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Annual Report 2025
Africa-UniNet

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1. Board Meetings

The Africa-UniNet Board Meetings are held regularly and serve to ensure coordination and alignment between the Africa-UniNet Board and the Africa-UniNet Office. In 2025, four Board Meetings were held:

- 17th Board Meeting on 2 April
- 18th Board Meeting on 3 July
- 19th Board Meeting on 8 October
- 20th Board Meeting on 17 December

The online Board Meetings are attended by the President, representatives of the Africa-UniNet Office, and Africa-UniNet Board members from Austria and African partner countries. Institutions interested in joining the network are given the opportunity to introduce themselves, budgetary measures are discussed and approved by the President and Board members, project funding proposals presented by the Africa-UniNet Office are reviewed and discussed, and further decisions in accordance with the statutes are taken.

1.1. Project Funding

In 2025, the projects selected under the 5th Call were confirmed during the Board Meetings and subsequently recommended for funding to the Africa-UniNet General Assembly as well as to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research (BMFWF). Furthermore, the Board members were informed about the 6th Call, which was open from September to November 2025 – both in advance regarding all formal regulations and possible amendments, and after the submission deadline regarding the key figures and overview of the submitted projects. Further details on the 6th Call can be found in Section 3: Africa-UniNet 6th Call.

1.2. Financing of Network Activities

The Africa-UniNet Board also made financial decisions concerning the network's budget and confirmed the date for the 4th General Assembly in Algeria, following the decision on the venue already taken in 2024. The 4th General Assembly will take place from 28 to 30 September 2026 at the University of Saida in Algeria.

1.3. New Member Institutions

In 2025, interest among African higher education institutions in becoming members of Africa-UniNet remained high. The following institutions were newly admitted to the network during the reporting period:

- Kisii University, Kenya
- Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda
- Ruaha Catholic University, Tanzania

- University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- Wollo University, Ethiopia

2. Results of the 5th Africa-UniNet Call

Following external evaluation, an online resolution by the General Assembly, and confirmation by the BMFWF, 20 out of 64 submitted project proposals were selected. The acceptance rate therefore amounted to 31.25%. As a result, more than 100 Africa-UniNet projects have been approved since the establishment of Africa-UniNet in 2020.

The 20 selected projects of the 5th Call include partnerships with institutions in seven different African countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda. Due to new funding regulations that entered into force with the 5th Call, only Austrian institutions are now eligible to apply for project funding and to assume project coordination. Fourteen Africa-UniNet member institutions from Austria are coordinating the newly selected projects, with several institutions coordinating more than one project.

The projects are funded by the BMFWF with a total funding volume of approximately EUR 750,000 for a project duration of two years. The project topics cover a broad range of academic disciplines, including education, social sciences, and the arts, as well as microbiology, pharmacognosy and pharmacology, environmental sciences, soil science, sustainable agriculture, veterinary sciences, and many others. What all projects share is a cooperative and participatory approach, as well as the objective of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

