

## Horizon 2020 Information Session and National Contact Point Training Session

### Draft Concept Note

#### Horizon 2020

In 2014, the European Commission launched Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Horizon 2020, running from 2014-2020, makes nearly €80 billion available for research and innovation projects. Focusing on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges, the goal is to produce world-class science, remove barriers to innovation, and make it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

Horizon 2020 is fully open for participation from around the world, including from Africa. With this new openness, Africa's research and innovation actors have a better chance than ever to leverage the opportunities presented by Horizon 2020 for greater cooperation with European partners. However, despite this opportunity, African researchers have not participated in as great of numbers as could be expected. Reversing this trend can be at least partly achieved by increasing the understanding of Horizon 2020 – and the opportunities it offers – in Africa and increasing the number of trained National Contact Points (NCPs) located in African countries.

The CAAST-Net Plus project, funded by the European Commission, has convened Horizon 2020 Information Sessions across Africa with the aim of increasing African researchers' understanding of the Horizon 2020 programme. In addition, CAAST-Net Plus has encouraged and supported the nomination of NCPs in African countries and provided training to NCPs to promote the participation of African institutions in Horizon 2020.

In collaboration with the European Union Delegation in Nigeria, CAAST-Net Plus will hold a Horizon 2020 Information session, and a hands-on training for current or potential National Contact Points. The first day, a Horizon 2020 Information Session, will provide an overview of the Horizon 2020 programme and how African researchers can participate. The second day will be restricted to current or potential NCPs and will provide participants with the tools needed to provide support to the science community in their country and their participation in Horizon 2020.

#### Overall Objectives:

The overall objectives of the workshops are to:

- Increase the awareness of Horizon 2020 and the opportunities particularly suitable for Africa-EU collaboration in Horizon 2020;
- Describe the rules for participation, how to submit a proposal, and how to identify partners for a proposal;
- Inform about National Contact Points and their role; and
- Provide information and tools for new or potential National Contact Points to better carry out the tasks to support their research community.

#### Participants

Researchers, Representatives of Research and Innovation offices, current or potential National Contact Points.



## Agenda

### Day 1: Horizon 2020 Information Session

Horizon 2020 Information Session		
8:30-9:00	Arrival & Registration	
9:00-9:30	Welcome & Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Representative from Nigeria</i></li><li>• Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation of the DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</li></ul>
9:30-9:40	CAAST-Net Plus	Melissa Plath, CAAST-Net Plus / UniPID
9:40-10:10	Introduction to Horizon 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nienke Buisman, European Commission</li><li>• Jens Hoegel, European Commission</li></ul>
10:10-10:30	African Participation in Horizon 2020: First statistics	<i>Representative from the EC?</i>
10:30-11:00	Success Stories: Nigerian Participation in Horizon 2020	<i>tbc</i>
11:00-11:30	<i>Tea / Coffee Break and Picture</i>	
11:30-12:00	Overview of Horizon 2020: Rules & instruments	FORTH
12:00-12:30	Opportunities for African Participation in Horizon 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Melissa Plath</li><li>• CSIR-STEPRI</li></ul>
12:30-12:45	Finding Partners for a Horizon Proposal	CSIR-STEPRI
12:45-13:15	Discussion	
13:15-14:00	<i>Tea / Coffee tea break</i>	
14:00-14:20	Proposal Submission Process	Melissa Plath
14:20-14:40	Introduction to National Contact Points	FORTH
14:40-15:00	Discussion	
15:00-16:00	Breakout activity: Identify a possible call and draft a letter of interest	Moderator: Melissa Plath
16:00-16:30	Discussion	
19:00	Dinner offered by CAAST-Net Plus, location tbc	

### Day 2: NCP Training Session

NCP Training Session		
8:30-9:00	Arrival & Registration	
9:00-9:15	Introduction to the NCP system	CSIR-STEPRI
9:15-10:00	What is an NCP? Roles and Responsibilities for NCPs	FORTH
10:00-10:30	Setting up an NCP Network: Case Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ghana</li></ul>	CSIR-STEPRI



<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<i>Tea / Coffee Break and Picture</i>	
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Lessons learnt from Ghanaian NCPs	CSIR-STEPRI
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	What makes a good proposal?	Melissa Plath
<b>12:00-12:30</b>	Discussion	
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<i>Tea / Coffee Break</i>	
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	Breakout session 1: Financial Management and Reporting in H2020	Moderator: FORTH
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	Breakout session: Proposal Writing in H2020	Moderator: Melissa Plath
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	Wrap-up and Discussion	

