

Priority Cooperation with Africa in Austria – and what has developed from it so far?

ACA | What's New in Brussels 2025

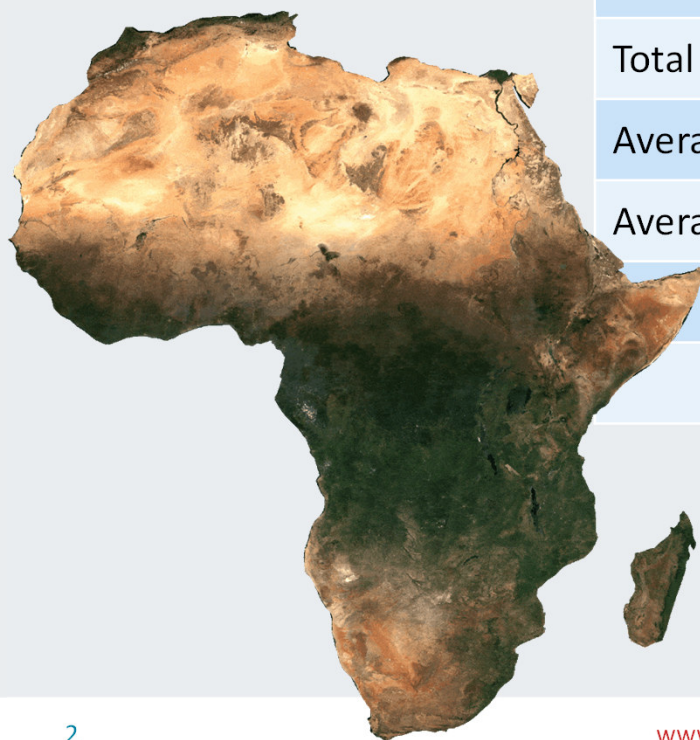
Gerhard Volz | OeAD

Head International Cooperation in Higher Education

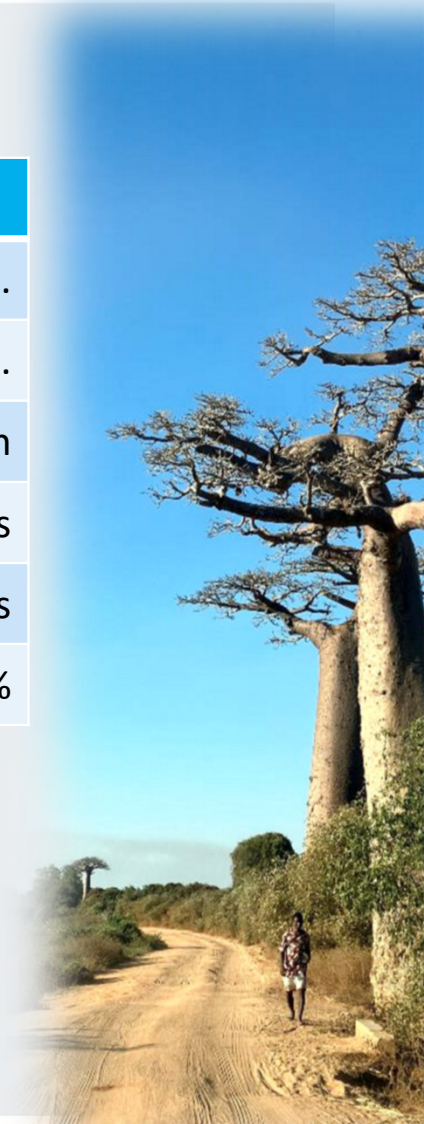
31 January 2025



AFRICA | What are we talking about?



| | EU | Africa |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Population by 2024 | 0.453 bn. | 1.5 bn. |
| Total Population by 2050 | 0.448 bn. | ca 2.5 bn. |
| Average birthrate per woman | 1.4 children | 4.1 children |
| Average age at first birth | 31 years | 20 years |
| Median age | 44.5 years | 19.2 years |
| Population share < 15 years | 14.9 % | 39.4 % |



Priority Cooperation Africa –

Where did all this derive from?

