

The African Regional Economic Communities and Africa-EU STI Cooperation

CAAST-Net Plus Workshop with the African Regional Economic
Communities (RECs)

4th + 5th February 2016 | Pretoria, South Africa

Report and Recommendations



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Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges

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Presentations delivered by the RECs, science academies and Africa-EU project partners can be downloaded from the following link: <https://caast-net-plus.org/object/news/1473>

Background

Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play a crucial role in promoting economic integration within and beyond their member states. Science, technology and innovation (STI) have in the past few years featured more prominently as key elements in addressing national development challenges at a regional level. Efforts to integrate the role of STI in regional development plans have positioned the RECs as key drivers in the context of the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES) and in the implementation of the African Union (AU) Strategy on STI 2014-2024 (STISA 2024). Bi-regional STI cooperation between Africa and Europe is rich in tangible outputs accrued from the myriad of STI projects, initiatives and funding instruments between the two continents. There is however a recognition that programmes implemented through bilateral and multilateral STI projects and activities could be fostered by intensifying the participation of the RECs in such initiatives. It is against this backdrop that CAAST-Net Plus hosted its first workshop with the RECs in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Workshop

The workshop, which was hosted by the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa, took place from 4-5 February 2016 and brought together a range of stakeholders as listed below. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss the **potential role of the RECs in the Africa-EU STI partnership with the aim of sharing and exchanging information on their priorities, strategic objectives and milestones**. The workshop was also aimed at **identifying, modalities, mutual priorities and synergies for closer collaboration**.

Participants

- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD);
- Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- Inter Academy Panel (IAP) – the global network of science academies;
- Network of African Science Academies (NASAC);
- European Commission (EC);
- African Union Commission (AUC);
- PAEPARD;
- Research and Innovation Network for Europe and Africa (RINEA);
- INCONTACT; and
- ERAfrica Initiative



[Image credit: *Research Africa]

Both the AUC and EC provided introductory remarks and set the scene for the discussions by presenting an overview of the inception of the Africa-EU STI Partnership subsequent to the adoption of the JAES by African and European heads of state and government. The AUC and EC noted that, while joint research priorities and joint agenda-setting characterise the bi-regional partnership and its High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD), which converges the STI policy imperatives of African and European member states, limited engagement with the RECs has resulted in a gap within the STI cooperation framework of the two continents.

This report provides a summary of the main discussion points, proposed joint actions and recommendations aimed at facilitating and promoting the participation of RECs and, as emerged during the workshop, of the African national science academies in the Africa-EU STI Partnership.

Summary of Key Discussion Points and Outputs

1. Common priority areas and the leveraging potential of the RECs

Despite the varying geo-political contexts of the RECs, certain factors emerged as common experiences in their drive to establish regional STI strategies and programmes. Climate change, food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA), water, health, energy and information communication technology (ICT) emerged as common thematic areas that are instrumental to the implementation of the regional STI strategies and programmes of the RECs. Although the RECs are at different stages of developing and implementing their regional STI strategies, particularly given their respectively unique demographics, it was noted that a common thread amongst them has been to ensure that priorities identified at the regional level are consolidated and aligned with the priorities of member states reflected in their national development plans. RECs have the ability to convene member states and to mobilise their participation in various regional programmes and initiatives. It was suggested therefore that a key starting point for the participation of RECs within the Africa-EU STI Partnership is to ensure that there is alignment of priorities.

While the current focus of the Africa-EU Research and Innovation (R&I) Roadmap is FNSSA, it was noted that the participation of the RECs within the Africa-EU STI Partnership would need to be considered beyond this priority. Part of the reason for this was that the HLPD would convene a senior officials' meeting in April 2016 where new priority areas would be discussed. However, it was also noted that if RECs are to act as essential partners in mobilising greater African participation around areas of mutual interest in the R&I Roadmap, it would be essential for them to be part of the process of jointly conceptualising such priorities from the onset. The aim in this instance would be greater ownership, better implementation and the possibility for Africa-EU projects existing in individual member states to be up-scaled to a regional level where relevant, through the facilitation and support actions of RECs.

In addition, there would also be an opportunity to promote policy coherence right across national and regional STI agendas to not only respond to STISA 2024 and EUROPE 2020 but also to the JAES.

