

ACTIVITY REPORT COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AFRICA-AUSTRIA



CONNECTING HIGHER EDUCATION OF AFRICA AND AUSTRIA

Increased global attention to educational and scientific cooperation with Africa from 2018 onwards, and as a direct reaction to the [Africa-EU Partnership](#) and the high-level EU-Africa Summit in Vienna, opportunities and initiatives for academic cooperation were increased both at European and national level. So were financial resources.

This publication provides you with a concise overview of facts and figures as well as relevant programmes for Austrian-African scientific collaboration. It illustrates the wide range of instruments available to facilitate the Austrian higher education sector's cooperation with African universities and research institutions. The programmes are intertwined and can be used 'on demand', maximising synergies and mutual academic benefit.

For each funding instrument relevant information is summarised: partner countries, eligible costs, thematic scope, available budget.

Funding opportunities provided by European programmes

At European Level, the regional budget for **Erasmus+** was raised considerably – from 7% regional share in the previous programme period (2014 – 2020) towards up to 23% of international funds which will be available for the Sub-Saharan region between 2021 and 2027. One of the aims is to increase annual Erasmus+ mobility between Europe and Africa from previously around 16,000 mobile students to 105,000 by 2027. Furthermore, joint European-African scientific development projects as well as capacity building in higher education projects will be financed.

Funding Opportunities provided by Austrian programmes

In addition to European Union programmes, Austria invests in cooperation with African countries through various instruments such as the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) and the Austrian-African Research Network (Africa-UniNet).

CONTENT

Policy Background

- 3** A snapshot on the policy background for collaboration with Africa such as the EU-Africa partnership

Funding opportunities provided by European programmes

- 4** Erasmus+ Mobility
6 Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)
7 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master
8 Jean Monnet Actions

Funding opportunities provided by Austrian programmes

- 9** Africa-UniNet
10 Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR)
11 Cooperation Development Research
11 Scientific & Technological Cooperation (S&T Cooperation)



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

Together we can build a more prosperous, more peaceful and more sustainable future for all.

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

POLICY BACKGROUND

Africa-EU Partnership

The Africa-EU partnership intends to bring the two continents closer together by promoting sustainable development and intensified collaboration. The EU and Africa can work together to seize opportunities and address challenges and develop actions that ensure stability, peace, security, human rights, democracy, gender equality, sustainable livelihoods, sustainable economic growth based on healthy ecosystems, social cohesion and good governance.¹

Within the next 15 years, some 375 million young people are expected to reach working age in Africa. Currently less than 10% of African 18 to 24-year-olds are enrolled in some form of post-secondary education or training. Providing young people with education, training and skills, and preparing them for the new opportunities of the future labour market is a common strategic priority.

The European Commission proposes to partner with Africa to rapidly enhance learning, knowledge and skills, research and innovation capacities, particularly for women and youth, protecting and improving social rights, and eradicating child labour.

Therefore, the Commission proposes that the EU

- scales up EU-African academic and scientific cooperation, including technical and vocational education and training;
- facilitates the mobility of students, teachers, trainers, and researchers;
- supports capacity building within Africa;
- seeks to engage in labour dialogues with African countries to protect social rights, and, in particular, to eradicate child labour.



TOGETHER.
TOMORROW.
TODAY.

Austrian Development Cooperation

Combating poverty, ensuring peace and preserving the environment: These are the three major concerns of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation. ADA currently funds projects and programmes with a total volume of more than 640 million euros to improve living conditions in developing countries.

Together with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (MFA), partner countries, public institutions, civil society organisations and businesses, ADA seeks to ensure that sustainable development works to the benefit of all people in Africa, Asia, Southeast Europe and the South Caucasus.



¹ JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa. Brussels, 9.3.2020 JOIN (2020) 4 final

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

Erasmus+ Mobility

For more than 30 years, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. In 2015, Erasmus+ opened up mobility opportunities in the field of higher education to individuals and organisations from other parts of the world. The objective is to enhance cooperation in higher education, strengthen international ties between higher education institutions and foster personal development on a professional, intercultural and social level. "International Credit Mobility" enables Austrian higher education institutions (HEIs) to set up mobility agreements that allow them to send and receive students and staff from and to partners worldwide. The budget is divided along different regions of the world, Africa being represented in Region 3 (South Mediterranean) and Region 9 (Sub-Saharan Africa)².

