

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
PREparing for a Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (PRE_LEAP_RE) and its follow-up project Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (LEAP-RE)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name the country where the inspired practice came from
France
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA)
<b>Brief description</b>
LEAP-RE is founded on the groundwork laid by the PREparing for a Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy (PRE-LEAP-RE) initiative. This preparatory phase facilitated the development of a Research & Innovation (R&I) agenda, as well as a Human and Institutional Capacity Building framework focused on Renewable Energy (RE). Additionally, it established the organizational and funding principles necessary for the execution of a Joint Programme between Africa and Europe (AU-EU), uniting national funding agencies and other significant stakeholders in the EU-AU RE research landscape. Consequently, PRE-LEAP-RE served as the essential precursor to LEAP-RE, which will carry forward the implementation of the established AU-EU Joint Programme.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research implementation</li> <li>○ Cooperation in research</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
By aligning research and innovation with sustainable development goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN for the 2015-2030 period which intends to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, the project strengthens partnerships across sectors, enhances local capacity building, and promotes climate resilience. Its focus on joint research initiatives and reducing fragmentation in energy development makes it a model for international cooperation in addressing global challenges. Moreover, it demonstrates the power of cross-continental collaboration for lasting impact on sustainable energy systems.
<b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)
The LEAP-RE initiative emphasizes six thematic priorities that tackle significant challenges in the advancement of renewable energy. These priorities encompass innovations in energy systems, the implementation of smart grids, enhancing energy access, the recycling of renewable energy components, and developing solutions for agricultural productivity and household energy consumption. By concentrating on these specific areas, the initiative aims to promote sustainable energy solutions, mitigate environmental impacts, and enhance economic opportunities, especially within African and European settings.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- University leaders
- Stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society

### Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

The initiative has made significant strides in enhancing renewable energy adoption across Southern Africa, addressing the region's pressing energy challenges, supporting countries in leveraging their renewable energy potential, such as solar and wind, which are abundant in many African nations. These efforts are aimed at increasing energy access, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and fostering economic growth by creating jobs in the renewable energy sector.

All the activities in Southern Africa include comprehensive resource assessments, mapping areas with high potential for solar and wind energy development. Additionally, it has facilitated national and regional energy planning, helping governments incorporate least-cost renewable energy options into their long-term energy strategies.

The impact of the action is notable in countries like Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, where renewable energy projects are gaining traction. These efforts are contributing to a more sustainable and economically viable energy future for Southern Africa, aligning both national development goals and international climate targets.

### Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The LEAP-RE initiative's model can be transferred to other fields like healthcare, education, or sustainable agriculture. Its strategy of reducing fragmentation by aligning existing frameworks and promoting joint capacity-building and research is adaptable to other global or regional cooperation efforts aiming to address complex, multi-dimensional challenges. This approach can enhance innovation, create impactful partnerships, and improve problem-solving across various sectors.

### Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The EU Green Deal promotes a novel growth strategy that strengthens Europe's dedication to the advancement and enhancement of renewable energy sources. Concurrently, the African Union (AU) emphasizes renewable energy as a vital component for the sustainable development of the continent. This focus is central to the AU's Agenda 2063, where renewable energy is identified as a key priority for realizing the first aspiration of the Agenda: "A prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development." Specifically, it aligns with goal 7, which aims for "Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities." However, significant challenges remain before renewable energy can become the predominant power source for both regions. In Africa, for instance, estimates from Oxford University suggest that renewable sources will account for only 10% of the energy mix by 2030 unless urgent measures are implemented.

To this effect, over a period of five years, from 2020 to 2025, the LEAP-RE programme aims to foster a long-term partnership among African and European stakeholders through a quadruple helix model that includes government entities (programme owners and funding agencies), research institutions and academia, the private sector, and civil society. The programme intends to achieve significant impact by developing a comprehensive framework, methodology, and collaborative model. A key objective is to minimize fragmentation by harmonizing current bilateral and multilateral frameworks. LEAP-RE will facilitate the establishment and joint execution of research, innovation, and capacity-building initiatives.

### Contact and references

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