



Réseau Ouest et Centre Africain de Recherche en Education  
Educational Research Network for West And Central Africa



ERNWACA Research Grants Programme

## Call for proposals

This call for proposals set out the conditions for accessing the seventh edition (**2011**) of ERNWACA Research Grants Programme.

Themes:

- ❖ **Challenges of Higher Education in Africa**
- ❖ **Professional Training in the Formal Sector and the Job Market**

Deadline for submission of interdisciplinary research projects at national level:

**15 March 2011**

Eligibility:

**Junior researchers** (preferably 3 to 4 researchers per team, including women and two doctoral students)

Supported by a **Project Mentor**

**in partnership with an institution** likely to use the research results

Number of grants available: **25**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

During the last 21 years of continued activity (1989-2010), ERNWACA's competencies in education research have clearly contributed to an increase in research activities in its thirteen member countries. Further, seven hundred and fifty six researchers and education specialists have been mobilised. Guided by its new strategic plan (2011-2015), today the network is a key partner for education stakeholders and decision-makers thanks to the quality of research it produces and the role the network plays in the analysis of the challenges facing African education systems.

ERNWACA has been chosen as regional centre of excellence by UEMOA. This award means support for ERNWACA in 2006 - 2008 to help the network achieve its mission of promoting African expertise and instilling a research culture to inform education policies and practices.

In addition to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions funded by UEMOA and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ERNWACA has benefited another grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> editions of the Research Grants Programme.

Thanks to that new support, ERNWACA will finance 25 research projects per year within ERNWACA member countries.

This project aims to allow Junior African researchers to publish their research results in specialised scientific reviews. The programme will also mobilise ERNWACA National Coordinations as well strengthening certain national level partnerships.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME**

### **2.1 Background**

Launched in 2001, the ERNWACA Research Grants Programme enjoyed considerable success. Since 2002, ERNWACA has successfully run six editions of the program.

The First Edition of the grants program, in 2002-3, financed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada and the Academy for Education Development (AED) in the USA mobilized national networks, attracted new members, built research capacity, strengthened relations with national partners, and provided applied research findings.

The Second, Third, and Fourth editions, developed with the funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by UEMOA in 2005-6, 2006-7, 2007-8, 2008-9, 2010-11 built on lessons learned. To date over 537 junior researchers have benefited from this unique learning opportunity and the program has strengthened ERNWACA membership and relations with partners at the national level. ERNWACA has funded 139 interdisciplinary research projects in 16 countries; 35% of whom are women.

The ERNWACA Research Grants Programme mobilises junior researchers and involves them (with guidance from their Project Mentors) in the research process. During the period 2011-2015, the Research Grants Programme will include regional seminars and national meetings to disseminate the research results as well as creating opportunities for publication.

### **2.2 General aim of the programme**

To strengthen the educational research capacities of Junior ERNWACA members and higher education institutions in an ERNWACA member country through the training of doctoral students and the close supervision of interdisciplinary teams of Junior researchers.

### **2.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the ERNWACA Grants Program for Interdisciplinary Education Research are to:

1. Develop individual, national and regional education research capacity by providing interdisciplinary teams of Junior women and men researchers the opportunity for supervised fieldwork, in collaboration with universities and national structures likely to use the findings;
2. Train Junior researchers in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies;
3. Increase quality of ERNWACA research and quantity of publications; and
4. Provide applied and demand driven research findings to national institutions, in accordance with their needs.

#### 2.4. Outputs/expected results (2009-2013)

##### Outputs

- 75 to 100 researchers in 14 to 16 different countries trained per year in interdisciplinary and collaborative research;
- 25 research reports each year, validated at national and regional level and available on line;
- 16 ERNWACA Cafés per year at national level to validate, share, and discuss research finding among members and partners;
- Annual regional training workshop on research methodology and scholarly writing;
- ERNWACA panel to present and discuss research findings every other year at major meetings on the African continent;
- Results from best projects published as articles in the journal, *African Educational Development Issues*.

##### Expected Results

- Identification of and investment in Junior researchers with promising careers in education research;
- Renewed and more vibrant ERNWACA membership, including more women and Junior researchers;
- Reinforced relations with and among institutions of higher learning and research at national level (members' host institutions);
- Development and deepening of regional and international partnerships that strengthen the network and its influence/impact;
- Increased institutional capacity in applied education research and advocacy;
- Greater visibility and demand for research and use of findings by partners in policy-making and in program development and implementation.

