

HORIZON EUROPE NIGERIA FOCAL AREAS

CAPACITIES FOR SCIENCE:

The Proposed Subthemes and Team Leaders for Capacities for Science Thematic Areas

The Activities Funding for the subtheme is captured under Pillar 1 ‘Excellence Science’, with 2 main instruments: the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and Research Infrastructures. This Pillar sets out to promote scientific excellence and attract highly skilled researchers and innovators to Europe.

The short to long-term objectives of Pillar 1 under the Africa Initiative are:

- Strengthening cooperation between AU and EU higher education institutions, research centers and organizations, and capacity-building partnerships, with a focus on the potential of knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning, and learning mobility activities (e.g., by involving the European University Alliances, consortia from the Erasmus+ programme and the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme, and ARISE grantees), by reinforcing scientific and academic mobility opportunities (through notably the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), to support, Human Capital Development through the co-construction and/or co-reinforcement of training programmes, and research and innovation projects in line with the socio-economic needs of the concerned countries/regions, both in the AU and in the EU.
- Promoting joint master and doctoral degrees between AU and EU universities, and supporting the inclusive mobility of students, researchers and staff by building on existing programmes (such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions) to increase the number of future researchers and innovators freely moving among and between both areas, while limiting the risks of talent drain (Intra Africa Mobility).
- Improve the transparency and recognition of higher education qualifications and the relevance of curricula, and enhance mobility. Foster the development of high-performing digital education systems and upgrade digital skills and competencies for digital transformation (Open Science).
- Supporting the creation of enabling STI environment for sustainable innovation ecosystems through Smart Specialisation roadmaps to reinforce the innovation culture across the quadruple helix actors, the evidence basis for prioritisation of innovation investments and the participatory governance processes for tackling place-specific developmental challenges (Science Advice for Policy, including Gender Dimensions in Science Research).

The NCPs will be for 2 Main Foci points, with the indicated Subdivision:

NCP Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Tasks to include (1. Human Capital Development, Intra Africa Mobility, ERASMUS and 2. Open Science and Science Advice for Policy, including Gender Dimensions in Science Research):

- Identify appropriate and co-create/ develop (in some instances) capacity-building programmes on the Research theme of Interest to the Nigeria Research Team both at

pre-submission and under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Such programme include

- Staff Exchange
 - MSCA Doctorates
 - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
 - MSCA Research Staff Exchanges
 - Co-funded specific capacity (e.g. Europe Sandwich programme for Nigerian academics)
- Working with appropriate organs in Nigeria, pursue a more transparent grading system and curriculum harmonization to enhance the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Schemes into European Institutions

The NCPs will be for 3 Main Foci points (A, B & C), with the indicated Sub divisional elaborations:

A. Human Capital Development, Intra Africa Mobility Including ERASMUS:

- Identify appropriate and co-create/ develop (in some instances) capacity-building programmes on the Research theme of Interest to the Nigeria Research Team both at pre-submission and under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Such programme include:
 - Staff Exchange
 - MSCA Doctorates
 - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
 - MSCA Research Staff Exchanges
 - Co-funded specific capacity (e.g. Europe Sandwich programme for Nigerian academics)
- Working with appropriate organs in Nigeria, pursue a more transparent grading system and curriculum harmonization to enhance the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Schemes into European Institutions

B. Open Science, Science Policy, and Gender Dimensions in Science Research):

- Improve the transparency and recognition of higher education qualifications and the relevance of curricula and enhance mobility. Foster the development of high-performing digital education systems and upgrade digital skills and competencies for digital transformation.
- Supporting the creation of enabling STI environment for sustainable innovation ecosystems through Smart Specialisation roadmaps to reinforce the innovation culture across the quadruple helix actors, the evidence basis for prioritization of innovation investments, and the participatory governance processes for tackling place-specific developmental challenges.

C. General Research Infrastructure & Centers of Excellence and Specialized Sensitive Research Infrastructure:

- Identify facilities that provide resources and services for the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation compliant to the horizon Europe call. This includes the associated human resources and covers major equipment or sets of instruments; knowledge-related facilities such as collections, archives or scientific data infrastructures; computing systems, communication networks, and any other infrastructure, of a unique nature and open to external users, essential to achieve excellence in research and innovation.
- Connect and Cluster the Centers of Excellence in Nigeria HEIs to their contemporaries in Europe with a view to promoting joint research.
- Seek appropriate partnerships to establish new Centers of Excellence with EU Network support in areas critical for Nigeria's HEIs
- Chemical Biological Radiological & Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence (CBRN CoEs)