



Co-funded by
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Call for Application
'Seed funding for African-European research
collaboration'

Info session, April 14th, 2025

Agenda

Introduction to CIVIS (5')

Yvonne Svanström, Chair of CIVIS Research Council

Background and objectives of the seed funding call (5')

Julie Hyzewicz, Head of the CIVIS Research Unit

African-European joint research perspectives (5')

Christian Möllmann, CIVIS Global Partnerships Officer

Main features of the call – how to apply

Grazia Vulcano, CIVIS African and Mediterranean partnerships Officer (15')

Testimony from a project funded by call 2024

Léa Moreau, Project Coordinator, *“Facilitating access to higher education for disadvantaged migrants”* (10')

Questions from the floor

Julie Hyzewicz, Head of the CIVIS Research Unit (20')

CIVIS Alliance in few words

A pioneer of the first wave of European Universities Alliances, CIVIS brings together 11 member universities in Europe and 6 associate members in Africa embarked on an odyssey to transform higher education.

CIVIS believes the future of higher education must be transdisciplinary, global with a local anchor, embedded in society and focused on solving its most pressing challenges.

Through its projects, CIVIS strives for multicultural, multilingual and truly democratic education for all.

Our member universities in Europe

CIVIS is a vibrant community of over half a million students and 70.000 staff members, including 37.400 academics

- **Aix-Marseille Université**, France
- **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**, Greece
- **University of Bucharest**, Romania
- **Université libre de Bruxelles**, Belgium
- **Universidad Autónoma de Madrid**, Spain
- **Sapienza Università di Roma**, Italy
- **Stockholm University**, Sweden
- **Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen**, Germany
- **University of Glasgow**, United Kingdom
- **Paris Lodron University of Salzburg**, Austria
- **University of Lausanne**, Switzerland

Member universities :

amU Aix
Marseille
Université

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**
EST. 1837

ULB UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES

**UNIVERSITY OF
BUCHAREST**
UNIVERSITY OF ARTS & LETTERS

**University
of Glasgow**

Unil
UNIL | Université de Lausanne

UAM Universidad Autónoma
de Madrid

SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

**PARIS
LODRON
UNIVERSITÄT
SALZBURG**

**Stockholm
University**

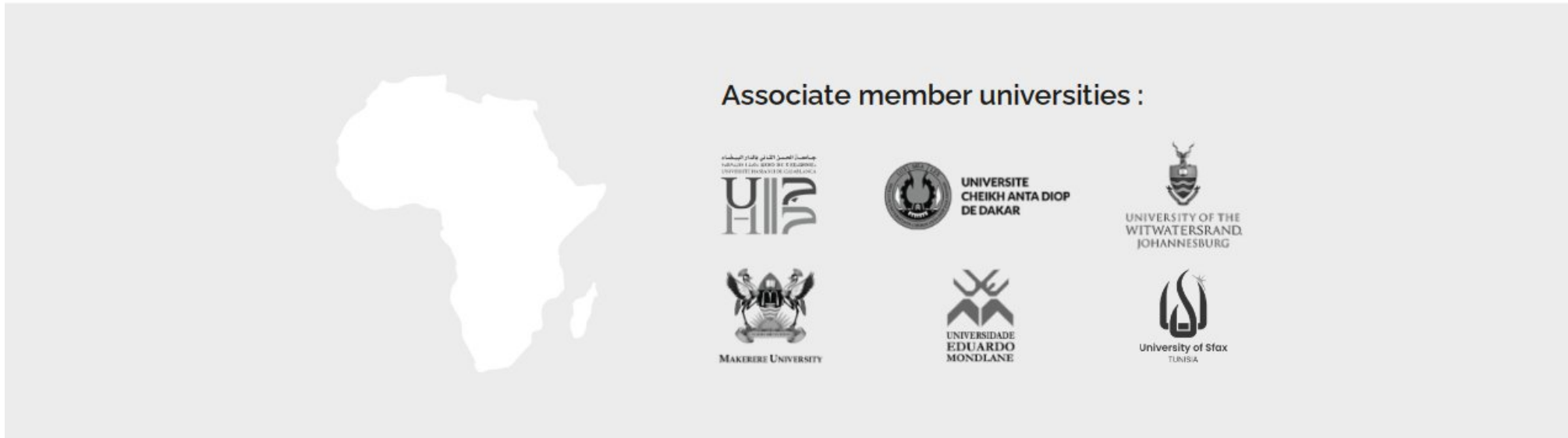
**EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN**