- Refugee movements towards Europe from autumn 2015 onwards with around two million people within one winter half-year
 - main *African* countries of origin: **Somalia, South Sudan, DR Congo, Nigeria, Eritrea**
- Leading to global attention for education issues, efforts for/in the countries of origin and academic cooperation with African countries
- Africa-EU partnership 2017 as starting point for increased European and national attention in many policy fields
 - → dedicated EU funding (“Claude Juncker-windows”) as of 2018
 - → significant raising of Erasmus+ funds for Sub-Saharan Africa

Africa-EU Partnership

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Current priorities

Institutional partnership

People-centred partnership

The EU's partnership with Africa is a key priority for the Commission. As Europe's closest neighbour, Africa not only shares a rich history with EU countries, but also common values and interests. Through the Africa-EU partnership, we engage in political and policy dialogues, and define our cooperative relationship with Africa.

Today's realities make this relationship all the more important. The ongoing COVID pandemic and the growing urgency of the climate crisis show how interdependent our two continents are, and why it is so important that both seize shared opportunities and tackle common challenges.

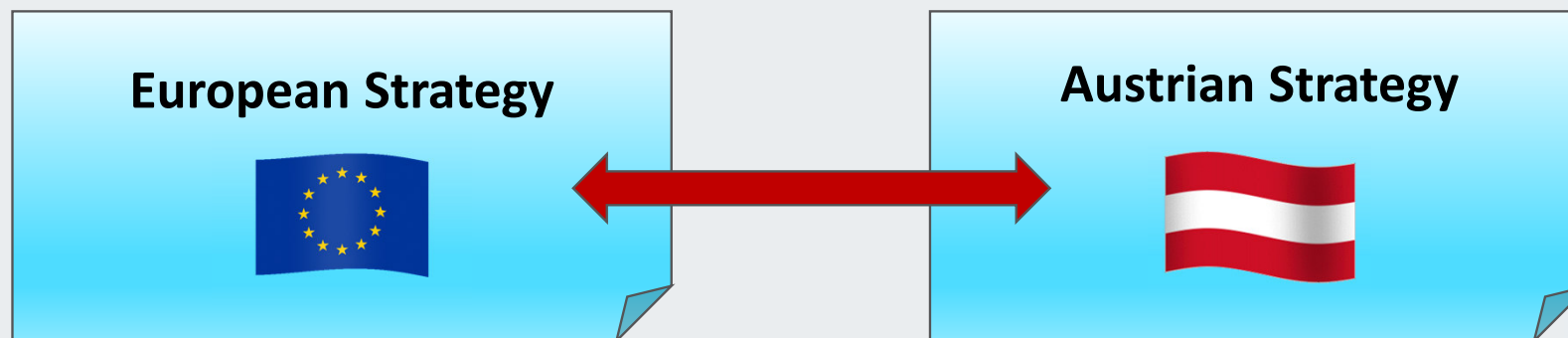


Priority Cooperation Africa –

What has been achieved so far?

... on **quantitative** level → increasing cooperation

... on **qualitative** level → consolidation/networking of cooperation



Intensification was achieved through **national** and **European initiatives** and in close cooperation with partners in the African countries



Priority Cooperation Africa –

Consequences & developments after 2018

- High Level EU-Africa Summit in Vienna 2018
- Education & science collaboration was strengthened *beyond traditional development cooperation* at European and national levels
 - Significant **increase in funding** for **Erasmus+** cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa
 - Foundation of **Austrian-African University Network** “Africa-UniNet” in 2019 on the initiative of former Science Minister Heinz Fassmann – 1st General Assembly in January 2020
- Several European countries started developing national strategies on Africa (so did Austria)
- ... and “mobility and migration agreements”



COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES
AFRICA-AUSTRIA

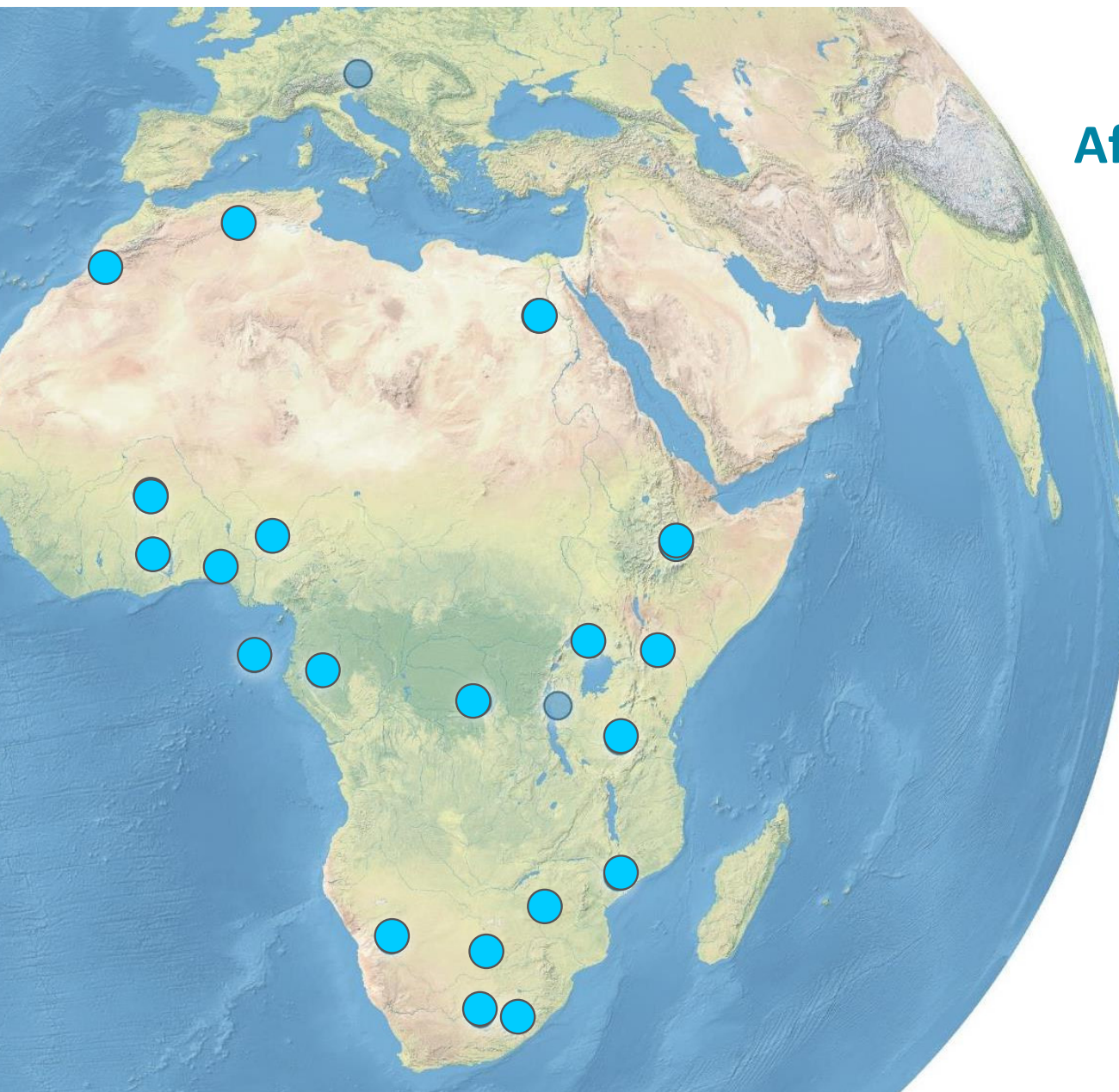


Increased Funding Opportunities –

Austrian Programmes managed by OeAD

- **Austrian-African Research Network [Africa-UniNet](#)** since 2020
aiming to create a long-term stable basis for cooperation between Austrian and African universities and research institutions
- **Austrian Partnership Programme** in Higher Education and Research for Development ([APPEAR](#)) financed by Austrian Development Cooperation
 - for priority countries of *Austrian Development Cooperation*
 - Third programme phase 2020 – 2027 with a budget of 18.7 million euros
- **[Development Research Cooperation](#)** Programme
- Cooperation in **Science and Technology** with [South Africa](#) and [Egypt](#)





