



Cooperative actions of CIVIS and its African partner universities

CIVIS – a European Civic University

Erasmus+: European Universities

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Report to the CIVIS Steering Committee from Work Package 5 - ,CIVIS, a bridge towards the Mediterranean and African Regions: Addressing global challenges of joint strategic importance through partnerships ‘

10 November 2022

CONTENT

List of abbreviations	2
List of figures	2
List of tables	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Background: Initiating pilot activities by seed-funding provision	3
3. Success analysis	5
a) Criteria from the CIVIS-1 project description for WP5	5
b) Criteria set by the Call for Projects	6
c) Project-specific criteria	8
4. Conclusions	10
a) Success of the cooperative actions	10
b) Some lessons learned	11
c) Next steps	11
Appendix I: Overview of supported projects	12
Appendix 2: Original Call for Proposals	25

List of abbreviations

AMU	Aix-Marseille Université
BIP	Blended Intensive Programme
MAK	Makerere University
Med.	Mediterranean region
NKUA	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
PLUS	Paris Lodron University of Salzburg
SC	Steering Committee
SU	Stockholm University
SUR	Sapienza Università di Roma
TF	Task Force
UAM	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
UB	University of Bucharest
UCAD	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
UG	University of Glasgow
UEM	Eduardo Mondlane University
UH2C	Université Hassan II de Casablanca
ULB	Université libre de Bruxelles
USF	University of Sfax
UT	University of Tübingen
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
WP	Work Package

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Pilot activities according to Hub challenges
- Fig. 2: CIVIS members participating in/proposing the project
- Fig. 3: Number of projects in which partner universities participated
- Fig. 4: Overall project evaluation by project leaders
- Fig. 5: Satisfaction of African partners with the project

List of tables

- Table 1: Concrete plans/ideas for future collaboration
- Table 2: Impact of project specific objectives/criteria on the evaluation
- Table 3: Feedbacks from participants from African partner universities

1. Introduction

This report provides a review of the pilot projects conducted by members of CIVIS in collaboration with CIVIS' African partner universities¹ in the thematic realm of Hub challenges between January and September 2022. As such, it seeks to fulfil the task, constituting a WP5 deliverable, to analyse the „success of the cooperation“ with reference to a „[r]ange of cooperative actions between CIVIS Hubs and partners in the Mediterranean and African regions“ and a „minimum of one cooperative action per Hub“.²

The subsequent section sketches once more the background for CIVIS' specific approach to initiating those 'cooperative actions' by an open call for seed-funded projects. Section 3 analyses their success according to general WP5, more specific call-related, and finally project-based, individual criteria. The analysis suggests that the pilot activities, taken as a whole, can be considered successful along all three dimensions. Although the prescribed focus here is on the success of specific pilot activities, the conclusions also contain insights, related recommendations and possible next steps for fostering the collaboration with our African partner universities more generally.

2. Background: Initiating pilot activities by seed-funding provision

3

According to the original project plan for developing African/Med. partnerships, WP5's task in CIVIS's second project year, after the successful search for partner universities, was to

facilitate increased cooperation between the Hubs and the African and Mediterranean partners. This cooperation could take the form of: Joint development of summer schools; Involvement of Africa/Mediterranean partners in Hub projects, or extension of these projects to Africa/Mediterranean regions; Joint development of new projects (courses, research, service-learning opportunities, innovation etc.).³

Such projects were not only supposed to “extend the action and impact of CIVIS at international level”, but also to “test the cooperation with the chosen partners.” Indeed, the CIVIS application construed this very report as the basis for confirming “[a]t the end of Year2, [...] whether cooperation with each of the partners should be extended into the long-term.”⁴

The implied approach to confine pilot activities to CIVIS Hubs and to use them as testing grounds for eventually entering long-term partnerships was abandoned for three reasons:

¹ Université Hassan II de Casablanca, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Makerere University, Eduardo Mondlane University, University of Sfax.

² Detailed Project Description: CIVIS - a European Civic University Alliance, Attachment to the e-form of CIVIS' response to the pilot call for proposals: EAC-A03-2018, Erasmus+ KA2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices ‚European Universities‘; 2018, p. 42.

³ *ibid.*, p. 41

⁴ *ibid.*

- Putting the responsibility for active collaborations effectively on CIVIS Hubs turned out to be impractical, if not impossible. Launching CIVIS Hubs and joint Hub projects among CIVIS member universities was a complex and highly demanding task for all actors involved already. Including African partners in this initial phase of Hub development would have required
 - considerably more time for Hub activities and related project groups to consolidate themselves and plan for the inclusion of African partners;
 - a synchronisation and fine-tuned coordination between the project plans and activities of WP4, including all Hub Councils, and WP5;
 - considerable funding opportunities for including African partners.
 These necessary conditions were unrealistic or lacking.
- Also, ‘testing partnerships’ could not be pursued in the given timeframe anymore. The final set of partners and their willingness to enter a partnership in principle was only confirmed at the end of Year2. WP5 started with a delay of six months in the first year (May 2020), and CIVIS’ internal deliberation and decision-making on the invited potential partner institutions, their subsequent official invitation as well as the joint exploration of a potential partnership took almost another year (November 2020 – September 2021). Hence, pilot activities could only be initiated in the last year of CIVIS’ ‘fabric phase’.
- Finally, testing partnerships before properly and/or formally entering them came to contradict the joint approach of CIVIS and its partners to develop their collaboration. On the one hand, for pursuing the objectives for its African/Med. dimension in the most effective and efficient way, CIVIS took the decision to approach a rather small set of carefully selected institutions with a serious and well-prepared offer of building comprehensive strategic partnerships. On the other hand, our partners articulated their interest in developing and adopting long-term, strategic partnership agreements as a basis for future cooperation.

Although they lost their purpose as test-cases and exclusive location in Hubs, the support of pilot activities as such remained an important steppingstone in the initial phase of the partnership development process, because they could

- lead to longer-term, intensified collaborations over the next years;
- provide a concrete vantage point for communicating the launch of our strategic partnerships within CIVIS and within the university communities of our partners;
- demonstrate possibilities for and benefits of a collaboration between CIVIS and African university members, thereby possibly inspiring further joint initiatives.