2. Representation of RECs in the Africa-EU HLPD Bureau

Following the discussions outlined above, it was noted that the number of African countries participating in HLPD Bureau meetings has been limited due to a lack of human capacity amongst member states to consistently participate in Bureau meetings. It was also pointed out that the model of participation by both African and European countries in the Bureau is based on equal numeric representation from both continents. This model may not be optimal as Africa consists of 54 countries while Europe has 28 countries. A suggestion offered was to consider tabling a proposal for the RECs to be represented in Bureau meetings. It was pointed out that the mode of nomination of the EU and AU member state representatives remained the prerogative of each side. It was also proposed that African and European National Science Academies could offer policy advice to the Bureau or serve as members of expert working groups charged with defining new priorities and frameworks to address these priorities.

3. Building capacity to facilitate RECs' participation in the Africa-EU STI Partnership

Africa-EU projects, namely the Coordination and Support Activities (CSA) consisting of PAEPARD, InContact, RINEA and the ERAfrica Initiative delivered presentations on the scope of their work within the context of the Africa-EU STI Partnership. Although the presentations revealed the extensive opportunities with mutual priorities and shared interests, a common challenge identified as a limitation to participation was a lack of human and technical capacity amongst the RECs. As a solution, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) planned a process in 2015 of establishing a regional coordination cell to facilitate and coordinate its participation and that of its member states in various Africa-EU projects.

A recommendation stemming from this approach was that the other RECs could adopt this approach as a means of addressing their human and technical capacity challenges. The RECs stated that both financial and in kind support would be essential in establishing and coordinating their own networks of national and regional contact points. Existing bi-regional projects such as RINEA, PAEPARD, InContact and CAAST-Net Plus were requested to not only encourage the participation of RECs in their activities but to also include information in their websites and other information dissemination tools about RECs and their STI strategies.

4. Need for an Inter-RECs Forum on STI

In addition to mobilising resources to promote capacity building, the RECs identified a need for an inter-RECs Forum which could act as a coordinating mechanism. Such a forum would need to strategically involve the AUC, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), as well as other regional African institutions for greater impact. This forum will be geared at developing a joint mechanism to foster inter-REC collaboration and enhance the participation of RECs in the Africa-EU STI Partnership.

5. The ERAfrica Initiative as a thematically open portal for fostering Africa-EU collaboration in STI

The RECs showed a strong interest in participating in the ERAfrica Initiative. It was recommended that the RECs participate in the next ERAfrica Joint Research Call to be published within the R&I field of 'Resilience'. A second CAAST-Net Plus workshop to be held before the HLPD SOM in April 2016 was proposed to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop will be aimed at discussing the mechanisms through which RECs could shape, with other partners, the ERAfrica Initiative as an entity and participate in the ERAfrica Joint Research Call on the theme of 'Resilience'.

6. National science academies and their regional networks

It was noted that the potential value of national science academies and their regional networks such as the IAP, NASAC and its European equivalent EASAC, in influencing decision making processes in the field of STI cooperation with funders, seems to be generally unknown. Science academies often publish baseline reports and evidence-based papers which could be crucial in the formulation and harmonisation of national, regional, continental and inter-continental STI strategies and policies. It was noted that the RECs and the national science academies will need to work closely together by establishing active and regular cooperation links. Science academies could be instrumental in supporting RECs and the overall Africa-EU STI Partnership by setting up databases of leading researchers in their respective regions. The establishment of 'Young Academies of Science' was also identified as a further instrument to strengthen networks between decision makers, funders and STI practitioners.

Next Steps and Recommendations

The following next steps and recommendations emerged from the workshop:

Considerations on joint agenda setting

- The RECs, have a potential role to play in collectively conceptualizing new priority areas that will inform bi-regional STI cooperation between Africa and Europe.
- Given their vast access to scientific research, National Science Academies and their networks could also provide evidence-based advice to policy and decision makers who represent their governments in the HLPD Bureau. This in turn will promote national, regional, continental and bi-regional policy harmonization.

Considerations on representation in the HLPD

- Due to the technical and human capacity shortfalls which prohibit African member states from participating in HLPD Bureau meetings, it may be prudent for the HLPD Bureau to consider representation of the RECs in the HLPD.
- National Science Academies and their regional networks could also be invited to sit in HLPD expert working groups charged to develop various mechanisms of implementing the R&I Roadmap and its future priorities.

