



Introduction

Loughborough University is acting as the UK funder for the LEAP-RE programme. Funding has been allocated as part of the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme for the specific development of technology and uptake of clean cooking.

MECS is a five-year FCDO funded programme established to facilitate the uptake of clean cooking methods and address the issue of access to electricity; two sectors that are often addressed separately but which MECS aims to bring closer together.

This £40 million programme includes a £7 million Challenge Fund to increase uptake and raise awareness of the role of clean cooking in developing contexts. The funding for LEAP-RE has been redirected from this activity, hence the need for any projects from UK partners to be clearly focussed on cooking.

There are two options for funding:

1. **LU funding for Cooking Projects Only**
2. **Common Pot funding for African Partners with no Agency via LU**

1. LU funding for Cooking Projects Only

LU funding is only for cooking projects. It is able to support UK partners and African countries that do not have a contributing agency. The focus countries are FCDO funded but also have a MECS focus. These countries include Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia. In addition, a consortium must also include a UK and additional EU partner, as well as a supported African partner (these include Algeria, Egypt, Togo, South Africa and Morocco).

Eligible entities: HEIs and other research organizations, NGOs, international organizations, government institutions, companies of all sizes, businesses including micro, small and medium sized enterprises. Please note there are maximum limits on funding allocations for LU funding depending on organisation size and type. The table at the end of this document highlights this.

Specifications: Research projects must lead to enabling a safe and efficient modern energy cooking services/systems.

Eligible topics: Any project with a strong clean cooking focus as outlined in MAR 6. However, applications under all other MARS that significantly address modern energy cooking (e.g. via supporting electric cooking on mini-grids) will be considered.

Eligible type of research and TRL: Industrial and applied research (TRL- 6+). As funding is being directed from FCDO funding for the MECS project, projects that are at scale and outreach activities will be supported. We will consider applications that make a strong business case as to why more fundamental/earlier stage research is necessary addressing key aspects of the identified challenges.



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LEAP-RE

Additional eligibility criteria: MECS will only fund projects based in countries from FDCO supported countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt (Arab Republic of), Eritrea, **Ethiopia**, **Gambia**, **Ghana**, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, **Kenya**, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, **Malawi**, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, **Nigeria**, **Rwanda**, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, **Tanzania (United Republic of)**, Togo, **Uganda**, **Zambia** and Zimbabwe. (Countries in **Bold** are LU focus countries for their MECS research and the source of LU's LEAP-RE funding)

- Only modern energy cooking projects will be funded (this **precludes all biomass** cooking but includes LPG, electric, biogas, ethanol, solar thermal etc.)
- Successful projects will demonstrate equal partnership between African and EU consortium members.
- Applicants from outside Pillar 1 organisations and countries are strongly encouraged to apply.
- MECS will avoid double funding, and will not finance projects, or parts of projects, which have already received funding through other calls.
- Projects **MUST** complete by June 2023, therefore a maximum of 18 months is anticipated for a November 2021 contract signing.
- The budget requested for the final payment cannot exceed 30% of the total budget (payment is subject to progress report approval).
- All payments will be made on the validation of a 6-monthly progress and final report (this can be subject to change to accommodate disbursement payments)
- It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure their project complies with European Union State Aid law. We are unable to provide any advice on State Aid to applicants. Should any awarded project be found to have contravened State Aid Legislation that project will be terminated immediately, and we may be obliged to recover some or all of the grant funding.
- Applicants progressing to the full proposal stage will need to submit full Due Diligence documentation. LU will forward this form to you once your full proposal has been requested by LEAP RE. Please note project applicants must pass the Due Diligence process to be approved for funding.

Eligible costs

- Personnel costs – these should include overhead rates
- Operational costs for the project duration only
- Materials costs
- Investment costs – If your project is likely to need these kind of costs, they must be preapproved by our team.
- Subcontracting
- Travel costs – must not exceed one third (1/3) of the grant application and any flights must be standard economy class (as dictated by FCDO)



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- We consider grants funded under this call to be outside the scope of VAT and therefore sales VAT should not be included within any funding request.

Maximum amount of requested funding: Euro 500,000

Additional information: MECS has a standard Grant Disbursement Agreement and UKAid Accountable Grant Agreement which will be used for contracting successful projects. Projects that go through to full proposal stage will be sent this contract for review.

b) Funding rates: Maximum funding percentages:

Type of research	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Academia, associations Without economic activities, public authorities *
Fundamental research	No	No	No	No
Basic research	No	No	No	No
Industrial/Applied Research	20%	30%	70%	100%
Experimental development	20%	30%	70%	100%

FAQs:

1. Will LU fund a non-participating African partner?
Yes, but the project must have a strong clean cooking focus. Clean cooking includes LPG, electric, biogas, ethanol, solar thermal etc. Any biomass cooking is out of scope. Partners from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania are encouraged.
2. Can universities from non-contributing African countries receive funding?
Yes, any organisation can apply but the amount of funding available varies on size and type (see funding rate table above)
3. Can a university from a non-contributing country participate in the above mentioned “Topic 6”?
Yes, if they fulfil the other criteria of having two EU partners and at least one African partner from a funded country. Alternatively, you can participate if you can demonstrate you bring your own funding.
4. Are the following types of research funded: “basic research”?



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LEAP-RE

LU funding will not support basic or applied research. The source of funding, FCDO via MECS, is to encourage uptake of clean cooking. LU funded projects must be TRL6+.

