

## Overview of different programmes in education, research, and innovation open to EU-Africa cooperation

Last update: 15 September 2023

### Research

#### Africa initiative

Horizon Europe work programme 2023-2024 includes [36 topics](#) with a budget of around €350 million under Calls for Proposals that are particularly relevant for cooperation with Africa (Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation and Technology, and Capacities for Science). These calls require or encourage participation of African entities. Topics range from climate change, rural innovation, sustainable food systems and sustainable energy to bringing European highly innovative SMEs to the forefront of African markets.

The Funding and Tenders Portal currently shows [7 topics are currently open for submission, 5 are forthcoming](#).

An information video on the Africa Initiative is available [here](#). See this factsheet about [Africa Initiative II \(calls in the 2023-2024 period\)](#)

Also see this Africa Initiative I [factsheet](#)

#### Horizon Europe generally

Funding opportunities that can involve Africa – Europe cooperation are not limited to these calls in the Africa Initiative. The Africa Initiative has many of its calls in Pillar 2 which funds collaborative projects to solve global challenges.

The general rules for [Horizon Europe](#) calls, including those not flagged under Africa Initiative, provides automatic eligibility for funding for organisation based in Africa (see the complete list of third countries eligible for funding [here](#))

#### AU-EU research and innovation partnerships

As part of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation, the EU and the AU have agreed on a number of common research and innovation priorities, leading to several R&I Partnerships with projects implemented under H2020/Horizon Europe.

##### 1. [Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture \(FNSSA\)](#)

Several projects began in 2020: [FOODLAND](#) | [InnoFoodAfrica](#) | [HealthyFoodAfricaEWA – BELT](#) | [SustainSAHEL](#) | [SustInAfrica](#) | [UPSCALE](#) | [Soils4Africa](#)

##### 2. [Climate Change and Sustainable Energy \(CCSE\)](#)

Sustainable energy activities: [LEAP-RE](#) | [ABC 21](#); Climate change activities: [CONFER](#) | [Down2Earth](#) | [FOCUS-Africa](#)

### 3. [Partnership on Innovation](#)

[Enrich in Africa](#)

**4. [European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership \(EDCTP3\)](#):** public-public partnership between African and European countries, supported by the European Union. This partnership exists to accelerate the clinical development of new or improved health technologies for the identification, treatment and prevention of poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases, including (re-) emerging infectious diseases. Global Health EDCTP3 also funds activities for building research capacity in Africa, supporting researchers' careers and strengthening national health research systems.

Funding: The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking is set up until the end of 2031 and has a budget of €1.6 billion.

Deadline: The [Work Programme for 2023](#) was published in April 2023, [two calls](#) have deadlines in late September 2023. It will focus on areas identified by their [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#). They may also adapt funding opportunities to health emergencies.

More information is available on the [EDCTP website](#) and on these [slides](#).

Contact: [EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3@ec.europa.eu)

### African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence Pilot (ARISE)

Pilot programme which supports African researchers who are African nationals with 2-7 years of research experience since completion of their PhD, a scientific track-record showing great promise, and an excellent research proposal to conduct excellent research in an African university or research institution. The ARISE pilot is funded by the Pan-African Programme with the EU contributing €25 million to the pilot.

More information is available [here](#).

Deadline: The last call was closed on 30 July 2021 (opening: 18 June 2021). We understand there is strong support for continuing this funding instrument in a second call but this has not yet been confirmed.

Contact: [arise@aasciences.africa](mailto:arise@aasciences.africa)

### MSCA

EU's flagship funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers. The MSCA are open to all domains of research and innovation and encourage international cooperation to set-up strategic collaborations.

Funding: Horizon Europe

#### [Doctoral Networks](#)

Opening date: **30 May 2023 & 29 May 2024**

Closing date: **28 November 2023 & 27 November 2024**

#### [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#)

Opening date: **12 April 2023 & 10 April 2024**

Closing date: **13 September 2023 & 11 September 2024**

#### Staff Exchanges

Opening date: **5 October 2023 & 10 October 2024**

Closing date: **28 February 2024 & 5 March 2025**

#### COFUND

Opening date: **10 October 2023 & 8 October 2024**

Closing date: **8 February 2024 & 6 February 2025**

More information is available [here](#) and in the [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024](#). Also see [the presentation](#) that DG EAC recently gave to ARUA and The Guild universities.

Contact: [EAC-UNITE-C2@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-UNITE-C2@ec.europa.eu)

## Useful resources

Web portals for policymakers and stakeholders interested in EU-Africa cooperation on research and innovation:

[EU-AU cooperation in research and innovation portal](#)

[EU-Mediterranean cooperation in R&I portal](#)

## Education

### Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM)

Since 2015 universities can set up mobility agreements with partners around the world to send and receive students and staff members. In the new Erasmus+ programme, the objective is to fund 105 000 mobilities of African students and staff by 2027, compared to 35 000 from 2015-2020.

More information is available [here](#), and in the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#). Also see [the presentation](#) that DG EAC gave to ARUA and The Guild universities.