For tapping these potentials, CIVIS decided to facilitate first joint activities by means of a dedicated ‘Call for Projects: Seed funding for joint projects with CIVIS’ African partner universities’. While thematically remaining within the realm of Hub challenges, it widened the

scope of supported initiatives also to those organisationally unrelated to CIVIS Hubs (see full text in the appendix).⁵

3. Success analysis

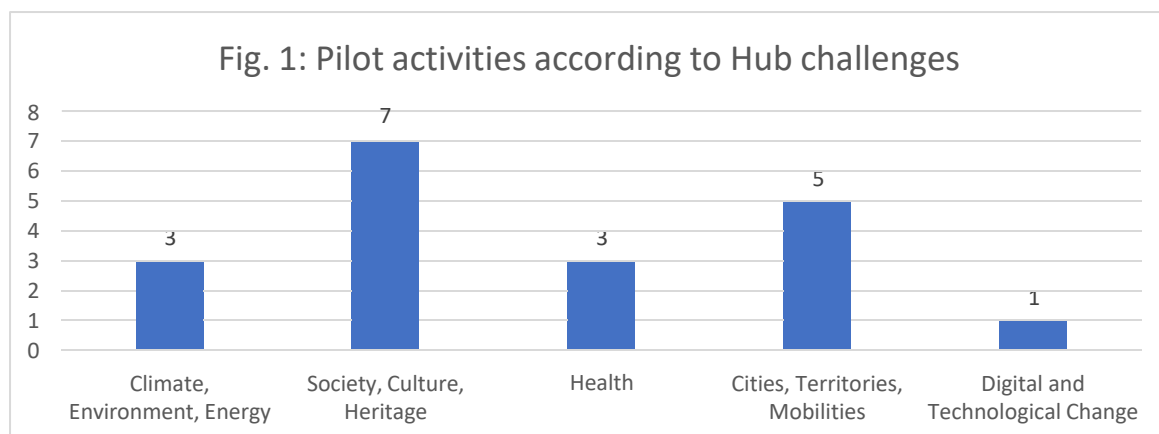
Given the necessarily limited amounts, considerable constraints on eligible costs and the short funding period,⁶ the response rate of 15 applications for seed-funding appears already more than satisfactory and suggests a considerable interest in joint projects with our African partners as well as demand for their financial support. 13 applications met the eligibility and academic quality criteria and could thus be accepted.⁷ Financial support was thereby granted to four joint summer schools/seminars, several research workshops/research group meetings as well as meetings for preparing joint funding applications (see project overview in the appendix).

On which grounds is it possible to determine more precisely whether and how this call and the supported activities were successful? This section presents three sets of success criteria, the empirical basis for their application as well as the outcomes of applying those criteria.

a) Criteria from the CIVIS-1 project description for WP5

Criteria directly derived from the original CIVIS project description appear most pertinent for this report, due to their external benchmark character: **One cooperative action per Hub** is set as the minimum and the only explicit target in this context.⁸ Table 1 shows the distribution of the themes according to the Hub challenges and thereby that **this objective has been more than achieved**.

5



*13 projects in total; multiple selection by project leaders in their project application possible

⁵ Approved by the CIVIS SC on 29 July 2021.

⁶ Most importantly, the funds could not be used for benefitting African partners directly due to Erasmus+ funding rules. The funds could only be spent for activities between January and September 2022.

⁷ Approved by the CIVIS SC on 16 December 2021.

⁸ op. cit., p. 42

b) Criteria set by the Call for Projects

The Call for Projects, the concrete means of WP5 for facilitating cooperative actions, set out further, more specific objectives for the supported projects, thus constituting another set of relevant success criteria.

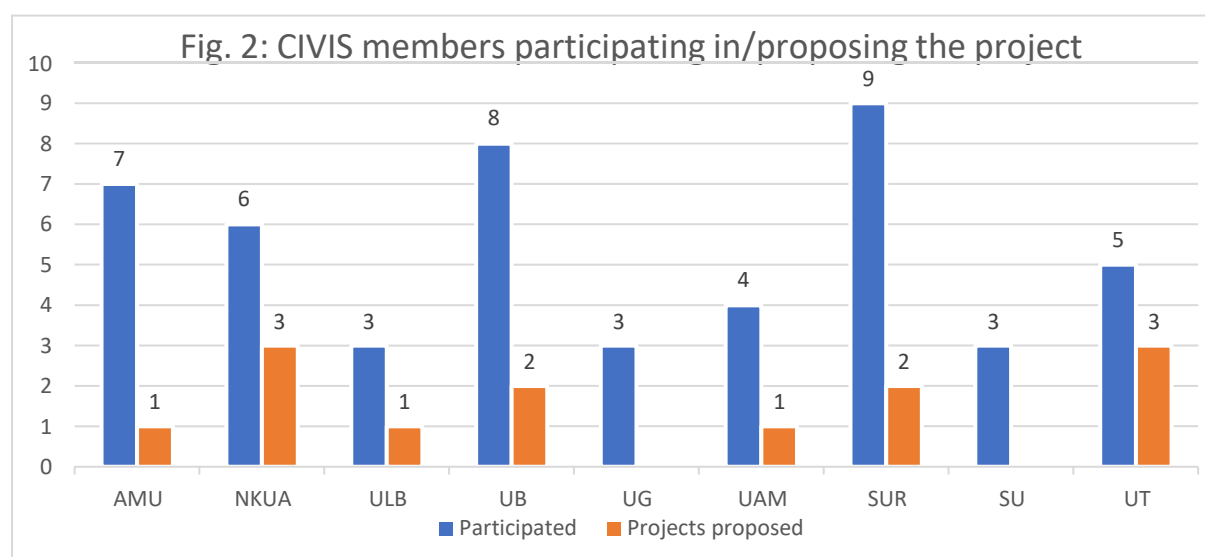
First, it aimed at supporting three types of initiatives:

