

Joint Call for scientific projects
STDF - IRD - AUF
2016
Egypt - France - Lebanon - Jordan

PRESENTATION DOCUMENT
Deadline for submission of applications: 30 June 2016

This document provides the information needed to fill a funding request for a science project. This call is intended primarily to Franco-Egyptian mixed teams. The participation of a partner from Lebanon and/or Jordan, member of the AUF, is an advantage.

The areas covered by this call are: Water and water technology - renewable energy and green technology - Environment - Health - University governance - Tourism and Heritage - Improving agricultural and animal production. Human and social sciences can be incorporated transversally in all referred scientific areas.

1. Background :

In December 2015, the Egyptian STDF, the Middle East Office of the AUF and the IRD signed a three parties agreement for joint financing of research projects in order to support joint scientific projects that address areas priority for the three institutions in a competitive way. This agreement aims to strengthen scientific cooperation between Egypt and France, but also regional scientific cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean by encouraging the participation of Lebanese and Jordanian institutions.

The present call is the implementation of this agreement and will enable selected joint research teams to receive support (max. € 60,000 per project) over a two years period. In the limit of available fund, only two or three projects will be awarded.

2. TERMS OF PARTICIPATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

2-1: framework of application (eligibility criteria)

The multilateral nature of the projects must be certified.

The projects are carried out by a network of at least an Egyptian and a French principle investigator (PI). Priority will be given to projects with a regional dimension including a partnership with a Lebanese or a Jordanian establishment. The main Egyptian partner should be a research organization or a public or private higher education institution. Other partners (French, Lebanese or Jordanian) must all be members of the AUF network (www.auf.org/membres/).

2-2: selection criteria

The selection of the projects will take into account the following criteria:

2-2-a - registration in one or more of the following themes:

1. Water and water technology;
2. Renewable energy and green technologies;
3. Environment;
4. Health;
5. University governance;
6. tourism and heritage;
7. improve the crop and livestock production.

Human and social sciences can be incorporated transversally in all referred scientific areas.

2-2-b- Quality and originality of the envisaged research projects :

- Scientific and practical relevance of the expected results / outcomes;
- Skills and previous experience of PIs and their teams;
- Quality of the planned collaboration and recognized added value for partner institutions;
Prospects of commercializing the envisaged project results; Quality of the budget plan and its justification, as well as strategy of project management.

2-2-c- Scientific valorization of the project: the application should specify the expected scientific output and the publication arrangements and/or scientific vulgarization. This can, for example, include the sharing of research results and/or techniques within a network of researchers, dissemination of results, technology transfer, etc.

2-2-d - Contribution of the beneficiaries: A co-financing of the project from one or all the beneficiaries partners is desirable. Co-financing may for example include: support for living expenses of the missionaries by the host,

documentary support, equipment or support scientific products and/or functioning institution, salaries from partner institutions, etc.

2.3. Application:

The application must be:

- Completed and accompanied by the endorsement documents requested under subsection (5);
- Signed by the PIs of the project and by the highest executive of the PI's institute of affiliation
- Uploaded to the STDF website (www.stdf.org.eg) and sent simultaneously to egypte@ird.fr and bmo@auf.org in PDF format.

The joint steering committee, composed of representatives of the STDF, IRD and BMO (Bureau Moyen-Orient) of the AUF receives the files, judge their administrative admissibility and submit them to scientific expertise. The committee award projects taking into account the scientific expertise and regional opportunity. Candidates are informed of the outcome of the selection.

3. PROJECT FUNDING

3-1 funding Framework :

- The amount of the grant requested can not exceed 60 000 euros.
- For each additional fund, a certificate should be attached.
- The financial plan must be presented by separating the expenses of each partner team using the provided application form. The financial plan should include the following:

A. Egyptian team Budget (funded by the STDF) :

- The costs of equipment and materials needed for the project;
- Fieldwork expanses of the Egyptian team ;
- Mobility costs of the Egyptian team (Ticket and Per diem), justification for all travel must be clearly stated in the proposal (Purpose- duration – relatedness to project – expected outcome)).
- Publication and scientific valorization costs.
- extra-remunerations of Egyptian researchers' (according to the scales of the STDF) (maximum 25% of the total budget of the team);
- 20% of the total cost not including the equipment cost [total project budget (minus) equipment cost] is paid as indirect cost to the PI's institution.

The budget should be presented in Egyptian pounds and should not exceed 50% of the total amount of the requested financial support (255,000 LE).

