



Africa-Europe Foundation Awards Scheme

Call for Expression of Interest 2024

Submit application to
Partnerships@AfricaEuropeFoundation.org
Deadline 23rd May 2024
(17:00 Brussels, 18:00 Addis Ababa)





Contracting Authority: Africa-Europe Foundation

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Guidelines for Applicants

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Partnerships@AfricaEuropeFoundation.org



1. SUMMARY

- The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is launching an Awards Scheme to youth organisations, cities/local authorities and civil society partners working from across Africa and Europe.
- The purpose is to catalyse debate and action on the themes of the landmark “State-of-Africa-Europe Report 2024”, from the nexus of ‘Climate Change and Economic Development’ to ‘Sustainable Finance’ and ‘Education, Culture and Science’.
- The 2024 Awards Scheme is being launched in the context of a demand for a renewed partnership between local youth organizations across Africa and Europe.
- The Awards Scheme includes micro-grant support for successful applicant organisations, with individual awards valued at a maximum of 5,000 Euros or a maximum of 10,000 Euros. The Scheme is organised in two ‘lots’:

1. **Lot 1: Local Impact Awards** (maximum grant amount set at 5,000 euros)

- Local impact awards support initiatives developed and delivered in one of the Member States of the African Union or European Union.
- Examples of ‘local initiatives’ include Townhall-style debates, youth expert convenings, series of podcast interviews, community projects, etc...;
- ‘Local initiatives’ should have a short timeline for implementation and take place, from start to finish, between July 2024 and October 2025. Expecting most awarded projects to be short-timed, from few days to few weeks of implementation.
- Direct beneficiaries of the ‘Local initiatives’ should include local communities focusing on local youth. Indirect beneficiaries are the citizens of Africa and Europe.

2. **Lot 2: Cross-Network Awards** (maximum grant amount set at 10,000 euros)

- Cross-continental initiatives should be implemented on the basis of working across the two continents with either in-person or remote participation from at least two Members States, one each from the AU and EU.
- Examples of cross-continental initiatives include youth hackathons, dialogues, gatherings, creative collaborative projects, etc....
- Cross-continental initiatives should have a short timeline for implementation that take place, from start to finish, between July 2024 and October 2025. Expecting most awards to focus on projects with a limited number of weeks of implementation.
- Direct beneficiaries of the ‘cross- continental projects’ should include local and international communities focusing on youth. Indirect beneficiaries are the citizens of Africa and Europe.



2. PROGRAMME

About the AEF

The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is an independent, multi-stakeholder platform engaged in frank dialogue, policy advocacy and strategic analysis on promising topics for the Africa-Europe partnership. Founded in 2020 by Friends of Europe and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, in partnership with the African Climate Foundation and ONE Campaign, the AEF aims to promote and strengthen cooperation between Africa and Europe.

In a time of global challenges, the Africa-Europe Foundation aims to reset the relations between the two continents by building a true partnership and a vision for a shared future. The AEF Charter outlines organisation's commitment in reshaping the Africa-Europe relations, rooted in the appetite for deeper partnership between the peoples of Africa and Europe; a partnership that includes civil society, cities, the private sector and, in priority, young people.

Background

First piloted in 2022, the AEF Awards Scheme ('New Partners Initiative' engaged youth organisations based in Africa and Europe.

Through this scheme, the AEF allocates micro-awards to qualifying organisations to conduct activities at national/sub-regional levels across both continents in the AEF's priority areas of intervention. This scheme supports the AEF's key objectives: to bring initiatives on Africa-Europe into local settings and to strengthen AEF's network of key partners by engaging with stakeholders in AEF's priority areas.

The AEF has pioneered an independent mechanism to track the Africa-Europe Partnership, including the implementation of political and financial commitments made by the AU and EU Heads of State at their periodic summits, focusing on the latest, 6th EU-AU Summit of February 2022, to foster accountability and identify opportunities for enhanced implementation, thus catalyse impact.