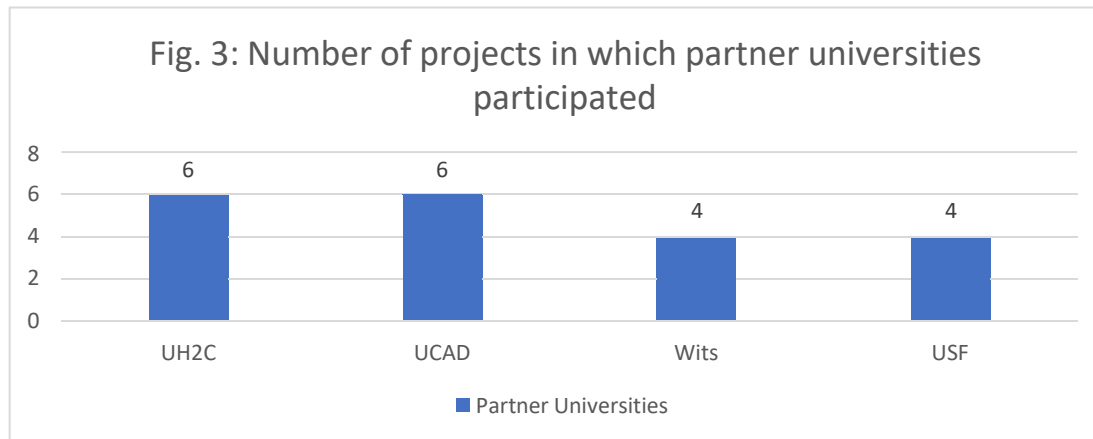
- Initiatives building on already existing relationships and projects with African partners in the realm of Hub challenges, that seek to include further CIVIS member universities (at least three altogether).
- Initiatives already involving three CIVIS member universities in a joint project on a Hub challenge, now seeking to integrate African partners in their ongoing activities. (This particularly refers to existing Hub initiatives, i.e., those funded by a CIVIS Hub, if the integration of African partners requires further activities not covered by the funding received from Hubs.)
- New initiatives with our African partners, addressing Hub challenges, and with a long-term development perspective (e.g., the joint drafting of a third-party funding application).

Matching one of these types was already a strong selection criterion for the 13 supported applications. In a survey conducted by WP5 among all project leader(s) after completion of their activities, WP5 asked whether they indeed achieved this aim. **All 13 projects confirmed that they were able to include further CIVIS members, African partners, or both**, according to their priorly stated objective.

6

But how comprehensive was this inclusion? The survey examined which universities were finally included in the project by the active participation of their faculty/students/staff. Figure 2 shows the participation of CIVIS members as well as the affiliation of the project leaders who have proposed/coordinated the initiative. Figure 3 shows in how many of these projects African partners participated.





Successful project proposals thus came from almost all CIVIS member universities, and all were represented in pilot activities, except PLUS (arguably due to its late arrival and the exclusion from CIVIS funding). While **four of our six African partners were involved** in pilot projects, MAK and UEM were not yet represented in this type of activity.

The most important qualitative objective of the Call was to support activities laying the ground for longer-term collaborations between CIVIS and its African partner universities. The survey suggests that this has been achieved: **11 of the 13 project leaders/groups plan further activities involving CIVIS' African partners** based on the funded project/activity, while **two considered this to be a possibility**. No respondent excluded this option.

7

Asked for their concrete plans/ideas for those future collaboration, project leaders answered the following (aggregated from open answers):

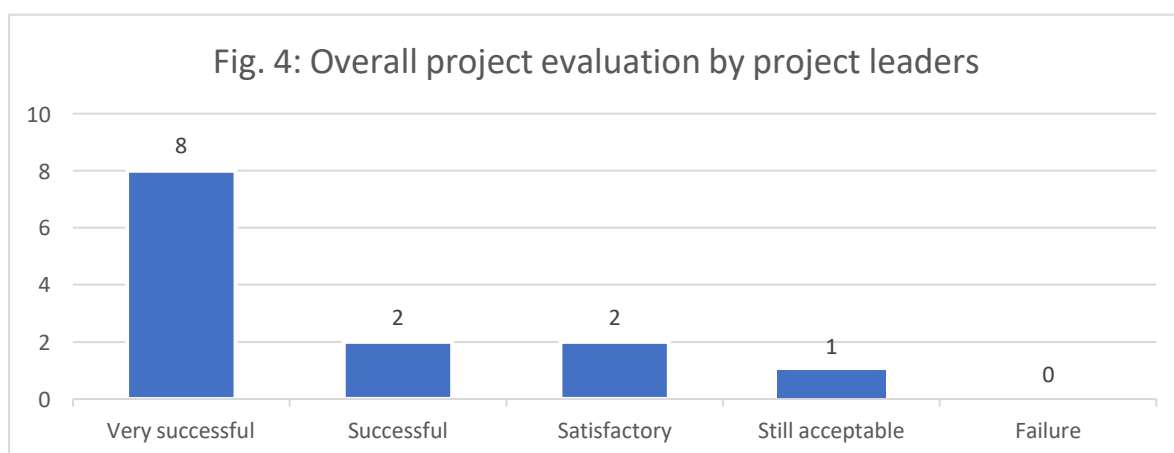
Activity	Of 13 respondents, mentioned by
Joint educational offers (summer schools, BIPs, joint programmes)	10
Joint application for third-party funding	6
Conference/workshop	6
Joint research	5
Joint publication(s)	2
Widening the partner network (in Europe/Africa)	2

Table 1: Concrete plans/ideas for future collaboration

Referring to the first two positions, the fact that 10 of the 13 project groups would like to continue working together on joint educational offers suggests a potential contribution to CIVIS Hubs – a noteworthy outcome against the background of the overall WP5 objective to foster linkages between African partners and CIVIS Hubs. If almost half of the project groups explicitly consider joint third-party funding applications in this context, the objective of the Call to support *seed-funded* projects that may lead to more substantial funding appears met to an acceptable degree, too.

c) Project-specific criteria

Apart from given WP5 targets and the more specific objectives of the Call, were the supported initiatives also successful in their own right, i.e., if their outcomes are measured against project-specific objectives? This was the question posed to **project leaders**. The **large majority (10 of 13) considered their project very successful or successful** in this regard (see Figure 4), and they provided a variety of criteria underpinning their evaluation (see Table 2; aggregated from open answers).