Considerations on capacity building, resource mobilisation and coordination of the RECs

- In order to facilitate effective participation of the RECs in the Africa-EU STI Partnership, there is a need to establish networks of regional and national contact points. The InContact initiative could provide technical training to set up regional and national cells of contact points.
- There is a need to mobilize and leverage financial resources from member states, African funding bodies and Africa-EU funding instruments to implement STI-led development programmes.
- There is a strong need for the establishment of an Inter-RECs STI Forum to encourage greater coordination of STI activities and programmes amongst the RECs as well as the exchange of good practices based on the respective integration of STI in regional socio-economic development strategies and policies.
- African continental bodies and structures such as the AUC and AfDB could play a strategic role in the establishment of such an Inter-RECs Forum.
- The Inter-RECs Forum could also serve as a platform to foster participation of the RECs in the Africa-EU STI Partnership.

Considerations on RECs participation in the ERAfrica Initiative and other Africa-EU projects

- The REC's could participate in the next ERAfrica Initiative Joint Research Call on the R&I theme of *Resilience*. The RECs were encouraged to submit their regional STI strategies to the ERAfrica Secretariat in preparation for a second CAAST-Net Plus Workshop with RECs.
- CAAST-Net Plus will host a second workshop with the RECs on the margins of the up-coming HLPD Senior Officials' Meeting to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This workshop will not only be aimed at identifying the mechanisms for the RECs to participate in the ERAfrica Joint Call on Resilience, but will also contribute towards the formulation of ERAfrica Initiative as a thematically open portal for the R&I Roadmap.
- The RECs expressed an interest in participating in H2020 projects that have similar priority areas to those contained in their regional STI strategies.
- Given their mandate to act as the mouthpiece of their member states, RECs could play a role in mobilizing and coordinating their member states to participate in Africa-EU STI programmes which could be scaled up from a national to regional level.
- National Science Academies in collaboration with the RECs could set up databases of leading researchers in their respective regions.
- Regional science academies called on the RECs to support the establishment of Young Academies of Science amongst their member states. The South African Young Academy of Science as well as Leopoldina were identified as successful actors which could also support this process.

STI Strategies of RECs and current Participation in the Africa-EU STI Partnership

This section provides a background on the STI Strategies of the RECs which participated in the CAAST-NET Plus Workshop held in Pretoria. Information is also provided on the current participation of the RECs in various programmes and activities of the Africa-EU STI Partnership.

ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States

CEDEAO | Communiqué économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

a. Background

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established through the Lagos Treaty on 28 May 1975. In 2007 the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government introduced the transformational ECOWAS Vision 2020. This vision is “aimed at setting a clear direction and goals to significantly raise the standard of living of West African people through conscious and inclusive programmes that will guarantee a bright future for West Africa and shape the destiny of the region for many years to come” (www.ecowas.int).

b. Regional STI initiatives

In 2012 the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government adopted a regional STI Policy. The Policy covers eight programmes as listed below:

Programme 1	Popularisation of STI	Aims to increase and strengthen understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) amongst the citizens of member states and policy makers.
Programme 2	Establishment of thematic clusters of competence	Aims to facilitate the networking of research institutions through the creation of centres of excellence based on strategic themes.
Programme 3	Valorisation of research products in STI	Aims to stimulate scientific creativity and research through a sustainable environment to increase human and technical capacity.
Programme 4	Development of STI indicators	Aims to collect scientific data to monitor the STI landscape of the region.
Programme 5	Public-private partnerships for the development of STEM	Aims to mobilise and promote private sector participation for the development of STI through a funding framework and the creation of technology parks and business incubators.
Programme 6	Build regional and international cooperation	Aims to improve and promote regional and international cooperation in STI through the exchange of good practices.
Programme 7	Commit 1% of GDP to scientific research	Aims to encourage member states to contribute 1% of their GDPs towards the financing of STI.
Programme 8	STI Capacity building	Aims to encourage and support the research system by training researchers.

c. Current Participation in the Africa-EU STI Partnership

ECOWAS did not report on any Africa-EU STI Partnership initiatives that it is currently involved in but stressed its openness in establishing memorandums of understanding between the various partners involved to facilitate its participation in Africa-EU STI projects and activities in line with its priorities as detailed above.

