PROJECT FUNDING

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

COSIMENA Call for Partnerships 2027

1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The DAAD Regional Office Cairo (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) is building scientific clusters between Germany and the MENA region through funds provided by the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt - AA) in the framework of its project "COSIMENA" (Clusters of Scientific Innovation in the Middle East and North Africa).

The funding is offered to support mobility and access of German researchers to Egypt and the MENA region. Through scientific events, COSIMENA aims to building thematic German-Egyptian-MENA research clusters, which in turn should deepen the cooperation and partnership between Germany and countries of the Middle East and North Africa, and stimulate the production of innovative research.

With regard to the funding logic and the results (outputs), programme objectives (outcomes) and longer-term effects (impacts) of the funding programme, **supported events should fulfil one or several of the following objectives:**

1. Strengthening German–MENA academic and research networks by connecting researchers, higher education institutions and research organisations working on shared areas of interest.
2. Facilitating access to partners and expertise in Germany and the MENA region and creating opportunities for new bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.
3. Support innovation in research in Egypt, Sudan and other countries in the MENA region in the named cluster areas of water, energy, urban planning, health, economics, agriculture and cultural heritage and education.
4. Connecting academia with relevant stakeholders beyond the university sector, including policymakers, international organisations, civil society and the private sector, where such engagement contributes to research impact, knowledge transfer and innovation.
5. Increasing the visibility and accessibility of German–MENA research cooperation and creating spaces in which researchers and institutions can exchange expertise, identify synergies and develop new collaborative approaches.

Guaranteeing sustainability of funding activities and safeguarding their long-term effects

Through its programmes, the DAAD contributes to the achievement of global sustainability goals. Physical mobility plays a central role in international cooperation. The DAAD is aware of the environmental impact this has and is committed to organising mobility in a way that is as climate- and environmentally-friendly as possible, as well as utilising digital exchange formats.

In addition, the DAAD is committed to ensuring the sustainable impact of its funding activities. It attaches great importance to securing the long-term results achieved and transferring them to science, industry and society. Ecological and social sustainability in funding activities includes partnership-based approaches, impact-oriented monitoring and comprehensive follow-up support to ensure lasting effects.

Please read on the respective ecological sustainability guidelines (handout only available in German here) as well as diversity principles (for the handout please click here) which should be reflected in the planned events.

2 ELIGIBLE MEASURES

Eligible measures are the following event formats, which are described in detail below

- Evening/Public Lecture (one-day event)
- Workshops, Roundtables and Symposia (up to two days)
- Summer/Winter Schools (at least one week)
- Components of International Conferences (up to 4 days)

Location of Events

- The activities must take place in Egypt starting **March 2027** at the earliest.
- Hybrid or digital components are in general possible, particularly for summer/winter schools; the combination of formats is recommended.

As the events are organized by/or in partnership with Egyptian Universities are encouraged to be hosted by the Egyptian University.

Evening/Public Lecture (one-day event)

This format is intended to enable experts from different clusters to serve as keynote speakers, bridging German academia and research in Egypt. Scientists will be provided the opportunity to give individual presentations in Egypt, followed by a networking reception with experts and an interested audience on the topic presented.

- **Up to two funded speakers** from Germany and/or the MENA region (representing at least one German institution).
- Covered Expenses: economy flights, visa costs, transfers within the country of residence and in Egypt (airport), and two hotel nights (on a bed & breakfast basis). Please note that full board lodging and per diems are not included in this format.
- Networking reception: finger food catering provided.

Target participants: open for everyone interested in the topic irrespective of academic level

Workshops, Roundtables and Symposia (up to two days)

The goal is to form small expert groups of the existing clusters, including representatives from academia, decision-makers from politics and business, and multipliers from society. These formats should offer an opportunity for a German-Arab and/or also a German-Arab-African exchange of experts and for a knowledge transfer that is unique in the region. Optimally, this format is used to bring stakeholders together from the clusters who are interested in preparing a joint application for a DAAD or an EU project funding opportunity.

- All travel expenses (economy flight tickets, visa, and transportation) and accommodation (on a bed-and-breakfast basis) for up to four academic speakers from Germany and the region will be covered (flights and accommodation will be booked by the DAAD). Please note that full-board lodging and per diems are not part of this format.
- Refreshments and meals during the event will be provided by the DAAD.
- Egyptian institutions involved are expected to host the event or at least provide a field visit to the experts from abroad as part of their stay (Please note that this requires full responsibilities of the Egyptian Counterparts in obtaining the necessary Administrative/Security Clearances).