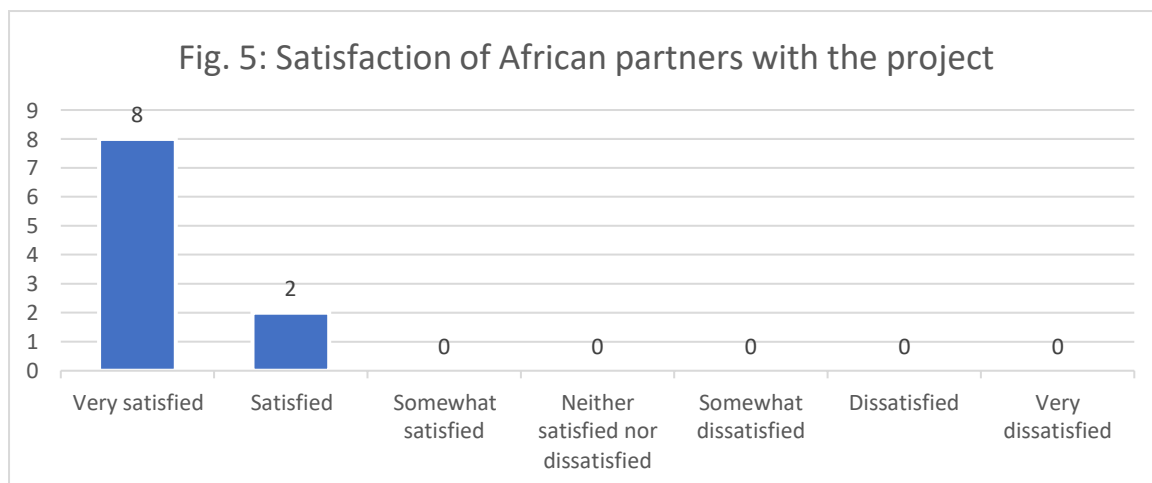


Objective/criterion informing the evaluation (summarised, aggregated from open answers)	Applying this contributed to the evaluation of the project	
	<i>positively</i>	<i>negatively</i>
Student participation, feedback on the activity by participants	4	
Shared visions created for developing the project further	1	
Intercultural experience, interdisciplinarity of the project (group)	1	1
Joint edited volume prepared	2	
Inclusion of young researchers	1	
Inclusion of our African partners in our activities	1	
Network created, consolidated, and/or expanded	4	2
Successful organisation of the workshops/meetings	2	
Application for third-party funding prepared	2	
Organising mobilities on time		2

Table 2: Impact of project specific objectives/criteria on the evaluation

Participants in the activities from African partner institutions were also asked, through a separate online questionnaire, for their satisfaction with the project and their involvement

therein. With only 10 survey participants⁹ from the four represented universities the response rate was rather low, and the survey results, therefore, cannot be considered representative. But the fact that **all those respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied** is at least in line with the overall positive project assessments from project leaders (see Figure 5). The more detailed feedbacks received show that the projects/activities referred to were overall very beneficial for the responding participants, while negative feedbacks rather refer to the funding constraints and/or more general circumstances (see Table 3).



Positive feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I think CIVIS is a great project... <i>[Faculty member]</i> - Hope that such a meeting will take place again to bring researchers and students closer together <i>[Faculty member]</i> - Hope we can keep our collaboration <i>[Faculty member]</i>. - Activity was a real human, cultural and scientific encounter, well organised. In a short period of time, we made social and academic connections. <i>[Faculty member]</i> - Engagements were really helpful, I managed to learn in a multi-cultural and interracial context. The course developed my thinking and equipped me with skills that I managed to share in my home country. The course was relevant and significant. <i>[PhD Candidate]</i> - This was a good initiative more especially in terms of cultural exchange and building networks <i>[Student]</i> - Extremely satisfied with the communication and effectiveness of the people involved in this project.... The content covered in the sessions is something that I can use in my personal and professional life. It also gave me a space to engage with topics outside my scope ... I particularly liked the interdisciplinary context and the social and dialogic approach... We still keep in contact... this international collaboration, networking and friendship would not have possible without this project. <i>[PhD Candidate]</i> - CIVIS collaboration projects are of great importance since they put several countries in the region to work on topical issues such as climate change and its impact on the socio-economic conditions <i>[Faculty member]</i>
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⁹ 7 faculty members, 2 PhD candidates, 1 student.responded.

	- This has been a highlight of my career on a professional and personal/social level! <i>[PhD candidate]</i>
Negative feedbacks/ proposals for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bureaucratic obstacles <i>[Faculty member]</i> - Very low budget limits the research work <i>[Faculty member]</i> - Time to spend the money was tight. <i>[Faculty member]</i> - Only mobility covered, NO bench fee <i>[Faculty member]</i> - I would have hoped to increase the duration of the summer school for another week to space out the learning and have more time for class engagement. <i>[PhD Candidate]</i> - [There should also be] others type[s] of CIVIS project[s] for which PhD students can apply for. <i>[PhD student]</i>

Table 3: Feedbacks from participants from African partner universities¹⁰

4. Conclusions

Three aspects appear relevant for drawing conclusions from the analysis above:

- With reference to the given purpose of this report, were the pilot activities successful?
- Which lessons can be drawn from the initiative to launch such pilot projects for the collaboration between CIVIS and its African partners more generally?
- What are concrete next steps following the completion of these pilot projects?

10

a) Success of the cooperative actions

- The ‘cooperative actions’, referred to in CIVIS’ Project Description as a WP5 deliverable, can generally be considered successful. This assessment follows from applying success criteria stated in that document as well as those in the ‘Call for Projects: Seed-funding for joint projects with African partners’ from 30 Sep 2021. Perhaps most importantly, the individual, project-based feedbacks from project leaders and participants support this view, while room for improvement remains.
- The Call for Projects itself – WP5’s measure to facilitate cooperative actions – was an effective and efficient means to achieve this objective, although it implied severe funding constraints the project leaders and participants had to deal with, i.e., restrictions on eligible costs, the exclusion of direct benefits to African partners, rather small amounts available, a very short funding period.

¹⁰ Slightly shortened and/or edited quotes, covering all responses received by 20 October 2022.

b) Some lessons learned

- The initiative suggests that the interest within CIVIS and within CIVIS' African partner universities in collaboration is significant.
- Seed-funding provision proved to be a very useful tool for initiating/facilitating cooperation.
- Although WP5 and the CIVIS Project Management tried to keep bureaucratic demands to a minimum and provided support within the limits of the possible, the practice of funding provision by CIVIS was still perceived by many recipients as complex and challenging. Easier processes and/or more (active) support might be needed in any future similar activity.

c) Next steps

- The supported projects will be featured on the CIVIS website for documentation, information, and potential inspiration.
- The CIVIS Global Officer and a possible Expert Group on global partnerships will keep the contact to the project leaders and participants of the supported initiatives for providing (information on) available support for their network activities in the future, and – in turn – for their possible support as important resource persons in the partnership development process with CIVIS' African partner universities.
- CIVIS should seriously explore ways to continue seed-funding provision – for joint projects with African partners in general, and for those specifically dedicated to preparing larger grant-applications. This was also the clear signal received from all project leaders.¹¹

¹¹ All responded “yes, absolutely” to the survey question, whether CIVIS should do so.