### 3. PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

#### 3.1 Eligibility

The programme is aimed at junior education specialists (researchers, teachers, administrators residing in an ERNWACA member country). Interdisciplinary teams will be given preference. **Proposals from teams which include junior researchers and women** (The minimum qualification should be Master and preferably registered in a PhD programme) **are actively encouraged. Membership to the ERNWACA network is required.**

#### 3.2 Selection criteria (see Annex C: Evaluation sheet)

Successful research proposals will need to satisfy the following criteria:

- respond to the need of an organisation (public, private or governmental) active in the education sector
- suggest solutions to the major concerns of education decision makers and practitioners in the country
- be adaptable to the reality of the situation
- list of 3 to 4 new researchers in the ERNWACA Grants programme with 40 as the age limit
- be gender sensitive
- be supported by an experienced researcher
- be likely to lead to the publication of articles in specialised scientific journals

Interdisciplinary studies which involve specialists with diverse backgrounds or comparative studies (multi-country) will be given preference.

### 3.3 Research themes

The research proposals should address at one or more aspects of the following themes and look at the question from a regional perspective even if the data originated from a national context:

- ❖ **Challenges of Higher Education in Africa**
- ❖ **Professional Training in the Formal Sector and the Job Market**

It is vital that research proposals are supported by a review of existing literature including that produced by ERNWACA (see [www.rocare.org](http://www.rocare.org) ) and WAEMU (see [www.uemoa.int](http://www.uemoa.int) ). It goes without saying that research projects must go beyond what is currently known and open new perspectives.

### 3.4 Application procedure

The application must include the following documents:

- Cover page (see Annex B)
- A supporting letter from an organisation (public or private) interested in the theme and results of the research
- Two recommendation letters (one from the Project Mentors, responsible for verifying the scientific quality of the work)
- Authorisation letter from the employer/supervisor of the candidate(s) if possible/necessary
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae of each member of the research team
- Research proposal (max. **8 pages**)

### 3.5 Number of documents to submit

Those interested in participating in the programme should send:

Two hard copies of their application to the ERNWACA National Coordination and an electronic copy in the country of their residence no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

### 3.6 Details of the research proposal

The research proposal must include a detailed presentation of the research project (maximum 8 pages) indicating:

- Justification of the study
- Aim and objectives
- Methodology
- Schedule of work (including validation workshop, submission of final report and dissemination seminar)
- Preliminary plan of final report
- Dissemination strategy of study (vulgarisation of results)
- Working titles for scientific articles and journals they could submitted to
- Detailed budget
- Selected bibliography
- Data collection instruments e.g. questionnaires, guides (as an annex)

### 3.7 Research methodology

The research methodology must include:

- A conceptual framework (or theoretical)
- A description of the data to be used, if not already included in the justification of the study
- A description of the data collection instruments (documentary research, organisation of fieldwork, type of interview, human resources, etc)
- Definition and description of concepts, variables (dependent or independent) and their operationalisation
- Description of method of data analysis and interpretation (including an explanation of how factors influence one another and technique for measuring and calculating indicators)

You may find it helpful to consult *Extracts from the Guide to Qualitative Research*, available from ERNWACA National and Regional Coordination.

It can also be downloaded at <http://www.ernwaca.org/panaf/RQ/en/index.php>

### 3.8 Duration of research and deadlines

The duration of the studies (including submission of the final validated report) must not exceed **15 months** (June 2011 to March 2012 including the months to develop the proposals). For the 2011 edition, the deadline for submitting proposals to National Coordination is **15 March 2011**. No proposals will be considered after this date.

The deadline for submitting the final validated reports to ERNWACA National and Regional Coordination is **January 2012**. After this date, the amount of the final disbursement of funds may be reduced.