Target participants/audience: The event should explicitly be designed for postdocs and advanced researchers

Summer/Winter Schools (at least one week)

COSIMENA funds **only one** Summer or Winter School yearly with the aim of bringing together up to 25 Master Students/Master Graduates/PhD Candidates from Germany and the MENA region on an SDG-related theme. The school will be taught by experts from German higher education and research institutions as well as experts from Egypt and the region.

The school should be hosted by an Egyptian university that is able to provide its own facilities/resources and partners for the lodging, catering, classes and trainers.

The DAAD Regional Office Cairo supports financially through COSIMENA the following measures:

- Flight, visa, and transportation for all participants/students coming from abroad (Germany and/or the MENA region)
- Local Transportation for all participants within the school programme
- Flight, visa, and transportation for the trainers from abroad (Germany and/or the MENA region)
- Lodging (on a bed-and-breakfast basis)/Catering fee (lunch and dinner) for participants and trainers as per the university's fees

Target participants/audience: This is the only event format designed to address students doing their master's degree or those who have finished it no later than 5 years.

Components of International Conferences (minimum 2 nights and up to 4 days maximum)

Through COSIMENA clusters, components of international conferences can be funded, in which mobility and accommodation are covered for the participation of German Experts in scientific conferences in Egypt.
For such activities, the format criteria and rules for panel discussions, workshops and symposia mentioned apply.

- All travel expenses (economy flight tickets, visa, and transportation) and accommodation (on a bed-and-breakfast basis) for **two** academic speakers from Germany and the region will be covered (flights and accommodation will be booked by the DAAD). Please note that full-board lodging and per diems are not part of this format.
- The number of nights funded corresponds with how many days do the invited speakers have an active role in the conference sessions

Important Note

Please note that funding refreshments and meals is **not** considered in this format.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

3

Only the following items (Mobility costs & catering) of expenditure necessary for the realisation of the event (implementation of the measures) are eligible for funding. This includes in particular:

Mobility Costs for Experts

- Flight tickets from Germany and/or the MENA region to Egypt
- Expenses for visas
- Accommodation Costs for the duration of the event only
- Transportation costs within the country of residence and in Egypt

Note
Expenses for travelling/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG)/state travel expenses act (LRKG). Expenditure for mobility and accommodation must be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality. Please check the leaflet for travel organisation for further information (Link!).

Eligible Persons for funded Mobility

- Mobility between Germany and/or MENA region ↔ destination country: only Egypt and back. As a rule of thumb, the rule of country of residence applies (not nationality!).
- Funded experts would be postdocs and advanced academics and researchers

Accommodation Costs

- For doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors, the accommodation costs in the amount of a maximum of **120 euros** (for accommodation on a bed-and-breakfast basis per person per night) can be applied only for the duration of the event. *Please refer to the "Financial and Administrative Guidelines" in the Downloads section for further information.*
- Expenses for the stay must be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

Catering Costs

- During planning, kindly take into consideration that the catering costs should be at a reasonable proportion in relation to the total event budget and should never exceed 25% of the total budget requested for an event.
- Expenses for the catering must be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

4 TYPE OF FINANCING & BUDGET MANAGEMENT (& FORWARDING)

Funding is, in general, provided by way of **full funding**. Kindly note that COSIMENA support can also be requested for **partial funding** of relevant activities, for instance, the coverage of travel costs for certain participants from abroad (From Germany and/or the MENA region), in accordance with the German Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG), or the funding of a specific part of a bigger event (for details, see below). In case of high demand, COSIMENA may limit its support to such partial funding, especially for costs incurred in hard currency.

The funding is subject to the condition that own funds are contributed by the cooperation partners, including in-kind contributions. In the **financing plan,** the expenditure items of the applicant(s) must be labelled separately from the expenditure items of the DAAD (e.g. with "in-kind-contribution). This means that the expenditure of the whole project (including the in-kind contribution of all cooperation partners) must be shown in the financial plan.

Own funds, third-party funds, and other funds must be plausibly presented in the financing plan and project description.

Important Note: Double Funding/Event Fees … etc.
Please note that double funding through other funding institutions (with the Federal Foreign Office as their main donor) for the same event and financing events through fees from participants while receiving funds from the DAAD are prohibited.

After the execution of the event, the final report on the proof of use of funds by the applying cooperation partner must be submitted to the DAAD Regional Office Cairo.