Africa-UniNet Member Institutions

86 institutions: 29 in Austria and 57 in 20 African countries

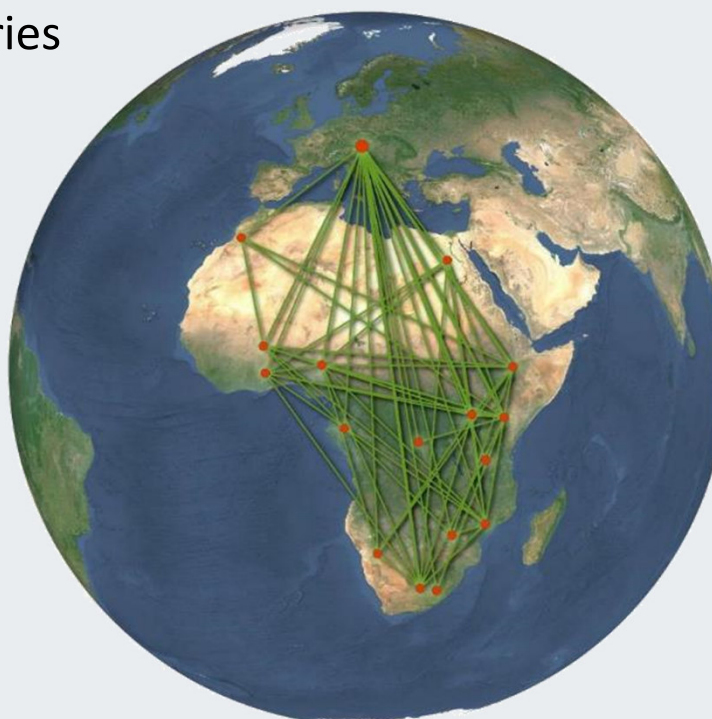
(as of January 2025)

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Algeria: 1 | Lesotho: 1 |
| Botswana: 2 | Morocco: 1 |
| Burkina Faso: 1 | Mozambique: 1 |
| Cote d'Ivoire: 1 | Namibia: 1 |
| DR Congo: 2 | Nigeria: 13 |
| Egypt: 3 | São Tomé: 1 |
| Ethiopia: 8 | South Africa: 1 |
| Gabon: 1 | Tanzania: 1 |
| Ghana: 2 | Uganda: 7 |
| Kenya: 8 | Zimbabwe: 1 |

Africa-UniNet | Projects

> 80 projects between institutions
in Austria and 17 countries
in Africa

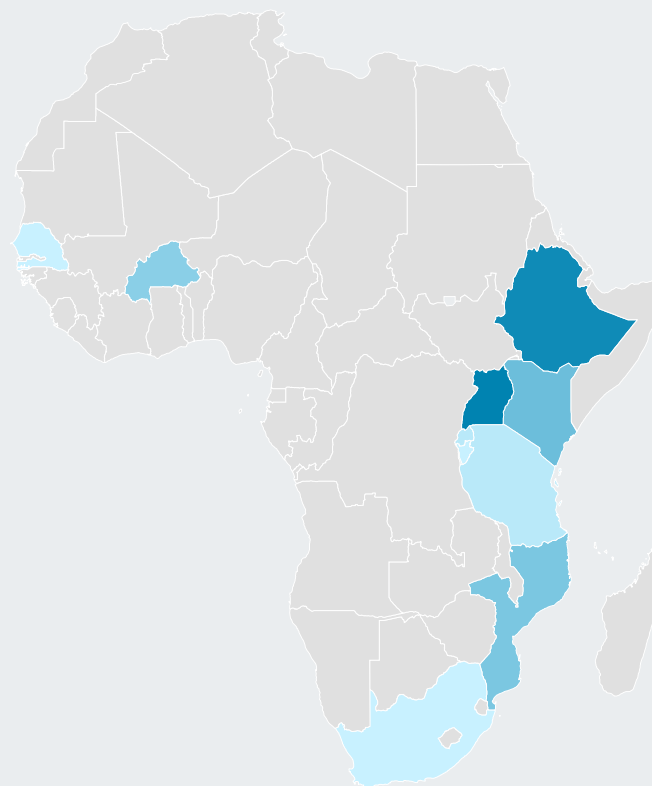
2 Mio. euros funding from
the Austrian Science
Ministry (BMBWF)



