



Towards Better S&T and Development Synergy: Proposals and Recommendations (WP2 deliverable 2.2)

**Ismail N. Barugahara, UNCST
Arne Tostensen, RCN**



BRIDGING S&T AND DEVELOPMENT

- Complex relationship between S&T, and innovation, outreach and application for development
- Compartmentalisation of discrete communities a serious problem
- Mismatch of time perspectives
- ‘Contamination’ of application processes
- Striking a balance between technocratic assessments and political preferences



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Africa-Europe S&T Cooperation

- Backdrop in companion report
- 7th Framework Programmes and 10th EDF
- Largely EU-driven
- Cape Town Consensus
- AU/NEPAD Consolidated Plan of Action
- Dismal African involvement in FPs, except a few centres of scientific excellence
- Rest of Africa largely oblivious of opportunities
- Challenge: leverage EDF and FP synergistically to reinforce each other



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SYNERGY OPTION 1

- Fundamental difference between FP and EDF
- Policy considerations
 - Complementary fora of technocrats and S&T subject-matter specialists to elaborate and operationalise policy decisions
 - Reordering priorities accorded research and development
 - More coherence of financing modalities



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SYNERGY OPTION 2

- **Introduce new windows:**
 - Seed money for potential applicants to overcome transaction cost problem
 - Operationalise S&T component in 10th EDF for support to STI institutional capabilities
 - Pre-proposal support for initial applicants in doing preliminary research to enable meaningful participation in elaboration of fully-fledged proposals



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SYNERGY OPTION 3

- **Programme modification and redesign:**
 - EDF allocated to traditional sectors of economy, leaving out science, technology and innovation systems
 - EDF addresses STI issues only at level of policy and knowledge generation, leaving nitty-gritty to the national economies or regional bodies that are ill equipped for task
 - Redesign EDF to cater for entire project cycle in a multi-phased manner, covering not only research project implementation but also policy research, application of findings in pilot activities, performance review and feedback



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SYNERGY OPTION 4

- **Programme consolidation:**
 - Disparate project portfolios at many levels
 - Lighthouse projects
 - Reconceptualisation, harmonisation and merger of initiatives needed



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SYNERGY OPTION 5

- **STI financing:**
 - Available resources under EDF and other arrangements need to be consolidated, augmented and complemented by new and significant long-term funding
 - African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF)
 - Evolve home-grown solutions to STI and other development challenges



RECOMMENDATION 1

- **Applying FP results for development:**
 - Not feasible to recommend amendments to current make-up of FP7 for the 2007–2013 period
 - Hence, coincidental if FP projects contribute to development in Africa, because their primary objectives are to promote EU competitiveness
 - African participation contributes to increasing the pool of knowledge and expertise in Africa, but as ‘bi-product’
 - Greater emphasis on application aspects of FP projects to enhance take-up of research results in development programmes



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RECOMMENDATION 2

- **Dialogue fora:**

- Divide between S&T and development communities needs to be bridged through dialogue fora
- Declarations and official documents replete with statements acknowledging the worlds apart of S&T and development
- Rhetorical statements remain lip service
- Operationalisation needed of lofty principles and ambitions
- Bring dialogue down to scientists and practitioners who are closest to problems at hand



RECOMMENDATION 3

- Build operational models of bridging the existing gap
- Translate heightened awareness into cooperation between scientists and practitioners
- Generic models probably not possible
- One size does not fit all – customising needed



RECOMMENDATION 4

- Tapping into African scientific Diasporas
- Turning ‘brain drain’ into ‘brain circulation’
- Short- or medium-term placements in African universities and research institutions for highly qualified Diaspora personnel
 - Likely to understand and apply state-of-the-art approaches to problem-solving
 - Hailing from Africa they have been exposed to and socialised into the scientific culture of their host countries – thus being members of two worlds
 - Bridge-builders between (a) S&T in general, and (b) science and conditions at grassroots
- ‘Virtual’ return of the Diaspora by means of ICT



RECOMMENDATION 5

- Establishing a Specific International Cooperation Action (SICA)
- African intellectual property legislation
- Sense of urgency
- Lighthouse project: Pan-African Intellectual Property Organisation (PAIPO)



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FUNDING SOURCES

- Recommendations castles in the air if not accompanied by funding mechanisms
- Bulk of funding from 10th EDF
- Lighthouse projects
- Endowment fund
 - Pool of money donated to an institution, usually with the stipulation that it be invested, and with a proviso that the principal remain intact in perpetuity or for a specified period of time
 - Yield a handsome and predictable sum to sustain core functions towards facilitating S&T and development synergies
 - Insulation of S&T–development synergy-promoting activities from unpredictability of governments and donors



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