No	Title	ALL institutions Austria	ALL institutions Africa	Country
1	Biosynthesised porphyrin loaded hydrogel for photodynamic therapy of multidrug-resistant <i>Candida albicans</i> in HIV infected patients	Medical University of Graz	Mekelle University	Ethiopia
2	Unlocking the potential of traditional Nigerian diets for sustainable nutrition and disease prevention	Medical University of Graz	Lead City University	Nigeria
3	Probiotic yeasts and nanotechnology: Isolation, characterization, and innovative delivery systems for health and food applications	Medical University of Graz	Damanhour University	Egypt
4	Teacher Wellbeing as a Pathway to Quality Education	University of Innsbruck, University of Vienna	University of Pretoria	South Africa
5	Advancing the Rights and Reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria, Uganda and Ethiopia: Focus on Women and Children.	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Debre Markos University, Igbiniedion University, Kyambogo University	Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda
6	Environmental Lassa Virus Investigation and Surveillance	Medical University of Vienna, TU Wien (Vienna University of Technology)	Bowen University	Nigeria
7	Gendered environmental impacts of Chinese investments in Uganda: Improving informed responsiveness in Uganda-China relations	Carinthia University of Applied Sciences	Kabale University	Uganda
8	Enhanced Microbial Reprocessing of Microplastic through Metabolic Network Analysis	University of Vienna	Redeemer's University	Nigeria
9	Austria-Africa Research Collaboration on Exploring the Toxicological and Immunopharmacological Potential of Kenyan Khat (<i>Catha edulis</i>) for Enhancing Quality Livelihoods in Kenya	Medical University of Graz	Pwani University, Egerton University	Kenya
10	Exploring the multiple target actions of phenolic-rich formulations to enhance anti-cancer potential.	Medical University of Graz	Bowen University	Nigeria
11	Tamale's Urban Resilience	University of Applied Arts Vienna	University for Development Studies	Ghana
12	Preparation of Layered Double Hydroxides Promoted with Graphene Oxide and Their Applications in Water Treatment and Energy Storage and Production	TU Wien (Vienna University of Technology)	Damanhour University	Egypt
13	Application of Solar Energy in Agriculture for Food, Energy and Water: Nexus of Africa	Johannes Kepler University Linz	Godfrey Okoye University	Nigeria
14	Revolutionizing Water Treatment with Predictive Machine Learning Modeling and Sustainable Adsorbents	University for Continuing Education Krams	Suez University	Egypt
15	'Holding the Tension': Toward an Indigenous Epistemology of Conflict Transformation Among the Afar, Oromo, and Somali of Ethiopia	Academy of Fine Art Vienna	Haramaya University	Ethiopia
16	Breathing for Biodiversity Conservation: Innovations in Elephant Lung Ventilation and Oxygenation Monitoring	University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna	University of Pretoria	South Africa
17	Capacity building on cross-cultural insights into Underutilized Fermented Foods in Austria and Nigeria: Sensory perception, functionality and safety	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna	Godfrey Okoye University	Nigeria
18	Integrated Hygiene and Sanitation Strategies for Enhanced Elementary School Environments in Ethiopia & Ghana	University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria	Debre Markos University, University for Development Studies	Ethiopia, Ghana
19	Closing the loop on battery waste for environmental restoration	Johannes Kepler University Linz, University of Vienna	Suez University, University of Pretoria	Egypt, South Africa
20	Women's Role in Peacebuilding in Ethiopia: Challenges, Opportunities, and Pathways for Sustainable Peace	University of Innsbruck	Haramaya University	Ethiopia

Figure 1: Overview of the 20 approved projects of the 5th Call

3. 6th Africa-UniNet Call

The 6th Africa-UniNet Call was opened on 1 September 2025 for a period of three months and closed on 30 November 2025. All 72 Africa-UniNet member institutions that had paid their membership fee in 2025 were eligible to apply. However, as already introduced in the 5th Call through amendments of the Special Guideline, only Austrian member institutions were eligible to submit applications as coordinating institutions.

Potential applicants were informed about the call via email, the Africa-UniNet website, a dedicated webinar, and telephone consultations. During the webinar, as well as through the “matchmaking for proposals” section on the Africa-UniNet website, members were given the opportunity to share their research interests and project ideas with other Africa-UniNet members and to network for the purpose of joint proposal development. The strong interest in the 6th Call was also reflected in the fact that 71 project idea abstracts were shared on the “matchmaking” platform.

In total, 51 project proposals were submitted under the 6th Call, involving collaborations with partners in the following ten African countries: Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. At the end of the reporting period, the submitted proposals were still under evaluation.

4. Status Members & Projects

As of December 2025, a total of 72 members were active within the network, including 45 institutions from 17 African countries. This represents a decline in membership numbers compared to the peak of 86 members recorded in 2024 (see figure below).

