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## In this edition:

- **COHRED Fairness Index for research cooperation with developing countries**
- **South Africa increases research budget by 15%**
- **Horizon 2020 training workshop for African National Contact Points**
- **Heads of state and government to champion S&T in Africa**
- **ANDi –2<sup>nd</sup> call for pan-African Centres of Excellence in Health Innovation**
- **1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Pan African University Council**
- **Horizon 2020 – first projects funded**
- **Showcasing EU-Africa cooperation in Horizon 2020**
- **Upcoming events**

### **COHRED Fairness Index for research cooperation with developing countries**

May 2015, Geneva: the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), a non-profit organisation, is proposing the COHRED Fairness Index, which would allow funders and other institutions to obtain a certification that they support or carry out research in an appropriate manner, reflecting the extent to which it is in line with the country's priorities and respects the rights of its researchers. This initiative is prompted by long-standing and often recognised claims of unfairness and abuse in north-south research collaborations, particularly in Africa. The Index should help mitigate these effects and encourage funders and researchers to give more consideration to the rights and priorities of their partners in developing countries. The index is entering a trial period and will be initially deployed in the health sector.

Lancet article: [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60680-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60680-8/fulltext)

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### **South Africa increases research budget by 15%**

21 May 2015, Cape Town: SA's Minister of Science & Technology Naledi Pandor presented her plans. The budget will increase 15% to 7.4 billion rand (€565 million), in line with a target of 1.5% GDP by 2019. Some €321m (57%) will go to R&D and support programmes and €214m (38%) to technology innovation programmes and socio-economic innovation partnerships. Human capital development remains a priority and now includes a country bilateral programme (SARChi), initially with Switzerland and the UK.

For international cooperation, two partnerships in which SA plays a leading role for the continent were highlighted: the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). SA is also expanding its portfolio of partnerships with other African countries.

Speech: [www.gov.za/speeches/naledi-pandor-mp-minister-science-and-technology-introducing-science-and-technology-budget](http://www.gov.za/speeches/naledi-pandor-mp-minister-science-and-technology-introducing-science-and-technology-budget) – Research Africa article: <http://ow.ly/No8Fe>

### **Horizon 2020 Regional training workshop for African National Contact Points**

28-29 May, Accra: a training workshop for National Contact Points (NCPs) from Central and West Africa brought together NCPs from a dozen countries to learn more about the EU's Horizon 2020 programme and the role of NCPs in facilitating participation of researchers from their countries, thereby boosting preparations for the second set of Horizon 2020 calls for proposals to be published later this year.

Many African countries have no NCPs or only one person to cover the broad range of Horizon 2020 themes and opportunities, which puts their researchers at a relative disadvantage when trying to access EU funding. African researchers can identify NCPs for their countries on the Participant Portal.

Participant Portal: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_contact\\_points.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html)

### **Heads of state and government to champion S&T in Africa**

15 June 2015, Johannesburg: at the AU Summit it was decided to establish a committee of 10 Heads of State and Government (two from each geographic region) as African champions of education, science and technology. The committee will be coordinated by President Macky Sall of Senegal and will report on the status of education, science and technology in Africa to the AU Summit once a year.

(<http://summits.au.int/en/25thsummit/documents/decisions-declarations-and-resolutions-25th-ordinary-session-assembly-union>)

## ANDi –2<sup>nd</sup> call for pan-African Centres of Excellence in Health Innovation

June 2015 - Addis Ababa: the African Network for drugs & Diagnostics Innovation (ANDi) has issued a call "to identify institutions with demonstrated capacity and expertise in specific health product or technology innovation area, including R&D, manufacture or supply chain across Africa" to complement the 38 Centres of Excellence previously identified. The deadline is 31 July 2015.

(information: [www.andi-africa.org](http://www.andi-africa.org) – contact: Solomon Nwaka, Executive Director, ANDi - [SolomonN@unops.org](mailto:SolomonN@unops.org))

## Pan African University – inaugural meeting of Council

25 June 2015 – Addis Ababa: the Council is the governing body of Pan African University (PAU). All partners (including the EU) were invited first inaugural meeting and given the opportunity to present their cooperation and contributions to PAU as well as the challenges encountered or foreseen. The Council made recommendations to develop the PAU Strategic Plan, establish a technical team to operationalize the PAU Institute on Space Sciences in South Africa, with the PAU Rectorate, EU, USA and South Africa, and to convene an extra-ordinary Council meeting on 15 September 2015.

AUC announcement: <http://hrst.au.int/en/content/inauguration-pan-african-university-pau-council>

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## Horizon 2020 – first projects funded involving African researchers

June 2015 – Brussels: among the first Horizon 2020 projects funded, there are now 38 projects involving 80 participants from 20 African countries, including some international organisations based in Africa (AUC, ILRI, UN agencies, etc), who will receive a total EU contribution of €12.2m (i.e. € 153,000 per participant).

These projects include Research and Innovation actions, Coordination and Support Actions and other measures in a wide range of areas, including health, agriculture and food production, environment, energy, transport, space, peace and security, disaster resilience, and science and society issues.

Examples from the health area are given below (see box).

source: CORDIS projects database as of 26 June 2015 (<http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/>)

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### Showcasing EU-Africa Cooperation through Horizon 2020 – focussing on health research

**TBVAC2020** – Advancing novel and promising TB vaccine candidates from discovery to preclinical and early clinical development.

Led by TBVI (The Netherlands), with 40 partners, including 3 from Africa: Stellenbosch University (SA) KwaZulu Natal Research Institute for TB & HIV (K-RITH) (SA) and University of Cape Town (SA).

EU grant: €18.2 million. (more information: [www.tbvi.eu/projects/tbvac2020.html](http://www.tbvi.eu/projects/tbvac2020.html))

**EMI-TB** – Eliciting Mucosal Immunity to Tuberculosis.

Led by St George's Hospital Medical School (UK), with 14 partners, including 1 from Africa: Instituto Nacional de Saúde (Mozambique). EU grant: €8 million.

([http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/194076\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/194076_en.html))

**SMART2D** –Self-Management and Reciprocal learning for prevention & management of Type-2-Diabetes

Led by Karolinska Institute (Sweden), with 6 partners, including 2 from Africa: Makerere University (Uganda) and University of the Western Cape (South Africa). EU grant: €3.3 million.

([http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/194091\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/194091_en.html))

**VIROGENESIS** – Virus discovery and epidemic tracing from high throughput metagenomic sequencing.

Led by Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), with 8 partners, including 1 from Africa: University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa). EU grant: €3 million. ([http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193301\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193301_en.html))

**B3Africa** – Bridging Biobanking and Biomedical Research across Europe and Africa.

Led by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, with 11 partners, including 5 from Africa: ILRI (Kenya), Institute of Virology (Nigeria), Makerere University (Uganda), University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University (South Africa). EU grant: €2m. ([http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/197193\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/197193_en.html))

### Upcoming events:

- 13-16 July 2015 – Addis Ababa: Financing for Development conference: ([www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/)). This will include several side events on research ([www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/news/draft-list-side-events.html](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/news/draft-list-side-events.html)):
  - "Leveraging science and technology for sustainable development" (13 July) – organised by IRD
  - "Investing in science infrastructure" (14 July) – organised by AERAP
  - "Science, Technology and Innovation: drivers for sustainable development" (15 July) – org. by JRC
- 26-27 August – Cape Town: SA Innovation Summit. ([www.innovationsummit.co.za](http://www.innovationsummit.co.za))
- 8-9 December 2015 – Pretoria: Science Forum South Africa ([www.sfsa.co.za](http://www.sfsa.co.za))

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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