ICT-39-2017 Innovation Actions, Deadline for submission: 25 April 2017
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/ict-39-2016-2017.html

Specific Challenge: To reinforce cooperation and strategic partnership with selected countries and regions in areas of mutual interest.

Target Countries: low and middle income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia (ASEAN)

Scope: Actions will address the requirements of **end-user communities** in developing countries.

This may include *technological improvements and adaptations* as well as *innovative service creation based on existing technologies*.

Proposals could include specific technological targets such as co-design, adaptation, demonstration and validation (e.g. pilots) of ICT related research and innovation in relevant thematic areas addressed by Horizon 2020.

Activities under this topic should be led by a *clearly defined user need/market opportunity for the technology being adapted*; they should in particular include *requirements of developing countries* (at national and local level), and where possible, have the potential for wider impact by *involving a number of countries from the same region*.

Proposals should feature an explicit element exploring technology adoption, through understanding and evaluating behavioural responses to the introduction of new technologies in different regional settings. Societal and gender issues will be taken into account.

Proposals should be submitted by a partnership complementing each other with a particular focus on the participation of relevant developing country innovation stakeholders and end-user community representatives (e.g. relevant public, private, education and research, and societal sector organisations, Innovation Hubs or Living Labs).

Expected Impact:

- Development/adaptation of relevant technologies responding to specific needs of target countries;

- Sustainable uptake of results beyond project completion date;

- Reinforced international cooperation on ICT R&D with low and middle income countries, focussing on areas that are beneficial to the target countries/regions.

Type of Action: Innovation Action

Funding per proposal: 1 - 2 million euro

Deadline: 25 April 2017

Additional Support Information

IST-Africa Horizon 2020 Guide - Download from

http://www.ist-africa.org/home/files/IST-Africa_D3.3_Horizon2020Guide_310116.pdf

Focus of Innovation Actions

Innovation actions are considered to be closer to market. They primarily consist of activities directly aiming at adapting and improving **existing technology** to a specific scenario. As a result the level of effort on research is low, with the main activities focused on adaptation of technology, piloting and validating for market replication.

A 'demonstration or pilot' aims to validate the technical and economic viability of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution in an operational (or near to operational) environment, whether industrial or otherwise, involving where appropriate a larger scale prototype or demonstrator.

A 'market replication' aims to support the first application/deployment in the market of an innovation that has already been demonstrated but not yet applied/deployed in the market due to market failures/barriers to uptake. 'Market replication' does not cover multiple applications in the market of an innovation that has already been applied successfully once in the market.

'First' means new at least to the application sector in question. Often such projects involve a validation of technical and economic performance at system level in real life operating conditions provided by the market.

Projects may include limited research and development activities.

Funding level: 70% reimbursement of eligible direct costs plus 25% indirect costs (except for non-profit legal entities e.g. public universities, where a rate of 100% reimbursement applies)

Consortia requirement: Minimum of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States (MS) or Associated countries (AC). Additional information may be defined in the Work Programme

In the context of ICT-39-2017 the consortia must include partners from low and middle income countries in sub-Saharan Africa as well as 3 EU partners. The project focus must have a clearly _defined user need/market opportunity for the technology being adapted based on requirements in Sub-Saharan African countries_ (at national and local level), and where possible, have the potential for wider impact by _involving a number of countries from the same region_.

Main activity type: Demonstration and market validation (large-scale pilot)

Steps in preparing a proposal

1. Identify a relevant project idea where a pilot can be undertaken in a number of Sub-Saharan African countries for an innovative solution or service

2. Determine the existing technology that can be adapted / improved to deliver this service

3. Determine the skill sets required for partners to develop a successful project

4. Decide which Sub-Saharan African countries this solution or service is most relevant to

5. Engage with relevant European and African partners where an existing relationship exists to determine their interest in co-designing the proposal

6. Download the proposal template for Innovation Actions from

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/2016-2017/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia-2016-17_en.pdf

7. Agree on project objectives that are clearly aligned with the call focus and with the focus of an Innovation Action

8. Agree work plan structure - Technical Work Packages, Demonstration/Validation Work Package, Dissemination & Exploitation Work Package, Project Management Work Package

9. Depending on the skills and experience of the different partners, work package leaders will be agreed and each work package leader will then start to draft the description of the tasks proposed in each work package and ask for contributions from other partners.

10. Having a general agreement in relation to objectives and work plan structure, it is then possible for some partners, for example, to start work on the Relation to the work

programme, and Concept and Approach for Section 1 and other partners to start work on Section 2 related to Impact.

11. The Ambition section needs to provide a clear and succinct overview of the current state-of-the-art with a specific focus on the target countries for the Action and outline how the proposed activities and outputs will go beyond the state-of-the-art.

12. It is important for the consortium to keep checking that the proposal as it is being developed is still answering the focus of the call.

13. There is a fixed number of pages for Section B Part 1 (Section 1 - 3) of **70** pages for an Innovation Action. If the proposal submitted is longer than the number of pages allowed, the extra pages will be marked in red and will not be considered in the evaluation process.

It is necessary that the proposal submitted addresses each point in the proposal template in the correct order to facilitate the evaluators to allocate scores. It is the responsibility for each partner to carefully review the proposal structure and content to ensure that it is relevant to the call and is of high quality.

14. It is important to keep your National Contact point up to date with your progress as they may be able to provide additional support.

Evaluation criteria can be downloaded from

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/ef/2016-2017/h2020-call-ef-ria-ia-csa-2016-17_en.pdf

Support provided by IST-Africa

Having identified the relevant thematic area and focus of the Innovation Action that is clearly aligned with the call text, IST-Africa can provide support to identify relevant partners.

IST-Africa has also prepared a number of reports and guides which can provide assistance.

IST-Africa Horizon 2020 Guide - Download from

http://www.ist-africa.org/home/files/IST-Africa_D3.3_Horizon2020Guide_310116.pdf

IST-Africa Report on ICT Initiatives and Research Capacity in IST-Africa partner countries

http://www.ist-africa.org/home/files/IST-Africa_ICTInitiatives_ResearchCapacity_v2_310116.pdf

This report provides an overview of the current ICT Initiatives, Research Capacity, mapping of thematic priorities and research capacity in the context of the ICT-39 H2020 Call and updated mapping of research priorities under Horizon 2020 in Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda as at January 2016. ISBN No: 978-1-905824-47-2. This is a valuable reference report to assist in identifying partners for inclusion in ICT-39 Proposals.

IST-Africa Project Repository provides insights in previous EU funded projects with participation from IST-Africa partner countries

http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=project-search

IST-Africa Organisational Repository provides insights into organisations from Europe and IST-Africa partners who have cooperated in previous EU projects

http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=org-search

IST-Africa Paper Repository provides access to research papers published in IST-Africa Conference Proceedings since 2006 including contact details for researchers

http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=paper-repository