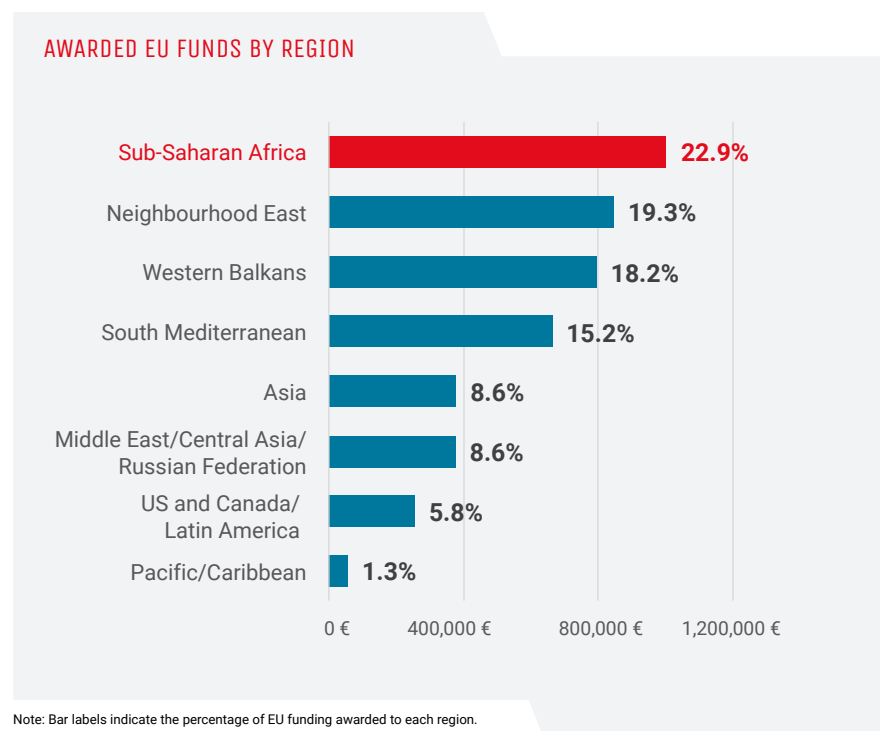
Funding opportunities

- **Eligible costs for mobile persons:** travel costs, individual support and – if needed – top-ups for green-travel and students with fewer opportunities to promote sustainability, inclusion, and diversity.
- **Eligible costs for HEIs:** organisational support.
- **Duration:** learner mobility 2 to 12 months, staff mobility 5 to 60 days.
- **Types of activities:** incoming and outgoing mobility for students and staff
 - Erasmus+ International Mobility (KA171) supports students and staff mobility in both directions; restrictions may apply for particular regions.
 - In addition, the international opening of the "regular" Erasmus+ programme (KA131) entitles universities to spend up to 20% of their mobility budget on worldwide exchange of students and staff.

New focus on sub-Saharan Africa

The new programme period of Erasmus+ (2021 – 2027) has a clear focus on the sub-Saharan African region.

While during the last programme period of Erasmus+ (2014 – 2020) around 7% of the budget from external funds were reserved for sub-Saharan Africa, about 20% of international funds will be available for this region until 2027. Demand had already far exceeded the available funds before, as the political focus turned increasingly towards Africa. The goal is to increase annual mobility between Europe and Africa from around 16,000 to 105,000 individuals by 2027.

