

Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) Report Writing Workshop

2-3 October 2017
Cape Town, South Africa
Venue: TBC

CONCEPT NOTE

Organised by:
CAAST-Net Plus

In collaboration with:
Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa
Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED)
Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs (FCSAI)
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), Kenya



caast-net-plus.org

Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges

Background

CAAST-Net Plus is a project funded by the European Commission and a network of 26 partner organizations from Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, working together to support bi-regional cooperation in research and innovation. The aim of the project is to encourage better bi-regional STI cooperation for enhanced outcomes around topics related to climate change, food security and health.

The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), the Kenyan Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST) and the Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs (FCSAI) are jointly responsible for the health research thematic area in CAAST-Net Plus. Over the past few years, these institutions have been developing the Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) – a reporting system that encourages governments, business, organisations and funders to share their efforts to develop fair partnerships by describing their policies and practices. The process, develop better guidelines and benchmarks that will increase global capacity to deal with the challenges of global health, equity and development. Led by COHRED, the team is currently in the process of promoting and implementing the reporting tool to enhance framework conditions around health research partnerships. Since 2015, several RFI workshops were held in in the context of CAAST-Net Plus, including the following workshops:

- **Kenya, Nairobi** – May 2016, hosted by Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI);
- **Nigeria, Abuja** – July 2016, hosted by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP);
- **Senegal, Dakar** – August 2016, hosted by Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR);
- **Belgium, Brussels** – September 2016, hosted by Spanish Health Institute Carlos III;
- **South Africa, Cape Town** – November 2016, hosted by the South African Medical Research Council.
- **Senegal, Dakar** – June 2017, hosted by Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR).

In addition, COHRED and FCSAI are presenting the initiative in European countries and around the world. The link to the global perspective lends an important dimension to the RFI as a tool to improve research governance in Africa-EU collaboration.

Objectives

This RFI Report - writing workshop is aimed at South African research and academic institutions already aware of the RFI and convinced that it can add value to their own research partnerships and that of their partners worldwide.

This workshop will inform participants on development in the RFI, and provide hands-on guidance on how the RFI Report is prepared, how it can be integrated into an institution's routine research administration as a strategic tool, and how it can add benefit to the RFI Reporting institutions and their partners. While the RFI was developed through the lens of 'research for health', the RFI is a generic 'due diligence' instrument applicable in any field of science collaboration.

Participants

This workshop is geared for decision makers in research and academic institutions – led by a member of the institution’s executive responsible for research development: including deputy vice chancellors (research), deputy directors or vice-presidents for research, deputy CEO’s and other colleagues in charge of research portfolios. In case the RFI is prepared for a Faculty / Division rather than an institution – then the most relevant executive staff member for the Faculty/Division research development should attend.

Ideally, the executives lead a small team from their institution – whose members could include senior staff who will be made responsible for certain parts of the RFI Report: such as i) head of administration, ii) head of finance, iii) head of legal services, and others who might be responsible for parts of the RFI report drafting activity.

In total, a team of 3-5 people from your institution, led by a member of the executive responsible for research management and development of your institution is envisaged.

Below are some of the institutions that have been identified as potential participants for the workshop:

1. University of Stellenbosch
2. Medical Research Council, South Africa
3. Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences
4. University of Western Cape
5. University of KwaZulu-Natal
6. Wits Health Consortium

Prior to the workshop, invited individuals will receive the following documents: the *RFI Summary*, the *RFI Reporting Guide*, and the *RFI Implementation Guide*. These documents can also be accessed on <http://rfi.cohred.org>.

Expected outcomes

Participating institutions will gain a better understanding on how RFI makes research partnerships work and how it can be applied by research institutions in South Africa to strengthen their standard operation procedures.

Participants will also work as a team to draft their institutional RFI reports. They will be invited to share their report outcomes and finalise their reports within two months to be submitted to COHRED for validation.

For further information on the RFI please visit <http://rfi.cohred.org/>.

Draft programme

2-3 October 2017, Cape Town	
2 October 2017	
9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:40	Welcome remarks and introduction Dr. Daan du Toit, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa (TBC) Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden, COHRED Executive Director Katharina Kuss, Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs
10:40-11:00	Introduction of Participants
11:00-13:00	Group work on RFI domain I
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	Group work on RFI domain II
3 October 2017	
10:00-12:00	Group work on RFI domain III
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	<i>Reporting of results</i>
14:00-15:00	Discussion on RFI relevance for participating institutions
15:00-16:00	Closing remarks and way forward
16:00	Close