

Europe-Africa Research & Innovation news

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[Delegation of the European Union to the African Union]



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ERAfrica: first call for research proposals published

15 January 2013: the first ERAfrica call for research proposals was published, with a closing date for submissions on 15 April 2013 and a budget of almost €11 million committed by the participating countries. This call for proposals is open to projects in three areas: Renewable Energy; Interfacing Challenges and New Ideas. Projects must involve at least 2 African and 2 European partners from participating countries, but additional partners may join under certain conditions.

For information: www.erafrica.eu – contact: info@erafrica.eu

ANDI – the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation – update

18 January 2013, Addis Ababa: the ANDI Board concluded its 3rd meeting, with key resolutions aimed at better equipping ANDI to implement its activities in Africa. The Board approved the report of an external review panel which noted that while ANDI is still in its infancy, and is currently under-resourced and understaffed, considerable progress has been achieved, notably with the identification of 38 centres of excellence spread across Africa, one regional hub (West Africa) and two funded projects.

For information: www.andi-africa.org – contact: info@andi-africa.org

African involvement in FP7 nears 1000 participations in almost 400 projects

7 February 2013, Pretoria: at a meeting of Science Counsellors to South Africa, an analysis of African participation in the EU's 7th Framework programme (FP7) showed that end 2012, Africa was the region with the highest representation in FP7 with 969 participations in 388 research projects. 74% of these are in the areas of Health; Food, Agriculture & Biotechnology; and Environment. South Africa is first, followed by Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Senegal, Uganda & Burkina Faso. With the last FP7 grants to be awarded in 2013, the overall figure is expected to exceed 1000 participations. In addition, 265 African researchers received Marie Curie Fellowships to go to European institutions and 125 European researchers received M-C Fellowships to attend African institutions.

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CAAST-Net Plus launched to strengthen S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa

11-12 February 2013, Brussels: a new iteration of the CAAST-Net initiative was launched with the aim of further strengthening cooperation in science and technology between Europe and Africa over the period 2013-2016. CAAST-Net Plus will inform the bi-regional policy dialogue on science and technology; build support for innovative and joint approaches to bilateral research funding; broker the public-private relationship to improve the uptake of research for development; and encourage bi-regional research collaboration and partnerships. A first conference is planned in June 2013.

For information: www.caast-net-plus.org – contact: Andy.Cherry@acu.ac.uk

Africa-EU Joint Task Force meeting

14-15 February 2013, Addis Ababa: the 15th Africa-EU Joint Task Force meeting was held to review the 8 Partnership areas of the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy (JAES), including Priority 8 for Science, Information Society and Space. The aim of the meeting was to assess recent progress and agree on priorities for 2013 in each area. For Priority 8 it was acknowledged that progress had been made but that more could be achieved. A number of areas for enhanced collaboration were identified and will be developed, such as continuing the successful EU-supported AU Research Grants and the Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards programmes, as well as helping build Africa's capacities, such as the Pan African Intellectual Property Organisation (PAIPO) and the African Observatory for STI (AOSTI).

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Intra-ACP academic mobility scheme - call for proposals launched

19 February 2013, Brussels: the 3rd call for proposals of the Intra-ACP academic mobility scheme was published, with a deadline 10 June 2013. This mobility scheme supports higher education cooperation between countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). It aims to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation by increasing the availability of trained and qualified high-level professional manpower in the ACP countries. The African component of this call aims to support and expand the Mwalimu Nyerere Scholarship Scheme of the AUC in the context of which academic mobility will take place within Africa. It is open to students (at masters and doctoral level) and staff (administrative and academic). This programme is funded through the European Development Fund (EDF) and managed by the EU's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

For information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/intra_acp_mobility – contact: eacea-intra-acp@ec.europa.eu

African Guest Researchers' Scholarship Programme

This scholarship programme from the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) is directed at scholars in Africa, engaged in research on the African continent. Applicants should be placed at or affiliated with an African university or other African research institution. Applications should be in the following areas: 1) Agrarian Change, Property and Resources; 2) Conflict, Displacement and Transformation; 3) Globalization, Trade and Regional Integration; and 4) Urban Dynamics. Female researchers are especially encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications: 1 April 2013.

For information: www.nai.uu.se/scholarships/african – contact: inga-britt.faris@nai.uu.se

Study to map best practice in cooperative STI between Africa and Europe

25 February 2013, Brussels: in the framework of the Africa-EU High Policy Dialogue on STI, the European Commission, in cooperation with its African partners, has launched a restricted call for tender for a study on "*Mapping of best practice regional and multi-country cooperative STI initiatives between Africa and Europe - Identification of effective financial mechanism(s) 2008-2012.*" The study should be completed by September 2013.

Contact: Nienke Buisman, DG Research & Innovation, EC (nienke.buisman@ec.europa.eu).

Upcoming events:

- 4-8 March 2013, Brussels: **Global Challenges & Global Collaboration Conference**, will include several sessions on Africa-Europe collaboration in R&I (www.globalsciencecollaboration.org):
 - 6-7 March: **AERAP workshop** (African-European Radio Astronomy Platform)
 - 7-8 March: **PAERIP conference on Africa-EU cooperation in research infrastructures**
- 19-20 March 2013, Pretoria: **EU-South Africa Space Dialogue** and seminar.
- 28-31 May 2013, Nairobi: **IST-Africa** (www.IST-Africa.org/Conference2013)
- 28-30 May 2013, East London, SA: **5th Global Innovation Forum on Innovation and Technology**, organised by the Department of Science & Technology of South Africa (www.globalforum2013.co.za).
- 16-19 September, Cape Town: **ICGEB workshop Stimulating the Bio-Economy in Africa** (For information: www.icgeb.org/meetings-2013.html - contact: Nurhaan.Larnie@icgeb.org)
- 1 -3 October 2013, Nairobi: **5th ANDI Stakeholder and Partnership** (www.andi-africa.org)

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

- Africa-EU Partnership: www.africa-eu-partnership.org

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