B. the budget of other partners (French, Lebanese and Jordanian) jointly funded by the BMO of the AUF and the IRD may cover:

- Allowances for young researchers (PhD students, interns or research assistants). Researcher's salary supplements are not eligible;
- Fieldwork expanses of the team (s);
- Mobility costs of the team (s) (Ticket and Per diem), justification for all travel must be clearly stated in the proposal (Purpose- duration – relatedness to project – expected outcome)
- Publication and scientific valorization costs;
- 7% of the total cost is paid as indirect cost.
- The budget must be presented in Euros.

Important: Any insurance (travel, health, repatriation, civil liability, theft, etc.) is the sole responsibility of the beneficiaries of the grant. The STDF, IRD and AUF assume no responsibility in this regard.

3.2. implementation of the funding and monitoring of the project:

A contract indicating the amount granted and specifying the modalities of financial commitments is signed between the awarded project PI, his/her host institution and the respective donor (STDF, IRD and the BMO of the AUF). The implementation of the financial support for the Egyptian teams is provided by the STDF and for other teams (French, Lebanese and Jordanian) by the IRD office in Egypt. The project is monitored by the Joint Steering Committee, in conjunction with experts responsible for project assessment.

Credits are paid by the STDF and the IRD office in Egypt, in four installments.

- Contracting Installment (25% from total budget of Egyptian side). The other installments are given after acceptance of periodic work progress reports (every 6 months).
- 1st installment after acceptance of 1st report (25% from total budget)

- 2nd Installment after acceptance of the mid-term report (30% from total budget)
- 3rd installment after acceptance of 3rd report (10% from total budget)
- Final Installment after acceptance of final report (10% from total budget)

Positive assessment of the periodic reports by scientific experts chosen by the Joint Steering Committee is a condition for the payment of the next installment. The project budget must be spent within two years (calendar years) following the contract signing.

3-3 End of the project:

At the end of the project, PIs shall submit, at the earliest (max. 3 months), a final report (scientific, administrative and financial with supporting documents) to the Joint Steering Committee. In the absence of the final report, the project PIs will not receive the final installment and could be asked to pay back the entire amount of the grant.

4. CALENDAR

April 21th, 2016: Opening the Call

June 30th, 2016: Deadline for submission

July 2016: Processing and Evaluation

September 2016: Selection of projects by the joint steering committee

October 2016: Transmission of decisions project managers.

5. LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE APPLICATION FORM

The completed application form submitted must include and all of the following documents (in English) which determine its admissibility.

It must be sent before 30 June 2016, strict deadline, in digital format uploaded to the STDF website and emailed to egypte@ird.fr and bmo@auf.org

- The application form, duly completed, signed by PIs of the project .
- The formal commitment of each partner (Institutional endorsement letter) stamped and signed by the highest authority of the PIs institutions of affiliation including the name and the position of the PI . This endorsement letter must mention the participation of the beneficiary institution, its academic engagement and, if any, financial contribution (state contribution), in addition to this the endorsement letter of the Egyptian PI institution should be stating the project title, the name, position and affiliation of the PI in charge of the proposal, that the project idea was not funded or submitted to another STDF program, another agency (national or international), or otherwise declare, and that the institution approves the project. When an Institute or Faculty is attached to a university, it is the signature of the highest university official (President or Rector) which must appear on this document.
- Synthetic resume (CV) of the PIs and scientific co-responsible.
- Detailed timetable of project tasks highlighting the participation of each partner (use the provided Gantt Chart template).
- The "estimated budget" of each partner.
- If there is additional funding, attach certificate.
- Signed declaration form for the Egyptian PI.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, candidates may refer to the following contacts:

Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF)

Dr. Sherein Ismail Abd El-Moez, Program manager

shereinabdelmoez@stdf.org

101, Kasr El Aini St., 7th floor, Downtown, Cairo, Egypt

Tel: +20 (2) 27922551 - Fax: +20 (2) 27924956

Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)

Représentation en Egypte

Amr BAHGAT, Representative executive assistant

egypte@ird.fr

37, rue Al-Cheikh Aly Youssef, Qasr el-Ayni, 11441, Le Caire, Égypte (au sein de l'IFAO)

Tel : +201271700600 - +201271700900

Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), Bureau Moyen-Orient (BMO)

Mireille EL RAYESS , Project officer

mireille.el-rayess@auf.org

B.P.: 11-9082, Riad El-Solh - 1107 2280, Beyrouth, LIBAN

Tel: (961) 1 420270 Fax: (961) 1 615884