



Africa-Europe
Clusters of
Research Excellence
Africa-Europe CoRE



ARUA
African Research
Universities Alliance



The Guild
of European Research-Intensive Universities



A shared vision for Africa and Europe

From global disparities to transformative collaboration: principles of equitable partnerships for a sustainable future put into practice together

ARUA and The Guild

Strategic advocacy for long-term, equitable Africa-Europe research partnerships

23

African research universities

22

European research-intensive universities

2020

[Joint concept note](#) -- Calling for excellent research at the heart of confronting **common challenges** faced on both continents.

2021

[Joint call](#) -- Increase Africa's research capacity through: **long-term collaboration and investment in science infrastructure**

2023

[Joint statement](#) -- Welcoming the AU-EU Innovation Agenda focus on **equitable** long-term partnerships with **brain circulation** and **capacity building**

[Sectoral call for action](#) -- 2,000 universities and research institutions call for actions towards better integrated Africa-Europe funding programmes



AU-EU Innovation Agenda



Adopted in 2023 – [click or scan for more detail about this intercontinental framework for R&I](#)



Key focus areas for collaboration:



PUBLIC HEALTH



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY



GREEN TRANSITION



CAPACITIES FOR SCIENCE

Guiding principles:

- **Equity** in collaboration
- **Brain circulation** - mutual exchange of knowledge and expertise
- **Capacity-building** - strengthening research capabilities
- **Long-term approach** - sustainable, enduring partnerships



AU-EU Innovation Agenda:

framework for existing and potential new funding programmes



It is still early stages in a volatile world

**Universities on both continents need to engage with
the opportunity,
working together to show what works best**



B e r l a y m o n t



Commission européenne
Europese Commissie



Africa-Europe Clusters of Research Excellence (CoRE)

- Established by **ARUA** & **The Guild** in Summer 2023
- **120 institutions** across **42 countries** in Europe, Africa, and beyond
- Listed on the [Dashboard of Initiatives of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#)

21 CoREs with different 10-year action plans

Academic-led
&
Aligned with
AU-EU
Innovation
Agenda



Public Health

Advanced Infectious Diseases Research & Training

Multimorbidity

Food Environment Actions for the Promotion of Health

Non-Communicable Diseases and Multimorbidity

Genomics for Health in Africa

Preparedness and Response to Pandemics and Shocks



Green Transition

Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Sustainable Water and Land Resource Management for Human Well-Being

Renewable Energy

Water Resources Management for a Sustainable and Just Future

Migration and Health

Translational Research in Infection, Immunity, and Inflammation



Innovation & Technology

Artificial Intelligence

Sustainable Food Systems

Creative Economies

Engineering for the Future

Mathematics

Health, Gender, and Sexualities



Capacities for Science

Interdisciplinary Peace

The Politics of Sustainable Development

Inequalities, Poverty, and Deprivation Across Africa



What is a CoRE?

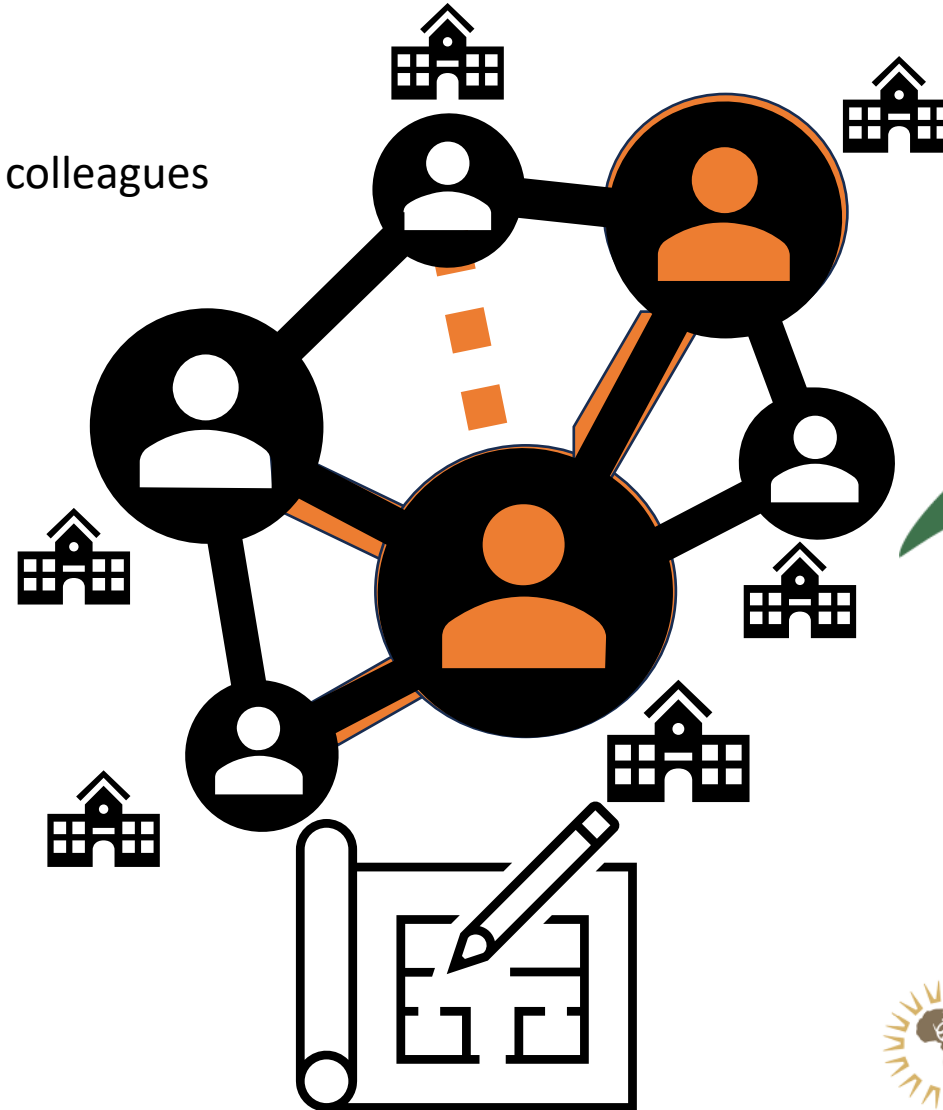
Multilateral, Academic-led consortia of colleagues

