

Annual Work Programme 2020

Sustainable together:
Africa-UniNet – the academic Austrian-African partnership
Confirmed at the 1st General Assembly on 31st of January 2020.

Background

Given the urgency of current ecological, social and economic challenges, creating opportunities for collaboration in research and education is critical to jointly develop the skills and values necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While some sustainability challenges are specific to the African and Austrian contexts, many are cross-cutting and call for action that taps into the knowledge of all partners. The Africa-UniNet enables such cooperation.

Vision

To create a structure for long-term research cooperation between Austrian and African researchers.

Mission statement: We will

- contribute to **sustainable development** according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- integrate gender, **mutual benefits and ethics**.
- establish a **network of excellence** by promoting cooperation between **academic and research** institutions.
- enable the development of **joint research and education** projects.
- provide an **interface for collaboration** with governmental and non-governmental organisations
- host a **platform for continuous discourse**.
- become a **hub for expertise** on realities and challenges in the African and Austrian research and higher education landscape.

Network activities

For implementing the mission, the following activities are supported:

- **Africa-UniNet network activities**
- **Research and teaching mobility** between member institutions
- **Africa-UniNet Cooperation Projects**

Within the framework of the cooperation projects proposals for different types of project activities can be submitted:

- Joint formulation and work on research projects
- Joint development and implementation of research-based teaching and training
- Joint implementation of trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, alumni meetings
- Joint work on co-publications
- Joint supervision of students (thesis)

Draft Work Programme 2020

In 2020, the Africa-UniNet will focus on creating clusters around the themes of research, education, third mission and network management. Related to the themes, the focus for 2020 will be on:

Research and Education

- Thematic **research priorities** aligned to the SDGs.
- Building of transdisciplinary **research clusters** among members.
- **Dissemination and/or mainstreaming of research results** that have already been developed by members (e.g. joint publications, joint implementation of target group-oriented events, such as trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, alumni meetings).
- **Interactions** on system analyses approach, gender dimension, open data.
- Project proposal development for high-impact **trans- and interdisciplinary research**.
- **Sharing of good practices** in Africa-Austria higher education collaboration.
- **Research-driven** curriculum development, quality assurance, and evaluation.
- Providing research-driven **training courses** and **vocational training** in SDG-relevant fields.
- **Academic and vocational training**, particularly in higher education for sustainability.
- Supporting higher education for **refugees** in Africa and Austria.

Third Mission

- **Effective communication** of mission and impact of the Africa-UniNet to the wider public, **Social Media** and **Communication** tasks.
- **Mainstreaming of SDGs** at research and higher education institutions. Support the **implementation of the SDGs** and conduct research to identify concepts, strategies and measures.
- Pro-actively interact with **relevant networks** (e.g. ASEA-UniNet, RUFORUM, agrinatura, LEAP4FNSSA) and institutions (e.g. AU, EU, DAAD, British Council, Embrapa, US AID etc.).

The decision and input from the General Assembly will include:

- Strategic planning, public relations and coordination of image and publicity
- Further development / update of guidelines for **financial reporting; e.g. use of membership fees for payment of CO2-Compensation and external reviewers**
- Commitment to **CO2 compensation**
- External **evaluation** and review processes
- **Follow-up** activities
- Providing an **annual programme**.