



HORIZON EUROPE BOOSTS, AGAIN, EU-Africa cooperation The “Africa Initiative II”

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HORIZON EUROPE strengthens EU-Africa cooperation in Research & Innovation

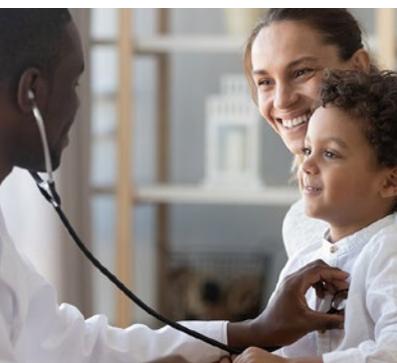
Horizon Europe is open to researchers and innovators from around the globe, Africa included, who are encouraged to team up with EU partners in preparing proposals. It includes dedicated actions to support and strengthen cooperation through multilateral initiatives.

AFRICA INITIATIVE II

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 Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 included around 40 topics with a budget of approximately €350 million under calls for proposals that were particularly relevant for cooperation with Africa ([Africa Initiative I](#)). So far 75 projects have been funded with 184 participations with entities from Africa.

Building on this, the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 includes also a similar Africa Initiative II, with almost 30 topics and a total budget of approximately €300 million.

Both initiatives reflect the EU-AU joint priorities on Research and Innovation (R&I):



Public Health.



Green Transition.

Innovation & Technology.



Capacities for Science.

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





The calls for proposals require or encourage participation of African entities. Topics supported under the Africa Initiative II will span a wide variety of themes, such as; climate change adaptation and mitigation, clean energy and green transition, food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, agroforestry and agroecology, food safety and support to food markets and trade, processing and refining of raw materials, earth observation, space-based applications and strengthening of research infrastructures and of Europe-Africa coordination, facilitation and support of collaborative R&I.

It will also enable the implementation of some actions of the new joint [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#), adopted in July 2023. This Agenda is a flagship initiative of the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package, with the goal of accelerating the translation of R&I into tangible products, businesses, services and jobs, in both Africa and Europe. The AU-EU Innovation Agenda will govern the cooperation in R&I between the EU and Africa for the next decade.

Synergies with other partnerships and programmes between the EU and Africa

The Commission proposed to set up [new European Partnerships](#) under Horizon Europe among the EU, Member States and/or the industry, one of which is the [Global Health European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership 3 \(EDCTP3\) Joint Undertaking](#). This will deliver new solutions for reducing the burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.

Another one is the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) in marine research, whilst the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) will provide the opportunity for new actors from Africa to join this network.

Clear synergies exist with Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ([MSCA](#)) for researchers' mobility (part of Horizon Europe Pillar I) and with current or future programmes funded by the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument. Examples include the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence – Pilot Programme ([ARISE-PP](#)), the [ACP Innovation Fund](#), the [OACPS R&I Policy Support Facility](#), [Erasmus+](#) and the two other Flagships in Science, Technology and Innovation under the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package, namely on Regional Centres of Excellence, and Earth Observation and Space Technologies.

Other ongoing partnerships and programmes in R&I between the EU and Africa include the R&I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture ([FNSSA](#)), the Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy ([CCSE](#)) and the Partnership for R&I in the Mediterranean Area ([PRIMA](#)).

R&I stakeholders are encouraged to apply to these initiatives as well.

**Find out
more**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION on the Africa Initiative: the Calls for Proposals under the Africa Initiative II in the second (2023-2024) Work Programme of Horizon Europe can be found on the [EU Funding and Tenders portal](#).

More information on cooperation in R&I between the EU and Africa can be found [here](#).