



The Role of Collective Leadership for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals- MENA-SLP workshop

Call for applicants 2021

Background

It is becoming increasingly evident that the training of many young scientists features little focus on soft skills development and leadership development within their respective fields. It is imperative to prepare the next generation of scientists for the complexities that inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches to science entail. There is an internationally emerging paradigm that recognizes that the focus on individual leadership is often inadequate to address complex challenges, and that instead a collaborative leadership approach is more appropriate. This, however, requires skills across many sectors and collaborative processes. The MENA-SLP workshop will therefore focus on developing soft skills and collective leadership strategies in the context of promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to increase level of awareness and acceptance for SDGs. As young scientists play an essential role in ensuring and achieving the SDGs in regarding to collective leadership, we will have a general discussion of the SDGs and how leadership initiatives can be aligned to addressing the SDGs for the good of the MENA (Middle East/North Africa) region.

Workshop Overview

The MENA-SLP workshop is a joint initiative of the Africa Science Leadership Programme (ASLP) in collaboration with the Egyptian Young Academy of Sciences (EYAS) and is aimed at developing excellent early to mid-career academics located in the MENA region in the areas of thought leadership, team management and research development, with the intention of enabling them to solve the complex issues facing both the MENA region and the global community.

The ASLP <https://www.futureafrica.science/index.php/programmes/aslp> is part of the Future Africa initiative led by the University of Pretoria in partnership with the Global Young Academy, <https://globalyoungacademy.net/> and has been running for the last seven years in South Africa. In a bid to expand the ASLP to the different regions of Africa, the ASLP has partnered with the Egyptian Young Academy of Sciences (EYAS) to run the first MENA Science Leadership workshop (MENA-SLP) for early career researchers in the region.

The current edition of MENA-SLP workshop is intended to spread the initiative across Africa to reach the many talented individuals within the MENA region who will tremendously benefit from this programme.

The programme aims to creating a lasting network of science leaders on the MENA region, spanning not only across countries, but also across disciplinary boundaries.



The leadership programme:

- Identifies early- to mid-career academics who have demonstrated leadership potential and an interest in developing key leadership skills
- Creates a network of academic leaders within the MENA region spanning not only across countries, but also across disciplinary boundaries
- Advances a curriculum for academic leadership development, which can be utilised in institutions in MENA region and beyond
- Provide training to implement SDGs solutions
- Develop cross-sectoral communication as impactful guide for the SDGs response in academia

Programme Structure

The programme will use a highly interactive approach to training, application of skills to a leadership initiative, peer support, and mentorship. Fellows will attend a 3-day, intensive online program from **September 6-8, 2021**. The process will involve an approach that cycles between theory, application, and reflection. Participants will be challenged to work collaboratively to design initiatives that advance a new paradigm for African and Middle Eastern science.

The training will cover:

- Core elements of collective leadership
- Creative and systems thinking; Effective problem solving and decision making
- Maximising the efficiency and impact of collaborative efforts
- Advanced dialogue and communication skills
- Soft skills development

Expected commitment

The MENA-SLP workshop is inviting applicants who are committed to developing leadership in MENA region. The training itself requires the time commitment of the 3 days online training sessions. Furthermore, fellows will be expected to develop a leadership initiative and engage with other fellows for peer support.

Selection criteria and application process

To be selected, applicants need to display a compelling vision of their future involvement in the development of research projects, programmes, human capacity, specific policies, or societal structures. The selection process will consider individual qualities but also focus on ensuring a diversity of culture, subject background (Natural and Social Sciences, and Humanities) and gender among the fellows. Where possible the programme will also attempt to create small 'cores' of leadership; multiple strong applicants from the same centre or country will thus be considered.



The following criteria are used as a guide for the nomination and selection of fellows:

- A PhD degree or equivalent qualification
- A faculty or a continuing academic position at a research and/or teaching institution
- Active in research and/or teaching at an institution of higher education or research belonging to the MENA region (**Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, , Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen**)
- A sustained record of outstanding scientific outputs
- Interest in translating and communicating the results of their work for impact in society
- Demonstrated leadership ability in research and beyond
- Interest in the role of research in addressing complex issues affecting the society
- Interest in collaborations across disciplines and sectors (e.g. industry, government)
- Commitment to participate in all the activities of the fellowship
- Intent to share what is learned in the programme with their broader networks.

All applicants must provide one letter of support by an academic referee (details are provided in the application form).

All applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by representatives of the organizing committee and will make the final selection of candidates.

Key dates:

- July 1– July 25, 2021 - Call opens
- August 15, 2021 - Successful applicants informed of decision
- September 6, 2021 - Start of the Workshop