

**Annual Report 2022**  
**Africa-UniNet**

**Table of Content**

- 1. Board Meeting on 20 January 2022 and Online Resolution ..... 1
- 2. Board Meeting on 11 May 2022 and Online Resolution..... 2
- 3. 3rd Call 2022..... 3
- 4. Board Meeting on 14 September 2022..... 3
- 5. 2nd General Assembly 2022..... 4
- 6. Status Projects..... 6

## 1. Board Meeting on 20 January 2022 and Online Resolution

The first Board Meeting in 2022 started with the presentation of numerous new institutions applying for membership in the network, namely: *Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Babcock University, Busitema University, Cadi Ayyad University, FH Kufstein Tirol University of Applied Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University*. The Board unanimously decided to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of the new members by online resolution. Other resolutions included the postponement of the 2nd General Assembly at Egerton University in Kenya to October 17-19, 2022 (due to continued uncertainty caused by COVID-19) and the confirmation of the list of 21 projects selected for funding during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call (see annual report 2020-2021). The list of selected projects was submitted to the General Assembly for online resolution as well as to the BMBWF for approval (see Figure 1). The first projects of the 2nd Call started in April 2022.

**Figure 1: Overview of 21 approved projects 2nd Call**

No.	Title	Coordinating Institution	Country
1	The impact of Covid-19 on neuropsychological functioning and late-life dementia risk: The role of inflammation and oxidative stress	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	South Africa
2	Biosorbents for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment	Suez University	Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda
3	Sustainable Fertilisers from Fly ash	Danube University Krems	Namibia, South Africa
4	Financing for Sustainable Development – Taxation, Illicit Financial Flows and the Potential for New Technologies	Vienna University of Economics and Business	South Africa
5	From South to North: Comparative Microbiomes of export Produce and Indigenous Foods. Wholesome Health through the Analysis of Microbiomes	University of Pretoria	South Africa
6	The importance of soil communities in regrowing deforested Congo	University of Vienna	DR Congo
7	Mycotoxins and their Exposure Assessment in the Population in South-Kivu, DR Congo	Université Catholique de Bukavu	DR Congo
8	Rural women productive resources and their resilience to climate changes	University of Ouahigouya	Burkina Faso, Ethiopia
9	Establishing <i>Galleria Mellonella</i> culture for discovering plant-based anti-infective drugs	Medical University of Vienna	Gabon
10	Assessment of household plastic waste handling in the city of Windhoek	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences	Namibia

11	Bioinformatics primer for Gabon	Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné	Gabon
12	Sustainable networks for using next generation quantitative genetics to modernize breeding programs in Kenya	Egerton University	Kenya
13	Marine spatial planning for sustainable use of Lake Victoria	Maseno University	Kenya, Uganda
14	Development of Training Program for Trainer of Kinesitherapy and Rehabilitation Therapy in Burkina Faso	Management Center Innsbruck	Burkina Faso
15	Surveillance and Removal of Cyanobacteria and Antimicrobial Resistance Genes from Drinking Water Sources	Redeemer's University	Nigeria
16	SONIC ETHNOGRAPHIES AND THE SECOND ITALO-ETHIOPIAN WAR. A RESTITUTION PROJECT	University of Innsbruck	Ethiopia
17	Developing Air Processable Perovskite Solar Cells Compatible for African Laboratories	Johannes Kepler University of Linz	Ethiopia
18	Efficacy of COVID-19 surveillance applications in Uganda	Medical University of Graz	Uganda
19	Quality Education for all: Designing and Implementing Digitized English Language Learning System for Secondary School Education in Africa	Redeemer's University	Ethiopia, Nigeria
20	BIO-ETHANOL PRODUCTION FROM SWEET SORGHUM STALKS GROWN IN VARIED AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES IN AFRICA	Maseno University	Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia
21	Partnership Program in Integrated Agri-Aquaculture Systems for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in East Africa	Egerton University	Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda

## 2. Board Meeting on 11 May 2022 and Online Resolution

At the second Board Meeting of the year, a new member was introduced, the *University of Ghana*. The Board unanimously decided to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of the new member by online resolution. Furthermore, the revised program for the 2nd General Assembly was presented to the Board for approval. Regarding the 3rd Call, it was decided to postpone and extend the call period to the period 1 September 2022 – 30 November 2022. The reason given for the adapted time frame was that the 2nd General Assembly could be used to prepare and subsequently submit new project proposals. An extended timeframe for the open Call should also provide sufficient time for applicants to submit their proposals.

