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EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

Education Partnerships in Africa (EPA) funds partnerships between further education and higher education institutions in England and Sub-Saharan Africa that contribute to EPA outcomes.

EPA supports 72 new and existing partnerships of 12–18 months.

EPA partnerships must develop employability, entrepreneurship and skills for local economies. Capacity-building of higher education and further education institutions is also a common key theme.

Central to EPA is the engagement of potential employers – business, social enterprise, and other organisations.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in England is providing £4.5 million of partnership grant funding. The British Council is also supporting EPA in England and Africa.

EPA started in September 2008 and runs until March 2011.

Outcomes

Anticipated EPA outcomes are:

- employment, entrepreneurship and skills training programmes for African students leading to gainful employment
- sustainable capacity developed at Sub-Saharan African HEIs and FE colleges through contribution to the development of staff, their professional skills and international competencies in the areas of employability skills, social enterprise and entrepreneurship
- partnerships that contribute to the broader employability and entrepreneurship agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa
- engagement of employers and social enterprises in education partnerships
- models of good practice for education co-operation between English and African institutions.

Scope

- EPA is funding 72 new and established partnerships.
- EPA funding applications were invited from partnerships between FE and HE institutions in England and any country in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- EPA supports partnerships that engage with businesses, social enterprises and professional and government organisations.

Projects

EPA partnerships may contribute to employability and entrepreneurship and capacity-building in Africa in many ways, for example:

- curriculum development
- staff development
- innovative approaches to employability and entrepreneurship for specific contexts
- new alliances and partnerships aligned to regional and national priorities
- engagement with English and African support agencies
- support to development of policies for capacity development, employability, mapping of competencies and qualifications
- industry links for cutting-edge approaches to social and economic development. Employer engagement may take a variety of forms, for example, financial or in-kind sponsorship, provision of expertise, contribution to curriculum development, work placements and institutional capacity-building.

Completed bidding rounds

Round 1: 9 existing partnerships

Round 2: 20 new partnerships

Round 3: 43 new and existing partnerships

EPA funding is no longer available

Further information

EPA website: www.britishcouncil.org/learning-epa

EPA British Council team: epa@britishcouncil.org, telephone: +44 (0)161 957 7090

For finding potential partners in sub-Saharan Africa and England contact the Africa Unit – visit: www.ukafricapartnerships.org; e-mail: partnerships@acu.ac.uk

DelPHE partner-finding database: www.britishcouncil.org/delphe-partner-finding-1.htm