

# Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

n°2 – December 2012

[ Delegation of the European Union to the African Union ]



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### **EU-ACP cooperation programme in S&T publishes call for proposals**

8 October 2012: the EU-ACP cooperation programme for Science and Technology published its call for proposals, with a focus on Energy Access & Efficiency, as well as Agriculture & Food Security. Indicative budget: €20.8 million. Deadline for submission: 7 February 2013.

For information: [www.acp-st.eu/content/acp-eu-cooperation-programme-science-and-technology-ii-st-ii-call-proposals-launched](http://www.acp-st.eu/content/acp-eu-cooperation-programme-science-and-technology-ii-st-ii-call-proposals-launched) - Contact: G. Balducci, DG DEVCO, EC ([giuseppe.balducci@ec.europa.eu](mailto:giuseppe.balducci@ec.europa.eu)).

### **EDCTP-II stakeholder conference held in Cape Town**

5 November 2012: the 2<sup>nd</sup> EDCTP stakeholder conference was held in Cape Town. The event was opened by with opening address by Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, with the participation of several African ministers. Notably, the Minister of S&T of South Africa, Mr Derek Hanekom, called on the African Member States to join South Africa in supporting EDCTP.

Further information: [www.edctp.org/High-level\\_conference\\_on\\_the\\_sec.806.0.html](http://www.edctp.org/High-level_conference_on_the_sec.806.0.html)

### **South Africa-EU celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of S&T agreement**

6 November 2012, the 11<sup>th</sup> joint committee meeting of the SA-EU S&T agreement took place in Cape Town. South Africa is currently the 5<sup>th</sup> most active third country partner in FP7, directly after Russia, the US, China and India, involved in 156 signed grant agreements, particularly in Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Health and Environment. The partners explored ways to further intensify their collaboration, notably in the bio-economy sector.

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### **ERAfrica: 15 partner countries agree to fund €11 million joint call**

6 November 2012: in Cape Town, 15 African and European countries involved in ERAfrica signed an agreement to co-fund a joint call of over €11 million. Austria, Belgium, Burkina-Faso, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland & Turkey. The calls should be published in mid-January 2013, with a deadline for application around mid-April 2013. Projects must involve at least 2 African and 2 European partners from participating countries, but additional partners may join, even if not eligible for funding or from non-funding countries.

For information: [www.erafrica.eu](http://www.erafrica.eu) - contact: Yves Savidan, coordinator ERAfrica ([yves.savidan@ird.fr](mailto:yves.savidan@ird.fr))

### **JAES Priority 8 Joint Expert Group meeting**

7-8 November 2012, Cape Town: the Joint Expert Group (JEG-8) meeting of the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy (JAES) Priority 8 (Science, Information Society & Space) took place with experts from African and European member states. This was an opportunity to exchange information and discuss future plans for cooperation.

Further information: [www.africa-eu-partnership.org/node/71](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/node/71) - AU contact: Rached Hamza, Tunisia ([rached.hamza@cert.mincom.tn](mailto:rached.hamza@cert.mincom.tn)) - EU contact: Cristina Vaz Tomé, Portugal ([ctome@iict.pt](mailto:ctome@iict.pt)).

### **AMCOST V takes place in Brazzaville**

12-15 November 2012, Brazzaville: the 5<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V), which comprised both the senior officials meeting and the Ministerial meeting, led to the nomination of a new AMCOST bureau chaired by the Republic of Congo, reported on the implementation of the AU's Consolidated Plan of Action for STI and the endorsement of a series of recommendations by the African ministers of Science and Technology.

Contact: Mahama Ouedraogo, Head of S&T Division, HRST, AUC ([ouedraogom@africa-union.org](mailto:ouedraogom@africa-union.org))

### **Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT**

28-29 November 2012, Lisbon: the Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT was organised in the framework of the JAES, by the EuroAfrica-P8 FP7 project, with 215 participants from 24 African, 17 European and 3 other countries, representing academia, research, industry, government and civil society. Among the main outcomes it was noted that "Africa and Europe share some common challenges and are already experiencing mutual benefit in areas where ICT is a critical enabling and transformational technology for people-centred, socio-economic impact".

Further information: <http://euroafrica-ict.org/about/>

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### **Conference on Research Infrastructures for Africa-EU cooperation**

3-4 December 2012: Accra hosted a conference on Research Infrastructures for Africa-EU cooperation jointly organised by EU-funded projects CAAST-Net and PAERIP. It gathered a broad range of stakeholders from many African and European countries who highlighted why bi-regional cooperation should be concertedly promoted as a priority action. Intense discussions led to a series of recommendations on how such partnerships could be enhanced, ensuring greater impact and mutual benefit for Africa and Europe, to be submitted to policy-makers in Europe and Africa.

Further information: [www.caast-net.org](http://www.caast-net.org) & [www.paerip.org](http://www.paerip.org)

### **AU Research Grants: 2<sup>nd</sup> call grants signed**

17 December 2012, Addis Ababa: signature of 2<sup>nd</sup> set of research grants in the presence of AU Commissioner Jean-Pierre Ezin and Head of the EU Delegation to the AU, Gary Quince. This call led to the selection of 11 projects in the areas of Post-Harvest and Agriculture, Renewable and Sustainable energy, and Water and Sanitation, for a total amount of €7 million. It also demonstrated to AUC's capacity to manage research funds. However, there is no funding available yet for a possible 3<sup>rd</sup> call.

Contact: Mahama Ouedraogo, Head of S&T Division, HRST, AUC ([ouedraogom@africa-union.org](mailto:ouedraogom@africa-union.org))

### **Nkrumah Scientific Awards for African women scientists**

17 December 2012, Addis Ababa: ceremony for African Union Nkrumah Scientific Awards for women scientists from each African region. Four prizes were awarded: two for Northern Africa, one for Central Africa and one for West Africa, the other regions having not put forward any laureates. The AUC hopes that a greater number of candidates will be put forward for the 2013 prizes.

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### **Upcoming events:**

- 11-12 February 2013, Brussels: CAAST-NET Plus launch.
- 13-14 February 2013, Brussels: JEG-8 meeting (tbc).
- 14-15 February 2013, Addis Ababa: Africa-EU Joint Task Force meeting (rescheduled).
- Feb. 2013, South Africa: ESASTAP Plus workshop on EU-SA cooperation on innovation (tbc).

These news items can also be found on the following web sites:

- Africa-EU Partnership: [www.africa-eu-partnership.org](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org)

- EU Delegation to the African Union: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african\\_union](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union)