



PRICNAC

Promotion de la Recherche,
de l'Innovation et de la Culture
Numérique en Afrique Centrale

**OPENING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OF THE THIRD
CALL FOR MICROPROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE
SECOND PHASE OF THE PRICNAC PROJECT**



I- THE PRICNAC PROJECT

PRICNAC is one of the twelve projects funded under the ACP Innovation Fund of the OEACP Research and Innovation Programme with the financial support of the European Union. PRICNAC aims to contribute to an inclusive R&I environment in **Central African countries** for sustainable development and poverty reduction. It specifically aims to :

1. Improve access to sustainable solutions generated by R&I and adapted to local realities.
2. Expand the activities of the PRICNAC network.

This project is executed by a consortium of five institutions: the AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) via its Regional Directorate for Central Africa and the Great Lakes based in Yaoundé (coordinator), OBREAL Global Observatory (Observatorio de Relaciones Unión Europea - América Latina), the AAU (Association of African Universities), CAMES (African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education), and REIFAC (Network of Experts in Training Engineering for Central Africa and the Great Lakes).

PRICNAC is being implemented in eight countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, for an implementation period of 4 years (January 2021-December 2024).

II- PRICNAC'S MICRO-PROJECTS

For its second phase, PRICNAC is about to launch a call for proposals with a view to selecting a maximum of **10 micro-projects for a minimum of 150,000 euros (98,393,550 FCFA) and a maximum of 180,000 euros (118,072,260 FCFA)** in funding.

The 10 selected micro-projects will have the following specific objectives:

- Strengthen human capital in Central Africa through a **regional platform for training, collaboration, and networking**;
- Better connect the diverse stakeholders that are part of the **innovation ecosystem** and research in the region to generate sustainable cooperation;
- Contribute **to regional integration** by supporting Central African countries with greater needs and more constraining structural circumstances for research and innovation;
- **Strengthen existing** AUF, AAU, CAMES, and REIFAC programs in Central Africa that aim to improve entrepreneurship capacity and build new bottom-up initiatives, with a view to promoting the role of educational institutions in innovation ecosystems;
- **Create synergies with/between programs and existing projects**, also with the EU (in particular in the framework of the Africa-EU partnership) and other international institutions (World Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UNCTAD ...).

It should be stressed that these micro-projects should be inspired by the logic of the Smart Specialization Strategies (3S).¹

III- TARGET GROUPS

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- Secondary education institutions
- Research centers/research networks
- Multinational private companies
- SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises)
- National public administrations
- Local public administrations
- Chambers of Commerce
- NGOs and associations

IV- DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIONS BY PRIORITY AREA

The implementation of the second phase of PRICNAC is based on 3 priority areas. Each priority area includes actions whose implementation will contribute to the achievement of PRICNAC's objectives.

To be accepted, all project proposals must correspond to an action and highlight the gender approach, environmental preservation, and sustainable development. The projects selected under this Call for Proposals will have a duration of 14 months.

The proposed actions are distributed as follows:

⇒ **Priority area 1: Improving access to digital literacy, knowledge, and use of emerging technologies**

Actions or types of projects	Amount	Duration	Number of projects funded	Countries eligible as contracting entities
Action 1.1. Activities to promote and facilitate the use of emerging technologies and smarter devices to bridge the digital divide	150 000 €	14 months	2	Cameroon; Chad; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Sao Tome and Principe
Action 1.2. Integration and/or revision of entrepreneurial modules and paths in university courses (existing regional masters)	150 000 €	14 months	2	Cameroon; Chad; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Sao Tome and Principe

¹ <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

⇒ **Priority area 2 : Create or strengthen concrete links between R&I skills development and labour market needs**

Actions or types of projects	Amount	Duration	Number of projects funded	Countries eligible as contracting entities
Action 2.1. Promote the employability of women researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs through targeted support programmes (e.g. coaching, mentoring, specific networks, improved opportunities to work in business incubators and science parks, links to potential investors, etc.)	150 000 €	14 months	2	Cameroon; Chad; Central African Republic; Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Sao Tome and Principe

⇒ **Priority area 3 : Create or enable synergies in the research and innovation ecosystem, including with the private sector; facilitate the conditions for technology transfer; promote the take-up of R&I**

Actions or types of projects	Amount	Duration	Number of projects funded	Pays éligibles comme entités contractantes
Action 3.1. Setting up innovation third places using digital tools with partners from the socio-economic world	150 000 €	14 months	2	Cameroon; Chad; Central African Republic; Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Sao Tome and Principe
Action 3.2. Establishment of the PRICNAC network integrating all components of the Central African R&I ecosystem through: structuring of the network, promotion of the network, mapping of potential network members and development of the network strategy	150 000 €	14 months	1	Cameroon; Chad; Central African Republic; Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Sao Tome and Principe
Action 3.3. Development of young entrepreneurship programmes targeting secondary and higher education	150 000 €	14 months	1	Cameroon; Chad; Central African Republic; Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Sao Tome and Principe

V- PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Informative interviews with potential candidates will be organised. Please make an appointment as soon as possible at the following address: pricnac@auf.org.

VI- CALENDER

Activities	Dates
Informative interviews with potential candidates (please make an appointment as soon as possible)	3 – 14 May 2023
Launch of the call for proposals	15 May 2023
Webinar on concrete instructions on how to prepare proposals and use the online application platform	19 May 2022
Deadline for submission of applications	16 June 2023 à 23h59 GMT+1

VII- CONTACT

For information on this call for proposals, please contact:

Agence universitaire de la Francophonie

Central Africa and Great Lakes Regional Directorate (DRACGL)

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Email: pricnac@auf.org