

# France



## Press Release

### **5 projects from 19 higher education and research institutions join the “Academia Partnerships Africa-France” program**

**Paris, Decembre 2025 – Following the call for proposals for the 3rd edition of the “Academia Partnerships Africa-France” (PeA) program, 5 projects have been selected, associating 5 African and 14 French higher education and research institutions. Financed by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) via *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD), the program aims to bring university communities closer together and bolster academic success in Africa, while also meeting the needs for skilled jobs in African countries. This new edition mobilizes a €15-million budget.**

The PeA is implemented with support from the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space (MESRE) and operated by the French National Research Agency (ANR), with Campus France coordinating PeA events. The PeA funds partnerships between African and French institutions, which jointly create training programs spanning bachelor's through PhD degrees in economic sectors that are a priority for African countries, such as renewable energy, agroecology, health, and digital technology.

The first two editions have already provided support for 13 programs in 7 African countries. This third edition will be financing 5 new projects over 4.5 years in 5 African countries – Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda –, thus expanding the PeA into new geographies. In total, over 60 higher education and research institutions are now involved, with the goal of enrolling upwards of 5,700 students a year by the end of the program.

#### **Strategic objectives for the future**

The winning projects embody the priorities shared by Africa and France. They aim to strengthen the employability of young people by developing job-oriented training programs tailored to the needs of local and international companies. Their funding will also help to provide the students with conditions for learning and experimenting that closely match real-life professional environments, thanks to the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the purchase of scientific and technical equipment. The creation of incubators to support

young innovative entrepreneurs is also helping to translate training into real economic opportunities. Promoting the participation and success of young women in the training programs funded by the projects continues to be a key priority in this 3rd edition of the PeA.

### **Long-term and mutually beneficial partnerships**

Creating shared academic spaces fosters the circulation of knowledge, ideas and talent. It leads to mutual enrichment underpinned by diverse educational approaches and a wealth of intercultural exchanges, whilst also reinforcing the international outreach of the African and French institutions. The goal of the new training programs, designed in collaboration with professionals, is to provide local training for young people who are not only rooted in their territory but also open to the world, and able to innovate in order to meet the challenges of sustainable development.

### **Winning projects<sup>1</sup> of the PeA's 3rd edition**

- **B.E.A.T. – Nigeria**
  - **Goal:** to train professionals capable of driving innovation in African and global cultural and creative markets.
  - **Project leaders:**
    - Covenant University
    - Paris Institute of Political Studies – Sciences Po
  - **Program:** cultural and creative industries
  
- **CO-FIPHAR – Rwanda**
  - **Goal:** to train pharmacists skilled in industrial pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and medical biology, to support the development of Rwanda's pharmaceutical industry.
  - **Project leaders:**
    - University of Rwanda (UR)
    - University Clermont Auvergne (UCA)
  - **Programs:** industrial pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and medical biology

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to the successful completion of the contracting procedures.

- **ITEGE – Ethiopia**
  - **Goal:** to train specialists in geothermal exploration in Ethiopia to drive the sustainable development of this energy source, mainly used for heating and electricity generation.
  - **Project leaders:**
    - Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU)
    - CY Cergy Paris University (CYU)
  - **Other partners:**
    - Sorbonne University (SU)
    - University of Lorraine (UL)
  - **Program:** geothermal energy
  
- **MASUCU – Gabon**
  - **Goal:** to train experts in health sciences, human, animal and environmental health in line with the “One Health” approach, to enhance the public health system and meet Gabon’s health challenges.
  - **Project leaders:**
    - Masuku University of Science and Technology (USTM)
    - Paris-Est Créteil University (UPEC)
  - **Other partners:**
    - VetAgro Sup
  - **Programs:** human, animal and environmental health
  
- **SHIFT-KF – Kenya**
  - **Goal:** to train future executives for Kenya's agrifood industry to modernize the sector and create new, more attractive jobs.
  - **Project leaders:**
    - University of Nairobi (UoN)
    - National Institute for Life and Environmental Sciences and Industries – AgroParisTech (APT)
  - **Other partners:**
    - Agricultural Research Center for Sustainable Development (CIRAD)
    - National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)

- Institut Agro
  - EPLEFPA FORMA'TERRA – La Réunion (FormaTerra)
  - EPLEFPA SAINT JOSEPH – La Réunion (Saint-Joseph)
  - Coconi agricultural high school – EPNEFPA Mayotte (Coconi)
- o **Program:** agrifood (agriculture, agroecology, food systems)

### Discover more about:

- PeA: <https://www.afd.fr/en/program-academia-partnerships-africa-france-pea>
- The Call for Proposals: <https://anr.fr/en/call-for-proposals-details/call/specific-call-for-proposals-academia-partnerships-africa-france-3rd-edition-pea3-2025/>

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### About:

#### Agence Française de Développement

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) helps advance France's policy on sustainable investment and international solidarity. Through its public sector and NGO financing operations, research and publications (Éditions AFD), sustainable development training programs (AFD Group Campus) and awareness-raising activities in France, AFD finances, supports and drives the transition to a fairer, more resilient world.

Alongside our partners, we provide sustainable solutions for—and with—communities. Our teams are working on over 2,700 projects in the field, in over 115 countries, including France's overseas departments and territories, to support projects for the climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Together with Proparco and Expertise France, AFD supports the commitment of France and the French people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Working by your side, toward a world in common.

### **French National Research Agency**

The French National Research Agency (ANR) is the funding agency for project-based research in France. As a public institution under the authority of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the ANR funds and promotes basic and applied research in all disciplines at the national, European, and international level. It also funds technological innovation, technology transfer, and partnerships between research teams from the public and private sectors, in addition to strengthening dialogue between science and society.

The ANR also serves as the main operator of the France 2030 Investment Plan in higher education and research. France 2030 supports excellence and transformations in higher education, research, training, and innovation within priority sectors. The Agency selects, funds, and monitors projects in connection with these objectives. The ANR is ISO 9001 certified, and was awarded the "professional equality" label.

### **Campus France**

The Campus France agency strengthens the appeal of French higher education by promoting it to international students. It is also responsible for managing French and foreign government scholarship recipients, providing support to students and researchers on exchange programs, organizing the France Alumni network and analyzing student mobility in France and around the world. In France, the agency coordinates the Campus France Forum (more than 370 institutions). It relies on its 275 Campus France offices worldwide, operating under the authority of French embassies in 134 different countries.