African Union Research Grant II

Objective

The African Union Research Grants II programme aims to strengthen Africa-EU collaboration in research and innovation (R&I) and provide equitable access to research funding for applicants from across Africa and Europe, allowing the selection of the best collaborative research projects based on scientific excellence, good implementation and expected impact. To achieve this, AURG II will provide funding to the African Union Commission (AUC) to organise calls for proposals with the overall objective of improving science and technology research capacity and international collaboration between Europe and Africa and within Africa, with a knock-on impact on sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The action has two concurrent objectives:

- To support collaborative R&I activities that address critical issues facing African countries and contribute to their sustainable (including climate-resilient) development and to the fight against poverty, while respecting ethical and gender issues;
- To develop the capacity of the AUC to design, implement and monitor R&I funding programmes and establish the basis for an effective, credible and reputable African framework programme for R&I that could attract additional funds from other sources (AU Member States and other partners and donors).

Activities

As a continuation of the successful first phase (20 projects supported with 54 collaborative networks), this initiative focuses on the funding of transnational multi-partner R&I projects addressing the priorities decided jointly by the AUC and the EU. For example, the first call on "eradication of hunger and ensuring of food and nutrition security" determined through the EU-Africa High Level Dialogue on Science, Technology & Innovation.

The awarded projects are expected to yield results, new products, services and policy advice that will contribute to the socio-economic development of Africa, while respecting ethical and gender equality issues in the way research is carried out.

Implementation

The programme is implemented by the African Union Commission.