

Concept Note

Driving Sustainable Development through Enhanced Research and Innovation in Northern Nigerian Universities (DSD-ERINNU).

Background

The northern region of Nigeria faces significant socio-economic challenges, including high poverty rates, limited access to quality education, security challenges, and underdeveloped agricultural practices. A consortium of six northern Nigerian universities, coordinated by Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), aims to address these challenges but faces gaps in research capacity, weak innovation frameworks, and minimal global engagement.

Project Objective

The DSD-ERINNU project seeks to transform the consortium into a hub of impactful research and innovation capable of addressing regional developmental challenges. This initiative will focus on policy redesign, capacity building, and the establishment of functional units to foster a vibrant research culture aligned with global best practices and local sustainable development needs.

Key Components

1. Revise research, innovation, and internationalization policies to align with global standards and local needs.
2. Establish key units such as Grant Management, Research Monitoring & Evaluation, Partnership Management, and an Innovation & Technology Transfer Office.
3. Implement digital platforms for proposal tracking, project monitoring, and enhance the online presence.
4. Foster partnerships with institutions for knowledge exchange, mentorship, and joint research initiatives.
5. Conduct targeted workshops on research management, grant writing, and innovation skills for both academic staff and non-academic universities.

Expected Impact

- Enhanced research capacity and policy frameworks.
- Improved research outputs addressing agriculture, energy, health, bioeconomy, peace, and governance challenges in the region and beyond.
- Strengthened international collaborations and visibility.
- Increased efficiency in research fund management and accountability.

Request

We are seeking partner Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from the EU and/or "third countries associated with the Programme" to collaborate with us on this funding proposal under the EU's Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) 2025.

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