

Horizon Europe 2026–2027

Africa Initiative IV — Open Calls for Research Funding

Curated for University of Malawi Staff | April 2026

Overview

The European Commission launched Africa Initiative IV under the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027, allocating approximately €605 million to support EU–Africa cooperation in research and innovation. The calls address four joint AU–EU policy priorities: Public Health; Green Transition; Innovation and Technology; and Capacities for Science.

University of Malawi staff are eligible to participate as consortium partners in all calls. UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. All applications are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal. ALL calls require a consortium; UNIMA cannot apply as the sole applicant. A European institution must lead (coordinate).

Official call overview: EEAS Africa Initiative IV

EU Funding and Tenders Portal (submissions): <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>

EURAXESS Africa (partner finding, webinars):
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>

Cluster 1: Health

AU–EU Priority: Public Health

These calls focus on understanding the health impacts of climate change, epidemic preparedness, development of novel vaccines, antiviral therapeutics, monoclonal antibodies for tropical infections, and combating antimicrobial resistance.

Particularly relevant for: School of Science and all those researchers working

HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-05 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Development of novel small molecule antiviral therapeutics for pathogens with epidemic potential

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €9–11 million per project | Up to 5 projects funded

Opening Date: 10 February 2027

DEADLINE: 13 April 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports discovery, optimisation, and preclinical development of small molecule antiviral therapeutics with broad-spectrum activity against RNA and DNA viral families of epidemic concern. Projects should advance candidates through robust target identification, medicinal chemistry, and in vitro/in vivo efficacy assessment. Antiviral combination strategies and resistance prevention are encouraged.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Medicinal chemists, virologists, clinical pharmacologists, and translational researchers are the target audience.

UNIMA Relevance: UNIMA researchers in pharmacology, biochemistry, and medicinal chemistry can contribute to target validation, natural product-derived antiviral screening (Malawi's biodiversity is a significant underexplored resource), and clinical evaluation. Start now by approaching European partners who have drug-discovery infrastructure.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-06 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Development of monoclonal antibodies to prevent and treat infections from Flaviviruses

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €9–10 million per project | Up to 4 projects funded

Opening Date: 10 February 2027

DEADLINE: 13 April 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call targets the development and preclinical/early clinical assessment of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against Flavivirus infections including Dengue, Zika, West Nile, Yellow Fever, and Tick-borne Encephalitis viruses. Projects should advance mAb candidates through isolation, engineering for potency and breadth, and non-clinical safety and efficacy testing. Cross-reactive and pan-Flavivirus mAbs are of particular interest.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Immunologists, virology laboratories, clinical research organisations, and antibody engineering groups are core partners.

UNIMA Relevance: Dengue and other Flaviviruses pose an increasing threat in Malawi and East Africa as climate change expands Aedes mosquito habitats. UNIMA's epidemiology and public health capacity, combined with clinical data from Malawi's health facilities, can provide European partners with epidemiological context and clinical trial sites.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

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HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE-08 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Development of innovative antimicrobials against pathogens resistant to antimicrobials

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €8–10 million per project | Up to 5 projects funded

Opening Date: 10 February 2027

DEADLINE: 13 April 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports the discovery and early development of novel antimicrobial agents — including antibiotics, antifungals, bacteriophages, and antimicrobial peptides — targeting WHO priority drug-resistant pathogens. Projects should address mechanisms of resistance, develop robust in vitro and in vivo models, and demonstrate a credible path to clinical translation.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Microbiology, pharmacology, chemistry, and clinical infectious disease expertise are all relevant.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi carries a high burden of antimicrobial-resistant infections including drug-resistant TB, MRSA, ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae, and resistant malaria. UNIMA's microbiologists provide access to AMR surveillance data and clinical evaluation capacity that is highly valued in multi-country AMR drug-development consortia.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the

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Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

AU–EU Priority: Capacities for Science / Innovation and Technology

These calls address local democracy, post-conflict reconstruction, development aid and governance, cultural policies, human rights, and sustainable cultural tourism.

Particularly relevant for: Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, Education

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-02 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €12 million | 3 projects expected

Opening Date: 12 May 2026

DEADLINE: 23 September 2026

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports comparative and empirical research on how local democratic institutions and processes function in low-income and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). Projects should examine formal and informal governance structures, citizen participation, decentralisation, accountability mechanisms, and the conditions under which local democracy contributes to development outcomes. Cross-country and interdisciplinary methodologies are encouraged.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Political scientists, sociologists, legal scholars, development economists, and anthropologists are all relevant. LMIC-based institutions are particularly encouraged.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi's decentralisation experience, local council governance, and evolving civil society provide rich empirical material. UNIMA's Social Sciences, Law, and Education can contribute fieldwork capacity, local language expertise, and long-term relationships with community and government partners. This is a strong opportunity for UNIMA to take a substantive scientific leadership role within a European-led consortium.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-07 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED **Supporting post-conflict democracy and reconstruction**

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €3–4 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: 12 May 2026

DEADLINE: 23 September 2026

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call funds research on the processes, mechanisms, and conditions for rebuilding democratic institutions, social cohesion, and governance capacity in post-conflict settings. Projects should examine transitional justice, reconciliation, security-sector reform, and the role of international actors and civil society in reconstruction.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Political scientists, conflict researchers, legal scholars, historians, and practitioners with post-conflict country experience are particularly relevant.

