

2020 Regional Invitation to Tender

PRESENTATION DOCUMENT

Applications Deadline: May 31, 2020

This document contains the necessary information for submitting an inter-university scientific cooperation projects (PCSI) file. The target fields are: *Education Sciences – Human Sciences – Social Sciences – Engineering Sciences – Law, Economy and Business – Environment, Energy, Water – Biology and Health – Mathematics and IT - Chemistry.*

In order to complete your file, you should fill and return the application form, along with the written evidence to AUF Middle East Regional Direction.

The application form is also available on the website of the Middle East Regional Direction (DRMO)

1. PROJECT ACTION PRESENTATION

In order to develop cooperation among the higher education institutions member of AUF, AUF Middle East Regional Direction gives teachers and researchers from the region the possibility to submit multilateral cooperation projects in the fields of research, development and technology transfer.

2. MAIN OBJECTIVES

General Objective :

- Sustainable structuring of the scientific, academic and institutional cooperation

Specific Objectives:

- Scientific strengthening of universities in the Middle East
- Developing regional or interregional cooperation among universities
- Supporting young researchers
- Helping knowledge production and dissemination in the Middle East
- Promoting women executives in the field of research and/or technology transfer

3. PARTICIPATION METHODS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

3-1: Application Framework

3-1-a- The multilateral character of the projects must be attested.

3-1-b- Projects are conducted by a network of three universities at least, which should be members of AUF, from three different countries and two different regions:

- The institution bearing the project should be from the Middle East and be up to date in the payment of the membership fee.
- Priority will be given to partner universities from the South.
- In order to verify if a university is a member of AUF, check the website www.auf.org/membres/

3-1-c- Applications should fall within shared research and/or technology transfer Projects

- Concerned activities: short-term specific or innovative research actions
- Beneficiaries: teachers and researchers, young doctoral or post-doctoral students, research master's degrees students (M2R)
- Maximum duration of AUF support: 24 months (to be distinguished from the duration of activities)

3-2: Selection Criteria

Project selection will take into consideration the following criteria:

3-2-a- Registration in the following set of themes: "*Education Sciences*", "*Human Sciences*", "*Social Sciences*", "*Engineering Sciences*". "*Law, Economy and Business*", "*Environment, Energy, Water*", "*Biology and Health*", "*Mathematics and IT*", "*Chemistry*" (See the list of subjects, paragraph 8).

3-2-b- Project promotion: the application file shall specify the expected scientific production and the publishing and/or popularization methods. This could imply, for instance, sharing research outcomes and/or techniques within a network of researchers, resorting to francophone digital campuses for the dissemination of results, technology transfer, etc. Please note that the use of numeric tools in the scientific cooperation projects implementation (online meetings; use of shared platforms to involve projects partners,...) is actively promoted by AUF.

3-2-c- Diversification of the operational partnership: in addition to the project partner universities, it is possible to involve one or more partners which do not benefit from AUF support (universities which are not AUF members, companies, local government authorities, non government actors, etc.). A commitment letter is requested from each partner specifying the partner's involvement.

3-2-d- Beneficiaries' participation. A co-funding of the project from all of the partners must be provided. The co-funding may include, for instance : payment of the costs of stay of the people traveling on a mission by the host institution, document support, supporting and/or operational scientific materials or products, partner institutions' employees, etc.

4. SELECTION PROCESS FOR PROJECT

The file must be:

- completed and accompanied by the written evidence requested in paragraph 7;
- signed by the project scientific leader and by the highest ranking officer of the institution bearing the project ;
- sent in one hard copy to the Middle East Regional Direction or to the Francophone digital campus to which your university is attached (see paragraph 10), and accompanied by a soft copy containing all of the requested documents. The Middle East Regional Direction receives the files, assesses their administrative admissibility and submits them to the experts.
- the regional commission of experts establishes a ranking of the projects subject to the scientific expertise and to the regional timeliness.
- AUF Middle East Regional Direction will inform applicants of the outcomes of the selection.

