



**2021 Regional Invitation to Tender**  
**PRESENTATION DOCUMENT**  
**Applications Deadline: May 31, 2021**

**Warning: Lebanese establishments are excluded from this call.**  
**A specific program for Lebanon will be launched in February 2021.**

This document contains the necessary information for submitting an inter-university scientific cooperation projects (PCSI) file. The targeted 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.

**1. PROJECT ACTION PRESENTATION**

In order to develop cooperation among the higher education institutions member of AUF, AUF Middle East Regional Directorate 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 higher education institutional cooperation

**Specific Objectives:**

- Scientific strengthening of universities in the Middle East
- Developing regional and 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 AUF regions:

- The institution bearing the project should be from the AUF Middle East Directorate Region and be up to date in the payment of the membership fee, **with the exclusion of Lebanese establishments, which however remain eligible as partners.**

- 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/](http://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: academics and researchers, young doctoral or post-doctoral students, 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-** Project complying within the set of scientific domains specified by AUF (*See the list of eligible disciplines, 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 AUF francophone digital campuses for the dissemination of results, technology transfer, etc. Please note that the use of digital communication 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-governmental organizations, 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 traveling costs by the host institution, document support, supporting and/or operational scientific materials or products, etc.

**3-2-e** Projects written and conducted in English are eligible. However, the valorization of the project in French language is required (communication, publication ...) Projects carried out completely in French will be given priority.

#### 4. SELECTION PROCESS FOR PROJECT

The file must be:

- completed and accompanied by the documents requested in paragraph 7;
- signed by the project scientific leader and by the highest ranking executive of the institution bearing the project;
- sent in one hard copy to the Middle East Regional Directorate accompanied by a soft copy containing all of the requested documents. The Middle East Regional Directorate receives the files, assesses their administrative admissibility and submits them to its Regional experts Committee.
- the Regional experts Committee establishes a ranking of the projects according to the scientific expertise and to the regional timeliness.
- AUF Middle East Regional Direction will inform applicants of the outcomes of the selection procedure.

#### 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, considering that co-funding is requested.

The requested support must comply with AUF cost table specified in the application form, and should 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, small equipments.
- Management fees (not exceeding 7% 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 claims no responsibility whatsoever in this regard.
- In accordance with its digital development strategy, the AUF promotes the use of digital tools enabling exchange of information and knowledge between projects partners. Online meetings should be prioritized.

##### **5-2- Implementation of funding and project monitoring**

The AUF Middle East Regional Directorate will support several projects within the thematic domains 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, a grant 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 experts Committee which remains responsible for the evaluation.

The grant is paid by the AUF Middle East Regional Directorate in two equal installments:

- The first after the return to Middle East Regional Directorate of the completed and signed grant 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 experts Committee is a condition for the payment of the second installment. The grant 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 as soon as possible to AUF Middle East Regional Directorate, 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 8, 2021 :	Launching of the regional invitation to tender for the inter-university scientific cooperation projects		
May 31, 2021 :	Deadline for returning the files to the AUF Middle East regional directorate		
June 2021 :	Files processing and evaluation		
September 2021 :	Projects selection by the AUF Regional experts Committee		
October 2021 :	Transmission of decisions to projects' leaders by the AUF Regional directorate		
7. LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WITH THE APPLICATION FORM			
<p><i>The application file should include the application form and all the below listed documents (in French or English) which condition its admissibility.</i></p> <p><i>It should be sent before <b>May 31, 2021</b>, i.e. the set deadline, to AUF Middle East Directorate.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application form, duly completed and signed by the project scientific leader and by the highest ranking executive of the institution submitting the project.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The official commitment of each partner signed by its highest ranking executive , 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 part of a university, it is the signature of the highest officer of the university (President, Vice-chancellor or Chief Education Officer) which should appear on the documents.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The concise CVs of the project scientific leader and of the scientific co-leaders.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The projected execution time schedule.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The detailed "projected budget" with a payment schedule breaking down the contribution of each partner (<i>use the template provided by AUF Middle East Regional Directorate</i>).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In case of a complementary funding in addition of the partners contribution, attach the relevant certificate.</i></li> </ul>			
8. LIST OF DISCIPLINES			
Discipline	AUF Code	Discipline	AUF Code
Public Management	D100	Management	D125
Agro-food	D101	History	D126
Agronomy	D102	Hydrology	D127
Local development	D103	Data processing	D128
Anthropology	D104	Languages	D129
Archeology	D105	Linguistics	D130
Architecture	D106	Literature	D131
Arts	D107	Mathematics	D132
Astronomy	D108	Medicine	D133
Biology	D109	Veterinary Medicine	D134
Biotechnology	D110	Oceanography	D135
Chemistry	D111	Philosophy	D136
Trade	D112	Physics	D137
Communications	D113	Political Science	D138
Criminology	D114	Psychology	D139
Demography	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
Engineering	D122	Tourism	D147
Geography	D123	Translation	D148
Geology	D124	Social work	D149

**9. TRAVELING COSTS GUIDELINE****Fixed 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. AUF MIDDLE EAST DIRECTORATE**

Country of the institution bearing the project: - CYPRUS - DJIBOUTI - EGYPT - ETHIOPIA - IRAQ - IRAN - JORDAN - PAKISTAN - PALESTINE - QATAR - SAUDI ARABIA - SUDAN - SYRIA - UNITAD ARAB EMIRATES - YEMEN	Contact :  <b>AUF -DIRECTION RÉGIONALE MOYEN-ORIENT</b> 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 : mireille.el-rayess@auf.org
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