UNIMA Relevance: The Great Lakes region proximate to Malawi provides relevant comparative study settings. UNIMA researchers in political science, sociology, and law are well placed to contribute comparative African perspectives and fieldwork capacity. Regional connections through the SADC framework are a potential partnership asset.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-05 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Creative alliances: Fostering global partnerships in cultural policies and CCI innovation

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €3–4 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: 12 May 2026

DEADLINE: 23 September 2026

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call promotes research on international partnerships and policy frameworks in the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI), including music, visual arts, literature, film, and crafts. Projects should examine how global CCI collaboration can support cultural diversity, access, and economic development, including in the Global South. The call explicitly encourages Africa–EU creative partnerships.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Cultural policy researchers, arts organisations, creative industry practitioners, and social scientists are eligible.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi has a rich cultural heritage — Gule Wamkulu (UNESCO intangible heritage), traditional arts, music, and oral literature — that provides compelling research and collaboration content. UNIMA's Humanities faculty, including researchers in African literature, arts, and cultural studies, can contribute uniquely African perspectives to EU-led creative alliance consortia.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

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HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-DEMOCRACY-05 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Development aid and democratic governance

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €3.5–4 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: May 2027

DEADLINE: 21 September 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call examines the relationship between development aid flows and democratic governance outcomes in recipient countries. Projects should investigate conditionality, aid modalities, donor coordination, absorption capacity, and the effects of aid on governance institutions, public accountability, and citizens' political behaviour.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Development economists, political scientists, governance researchers, and practitioners are particularly welcome.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi is one of the most aid-dependent countries in the world and has extensive governance reform history, making it an ideal research setting. UNIMA's Economics, Political Science, and Public Administration researchers can provide fieldwork leadership and access to government data that European-led consortia cannot easily replicate.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

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HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-DEMOCRACY-08 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Global Human Rights and EU values

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €3.5–4 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: May 2027

DEADLINE: 21 September 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call funds comparative and interdisciplinary research on global human rights frameworks, their effectiveness, and how EU values interact with diverse human rights traditions globally. Topics may include enforcement mechanisms, cultural legitimacy of rights frameworks, economic and social rights, and the role of regional human rights bodies.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Legal scholars, political scientists, human rights practitioners, and sociologists are the primary audience.

UNIMA Relevance: UNIMA's Faculty of Law has strengths in constitutional law, human rights, and administrative law, and Malawi's constitutional jurisprudence since 1994 offers valuable comparative material. Researchers with expertise in economic, social, and cultural rights in the African context are well positioned for this call.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-06 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Future-proofing sustainable cultural tourism

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €4–4.8 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: May 2027

DEADLINE: 21 September 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports research on approaches to make cultural tourism more sustainable in environmental, economic, and social terms. Projects should examine overtourism impacts, community benefit-sharing, climate resilience of heritage sites, digital innovation in tourism, and the preservation of intangible cultural heritage under tourist pressure.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Cultural heritage researchers, tourism scholars, environmental scientists, and social scientists are relevant.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi's tourism assets — including Lake Malawi (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Liwonde National Park, and rich intangible heritage — are both economically important and environmentally fragile. UNIMA's Biological Sciences, Geography, and Humanities researchers can contribute fieldwork, ecological assessment, and community engagement capacity to European-led sustainable tourism research consortia.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

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Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

AU–EU Priority: Innovation and Technology

These calls cover AI digital twins for early-warning systems, international AI cooperation, exploration and extraction of critical raw materials, secondary raw material recycling, and advanced material production.

Particularly relevant for: Science (Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences)

HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-16 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Technologies for innovative processing of raw materials

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €5–6 million per project | Up to 4 projects funded

Opening Date: 22 September 2026

DEADLINE: 2 February 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call funds R&D into novel processing technologies for raw and secondary materials, targeting improved efficiency, reduced environmental footprint, and lower dependency on

scarce input materials. Topics include novel smelting, refining, separation, and beneficiation technologies applicable to African mineral resource contexts.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Metallurgists, process engineers, chemists, and industrial partners are the primary audience.

