



2022 Regional Invitation to Tender
PRESENTATION DOCUMENT
Applications Deadline: May 31, 2022

**Warning: Lebanese establishments are excluded from this call as principal investigator.
A specific program for Lebanon (3R Liban) is launched.**

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 submit [online](#) the application form.

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/

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, in Arabic or any other language 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, submitted online and accompanied by the documents requested in paragraph 7;
- the Middle East Regional Directorate receives the files, assesses their administrative admissibility and submits them to its Regional committee of economic and scientific experts. It 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 equipment.
- 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. 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 committee of economic and scientific experts, 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

6. TIMETABLE

January 17, 2022 :	Launching of the regional invitation to tender for the inter-university scientific cooperation projects
May 31, 2022 :	Deadline for submitting the files
June 2022 :	Files processing and evaluation
July 2022 :	Projects selection by the AUF Regional Committee of economic and scientific experts
September 2022 :	Transmission of decisions to projects' leaders by the AUF Regional directorate and project launching

7. LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WITH THE APPLICATION FORM

The application file should include the online application form and all the below listed documents (in French or English) which condition its admissibility.

*It should be submitted online before **May 31, 2022**, i.e. the set deadline..*

- The application form, duly completed online by the project scientific leader through the link :[Application Form-PCSI](#).
- The official commitment signed by the highest ranking officer of the institution, specifying the name of the project scientific leader.
- 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.
- The concise CVs of the project scientific leader and of the scientific co-leaders.
- The projected execution time schedule.
- The detailed "projected budget" with a payment schedule breaking down the contribution of each partner (*use the template provided by AUF Middle East Regional Directorate*).

8. 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 €

9. AUF MIDDLE EAST DIRECTORATE

Country of the institution bearing the project:	Contact :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CYPRUS - DJIBOUTI - EGYPT - ETHIOPIA - IRAQ - IRAN - JORDAN - PAKISTAN - PALESTINE - QATAR - SAUDI ARABIA - SUDAN - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - YEMEN 	<p>AUF -DIRECTION RÉGIONALE MOYEN-ORIENT Rue de Damas Villa F, Cité Bounoure B.P.: 11-81 Beyrouth, Liban Tél (standard): +961 1 420 270 Courriel : mireille.el-rayess@auf.org</p>