| Countries | Projects |
|--------------|----------|
| Burkina Faso | 6 |
| DR Congo | 3 |
| Egypt | 2 |
| Ethiopia | 22 |
| Gabon | 5 |
| Ghana | 5 |
| Kenya | 20 |
| Lesotho | 2 |
| Morocco | 3 |
| Mozambique | 4 |
| Namibia | 6 |
| Nigeria | 16 |
| Sao Tome | 1 |
| South Africa | 10 |
| Tanzania | 1 |
| Uganda | 21 |
| Zimbabwe | 1 |

APPEAR Projects with African institutions 2010 – 2024

| countries* incl. associate partner countries | number of projects* |
|--|---------------------|
| Burkina Faso | 5 |
| Burundi | 1 |
| Ethiopia | 13 |
| Kenya | 7 |
| Mozambique | 6 |
| Rwanda | 2 |
| Senegal | 1 |
| South Africa | 1 |
| Tanzania | 2 |
| Uganda | 14 |
| <i>* in some cases, one project in several countries</i> | |



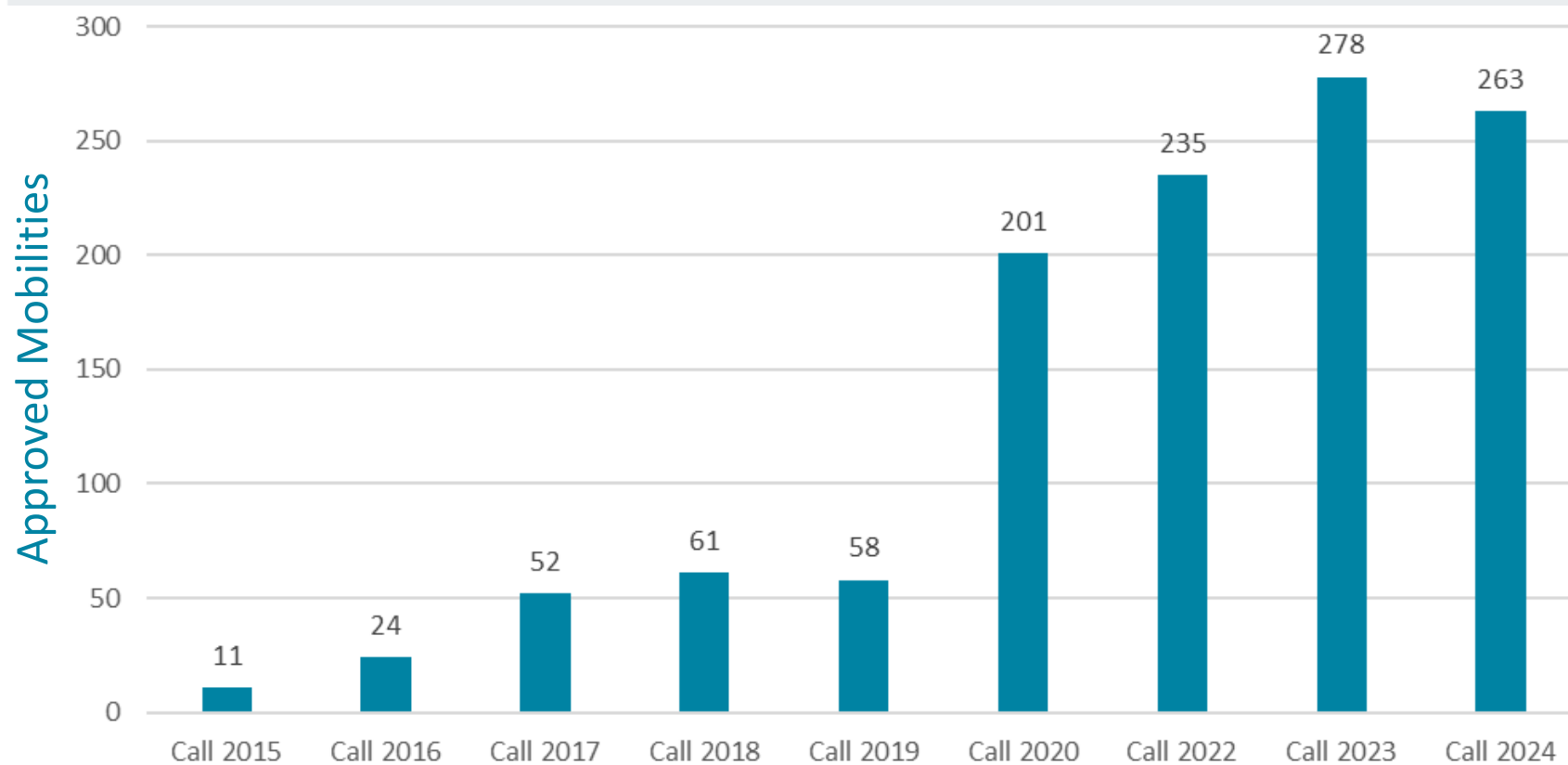
Increased Resources at European Level

IMPACT !

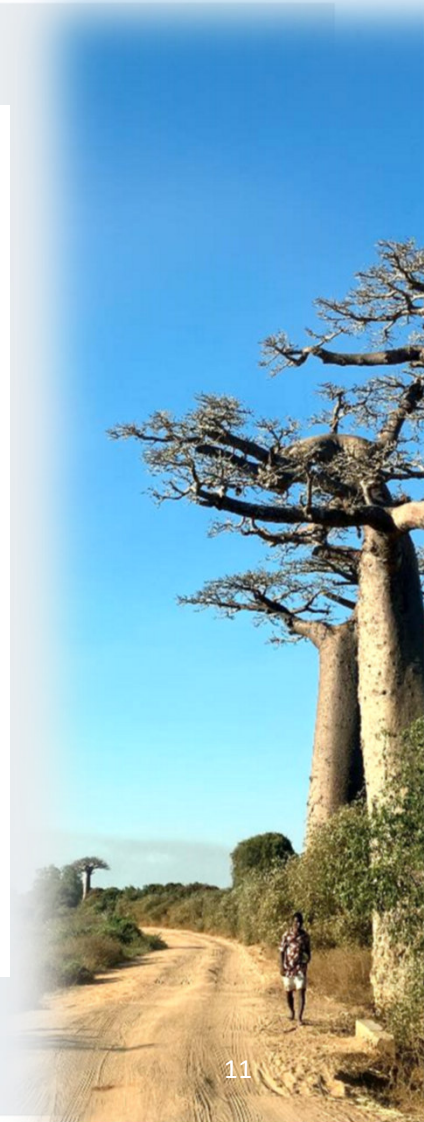
- Increase of the regional budget for Sub-Saharan Africa in **Erasmus+ International Mobility** from 7% to **up to 23%** of the available international funds in the period 2021–2027
- Sub-Saharan Africa 2022, 2023 and 2024 largest budgets each in **Erasmus+ International Mobility** and in **Capacity Building in Higher Education**
- Since 2023 **one Jean Monnet EU-Africa network** being funded in every call
- HEI in Sub-Saharan Africa are now also degree-awarding universities in **Erasmus Mundus**
- Currently, Austrian HEI cooperate with universities in **29 African countries** (January 2024: 26 countries)