UNIMA Relevance: As Malawi develops its extractives sector, access to innovative processing technologies is a national priority. UNIMA can contribute local geological and environmental expertise, and can serve as a gateway for European partners to engage with Malawi's mining sector stakeholders.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-17 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Expert network on critical raw materials

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: CSA – Coordination and Support Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €2–3 million per project | 1 project funded

Opening Date: 22 September 2026

DEADLINE: 2 February 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This coordination action funds the establishment of a global expert network on critical raw materials, bringing together research institutions, geological surveys, industry, and policymakers across Europe and partner countries including Africa to share knowledge, build common methodologies, and provide scientific advice to policy processes.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Research institutions, geological surveys, policy bodies, and industrial associations are the core audience.

UNIMA Relevance: Joining this network would give UNIMA direct access to the European critical raw materials research and policy community, and position Malawi as a key partner country for future raw materials R&I investment. UNIMA's Geography and Earth Sciences faculty are the natural home for this engagement.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-22 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED **Innovative advanced materials and new production processes — reducing dependencies on Critical and Strategic Raw Materials**

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: IA – Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 70% (standard rate) | Universities and non-profits may qualify for higher rates — confirm on the call page

Value: €6–7.5 million per project | Up to 6 projects funded

Opening Date: 22 September 2026

DEADLINE: 2 February 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call funds innovation in advanced materials design and manufacturing to reduce European industrial dependency on critical and strategic raw materials. Projects should demonstrate substitution, material efficiency, or redesigned production processes that maintain performance while reducing reliance on rare or geopolitically constrained inputs.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Materials scientists, engineers, and industrial partners are the primary audience.

UNIMA Relevance: While this call is primarily industry-oriented, UNIMA's Chemistry and Physics departments could contribute materials characterisation and analysis expertise. The African supply-chain perspective — examining how African mineral producers are affected by European materials substitution — is also a relevant research angle.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European

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Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-06 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED **International cooperation in Artificial Intelligence**

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €5–7 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: September 2027

DEADLINE: December 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports collaborative research on AI between the EU and partner countries including those in Africa, addressing AI safety, trustworthiness, bias mitigation, and the development of AI systems adapted to diverse cultural and linguistic contexts. Projects should demonstrate tangible benefits for both EU and partner country communities.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. AI researchers, computer scientists, social scientists, and legal scholars working on AI ethics and governance are relevant.

UNIMA Relevance: This is a highly strategic opportunity for UNIMA to position itself in the EU–Africa AI cooperation agenda. Research on AI bias in African language and cultural contexts, AI for healthcare in low-resource settings (leveraging UNIMA's health research expertise), or AI governance in developing country contexts would be strong angles. UNIMA should begin identifying EU AI research partners now.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

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Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility

AU–EU Priority: Green Transition

These calls target improvements in climate and weather modelling for Africa, an Africa–EU co-funded climate research action, and renewable energy valleys in Africa.

Particularly relevant for: Science (Geography, Environmental Science, Physics), Faculty of Engineering

HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1-11 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Africa–EU CO-FUND action on climate

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €15 million | 1 large project funded | Africa co-funding expected from AU/African funders

Opening Date: August 2027

DEADLINE: December 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This is the flagship Africa–EU climate co-funded research action, bringing together EU and African funders to support a large-scale joint research initiative on climate change impacts and solutions in Africa. The CO-FUND mechanism requires matching contributions from African research funders (e.g., the African Union, national research councils). Projects should address climate resilience, adaptation, and the climate–society nexus at continental scale.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. This call requires partnership between EU and African funders as well as research institutions on both sides. African research councils and government science agencies are expected to co-fund.

UNIMA Relevance: This is the highest-value single climate research action in Africa Initiative IV. UNIMA should engage now with the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) and the African Academy of Sciences to position Malawi as a co-funder or key partner country. UNIMA researchers in climate, ecology, food security, and public health are all potential contributors.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises

partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-10 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED **Renewable Energy Valleys in Africa to increase energy security and energy access in Africa**

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: IA – Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 70% (standard rate) | Universities and non-profits may qualify for higher rates — confirm on the call page

Value: €4.5 million per project | Up to 2 projects funded

Opening Date: August 2027

DEADLINE: December 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports the development of integrated Renewable Energy Valley (REV) models in Africa — geographic zones where multiple renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydropower, green hydrogen) are co-located with industrial, agricultural, or community users to maximise energy access and security. Projects should demonstrate scalable and replicable models.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Energy engineers, economists, environmental scientists, policy researchers, and local government/industry partners are the target audience.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi's significant solar, wind, and hydropower potential (the Shire River) combined with a severe energy access deficit makes it an ideal REV application site. UNIMA's Engineering, Physics, and Economics departments can contribute technical assessment, economic modelling, and community engagement capacity. Working with ESCOM and the Ministry of Energy as co-applicants would strengthen a UNIMA partnership application.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

AU–EU Priority: Green Transition / Public Health

These calls address plant health and post-harvest losses in Africa, green food processing, the AU–EU Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership, climate-smart agriculture, and All-Atlantic ocean research.

Particularly relevant for: Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Science (Biological Sciences, Environmental Science), Faculty of Medicine

HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-09 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED AU–EU Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €6 million per project | Up to 2 projects funded

Opening Date: 17 April 2026

DEADLINE: 23 September 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call supports collaborative Africa–EU research under the flagship FNSSA partnership, addressing the drivers and solutions to food and nutrition insecurity in Africa. Projects should tackle food system sustainability, dietary diversity, nutrition outcomes, and policy levers for transformation of African food systems. The FNSSA partnership is a multi-year joint research commitment between the African Union and European Commission.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Nutritionists, food system researchers, agricultural economists, public health specialists, and African research institutions are key partners.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi has one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition (stunting) in sub-Saharan Africa. UNIMA researchers in nutrition, agriculture, public health, and economics are directly relevant. Given that UNIMA already participates in nutrition and food security research networks, this is an opportunity to build on existing partnerships for a Horizon Europe proposal.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the

Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-02-two-stage ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED **Optimising the water–nutrient–energy nexus for sustainable and climate-smart agriculture in Africa (FNSSA)**

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action (two-stage)

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €6 million per project | Up to 2 projects funded

Opening Date: 17 April 2026

DEADLINE: Stage 1: 16 April 2027 | Stage 2: September 2027

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This two-stage call supports integrated research on the water–nutrient–energy nexus in African smallholder and commercial agriculture, examining how trade-offs and synergies between water use, fertiliser application, and energy consumption can be optimised for climate-smart, productive, and sustainable outcomes. The two-stage process means a short Stage 1 concept note is submitted first, with full proposals submitted only by invited applicants.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Agricultural engineers, agronomists, hydrologists, energy specialists, and social scientists working on African farming systems are the primary audience.

UNIMA Relevance: Malawi faces severe water stress, soil nutrient depletion, and energy poverty — exactly the nexus this call addresses. UNIMA's Agriculture faculty, in collaboration with the Irrigation Department, Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority, and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), could form a strong local partnership within a European-led consortium.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.

Research Infrastructures

AU–EU Priority: Capacities for Science

This call supports the strengthening of the international dimension of European research infrastructures (ESFRI/ERIC) and is relevant to building institutional research capacity and partnerships across all disciplines.

Particularly relevant for: All faculties; particularly relevant for Research Management (DRIPS)

HORIZON-INFRA-2026-DEV-01-06 ★ PARTNERSHIP REQUIRED

Strengthening the international dimension of ESFRI and/or ERIC research infrastructures

Funder: European Commission — Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme

Type: RIA – Research and Innovation Action

Funding Rate: 100% for all consortium members

Value: €3–5 million per project | Up to 3 projects funded

Opening Date: 18 March 2026

DEADLINE: 17 September 2026

EU Funding & Tenders Portal: View call on EU portal

This call funds projects that strengthen the global reach and partnership capacity of ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) landmarks and ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) organisations, enabling access for partner-country researchers (including from Africa) and integrating African data and research capacity into pan-European research infrastructure networks.

Consortium Requirements: A minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries is required (for most calls). African institutions — including UNIMA — are explicitly eligible and encouraged as consortium partners to receive EU funding directly. Coordination must be led by an EU/Associated Country organisation. Research infrastructure operators (ESFRI/ERIC organisations), universities, and research institutions in partner countries including Africa are eligible.

UNIMA Relevance: UNIMA can position itself as the Malawian node for European research infrastructures relevant to its research strengths — including health data infrastructures (ELIXIR for bioinformatics), environmental observing systems (LifeWatch for biodiversity), and social science data archives (CESSDA, SHARE). This call is an excellent entry point for DRIPS to build UNIMA's long-term connectivity to European research infrastructure networks, which would benefit all faculties.

How to Apply: Proposals are submitted through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>). UNIMA's validated Participant Identification Code (PIC) is 999453275. The first step is to identify a European

lead partner — UNIMA's existing collaborations with universities in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and other EU/Associated Countries are the natural starting point. EURAXESS Africa (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/africa>) organises partner-matching webinars and publishes consortium-building notices for Africa Initiative calls.

Note: All Horizon Europe applications require the consortium to be in place well before the deadline. The EURAXESS Africa portal and the EU Funding & Tenders partner search function are the recommended first steps for finding European lead partners. UNIMA's existing institutional MoUs with European universities are the most direct route to forming eligible consortia.
