



Skills Initiative for Africa

Financing Facility for Skills Development

What is the rationale for the Skills Initiative for Africa?

The Skills Initiative for Africa is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) supported by the German Government to strengthen occupational prospects of young people. The centrepiece of the Skills Initiative for Africa is a Financing Facility for Skills Development to be implemented by the AU's New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD Agency) supported by the German Development Bank KfW. The Skills Initiative will provide support to TVET actors in selected pilot countries for strengthening skills development. The pilot countries selected for the first phase of the Financing Facility are Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia.

Many African countries have understood the significance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and have initiated a number of national programs. Nonetheless, a shortage of qualified teachers, scholarships and an adequate infrastructure as well as an absence of practical vocational curricula and missing or outdated technical and didactical equipment still pose significant challenges to the successful implementation of such programs. The lack of educational opportunities results in both poor personal and occupational prospects. Often, the private sector does not get sufficiently involved in vocational education. The result are young people who graduate from vocational training but do not possess the skills that employers are looking for.

What is the objective of the Financing Facility for Skills Development?

The Skills Initiative for Africa shall contribute to improving perspectives of young people in Africa through increased employment and income opportunities. One of the core principles of the Skills Initiative is involving employers in the conception and implementation of vocational education and training. The objective of the Financing Facility is to strengthen the quality and innovation in practice-oriented training and further education through the implementation of sustainable, regionally relevant skills development initiatives. Special attention will be given to the active contribution of employers and the private sector, the support for girls and women as well as students from low income groups.

What type of Skills Development Initiatives will be funded?

The Facility will provide grant funding for skills development initiatives promoted by public and private organizations. The Financing Facility will allocate funds and facilitate the implementation of innovative and sustainable skills development initiatives selected through a transparent process. Projects eligible for funding may include large investment projects as well as innovative incubator projects that promote the regional added value of the Initiative.

How does the application process work?

NEPAD as Implementing Agency of the Financing Facility will launch specific calls for proposals to invite interested partners to submit their project proposals. Three funding windows will be opened targeting different types of skills development projects promoted by different types of national partners. The different funding windows and the eligibility criteria are presented in more details below.

Project selected for funding by the Investment Committee will be made an offer with attached conditions for funding. If accepted, an implementation agreement, which will formalize the conditions of the grant, roles and responsibilities for the planning and implementation of the selected projects and the rights and obligations of the contracting partners will be concluded between the applicant and the NEPAD Agency.



National Funding Window

What kind of Skills Development Projects will be funded?

The funding window shall provide funding for large investment projects for skills development promoted by national skills development partners in the pilot countries. For this window, the financial volume of the proposed projects shall be approx. EUR 3 million. Counterpart funding amounting to 10% of the total cost is requested. Eligible large investment projects shall include the following:

Infrastructure and Equipment	Scholarships
Construction of Facilities	Provision of general scholarships
Rehabilitation and/or Extension of Facilities	Provision of special, targeted scholarships
Equipment of Workshops and Classrooms	

Who can apply for funding?

National public and private organisation domiciliated in the pilot countries can submit proposals for funding. They shall have a proven track record in the field of skills development as well as the required financial and organisational capacity for implementing the type and scale of project they propose.

Public Sector		Private Sector	
Skills Development / TVET Institutions		Corporations	NGOs/Other
Polytechnics, Techn. College, Techn. Schools, Apprenticeship Training Centre, Employment Agencies, Other schools contributing to employment-relevant skills development	Polytechnics, Tech. College, Tech. School, Apprenticeship Training Centres, Other private schools contributing to relevant skills development, Incubator centres African Networks for Skills Development...	Vocat. Enterprise Institution, Local Private Sector, Corporate Foundations or Trusts	National Chambers of Commerce Industry Associations, National NGOs, Foundations

How will the projects be selected?

A call for proposal will be launched for the National Funding Window to invite interested national partner structures to submit their project proposals. To that effect, applicants will be guided by specific information material, including a template for the proposal as well as information on the eligibility criteria and the selection process. The information material will be available from NEPAD's website for the Financing Facility once the call will have been launched.