5. What are the additional eligibility criteria?
Only modern energy cooking projects will be funded (this precludes any biomass cooking but includes LPG, electric, biogas, ethanol, solar thermal etc.)
Preference will be given to any of the LU focus countries (Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda)
6. We have put together a team of researchers from two UK universities as EU partners and African partners from non-contributing countries. Would you consider this team eligible to receive funding within this call?
This team would not be eligible as the rules for LEAP-RE require applications from consortium with at least four partners, two different European and two different African, and at least one partner from the consortium from each continent must be from a country participating in the call.
7. Where a partner of the consortium is from an African country without a funding agency participating in the call, how would they receive the funding?
MAR 6 projects will have funding direct from LU.
8. Who is the contact for the African partners without a contributing organisation with regards to the funding?
Jane Spencer or Ed Brown from LU or the Joint Call Secretariat (pilier1@leap-re.eu)
9. Does the partner from an African country without a funding organisation have to contact anyone to discuss the funding possibilities?
They should call the Joint Call Secretariat (pilier1@leap-re.eu) prior to submission
10. What are the eligible costs (e.g. Personnel costs, investment costs, overhead costs, travel costs etc.)?
Please view the costs previously noted in eligibility criteria above.
11. Does a partner that's does not require funding submit the same documents (i.e. CV and statement of commitment) as all other participating partners via the LEAP submission platform?
All consortium partners submit the same documents. Non-funded partners must also submit a Declaration of Own Funding (Form C).
12. What is the allowed project duration (minimum and maximum months)?
All MAR 6 projects funded by LU must be complete by June 2023 and therefore have a maximum duration of 18 months (assuming contract signing is November 2021). LU funding comes from a programme that completes in September 2023 so reporting must be complete by this date.



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13. Can a partner from a non-contributing country request shipping costs for a device sent from one partner to themselves, i.e. Germany to Tunisia?
LU would deem this as an operations cost so this would be eligible.
14. Can a non-funder EU partner be part of the consortium?
Yes but they would need to demonstrate that they bring their own funding into the programme.
15. Do you have any further important information?
Loughborough is participating in LEAP-RE through our Modern Energy Cooking Services programme (<http://mecs.org.uk>) which is a UK-funded research programme focusing on alternatives to biomass cooking and access to energy.

2. Common Pot funding for African Partners with no Agency via LU

LU is able to support, via the LEAP-RE Common Pot, applications under any MAR that has an African partner without funding agency within LEAP-RE. These projects do not need to include any element of cooking to be eligible for funding but the final decision on supported applications will be made by the Joint Call Secretariat, based on indicative scores from the International Review Panel.

Eligible entities: This call for proposals is aimed at all actors in the renewable energy value chain (including universities, research institutes, companies, private sector, NGOs and public authorities that can contribute to the objectives of LEAP-RE).

Eligible topics: Any project under MAR 1-5 inclusive, and MAR 6 not eligible to LU funding for Cooking Projects Only (for example under TRL 6 or more than 18 months).

Eligible type of research and TRL: Industrial and applied research (TRL- 4+).

Additional eligibility criteria:

- Any African organisation without a LEAP-RE Agency.
- Project duration no longer than 2.5 years (30 months)
- Start date no later than 1st February 2022 (Completion no later than July 2024)
 - The budget requested for the final payment cannot exceed 30% of the total budget (payment is subject to progress report approval).
 - All payments will be made on the validation of a 6-monthly progress and final report (this can be subject to change to accommodate disbursement payments)

Eligible costs

- Personnel costs – these should include overhead rates
- Operational costs for the project duration only
- Materials costs
- Investment costs – If your project is likely to need these kind of costs, they must be preapproved by our team.
- Subcontracting



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- Travel costs – must not exceed one third (1/3) of the grant application and any flights must be standard economy class (as dictated by FCDO)
- We consider grants funded under this call to be outside the scope of VAT and therefore sales VAT should not be included within any funding request.

Eligible costs -

Maximum funding: 300,000 Euro per partner

Type of research	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Academia, associations without economic activities, public authorities *
Fundamental research	No	No	No	No
Basic research	No	No	No	No
Industrial/Applied Research	20%	30%	70%	100%
Experimental development	20%	30%	70%	100%

FAQs:

1. Will LU fund a non-participating African partner?
Yes. They can contract any partner from any African country for non-cooking related projects or project not eligible for LU funding for Cooking Projects Only (for example under TRL 6).
2. Can universities from non-contributing African countries receive funding?
Yes
3. Are the following types of research funded: “basic research” and “applied research”?
No, funding will not support basic research, but will fund applied research. Applications must be TRL4 or above (laboratory testing of prototypes and above)
4. What are the additional eligibility criteria?
Please see the additional criteria above.



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LEAP-RE

5. We have put together a team of researchers from two UK universities as EU partners and African partners from non-contributing countries. Would you consider this team eligible to receive funding within this call?

This team would not be eligible as the rules for LEAP-RE require applications from consortium with at least four partners, two European and two African, and at least one partner from the consortium from each continent must be from a country participating in the call.

6. Where a partner of the consortium is from an African country without a funding agency participating in the call, how would they receive the funding?

Only one organisation is able to fund these types of partner, LU. A contract will be signed between the funder and applicant and funding distributed through the funder directly to the partner.

7. Who is the contact for the African partners without a contributing organisation with regards to the funding?

The Joint Call Secretariat (pilier1@leap-re.eu)

8. Does the partner from an African country without a funding organisation have to contact anyone to discuss the funding possibilities?

They should call the Joint Call Secretariat (pilier1@leap-re.eu) prior to submission

9. What are the eligible costs (e.g. Personnel costs, investment costs, overhead costs, travel costs etc.)?

Please view the costs previously noted.

10. Does a non-funded country partner submit the same documents (i.e. CV and statement of commitment) as all other participating partners via the LEAP submission platform?

All consortium partners submit the same documents.

11. What is the allowed project duration (minimum and maximum months)?

Applicants without a funding agency have a maximum duration of 30 months. They must start by 1st February 2022 and must be complete by July 2024