Appendix I: Overview of supported projects

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
2	AfriConnect-CIVIS	Fabrice Aubepart (AMU)	AMU, ULB, UB	UH2C, UCAD	Climate, Environment, Energy ; Cities, Territories, Mobilities ; Digital and Technological Change	Education/ Training, Transfer
<p>Short description (topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):</p> <p>Topic : Sustainability of "AfriConnect" in Erasmus+ Project within the CIVIS perimeter</p> <p>Context : the Institut Universitaire de Technologie (IUT) component of Aix-Marseille University (AMU) in France, the Ecole Supérieure de Technologie (EST) of Hassan 2 University in Casablanca, Morocco and the Ecole Supérieure Polytechnique (ESP) of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, form a Franco-African consortium of technological and professional institutions on the Internet of Things(IoT), named "AfriConnect".</p> <p>While the "AfriConnect" actions are developing with a little delay due to the lockdowns imposed in the partner countries, we are thinking about sustainability and extension of the "AfriConnect" consortium, particularly in the context of an Erasmus+ Capacity Building (CBHE) application in the "Partnership for transformation" category.</p> <p>The work consists in identifying new partners, primarily within the scope of the CIVIS consortium, and more particularly in the European area, but also in proposing additional or revised outputobjectives in the spirit of ERASMUS+ projects of type CBHE.</p> <p>The funding requested has been mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · First, we have proposed a visit of the CBHE project leader (from AMU) to the University of Brussels (Belgium) and to the University of Bucharest (Romania). The objective is to assess the specific role of each of these partners and of the means they could provide. · From the three universities to Cheikh Anta Diop University in April-2022 to participate in the symposium on connected objects and systems (COC) and the steering committee of the "AfriConnect" consortium (in the current ADESFA framework). During this conference, most of the ERASMUS + project partners will be present. Thus, we will be able to take advantage of this moment to organize a steering committee for the future "AfriConnect +" project. <p>5 mobilities of 5 days have been proposed : 1 x France-> Senegal ; 2 x Belgium -> Senegal, 2 x Romania -> Senegal.</p>						

Outcome: Finally, only 2 mobilities have been done. Indeed, after several requests, we could not find partners at ULB to collaborate on the ERASMUS+ CBHE project. This was a great disappointment. However, we were able to submit our application for an ERASMUS+ CBHE grant in February 2022 with the University of Bucharest as our European partner. Thus, the planned mobilities to or from ULB could not be used.

In addition, two mobilities between the University of Bucharest and the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar were envisaged, in particular to participate in the COC2022 conference organized in Dakar (Senegal) in the framework of AfriConnect. However, one of the Romanian participants could not get his visa in time for the mobility.

For information, we obtained a score of 68/100 and were selected for the ERASMUS+ CBHE application. Unfortunately, the important number of applications on this program for 2022, did not allow us to benefit from a grant. We will submit a new application for 2023.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
4	International Education Week	Elisabeth Hofmann, Deborah Diekmann (UT)	AMU, SUR, UT	Wits	Climate, Environment, Energy; Society, Culture, Heritage	Education / Training

Short description (topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

The International Education Week Tübingen (Summer School 2022) was a special offer for teaching degree students and focused thematically on ethics and sustainability. One of the main objectives was the international collaboration between teacher students and academics, which was highly appreciated by the participants. Students took part in a block course on Ethics and Sustainable Development with Dr. Uta Müller and Dr. Simon Meisch (University of Tübingen), as well as in plenary sessions with guest lectures from the University of the Witwatersrand (Dr. Sinegugu Khulu) and Aix-Marseille Université (Dr. Jessyca Tretola). The participants worked in an interdisciplinary way during workshops, group discussions and student presentations. A cultural program including a historic city tour, a boat trip, a museum visit focusing on sustainability was also offered.

The program aimed at bringing students from different nationalities together in order to discuss ethical approaches, to understand and reflect on the norms and values that underlie one's actions and to negotiate sustainability values, to take a position in the sustainability discourse, to compare educational systems, to develop new perspectives and to work collaboratively on questions of teaching theory and teaching methodology (in particular, Education for Sustainable Development).

The Summer School strengthened connections between the African and European partners of the CIVIS network.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
5	Framing COproduction STRategies in a European-African perspective: Challenges and opportunities in social innovation practices (FraCOST)	Silvia Lucciarini; Giampaolo Garzarelli (SUR)	AMU, UB, SUR	Wits	Cities, Territories, Mobilities	Research

Short description (topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

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Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
6	PostRacial Trans-Modernities: Afro-European Relations, Mediterranean Trajectories and Intercultural Reciprocities	Asimina Karavanta (NKUA)	AMU, NKUA, UB, UG, SUR, UT	UCAD, USF	Society, Culture, Heritage, Cities, Territories, Mobilities	Education / Training, Research, Transfer (innovation, societal engagement)
<p>Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):</p> <p>Topic: As border-spaces of Afro-European relations, the Mediterranean, the West African coast and the Cape of Good Hope have been contact zones between European and African cultures for a long time. The colonial and postcolonial relations between the imperial metropolises and the colonies, and, later, between post-imperial nation-states and postcolonial independent African nations have contributed to the growth of multicultural communities across Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Their creole characteristics and their intercultural heritages attest to the long history of Afro-European communities and cultures that have shaped Europe, parts of Africa and the Americas today. The migrants and refugees from former colonies and from other regions, who cross the Mediterranean and other borders to join these communities on the European continent contribute to their further development with their skills and knowledges; rather than a crisis, this project approaches this phenomenon as an opportunity for the further reinforcement of the intercultural, educational, scientific, economic and political exchanges between the two continents. The focus on post-racial practices is timely and urgent, as across the geographic areas that are covered by CIVIS we observe a widening of racial domination, processes of re-racialisation and the transformation of race into categories that legitimise further oppression and stigmatisation. This project proposes to become a platform in the CIVIS alliance for innovative collaborative research that will approach 'PostRace' as a methodological tool and as a basis in order to develop and disseminate antiracist discourses in a wide range of research, teaching and cultural practices that include, but are not limited to, interdisciplinary learning and research activities, intercultural artistic projects and exhibitions, cross-cultural performances and transnational research projects.</p> <p>Main Objectives: To Create a research network that involves African and European partners, and postgraduate students from the respective universities that are involved that achieved the following: -Strengthened the growing field of decolonial studies within the CIVIS alliance by researching the contact zones between African and European decolonial thinkers, artists and writers</p>						