Important Notes
Please note that the overall budget management and payments are done by the DAAD Regional Office Cairo. The forwarding of the grant to the requesting or the hosting institution (in whole or in part) is not possible within the framework of this project.

5 FUNDING PERIOD

The funding period begins at the earliest on **1 March 2027** and ends at the latest on **30 November 2027**. Results will be announced by the end of February 2027 via email.

6 GRANT AMOUNT

Allocation of the funds is applicable for funding within one financial year. A grant can neither be applied for/nor divided between different financial years.

- Evening/Public Lectures (one day): 3.000
- Workshops/Roundtables and Symposia (up to two days): 9.000 Euro
- Summer/Winter Schools (one week): up to 40.000 Euros
- Components of International Conferences (up to 5.000 Euros)

7 ROLE ALLOCATION

Applying and Partner institution(s):

- The applying institution partner as well as the Egyptian host university are responsible for the preparation and organisation of the event, which must be carried out after consultation with the DAAD Regional Office at every stage. Regular meetings are scheduled for alignment. The applying institution must participate in the regular planning meetings with the DAAD and the Egyptian host university.
- After approval by the DAAD Team, the applicant and cooperation partner(s) are also responsible for communicating with all relevant partners, speakers and service providers in advance and collecting required information/materials.
- The applying institution and the cooperation partner(s) should have an in-kind contribution in the preparation of the event, such as providing the venue, organising the transportation from the hotel to the venue, providing necessary technical equipment and/or securing security clearances for foreign partners and speakers.
- After the execution of the event and completion of the documentation, the applying institution and the cooperation partner(s) must submit a final report summarising the outcome and impact of the event.

DAAD Regional Office Cairo:

- Full Budget approval and management.
- Active cooperation in the concept and the organisational process.
- Booking of travel, transportation and accommodation.
- Approving marketing posts, as well as event material.

8 DISCIPLINES

The programme is open to all disciplines stated in the COSIMENA clusters (Agriculture, Education, Cultural Heritage, Economy, Energy, Health, Urbanism and Water) and overarching themes such as sustainability, digitalisation, etc.

9 TARGET GROUP

The main target group attending for COSIMENA is **post-doctorates and advanced researchers and academics.**

Depending on the individual measure, the main target group are established experts and policymakers (Cluster Conferences, Workshops, Symposia, and Roundtables), early-career researchers (only in Innovation Summer/Winter School) or a broader academic public (in public lectures).

In workshops, roundtables and symposia in particular, non-university partners are also a target group that can attend as participants, as they can incorporate the results and potential of bilateral and multilateral research into their own fields of action.

Note
Please abide by the target group for each event type, as this will be checked in the formal phase during selection and is a criterion for exclusion of proposals

10 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS & CO-OPERATION PARTNER(S)

- Eligible applicants are state and state-recognised German higher education institutions and/or non-university research institutions based in Germany which are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research. Applying institutions are encouraged to get in touch with the Egyptian host institution/partner but applications must be submitted by the German university or German research institution.
- Partnerships with institutions from the MENA region are possible; however, direct applications submitted from institutions in the MENA region are not eligible for funding.
- Other institutions, such as museums, industrial partners, or non-governmental institutions, are not eligible to apply. However, they may be cooperation partners.

11 SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

The application for project funding, i.e., **proposals**, must be submitted in complete form and in due time exclusively via the standardized application form provided by the DAAD Regional Office Cairo (Link: https://www.daad.de/surveys/665222?lang=en). In addition, the following **supporting documents** must be uploaded in the "Attachments" tab:

- **Project description** (→ concept note) explaining the intended activity and related objectives, including an outline for the contribution provided by the requesting institution(s) – be it organisational and/or financial.
- **Detailed Draft Agenda** with all items in the programme and the planned speakers, panelists and moderators for each item
- **Project timeline** (form template)
- *Optional* → **Cooperation agreement of the cooperation partners** (if available)
- *Mandatory* → **Endorsement Letter** by the Egyptian university management at the Egyptian hosting institution (form template)
- Presentation of total financing in a **financial plan** (form template) (required funding through COSIMENA, own funds/in-kind contribution, third-party funds, other funds).

- The application form for the proposal includes the title, the location, and 3 suggested dates for the activity. Please include at least an interval of one month between the suggested dates.
- **List of Speakers** and their biographies (form template)
- **PR & Visibility Plan**
- **Selection Criteria for summer/winter schools participants** (form template)

Important Notes

The application form is available below as a PDF file in both English and German.

