for African network members
- Due by 31st of March
- Only active members are eligible to apply for funding
- The Board decides on the use of the membership fees. (Africa-
UniNet statutes)

Resolutions adopted by the Generaly Assembly on 31st of January 2020:

- The membership fees should be used to pay external reviews
- The rest of the membership fees will be used to cover CO2 compensation for flights (upon availability of funds)



Thank you!

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