- Examined post-racial discourses, practices and politics of race by drawing on creole and hybrid communities across the European and African coasts as well as in the global cities in the respective continents
- Mapped relations between artistic practices in Africa and Europe through the study of the structures of production and distribution of art in Afro-European contexts with a focus on dissemination and circulation history
- Investigated representations of (post)racialised subjects in literary works that problematise blackness and race across the Atlantic by (i) triangulating their reception across Europe, the American continent and Africa (ii) focusing on how contemporary writers engage the experiences of racial dis/ and mis/identification
- Examined the deep structures of race thinking (Hanna Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, 1951)
- Developed strategies for critiquing the institutions of racism; disseminate anti-racist knowledge in the academia and engage with educators in the respective societies

Activities conducted:

- Two Online Research Meetings during which we set the research and pedagogical tasks to prepare for the offline meeting
- Two webinar sessions with invited speakers from the University of the Witwatersrand and the Federal University Lokoja, Nigeria.
- CIVIS International Workshop, 8 September 2022, History Museum of the University of Athens, Plaka, Athens with Participants from the African and European partner universities and with postgraduate and PhD students from the NKU of Athens.

Main Outcomes:

- The creation of an international research network
- Collaboration of the research partners/postgraduates

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
7	Towards a sustainable agriculture in a warmer climate: An integrated approach	Maurizio Trovato (SUR)	NKUA, UG, SUR	USF	Climate, Environment, Energy	Research

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

The project originates from an ongoing research collaboration with the group of Faiçal Brini from the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax (CBS) with the aim of developing biotechnologic strategies to improve wheat tolerance and productivity under drought conditions. The main objectives of the project were to consolidate the current collaboration, build a larger network, and expand the network further. Accordingly, we have:

- 1) run four virtual meetings,
- 2) created a dedicated website to share information and data between partners
- 3) organized two physical meetings, in Rome and Sfax to check and refine planned activities

Moreover, we have

- 4) reinforced current and created novel scientific collaborations between partners
- 5) exploited the African partner to apply for a PRIMA call (although unsuccessful).

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
8	RECENT AND EMERGING ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIES TOWARDS AFFORDABLE MEDICAL IMAGING	Spyretta Golemati (NKUA)	AMU, NKUA, SUR	Wits	Health	Education / Training, Research, Transfer (innovation, societal engagement)

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

The project aimed to establish a strategic interdisciplinary partnership between CIVIS (including African partner) Universities, and to foster joint activities in education, research, outreach and capacity-building in the field of medical ultrasound.

The activities conducted included:

1. involving Wits in the summer school organised by NKUA+SUR+AMU (summer school on Discovering the exciting world on medical ultrasound, held in Athens 16-20 May, Professor Michiel Postema from Wits delivered a lecture and was responsible for a student assignment)
2. meetings and discussions among partners (virtual meetings, and a physical meeting in Marseille (AMU) 15-16 Sep 2022)

3. creation of a video on medical ultrasound
4. preparation of a scientific publication (an abstract was presented in the First Panhellenic Conference on Medical Physics, Athens, 23-25 Sep 2022)
5. preparatory work for third-part grant proposal (NKUA, AMU and SUR have started working on a proposal for HEUR MSCA-Doctoral Networks).

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
9	Conceptualizing and understanding the role of African diaspora in Europe	Domnica Gorovei (UB)	NKUA, UB, SUR, SU	UH2C	Society, Culture, Heritage	Education / Training, Research

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

This research project on the African diaspora is an actual and pertinent question, directly linking the African continent to the world, and especially to Europe. These last years the interest on the matter has intensified and the number of published studies has increased. The interrogation about global circulations and the diaspora constitutes a transversal subject, present for example in countries from Eastern and Central European as well as in the African context. Europeans of African descent organize more associations in Europe and their relation to the African continent shows different practices and interests. To deeper understand this complex dynamic between Europe and Africa through the African Diaspora, the project opens several perspectives in the field of African Studies, mainly following two axes:

- On the theoretical and historical perspective, we aim at a better conceptualization of the African diaspora and an analysis of identity discourses in European and in African contexts. We will consider the differences between Francophone and Anglophone Africa – the latter being involved with circulations and repatriations of the African Diaspora in a broader meaning which includes African Americans movements since the 1950's. Therefore, the reading of the phenomenon considers different perspectives linked not only to the slave trade and colonialism, but aspects such as industrialization, urbanization, and neoliberalization.
- Social, political, cultural, and economic approaches propose an analysis of the contemporary dynamics of the African diaspora in Europe and in Africa (through temporary, regular, and permanent “returns” from Europe). The study of the African diaspora allows us to better understand present-day challenges and their evolutions (migration, economic crisis, democratization, social movements, contestation, gender, racial issues, heritage discourse and identity, etc.).

Activities conducted for this interdisciplinary & bilingual project:

- An online joint workshop on the 11th of February 2022.
- An online joint conference on the 8th of April 2022, open to the public and promoted in the CIVIS network and with the mobilization of students from partner universities.
- A in-person workshop in Casablanca (Marocco) on the 9th and 10th of June 2022, including discussion with professors and students from the University Hassan II from Casablanca.

The main objective of the project was to create a work study group on African diasporas from the perspective of identities → we had several discussions in order to continue this project (at least a summer school in 2023), invitation to (online) courses/and conferences during the 2022-2023 academic year, and on the long-term the perspective of a joint MA program.

The publication of a collective volume especially the students, focusing of methodological and empirical case studies on African Diasporas. The call for papers has already been launched and 8 contributions have been accepted. The volume will be published at the University of Bucharest Publishing House spring 2023.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
10	The teaching of European languages as foreign languages, Spanish as an example.	Mohamed El-Madkouri Maataoui (UAM)	UAM, SUR, SU	UH2C	Society, Culture, Heritage	Education / Training

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

The topic addressed is the teaching of foreign languages in the Common European Framework. At the University of Casablanca, along with Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew and Korean, among others, most European languages such as English, German, Spanish, French and Italian are taught. That is why we have taken the Spanish language as the common language of the three CIVIS and Casablanca universities.