- After the application deadline, changes to the financial plan, project description, and subsequently submitted or amended documents will no longer be considered.
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Artificial intelligence (AI) tools should only be used in the preparation of this application to support language editing, proofreading, and the improvement of clarity and structure. The content, ideas, information, and proposed activities should be developed and reviewed by the applicant(s).

12 APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is Monday, 30 November 2026. The application has to be submitted by the given deadline. Please avoid last-minute submissions.

13 SELECTION PROCEDURE

Selection of applications for project funding

The selection process is divided into two phases and is based on both formal and qualitative criteria: The DAAD decides on funding on the basis of a formalized application process and the evaluation of the applications by a selection committee.

The formal criteria include a complete application and supporting documents. For further information, please check the list below in the application section.
Furthermore, abiding by the guidelines stated in the “Call for COSIMENA Partnerships 2027,” such as the target group, the items stated in the financial plan, etc.

Applications fulfilling the formal criteria will be reviewed by an academic selection committee. Qualitative Selection is based on the following criteria:

SELECTION CRITERIA

(1) demonstrating novelty and innovation in topic to be discussed;

(2) bringing together complementary expertise from different institutions, disciplines or countries;

(3) responding to challenges of relevance to the MENA region while providing opportunities for meaningful cooperation with German research;

(4) involving early-career researchers alongside established academics where appropriate;

(5) creating connections between existing projects or networks that have so far operated separately; and

(6) demonstrating potential to develop beyond a single event into further academic exchange, joint research or project cooperation

(7) efforts to include disadvantaged groups and minorities

(8) willingness of Egyptian partner to host the event or a facility visit for the German experts at their institution

SELECTION PROCESS FOR SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOLS

14

Selection Process for summer/winter schools

The cooperation partners decide on the awarding of "participation in the summer/winter school" on the basis of a **selection committee** chosen by the cooperation partners and according to the "Guidelines for the target group of summer/winter schools".

- Public announcement of the planned activity (summer/winter school)
- Composition of the selection committee (e.g. applicant and further cooperation partners and experts)
- Selection criteria (e.g. professional or personal suitability)

The selection procedure must be described in detail in the proposal.

DATA PROTECTION AND DOCUMENTATION

15

Documentation

The financial support provided requires applicants to provide thorough administrative documentation during project preparation, implementation, and follow-up, as required by German law. Failure to provide the DAAD with the requested information and documents may result in the costs being declared ineligible.

By applying to the "COSIMENA Call for Partnerships", you agree to adhere to the DAAD's funding rules and regulations, which are mentioned above. Please note

that these rules and regulations may differ from other DAAD funding programmes.

Data Protection

- All personal data required for the preparation and execution of events must be handled according to the European Data Protection Regulation **(**EU GDPR). This includes adding a paragraph and informing the candidates (experts/speakers & passive participants) how their personal information will be handled. A note must be included for sharing their personal data with the DAAD and all cooperation partners.
- Sharing of personal data with unrelated third parties is prohibited.

16 FORM TEMPLATES

- Application Form (PDF version)
- Project timeline
- Endorsement Letter by the Egyptian university management
- List of Speakers and their biographies
- List of Service Providers (if necessary)
- Financial Plan

17 IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FOR DOWNLOAD

- Announcement “COSIMENA Call for Partnerships 2027” (PDF version)
- FAQ on the “COSIMENA Call for Partnerships”
- Application Form
- Leaflet for travel organisation
- Information sheet "Information on mobility with disability or chronic illness"
- Glossary
- Financial & Administrative Guidelines
- Guidelines for the selection criteria for the COSIMENA funded summer/winter schools

18 CONTACT

DAAD Regional Office Cairo
DAAD-Außenstelle Kairo
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service
11 El-Saleh Ayoub St., off 26th July Corridor
Zamalek
11561 Cairo

Primary communication with DAAD is via email during office hours (9:30 AM to 3:30 PM):
E-mail: cosimena@daadcairo.org → (Subject: "Inquiry_COSIMENA Call for Partnerships 2027").

Technical Support
Please note that no further information or assistance can be provided (there is no hotline). If you encounter technical problems when uploading your documents and cannot reach anyone at the above e-mail address, please document your attempts to contact the DAAD (by saving your e-mail) and the technical problem you encountered by making a screenshot of the reply you received and send this immediately to the above-mentioned e-mail address.

Important Note
Please note that an online information session will be conducted in the last week of September and will be announced on the DAAD homepage and our Facebook page.

FUNDED BY

19

Supported by:
Federal Foreign Office