

# Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

n°17 – July-August 2015

[ Delegation of the European Union to the African Union ]



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### **EC research Commissioner presents priorities: the 3 Os**

July 2015, Brussels: Carlos Moedas unveiled his three priorities for his mandate as Commissioner for Research & Innovation: **Open Innovation**, which is intended to maximise the impact of research investments, boost private investment and improve the regulatory environment; **Open Science**, which foresees more open access to results and improving research integrity; and **Open to the World**, which promotes further international cooperation. These priorities are summarised as the three Os.

Speech by Commissioner Moedas: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-15-5243\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-5243_en.htm)

### **Financing for Development conference concludes on vital role for science & technology**

27 July 2015, Addis Ababa: the UN Financing for Development conference<sup>1</sup> outcome resolution contains extensive references to science and technology as key enablers of socio-economic development, including the need for more public investment and international cooperation and collaboration in science. One concrete contribution is the decision to establish a **Technology Facilitation Mechanism** to provide "a gateway for information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, within and beyond the UN" and thus address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FfD conference: [www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/conference.html](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/conference.html)

Technology Facilitation Mechanism: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/technology/facilitationmechanism>

### **EDCTP appoints new Executive Director and seeks two High-Level Representatives**

14 July 2015 – The Hague: the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) General Assembly has selected Dr Michael Makanga to succeed Dr Charles Mgone as Executive Director as of January 2016. Dr Makanga, from Uganda, has been with EDCTP since 2004 and is currently Head of its Africa Office based in Cape Town. EDCTP is also seeking candidates to become its High-Level Representatives in Africa and in Europe respectively. "The High Representatives will act as goodwill ambassadors for EDCTP in increasing visibility of the programme and promotion of partnerships with other stakeholders in the fight against poverty-related and neglected diseases." (deadline: 5 November)

Announcement: [www.edctp.org/news/dr-michael-makanga-designated-next-edctp-executive-director/](http://www.edctp.org/news/dr-michael-makanga-designated-next-edctp-executive-director/)

Call for High Representatives: [www.edctp.org/high-representatives-haut-represant-africa-europe/](http://www.edctp.org/high-representatives-haut-represant-africa-europe/)

### **Tunisia revamps national system for research and innovation**

August 2015, Tunis: a newly-appointed task force is defining a national system for research and innovation for Tunisia. The task force involves representatives from government, academia and industry. This work is based on a report\* on the national system published in July 2015. The process is supported by the EU's Support Programme for Innovation and Research System (PASRI) and managed by Tunisia's national agency for the promotion of scientific research (ANPR). In parallel, PASRI is directly benefiting some 400 Tunisian researchers. (sources: PASRI in Tunisia: [www.pasri.tn](http://www.pasri.tn) – ANPR: [www.anpr.tn](http://www.anpr.tn))

\*report: [www.anpr.tn/fileadmin/medias/doc/Actualites/DIAGNOSTIC\\_Gouvernance\\_Final\\_01.pdf](http://www.anpr.tn/fileadmin/medias/doc/Actualites/DIAGNOSTIC_Gouvernance_Final_01.pdf)

## 2015 Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards about to be launched

August 2015, Addis Ababa: the 2015 Kwame Nkrumah awards (at continental, regional and national level) are about to be launched by the African Union Commission with the support of the European Union. Since 2008, these awards honour outstanding African researchers. The regional awards are reserved for female scientists. Each prize carries a financial reward. For procedures and deadlines, see AUC web site. AUC web site: <http://hrst.au.int/> - email: [scientific-awards@africa-union.org](mailto:scientific-awards@africa-union.org)

## New study on Research and Innovation capacities for Renewable Energy in SSA

July 2015 – Brussels: an extensive study on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) capacities for research and innovation in the field of Renewable Energy (RE) highlights the substantial potential for future RE penetration in SSA. Efforts should focus on countries with basic policy framework conditions and take into account the limited (but growing) R&I capacities in RE (incl. “frugal” innovation). For international cooperation, a challenge is to prevent overlap, fragmentation and demonstrate the added value of true partnership. The study also identifies areas of potential common interest between SSA and the EU. The key results of the study are available online, together with a detailed executive summary.

Overview: [www.ecorys.com/news/study-renewable-energy-and-research-and-innovation-capacity-sub-saharan-africa](http://www.ecorys.com/news/study-renewable-energy-and-research-and-innovation-capacity-sub-saharan-africa)  
Executive summary: [www.ecorys.com/sites/default/files/files/SSA%20Executive%20Summary.pdf](http://www.ecorys.com/sites/default/files/files/SSA%20Executive%20Summary.pdf)

## Horizon 2020: first 100 calls for proposals lead to 3200 new research projects

24 July 2015, Brussels: the European Commission presented a first analysis, looking at the first 100 calls for proposals all closed in 2014, which received more than 36,000 proposals and led to 3200 new research projects being funded with a total EU contribution of €5.5 billion. African researchers are involved in 38 projects so far (see EARI News n°16 or EU Delegation web page for details).

Full report: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/horizon\\_2020\\_first\\_results\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/horizon_2020_first_results_1.pdf)  
EARI News 16: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african\\_union/documents/press\\_corner/eari-news-16-june-2015.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/documents/press_corner/eari-news-16-june-2015.pdf)

## Horizon 2020: next calls coming soon

August 2015, Brussels: the calls for proposals for 2016 & 2017 are expected to be published in September or October 2015. The texts of the work programmes are being finalised and in many cases draft versions are accessible online through third parties (see link). Final texts will contain some significant changes, so it is imperative to refer to the final versions upon publication on the Participant Portal before applying.

Draft work programmes: [www.eurida-research.com/horizon-2020-news/news-18/index.html](http://www.eurida-research.com/horizon-2020-news/news-18/index.html)  
Participant Portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>

## Showcasing EU-Africa Cooperation in Horizon 2020 – focus on research infrastructures

**Sci-GaIA** – Energising Scientific Endeavour through Science Gateways and e-Infrastructures in Africa aims to support National Research and Education Networks, communities of practice and universities in Africa to develop science gateways, etc. to promote connectivity and strengthen e-Infrastructure.

Led by Brunel University London (UK) with 9 partners, including 3 from Africa: WACREN (West and Central African Research and Education Network (Ghana), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (SA) and Dar-es-Salam Institute of Technology. EU grant: €1.34 million. ([www.sci-gaia.eu](http://www.sci-gaia.eu))

**TANDEM** – TransAfrican Network Development will enable WACREN to draw maximum benefit from the forthcoming AfricaConnect2 project and ensure its integration into the global research and education networking community and its long-term sustainability. ([www.tandem-wacren.eu](http://www.tandem-wacren.eu)).

Led by Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France) with 9 partners, including 1 from Africa: West and Central African Research and Education Network - WACREN (Ghana). EU grant: €1.2 million.

**B3Africa** – Bridging Biobanking and Biomedical Research across Europe and Africa, to improve and facilitate the development of better predictive, preventive and personalized healthcare worldwide.

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:

- 9-11 September 2015 – Luanda, Angola: National conference for S&T, including presentation on H2020.
- 10 September – Nairobi: launch of Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA)
- 15-20 October – Addis Ababa: African Union Special Technical Committee on Education, S&T.
- 23-25 November – Nairobi: African Network for Drugs & Diagnostics Innovation (ANDi) stakeholder forum
- 8-9 December 2015 – Pretoria: Science Forum South Africa ([www.sfsa.co.za](http://www.sfsa.co.za))

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