Our main objective was to bring the different experiences of European universities closer to that of Casablanca to compare the four approaches and implement new teaching practices such as the communicative method, the primacy of speech over writing, the use of new technologies, etc.

The program has been divided into four sessions (four days) in which the different activities planned around how to teach a foreign language and how to investigate linguistics have been carried out, turning every day into problem-solving and challenge seminars.

The course has been very well received, far exceeding all expectations judging by the number of students enrolled and the questions and debates that prolong the three scheduled daily hours to more than four and a half, on all four days, without exception.

From the satisfaction of students and professors we can collect the affirmation of the vice-dean who has received us and has accompanied us throughout the activity, that ours "will mark a before and after in our Faculty".

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
11	Cultural Heritage and Global Epistemologies	Simona Corlan-loan (UB)	UB, UG, UAM, SUR	UH2C	Society, Culture, Heritage; Cities, Territories, Mobilities	Education / Training, Research, Transfer (innovation, societal engagement)

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

Our project has been created and developed as part of the Institute of African Studies at UB.

The project financed as part of CIVIS is the result of the collaboration among universities who are part of the consortium (University of Bucharest, Sapienza University of Rome, Autonomous University of Madrid, University of Glasgow), privileged partner universities (Hassan II University of Casablanca - Morocco, University of Sfax - Tunisia, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar - Senegal) as well as other universities (University of Pau - France) and research institutes (National Institute of Heritage), with which the members of the institute have worked over the course of time. The team that has created the project, coordinated by Simona Corlan-loan (director of the Institute of African Studies), consists of professors Alexandra Lițu and Alexandru Vasiliu (Department of Ancient History, Archeology and History of Art, within the Faculty of History of the University of Bucharest), Javier Salido Domínguez (Autonomous University of Madrid), Carlo Giovani Cereti (Sapienza University of Rome), and Jelmer Vos (University of Glasgow).

The central objective of this project has been to bring together experiences from seemingly different spaces, yet spaces that share similar approaches in terms of preserving and handing down heritage.

We had two colloquia on heritage protection and laws as they are present in the respective countries. One workshop in Casablanca on heritage and identity building of African diaspora in Europe. A summer school at Bucharest on virtual heritage to which, on top of the above mentioned partners, INP (the national

Heritage Institute) and MTR (Museum of Romanian Peasant) were present. The proceedings of the colloquia, workshop and summer school will be published as a book. This will inform the students of a future course on the topic.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
12	Summer school: Infectious respiratory diseases and immunity: Focus on early life period	Mostafa Chamekh (ULB)	AMU, NKUA, ULB, UB, UAM, SUR, UT	UH2C	Health	Education / Training

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

PUBLIC :

The summer school is designed for master and PhD students, clinicians and scientists who are seeking advanced training in infectious diseases and immunity with a focus on early life.

THEMATIC INTEREST:

Respiratory infections caused by a wide range of microbial pathogens are the most common diseases affecting humans worldwide leading to high rates of morbidity and mortality in childhood and elderly. The health team 12 (immunity, microbiology) and team 14 (neonate and children health) combined their effort to propose a summer school with high standard scientific program focused on micro-organisms affecting airways and host immune response across different ages with particular emphasis on neonatal phase and infancy. This thematic is highly relevant for African and Mediterranean CIVIS partners, as infectious diseases remain in general among major causes of morbidity and mortality. This is particularly true in early life period (childhood health)

PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVE :

- To provide attendees with basic concepts together with the latest research advances covering different aspects of the subject pertinent to epidemiology, cellular and molecular basis of virulence and pathogenesis, host immune response, control and prevention strategies, with particular emphasis for childhood health.
- To allow students to strengthen their interdisciplinary knowledge through cross-cutting themes in an interactive way with a panel of scientific experts.

- To set up a structured stimulation-based training allowing students to acquire new concepts and ideas.

PERFORMED ACTIVITIES

- 4 students from the UH2C have attended physically the summer school, alongside with their colleagues from other CIVIS partners
- master students of the UH2C could follow the lectures remotely.

OUTCOMES :

- A great potential to synergize such CIVIS activity with existing collaborations between ULB and the UH2C
- Seeking complementarities: this summer school was a great opportunity to discuss the possibility to strengthen the collaboration of CIVIS partners with UH2C but also to pave the way for other activities that may include other African partners.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
13	Workshop on Traditional Medicines: A sustainable lifestyle towards climate change	Helen Skaltsa (NKUA)	NKUA, UB, SUR	UCAD, USF	Health	Education / Training

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

Over the years, Medicinal Plants (MPs) have formed the basis for traditional medicine systems in several countries. Many of them are also fundamental components of local diets. Transformation to sustainable lifestyles (including sustainable diets, sustainable use of MPs) seems to be an urgent need to reach the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs (United Nations and Paris Agreement) in order to address the effects of climate change on human health and environmental sustainability, as well as to reform a sustainable world for future generations.

A multidisciplinary collaborative workshop within three CIVIS member Universities (University of Bucharest, Sapienza Università di Roma, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), two African partners (University of Sfax-Tunisia and Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar-Senegal), and two non-CIVIS partners (Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and the Cyprus University of Technology) will took place at the Department of Pharmacy at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in July of 2022. This workshop aimed to share the indigenous knowledge about the use of MPs in traditional

medicines of Europe and Africa, to promote the cultivation of MPs through sustainable methods, and emphasize the importance of a sustainable diet that could lead to lifestyles in harmony with nature, connecting research with practice. The current knowledge-research of five basic domains: Ethnopharmacology, Chemistry of Natural Products, Pharmacology, Agricultural Sciences, and Food Sciences was provided to the participants.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
14	Transatlantic Dialogue on the Memory Culture of Slavery	Susanne Goumegou (UT)	AMU, UB, UT	UCAD	Society, Culture, Heritage	Research

Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):

With this project that unites eminent scholars from Africa, Europe and America for a project on “Transatlantic Dialogue on the Memory Culture of Slavery”, we want to promote an interdisciplinary transatlantic dialogue on the heritage of slavery in current memory culture, literature and the arts. We thus aim to contribute to the recent debate that moves beyond Eurocentrism and methodological nationalisms in order to decentre and decolonise cultural historiography of the Black South Atlantic. We organised a virtual Round Table "Les mémoires de l’esclavage transatlantique: approches croisées entre littérature, histoire et anthropologie", uniting historians from AMU (Catherine Atlan) and UB (Simona Ioan-Corlan), literary scholars from UT (Susanne Goumegou) and UCAD (Bacary Sarr), and anthropologists (Simone Vassallo, Renata de Sa Goncalves) and media scholars (Roberto Robalinho) from UFF at Niteroi. The outcome of this Round Table that was open to the public (26 participants) will be an application for an international conference taking place in Tübingen in 2023.

