

Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

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EDCTP 2016 calls for proposals

6 July 2016, Cape Town & The Hague: The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) is launching 9 calls for proposals this year, with a total budget of €138.6 million, for research against poverty-related (PRDs) and neglected infectious diseases (NIDs) with various closing dates. These include Large-scale collaborative projects on vaccines for PRDs (up to €15m); Research and clinical management of patients in PRD epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa (up to €10m to support the establishment of a multidisciplinary consortium); Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials; Clinical trials and operational research studies to optimise the use of products for poverty-related diseases in mothers, newborns, children and/or adolescents; Strategic actions supporting health systems/services optimisation research capacities in cooperation with development assistance initiatives; Ethics and regulatory capacities; EDCTP-WHO/TDR clinical research and development fellowships; Senior fellowships; and Career Development fellowships. For full details, including deadlines, please consult the EDCTP web site (www.edctp.org/news/announcement-2016-calls-proposals/).

AU Research Grants – first call deadline extended

12 August 2016, Addis Ababa: the AUC has extended until 31 August the deadline for the 1st call of the AU Research Grants programme, which is supported through the EU's Pan African programme. In parallel, the African Union Commission (AUC) launched a call for assessors/evaluators for the project proposals which closed end-July. The AUC will now carry out eligibility checks and evaluation with the aim of signing grant agreements for the selected projects in December 2016. See web page for details.

See: <http://au.int/aurg>

Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards – 2016 call for applications

4 August 2016, Addis Ababa: The 2016 African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards call for applications was published on 4 August by the AUC. Since 2008 and with EU support, the awards recognise top African scientists with the ultimate aim of raising the profile and encouraging careers in research. This programme is implemented in three levels:

- 1) The Continental Award is open to all African scientists in life & earth science; and in basic science, technology and innovation. Two laureates will each receive a prize of \$100,000, which will be presented at the AU Summit in January 2017. The award is implemented by the AUC. Deadline: 31st October 2016.
- 2) The Regional Award level aims to promote the participation of African women in STI. Two laureates from each of the 5 regions of the AU will receive a prize of \$20,000. This award is implemented in partnership with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Deadline: 31st October 2016.
- 3) The National Young Scientists Award is intended for young scientists (max. 40 years old). Two laureates from each country will receive a \$2,000. At national level, the programme is implemented through national academies of science or national research councils. See rules of procedure for details.

See: www.au.int/en/announcements/31226/african-union-kwame-nkrumah-scientific-award-edition-2016-call-applications

Email: scientific-awards@africa-union.org

Horizon 2020: EU to invest €8.5 billion in research and innovation in 2017

25 July 2016, Brussels: the European Commission announced research and innovation investments of €8.5 billion during 2017 through Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding programme. These funds will be made available to the scientific community through some 50 calls for proposals covering the priority areas of Horizon 2020 and taking into account some topical developments such as crime and terrorism. International cooperation will continue to be feature of the programme with a number of specific calls and targeted initiatives.

An important development will be the extension of the current Open Research Data Pilot to cover all thematic areas of Horizon 2020, making open research data the default setting. This is intended to boost competitiveness by improving transparency, and avoiding duplication. However, in cases where research data should not be open, there will be the possibility to opt out.

With regards to BREXIT, the EU authorities have confirmed that until the UK actually leaves the EU there is no change to the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding from Horizon 2020.

Announcement: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2016&na=na-250716>

Brexit: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=ukref>

Participant Portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>

Showcasing EU-Africa Cooperation:

Here are some examples of **Horizon 2020** projects in water research

WATERSPOUTT – Water - Sustainable Point-Of-Use Treatment Technologies. Led by Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland) with 18 partners, incl. 4 African partners: Mekelle University (Ethiopia), University of Malawi, Stellenbosch University (South Africa) & Makerere University (Uganda). EU grant: €3.57 million. Details: http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/202632_en.html

FLOWERED – de-FLuoridation technologies for imprOving quality of WatEr and agRo-animal products along the East African Rift Valley in the context of aDaptation to climate change. Led by Università di Cagliari (Italy) with 8 European partners and 6 African partners: Addis Ababa University & Geomatrix PLC (Ethiopia), University of Eldoret (Kenya), Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology & OIKOS East Africa (Uganda) and Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (Tunisia). EU grant: €3 million. Details: http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/203274_en.html

EU grant: €9.4 million. Details: http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/197850_en.html

AfriAlliance – Africa-EU Innovation Alliance for Water and Climate [Coordinated and Support Action]. Led by IHE Delft (The Netherlands) with 22 European partners and 7 African partners: Waternet Trust (Botswana), Association Africaine de l'Eau - AAE (Ivory Coast), WASCAL (Ghana), Fondation 2iE, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Africa, CSIR and Water Research Commission (South Africa).

EU grant: €3.2 million. Details: http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/199887_en.html

Upcoming events:

- 26-27 August, Accra, Ghana: **Stakeholder meeting for OPTIMUNISE project** on impact and effectiveness of child health intervention programmes for vaccines & micronutrients in low-income countries. www.indepth-network.org/news-events/events/newsconference-optimising-impact-and-cost-effectiveness-child-health-interventi-0
- 30 Aug.-2 Sept., Ispra (Italy): **Africa-EU Evidence and Policy seminar** organised by EC Joint Research Centres (JRC) in coordination with the AUC (contact: JRC-knowledge@ec.europa.eu)
- 14 Sept., London: Planet Earth Institute **"#ScienceAfrica UnConference"** (<http://planetearthinstitute.org.uk>)
- 3-5 October, Cape Town: **Int. Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI)** co-organised by South Africa's Dept. of Science & Technology (DST) and European Commission. (<https://icri2016.co.za/>)
- 5-7 October, Accra: the **Africa Network for Internationalization of Education** 7th annual conference will focus on **Knowledge Generation & Sustainable Development** (www.anienetwork.org/conference/)
- 8-9 December, Pretoria: **2nd Science Forum South Africa (SfSA)** (www.sfsa.co.za).

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