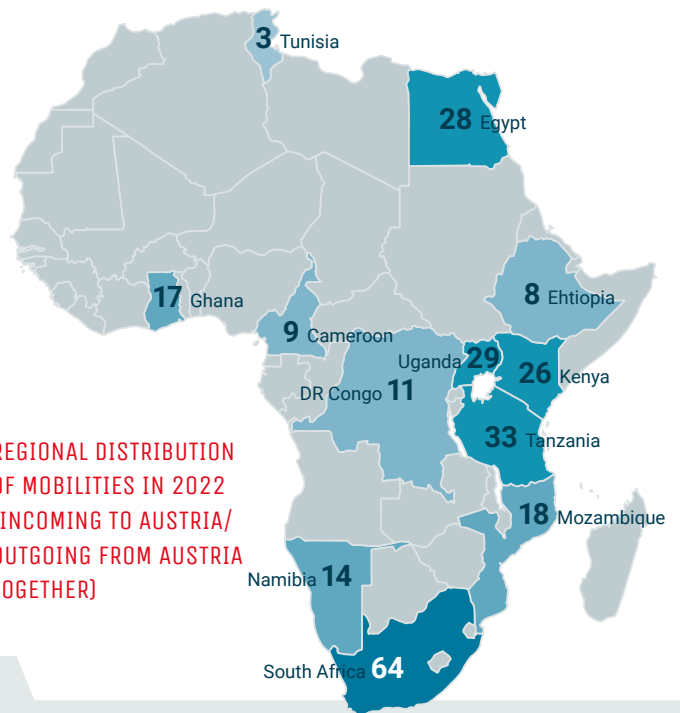


Erasmus+ call 2022

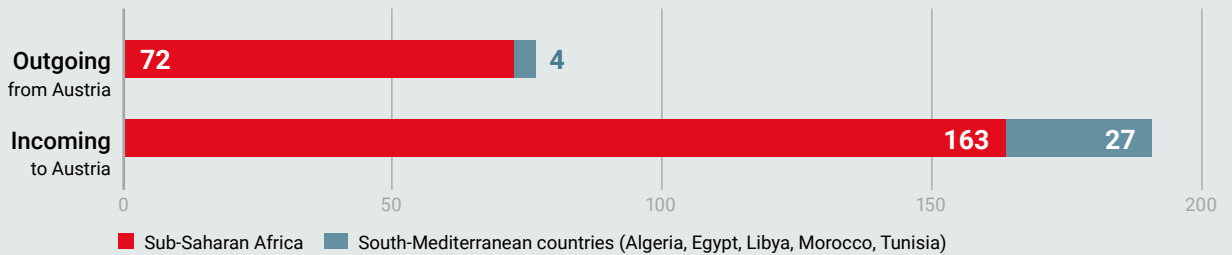
In the 2022 call, a total of 266 mobilities between Austrian and African institutions has been granted and will take place starting from August 2022.

The regional distribution of planned mobilities mirrors the new focus of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021 – 2027 on sub-Saharan Africa and demonstrates that the programme can be fully used for collaboration with all countries of the continent.

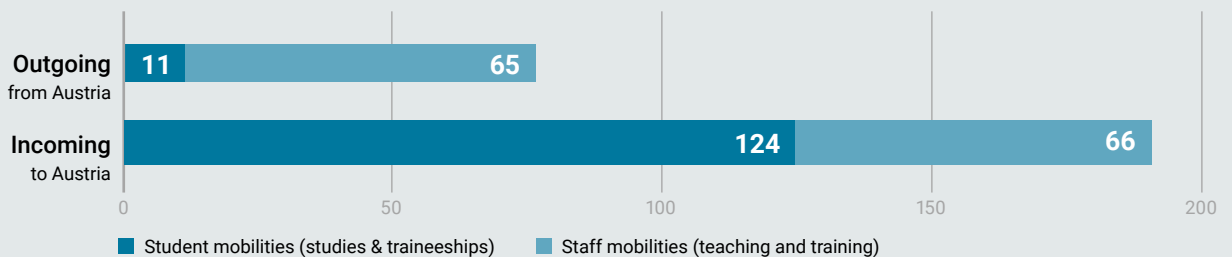
The South Mediterranean Countries includes North African states (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) as well as Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PLANNED MOBILITIES
(between Austria and African countries in 2022)



PARTICIPANT TYPE



Outgoing mobilities are being planned primarily by staff-members for the purpose of teaching or training. In contrast to this, the majority of mobilities from African countries

to Austria relate to students (credit mobility for a study period or traineeship). Nevertheless, up to 66 staff mobilities are planned.

Erasmus+ Centralised Actions

Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Capacity Building in Higher Education operates as a multilateral partnership action between institutions active in the higher education field from Erasmus+ Programme Countries and Partner Countries³.

Elected projects shall support support the relevance, quality, modernisation and accessibility of higher education, to render it a driver for sustainable social and economic development.

- up to one million euros **budget** per project
- **Central goals** are among others: development of curricula, support of university-enterprise cooperation, upskilling and professionalisation of academic and administrative staff, supporting the introduction of reforms, which are in line with the Bologna-Process and developing approaches and tools for

policy making and monitoring, reform of governance and management systems and structures.

- **Eligible to participate** in CBHE projects are stakeholders of the higher education sector: Higher Education Institutions, bodies in charge of higher education (councils, agencies) and national authorities (ministries, departments of higher education); quality agencies, training and research bodies and NGOs, both in programme and in African partner countries.

