

AFRICA BUILD



Using information technology and web-based knowledge-sharing, the AFRICA BUILD project will create centres of excellence in Africa to promote health research, education and health-care practice throughout the continent.

Objectives of the project

Context. Over the past two decades, numerous European health, academic, clinical, governmental and industrial centres have greatly benefited from funding support provided by the European Commission and other European agencies. In the health sector in particular, European support has helped to create a sustainable infrastructure within the European Union which is now yielding solid scientific, technological and public health benefits. Many European centres that have benefited from such support are today at par with the best centres in the world. In contrast, there has been no significant transfer of expertise and technology to Africa. Health-related centres on that continent find it difficult to compete with centres from other countries in the world for funding and support for their research and other activities. The AFRICA BUILD project aims to use information technology to improve capacity for health research and education in Africa. It seeks to provide innovative learning and research opportunities to individuals and institutions throughout the continent.

Objectives. AFRICA BUILD project will use information technology and know-how, e-learning and knowledge-sharing via web-enabled virtual

communities to promote health research, education and health-care practice in Africa by creating centres of excellence. Key sub-objectives are:

1. To analyze the state of the art in health research and education in Africa. A Roadmap for future European actions will be released.
2. To implement an IT-enabled, open and collaborative infrastructure for education, training and knowledge sharing for health researchers, developing virtual communities of practice and a professional social network.
3. To develop and offer a large number of e-learning courses, validated learning resources, methodologies and supporting evidence for improving the education capacities for health-focused centres of excellence in Africa.
4. To facilitate researchers' mobility and participation in local and international meetings.
5. To validate the AFRICA BUILD impact in pilot research and education initiatives related to reproductive health and HIV/AIDS research.
6. To disseminate outcomes in scientific conferences and journals, media and workshops and conferences in Africa.

Project Description

AFRICA BUILD is a Coordination Action aiming to support and develop advanced Centres of Excellence in health care, education and research in the African countries through Information Technologies. This support will come, in the initial phases, from the established research centres located at European Union countries.

For later phases, a significant challenge of this project is to generate virtual communities of African researchers to continue these initial efforts by creating, developing and exchanging,

collaboratively, new knowledge, methods, informatics tools and data.

The AFRICA BUILD vision aims to address fundamental problems in health research and education in a low income geographical like Africa, providing innovative solutions by optimizing and sharing resources through the use of novel technologies.



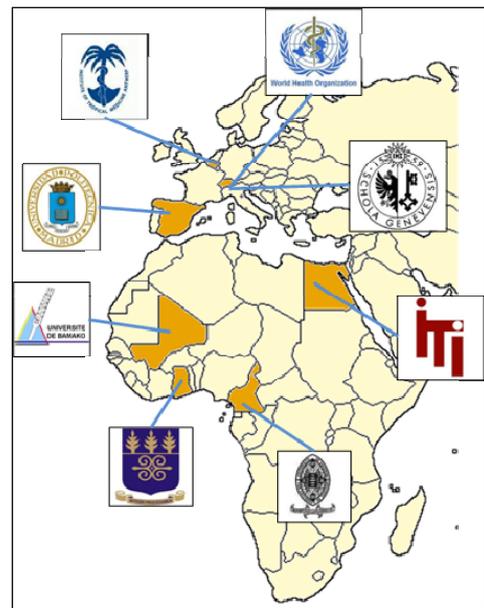
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Expected results & impact of the project

The Project will have several expected impacts:

1. Sustainable development of capacity for health research and education in Africa, which should lead to improvements in healthcare and research in Africa.
2. A training strategy, covering health care, research and technologies, adjusted to the needs of the African partner countries, with emphasis on established and supporting excellent academic teaching and research networks.
3. Active participation of young African researchers in regional and international forums as well as exchanges within African research institutions and between European and African institutions.
4. To create a network of professionals and volunteers, willing to participate in altruistic health initiatives in Africa.



AFRICA BUILD

Building sustainable capacity for research for health in Africa

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Partners:

- Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Egypt)
- Universite de Bamako (Mali)
- Universite de Geneve (Switzerland)
- Prins Leopold Instutuut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (Belgium)
- World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research (Switzerland)
- Universite de Yaounde I (Cameroon)
- University of Ghana (Ghana)

Timetable: from 08/11 to 07/14

Instrument: CSA (Coordination Action)

Project Identifier: FP7 - 266474

