



Global Gateway



EU-Africa cooperation in Research & Innovation

#GLOBALGATEWAY #TEAMEUROPE

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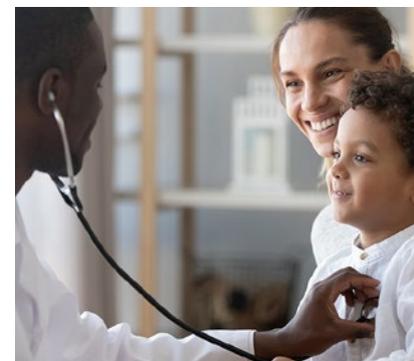
As a strategic partner, the EU seeks to enhance cooperation with Africa to promote actions targeted to finding locally adapted solutions to challenges that are global in nature, but which often hit Africa hardest.

The [Comprehensive Strategy with Africa](#), the [Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#) and the [Global Gateway](#) are the EU's most recent policy initiatives that prioritise Research and Innovation (R&I) as a key dimension of sustainable development.

The African Union – European Union High Level Policy Dialogue ([HLPD](#)) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is the policy forum where regular exchanges on R&I policy take place between both continents and where long-term priorities to strengthen cooperation are decided.

Four policy priorities for EU-AU cooperation in Research & Innovation.

Public Health.



Green Transition.

Innovation & Technology.



Capacities for Science.

(human capital development, science for policy, Open Science and gender)





Horizon Europe and the Africa Initiatives

The [Africa Initiative I](#) and [Africa Initiative II](#) are, respectively, part of the first two Work Programmes of Horizon Europe (2021-22 and 2023-24, respectively) and comprise sets of calls for proposals requiring or encouraging participation of African entities. Topics support the implementation of the four jointly identified policy priorities for AU-EU R&I cooperation and range from climate change, rural innovation, sustainable food systems and sustainable energy to bringing highly innovative European SMEs to African markets and support the development and enhancement of resilient value chains. An Africa Initiative I was launched in 2021 with 36 topics and €350 million, under which so far 126 grants have been signed and 181 eligible proposals retained with participation of African partners. An Africa Initiative II was launched in 2022 with 27 topics and €300 million under which so far 255 proposals have been received with participation of partners from 42 African countries.

Bilateral Science and Technology agreements

The EU has [bilateral agreements](#) with 20 individual countries around the world. These agreements are based on common interests and priorities, aiming to increase cooperation in R&I. In Africa, these countries currently are: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia. Morocco is a Horizon Europe candidate associated country, while Tunisia has successfully completed the formal negotiations allowing it to become associated to Horizon Europe.

What's next? The joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda and its implementation

The EU and the AU have jointly developed the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#), supported by the Global Gateway, to transform and increase the innovative capacities and achievements of European and African researchers and innovators into tangible outputs, supporting sustainable growth and jobs.

Several instruments and initiatives are being devised and will be put in place to implement the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, including, among others, Horizon Europe, the Global Health European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership 3 (EDCTP3) Joint Undertaking, and initiatives part of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package as well as under the Team Europe approach.

[ENRICH in Africa](#) is a Horizon 2020 project that aims to strengthen and connect innovation ecosystems in Africa and Europe, to upgrade the capacity of incubators and accelerators and benefit entrepreneurs in both regions. The [ENRICH in Africa virtual community](#) platform includes 439 members, 293 of whom being companies (64% from Africa and 26% from Europe), 86 investors and 60 business support organisations, such as incubators and accelerators. The project has led to the opening of the ENRICH in Africa Center. Based in Cape Town, South Africa, the Center aims to become the go-to platform for innovators, incubators, accelerators, investors, businesses and policymakers looking to strengthen the EU-African tech and innovation ecosystems.

Follow what's new, engage and seize opportunities on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda through the new [AU-EU Innovation Interface](#)! Part of the [Innovation Talent Platform](#), the AU-EU Innovation Interface will provide information on initiatives and opportunities for innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and investors during the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Among other resources, this Interface will give access to a new "**AU-EU Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme**", addressed to innovators and entrepreneurs, starting before the end of 2023! The Interface will be constantly updated throughout the implementation timeframe of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

Established in 2021, the Global Health European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership 3 ([Global Health EDCTP3](#)) Joint Undertaking has a total budget of €1.6 billion and works to deliver new solutions to reduce the burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and to strengthen research capacities. The Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programme for 2023 has over €130 million in funding opportunities to support research into vaccines, treatments and diagnostics, among others. Deadline to apply for the second call for proposal is set for 28 September 2023.



Some Key Facts & Figures

Public Health



	Number of joint projects	Budget	Number of EU and African partners involved	Number of countries involved
European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) 1 and 2 (2003-2020)	689	€1.5 billion joint investment	Europe: 178 AU: 321	Europe: 19 (15 members of EDCTP Association) AU: 44 (25 members of EDCTP Association)

Green Transition



	Number of joint projects	Budget	Number of EU and African partners involved	Number of countries involved
Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture Partnership (FNSSA)	330	€710 million joint investment	EU: 875 AU: 557	EU: 27 AU: 47
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Partnership (CCSE)	39 (+ 23 from co-funded calls)	€288 million	EU: 524 AU: 188	EU: 24 AU: 24

Innovation & Technology



	Number of joint projects	Budget	Number of EU and African partners involved	Number of countries involved
Africa-Europe Innovation Partnership pilot	42 tech hub partnerships	€2.5 million	EU: 21 AU: 23	EU: 16 AU: 21
ENRICH in Africa	10 innovation champions in EU, 10 in AU in 2021	€3.5 million	EU: 7 AU: 5	EU: 5 AU: 4
Innowide	25 joint EU/AU SME projects	€1.5 million	EU: 25 AU: 25	EU: 9 AU: 14
Digital Innovation	International Partnership building between European and African Digital Innovation Hubs	€11 million	EU: 11 AU: 9	EU: 11 AU: 9
ACP Innovation Fund	Strengthen R&I capacities	€51 million (+ACP Policy Support Facility for R&I €2,5 million)	AU: continental	AU: continental



Capacities for Science



	Number of joint projects	Budget	Number of EU and African partners involved	Number of countries involved
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	18 700 African researchers	€ 3.8 million*	185 African organisations	45 African countries
Erasmus+	183 Capacity Building projects in Higher Education + 33 000 African students and staff involved in mobility projects	€160 million **	354 organisations involved in capacity building projects	Continental (all countries)
ARISE	Develop innovative research at African universities or research institutions	EU contribution: €25 million	45 young early career researchers from Africa hosted in 38 African countries	AU: continental (38 countries)

* MSCA are a bottom-up programme, meaning that there are no thematic or geographic priorities (thus no dedicated funding for Africa). They are open to any nationality and region, including African organisations and researchers. Under the MSCA, on top of direct funding, third countries organisations can receive indirect funding through partnerships.

** Budget 2014-2020 – Will raise to 570 M€ for Sub-Saharan Africa in the period 2021-2027.

Find out more

[Africa-Europe cooperation website](#)

[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\)](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

[AU-EU Innovation Interface](#)

[JRC Africa Knowledge Platform](#)

[Story map on R&I projects from the AU-EU Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture \(FNSSA\)](#)

[EURAXESS Africa](#)



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