



Ghana in FP7 (2007-2013):

54 participations in EU-funded projects*
€8.2 million of EU contribution for research.

*(total by September 2013, excluding Marie Curie actions)

Ghana is the 6th most successful African country in the 7th Framework programme (FP7) in terms of numbers of participations in projects and 8th in terms of total EU contribution. In addition, 12 individual Ghanaian researchers were funded through Marie Curie Actions.

The Framework programme is the European Union (EU) funding instrument to support research and innovation. It does so mainly through large collaborative research projects.

International collaboration is a key feature of the Framework programme, so that it is open to the participation of organisations in countries outside the EU, in most cases with funding.

Participation is open to any (legally established) organisation performing research, including universities, institutes, governments departments, companies, NGOs, etc.

The current (7th) framework programme (FP7) was launched in 2007 and ends in 2013. In total there were over 1300 participations from African organisations in some 565 projects.

The new Horizon 2020 programme starts in 2014. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020>

Examples of FP7 projects involving participants from Ghana:

AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION

AFTER - African Food Tradition Revisited by Research

Aim: to revisit traditional African products, knowledge and know-how in the light of new technologies for the benefit of consumers, producers and processors in Africa and Europe. By applying science and technology to African traditional food products, AFTER seeks to turn research into quantifiable and innovative technologies and products that are commercially viable in both European and African markets.

The project runs from September 2010 to May 2014 with an EU contribution of €2.9 million. It is led by CIRAD (France) with 6 other European partners and 9 African partners: **The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Ghana)**, Université d'Abomey Calavi (Benin), Université de Ngaoundéré (Cameroon), Alexandria University (Egypt), National Research Centre (Egypt), University of Antananarivo (Madagascar), Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal), Association AFrique agro Export (Senegal) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa).

[www.after-fp7.eu]

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HEALTH

E PIAF - Enhanced Protective Immunity Against Filariasis

Aim: to identify target antigens and ensure appropriate formulation and delivery to promote protective responses and avoid any pathology. It uses transcriptomics and bioinformatics to identify the parasite molecules that are targets of protective immunity and that may influence the regulation of such responses; and microarray technologies and bioinformatics to determine the pathways that lead to expression of protective immunity.

It runs from March 2010 to February 2014 with an EU contribution of €5 million. It is led by the University of Edinburgh (UK) with 5 other European partners and 4 African partners: **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)**, Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (Cameroon), Research Foundation in Tropical Diseases and Environment (Cameroon) and Institut National d'Hygiene (Togo).

[www.filaria.eu/projects/projects/epiaf.html]

HEALTH

OPTIMUNISE - Optimising the impact and cost-effectiveness of child health intervention programmes of vaccines and micronutrients in low-income countries

Aim: to use health and demographic surveillance system sites in Africa to register information routinely on all interventions in childhood, such as all vaccinations, micronutrient supplementation, and de-worming, given at health centres or in campaigns; and use this information to measure the overall health impact of the child health programmes.

The project runs from March 2011 to February 2016 with an EU contribution of €3 million. It is led by Statens Serum Institute (Denmark) with 2 other European partners and 4 African partners: **Ghana Health Service and INDEPTH Network (Ghana)**, Centre de Recherche en Sante de Nouna (Burkina Faso) and Instituto Nacional de Saúde Pública (Guinea-Bissau).

[www.indepth-network.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1216&Itemid=1074]

HEALTH & IT

AFRICA BUILD - Building a Research and Education Infrastructure for Africa

Aim: to improve capacity for health research and education in Africa, through Information Technologies, that will provide innovative learning and research opportunities.

It runs from August 2011 to July 2014 with an EU contribution of €2 million. It is led by University of Madrid (Spain) with 3 other European partners and 4 African partners: **University of Ghana**, University of Yaoundé (Cameroon), Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (Egypt) and University of Bamako (Mali). [www.africabuild.eu]

ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

QWECI - Quantifying Weather and Climate Impacts on Health in Developing Countries.

Aim: to understand the climate drivers of the vector-borne diseases of malaria, Rift Valley Fever, and certain tick-borne diseases, which all have major human and livestock health and economic implications in Africa, in order to assist with their short-term management and make projections of their future likely impacts.

The project ran from Feb. 2010 to July 2013 with an EU contribution of €3.5 million. It was led by University of Liverpool (UK) with 5 other European partners and 7 African partners: **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)**, University of Malawi, Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal), Centre de Suivi Ecologique (Senegal) and Institut Pasteur de Dakar (Senegal) and University of Pretoria (South Africa). [www.liv.ac.uk/qweci/]

For more information on FP7 projects: <http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/>