Erasmus+ International Mobilities in Sub-Saharan Africa



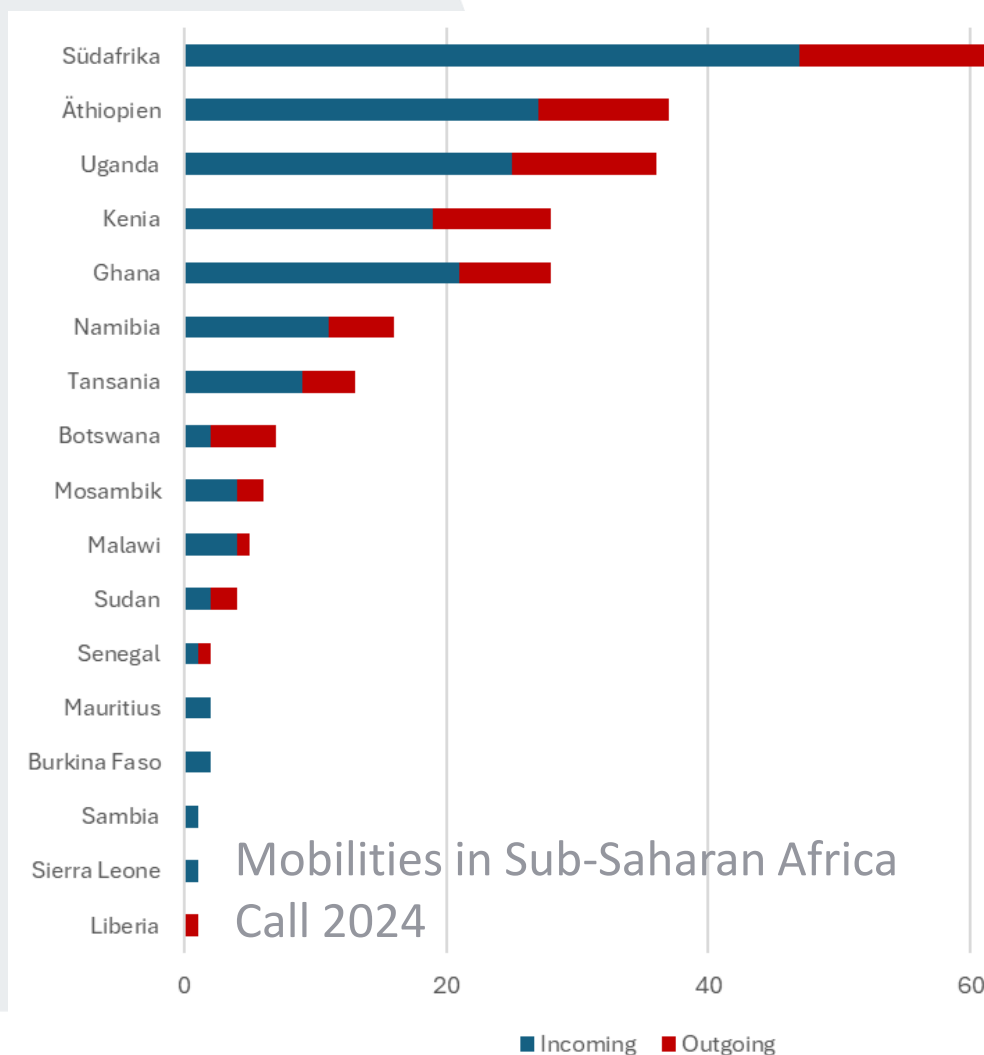
Calls Erasmus+ KA107 / KA171



Erasmus+ International Mobility (KA171)

Obvious focus on (South-) Eastern Africa linked to **earlier priorities** in Austria and to **contact initiatives**

