

## Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) Information Day

4 October 2017

Pretoria, South Africa

Venue: Bunga Auditorium, Department of Science and Technology

### 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](http://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 – and, in 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 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 workshop aims to provide a practical framework and tools to enhance fair research collaborations in global health research and, potentially, in research in other areas. The workshop aims to deliver key information on the RFI to a critical group of potential users and decision-makers in South Africa, including feedback from the CAAST-Net Plus workshops on RFI to strengthen bi-regional research cooperation. The session will also include discussions on the link between health research and the EU-Africa R&I food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA) partnership.

## Participants

The workshop aims to attract the broader South African audience from research institutions, primarily, but not exclusively in health and other related fields. Leaders/senior staff of research institutions, organisations or business engaged in research and science collaboration between Africa and Europe. Programme owners, public media and members of scientific press are also welcome to attend.

## Expected outcomes

Participating institutions will familiarise themselves with the RFI, how it 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 gain a better understanding of the EU-Africa partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

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

## Draft programme

<b>4 October 2017, Pretoria</b>	
<b>9:30-10:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Welcome remarks and introduction</b> 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
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>The Research Fairness Initiative in context of CAAST-Net Plus</b> Katharina Kuss, Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Objectives and opportunities of the Research Fairness Initiative</b> Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden, Executive Director COHRED
<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<b>Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership in the Context of CAAST-Net Plus</b> Presentation: Dr Jean Albergel, Institute of Research for Development
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<b>Presentation &amp; discussion on Bibliometrics Analysis of Africa-EU Co-publications in Health Research</b> Presentation: Tinyiko Mushwana, Department of Science and Technology
<b>15:00-16:30</b>	<b>Panel discussion: Research Fairness initiative &amp; the Bi-regional Partnership on FNSSA</b> Dr Jean Albergel, Institute of Research for Development, Prof Jimmy Volmink, Dean of Stellenbosch University, Glaudina Loots, Department of Science and Technology, Representative of CSIR (TBC) Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Senegal (TBC) Prof Carel IJsselmuiden, COHRED
<b>16:30</b>	Way forward and close