

Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the African Academy of Sciences for grantees of the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence to be hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe¹

In accordance with Article 28 (3) of the Africa Regional Protocol to the Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, on the other part², an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for African researchers funded by the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE) is hereby established between the European Commission and the African Academy of Sciences, seated in Kenya (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides").

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is responsible for the administration of the ARISE collaborative programme initiative, funded by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument of the Union, and managed by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission.

From the European Commission side, the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), which is the dedicated implementation structure of the European Research Council (ERC), is intended to perform the tasks specified in this Implementing Arrangement. The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

The Sides understand that the collaboration under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to operate only within the limits of its respective authorities, policies and legal frameworks.

Research opportunities are intended to be provided in accordance with the terms set out in this implementing Arrangement.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international or domestic law, and it has no financial implications.

¹ European Union Member States or Countries Associated to the Horizon Europe Programme (including Pillar 1)

² Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other part (OJ L, 2023/2862, 28.12.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2023/2862/oj).

the ERCEA. Best practices consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to collaborate under this Arrangement are expected to be discussed during the technical working meetings and be stated in the meeting minutes.

During the technical working meetings, the Sides intend to review the activities, including reporting activities, under this Arrangement and discuss any adjustment that would be necessary. These meetings are expected to take place at least once per year, and the meetings should be held virtually or alternately at the AAS or the ERCEA premises.

5. FUNDING

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement are intended to be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Side.

(1) The AAS

Grantholders of the ARISE initiative can continue to receive their grant/stipend according to the terms and conditions of the ARISE award. They would also be allowed to use them for the purpose of collaborating with ERC-supported European teams, including the coverage of their travel expenses. However, they would be required to obtain approval from their respective institution before concluding a collaborative agreement with their ERC-supported European teams.

(2) The ERC

Visiting ARISE grantholders may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded PIs (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that, if need be, any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grants, supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. The ERC grant agreement provides that only the costs eligible within its terms can be reimbursed and the maximum amount of the ERC grant should not be increased for this purpose. The ARISE grantholder would be solely in charge of seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under the ERC grant, without the involvement of the AAS. Subject to the compliance with all the eligibility criteria set out in the ERC grant agreement, eligible cost categories in such cases include:

(i) For the ARISE grantholders: subsistence costs on a *per diem* basis, or any other applicable modality of the Host Institution, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable by the Host Institution, commensurate to the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.

Alternatively, and only if the salary of the ARISE grantholder is suspended during the period of the visit: salary, scholarship or other compensation of the visiting researcher,

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to provide opportunities for grantees of the ARISE initiative to pursue research collaborations with European research teams already supported through the European Union (EU) funded ERC grants³.

It is expected that collaborations would occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest related to disciplines in engineering and the natural sciences, health sciences, humanities and social sciences.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

This collaboration is intended to enable grantholders supported by the ARISE initiative to carry out research visits with the ERC-supported European teams.

The collaboration is intended to enable grantholders to participate through a single and long-term (e.g. up to 12 months) visit or multiple short-term visits (e.g. for joint experiments), as agreed between the AAS and ERCEA. Research visits are expected to begin at least 12 months prior to the termination date of the ARISE initiative. Multiple short-term visits should aggregate to a jointly determined minimum (e.g. 3 months).

3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION

The following set of operational steps is intended to be used to establish the cooperation:

- (a) The ERCEA solicits expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting ARISE grantholders to contribute to their teams for short or long-term periods.
- (b) The ERCEA sends to the AAS a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects and other information as mutually decided between the AAS and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.
- (c) The AAS would inform ARISE grantholders of the collaborative opportunities available, describing the goals of the ERC programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers. ARISE grantholders would be invited to communicate directly with the ERC-supported European teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of the collaboration with ERC-supported European teams, which should be in line with the ERC grant agreement.

4. TECHNICAL WORKING MEETINGS

The two Sides intend to have technical working meetings with the participation of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate additional participants to the meetings. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of the AAS and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of

³ <https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>

including any applicable social/health coverage expenses, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable by the Host Institution. In this case, no additional subsistence costs would be offered.

(ii) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the the ARISE grantholder that are directly related to the ERC-funded project and that are not covered by the ARISE grant.

6. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

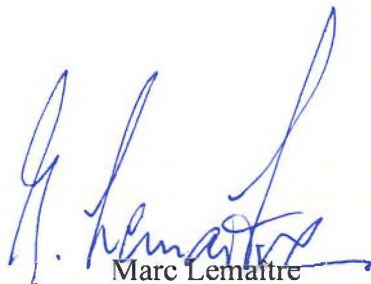
The Sides may agree to amend this Implementing Arrangement by including other programmes in addition to the ARISE initiative.

7. DURATION

Cooperation under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from the date of its signature by the Sides for an undetermined period. It may be discontinued by either Side at any time. This Implementing Arrangement may be amended by written consent of the Sides.

Signed at Brussels, on 23 October 2025, in duplicate in the English language.

For the European Commission



Marc Lemaitre
Director General for Research and
Innovation

For the African Academy of Sciences



Professor Lise Korsten
President African Academy of Sciences