Incoming mobility dominating as a result of the Erasmus+ programme logics



Mobilities in Sub-Saharan Africa
Call 2024



Initiatives for Enhanced Academic Collaboration

OeAD together with Universities and Researchers, Students and more



africauninet

MEMBERS ▾ ACTIVITIES ▾ PROJECTS ▾ COMMUNICATION ▾ ABOUT ▾

2nd General Assembly 2022 & Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar

Download area Africa-UniNet

- Africa-UniNet 2nd General Assembly (2,0 MB)
- Africa-UniNet status quo 17.10.22 (5,1 MB)
- Africa-UniNet info folder (5,6 MB)
- Africa-UniNet statutes (291,0 KB)
- Programme booklet (2,0 MB)

Download area Erasmus+

- Erasmus Capacity Building in Higher Education.pdf (186,0 KB)
- Erasmus International Credit Mobility KA171.pdf (931,7 KB)
- Final Compendium with Institutional Profiles.pdf (2,0 MB)
- Final IPs all.pdf (6,3 MB)

Download

James

More than 130 representatives of universities and higher education institutions from Austria and 16 countries in Africa met from 17-19 October at Egerton University in Kenya for the 2nd Africa-UniNet General Assembly and Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar.

- Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar in October 2022, jointly held alongside the 2nd General Assembly of the Africa UniNet
- 130 representatives of HEI and Research institutions from Austria and 16 African countries
- Egerton University, Kenya



Initiatives to strengthen networking

Questionnaire on the impact of the meeting *

- 87 % of respondents were able to make new contacts at the meeting
- 80% of respondents said the meeting had improved intercultural understanding and mutual learning
 - *"Before the meeting, I didn't realise how different research is in African countries compared to European scientific culture."*
 - *"My perception of Austria has changed insofar as I have realised that the Austrian institutions are very cooperative."*
- 100% of respondents improved their knowledge of the financing land-scape in relation to cooperation between Africa and Austria

* Results as of 09-2023, n = 34



Initiatives to strengthen networking

Capacity in Higher Education | Results from the cooperation seminar in Kenya

- Education and Training in Automation Technology for Ethiopian and Djibouti Industry
 - **Carinthia University of Applied Sciences** as coordinator, 1 partner from **Djibouti** and 4 partners from **Ethiopia**
- Ethiopia-Djibouti - Females at Makerspace
 - Coordinator from **Ethiopia**, **Carinthia UAS** as partner, 1 partner from **Djibouti** and 5 partners from **Ethiopia**
- Road Transportation Systems Engineering development in the Sub-Saharan Africa - Modern EU Master Programme & Capacity Building
 - **University of Klagenfurt** as partner, 3 partners from the **DR Congo** and 2 partners from **Cameroon**
- AGRoECOLOGical FARMing master programme for a sustainable agriculture in West Africa
 - **University for Continuing Education** Krems as partner, 2 partners from **Ghana**, 2 from **Nigeria** and 2 from **Sierra Leone**
- Capacity Building in HE through the development of Food and Nutritional Resilience Curricula adapted to the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and needs of West Africa
 - **MCI Innsbruck** as partner, 2 partners from **Burkina Faso**, 2 from **Mali**, 2 from **Niger** and 2 from **Senegal**

Obvious Impact and Status Quo 2025

IMPACT !

- 2015 – 2024 showed that **collaboration is mutually beneficial**
- The **strategy mix** between European and national approaches works
- **Interconnections** with stakeholders (EUA, AAU, student bodies) as well as with business and industries increasingly important
- **Keep the programmes** which connect Europe with the world – International Erasmus+ has an immense impact!
- Status quo
 - Strategy on Africa on hold in Austria
 - Various national initiatives to enhance African institutional cooperation have been implemented and are showing promising results
 - Cooperation activities (AT: follow-up Kenya, seminar in Morocco) ongoing
 - Mobility & Migration Agreements concluded at EU and national levels

