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http://www.erafrica.eu
“New Knowledge Partnerships“ - the slogan of ERAfrica points out its central message: Africa and Europe acting as equal partners in a new approach towards joint funding in S&T. ERAfrica aims to serve as a model for future cooperative ventures between Africa and Europe and offers a new opportunity for joint research and innovation partnerships.

On January 15, 2013, Funding Parties from 15 African and European countries launched a joint call for collaborative activities in three thematic fields and in three types of collaborative activities:

- **Renewable Energies:** funding projects addressing renewable energy topics.
- **Interfacing Challenges:** funding projects which are conducted at the interface of key societal challenges where African and European collaboration stands to have added value.
- **New Ideas:** funding outstanding idea-driven projects generated in a bottom-up approach, where the emphasis is placed on clearly evidenced originality and novelty of the idea, approach or expected outputs.
- **Collaborative Research:** joint undertakings by consortia designed to produce new knowledge through scientific research.
- **Collaborative Innovation:** joint undertakings by consortia designed to bridge the gap between the outcomes of research projects and commercialisation.
- **Capacity Building:** joint undertakings by consortia designed to assist relevant organisations to improve their capacities and/or their enabling environment for research and innovation.
With a total amount of **€ 10.7 Million** available for funding, the call generated 124 proposals of which 106 eligible proposals involving 560 organizations requested an amount of **€ 64.8 Million** (call closed on April 15, 2013).

Projects are yet to be selected for funding but with the close of the call it is already possible to see how the research community responded to what the joint call set out to achieve.

The statistics of the submitted proposals provide a valuable picture of the research community’s response. First, the important role of project coordinator is equally designated to African as to European institutions, with a slight difference between themes; more proposals have African coordinating institutions in the Renewable Energy theme whereas the opposite is the case in the New Ideas theme.

Roughly half of the proposals request funds for Collaborative Research activities, with the other half split between Capacity Building and Innovation Activities. The size of proposed projects, in terms of amount of funding requested, do not differ between the three types of collaborative activities or between the three themes. More importantly, across all categories and regardless of how many organizations make up the consortia, designated coordinating institutions are equally often from African as from European countries.

The emerging overall picture shows that ERAfrica indeed lives up to its aim of true partnerships. The final and decisive step will be to assess the quality of funded projects in terms of outcomes.
The Beginning – The Consortium

Austria
- KEF/OeAD – Commission for Development Research at the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research

Belgium
- CIUF/CUD – Inter-university Council of the French Community of Belgium/University Commission for Development

Egypt
- MHESR – Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Finland
- TEM – Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy

France
- IRD – Institut de recherche pour le développement (Coordinating Institution)

Germany

Kenya
- MOST-KE – The Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology

Portugal
- FCT – Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education – Foundation for Science and Technology

South Africa
- DST – Department of Science and Technology

Spain
- MICINN – Ministry of Science and Innovation

Switzerland
- SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation

Turkey
- TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
The Call – The Funding Parties

Austria  BMWF – Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research
Burkina Faso  Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l’Innovation
Côte-d’Ivoire  PASRES – Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research in Côte-d’Ivoire
Egypt   STDF – Science and Technology Development Fund
Finland  Academy of Finland TEM & Finnish Cultural Foundation & TEKES – Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation
France  IRD – Institut de recherche pour le developpement (Coordinating Institution)
Germany  BMBF – International Bureau IB of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research in Germany (Common Call Management: PT- DLR – International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research)
Kenya  The Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology
The Netherlands  NWO-WOTRO – Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research – Science for Global Development
Norway  The Research Council of Norway
Portugal  FCT – Foundation for Science and Technology – Ministry of Education and Science International Relations Department
South Africa  DST – Department of Science and Technology
Switzerland  SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation
Turkey  TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
The Call – The Themes

Renewable Energies
- Belgium: FWO – Research Foundation – Flanders EUR 200,000
- Burkina Faso: Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l’Innovation EUR 100,000
- Cote D’Ivoire: PASRES – Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research in Côte-d’Ivoire EUR 100,000
- Egypt: STDF – Science and Technology Development Fund EUR 500,000
- Finland: TEKES – Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation EUR 1,000,000
- Kenya: The Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology EUR 300,000
- Norway: The Research Council of Norway EUR 400,000
- South Africa: DST – Department of Science and Technology EUR 300,000
- Turkey: TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey EUR 300,000

New Ideas
- Belgium: CUD EUR 100,000, BELSPO EUR 75,000, FWO EUR 200,000 / EUR 375,000
- Cote D’Ivoire: PASRES – Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research in Côte-d’Ivoire EUR 45,000
- France: IRD – Institut de recherche pour le développement EUR 50,000
- Germany: BMBF – International Bureau (IB) of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research in Germany EUR 400,000
- Kenya: The Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology EUR 400,000
- South Africa: DST – Department of Science and Technology EUR 300,000
- Switzerland: SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation EUR 500,000
- Turkey: TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey EUR 300,000

Interfacing Challenges
- Austria: BMWF – Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research EUR 200,000
- Belgium: BELSPO EUR 75,000, FWO EUR 200,000, FNRS EUR 100,000 / EUR 375,000
- Burkina Faso: Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l’Innovation EUR 55,000
- Cote D’Ivoire: PASRES – Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research in Côte-d’Ivoire EUR 500,000
- Egypt: STDF – Science and Technology Development Fund EUR 300,000
- Finland: Finnish Cultural Foundation EUR 150,000, Academy of Finland EUR 150,000 / EUR 300,000
- France: IRD – Institut de recherche pour le développement EUR 950,000
- Germany: BMBF – International Bureau (IB) of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research in Germany EUR 800,000
- Kenya: The Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology EUR 500,000
- Portugal: FCT – Foundation for Science and Technology – Ministry of Education and Science International Relations Department EUR 200,000
- South Africa: DST – Department of Science and Technology EUR 400,000
- Turkey: TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey EUR 300,000
Requested and available funds by theme

Requested and available funds by theme

Funds requested by continent of origin of coordinating institution

Funds requested by continent of origin of coordinating institution
Continent of origin of coordinating institution by consortium size

Type of collaborative activity by theme

- **Renewable Energies**
  - Collaborative research project: 8
  - Capacity building project: 3
  - Innovation project: 17
- **New ideas**
  - Collaborative research project: 6
  - Capacity building project: 4
  - Innovation project: 4
- **Interfacing challenges**
  - Collaborative research project: 2
  - Capacity building project: 4
  - Innovation project: 2
The ERA-Net with Africa "ERAfrica" localizes its activities within the framework of the Africa – EU Joint Strategy. It supports the implementation of the 8th Partnership, and more specifically, the second priority of this Partnership, which is “to support S&T Capacity Building in Africa and implement Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action”.

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