Our associate member universities in Africa

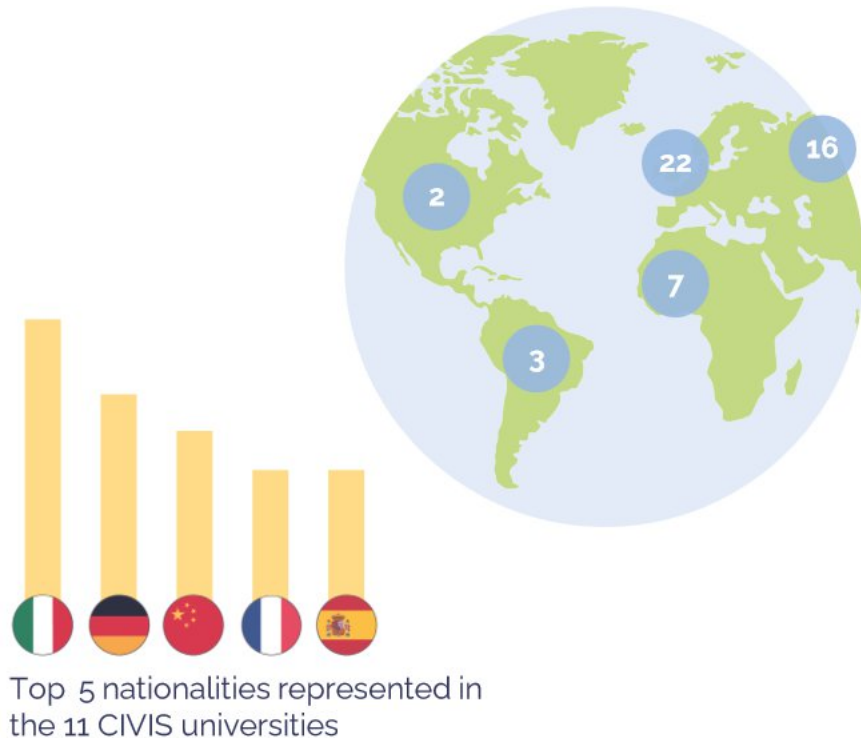
The Mediterranean zone and Africa are at the heart of CIVIS' global strategy. Six prestigious universities in the region enrich the CIVIS journey.

- **Makerere University**, Uganda
- **Eduardo Mondlane University**, Mozambique
- **Université Hassan II de Casablanca**, Morocco
- **University of Sfax**, Tunisia
- **Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar**, Senegal
- **University of the Witwatersrand**, South Africa



A Kaleidoscope of cultures

On average, there are 139 different nationalities represented in CIVIS universities. From every corner of the globe, students and academics come together to learn, grow, and build the university of the future.



An average of
139 NATIONALITIES
in the CIVIS member
universities

50 different nationalities
appear in the **top 10** of the 11
member universities

22 from **Europe**
16 from **Asia**
7 from **Africa**
3 from **South America**
2 from **North America**

Background and objectives of the seed funding call (1/2)civis

Europe's Civic University Alliance

What does CIVIS do to enhance research collaborations?

Job opportunities, training offers, career development resources as well as the development of a community of practice and partnership possibilities are some of the advantages of evolving as a researcher in the CIVIS Alliance.

A few examples of CIVIS added-value:

- Enhancing **mobility** (especially for early-careers researchers, i.e., MSCA, post-docs and Ph.D. candidates)
- Facilitating the **sharing of research infrastructures** (memorandum of understanding, [online platform](#), etc.)
- Fostering **collaboration with non-academic partners** (e.g., staff weeks and training, collaborative projects, etc.)
- Supporting **networking** (e.g., [research groups platform](#), seed-funding calls, support to European collaborative projects application, etc.)