Inter-continental and intra-continental

Integration of research, innovation and education in long-term plan

Themes recognised by academics and policymakers as priorities

Institutions commits resources to support sustainable collaboration



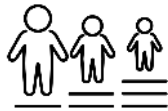
Features of all Africa-Europe CoREs



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): focused on impactful scientific solutions for societal transformation



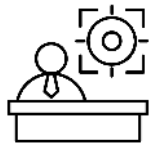
Scientific Excellence: Leading researchers from both continents address priority research challenges



Equity: Fair credit, funding, and collaborative research across regions



Inclusion: Involves researchers from 120 institutions across 42 countries, going beyond ARUA and The Guild networks



Long-term focus and institutional support: institutional commitments from universities to support long-term goals and Cluster priorities. Bottom-up approach where researchers define priorities, backed by university leadership



Brain circulation and capacity-building: developing inclusive postgraduate education frameworks that promote lasting improvements in Africa's research capacity.



Towards Equity in Global Science

The Africa-Europe CoREs aim to address societal needs through innovative collaborative partnership which can be a vehicle for change, inviting funders, researchers, policy-makers, business, and civil society to join forces to carry out new, effective action

What are the key needs?



Supportive funding: new models to foster Africa-focused doctoral schools and globally networked graduates



Inclusive research funding: backing for groundbreaking projects that engage researchers across Africa.



Research infrastructure: investments in accessible facilities through Africa-Europe Clusters.



Societal engagement: encouraging collaboration with policy-makers and businesses to tackle shared challenges



Our first Conference

Commitment to Africa 2063 Agenda and EU's Global Gateway

In September 2024, +250 researchers from over 49 institutions across more than 27 countries in Africa, Europe and beyond gathered in South Africa

[Find out more on our webpage](#)

