



Africa-Europe Foundation “Establishing an Africa-Europe Research Partnership”

Call for Proposals 2024

Guidelines for Applicants

Frequently Asked Questions (List 1 – 23/04/2024)

1. Please read carefully the Call [guidelines](#) before preparing your application or contacting AEF for clarifications.

CALL OBJECTIVES

2. What is the purpose of the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) “Establishing an Africa-Europe Research Partnership”?

The purpose of the AEF call for proposals, “Establishing an Africa-Europe Research Partnership,” is to establish a multiannual research partnership between African and European research organisations to implement a research programme from July 2024 to December 2025. The Call will help select research organisations that will implement proposed research projects on relevant themes for the Africa-Europe cooperation as framed by the “State of Africa-Europe Report 2024” published by the AEF in February 2024. Strategic focus for of the research programme is on ‘Sustainable Finance,’ ‘Climate and Development,’ and ‘Science, Education, and Culture.’

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

3. How to apply?

Read carefully the applicants [guidelines](#) published on our website and fill-in the application form, including Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3, Annex 4. All documents can be [downloaded](#) from our website.

Handwritten applications or applications submitted in another format *will not* be accepted.

The applications need to be submitted by email to research@africaeuropefoundation.org by 23rd May 2024 (17.00 Brussels, 18.00 Addis Ababa)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4. Who can apply for the call “Establishing an Africa-Europe Research Partnership” ?

Research organisations legally registered in one of the EU or AU member states, including think tanks, research institutes, universities as well as CSOs/NGOs and social enterprises with proven track record in research and policy.

Please note: the application should adhere to the “1+1 formula,” which requires each application to be submitted with a minimum partnership of **two** organizations: one from Africa and one from Europe.

5. Can an application have more than one lead applicant and more than one co-applicant?

Applications can have just one lead applicant, but several co-applicants.

Please note: the Africa-Europe balance should be respected if you have more than one institution as a co-applicant. For instance, if there is one lead applicant institution based in Europe and three organizations as co-applicants, one should be from Europe and the other two from Africa.

6. How do I know if the country of my research organisation is eligible to apply?

You can find the list of eligible countries in the Annex 6, “list of eligible countries as project location”.

Please note: countries from the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association are also eligible.

7. Can research organisations based in the UK apply?

Research organisations registered only in the UK are not eligible for this Call. However, this should not be understood as preventing African and European research organisations whose members are based in the UK from applying.

8. What are the key themes applicants should focus on in their proposed projects?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to deep dive into three priority chapters of the “State of Africa-Europe Report 2024”: Climate and Development, Science, Education, and Culture, and Sustainable Finance.



It is possible to submit project proposals on other topics and sub-themes that may be considered complementary. Such proposals should clearly outline the rationale for undertaking such research (providing political and policy relevance to the current global discourse).

9. How will the applications be evaluated? How does the AEF ensure transparency and fairness in the selection process of the awarded projects?

The selection process will be undertaken by an Evaluation Committee, focusing on compliance with the Call objectives and requirements as noted in Annex 5.

The Evaluation Committee will be comprised of the AEF internal management team and external reviewers with subject matter expertise as well as compliance expertise. The evaluation will be based on the evaluation criteria set out in the Guidelines document.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

10. What is the timeline for the implementation of the research consortium?

The implementation phase for the Africa-EUrope Reseach Consortium (Partnership) is set from July 2024 to October 2025. Proposed research projects need to be fully implemented within this period, based on an agreed work plan specifying the main activities and key research outputs, and their delivery timelines. For projects longer than 6 months, the work plan shall be reviewed at 6-month intervals to ensure validity. November and December 2025 will be allocated for evaluation, analysis, and reporting.

Proposals should clearly specify the intended implementation period.

11. What are the main deliverables?

The overall research programme implemented by the research consortium will deliver:

- A minimum of 2 (to 3) in-depth studies (360 degree), in a form of strategic reports of 50 pages (excluding annexes), developed collaboratively between African and European organizations to enhance cross-continental insights and ensure regional balance of perspectives.
- A minimum of 4 (to 6) sectoral expert studies, such as policy research papers, case studies, scoping studies, position papers, in a form of 20 pages reports (excluding annexes).



- 6 meetings/campaigns to promote research outcomes, with foresight as the overarching theme, anticipating future needs and challenges of the AU-EU partnership.
- 2 data aggregation and analysis assignments to support the AU-EU Commitment Tracking process, in a form of 10-page reports accompanied by a data spreadsheet focused on the specified political or financial commitment and its implementation.
- 6 (to 9) associated documents based on the above research deliverables, such as policy briefs, briefing notes, information bulletins, in a short form (up to 4 pages long) that are tailored to specific audience contributing to AEF advocacy and policy monitoring.

Applicants should clearly identify which of the above deliverables will be delivered under their proposed research projects.