



Concept-Note

African-European Climate Change & Sustainable Energy | Online Seminar Series

October 2021

Background

Africa has become one of the most important strategic partners of the EU within the past years. One of the most pressing and urgent questions in this regard is how to make Research and Innovation (R&I) a driver for sustainable development in the cooperation between the two continents.

The **Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE)**¹, adopted at the AU-EU Summit in 2017, is the second R&I partnership of the **AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation**². In a joint effort the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) Commission services, AU and EU Member States, supported by the Horizon 2020-funded Research and Innovation Network for Europe and Africa (RINEA) and thematic experts, designed a roadmap in support of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives as well as cross-cutting issues related to climate change and sustainable energy such as human capital development, capacity-building, open data and open access. Since then, over €100 million have been invested in projects in support of climate services, renewable energy and energy efficiency to support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in various sectors for Africa and for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This includes for e.g., the renewable energy flagship action [LEAP-RE](#), climate change activities such as [CONFER](#) | [Down2Earth](#) | [FOCUS-Africa](#) and seven new dedicated calls under the new [Horizon Europe Africa-Initiative](#).

Overall goal of the seminar series

The overall goal of the online seminar series is to strengthen the implementation and visibility of the activities and aims of the AU-EU R&I Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/eu-africa-cooperation/partnership-climate-change-and-sustainable-energy-ccse_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/eu-africa-cooperation_en#au-eu-high-level-policy-dialogue-hlpd-on-science-technology-and-innovation

Energy. The seminars should further assist to accelerate the uptake of innovative climate change solutions developed by European researchers in partnership with African counterparts and to deepen knowledge and facilitate exchange between the project coordinators and experts on climate change research between Africa and Europe.

All sessions will be designed in such way to deliver concrete actionable outcomes, from short to long term for both researchers as policy makers.

Format

The seminars will be organised as a four-parted CCSE seminar series.

The seminars will run weekly, each Thursday, from 7 October to 28 October 2021 at 11:00 – 12:00 CEST.

To this end the format for each session is similar, depending on the topic multiple experts are invited to participate as keynote.

60min	CCSE Seminar Moderation: ISF
5 min	Opening & Welcome
20 min	Keynote / Expert panel Introduction to the topic & food for thought
30 min	Interactive discussion and reflection Exchange between participants/experts
5 min	Closing

Topics

The topics of the online seminar series were identified together with Horizon 2020 project coordinators in the thematic field of CCSE between July and August 2021. The first series is dedicated to four topics.

Date	Seminar topic
7 October	<p>Topic 1: <i>The CCSE Partnership and how to organise mutually beneficial cooperation and multi-stakeholder approaches for impact</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Elham Ali, Patrick Monfray & Francois Moisan, CCSE Working Group members, Egypt & France</i> • <i>Susanne Salz, GIZ, Partnerships2030, Germany</i>

	<p><u>Description:</u> Building a valuable cooperation starts with good platforms, such as the CCSE partnership, but requires also (soft) tools to support a fruitful communication and a common approach. The seminar will provide an introduction on the CCSE partnership and experiences of the last years, including achievements and obstacles of the cooperation, followed by a discussion.</p>
14 October	<p>Topic 2: Seizing opportunities of AU-EU cooperation under Horizon Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Matthias Wurch, NCP for Horizon Europe, Germany</i> • <i>Anne Wacera Wambugu, Strathmore University & LEAP-RE, Kenya</i> <p><u>Description:</u> This seminar will provide the presentation of opportunities for CCSE community in Horizon Europe³. An African researcher in the CCSE-field will provide an overview of experiences with H2020-funding. The presentations will be followed by an open discussion on how to improve the cooperation under Horizon Europe and benefitting from opportunities.</p>
21 October	<p>Topic 3: Transnational innovation for sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Frida Salge, Adrian Steinert & Sophie von Knebel Doeberitz, DLR-PT, Germany</i> • <i>Adenike Aderonke Moradeyo, Department of Business Administration, Pan-Atlantic University, Nigeria</i> • <i>Edward Mungai, Kenya Climate Innovation Center, Kenya</i> <p><u>Description</u> Much of Africa is the hardest hit by climate change impacts that are already being felt. The urgency leads to innovative solutions in this regard, e.g.: sustainable mobility. This seminar will be introducing the concept of transnational innovation, taking stock of the Africa-Europe-Innovation-Partnership⁴-outcomes. An expert will be providing his experience and an overview of the innovation founder's scene in Africa. The presentations will be followed by an open discussion on how to best involve innovation in CCSE.</p>
28 October	<p>Topic 4: Zooming in on international agreements that support the African and European climate agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Isayvani Naicker, technopolis group, South-Africa</i> • <i>Erick Tambo, UNU-EHS/PACET, Cameroon</i> • <i>Sebastian Treyer, IDDRI, France</i>

³ [First calls targeting Africa published on the Funding and Tender portal | EURAXESS](#)

⁴ [About the Innovation Partnership | Africa - Europe Innovation Partnership \(africaeurope-innovationpartnership.net\)](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Romeo Bertolini, NDC Partnership, Germany</i> <p><u>Description:</u> This session gives an illustration on how international agreements can support the African and European climate agenda and highlight some best practices. Experts will talk about the role of international agreements in providing a framework for collaboration and funding of climate mitigation and adaptation measures. The focus will lie on frameworks that can foster R&I collaboration between Africa and Europe in particular. In wake of the upcoming COP international climate summit in November, one topic of discussion will be how the EU can help African policymakers and climate negotiators gain access to scientific and technical expertise on climate adaptation and mitigation. The High-Level Policy Dialogue between the AU and the EU may play a role in this regard. Another topic could be how international agreements can provide a framework for the take-up of cleantech solutions in Africa. Allowing African countries to leapfrog a fossil-fueled economy.</p>
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Participation

The online seminar series is expected to bring together previous and future/interested African and European members of projects related to climate change (incl. EU funded, bilateral and national projects), as well as experts and stakeholders in the field of CCSE. This includes e.g., CCSE community, LEAP-RE consortia, CCSE H2020 project coordinators.

Sessions will be organised in compact groups (10-20) to stimulate interaction, discussion and reflection.

Participation will be confirmed after registration.