Background and objectives of the seed funding call (2/2)

How this call contributes to developing research collaborations?

A first edition of the seed-funding call was set up in 2024, in order to strengthen and highlight our collaborations in the fields of R&I.

➡ The Alliance provided seed funding to 25 projects that aimed at facilitating African-European research collaboration and is thrilled to renew and broaden this experience this year.

Call objectives:

- Stimulating **bottom-up, research-oriented initiatives** across CIVIS universities in Hub thematic areas;
- Contributing to **sustainable academic networks** through support for grant proposal development;
- Creating opportunities for all academics, including **early-career researchers**;
- Enhancing **participatory research, interdisciplinarity** and **challenge-based** research;
- Encouraging collaboration between **CIVIS members in Europe and Associated Members in Africa**.

African-European collaboration in CIVIS



Joint educational offers

- Joint study programmes
- Blended Intensive Programmes



Joint research

- Research projects
- Research-oriented training
- Research infra-structure sharing



Collaboration for societal impact

- Collaboration in CIVIS Open Lab projects
- Policy engagement



Funding

- Direct support
- Application support
- Information



Mobility

- Students/PhDs
- Academics
- Staff



Capacity strengthening

- Staff training
- CS-projects

Transversal contents and support

Research collaboration highlights so far:

- 2022: 13 joint research initiatives funded in 'pilot call'
- 2023: PolyCIVIS Jean Monnet Network launched
- 2024: 25 of 27 seed funded projects co-created with Associate Members

The dynamic EU-African research (funding) landscape: an opportunity through (and for) CIVIS

Consider, e.g.,

- AU-EU Innovation Agenda
- Africa initiatives / Mediterranean initiatives in Horizon Europe

Launch of Africa initiative III (2025/26) expected in May 2025!

(Horizon call compilation targeting African-Europ. topics/collaboration)


- Global Gateway flagship initiative 'Youth mobility for Africa'
- National/local funding schemes

The dynamic EU-African research (funding) landscape: an opportunity for & through CIVIS

Funding opportunities

[Horizon Europe](#) , the European Union's framework programme for research and innovation, is open to the world, which means that participants from almost any country can participate in most calls. The EU can fund the participation in Horizon Europe collaborative research actions of entities established in EU Member States, in countries Associated to Horizon Europe, and in [low- and middle-income countries](#) . Most African partner countries are included in this latter category.

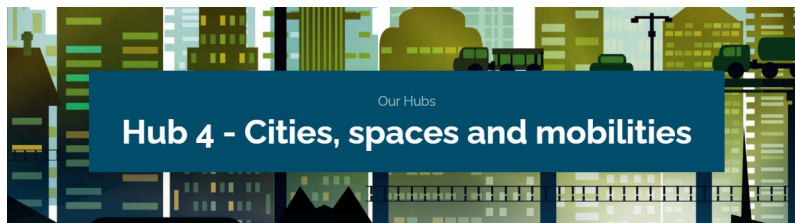
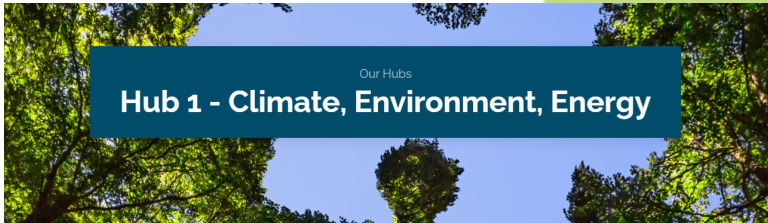
[Africa Initiative II](#) : the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 includes around 30 topics to boost EU-African cooperation in research and innovation. It reflects the EU-AU joint priorities on research and innovation and enables the implementation of the short-term and medium-term actions of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. [Open calls](#).

[Mediterranean Initiative](#) : The Horizon Europe work programme 2023-2024 includes 37 topics that are flagged as particularly relevant for cooperation with the Mediterranean region. The calls can be found [Open calls](#).