### 3.9 Publicity

The terms of reference will be available in each country at ERNWACA National Coordination offices. In some cases, an announcement will be published in the press (see Annex A). Posters will be distributed to universities and higher education institutions, ministries, NGOs and other organisations. The terms of reference will also be made available through the ERNWACA web site at [www.ernwaca.org](http://www.ernwaca.org)

### 3.10 Budget

The budget allocated to each research proposal must not exceed 3 000 000 F CFA. The budget includes administrative fees (13%) for the national chapter of ERNWACA. Furthermore, the sum of 300 000 F CFA will be allocated to the Project Mentor in charge of supervising the team and the research process. It is the responsibility of the research team to identify the mentor before submitting the research proposal.

However, budgets which are lower than 3 000 000 F CFA are encouraged. Furthermore, researchers should list their own resources (computers, photocopiers etc.) and mention any extra funding and contributions in the budget.

<u>Budget lines</u>	Typical use of Research grant
Fieldwork, travel	15 to 40%
Communication/documentation	10 to 25%
Equipment (tape recorder etc.). Software	0 to 25%
Training	5 to 20%
Office supplies, copying/printing	5 to 20%
Support (research assistants/respondents)	0 to 20%

ERNWACA National Coordination Administration Coordination (390 000 F CFA) 13% (Standard rate)

## **NB: Fees for researchers are not acceptable in the context of a capacity building programme**

The contracts between the researchers and the national and Regional Coordination will be presented by the National Coordinator to the researchers only after project modifications suggested by the review committees have been satisfactorily taken into account. The revised project proposal will serve as "terms of reference" for the contract. Once the contracts are signed, funds will be transferred in three different disbursements: 40% advance, 30% after successful completion of the preliminary phase of research (including data collection and analysis) and upon approval of the interim technical and financial report by the National Coordination advance, 30% after validation of the final report by the regional scientific committee

## **4. INSTITUTIONAL FUNCTION**

### **4.1 At national level**

In the spirit of transparency, ERNWACA National Coordination will disseminate the information. It is desirable that a large number of proposals are submitted by teams which include women and that the National Coordination actively encourages and supports this.

The ERNWACA National Coordination will set up an ad hoc selection committee made up of at least 30% women. The Regional Coordination will nominate an individual from an external country to be part of the committee. The committee will pre-select six proposals. The evaluation sheet (see Annex A), as well as the written appreciation will be sent to ERNWACA Regional Coordination no later than the **11 April 2011**; no proposals will be considered after this date.

The committee will also be responsible for verifying the quality of research and validating the final report. National Coordination must send all press articles/media coverage on the research results and its dissemination to Regional Coordination.

### **4.2 At regional level**

ERNWACA Regional Coordination will set up a scientific committee following the specifications set out in Annex C. The committee will make the final selection of the 25 projects to be financed. Regional coordination will inform the countries of their decisions.

### **4.3 Supervision of research**

The mentor will closely follow the progression of the research and communicate with National Coordination. The research team must suggest a mentor who is known in the field being studied and who is capable of bringing his/her expertise and experience to the project.

National Coordination will inform Regional Coordination on the progression of the research according to the timeline.

The researchers and the project mentors of all the countries will be grouped together in an electronic mailing list to exchange regularly beyond the geographical borders on the progress, the questions, the obstacles, the lessons learnt, etc. throughout the process.

### **4.4 Validation of research**

Procedure:

- The committee will organise a workshop to finalise the study. They will examine the research reports and may request that certain aspects be developed or redone before validating the final report. The committee

will then award validation grades which will be communicated to ERNWACA Regional Coordination along with the validated reports before **31st January 2012**.

- ERNWACA Regional Coordination will submit all the research reports and the validation grades to the regional committee for validation. The committee will give its reactions in writing on those reports that may be included in a regional synthesis and disseminated via the ERNWACA web site.

## **5. DISSEMINATION AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION OF RESULTS**

The final reports must have a cover page with the ERNWACA logo (see terms of reference) followed by a one-page executive summary (**5 to 8 paragraphs** on the research question, justification of the study, aim of the study, methodology, results, conclusions and recommendations).

Research teams must include the following information on the cover page of their final reports:

*Research financed by*

***Education Research Network for West and Central Africa (ERNWACA)***

*With project support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the West African and Monetary Union (UEMOA)*

Once the research has been validated, the Regional Coordination will start disseminating the best studies via regional seminars and the ERNWACA web site and possibly through a call for papers/articles for an ERNWACA Journal.