Original Appl. No.	Project title	Project leader/s	CIVIS universities involved	Afr. partner universities involved	CIVIS Hub challenge/s (theme/s)	Type of activity
15	CIVIS School “North South Encounters II”	Sebastian Thies (UT)	ULB, UAM, SU, UT	UCAD, Wits	Society, Culture, Heritage; Cities, Territories, Mobilities	Education / Training
<p>Short description (e.g., topic, objectives, activities conducted, [main] outcomes):</p> <p>This project is based on an already existing CIVIS initiative for short term mobilities called North South Encounters, convened by UT and supported by UAM, SU and ULB, that has had a first online pilot edition in July 2021. The present application served to include the UCAD as an African Civis partner institution into the steering committee of the 2022 edition in Tübingen. A hybrid participation of students has been made possible via online tools.</p>						

Appendix 2: Original Call for Proposals

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SEED FUNDING FOR JOINT PROJECTS WITH CIVIS' AFRICAN PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Application deadline: 15 November 2021

Online application form (CIVIS application portal): [LINK](#)

CIVIS website for this call: [LINK](#)

Background and aim

Developing partnerships with universities in Africa and the Mediterranean region is a central objective of CIVIS. Our alliance seeks to identify joint interests with these partners and work on joint solutions to problems facing Africa, the Mediterranean, and Europe together. CIVIS currently establishes strategic partnerships with the following institutions, each of which already entertains close relations to individual CIVIS member universities:

- Université Hassan II de Casablanca (Morocco)
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal)
- Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique)
- Makerere University (Uganda)
- University of Sfax (Tunisia)
- University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

25

Strategic partnerships between these universities and CIVIS will foster joint activities in education, research, outreach (innovation/social engagement) as well as capacity-building. Many of these activities are to be based on (the successful acquisition of) third-party funding and involve academic just as non-academic actors. Apart from the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the five challenges underpinning CIVIS Hubs constitute the core themes of our partnerships:

- Climate, Environment, Energy
- Society, Culture, Heritage
- Health
- Cities, Territories, Mobilities
- Digital and Technological Change

In the pilot phase of CIVIS, until September 2022, our alliance pursues strategic partnership agreements with the universities listed above. Moreover, we seek to encourage and support first initiatives from our community of researchers, scholars and staff that lead to medium and long-term, vibrant, Hub-challenge oriented collaborations with (members of) our African partner institutions. Building on and widening already existing contacts, networks and initiatives will be of central importance in the initial phase of the partnership development process.

Target of this Call for Proposal

Against this background, the Call for Proposals aims at supporting three types of initiatives:

1. Initiatives building on already existing relationships and projects with our African partners (see list above) in the realm of Hub challenges, that seek to include further CIVIS member universities (at least three altogether).
2. Initiatives that already involve three CIVIS member universities in a joint project on a Hub challenge, now seeking to integrate at least one of the African partners (see list above) in their ongoing activities. This particularly refers to existing Hub initiatives, i.e., those funded by a CIVIS Hub, if the integration of African partners requires further activities not covered by the funding received from Hubs.
3. New initiatives with our African partners, addressing Hub challenges, and with a long-term development perspective (e.g., the joint drafting of a third-party funding application).

Eligible applicants

Academics and staff members belonging to CIVIS universities can apply.

Due to EU funding restrictions, members of African partner universities cannot apply and be the direct beneficiaries of supported activities. However, African partners, if already identified, are highly welcome to join an application of their CIVIS colleagues.

Members of the University of Glasgow (associated CIVIS member university) cannot apply and be the direct beneficiaries of supported activities, but they are also highly welcome to join an application as a partner.

26

Criteria for eligible projects

In the framework of this Call for Proposals, applicants may seek funding for projects aiming at establishing, widening, or strengthening a longer term collaboration between members of CIVIS and our African partner universities.

Necessary project features:

- Contributes to one or more of the following realms: education, research, outreach (innovation/societal engagement).
- Relates to one or more of the five Hub challenge themes listed above.
- Involves members of at least three CIVIS university and at least one African partner university; see list above. If projects do not feature this membership structure, they must explicitly and concretely aim at establishing a collaboration of such a composition.

Desirable project features:

- Includes or targets at the joint acquisition of third-party (non-CIVIS) funding for ensuring the collaboration's financial sustainability.
- Involves or targets at the inclusion of even more than three CIVIS and one African partner institution, if not initially then maybe at a later stage.
- Contributes to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Involves or targets at the involvement of non-academic partners, e.g., thematically relevant (non-) governmental organisations, firms, museums, etc.

Projects can also involve further partners (preferably also in Africa or the Mediterranean region) that are not among the universities with which CIVIS currently develops a strategic partnership (see list above).

Types of possible activities

Supported projects could include one or more of the following activities:

- Developing and implementing first joint projects, e.g., a joint course or summer school, research project, or outreach activity. These initial projects should hold the potential to be the basis for further collaborations. (Hub initiatives already receiving CIVIS funding for their educational activities would need to demonstrate that the planned inclusion of the African partner/s requires additional measures and funding.)
- Funding staff capacities for writing a joint third-party funding application
- Visiting African partners for exploring or planning a collaboration project
- Organising a joint workshop for exploring or planning a collaboration project

27

Other activities are eligible for funding, too, if they conform to the necessary project features (see above, criteria for eligible projects) and fall under eligible costs (see below).

Eligible costs

- Travel and subsistence costs for members of CIVIS universities according to the travel regulations of their home university.
- Staff costs expended at a CIVIS member university.
- The maximum amount granted to an initiative is 8000 Euro.
- The seed funding must be spent by 30 September 2022.

Application process

- Please register for and fill in [this online application form](#), requesting information from you on the following:
 - Project title
 - Persons and institutions involved

- Project features according to selection criteria (e.g. relationship to Hub themes, plans for third-party funding, etc.)
- Project description (incl. aims, activities, expected outcomes, preparatory steps already undertaken)
- Cost plan

Application deadline: 15 November 2021