### **3. 3rd Call 2022**

The 3rd Call was open from 1 September to 30 November 2022. All full members of the network were eligible to participate, a total of 68 member institutions at the end of the call period. A total of 30 project proposals were submitted to the Africa-UniNet office in due time. 41 of 68 Africa-UniNet member institutions are involved in the project proposals; 26 of 42 African member institutions and 15 of 26 Austrian member institutions. The African institutions are located in 12 different African countries: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda.

The proposed projects target all 17 SDGs and cover a wide range of science fields, including political science, machine learning, psychology, mathematics, water management, sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, arts education, and many others.

As a result of thorough review, a total of 28 project proposals were confirmed to be formally correct, while only 2 proposals could not be considered due to formal errors. 14 of the 28 eligible projects are to be coordinated by institutions in Africa, the other 14 by the institutions in Austria.

The formally valid 28 applications were reviewed by a team of international reviewers in early 2023. Analogous to the 2nd call, the review was based on the following criteria:

- Project design, quality of the project proposal and the partnership, contribution to the formation of the network (max. 50 points)
- Contribution to the SDGs, integration of a gender and diversity perspective (max. 20 points)
- Sustainability and application of results (max. 20 points)
- Risk management and cost-effectiveness (max. 10 points)

By the end of the reporting period (December 2022), no final result of the assessment was available.

### **4. Board Meeting on 14 September 2022**

Two new members were introduced to the Board at this meeting: The *Austrian Academy of Sciences* (ÖAW), represented by former Federal Minister Prof. Heinz Fassmann, and the *Austrian Foundation for Development Research* (ÖFSE), represented by Dr. Margarita Langthaler. The Board unanimously decided to recommend the new members for admission to the network at the General Assembly at Egerton University in October. Furthermore, the Board was informed about the opening of the 3rd Call, as well as about the plans for the 2nd General Assembly and program changes.

## 5. 2nd General Assembly 2022

130 representatives of universities, colleges, and research institutions from Austria and 16 countries in Africa met at Egerton University in Kenya from October 17-19 for the 2nd Africa-UNI-net General Assembly and Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar.



(Photo: OeAD\_Nina Zuckerstätter)

The aim of the event was to establish new research partnerships between universities and to deepen existing ones. In addition, experiences and challenges of international research collaborations were discussed. The participants overwhelmingly appreciated the opportunity to meet (again) in person after a long break due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



(Photo: OeAD\_Nina Zuckerstätter)



During the 2nd General Assembly, Africa-UniNet members had the opportunity to meet again more than two years after the first General Assembly in 2020 in Vienna. Since many new members had joined the network since then, it was the first opportunity for many to get to know each other and to share the successes and challenges of the past two years. Two new members, the *Austrian Academy of Sciences* (ÖAW) and the *Austrian Foundation for Development Research* (ÖFSE), were officially accepted as new members during the general meeting. This increased the total number of member institutions to 68 (26 from Austria and 42 from African countries). Furthermore, the Board of Directors and the chair of Africa-UniNet were elected according to the statutes of Africa-UniNet. Univ.-Prof. Hubert Hasenauer (BOKU) and Prof. Nzula Kitaka (Egerton University) were confirmed for another term as president and vice-president, respectively, in order to stabilize the network after two challenging years and to consolidate the strategic objectives.



(Photo: OeAD\_Nina Zuckerstätter)

The Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar provided a welcome opportunity to learn about funding opportunities from the European Union to complement Africa-UniNet's project funding. As the European Union has significantly increased funding for Sub-Saharan Africa to 23% of external funding in the new Erasmus+ programming period (2021-2027), participants wanted to take the opportunity to establish new partnerships between Austrian and African higher education institutions. In match-making sessions, university and higher education representatives learned about their specific areas of interest and institutional profiles in order to lay the groundwork for cooperation under Erasmus+.

It is expected that many new research partnerships will emerge from these personal encounters and that scientific cooperation between African countries and Austria will enter a new phase.

After the intense three days of the official program, the participants also had the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of Kenya during optional leisure activities.

The program of the 2nd General Assembly can be downloaded at this [link](#).

A video of the General Assembly is available at this [link](#).

## **6. Status Projects**

As of December 2022, 40 Africa-UniNet projects were active. One project was cancelled by the coordinating institution and the project funds transferred back (since a project staff member and PhD candidate left the project unexpectedly). None of the ongoing 20 projects of the first call had been completed by the end of the reporting period, as most of the projects were extended by up to one year due to severe delays caused by COVID-19. However, interim (financial) reports have already been reviewed and approved. First project completions are expected in the first half of 2023.



**Contact:**

OeAD c/o Africa-UniNet Office

[africa-uninet@oead.at](mailto:africa-uninet@oead.at)

<https://africa-uninet.at>

+43 1 53408-421

Ebendorferstraße 7

1010 Wien