### **5.1 Authors' guide**

When writing the report or the article, please follow the APA style available on <http://www.apastyle.org>

### **5.2 ERNWACA Cafés**

After regional and national validation of the final report and a date has been chosen for an ERNWACA Café (first quarter of 2012 at the very latest), ERNWACA Regional Coordination will allocate each country a budget (**500 000 F CFA** - to cover cost of venue and coffee break) for the organisation of a café to share the research results with a wider target audience. It is hoped that this will stimulate policy dialogue at national level.

If a National Coordination had supervised several projects they can combine the different teams to organise a larger event and where possible involve other National Coordinations.

This could also be the occasion to announce the next edition of the ERNWACA Research Grants Programme.

### **5.3 Travel grants/publications**

Researchers, supported by their National Coordination, can apply for financial support (from the Regional Coordination) to attend international conferences to present the results of their research. The applicant must provide written documentation on the conference and where possible a letter of invitation. The scientific committee must respond to these applications within a month.

NB: Researchers will be able to exchange information and share experiences via a list forum which will be set up after the regional seminar on research methodology and scholarly writing (June 2011)

#### **5.4 Support for publication**

Considering the problems facing the African researcher in getting scientific reports published (e.g. absence of enabling environment), ERNWACA encourages the Project Mentors to work with certain authors over several months, with a view to scientific publication. The relationship would not be dissimilar to that of a doctoral student and his/her supervisor.

The tutors will be competent academics (African or not) with a wealth of experience in research, writing and publication.

#### **6. EVALUATION OF PROJECT**

After each edition, the ERNWACA National and Regional Coordination will invite the researchers, the Project Mentor, partner institutions and the members of the scientific committees to complete an evaluation sheet on their participation in the project.

In 2012, ERNWACA will conduct a study to follow the careers of those researchers who were selected to participate in the ERNWACA Research Grants Programme. The external evaluation should give an indication of how research capacity is reinvested in the region and how research findings stemming from funded projects are exploited.

*We wish you success in developing a proposal in collaboration with ERNWACA National Coordination and a grant for this year or in the future as well as the opportunity to publish quality scientific publications!*

## 7. TIMELINE

### ➤ **Seventh Edition** ERNWACA Grants Program for Interdisciplinary Education Research, 2011-2012

#### *November/December 2010 (preparation)*

- Collection and discussion of the themes from the 16 ERNWACA national offices; selection of the themes by the scientific regional committee; design and print **bilingual brochures** for the call for proposals.

#### **December 2010 – February 2011**

- Selection of Trainers and Thematic resource persons for 2011-2012 Edition

#### **January 15-25, 2011**

- Call for research proposals via brochures through the ERNWACA Web Site and in some cases media;
- Ship of brochures to national offices and in institutes of higher learning and research and other national and regional institutions.

#### **January – March 2011**

- Workshops and meetings with teams at national level to improve the quality of proposals.

#### **March 15, 2011**

- Deadline for proposal submission at the national level with CVs of researchers and support letter from a/ institution interested in using the researching findings and b/ Project Mentor.

#### **April 11, 2011**

- After review by National Scientific Committee members, National Coordinators forward the six best proposals with ranking, comments, and recommendations to regional coordination for secondary review by peer evaluators.

#### **May 16, 2011**

- Announcement of projects to be funded;
- After signature of contracts, first of three grant instalments dispersed.

#### **June 28-30, 2011**

- Regional workshop on Research Methodologies and Scholarly Writing will bring together one researcher from each team with peers, trainers, thematic resource persons, selected national scientific committee members, other network leaders, and partners.

#### **July – December 2011**

- Continued literature review, field research, data analysis, and writing.

#### **September – October 2011**

- Submission of financial reports and supporting documents for 2nd disbursement.

#### **January 10, 2012**

- Research teams submit validated research reports for review by regional thematic resource persons.

#### **January – February 2012**

- Ernwaca Cafés organized at national level and covered by the press to stimulate discussion around research findings and encourage Junior researches to prepare proposals for the subsequent edition.

#### **March 2012**

- ERNWACA regional office makes final research reports available online from its Virtual Library as part of a Working Paper series;
- Teams submit articles for possible publication in the ERNWACA journal, *African Educational Development Issues*;
- Panels are prepared to present findings from best projects at major regional conferences.