The Facility will also provide support for the compilation and presentation of the requested information. The proposals will be evaluated with regard to their conformity with the eligibility criteria and assessed with regard to their contribution to the overall objectives of the Facility. The Funding Decision will be taken by an Investment Committee established for the Financing Facility.

First Call for Proposal for the National Funding Window to be launched later in 2017



International Funding Window

What kind of Skills Development Projects will be funded?

The funding window shall provide funding for large investment projects for skills development promoted by international entities cooperating with a national partner in the pilot countries. For this window, the financial volume of the proposed projects shall be approx. EUR 1.3 – 2 million with a required counterpart funding amounting to 30% of the total cost. Eligible large investment projects shall include the following:

Infrastructure and Equipment	Scholarships
Construction of Facilities	Provision of general scholarships
Rehabilitation and/or Extension of Facilities	Provision of special, targeted scholarships
Equipment of Workshops and Classrooms	

Who can apply for funding?

International entities cooperating with a national partner in one of the pilot country can submit proposals for funding. As eligible international entities are understood those, which a) do not have their headquarters in the project country or b) are local sub-organisations or subsidiaries of a large international company having its headquarters located outside of Africa. International entities could be (but are not limited to) international NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, International Chambers of Commerce, International Industry Organizations, International Private Sector Companies or International Educational Institutions. Also Public-Private Partnerships will be considered.

In order to be eligible, the international entities need to partner with a national organisation and provide information on the type and content of the partnership, the roles and responsibilities of the partners as well as on (intended) contractual arrangement and the legal status of the partnership.

How will the projects be selected?

A call for proposal has been launched for the International Funding Window to invite interested international partners to submit their project proposals. To that effect, applicants will be guided by specific information material, including a template for the proposal as well as information on the eligibility criteria and the selection process. The information material is available from NEPAD's website for the Financing Facility.

The proposals will be evaluated with regard to their conformity with the eligibility criteria and assessed with regard to their contribution to the overall objectives of the Facility. The Funding Decision will be taken by an Investment Committee established for the Financing Facility.

First Call for Proposal for the International Funding Window is open now!
Further information can be obtained under <http://www.skillsinitiative-for-africa.com>



Innovation Window

What kind of Skills Development Projects will be funded?

The funding window shall provide funding for smaller, innovative (pilot) projects promoted by national partners in the pilot countries. The window shall serve as an incubator to allow testing of pilot projects with potential for a larger regional impact in order to improve the quality and innovation in employment oriented skills development. For this window, the financial volume of the proposed projects shall be limited to between EUR 0.2 and 1.0 million required counterpart contribution of 10% of the total cost. Examples for innovative incubator projects are given below:

Examples for Innovative Incubator Projects
Image Campaigns for TVET / Skills Development / Regional TVET competitions
ICT-based approaches to skills development
Entrepreneurship/ Mentorship programs

Who can apply for funding?

National public and private organisation domiciliated in the pilot countries can submit proposals for funding. They shall have a proven track record in the field of skills development as well as the required financial and organisational capacity for implementing the type and scale of project they propose.

Public Sector	Private Sector		
Skills Development / TVET Institutions	Corporations	NGOs/Other	
Polytechnics, Techn. College, Techn. Schools, Apprentice Training Centre, Employment Agencies, Other schools contributing to employment-relevant skills development	Polytechnics, Tech. College, Tech. School, Apprentice Training Centres, Other private schools contributing to relevant skills development, Incubator centres African Networks for Skills Development...	Vocat. Enterprise Institution, Local Private Sector, Corporate Foundations or Trusts	National Chambers of Commerce Industry Associations, National NGOs, Foundations

How will the projects be selected?

A call for proposal will be launched for the National Funding Window to invite interested national partners to submit their project proposals. To that effect, applicants will be guided by specific information material, including a template for the proposal as well as information on the eligibility criteria and the selection process. The information material will be available from NEPAD's website for the Financing Facility once the call will have been launched.

The Facility will also provide support for the compilation and presentation of the requested information. The proposals will be evaluated with regard to their conformity with the eligibility criteria and assessed with regard to their contribution to the overall objectives of the Facility. The Funding Decision will be taken by an Investment Committee established for the Financing Facility.

First Call for Proposal for the Innovation Window to be launched later in 2017