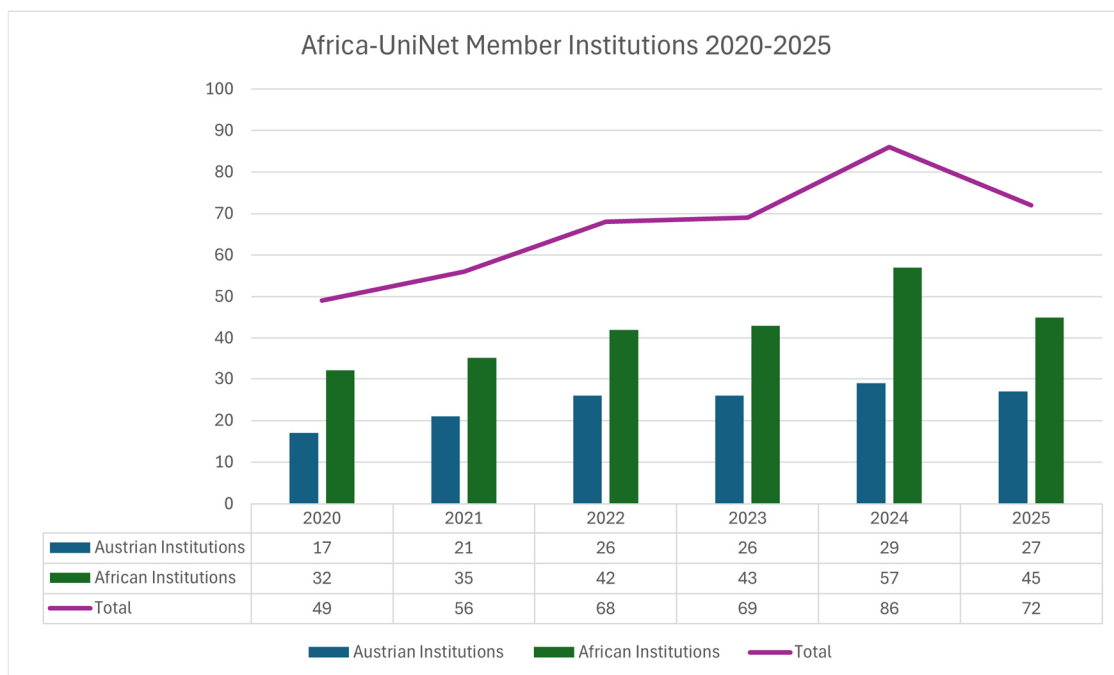


Figure 2: Africa-UniNet Member Institutions, 2020–2025

Since the start of Africa-UniNet in 2020, more than 100 projects were selected for funding in cooperation with partners in 17 different African countries (see figure 3). With 27 cooperations Ethiopia leads the list of partner countries, followed by Uganda with 23 and Kenya with 21 cooperations each. The projects are financed by the BMFWF with a total funding amount of 2.8 million euros for all five calls. The projects have a duration of maximum two years.

By the end of 2025, 50 of the 100 projects funded since the beginning of the programme had already been completed, including 26 projects successfully finalized during 2025 (projects from Calls 1, 2, and partly 3). A further 50 projects remained active at the end of 2025.

Detailed information on ongoing and completed projects can be found on the Africa-UniNet website (see below).

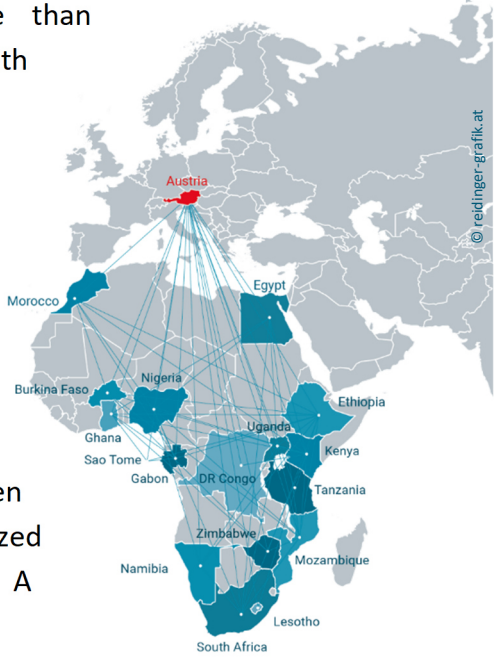


Figure 3: Countries Involved in Africa-UniNet Projects, Call 1–5 (2020–2025)

