

#LondonIsOpen

European Union funding for External Relations Activity Related to Higher Education.



The European Union is the world's largest development actor, contributing over **50bn EUR per year in Official Development Assistance (ODA)**.¹ Within these funds, and other external relations actions, higher education cooperation for development has become **an important part of this**. This branch of funding gives grants to not for profits, universities, and radio and TV stations.

Many universities have been supported in Spain and France but UK university participation has been decidedly low, **in 2014 no UK universities were funded for projects** in this stream.²

Where are they advertised?

Calls for proposals are advertised through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation's (DG DEVCO) EuropeAid website.¹ Specific partnership websites are also created for ongoing platforms, such as the examples on this handout.

Africa Union Research Grant (AURG). Came out of the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES). It is a development initiative aimed at **increasing capacity of African researchers, as well as their networks with European universities.**

Funded through the Development Cooperation Instrument's Pan-Africa Programme. 17.5 million EUR from the Commission supporting two calls in 2016 and 2017. 2016 closed on August 31st, **look out for second call in 2017.**

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/annex-3-aurg-ii_en.pdf

South East Asia – EU – Network. (SEA-EU-NET II) <https://sea-eu.net/>

This programme has three main focuses.

Dialogue for joint decisions on science and technology research funding and running Science and Technology information days.

Decision making to highlight S&T collaboration opportunities within the political process.

Jointly tackling societal challenges by funding **Health, Food** security and safety, and **Water** management.

Who can help?³

There are no DEVCO national contact points. The UK representation to the EU or the EU delegation in the country in which the activity will take place, would be a good place to look for advice. In addition to this, depending on the DEVCO-led subject matter, UK universities may refer to specific units in DEVCO (note 3)

ACP Science & Technology Programme. <http://www.acp-hestre.eu/>

Background: The higher education sector in Africa has been systematically under-invested in and so technologies that could solve development problems are always imported. The EU believes that "countries must build the capacity to find, absorb, and use existing technologies as well as to strengthen their own knowledge generation capacities."

Priorities: **Energy** Access and Efficiency, **Agriculture** and **Food** Security. However, other sectors and interdisciplinary approaches are not excluded as long as the foreseen actions and activities are in line with the objectives of the programme.

Research and Innovation call announced January 2017 as part of the **LEAP – AGRI** platform, two African and two European research institutes must form one consortium. <http://www.leap-agri.com/>

¹ <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8959.pdf>

² Source: "Europeanizing Civil Society: How the EU Shapes Civil Society Organizations" By Rosa Sanchez Salgado.

³ DEVCO organisational chart

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/copy_of_copy_of_devco_organisation_chart_1_january_2017-en.pdf