



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**RETHINK THE SYSTEM
RE:innovation**

**Grants for Regional Innovation Projects
Call Identifier SAIS 2020/3**

The Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme (SAIS 2) Innovation fund is inviting project proposals for funding through the RE:innovation challenge competition. RE:innovation is a challenge inspired by recent events. Sudden shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2007/2008 Financial Crisis and their resulting fallouts have shown how vulnerable entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems can be to previously unforeseen events. For example, we are currently seeing how the pandemic is interrupting the operation of ecosystems supporting innovators and entrepreneurs while harming the enterprises being supported. These shocks can be particularly harmful for ecosystem subsets that are new and complex, and comprise organisations with competing interests, such as startup ecosystems¹. For the RE:innovation challenge, SAIS 2 is calling for scalable solutions that can improve startup ecosystems’ resilience against uncertainties and unexpected occurrences. A resilient ecosystem can adjust to external and internal influences and continue operating without halting activities or reorganise without losing its underlying function. Resilience is critical for ecosystems to make rapid recoveries to negative events, but it is also the key enabling factor to ecosystems’ development and growth.

For further guidance, please refer to the SAIS 2 Innovation Fund Guide for Applicants on the SAIS 2 website (www.saisprogramme.org), or get a local assistance from www.costech.or.tz.

Challenge Competition Indicative Timeline

Date of Issue: 26th August 2020
Closing Date: 27th September 2020, at 23.59 CAT
Completion of evaluation and contracting of the Project: September /October 2020
Start of the project: October 2020
Closing of the projects and grant Agreement: 30th March 2021.

¹ For SAIS 2, the term **start up ecosystem** refers to clusters and networks of entrepreneurs, innovators, firms, universities, research labs, government agencies, and other institutions as well as the resources they bring to support startups and early stage entrepreneurs.

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