

Call for proposals: Managing Organization (Hub) for Responsible Artificial Intelligence for an Education Innovation Research Network in Africa – FAQ

1. Can you please confirm the geographic eligibility for this call? Apart from South Africa, are there other countries that cannot apply for this research grant?

The lead institution must have their headquarters based in one of the eligible countries as per the [Annex B of the call document](#). There are four **non-eligible** countries: Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa and Seychelles. However, institutions from these four countries can be part of the consortium, but not as the lead organization.

If a pan-African collaboration is proposed, at least 51% of the budget should be directed to the lead applicant. To be considered an African institution, it must be headquartered on the continent.

International collaborations will also be considered. However, please note that no funds from the grant can be allocated for salaries, travel, or research expenses related to those international collaborations.

2. Can a member of a consortium be from African French speaking country or must the person be from European French Countries?

We encourage pan-African collaborations and therefore it is recommended that collaborators are from within Africa (whether it is francophone or anglophone Africa). If international collaborations are proposed, please note that no funds can be used for salaries, travel, or research expenses related to these international collaborations.

3. Must all the members submit their CVs when applying or is it only the lead participant that should submit his/her CV?

We invite applicants to submit CVs for key team members only. These should also include key contact individuals from other organizations in case of a consortium. Note that these should be 2 pages maximum each.

4. Do abridged CVs count toward the word count limit of 4,000 words? Should we put them in annex?

CVs (of no more than 2 pages each) should be put in annexes. They do not count towards the word limit.

5. Is the three-consortium membership a fixed variable or can this number be larger than this?

Three is the maximum number for official members of a consortium. More collaborating institutions can be included in the network's design; however, these institutions won't officially be recognized in the grant agreement. Also note that IDRC's contractual agreement will only be signed with the lead institution. The other two organizations will be considered sub-grantees.

6. How much of the 1.2 M goes to subgrants within the program? Is the 55% budget mentioned on the website is for the subgrants?

Correct. We expect that a minimum 55% of the total budget goes towards the network research projects (sub-grants).

Please also keep in mind a few restrictions while preparing your budget. This includes a cap on infrastructure/equipment purchase to 20% of the budget and that indirect costs must be limited to 13%. We also place a cap of personnel costs at 25% of the budget, although exceptions can be made provided sufficient justification. Note that this refers to salaried employees of the lead organization. Expenses relating to the costs of personnel within organizations who receive the subgrants are considered research costs.

7. Will there be revolving fund or extensions on the program after 30 months?

At this stage, a second round of funding or an initiative's extension aren't planned. If you would like, you are invited to share your initial reflections on sustainability and longer-term planning of the network as this could demonstrate organizational motivation and be assessed positively by reviewers. That said, this is beyond the scope of work, and therefore not mandatory.