

# Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

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### **Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2015**

20 & 30 January 2016, Addis Ababa: these awards promote science as a development tool and encourage young people, especially women, towards careers in science. There are 3 levels: national - for young scientists, regional - for female scientists, and continental - for scientists having made major scientific contributions addressing Africa's challenges. The AUC presented the regional awards for female scientists at the 8<sup>th</sup> AU Gender pre-Summit to Prof. Merzouk Hafida of Algeria for her work in nutrition and health and to Prof. Yalemtehay Mekonnen of Ethiopia for her work on medicinal plants.

([www.au.int/en/pressreleases/19587/two-female-scientists-laureates-2015-au-kwame-nkrumah-scientific-awards-honoured](http://www.au.int/en/pressreleases/19587/two-female-scientists-laureates-2015-au-kwame-nkrumah-scientific-awards-honoured)).

The continental awards were presented during the opening session of the 26<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union in the presence of EU Vice-President Georgieva as the EU sponsors the awards since 2009. The continental award for "basic science, technology and innovation" went to Prof. Tebello Nyokong of South Africa for her work in nanoscience, in particular for applications in the health and environment areas, while the award for "life and earth sciences" went to Prof. Umezuruike Linus Opara of Nigeria for his work in agricultural engineering, in particular on postharvest research. In her acceptance speech, Prof. Nyokong, thanked South Africa for continuing to invest in science and made a passionate plea for other African countries to follow suit, highlighting that research is a key enabler of development.

([http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african\\_union/press\\_corner/all\\_news/news/2016/20160201\\_1\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/press_corner/all_news/news/2016/20160201_1_en.htm))

### **Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) initiative**

29 January, Nairobi: A Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) initiative "to reduce the burden of audit to both funders and grant recipients and provide real assurance that funds are well managed" was recently launched by the African Academy of Science (AAS) and Management Accounting for NGOs (Mango). It is being implemented under the AAS' Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESAA), with the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency (NEPAD) and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO). The aim is to consult African researchers and international donors to determine what should be in the joint standard, in order to lighten the administrative burden on researchers and provide funders with guarantees as to the ability of grant-seekers to manage grants. The consultation process started in Kenya in January. A meeting of funders will soon take place in London to discuss what they want out of a joint grant practice and a further meeting is foreseen in Dakar in March.

For details: <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/african-academy-sciences-and-mango-announce-strategic-partnership-help-develop-new-pan>. (contact: Deborah-Fay Ndlovu: [d.ndlovu@aaosciences.ac.ke](mailto:d.ndlovu@aaosciences.ac.ke))

### **AU Heads of State and Government adopt African Space Policy and Strategy**

31 January, Addis Ababa: at the AU's most recent summit, the African Space Policy and Strategy was endorsed as the first step towards an African Outer Space Programme. Member States, RECs, partners and the AUC were urged to raise awareness on the central role of space science and technology in Africa's socio-economic development and mobilise domestic resources for implementation.

See: [www.au.int/en/pressreleases/19677/african-union-heads-state-and-government-adopts-african-space-policy-and](http://www.au.int/en/pressreleases/19677/african-union-heads-state-and-government-adopts-african-space-policy-and)

## Engaging with Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

4-5 February 2015, Lilongwe: The implementation of the STI Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024) depends entirely on AU member states and foresees RECs to play a central role in adapting and aligning STISA-2024 objectives with their own. A workshop organised in Pretoria through the CAAST-Net Plus initiative to examine these issues. Among the conclusions was the decision to involve the RECs more in EU-Africa STI cooperation.

## European Commission provides €5 million for SKA

22 February 2016 – Brussels: through the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is providing €5 million for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), more specifically for infrastructure design at its two sites: in the Karoo region of South Africa and in the Murchison region of Western Australia. Construction is due to start in 2018, with the SKA projected to enter into service in 2020.

For details: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2016&na=na-220216>

## ESASTAP 2020 launched to promote EU-South Africa cooperation

25-26 February, Cape Town: this Coordinated and Support Action funded through Horizon 2020 will continue to promote EU-South Africa cooperation in STI. ESASTAP 2020 supports the EU-SA dialogue, fosters research and innovation cooperation in areas of common interest and strives to coordinate the activities of EU Member States and Associate Countries with South Africa. With this new phase, the ESASTAP network expands to include key South African organisations: DST, ASSAf, the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), as well as several partners from EU MS & AC. Associated with the launch was a workshop on "Science for Policy Advice" in the South African context.

For details: [www.esastap.org.za](http://www.esastap.org.za)

## First Science Advice Workshop for African Scientists

26-27 February, Hermanus (South Africa): an initiative of Sir Peter Gluckman, New Zealand's Chief Science Advisor and Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA). The workshop was co-organised by INGSA and the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and supported by South Africa's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and others. It brought together 40 selected African scientists for an intensive and engaging process to learn more about providing advice to governments and other policy-makers, in what can be deemed a very successful event. However, capacity needs in the area are high. Only about half of African countries surveyed indicated that they have such capacities, so INGSA is planning further training workshops across Africa with existing and new partners.

For details: [www.globalscienceadvice.org](http://www.globalscienceadvice.org)

## EDCTP Newsletter published

February, Cape Town / The Hague: for information on new calls for proposals, recently awarded grants and other news about the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

See: [www.edctp.org/web/app/uploads/2016/02/EDCTP-Newsletter-February-20161.pdf](http://www.edctp.org/web/app/uploads/2016/02/EDCTP-Newsletter-February-20161.pdf)

## Showcasing EU-Africa Cooperation in Horizon 2020:

There are now 107 participants from 25 African countries involved in 48 Horizon 2020 projects who will receive a total EU contribution of €17m (average: €158,000 per participant). Here are some examples:

**BioMORE** – New Mining Concept for Extracting Metals from Deep Ore Deposits using Biotechnology.

Led by KGHM Polska Miedź (Poland) with 21 other European partners and 1 South African partner.

EU grant: €8.6 million. ([http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193917\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193917_en.html))

**RESLAG** – Turning waste from steel industry into a valuable low-cost feedstock for energy intensive industry. Led by Centro de Investigación Cooperativa de Energías Alternativas Fundación - CICE (Spain) with 16 other European partners and 1 African partner: Morocco. EU grant: €8 million.

([http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/196819\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/196819_en.html))

## Upcoming events:

- 8-10 March 2016, Dakar: **Next Einstein Forum Global Gathering 2016** (NEF GG2016). (<http://nexteinstein.org/>)
- 5-6 April, Addis Ababa: EU-Africa **Stakeholder forum** on Food & Nutrition Security and Sust. Agriculture
- 11-13 May, Durban: **IST-Africa 2016 Conference** ([www.ist-africa.org/Conference2016/](http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2016/))
- 17 - 20 May, Umhlanga, South Africa: **SARIMA conference** ([www.sarimaconference.co.za/](http://www.sarimaconference.co.za/))
- 30 Aug.-2 Sept., Ispra (Italy): **Africa-EU Evidence and Policy** seminar organised by EC Joint Research Centres (JRC) in coordination with the AUC (contact: [JRC-knowledge@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-knowledge@ec.europa.eu))

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