Funding dimensions
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

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

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

africa
uninet
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
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
  o Joint work on research questions
  o Joint development of research-based teaching
  o Joint development of trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, alumni meetings
  o 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

• Travel costs: up to EUR 1,500 maximum per trip
  o Flight / bus / train, and transport to and from the airport
  o Use of public transport, only economy class tickets
  o Visa costs

• Scholarship / daily allowance
  o PhD students: Scholarship of up to EUR 1,250 maximum / month
  o For stays of up to 12 days: EUR 100 / day
  o Scientists (post-doc): Scholarship of up to EUR 1,400 maximum / month
  o 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:

  Africa-UniNet Office

  OeAD-GmbH
  afica-uninet@oead.at
  +43 1 53408-421
  Ebendorferstraße 7
  1010 Wien
Timeline 1

• Call open: 1 July 2020 – 31 August 2020
  o Maximum of 3 applications per institution
  o Submission via the Africa-UniNet representative of the institution (bundled so that the maximum number of submissions will not be exceeded)
  o Applications must not be APPEAR applications
  o 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 31\textsuperscript{st} of January 2020. For 100 applications 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 31\textsuperscript{st} 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
  o Resolution on the funding proposal, forwarding to the BMBWF for approval

• Start of the cooperation projects
  o After approval by the BMBWF the contract will be drawn up

• Africa-UniNet Cooperation Projects | Call 2020
  o 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 General 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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Africa-UniNet Office | OeAD