- The **Eight Edition**, 2012-2013, of the Grants Program will begin in January 2012  
**Annex A: Press announcement**



**ERNWACA Research Grants Program**  
2011 Competition

*Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 March 2011*



The **Educational Research Network for West and Central Africa (ERNWACA)\*** invites education specialists (researchers, teachers/professors, education administrators, etc.) residing in Mali, especially Junior researchers, to inquire. Proposals from women candidates are strongly encouraged.

All those who are interested are invited to attend the national workshop on research project development and writing at l'Institut Supérieur de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (ISFRA) annexe, that will take place on.....at Badalabougou.

Thanks the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ERNWACA will finance 25 research projects capable of positively impacting the evolution of educational policies and practices in the region. The call for proposals are available at national coordination of ROCARE Mali at *ISFRA annexe, Badalabougou, tél. 20 22 82 17, [mali@rocare.org](mailto:mali@rocare.org)* and on the Web site at [www.rocare.org](http://www.rocare.org)

\* Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Annex B: Cover page to be completed for each proposal submitted

### 2011 ERNWACA Research Grants Programme

Country of residence:

Project title:

Research team:

Family name and first name	Institution	Status (E.g. doctoral student etc.)	E-mail	Sex (F or M)	Age	Annual ERNWACA fees paid?		CV submitted?	
						YES	NO	YES	NO
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

Indicate whether the following elements have been submitted and provide information on the Project Mentor and supporting letters.

**Project Mentor** (name and institution):

Supporting letter from the Project Mentor

Other letters of recommendation (From whom? Specify):

Letter from the institution interested by the research results (name the institution(s)):

Letter(s) from the host **institution(s) of the researchers authorising them to participate in the research:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Suggestions for titles of scientific articles based on the data and research

Lists of scientific reviews to which the researchers could submit their articles

Please submit 2 copies of this document correctly completed with 2 copies (Hard and electronic) of the research proposal to ERNWACA National Coordination before **15 March 2011**.

## **Annex C: Responsibilities of National and Regional Scientific Committees**

### **Composition**

Each committee will have 3 to 5 members (minimum 30% women) specialised in social sectors and/or research. One person must represent an appropriate government of the member country. The Regional Coordination may nominate a person from another country to each national committee.

### **Obligations**

- Select or pre-select studies to finance;
- Aid the Project Mentor and the coordinators to supervise and follow up on research; and
- Scientifically validate the results.

### **Procedure**

**The national committee will meet twice: first to select the studies to finance and second to validate the research.** Between the meetings, communication will take place via e-mail, phone etc. The regional committee may choose to work exclusively by e-mail.

The secretariat of the two committees will be assured by ERNWACA Regional/National Coordination.

## Annex D: Evaluation sheet for research proposals

For the attention of ERNWACA regional and national committees

**This form must accompany each proposal submitted by a National Coordination (max. 6) for regional review (deadline = 11 April 2011).**

Please share this form with those teams who proposals were not accepted to allow them to learn from the evaluation process and to improve on subsequent submissions.

<b>Country:</b>  <b>Title of study:</b>  <b>Researchers:</b>
--

	Maximum Score	Score
<b>1. Justification of study</b>		
• Pertinence of the research question (scientific interest/practices/policies)	3	_____
• Selective literature review	2	_____
• Originality	2	_____
• Clarity of objectives	3	_____
Sub-total =	<b>10 points</b>	_____
<b>2. Methodology</b>		
• Conceptual framework	2	_____
• Reliability of data	3	_____
• Analytical approach	3	_____
• Plan of report	2	_____
Sub-total =	<b>10 points</b>	_____
<b>3. Feasibility and potential impact on policies and practices</b>		
• Timeline	1	_____
• Feasibility of budget	2	_____
• Qualifications of researchers	2	_____
• Quality of scientific recommendations	2	_____
• Quality of the recommendations of the users of the research results	2	_____
• Bibliography	2	_____
• Dissemination strategy	2	_____
• Likely to result in the publication of one or more scientific articles	2	_____
Sub-total =	<b>15 points</b>	_____
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>35 points</b>	_____

Observations:
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Members (3 to 6) of evaluation committee (name, title, institution):
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Date: