

BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance

Call for Research Proposal 2023-2024

Background

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is imperative in supporting socioeconomic development, especially in promoting post-pandemic economic recovery, increasing employment rate, coping with complex structural challenges in the labor market, and providing sufficient qualified technical and skilled professionals. The BRICS countries' high contribution to the world economy is inseparable from their solid and stable TVET supply. Strengthening exchanges and cooperation in TVET will lead to advancement of the sub-sector as well as stronger human resource provision for the rapid development of emerging market countries, which highly meet the common development needs of the BRICS mechanism.

It is highlighted in the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA) Charter (ARTICLE 7 Enhancing Research Collaboration) that BRICS-TCA is committed to enhancing research collaboration, encouraging joint research and academic collaboration that will contribute to improved TVET relevance, increased skills development and employability, and a better match between labor force and labor market.

For 2023-2024, BRICS-TCA now calls for research proposals and encourages member institutions to conduct joint research projects focusing on issues of shared interest and mobilize active participation of various researchers and partners. We believe research could support the development of BRICS-TCA and provide theoretical and practical insights for TVET policymakers, institutions and industry players in BRICS countries.

Eligibility for submission of proposals

- Applicants should apply as a transnational research project partnership. All projects are required to partner with BRICS-TCA member institution(s) or non-member institutions, organizations, research institutes and enterprises from the BRICS countries, including appropriate stakeholders to reflect the participatory, co-developed nature of the project.
- Project teams will be composed of principal applicant(s) and co-applicants. Principal applicant(s) share responsibility for directing the project and coordinating proposed research activities, in addition to participating in the execution of the research project; co-applicants contribute to executing the research project. Applicants should preferably have a solid foundation of international cooperation and strong research capabilities. On principle, each team should have at least 6 members.
- Only individuals from BRICS-TCA member institutions are all eligible for being

principal applicant(s).

- The principal applicant(s) must partner with at least one entity from at least one different BRICS country (a team representing 3-5 BRICS countries would be more encouraged).
- To foster the participation of many, and to ensure that teams have enough time to dedicate to the project, individuals may participate as a principal applicant on only one application.

※ **Changes to members of project teams**

Changes to the members of project teams should be avoided. In exceptional cases where replacing a member is justified, the principal applicant(s) shall inform the Secretariat of BRICS-TCA.

Research Themes

This call accepts research themes in four wide-ranging areas, welcome any proposals addressing the themes listed below. Research topics should be forward-looking and innovative. Research topics include but not limited to examples given below:

- **THEME 1: TVET macro governance**
 - Comparative study of the development plan and policies of TVET sectors in BRICS countries
 - Institutional design and promotion strategy of industry-education integration in BRICS countries
 - Comparative study of the development of modern TVET systems in BRICS countries
- **THEME 2: Skilled personnel training**
 - Development of apprenticeship programs
 - Integration of talent training systems
 - Education quality improvement
 - Integration of green skills into talent training
- **THEME 3: TVET digital transformation**
 - National and regional strategies of TVET digital transformation
 - Mechanism and strategy of implementing digital transformation in TVET institutions
 - Development of digital learning resources
 - Path to improve the digital competency for teachers in TVET institutions
- **THEME 4: TVET international cooperation**

- Management of transnational/cross-border joint TVET programs/institutes
- Training of high-skilled and globally-minded professionals
- Strategies for improving the global awareness & competence of faculty
- Quality control and performance evaluation of international cooperation projects

Duration

All projects should be designed to be completed within one year.

Proposal Review

Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis. All proposals will be submitted and reviewed by panels of peer reviewers against following criteria:

- Importance and relevance of the research questions/objectives to BRICS-TCA and their alignment with the focus of this call for proposals; research must attempt to gather outcome (qualitative and/or quantitative) and proper evidence;
- Outcome and contribution to the body of knowledge and practices in the field of the proposed research;
- Theoretical framework;
- Consistency in the research design and methodology;
- Feasibility and suitability of the action plan, which must include the expected timeline and deadlines for the completion of the research study.
- Qualifications of the principal applicant(s) and other people involved in the research;
- Appropriateness of budget requirements for the research;
- Work shared among the partners, including the roles of project team members and their expected contributions.

Reviewers are charged with safeguarding the confidentiality of proposals and are asked not to copy, quote, or otherwise use material from any proposal.

Financial Support

A maximum of 5 projects will be funded for the period 2023-2024. Individual research projects will be funded for up to a maximum of USD 3,000, which will be transferred after the approval of the proposals.

Important Dates

To apply, teams should submit a full application **by 10 October 2023**.

All applications should be written in English. The principal applicant(s) shall send the fulfilled and signed Application (annex) and any relevant supporting materials in

scanned and electronic form to **BRICS-TCA@ceaie.edu.cn**.

The application, mid-term and final reports are to be submitted by the following deadlines:

- Submission of application: 10 October 2023
- Notification of successful applicants: 30 November 2023
- Midterm report: 31 May 2024
- Final report: 30 November 2024

While extensions are generally not allowed, there may be exceptional circumstances where an extension could be granted.

We encourage diversity but remind applicants to submit reports that demonstrate academic rigor, innovative ideas, and concrete results. Final research report must have a word count of 10,000 or more. Research theses or monographs, if published, must clearly state its affiliation with BRICS-TCA.

Looking forward to your proposal

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact

BRICS-TCA@ceaie.edu.cn

BRICS-TCA Secretariat and Acting Secretariat:

China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)

and Ningbo Polytechnic, China

—————

ABOUT BRICS-TCA

The BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA) was founded with the guidance and support of BRICS countries' vocational education policymakers in the BRICS China Year 2022. It was jointly initiated by China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), National Council of the Federal Network of Vocational, Scientific and Technological Education Institutions of Brazil, Federal Institute for the Development of Vocational Education and Training of Russian Federation, Directorate General of Training and National Skill Development Corporation of India, and South Africa's College Principals Organisation.

Following the principles of equality, mutual benefits, cooperation and win-win cooperation, the BRICS-TCA is dedicated to developing a multilateral platform for sharing information and best practices, catalyzing substantial collaboration, and endeavoring to empower labor force, increasing employability and improving quantity and quality of TVET provision in BRICS countries.