

Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

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[Delegation of the European Union to the African Union]



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New initiative on Africa-EU research on food security initiated by HLPD

28-29 November 2013 – Brussels: The Africa-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation was established at the 3rd Africa-EU Summit in 2010 to create a framework for enhanced coordination of scientific and technological cooperation. It takes place at the level of senior officials from the EU and AU and their member countries' ministries. A first meeting took place in Addis Ababa in November 2011 and the second in Brussels in November.

The main decision resulting from the HLPD was to initiate a new initiative to jointly fund a research and innovation partnership to promote food and nutrition security (see link for details). Indeed the first calls of the new Horizon 2020 programme will provide support for this decision as the focus areas include sustainably enhancing the agro-food chain, the contribution of family farms and smallholder farms, and water management issues for sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security.

Press release: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2013&na=na-291113>

European Union launches Horizon 2020 with €15 billion over first two years

11 December 2013 – Brussels: The European Commission published its first calls for projects under Horizon 2020, the European Union's new €80 billion research and innovation programme for 2014-20. The calls are worth over €15 billion over the first two. All areas are open to international collaboration, including with African researchers. The details of the calls are available online on the Participant portal.

Press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1232_en.htm

Memo on Horizon 2020: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-1085_en.htm

Participant portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en>

Horizon 2020 information workshops in Africa

After the following events:

South Africa – 7 October 2013
Ghana – 4 November 2013
Burkina Faso – 6 November 2013
Ethiopia – 5 December 2013
Cameroon – 11 December 2013
Nigeria – 12-13 December

New events are planned:

Tanzania – 20 January 2014
Kenya – 21 January 2014 (TBC)
Uganda – 22 January 2014
Malawi – 24 January 2014
South Africa – 27-31 January 2014
Egypt (for the Med region) – 9 February 2014*
(* www.euromedh2020.com)

Information on Horizon 2020 workshops: www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=horizon2020ws
or www.caast-net-plus.org/object/event/list

ERC presented at Annual Meeting of African Science Academies

11 November 2013 – Addis Ababa: The Secretary General of the European Research Council (ERC), Professor Donal Dingwell presented the EU's elite programme for basic research at the Annual Meeting of the African Science Academies, where he encouraged the participation of African researchers. The budget for ERC grants in Horizon 2020 will almost double compared to the previous programme.

ERC website: <http://erc.europa.eu>

African ICT week

2-6 December 2013 – Addis Ababa: African ICT week was also organised as part of the OAU/AU 50th anniversary celebrations, with the theme "*Promoting Pan-Africanism, African Renaissance through ICT towards AU 2063 Vision*". The programme included discussions on internet governance and a focus on African-EU collaboration through the 2013 Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT (an FP7 project).

Associated with ICT week were also IST-Africa workshops on Horizon 2020 and on Living Labs.

African ICT week: <http://pages.au.int/infosoc/aictw>

EuroAfrica ICT: <http://euroafrica-ict.org/events/cooperation-forums/>

IST-Africa: <http://www.ist-africa.org/>

African Union STI week & Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards

9-13 December 2013 – Addis Ababa: the AU Science and Technology week was also organised as part of the OAU/AU 50th anniversary celebrations. A forum on "*Raising STI Profile in Africa*" explored the Continental Strategy and programmes on STI, Partnership and Collaborative Research, featuring several projects funded through the AU Research Grants and through the EU FP7 programme, and a final session on Sustainability of Research and Resource Mobilisation. This was followed by a workshop of the African Research and Innovation Council (ARIC). STI week was also the opportunity to present the Kwame Nkrumah Regional Scientific Awards.

AU press release: <http://hrst.au.int/en/content/science-technology-and-innovation-week-50th-anniversary-celebrations-9-13-december-2013>

Showcasing EU-Africa collaboration in Research

Europe and Africa collaborate through hundreds of research projects funded through EU and other programmes. In this edition, we showcase FP7 projects in the **water and agriculture area**.

EAU4FOOD - European Union and African Union cooperative research to increase Food production in irrigated farming systems in Africa

This FP7 project runs from July 2011 to June 2015 with an EU contribution of €4 million. It is led by Wageningen University (The Netherlands) with 4 other European partners and 7 African partners: Mekelle University (Ethiopia), Institut d'Economie Durable (Mali), Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique), Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - CSIR (South Africa). [project website: www.eau4food.info]

WHaTeR - Water Harvesting Technologies Revisited: potentials for innovations, improvements and up-scaling in Sub-Saharan Africa

This FP7 project runs from January 2011 to December 2014 with an EU contribution of €2 million. It is led by the Free University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) with 3 other European partners and 5 African partners: National Institute for Environment & Agricultural Research (Burkina Faso), Arba Minch University (Ethiopia), Southern & Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (Kenya), University of Kwazulu Natal (South Africa) & Sokoine University (Tanzania). [project website: <http://whater.eu>]

Upcoming events:

- 13 January 2014 – Brussels: **EU-South Africa Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee**
- 14 January 2014 – Brussels: **ESASTAP Plus seminar Presenting South Africa – a research partner for Europe in Horizon 2020** (www.esastap.org.za/events/)
- 6 February 2014 – Addis Ababa: **Space Troika** meeting between AUC and EC (DG DEVCO & DG ENTR)
- 6-9 May 2014 – Mauritius: **IST-Africa 2014 conference**. (www.ist-africa.org/conference2014/)

Visit also our web sites: Africa-EU Partnership: www.africa-eu-partnership.org

or EU Delegation to the African Union: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union

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