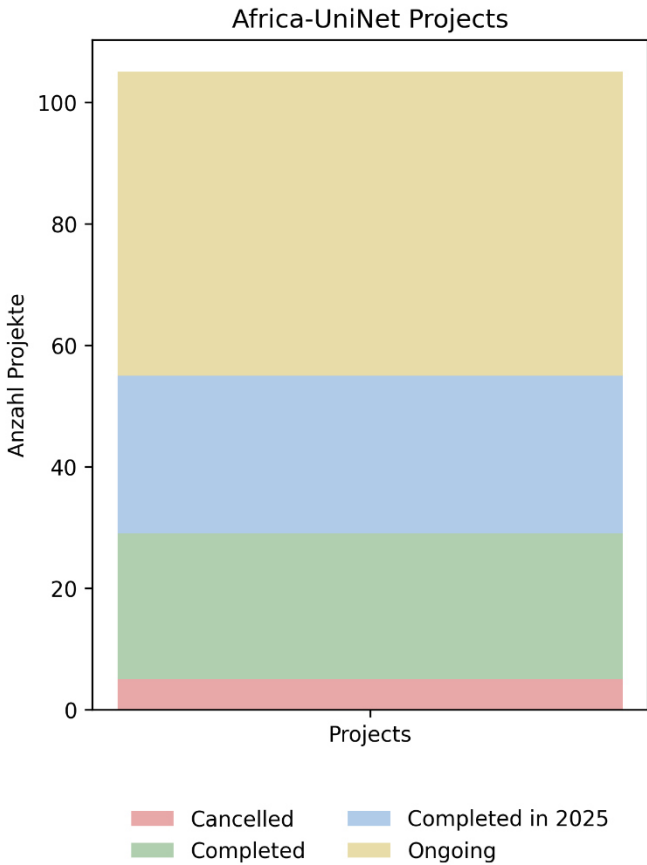


Figure 4: Statistics of Funded Africa-UniNet Projects, Call 1-5 (2020-2025)

5. Communication Activities

5.1. Website

Following substantial changes of the OeAD website and its subpages in 2024, the Africa-UniNet website was also updated and redesigned. Since then, member institutions, projects, and network activities have been presented in a more accessible and user-friendly manner.

In 2025, the overview page of completed projects was also redesigned, featuring project photos linked to the respective African partner countries. The individual project pages now also display the results of completed projects, including final reports, photos of project activities, and project publications.

With its new interface, the Africa-UniNet website has received strong positive feedback from both members and stakeholders interested in the network. In 2025, the website was visited 19,955 times, generating 44,900 page views and an average of 2.6 actions per visitor. The number of visits increased by 127% compared to the previous year.

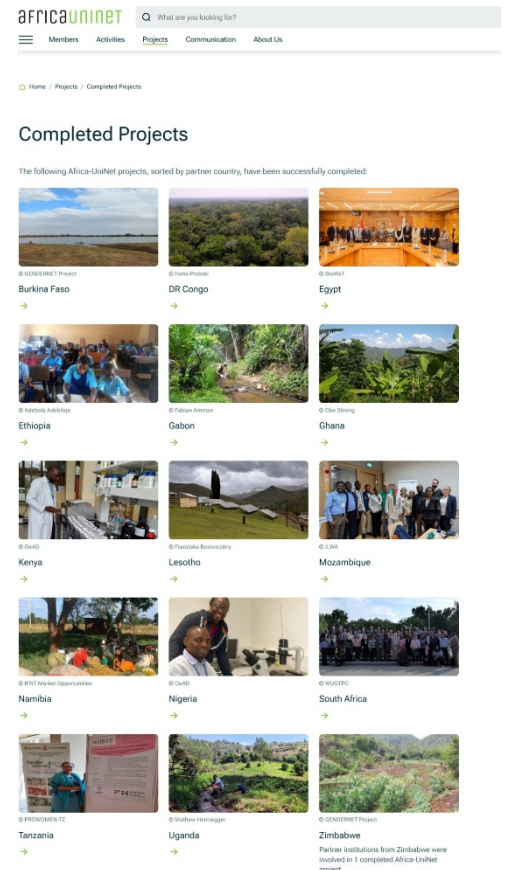


Figure 5: Website Africa-UniNet
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5.2. Events

The webinar *“Sharing Results of Scientific Cooperation Projects”* organized by Africa UniNet and KoEF (Cooperation Development Research) was held in December and provided a platform for presenting research projects from African and Asian contexts. The event addressed organisational, methodological, and practical challenges in international scientific cooperation, while discussing (preliminary) findings with a particular focus on partnership-based cooperation as a cornerstone of transnational knowledge production aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5.3. Media

Africa-UniNet projects and the resulting collaborations and synergies are increasingly featured in Austrian media and university publications:

- [“Was man aus dem All über den größten See Äthiopiens erfährt”](#). *Der Standard Forschung Spezial*, 1.12.25.
- [“Einen kranken See heilen”](#). *Der Standard Forschung Spezial*, 5.11.25 (print version).
- ["Marokkos Arganwälder unter Druck: Satellitentechnologie soll nachhaltigen Schutz sichern"](#). Von Christoph Pucher & Hubert Hasenauer. *BOKU Magazin 4/2025*, 12/2025.

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