ECCAS | Economic Community of Central African States

CEEAC | Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique Centrale

a. Background

ECCAS was created in 1983 as part of the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to promote the establishment of a single Pan-African common market by the year 2000. Its central objective was defined as promoting and strengthening economic and social cooperation and self-sustained development “in order to achieve collective self-reliance, raise the standard of living of its peoples, increase and maintain economic stability, foster close and peaceful relations between member states and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent”.

b. Regional STI initiatives

Concerning the STI programs within the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the main programs that can be listed are the Technological Pole of Excellence within Universities better known by its French acronym – PETU (Pôle d'Excellence Technologique Universitaire). This program involves several universities in all the Central African countries. The Africa Centre of Excellence in ICT for instance, is based in the University of Yaounde I, Cameroon. This program re-groups the application of information and communication technologies in major domains including but not limited to :

- Health and the environment: In this instance here mathematical models will be developed to predict the spread of diseases like HIV and ebola. Other aspects of this axis will explore the application of ICT in enhancing research on the rich diversity of medicinal plants in the central African forest zones. The last aspect of this axis is aimed at developing digital hospitals;
- Infrastructures: This axis of the program will develop equations to model traffic on major roads; and
- Small to Medium Enterprises (SME): The main project here is termed TECHNIPEDIA, developed by Professor AWONO ONANA through financing from the EU amounting to €2.5 million through the Intra-ACP mobility program. TECHNIPEDIA is based on an original idea of utilisation of ICT to catalyze the creation of SMEs.

c. Initiatives in the Africa-EU Context

Other STI program not specific to central Africa but involving countries from the sub-region as well as EU member states include but are not limited to:

- The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Next Einstein Initiative, a coordinated programme to launch 15 AIMS centres across the continent. This ambitious plan has won support from the governments of Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Canada as well as international companies such as Google: <http://www.aims-cameroon.org>
- The project AFIMEGQ "Africa For Innovation, Mobility, Exchange, Globalization and Quality" is a cooperation and mobility programme in the area of Higher Education, implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Union (EU). The project is designed to facilitate the movement of Masters and PhD students and academic staff between selected national Universities in Africa as a means of building capacity and encouraging socio-economic development in each region of the continent. <http://www.afimegg.org>

SADC | Southern African Development Community

a. Background

The mission of SADC is to “promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper co-operation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security, so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy”. In seeking to meet both its social and economic aspirations, the SADC region recognises the important role and contribution of STI in political, economic and social development of the region in order to inter alia facilitate industrial development, competitiveness, regional integration and cooperation. Thus promoting STI as one of the broad strategic objectives of the SADC regional integration and cooperation agenda. The immediate outcome is enhanced application of STI to support the priorities of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2015-2020).

The SADC STI programme is guided by key strategic frameworks, namely the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), Protocol on STI of 2008 and the SADC Strategic Plan on STI of 2014. The overall objective of the Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation of 2008 is to foster co-operation and promote, the development, transfer and mastery of STI in the region. In 2015, the SADC region developed and approved the regional Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) which underscores STI as one of the important enabling factors for Industrialization¹. The Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is anchored on the three pillars listed below:

- (i) Industrialization as a champion of economic and technological transformation;
- (ii) Competitiveness as an active process to move from comparative advantage to competitive advantage; and
- (iii) Regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity.

b. Regional STI initiatives

The areas of focus on STI include:

- Development and harmonisation of STI policies in the region;
- Attract and promote Public-Private Partnerships’ investment in STI and R&D infrastructure;
- Development and promotion of research, innovation and technology transfer;
- Promotion of public understanding, advocacy and awareness of STI;
- Development of and strengthening of regional STI capacities;
- Enhancing and strengthening the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);
- Promotion of women and youth participation in science, engineering and technology; and
- Promotion of and strengthening of regional cooperation on STI.

Some of the programmes that have been initiated as a result of these focus areas include the SADC Women in Science, Engineering and Technology; SADC High Performance Computing ; SADC Climate Change Framework; SADC Indigenous Knowledge Systems Policy Platform; SADC STI Policy Training programme and Strengthening of Research and Innovation Management Capacities to mention just a few.

c. Current Participation in the Africa-EU STI Partnership

In 2011 SADC and CAAST-Net Plus partnered to organise the SADC-Europe Solar Energy Symposium on “Advancing mutual understanding of renewable and solar energy research and their supporting policy frameworks in Europe and the Southern African Development Community”. The symposium took place in Lilongwe, Malawi and was hosted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The interest of SADC to partner with CAAST-Net Plus is in thematic areas such as energy; climate change; food security and health. Proposed instruments for engagement include policy dialogues; seminars; demonstration/pilot projects and leveraging of joint funding.