Check source:
https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/regional-dialogues-and-international-organisations/eu-africa-cooperation_en

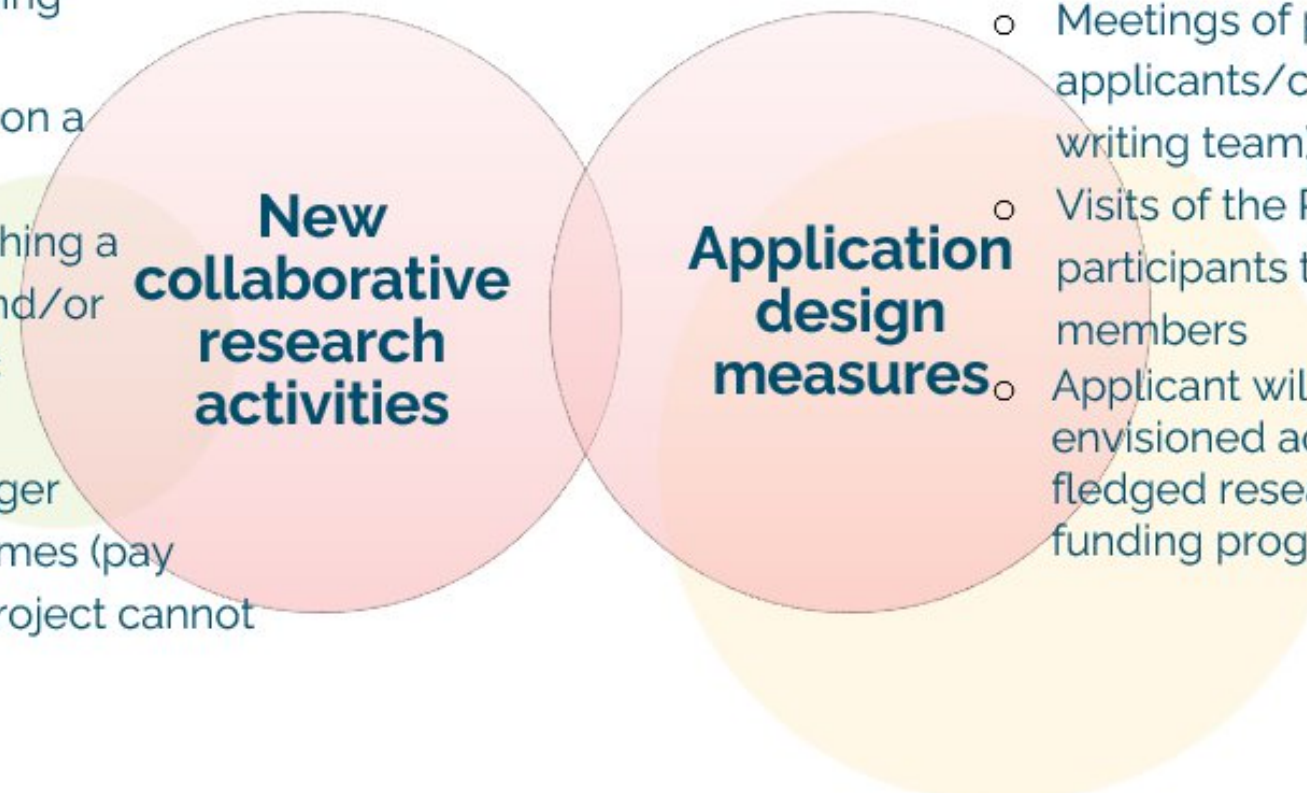
Seed funding for African-European research collaborations

Objective: to initiate new **collaborative research projects** within CIVIS and/or at preparing applications to larger research grants (e.g. **European calls**), in any of the **5 CIVIS thematic hubs**:



Two Categories of Supported Activities

such as but not limited to:



**New
collaborative
research
activities**

**Application
design
measures**

- Doctoral schools or other training measures for PhD students
- Workshops or topical schools on a research question
- Network meetings for establishing a research group within CIVIS and/or reaching out to non-academic stakeholders
- Workshops for preparing a larger publication on research outcomes (pay attention to the fact that the project cannot cover publication cost).
- Citizen science projects
- Meetings of potential or designated applicants/consortium members (or writing team)
- Visits of the PI and/or other key participants to (potential) consortium members
- Applicant will clearly state how the envisioned activities will lead to a fully-fledged research grant and which funding program and/or call they target.