Focus on sub-Saharan Africa (2021 – 2027):

Capacity Building in Higher Education dedicates 160 million euros to sub-Saharan countries. In the past six years there have already been four projects involving Austrian and sub-Saharan higher education institutions.



Next Call:

expected in October 2022 with an application deadline in February or March 2023

Funding opportunities for 2021 – 2027 and information on how to apply are announced on the European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities portal ...



PROJECT EXAMPLE

“LaTFURE – Learning and Teaching Tools Fuelling University Relations with the Economy in Mozambique and South Africa”:

The project supports the introduction of dual study programmes in Mozambique and South Africa. The consortium includes some of Europe's most experienced universities for dual programmes, like the Danube University Krems (Austria) and the Dual University of Baden-Württemberg (Germany). In Mozambique and South Africa, the 9 partner universities comprise both prestigious institutions like the University of Cape Town, and universities in disadvantaged settings. The project develops

mechanisms and tools that can easily be adapted for other disciplines and in neighbouring countries at a later stage. Most learning and teaching tools are provided online to facilitate other countries adapting them to their needs. Outputs will be available in English and Portuguese, making them accessible to large parts of the African continent.



³ The programme countries of Erasmus+ are the Members of the European Union and the following countries outside the EU: North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey; The partner countries (or third countries not associated with the Programme) of Erasmus+ include countries all over the world; they are divided into 14 regions.

FUNDED ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING AND JOINT MASTER PROJECTS IN AFRICA BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020



Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM)

At least three universities from three different countries (including at least two programme countries) offer a joint, integrated and accredited master's degree (= joint programme), during which students complete their education at several locations in Europe and worldwide. Higher education institutions from Africa can both participate in the consortium on an equal footing under the new Erasmus+ programme, and assume the coordination of an Erasmus+ master's degree course.

- up to five million euros project **budget**
- The **funding period** of an EMJM lasts six years so that the master programme can be carried out several times in succession.
- EMJM programmes last from one to two years.
- Students receive a high-value full-time scholarship and at the end of their studies a double or joint degree.
- Other facilities such as companies, NGOs or research institutions can participate as associated partners.



PROJECT EXAMPLE

M.A. in Global Studies – A European Perspective:

The University of Vienna is partner at the Global Studies programme which takes global connections as a starting point for understanding globalisation. It aims at qualifying excellent students to deal responsibly and on an advanced scientific level with various aspects of "globalisation" and its accompanying processes based on findings, theories and methods of Humanities and Social Science with a strong emphasis on historical analysis. The non-European partner universities provide EMGS students with the opportunity to spend one academic term in another inspiring academic environment: Dalhousie University (Canada), Macquarie University (Australia), the University of California, Santa Barbara (USA), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Jawaharlal Nehru University (India); Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), the University of Yaoundé I (Cameroon), the University of Otago (New Zealand), Fudan University (China).



Jean Monnet Actions

The Jean Monnet Actions in the field of Higher Education support teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. EU studies address the study of Europe in its entirety, with particular emphasis on the EU dimension, from an internal but also from a global perspective.

- **African Countries are fully eligible** to participate in these actions.
- Duration of the projects is **3 years**.
- Five different action types are relevant for Africa:
 - **Jean Monnet Module:** at least 40 teaching hours per academic year are taught in the field of European Union studies at the applicant higher education institution. Funding up to 30.000 euros.
 - **Jean Monnet Chair:** The Chair holder (one professor) delivers 90 teaching hours per academic year. Funding up to 50.000 euros.
 - **Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence** are focal points of competence and knowledge of European Union subjects. They play a key role in reaching out to students from faculties not normally dealing with European Union issues as well as to policy makers, the civil society and the general public at large. Funding up to 100.000 euros.
 - **Jean Monnet Network in higher education on internal EU issues:** the network deals with the "Future of Europe" and consists of at least twelve higher education institutions from different countries. Funding up to 1 million euros.
 - **Jean Monnet Network in higher education on foreign policy issues:** the network deals with "Europe in the world" and consists of at least twelve higher education institutions from different countries. Funding up to 1,2 million euros.



FURTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

(open for African Institutions but without specific regional focus)

Ernst Mach Grant worldwide

The Ernst Mach Grant worldwide is targeted at young researchers from all disciplines and countries (except Austria) who wish to pursue a research project in Austria.