¹ SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063

IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development

a. Regional STI initiatives

Established in 1986 and revitalized in 1996, IGAD is composed of eight (8) member states, namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The region is home to about 250 million people 60 to 70 per cent of which are the youth. The region has experienced severe droughts, incessant and protracted conflicts, violent terrorism, piracy and excessive migration. About 80 per cent of the region is characterized as Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs). The region suffers from the negative effects of climate change, food and nutrition insecurity and abject poverty.

Over the years, IGAD has worked with member states, development partners and different stakeholders to coordinate harmonize and provide leadership to respond to the various socio-economic challenges facing the region through collective efforts. However, both IGAD and its member states lack the requisite human, financial and technological capacities to deal with the breadth and depth of economic, social, political and environmental crises affecting the region.

Though not much has been done at regional level in the areas of STI, IGAD has incorporated this in its five-year strategic plan for the period 2016-2020. By making STI as well as education including technical, vocational education and training (TVET) among the priority agenda, IGAD has shown its commitment to promote these sectors in the coming years in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Key components of the IGAD Initiative on STI focus on:

- Establishing an IGAD Council for Higher Education and STI;
- Development of IGAD Education, Strategy Framework (Primary, Secondary, Higher and Vocational education);
- IGAD Universities' Network;
- Development of an IGAD Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation;
- Strengthen Cooperation with AU/RECs on Education and STI; and
- Strengthening the Capacity of the IGAD Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of regional STI programs.

b. Current Participation in the Africa-EU STI Partnership

The work of IGAD, like all other RECs, is very much critical for the development of STI in the region. As part of its ongoing activities, IGAD can promote research, technology transfer, and youth innovation that can address FNS, Climate Change and Health including emergency health threats. For this reason, IGAD wishes to propose the following priorities for collaboration in the Africa-EU STI Partnership:

- Capacity Building for the Secretariat (Human and Financial);
- Development of the IGAD Regional STI Strategy;
- Technical/expertise to support, identify, evaluate and fund research projects on FNS in the ASALs;
- Support for the establishment of a Regional Education and STI Council; and
- Support for the strengthening of the IGAD Universities' Network as an STI Platform.

EAC | East African Community

a. Regional STI initiatives

The 5th Extra Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State held on 18 June 2007 established the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) as an institution of the EAC. The Commission was operationalised in July 2015. The development objective of EASTECO is “to promote & coordinate the development, management & application of Science & Technology to support regional integration & socio-economic development”.

The specific objectives include:

- Regional STI policy formulation;
- Joint development & application of science & technology;
- Promotion of and support to regional research centres of excellence;
- Exchange and utilisation of scientific information;
- Public and private sector partnerships in development and application of STI;
- Resource mobilisation for STI in the community;
- Fostering scientific & technological innovation in the partner states;
- Development, adoption & utilisation of ICT and the adoption of new & emerging technologies; and
- Promotion of the exchange and utilization of scientific information and to support the dissemination of research and development findings in the partner states.

Immediate activities for the commission include:

- Development of a 5-year Strategic Plan;
- Supporting the establishment of Regional Technology & Innovation centres;
- Support the identification, evaluation and diffusion of technology choices in agricultural processing and conservation ;
- Promote public and private sector investment in research and technology development;
- Launch a regional journal on innovative research and technologies by 2017;
- hold an Annual Forum of STI Councils to share national practices on the development and application of STI; and
- Establish an annual youth innovation forum.

b. Current Participation in the Africa-EU STI Partnership

- Determine priorities for regional collaborative research;
- Establish linkages/partnerships with technology transfer/development networks of other regions;
- Develop and/or harmonize the S&T policies and strategies (emerging technologies, biotechnology etc);
- Establish a regional consensus on STI Priorities (elaboration of programme for regional cooperation in STI);
- Establish regional research and technology development programmes in priority areas and related collaborative arrangements;
- Establishment of partnerships with relevant regional and international organisations; and
- Develop a regional intellectual property rights legislation (harmonized with those of partner states).

COMESA | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

a. Regional STI initiatives

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was established in 1994 to replace the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern Africa set up in 1981 within the framework of the Organization of the African Unity's (OAU) Lagos Plan of Action and the First Act of Lagos. The COMESA Regional bloc currently comprises 19 member countries namely, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. COMESA has a population of about 450 million people or almost half the population of Africa and a combined GDP of over USD 500 billion, making it a huge market.