5. PROJECTS FUNDING

5-1- Funding Framework

The amount of the funding requested from AUF cannot exceed 20,000 Euros. For each complementary funding, a certificate must be added, knowing that co-funding is requested.

The requested support must comply with AUF price scale specified in the application form and it will cover the following expenses only:

- Missions of teaching, research, expertise, meetings of partners and committees
- Mobility allowance for young researchers, doctoral students, research master's students
- Document support, publishing and putting contents online
- Scientific and support materials or products (excepted long-lasting equipments)
- Management fees (7% at most of the requested credits).

Important remarks:

- Participation to seminars and conferences will be financed only if the participants are speakers. To this end, the seminar or conference program, with the names of speakers, shall be attached to the vouchers.
- Any insurance (travel, health, repatriation on medical grounds, civil liability, theft, etc.) is the entire responsibility of the beneficiaries of the funding. AUF accepts no responsibility in this regard.
- In accordance with its numerical development strategy, the AUF promotes the use of digital tools enabling exchange of information and knowledge between projects partners. To the extent possible and without adversely affecting projects progress, the Agency emphasizes these exchanges rather than international missions.

5-2- Implementation of funding and project monitoring

The Middle East Regional Direction of the AUF will support several projects from the themes covered by this tender ("*Education Sciences*", "*Human Sciences*", "*Social Sciences*", "*Engineering Sciences*", "*Law, Economy and Business*", "*Environment, Energy, Water*", "*Biology and Health*", "*Mathematics and IT*", "*Chemistry*").

When the project is selected, an agreement indicating the amount granted and specifying the terms of financial commitments, is signed between the university presenting the project and the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie.

The implementation of the support by the Agency and the monitoring of the project are provided by the Middle East Regional Direction and / or CNF, in connection with the Regional commission of experts is responsible for the evaluation.

Credits are paid by the Middle East Regional Direction of the AUF, in two equal installments:

- The first after the return to Middle East Regional Direction of the completed and signed agreement,
- The second after the presentation to Middle East Regional Direction of an implementation report at mid-term (including a scientific part and an administrative and financial part) with vouchers. The administrative part of the report can include quantitative and qualitative project's steering indicators (Ex: men/women parity assessment, working tasks distribution amongst partners according to this criteria, deadlines follow-up assessment,...). Project's bearer and partners are free to propose other steering assessment indicators. The positive assessment of the report by the Regional commission of experts is the condition for the payment of the second installment.

The credits allocated to a project must always be filed within two years (calendar years).

5-3 Project Closure

When the project is completed, its manager must submit to Middle East Regional Direction of the AUF, as soon as possible, a final report (scientific, and administrative and financial with vouchers). In the absence of the final report, the project manager must return all of the grant.

6. TIMETABLE

February 7, 2020 :	Launching of the regional invitation to tender for the inter-university scientific cooperation Projects
May 31, 2020 :	Deadline for returning the files to the regional directorate for the Middle East
June 2020 :	Files processing and evaluation
September 2020 :	Projects selection by the regional experts' commission of the regional directorate.
October 2020 :	Transmission of decisions to projects' leaders by the regional directorate

7. LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WITH THE APPLICATION FORM

The application file should include the application form and all of the below documents (*in French or in English*) which are a condition of its admissibility.

It should be sent before **May 31, 2020**, i.e. the set deadline, to AUF representation body in the Middle East to which the institution submitting the project is attached (see paragraph 10) in soft copy.

