

# Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

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[ Delegation of the European Union to the African Union ]



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### **Horizon 2020 workshops for international organisations in Nairobi and Arusha**

2 September 2014 – Nairobi: the workshop was hosted by ICRAF and involved many other organisations such as ILRI, ICIPE, Bioversity, ICRSD, ACTS, AU-IBAR, ICRH, IRD, CIRAD, etc.

5 September – Arusha: the workshop was hosted by the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), a pan-African research and training organisation mainly supported by Tanzania, which has substantial potential and interest for collaboration in agriculture and in health.

see: [www.nm-aist.ac.tz](http://www.nm-aist.ac.tz) – contact: Prof. Burton Mwamila ([burton.mwamila@nm-aist.ac.tz](mailto:burton.mwamila@nm-aist.ac.tz))

### **African Development Bank to provide \$98 million for biomedical science education**

3 October 2014 – Tunis: The African Development Bank (AfDB) approved loans amounting to \$98.2 million to finance the first phase of East Africa's Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in biomedical sciences and engineering: nephrology and urology in Kenya, oncology in Uganda, cardiovascular disease in Tanzania and biomedical engineering and e-health in Rwanda. The Bank's financing represents 91% of the costs, with the four governments providing the rest. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will include the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Burundi on Nutritional Sciences.

see: [www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-approves-us-98-22-million-loan-for-biomedical-sciences-education-in-east-africa-13570/](http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-approves-us-98-22-million-loan-for-biomedical-sciences-education-in-east-africa-13570/) - contact: Ruth Charo ([r.charo@afdb.org](mailto:r.charo@afdb.org))

### **Meeting of EU-Africa Expert Working Group on food and nutrition security research**

6-8 October – Addis Ababa – In the context of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue (HPLD), a meeting of the Expert Working Group (EWG) on food and nutrition security research brought together most of the 10 members of the EWG to further advance a roadmap for research in this broad field. The roadmap is intended to identify research needs of common interest for joint implementation.

see: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african\\_union/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2014/20141009\\_1\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/press_corner/all_news/news/2014/20141009_1_en.htm)

### **Horizon 2020 workshop in Angola**

13-14 October 2014 – Luanda: a Horizon 2020 workshop organised by the EU Delegation to Angola in collaboration with the Angolan Ministry of Science and Technology and the EU Counsellor for R&I to the AU, with the support of CAAST-Net plus. The workshop was opened by the Angolan Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Maria Cândida Pereira Teixeira, who is keen to enhance S&T cooperation with the EU, in particular through Horizon 2020. The workshop was attended by up to 150 participants from ministries, universities, research centres, public institutes, embassies and the media.

see: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/angola/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2014/20141016\\_01\\_pt.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/angola/press_corner/all_news/news/2014/20141016_01_pt.htm)

## African Union celebrates World Space Week

18 October 2014 – Addis Ababa: Celebrating World Space Week, Dr. Beatrice Njenga, Head of Education Division of the African Union Commission, underlined that space-based communication and Earth observation are very important to Africa, noting that "strategic and practical use in communications, atmospheric activities, geographic mapping of natural resources and remote sensing of unusual demographic activities and changes are critical to survival and prosperity."

## South Africa Minister of S&T calls for more investment in African research

20 October 2014, New York – At the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of CERN at the UN, South Africa's Minister for Science & Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor said that science had been a significant contributor to social development in many parts of the world and so it is logical to propose investment in science and innovation that could offer Africa new opportunities for development, and address challenges such as Ebola. She also stated: "It is imperative for Africa's scientists to work in Africa if they are to support development on the continent, if they are to play a role in smooth technology transfer and if they are to drive innovation."

see: [www.gov.za/minister-pandor-calls-africa-build-its-research-capacity-fight-ebola](http://www.gov.za/minister-pandor-calls-africa-build-its-research-capacity-fight-ebola)

## European Union to boost Ebola research with €24.4 million

23 October 2014 – Brussels: The EU has mobilised research funds from the Horizon 2020 programme to combat Ebola through five new projects through an exceptional fast-track procedure. Four are clinical trials on important interventions to tackle Ebola, including a new vaccine, an antiviral drug, the use human blood or plasma from surviving patients and treatment with antibodies produced in horses and one project aims to better understand pathophysiology and transmissibility.

Most of these 5 projects will start in November 2014:

**EbolaVac** led by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals (Belgium) – EU contribution: €15.2 million.

Clinical trials in Europe and Africa on the most advanced vaccine candidate (ChAd3-EBOV).

**REACTION** led by INSERM (France) – EU contribution: €2.6 million.

Clinical trials on Favipiravir, an antiviral already used against influenza.

**EbolaTx** led by Prins Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine (Belgium) – EU contrib.: €2.9 million.

Clinical trials for whole blood or plasma from survivors, as a treatment.

**IF-EBOla** led by Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD (France) – EU contribution: €2m.

Clinical trials using antibodies produced in horses, as a passive immunity treatment for patients.

**EVIDENT** led by Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin (Germany) – EU contribution: €1.8 million.

Research on interactions between the Ebola virus and the host to answer questions regarding the pathophysiology and transmissibility of the disease.

see: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-1194\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1194_en.htm) contact: [Line.Matthiessen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Line.Matthiessen@ec.europa.eu)

## African Union Research Grants Forum

29-30 October 2014 – Addis: The African Union Commission organised a forum for the 20 research projects supported through the African Union Research Grant programme, which is funded by the EU. The meeting enabled to present their work to date, discuss the results and challenges. The projects address issues in Post-harvest and Agriculture, and Sustainable Energy and Water & Sanitation.

see: Monica Idinoba, AURG Programme Management Unit, AUC ([IdinobaM@africa-union.org](mailto:IdinobaM@africa-union.org))

## Upcoming events:

- 11-12 November – Lusaka, Zambia: **UbuntuNet-Connect 2014** ([www.ubuntunet.net/uc2014\\_cfp](http://www.ubuntunet.net/uc2014_cfp))
- 12-13 November – Douala, Cameroun: **ICT Days** ([www.ict4mdg.org](http://www.ict4mdg.org))
- 23-25 November 2014 – Stellenbosch, South Africa: **Global Research Council** (GRC) African Summit.
- 24-25 November – Entebbe: **1<sup>st</sup> CAAST-Net Plus Stakeholder Forum** ([www.caast-net-plus.org](http://www.caast-net-plus.org))
- 26 November – Algiers: **Horizon 2020 information workshop** ([stephane.hogan@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:stephane.hogan@eeas.europa.eu))
- 1 December – Cape Town: **CAAST-Net Plus satellite event** ([www.caast-net-plus.org](http://www.caast-net-plus.org))
- 2 December – Cape Town: **Launch of EDCTP2** ([www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org))
- 3 December – Cape Town: **EU-South Africa Joint S&T Cooperation Committee** (JSTCC)
- 3-6 December – Addis Ababa: **1<sup>st</sup> IGAD International Scientific Conference on Health** (<http://igad.int>)
- 3-4 February 2015 – Addis Ababa: **AfriMalaR conference** on malaria research ([www.evimalar.org](http://www.evimalar.org))

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