The COMESA STI strategy provides guidelines on where to make strategic investments that strengthen regional cooperation, improve scientific and technological research capabilities and are relevant to other science and technology projects in the region. In June 2012 the first COMESA Ministerial Committee met and underscored the critical importance of implementing the decisions on STI, at the national level by each member state, and in this regard recalled the following decisions adopted by the COMESA Summit in 2010:

- To establish science and technology Parks, and Artisanal and Industrial Clusters;
- To establish a COMESA Innovation Fund;
- To harmonize ICT curricula in the region;
- To create a database of scientists and engineers that can be organized and networked to provide a critical mass of expertise to advance the STI program;
- To develop master plans and blue prints for harnessing knowledge from around the world, bearing in mind that the global stock of knowledge doubles every 12 months;
- To develop programmes for commercialization of research and development, and its results;
- To coordinate and harmonize national frameworks on STI;
- To promote nanotechnology, biotechnology and new materials such as polymers; and
- To allocate at least 1% of GDP to research and development.







b. Initiatives in the Africa-EU Context

COMESA member states recognize the importance of science and technology in socio-economic and cultural development and have agreed to cooperate in various fields as stated in the decision of the 2010 COMESA Summit on Science and Technology Development. COMESA has developed an STI strategy, has a Ministerial and Technical committee on STI, an Innovation council and identified centers of excellence on STI. COMESA proposes the various priorities for the EU-Africa cooperation:

- Capacity Building for the Secretariat (Human and Financial);
- Establishment of Science and Technology Parks, and Artisanal and Industrial Clusters;
- Support in creation of a database of scientists and engineers that can be organized and networked to provide a critical mass of expertise to advance the STI program;
- Support on the establishment and strengthening of STI regional centres of excellence;
- Support in coordination and harmonization of national frameworks of STI;
- Support in harnessing the potential in utilization of TV white spaces;
- Support in harmonizing the ICT curricula in the region; and
- Support in fast-tracking establishment of its virtual university.

Graphic Overview of the African Regional Economic Communities

(Maps from <https://de.wikipedia.org>)

					
<p>ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States</p> <p>CEDEAO Communiqué économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest</p> <p>Headquarter Abidjan /Côte d'Ivoire</p>	<p>ECCAS Economic Community of Central African States</p> <p>CEEAC Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique Centrale</p> <p>Headquarter Libreville /Gabon</p>	<p>COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</p> <p>Headquarter Lusaka /Zambia</p>	<p>IGAD Inter-governmental Authority on Development</p> <p>Headquarter Djibouti City /Djibouti</p>	<p>SADC Southern African Development Community</p> <p>Headquarter Gaborone /Botswana</p>	<p>EAC East African Community</p> <p>Headquarter Arusha /Tanzania</p>
15	10	19	8	15	5
Benin	Angola	Burundi	Djibouti	Angola	Burundi
Burkina Faso	Burundi	Comoros	Eritrea	Botswana	Kenya
Cape Verde	Cameroon	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ethiopia	DR Congo	Rwanda
Cote d'Ivoire	Central African Republic	Djibouti	Kenya	Lesotho	Uganda
Gambia	Chad	Egypt	Somalia	Madagascar	Tanzania
Ghana	DR Congo	Eritrea	South Sudan	Malawi	
Guinea	Equatorial Guinea	Ethiopia	Sudan	Mauritius	
Guinea-Bissau	Gabon	Kenya	Uganda	Mozambique	
Liberia	Republic of Congo	Libya		Namibia	
Mali	Rwanda	Madagascar		Seychelles	
Niger	Sao Tome and Principe	Malawi		South Africa	
Nigeria		Mauritius		Swaziland	
Senegal		Rwanda		Tanzania	
Sierra Leone		Seychelles		Zambia	
Togo		Sudan		Zimbabwe	
		Swaziland			
		Uganda			
		Zambia			
		Zimbabwe			

Overview of IAP - InterAcademy Partnership

- Over 130 Academies
- 4 affiliated regional networks
- Global Young Academy

IANAS Inter-American Network of Academies of Science

EASAC European Academies Science Advisory Council

NASAC Network of African Science Academies

AASSA Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia

GYA Global Young Academy

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