- The application form, duly completed and signed by the project scientific leader and by the highest ranking officer of the institution submitting the project
- The official commitment of each partner signed by the highest ranking officer of the institution, specifying the name of the project scientific co-leader. This letter should mention the participation or support of the institution bearing or partner of the project, as well as its academic and financial commitment and specify its contribution. When an Institute/School/Faculty is attached to a university, it is the signature of the highest officer of the university (President or Chief Education Officer) which should appear on the documents .
- The concise CVs of the project scientific leader and of the scientific co-leaders
- The projected execution schedule
- The detailed "projected budget" with a payment schedule showing the contribution of each partner (*use the template provided by the Middle East Regional Direction*)
- In case of a complementary funding, attach the relevant certificate

8. LIST OF DISCIPLINES

Discipline	AUF Code	Discipline	AUF Code
Public administration	D100	Management	D125
Agro-alimentaire	D101	History	D126
Agronomy	D102	Hydrology	D127
Territory development	D103	Data processing	D128
Anthropology	D104	Languages	D129
Archeology	D105	Linguistic	D130
Architecture	D106	Literatures	D131
Arts	D107	Mathematics	D132
Astronomy	D108	Medicine	D133
Biology	D109	Veterinary Medecine	D134
Biotechnology	D110	Océanography	D135
Chemistry	D111	Philosophy	D136
Trade	D112	Physics	D137
Communications	D113	Policy	D138
Criminology	D114	Psychology	D139
Démography	D115	Religions	D140
Law	D116	Health	D141
Ecology	D117	Computer Science	D142
Economy	D118	Sociology	D143
Education	D119	Statistics	D144
Environment	D120	Télécommunications	D145
Forestry	D121	Remote sensing	D146
Enginnering	D122	Tourism	D147
Geography	D123	Translation	D148
Geology	D124	Social work	D149

9. GRIDS OF THE MOBILITY AMOUNTS

Scale of the amounts allotted to the doctoral and research master's mobility (in Euros)

Host country Classification*	Fixed monthly allotment	Settling allowance for mobility exceeding 4 months
High	810 €	400 €
Intermediary	570 €	285 €
Low	480 €	235 €

* See "Country Classification" Annex

10. AGENCY LOCATIONS IN MIDDLE-EAST

For the purpose of submitting the application file, please refer to the following addresses according to the country of the submitting institution.

Country of the institution bearing the project:	Implantation contact :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CYPRUS - DJIBOUTI - ETHIOPIA - IRAQ - IRAN - JORDAN - LEBANON - PAKISTAN - PALESTINE - QATAR - SAUDI ARABIA - SUDAN - UNITAD ARAB EMIRATES - YEMEN 	<p>DIRECTION RÉGIONALE MOYEN-ORIENT (DRMO) Rue de Damas Villa F, Cité Bounoure B.P.: 11-81 Beyrouth, Liban Tél (standard) : +961 1 420 270 Tcpie : +961 1 615 884 Courriel : pcsi-mo@lb.auf.org</p>
- NORTH LEBANON	<p>CAMPUS NUMÉRIQUE FRANCOPHONE (CNF) de TRIPOLI Centre AZM pour la recherche en biotechnologie et ses applications École doctorale des sciences et de technologie de l'Université Libanaise - Rue Mitein En face du Lycée El Malaab Tripoli Liban Tel : + 961 6 205 280 Tcpie : + 961 6 205 281 Courriel : cnf-tripoli@lb.auf.org</p>
- EGYPT	<p>CAMPUS NUMÉRIQUE FRANCOPHONE (CNF) D'ALEXANDRIE Université Senghor, 1, Place Ahmed Orabi, El Mancheya B.P. 21111-415, Alexandrie - Égypte Tél. : + 20 3 48 43 560 Tcpie : + 20 3 48 50 532 Courriel : info@eg.auf.org</p>
- SYRIA	<p>CAMPUS NUMÉRIQUE FRANCOPHONE (CNF) DE DAMAS Université de Damas, Cité Universitaire 6, Rue Omar Bin Abdul Aziz, Al Mezzeh B.P. 13141, Damas - Syrie Tél. : + 963 11 21 22 871 Tcpie : + 963 11 21 30 236 Courriel : cnf-damas@sy.auf.org</p> <p>CAMPUS NUMÉRIQUE FRANCOPHONE (CNF) D'ALEP Université d'Alep B.P. 12355, Alep - Syrie Tél. : + 963 21 26 34 406 Tcpie : + 963 21 26 34 407 Courriel : cnf-alep@sy.auf.org</p>