



EU-Africa cooperation in Research & Innovation



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](#) and the [Global Approach to Research & Innovation](#) are the EU's most recent policy initiatives that prioritise Research & Innovation as a key dimension of sustainable development.

The African Union – European Union High Level Policy Dialogue ([HLPD](#)) on Science, Technology and Innovation is the policy forum where regular exchanges on research and innovation 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 and
Technology



Capacities for Science
(Science for Policy Making, Open Science,
Human Capital Development, Gender Equality)

Horizon Europe and the Africa Initiative

The [Africa Initiative](#) is part of the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022) and comprises a package of 36 topics with a budget of around €350 million under Calls for Proposals. The calls for proposals require or encourage 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 European highly innovative SMEs to the forefront of African markets.



Research and
Innovation

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 research and innovation. In Africa these countries currently are: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia. Tunisia and Morocco are Horizon Europe candidate associated countries, while Tunisia has successfully completed the formal association negotiations allowing it to become associated to Horizon Europe. Morocco is expected to become associated to Horizon Europe as well.

What's next?

The EU and the AU are jointly developing an **Innovation Agenda**, a shared technical arrangement for cooperation to transform and increase the innovative capacities and achievements of European and African researchers and innovators into tangible outputs, supporting sustainable growth and jobs. The EU-AU Summit in 2022 offers the opportunity to acknowledge the Innovation Agenda.

Are you an innovator, incubator, accelerator, or entrepreneur and you want to be part of the EU-Africa innovation network? Get involved in [Enrich in Africa](#) !

The Advisory Group on R&I for Africa-Europe Cooperation advised the European Commission in strategically mainstreaming R&I in Africa-Europe partnerships, and stimulate the cooperation between the two continents in R&I. More information [here](#).

The European Commission and the EDCTP Association will work together with philanthropies and industry in the next **Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (2022-2027)** to contribute to the reduction of the socio-economic burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, with a total budget of €1.6 billion.

Some Key Facts & Figures



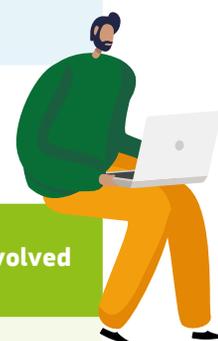
1. Public Health

	Number of joint projects	Budget	Number of EU and African partners involved	Number of countries involved
European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)	417	€1.4 billion joint investment	EU: 178 AU: 321	EU: 14 AU: 16



2. 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)	300	€710 million joint investment	EU: 875 AU: 557	EU: 27 AU: 47
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Partnership (CCSE)	11	€106 million	EU: 150 AU: 105	EU: 11 AU: 20





3. 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	4 joint EU/AU SME projects	€7.2 million	EU: 4 AU: 4	EU: 4 AU: 4
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 Research and Innovation capacities	€50 million	AU: continental	AU: continental



4. Capacities for Science

	Number of joint projects	Budget	Number of EU and African partners involved	Number of countries involved
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	1700 African researchers	€ 3.8 million*	181 African organisations	44 African countries
Erasmus+	35000 African students and staff	€160 million	EU: 2.298 organisations AU: 354 organisations	53 African countries
ARISE	Develop innovative research at African universities or research institutions.	EU contribution: € 25 million.	40 young early career researchers from Africa	AU: continental

* Under the MSCA, on top of direct funding, third countries organisations can receive indirect funding through partnerships



Find out more:

[Africa-Europe cooperation website](#)

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

[Erasmus+](#)

[JRC African Knowledge Platform \(to be launched in 2022\)](#)

[Euraxxess Africa \(to be launched in 2022\)](#)

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