Key facts about Africa-Europe CoREs

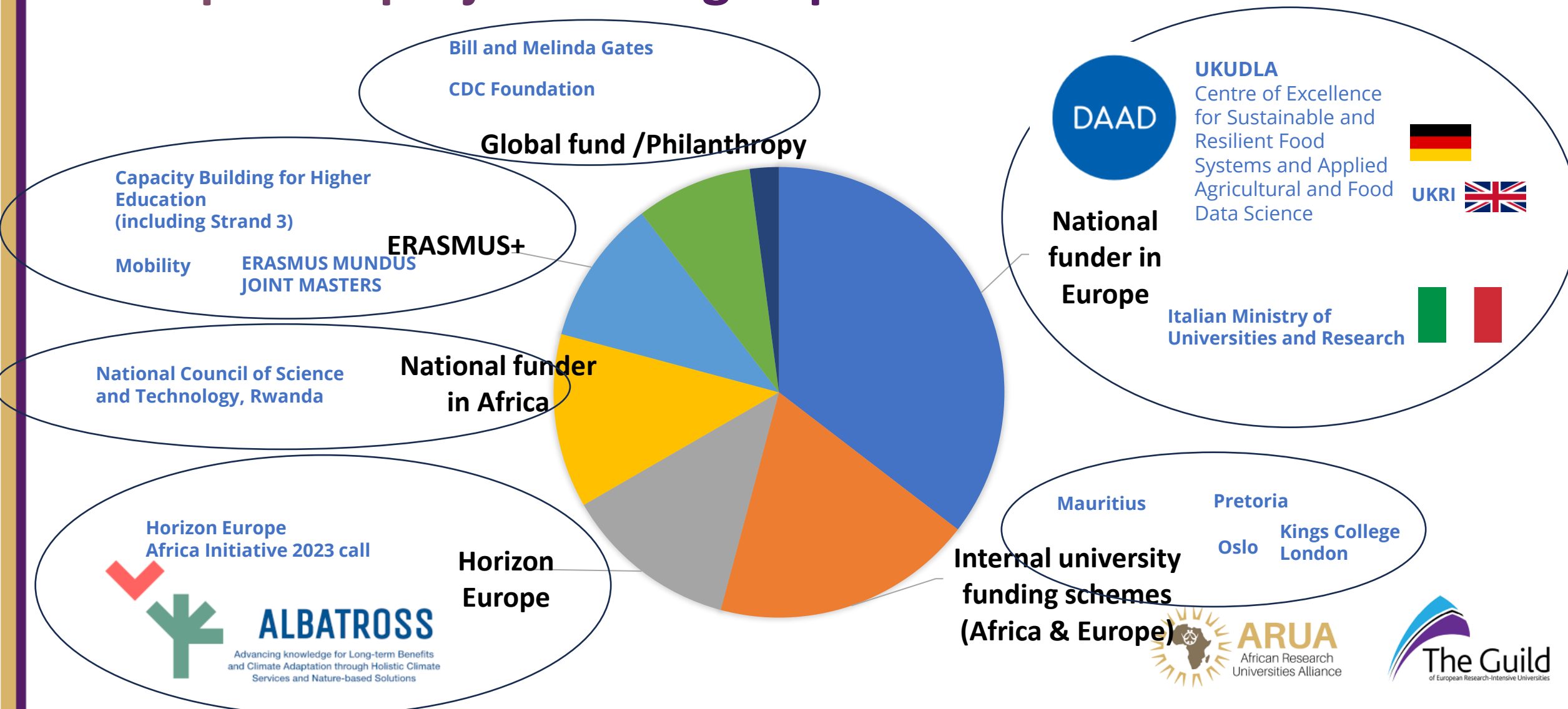
21 CoREs up and running with
120 institutions across **42 countries** in
Europe, Africa, and beyond.

Reported achievements from our first year
(July 2023 – June 2024):

- ❖ **65 funding applications** submitted
- ❖ **Over 48 public events** organised
by CoREs or with CoRE participation
- ❖ **37 publications** underpinned by
CoRE activities



Number of funding applications in 2024 and examples of projects being implemented





How can you engage with
the CoRE initiative?

Connect, collaborate, and create opportunities
with the CoRE initiative and contribute our movement for
Africa-Europe collaboration based on R&I excellence

Joining forces for a R&I sectoral voice

Invest in research, innovation and higher education to fully realise the potential of Europe's Global Gateway

At a time of accelerating geopolitical uncertainty, the EU Global Gateway is critical in ensuring partnerships based on mutual interests that enhance Europe's competitiveness. As efforts gain momentum, the Global Gateway to the next level in the coming years and in the post-2027 EU Budget, we



Some of the Guild's advocacy in Europe

Insight paper on
strengthening African
Knowledge Societies

Presentations on
infrastructure
investment in Africa
of mutual benefit

Sectoral statement on
Horizon Europe's
successor programme

Conference
statement with
European funding
agencies

Philanthropic
foundations and
global funds

Sectoral statement on
Europe's
Global Gateway

Team Europe
Initiative with
European ministries

Insight paper on
sustainability

**I am here to learn and help to find links with
policy priorities**



visit our webpage

<https://www.the-guild.eu/africa-europe-core/>

CONNECT

with CoRE's academic co-leads to
build project consortia or enquire
about joining as a CoRE member



CONTRIBUTE

best practice ideas for collaboration
across Africa and Europe



For more information, please contact:

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Relevant Sources:

- NCD Alliance, 2022. *Invest to Protect: NCD Financing as the Foundation for Healthy Societies*.
- Sooryamoorthy, R., 2022. *Science in Africa: Contemporary Trends in Research*. *Journal of Scientometric Research*.
- Times Higher Education, 2023. *World University Rankings 2024*.
- Ziervogel, G. et al., 2022. *Climate Change in South Africa: IPCC Sixth Assessment Report*. *South African Journal of Science*.



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