

Concept Note for call “Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR)”

Title of the project: “Strategies for Support of Higher Education and Research for Development”

Introduction:

APPEAR is a programme of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) with the aim to implement its strategy for support of higher education and research for development on an academic institutional level in the ADC’s priority countries and key regions, i.e., Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Palestine, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Bhutan, Albania and Kosovo and selected non-priority countries.

Duration: 4 Years

Preparatory Funding	Academic Partnership	Advanced Academic Partnership	Extended Impact Institutional Partnership	Extended Impact External Partnership	Master’s and PhD Scholarships
Max. 4 months	Max. 4 years	Max. 3 years	Max. 2 years	Max. 3 years	Master’s: 24 months (average) PhD: 48 months (average)

Target Countries:

Priority countries

The project mainly targets 11 priority countries of the ADC, as listed below.

Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Bhutan, Palestine, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Albania, Kosovo

Non-priority countries

Non-priority countries are located outside Austria and the 11 priority countries and they are listed in the OECD DAC list of ODA recipients.

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2020-flows.pdf>

Tentative Partners: Universities from Austria, Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)’s priority countries and key regions.

Need Analysis: The need to exchange and sharing of knowledge and expertise, strengthening academic cooperation and research are strongly felt in today’s global context. The exposure to new ideas through partnerships, new learning environments and experiences are the way forward to enhancing the existing capacity of institutions. The partners will mutually benefit from cooperation through this project.

Objectives: The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the scientific foundation and institutional capacities in higher education, research and management in the partner countries through (a) academic partnerships with Austrian higher education institutions (HEI) and (b) master’s and PhD scholarships as a contribution to institutional capacity development. The project also contributes to increasing the commitment for development cooperation at Austrian higher education institutions. Ultimately it is also the objective of the project to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Main Work Packages, Activities and Outcomes:

All proposed activities will be related to the thematic focus of the project.

Academic partnership

Partnership at institutional level	WP1 Development of skills with regard to the integration of gender perspectives in higher education projects	Strengthened management management and teaching / educational skills and capacities of the research institution in the partner country(ies), sustainable cooperation between institutions, integration in existing regional academic networks and / or the establishment of regional cooperation, links and further collaboration with researchers, empowering female researchers; capacity development measures for enhanced quality assurance, improved capacities in institutional management
	WP2 Development of co-financing strategies as contribution to sustainable partnerships Partners jointly prepare applications for specific international or EU programmes.	
Partnership at educational and scientific level	WP 3 Development of curricula, teaching modules / lectures or learning materials (e.g. innovative content) Assurance of quality standards in teaching, methodology and research and improvement of academic management capacities Training measures for the academic staff with regard to the specific academic discipline and its teaching methodologies	Innovative curricula, teaching methods and other educational activities; innovative, problem-oriented and interdisciplinary research projects, short-term exchange of lecturers, scholarships for study programmes, increased integration of partners in international scientific networks, dissemination and utilisation of results and findings through follow-ups, publications, conferences, teaching, curricula; positive influence on the awareness of gender and a practical influence on the opportunities, living conditions and / or position of women in the scientific community, gain awareness about and integrate the “leave no one behind” principle by taking into account a diverse body of students, teachers, stakeholders and beneficiaries. The partnership will contribute to the applicability of research results in practice. Master’s and PhD scholarships will be successfully utilised in the framework of the partnership and the grant holders return to continue their
	WP4 Exchange of teaching, research or management staff (between the Austrian institution(s) and institution(s) in the addressed countries Short-term exchange of students (between research	

	institutions in the partner countries) Master and PhD scholarships	scientific and scholarly work at their home institution.
Impact on development	WP5 Design applied and demand-driven research projects based on the institutional and societal needs in the partner countries	Contribute to the formulation or implementation of the partner countries' national / regional development plan or poverty reduction strategy; Address direct and / or indirect "beneficiaries", within the scientific community or in marginalised societal groups: Results and findings will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and have an impact on poverty reduction and improvement of livelihood;
	WP6 Development of research projects and dissemination of results and findings in collaboration with NGOs as a contribution to the SDGs and improvement of the livelihood of marginalised societal groups in the addressed countries.	Embeds a development approach into higher education and research and leads to new forms of cooperation between research institutions and organisations working in the field of development; Beneficial for the Austrian institution(s) and increases the visibility of development cooperation and development research at the respective Austrian institution(s), networks and communities.

Expected Contribution from University of Kelaniya:

Office space, personnel, hosting and assisting Incoming Mobility and assisting Outgoing Mobility, contribution to writing of the proposal and submitting required data and information.

Tentative Budget:

Preparatory Funding	Academic Partnership	Advanced Academic Partnership	Extended Impact Institutional Partnership	Extended Impact External Partnership	Master's and PhD Scholarships
Max. 15,000 Euros	<u>2 partner institutions:</u> 50,000 – max. 90,000 Euros / year More than 2 partner institutions: 50,000 – max. 130,000 Euros / year				Master's: 1,000 Euros / month PhD: 1,100 Euros / month, travel costs (including field research), allowances (German courses, participation in conferences, thesis allowance)

Expenses included in the project calculation are staff costs, travel and subsistence costs, Master and PhD scholarships. 2% overhead costs are granted to cover expenses of shipment costs that may occur after the eligible period of a Preparatory Funding.