In February 2024, the AEF issued the first report of its kind, "The State of Africa-Europe Report 2024", which serves as the culmination of the Foundation's dedicated effort to monitor delivery of commitments between Africa and Europe and provides a benchmark for monitoring political commitments between the main institutional actors of the Partnership.

Throughout 2024 and in the lead up to the next AU-EU Summit planned for 2025, the AEF aims to engage with youth organisations and local communities on the themes of the Report to discuss and action its outcomes.

2024 Call for Express of Interest

The 2024 Awards Scheme is being launched in the context of a demand for a renewed partnership between local youth organizations across Africa and Europe.

AEF invites youth led organizations, cities/local authorities, think-tanks, civil society platforms and NGOs inspiring, empowering, and connecting local youth actors through dialogue to help



shape a strong, mutually beneficial partnership between Africa and Europe to tackle contemporary challenges, to take part in this year's scheme.

This Call is underpinned by the "[State of Africa-Europe Report 2024](#)", produced by the Africa-Europe Foundation and focused on the implementation of policy/financial commitments of the EU-AU Partnership.

The Call aims to provide a platform for youth organisations and local actors to lead dialogues and actions on the core themes and analysis of the Report, from 'Climate Change and Economic Development' nexus to 'Sustainable Finance' and 'Education, Culture and Science'. The applicants should propose the type of action/micro-projects they wish to implement in their application.

AEF invites youth organisation to deep dive into 3 priority chapters of the Report through their proposed projects:

- i. Climate and Development.**
- ii. Science, Education, and Culture.**
- iii. Sustainable Finance.**

This Call is organised in two lots:

1. Local Impact Awards (Lot 1):

- Local impact awards support initiatives developed and delivered in one of the Member States of the African Union or European Union.
- Examples of 'local initiatives' include Townhall-style debates, youth expert convenings, series of podcast interviews, community projects, etc...;
- 'Local initiatives' should have a short timeline for implementation and take place, from start to finish, between July 2024 and October 2025. Expecting most awarded projects to be short-timed, from few days to few weeks of implementation.
- Direct beneficiaries of the 'Local initiatives' should include local communities focusing on local youth. Indirect beneficiaries are the citizens of Africa and Europe.

1. Cross-Network Awards (Lot 2):

- Cross-continental initiatives should be implemented on the basis of working across the two continents with either in-person or remote participation from at least two Members States, one each from the AU and EU.
- Examples of cross-continental initiatives include youth hackathons, dialogues, gatherings, creative collaborative projects, etc....
- Cross-continental initiatives should have a short timeline for implementation that take place, from start to finish, between July 2024 and October 2025. Expecting most awards to focus on projects with a limited number of weeks of implementation.
- Direct beneficiaries of the 'cross- continental projects' should include local and international communities focusing on youth. Indirect beneficiaries are the citizens of Africa and Europe.



The initial overall budget for this Call is 150,000.00 euros with individual awards valued at a maximum of 5,000.00 euros (Lot 1) or a maximum of 10,000.00 euros (Lot 2).

Topics for the 'Local Impact Awards' (Lot 1) as well as the 'Cross-Network Awards' (Lot 2) should be clearly linked to the Report with a focus on identifying and/or implementing solutions to the problems and underlying issues grappling Africa-Europe relations and implementation of regional and global development strategies (Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063, ...) with an aim to drive the Africa-Europe Partnership forward.

The application process to respond to this Call for Expression of Interest will run for 45 days from publishing the Call on Monday 8th April 2024 until Thursday 23rd May 2024.

Awarded activities will run and be completed during the implementation period of 7th July to 25th October 2025.