Who can apply?

- Permanent faculty members, employees with a long-term contract (beyond the end of the funding period)
- Postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to participate in applications
- Main contact person/applicant must be for organisational reason from one European CIVIS University

Which costs are eligible?

- Only staff mobility costs (travel, accommodation, subsistence) within Europe and from Europe to Africa, up to 10,000 EUR
- Staff mobility costs from Africa to Europe can be funded by some but not all CIVIS European universities through co-funding measures
- Participants' costs for the University of Glasgow and Lausanne cannot be covered by Erasmus+ budget but own institutional funds can be used
- Some universities may have additional funds available for organisational costs
- Co-funding from other sources is encouraged.
- Double-funding from the same third-party funding institution or programme may however be restricted

In any case, you are invited to contact your local CIVIS local Office and avoid doubt !

Eligibility criteria

- Involve **at least three CIVIS Universities**, among which at least two European universities
- Relate to one of the **CIVIS Hub themes** (see above)
- Align with one of the activity types described above (collaborative activity or application design measures)
- Be implemented by **June 30th, 2026**

These eligibility criteria should imperatively be met to proceed with further evaluation.

Evaluation criteria

- Academic criteria (max 10 points, equal sub-items, and minimal threshold 5 points)
- Sustainability beyond this seed funding call (max 6 points, and minimal threshold 3 points)

Other preference criteria (max 4 points, no minimal threshold)

- CIVIS consortium: at least one of the six African partners
- Demonstrating interdisciplinarity
- Addressing societal challenges
- Contribution to citizen/participatory science (collaborative research activities)

Timeline



How to apply?

- Application for this seed-funding must be done online only through the [CIVIS Application Portal](#)
- Application deadline: **May 31st, 2025** (24:00 CEST/UTC+2)
- Applicants who plan to organise an event at a CIVIS university should consult the local CIVIS Office/contact person at the potential host university before submitting the application.

How to fill in the budget table?

- Applicants can download the budget template [here](#)
- The budget must be uploaded in the online application form
- Costs must respect Erasmus+ rules for participants from European CIVIS member universities
- Double funding from the same third-party funding institution or programme is restricted (co-funding is possible & welcome!)
- This Call does not cover Ph.D. or Postdoc scholarships

Support and resources

- For general inquiries, please contact seed-funding-2025@lists.civis.eu and/or visit the Call's FAQs page.
- Do you have a question about your local funding options and circumstances? Please contact your local CIVIS Office/contact person!
- Inform your local CIVIS Office/contact person about your planned application, if you are the main applicant (main contact person) or if your university is supposed to be the host institution of an event.
- More information in the website page dedicated to this call [here](#).

Testimony - Project “Facilitating access to higher education for disadvantaged migrants”

- Several CIVIS universities interested by the topic: UofG, UAM, UB, NKUA & UNIL
- Mixed group consisting of academics and integration programmes
- Meeting in November 2024
 - Best practices exchange (how to set up programmes, useful methodologies to work with marginalized migrants, etc.)
 - Discussion with (local) stakeholders
 - Interest in the diversity of contexts and how we can learn from each other
 - Definition of the group's priorities (research, capacity-building, etc.)
- Development of an Open Lab project in 2025 aiming at investigating new institutional capacities/instruments/resources for developing or improving new lifelong learning access for migrants (meetings in Lausanne in April 2025 & in Glasgow in May 2025)
 - Mapping of needs
 - Mapping of institutional frameworks
 - Development of advocacy tools on this topic

Questions from the floor

More information on

civis.eu



CONTACT DETAILS:

- CIVIS R&I collaborations: Julie Hyzewicz, Head of CIVIS Research Unit: julie.HYZEWICZ@univ-amu.fr
- General inquiries about the call: seed-funding-2025@lists.civis.eu
- Local CIVIS Offices at own institution for specific inquiries (*see call for all contacts*)