- 1 – 9 months
- age limit: 35 years



Franz Werfel Fellowship

The Franz Werfel Fellowship is open to applications from young university teachers of German language and Austrian literature. It enables them to work as visiting researchers at university departments and carry out research in libraries, archives or at research institutions.

- 4 – 9 months



PROJECT EXAMPLE

Bamboo as sustainable construction material in Uganda and beyond

During a student mobility via International Credit Mobility, architecture students from FH Joanneum analysed the characteristics of bamboo as a sustainable building material in times of global warming. They could expand their knowledge on alternative construction materials and, as a spinoff of the mobility, a cooperation between Austrian students and local entrepreneurs was established.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY AUSTRIAN PROGRAMMES

Africa-UniNet

The Austrian-African Research Network aims at enhancing the scientific foundation of the involved institutions and reinforcing the formation of the network. It does so by promoting new partnerships and by strengthening existing ties between Africa-UniNet members.

The Austrian-African Research Network Africa-UniNet was initiated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and launched by Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD) and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) in early 2020.

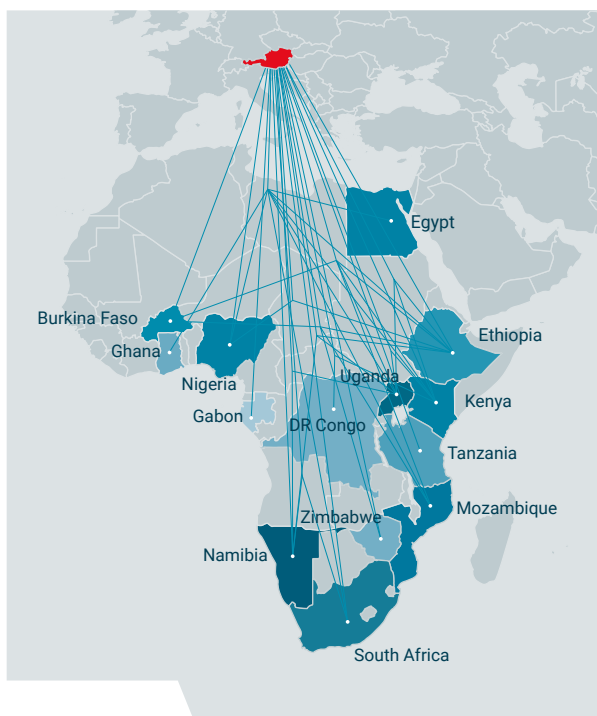
- The **thematic scope** of projects is not restricted, as long as they are contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Only active Africa-UniNet member institutions are **eligible to participate**: by August 2022, 64 institutions are official members;

24 from Austria and 40 from African countries.

- Current projects comprise partnerships with institutions in 14 countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.
- More than half of the projects are coordinated by an African partner institution.
- In the frameworks of the first two Africa-UniNet calls, 40 **cooperative research projects** between universities and research institutions in Austria and in African countries have started their collaboration so far.
- The projects are **financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria** with a potential funding amount of almost one million euros per project for a project duration of up to two years.

Next Call:

September–November 2022



PROJECT EXAMPLE

Strengthening community-based research for river health and climate change mitigation in Eastern Africa

(Uganda, Kenya and Austria): 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2023

Many cities and towns in Africa rely on streams and rivers for water supply. However, the water quality of these ecosystems is often jeopardized by pollution and climate change. Community-based monitoring models provide long term water quality status indication. This project will conceptualize the East African river ecosystems using conceptual cause effect models (Social Simulation and DPSIR) to analyse interactions between biological, abiotic, social and governance indicators.



AFRICA-UNINET:
PARTNER COUNTRIES AND NETWORK

APPEAR – Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development

APPEAR is a programme of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), implemented by Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation. It contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The **overall objective** is to strengthen the scientific foundation and institutional capacities in higher education, research and management in partner countries through academic partnerships with Austrian higher education institutions as well as master's and PhD scholarships. Furthermore, APPEAR aims at increasing the commitment to international cooperation and development at Austrian higher education institutions.