3. APPLICATION & EVALUATION CRITERIA

Key elements:

- Up to 25 micro and small grants with a budget of a maximum of 5,000.00 euros or a maximum of 10,000.00 euros with indicative allocation of 20 micro-grants for Lot 1 and 5 small-grants for Lot 2.
- Awarded grants can either fully fund a new activity proposed in a grant application or contribute, through co-financing, to a larger activity that is funded through other sources but which objectives and implementation aligned to the objectives and scope of this Call.
- The allocated grant funding should be used to (co-)finance the direct costs of organising the activities (logistics, communication, personnel, etc.).
- On exception basis, the scheme will support with in-kind additional support such as providing a venue or speakers towards the organisation of events on the side-lines and in the same location as high-level meetings linked to AEF's thematic areas (e.g., UNGA, COP29, annual AU Summit, 7th AU-EU Summit, etc.).
- In addition to (co-)financing in the form of the micro- and small-award, as part of its commitment to build capacity of youth and youth-based organisation and when requested, the AEF support may include providing input on content and methodology as well as quality assurance.
- One organisation can submit only one application per Lot. In their applications, organisations need to clarify the level of funding required (up to 5,000.00 euros or up to 10,000.00 euros) providing clear justification for, and a breakdown of, its resource plan.

Application

To apply, applicants are required to submit a duly completed proposal (Annex A: Concept Note and Budget) providing all requested details in the application template, including details of the proposed activity, intended impact, timeline for implementation, and summary budget.



Applicants must use only the Concept Note and Budget form provided to prepare their application, as only this model form will be assessed. It is therefore of utmost importance that this document contains ALL relevant information concerning the proposed project. Hand-written Concept Notes will not be accepted.

Applications must be written in English.

A single application is permitted per organisation per Lot.

The applications need to be submitted by email sent to the address: partnerships@africaeuropefoundation.org no later than by 23rd May 2024 (17.00 Brussels, 18.00 Addis Ababa)

No additional documents/annexes than those requested should be sent at the time of submission. Clarification will only be requested when information provided is not sufficient/unclear and thus prevents the contracting authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Late applications will not be considered.

Eligibility criteria

The Call is intended for a variety of youth organisations that are registered in any one of the Member States of the AU or EU (including EEA/EFTA).

For Lot 1, eligible organisations include grassroot youth organisations, local youth networks, regional and international youth organisations and associations that work at local community level, civil society platforms, NGOs, local authorities, city councils and departments, and local community associations.

For Lot 2, eligible organisations are national, regional and international youth organisations and associations, as well as civil society platforms, NGOs, and local authority platforms that work across Africa and EU and focus on youth engagement and dialogue.

Evaluation

The selection process will be undertaken by the appointed Evaluation Committee comprised of AEF internal management team and external reviewers with subject matter expertise as well as compliance expertise. Evaluation will focus on: 1) compliance with the Call objectives and requirements, 2) alignment to the AEF priority themes and initiatives.

Evaluation grid

To ensure a fair and transparent process the Evaluation Committee will use the following score card when evaluating applications.

Criteria	Marks Available
Relevance to chosen thematic focus area (linked to one of the three priority chapters of the AEF Report 2024)	10 Points
Dialogue focus on Africa – Europe partnership and incorporation of participants from both Africa and Europe	10 Points
Proposed impact	10 Points
Cost Effectiveness and clear budget	10 Points
Incorporation of documentation of dialogue/action through professional video and photography	5 Points
Linkage to high level –political fora (e.g. UNGA, WHA... etc.)	5 Points
Total Possible Score: Minimum Score (applications with lower scores will be disqualified):	50 Points 25 Points

TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Open Applications and Online Announcement	Monday 8 th April 2024
Close of Applications	Thursday 23 rd May 2024
Application screening process	Friday 24 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
Evaluation and selection	Monday 3 rd June – Friday 14 th June 2024
Due diligence, award contractualization, and grants disbursement (tranche 1)	Monday 17 th June – Friday 5 th July 2024
Awarded micro-projects implementation period	Monday 7 th July 2024 - Friday 25 th October 2025
Final reports due by	Friday 1 st November 2025
Final grants disbursement (tranche 2) by	Friday 29 th November 2025