

“Support Action for Collaborations with Sub-Saharan Africa”

Call for proposals 2021 – CNRS

The CNRS has set itself the goal of collaborating better and more extensively with the countries of Africa, a booming continent with great scientific potential. The CNRS Objectives and Performance Contract reflects this ambition. It provides for the CNRS to adopt by 2021 a multi-year co-operation plan with Africa, involving the partners concerned in France and abroad.

Structured co-operation already exists, in particular with the Maghreb countries and South Africa. There is room for significant improvement particularly in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa with the exception of South Africa. Currently, the CNRS has only one IRL (International Research Laboratory) in this area. However, a study of co-publications among researchers from sub-Saharan African countries and their French counterparts shows that there are co-operation links covering a wide range of scientific themes. These relations, however, remain all too often off the radar of institutionalized co-operation, thus preventing their development and the creation of new initiatives.

This call for projects is intended to support existing collaborations and/or preparations with partners from sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) in any form whatsoever, such as individual exchanges between researchers posted at a CNRS unit or an African university, the organization of seminars or summer schools. The proposed call for projects is flexible, with allocated amounts ranging from a few thousand euros to 20k€ depending on the project and the needs of applicants and their partners. This call is open to all members of the research units for which the CNRS is responsible. Particular attention will be paid to projects carried out in co-operation with the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, Tanzania, whilst including projects with other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on their scientific relevance, the interest of the collaboration in the scientific field concerned and the prospects for long-term co-operation. The scientific evaluation of projects is carried out by the institutes, on the principle of peer review, with final arbitration carried out by a committee chaired by the DGDS.

How to apply

The submission procedure takes place by sending your application file using the template below to the address derci_ami@cnrs.fr. For all administrative questions, please contact the Africa, Middle East, India sector of the European Research and International Co-operation Directorate (DERCI): laura.molinari@cnrs.fr

Provisional timetable

- Opening date : December 2020
- Closing date : March 1st, 2021
- Communication of results : April 15th, 2021
- Start of actions : May 2021
- End of actions : December 2022