Funding: NDICI budget through Erasmus+. Between 2021 and 2027, €281.2 million will be available for students/researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### *Conditions for Sub-Saharan Africa:*

- A minimum of 35% of the budget should be spent on mobility with the least developed countries (LDCs) of the region, with a special emphasis on migration priority countries.
- no more than 8% of the budget should be spent on mobility with any country

#### *Conditions for Southern Neighbourhood:*

- No more than 15% of the budget should be spent on mobility with any country;
- A minimum of 65% of the funds should be allocated to students, 50% of whom should be with fewer opportunities

Application process: EU universities send their application to the relevant [National Erasmus+ agency](#)

Deadline: **23 February 2023** (the next deadline will be around the same period in 2024)

Contact (for researchers and students): International relations/mobility department

Contact (for universities): [National Erasmus+ agency](#)

### Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree (EMJMD)

This action aims at fostering excellence and worldwide internationalisation of higher education institutions via study programmes – at Master course level – jointly delivered and jointly recognised by higher education institutions established in Europe, and open to institutions in other countries of the world. So far, African institutions usually participated as associated partners only. Students from Africa are also eligible for Erasmus Mundus scholarships covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. Most programmes last two years, during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

From 2021, it is expected that non-European partners will have a greater role in Erasmus Mundus consortia: they will be able to lead consortia; host students for up to half the length of the Master degree; issue joint or multiple degrees alongside their European partners.

More information: [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#), p. 259

[Download a presentation](#) on how to apply to run an Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters in the 2021-27 phase

Funding: Core Erasmus+ funding and NDICI budget. Between 2021 and 2027, €45.5 million will be available for EMJMD partners from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Application process: Researchers and universities send their application to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Opening date: 29 November 2022

Deadline: **16 February 2023** (the next deadline will be around the same period in 2024)

Contact: [EACEA-EPLUS-ERASMUS-MUNDUS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-EPLUS-ERASMUS-MUNDUS@ec.europa.eu)

### Erasmus Mundus Design Measures

New action which supports the design of high-level study programmes at Master level. They are jointly delivered by an international partnership of universities from different countries worldwide and, where relevant, other educational and/or non-educational partners with specific expertise in the concerned study areas/professional domains. The beneficiary will initiate contacts and collaboration activities in view of setting up a Master programme.

More information: [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#), p. 259 and 269-274

Funding: Core Erasmus+ funding and NDICI budget

Application process: Researchers and universities send their application to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Opening date: 29 November 2022

Deadline: **16 February 2023** (the next deadline will be around the same period in 2024)

Contact: [EACEA-EPLUS-ERASMUS-MUNDUS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-EPLUS-ERASMUS-MUNDUS@ec.europa.eu)

### Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Capacity building projects are transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships, primarily between higher education institutions from Programme and eligible Partner Countries financed through NDICI instrument. Joint projects are aimed at modernizing and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education institutions and enterprises. Structural projects can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform in cooperation with national authorities.

More information: [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#), p. 312-327. Also see [the presentation](#) that DG EAC recently gave to ARUA and The Guild universities.

Funding: NDICI budget through Erasmus+. Between 2021 and 2027, €160 million will be available for CBHE partners from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Application process: Researchers and universities send their application to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Opening date: 29 November 2022

Deadline: **16 February 2023** (the next deadline will be around the same period in 2024)

Contact: [EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE@ec.europa.eu)

### Jean Monnet

The Jean Monnet Action in the field of Higher Education supports Teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. The Jean Monnet “Teaching and Research” must take one of the following forms: Modules, Chairs and Centres of Excellence.

More information: [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#), p. 369

Funding: Core Erasmus+ funding and NDICI budget. Between 2021 and 2027, €10.8 million will be available for Jean Monnet partners from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Application process: Researchers and universities send their application to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Opening date: 1 December 2022

Deadline: **14 February 2023** (the next deadline will be around the same period in 2024)

Contact: [https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/contacts/erasmus\\_en](https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/contacts/erasmus_en)

### Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme

The Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme was set up in 2010, and is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and under the supervision of the DG International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European Commission.

It supports student mobility between African universities. The overall objective of the programme is to enhance human capital development in Africa, while strengthening intra-African collaboration in higher education as called for by Agenda 2063.

The results from the recent call are expected in the next month.

More information is available [here](#).

Funding: NDICI budget. Between 2021 and 2027, the budget of the scheme will be of €60 million.

Application process: Researchers and universities send their application to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Deadline: The first call for proposals is under preparation and will be published on the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal **in the coming weeks**.

Contact: [https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/contacts/intra-africa\\_en](https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/contacts/intra-africa_en)

### Africa Connect 3

Project run in collaboration between the EU, the pan-European networking organisation GÉANT and the three regional partners supporting local research and education networking across Africa. DG INTPA provides the majority of funding, with additional support of African partners. It seeks to unlock the potential of education and research through increased access to digital infrastructures and technologies for African education and research institutions.

More information is available [here](#).

### AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme

This action aims to improve occupation prospects of young Africans through the support of innovative, job-oriented skills development programmes. Its three components pursue complementary specific objectives: 1) to support market-oriented skills development through investments in innovative projects and stronger linkages with the private sector; 2) to strengthen capacities for evidence-based planning, promote multi-stakeholder engagement, and to promote comparability and transferability of competences by supporting regional/continental platforms for dialogue, sharing of best practices, and providing skills development products; 3) to improve the skills and competences of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) lecturers (teaching staff) and of students through a pilot mobility initiative.

More information is available [here](#).

Deadlines: Funding window II closed on **21 March 2023**. Funding window III to open on September 21 2023, deadline to be confirmed.

Contact: <https://skillsafrica.org/contact>