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**Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO)****AU Office – Niamey****P.o Box. : 878 Niamey (Niger) - Telephone : (00227) 20 73 54 14 - Fax : (00227) 20 73 36 54****E-mail : [celhto@africa-union.org](mailto:celhto@africa-union.org) –Web Site: [www.celhto.org](http://www.celhto.org)**

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**ORAL SOURCES COLLECTION PROGRAM****CALL FOR SMALL GRANTS APPLICATION (2020 EDITION).**

The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO), a specialized office of the African Union Commission based in Niamey, Niger, is pleased to announce the launch of the third edition of its Small Grants Program for the oral sources collection (2020 edition).

**1. PRESENTATION OF THE CELHTO***Background*

The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies through Oral Tradition (CELHTO) is a specialized office of the African Union based in Niamey, Niger, created in 1968. It should be noted that the idea of creating this centre dates back to 1964 when, at the call of the newly independent African countries, UNESCO adopted, at its fourteenth session, the project of writing a General History of Africa (GHA). The project aimed to produce and promote Africa history, from African perspective. The GHA should thus contribute to shedding scientific light on the true history of the African peoples and their contributions to the general progress of humanity. In 1966, the UNESCO International Scientific Committee in charge of the project, after identifying the written, archaeological and oral sources, recommended that the UNESCO "*keep the highest priority of assistance for collection, conservation and use of oral tradition data and the establishment of documentation centres for the oral tradition in Africa*". Thus was established the Centre for Research and Documentation for Oral Tradition (CRDTO) in Niamey in 1968. A few years later, precisely in 1974, the Niamey CRDTO was integrated into the organization chart of the Organization of African

Unity under the name Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO). Today, the centre is considered to be the reference institution for the collection and exploitation of oral tradition data in Africa. From its inception, a clear mandate has been assigned to the Centre.

### ***Mandate***

CELHTO's mandate is to work towards the recovery of the continent's autonomy in respect to external cultural visions by affirming a cultural identity that promotes the integration and development of the continent. Moreover, this mandate, in order to be operational, has been broken down into objectives.

### ***Objectives***

- ✓ Contribute to the spreading of the influence of African cultures by valuing oral traditions;
- ✓ Work in order to rebuild the memory and historical awareness of Africa and its diaspora;
- ✓ Support the development of an engineering of African cultures;
- ✓ Support the promotion of African cultural industries;
- ✓ Research and implement specifically African strategies for conflict prevention and resolution, social peacekeeping and political stability;
- ✓ Support popular approaches to economic, political and socio-cultural integration of the African continent;
- ✓ Research the values, principles and practices leading to a true Pan-African renaissance;
- ✓ Undertake linguistic, historical and sociological studies on African communities;
- ✓ Produce, save and preserve all audio, written, photographic and audio-visual reference documents in oral traditions;
- ✓ Develop exchange programs with the diaspora.

## **2. GRANT PRESENTATION**

With a value of 1 700 US \$ for PhD and 850 US \$ for Master's degree, this grant will be spread over two years and will not finance trips abroad.

Once selected, the candidates will sign a grant agreement with CELHTO specifying the terms and conditions.

### 3. PURPOSE OF THE GRANTS

The purpose of these grants is to enable Master's or PhD students to carry out field research as part of their research. In this perspective, the successful candidates will have to use the grant obtained to finance the field research and the processing of the data collected.

### 4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

This program is for African students currently enrolled in a Master's or PhD program in the field of Arts, Languages and the Arts and, on the other hand, to the Humanities and Social Sciences or any other discipline that involves the collection of oral traditions.

The application should be either in French or in English.

The application will include:

- **The completed form;**
- **A statement of institutional support:** The candidate must provide a certificate of institutional affiliation of the institution to which he is registered and who is approving the proposed research and giving the assurance of his institutional support throughout the duration of the preparation of the thesis. This certificate must be made on a letterhead of the institution and bear their official stamp. The contact information of the person issuing the certificate must be included. This person will be contacted by the CELHTO if necessary. Certificates of registration are not accepted as certificates of institutional support.
- **Two different reference letters**, one from the dissertation supervisor and the other from a faculty scientific member. Their contact details must be included in the letters.
- **A Curriculum Vitae:** Candidates should also provide an updated Curriculum Vitae which will indicate their area of study and nationality and will provide a list of their recent publications and ongoing research activities in which they are involved. Masters candidates must be at most 25 years old and doctoral candidates 30 years old. Only applicants with a researcher profile will be accepted.

**5. APPLICATION DEADLINE:** The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2020. The results will be communicated to applicants on May 20 and will also be published on the CELHTO website.

**Applications that are incomplete or received after the closing date will not be considered.**

All applications (or any other questions) should be sent to the following address:  
[celhto@africa-union.org](mailto:celhto@africa-union.org)

All applicants must use the form provided with this announcement. The application form as well as the results can be downloaded from the CELHTO website ([www.celhto.org](http://www.celhto.org)).