- The **thematic scope** of the projects spans a wide range from eradicating poverty, meeting basic needs, enhancing human rights and gender equality, to sustainable development, protection of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources.
- **Eligible countries** in Africa are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda and Mozambique.
- The **main target group** are education and research institutions. They can submit and coordinate projects. Other institutions, e.g. research and teaching institutions, NGOs, think tanks, civil society organisations, are eligible to participate as additional partners.
- **Budget:** Depending on the funding instrument between 15,000 and 130,000 euros per project and year can be requested. The success rate varies between funding instruments and ranges from 16 to 36%.
- **Master's and PhD Scholarships:** One objective of APPEAR is supporting higher education institutions in eligible countries in increasing the number of qualified staff that is enabled to contribute to the

improvement of teaching, research and management at their institutions. Students and professionals from eligible countries receive scholarships to pursue their master's or PhD studies at an Austrian university. At least 50% of the individual scholarships are awarded to female applicants. PhDs receive 1,100 euros per month for up to 48 months. Up until now, 102 scholars from Africa have received an APPEAR-grant.

Focus on sub-Saharan Africa: Within APPEAR, the Austrian Development Cooperation has already funded 27 "Academic Partnership" and "Advanced Academic Partnership" projects in the sub-Saharan region with a total of 8.7 million euros. Further funding for calls until 2024 has been secured.

Next Call:

from March 1st until May 31st



APPEAR: ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES



PROJECT EXAMPLE

Environmental Chemistry for Sustainable Development | ECSDevelop

This Project is coordinated by Makerere University, Kampala – January 2022 – December 2024

The Lake Victoria basin, which is shared by Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, has undergone rapid urbanization, leading to rapid industrial growth and the construction of waste-water treatment plants in its vicinity. The overall objective of this project is to increase the capacity and contribution of environmental chemistry research in higher education in order to address the local and global priority needs in improving water quality and advancement of remediation technologies. The project intends to train 5 PhD and 4 MSc graduate researchers in the partner institutions.



Cooperation Development Research

The Programm „Cooperation Development Research“ supports application-oriented cooperation projects between Austrian higher education institutions/research institutions and institutions in countries of the Global South.

It's aim is to contribute to analysing and solving local challenges and to achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

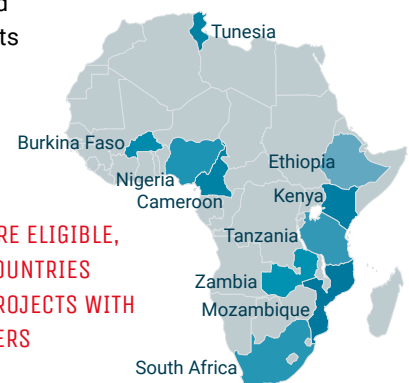
The programme is financed by Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

- **Eligible costs** are mobility and material expenses incurred by 1–3 year research projects in all scientific disciplines.
- **Eligible to apply** are researchers (postdocs) at Austrian universities and non-university research institutions engaged in application-oriented research

as well as researchers at universities and non-university research institutions in countries of the Global South according to the [DAC-list of the OECD \(all countries on the African continent\)](#).

- A total of 15 cooperative research projects between institutions in ten African countries and Austria are currently running (see map).
- A total **budget** of around 568,000 euros was granted for these 15 projects – with individual budgets between 16,600 and 50,000 euros (in 2019/2020 six projects were funded).

Next Call:
September 1st, 2022



Scientific & Technological Cooperation

The objective of the Scientific & Technological Cooperation (S&T Cooperation) programmes is to stimulate international research cooperation, to establish new, sustainable international partnerships and to increase the share of **young and female researchers in international research project consortia**.





- **Eligible** to apply are researchers at Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences (FH) and other research institutions.
- In Africa **active agreements** are currently in place with South Africa and Egypt.

- **Eligible costs** are travel and accommodation costs of researchers as well as project-related material costs of up to 2,000 euros per project for the two-year project period.
- **10 Projects were funded** 2020/2021 with partners from South Africa.
- **Calls for proposals** are usually published every two years.

Next Call:
The new Call for South Africa is planned for spring 2023; a Call for Egypt is in preparation



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AKNOWLEDGEMENTS | **Editor & publisher:** OeAD-GmbH | Ebendorferstraße 7 | 1010 Vienna
Headquarters: Vienna | FN 320219 k | Commercial Court Vienna | ATU 64808925
Managing director: Jakob Calice, PhD | **Editor:** Regina Aichner, Julia Warmuth | T + 43 1 53408-0,
kommunikation@oead.at | Vienna, September 2022

