

INNOVATION FUND

Valorising Research Results and Innovation in West Africa (VaRRIWA)

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

**PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), France

**PARTNERS**

Agence Béninoise de Valorisation des Résultats de la Recherche et de l'Innovation Technologique (ABeVRIT), Benin

Agence Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique Appliquée (ANRSA), Senegal

Agence Nationale de Valorisation des Résultats de la Recherche et des Innovations (ANVAR), Burkina Faso

Direction de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (DRST), Togo

LOCATION



West Africa:
Benin, Burkina Faso,
Senegal, Togo

PERIOD



February 2021 –
January 2025

TOTAL BUDGET



EUR 4, 942, 231

EU FUNDING



EUR 4, 195, 954

PROJECT CONTACT

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<https://www.auf.org/nouvelles/appels-a-candidatures/appel-propositions-varriwa-valorisation-des-resultats-de-la-recherche-et-de-linnovation-en-afrique-de-louest>



CHALLENGE

The low valorisation of results from academic research and the related low levels of uptake of these results are limiting opportunities for economic development and employment and resulting in a failure to meet market demand in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo.

FOCUS

Links between academia, the public and private sector, and civil society will be strengthened to ensure that the results of research and innovation (R&I) are readily accessible and effectively disseminated, exploited and used. A research ecosystems will be created with actors who are active upstream (identification of R&I needs and development of solutions) as well as downstream (economic exploitation and application of solutions) taking into account national and regional R&I policies.

RATIONALE

Weak national R&I policies, the absence of technology transfer strategies, the fragmentation of research between various public and private institutions with no strategic linkages, and insufficient funds allocated to research and development (R&D) are major handicaps for the valorisation and uptake of R&I solutions (processes, products and services) in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo.

This is aggravated by a lack of knowledge about national R&I policies and technology transfer mechanisms among researchers, weak linkages between policy-makers and academia, and mutual distrust between researchers and innovators.

In other words, there is a serious lack of dynamic synergies between researchers, innovators, other socio-economic actors, civil society and public authorities.

R&I actors will need to learn how to collaborate, apply national and regional R&I policies, develop solutions corresponding to market needs and protect their R&I results.

The integration of public and private R&I actors in this process is important to achieve synergies, to understand each other's needs and to share good practices and a common vision towards achieving sustainable development in the region.

Existing barriers and fears among researchers about data protection need to be overcome to allow them to disseminate their results publicly (e.g., publications), to have their results used in further R&I activities (e.g., commercial exploitation of products and processes, creation of services, standardisation activities), to build partnerships, and to continue developing further knowledge.

The integration of innovators in this process is also important, to ensure that research topics match the needs of consumers and economic actors, but also to gain recognition of the excellence of West African researchers at national, regional and international levels.





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METHOD

VaRRIWA focuses on engaging a wide range of the main R&I actors from the public and private sectors in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo: universities and research centres, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and incubators, civil society organisations (CSOs) and public authorities.

With the involvement of national R&I promotion agencies, VaRRIWA widely disseminates national policies and strategies with a focus on valorising R&I results. It will develop a regional digital platform to coordinate and build synergies between all R&I actors in the region. VaRRIWA is also developing a repository of R&I needs to facilitate greater alignment between R&I supply and market demand.

VaRRIWA provides financial support to projects being implemented by individual organisations or consortia, selected through calls for proposals (see website for details), that focus on the following priorities:

- Develop trainings on the valorisation, dissemination and economic exploitation of R&I results.
- Build a digital regional platform for the valorisation of R&I results.
- Facilitate regional collaboration among R&I actors through networking, exchanging knowledge and creating public-private partnerships.

VaRRIWA provides training to R&I actors on national R&I policies and country-related specificities, as well as on communication strategies.

In addition, VaRRIWA provides support in promoting these topics to the public through mainstream and social media.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Impacts

A conducive environment for technology transfer and sustainable innovation in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo.

Outcomes

- Mechanisms for carrying out R&I activities and protecting, adopting and valorising R&I results effectively applied by researchers and innovators.
- Increased cooperation between researchers and innovators to facilitate the valorisation of R&I results and transfer of technologies.

Outputs

- Researchers and innovators informed on national research policies and related bodies.
- A repository on R&I supply and demand from economic and civil society actors.
- Researchers and innovators trained on research methodologies and the valorisation and economic exploitation of related results.
- A regional platform to strengthen links between researchers and innovators from the public and private sectors.
- Exchanges between researchers and innovators at national and regional level to promote mutual trust, exchange of good practices and technology transfer.
- Researchers and innovators at national and regional level supported in valorising R&I results.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Synergies in the R&I ecosystem (private sector, technology transfer, R&I uptake).

Local and indigenous knowledge.

SECTOR

Sustainable development

KEY WORDS

research, innovation, valorisation, spin-off, multi-stakeholder network, FabLab



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