

Acting as an NCP: Malawis Experience

**SADC H2020 Information Session and
NCP's Training Session**

15-17 May 2017, Botswana

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MALAWI's NCP**



OUTLINE

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Introduction : NCST – Host Organisation

- **An apex body with :**
 - **Mandate** :advise Govt and other stakeholders on all Science and Technology matters in order to achieve a science, technology - led development
 - Stakeholders include the industry, academia, govt, SME's
 - **Mission to** :to promote, support, coordinate and regulate the development & application of science, technology and innovation so as to create wealth in order to improve quality of life .
 - Joined the Network in 2015 and has 7 NCP's.

Host Ministry

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
 - Parent Ministry for NCST
 - Responsible for appointing NCP's

Malawi's Thematic Areas

- **National Research Priorities include**
 - **Food security, Nutrition and eradication of hunger**
 - eAgriculture
- Health (eHealth)
- Education
 - Technology-enhanced Learning
 - Digital Libraries
- eInfrastructures
- Entrepreneurship
- Cloud computing
- eGovernment
- Energy

Thematic areas in relation to H2020

- **Societal Challenges**
 - Health , Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Action, Energy, Secure societies(ICT)
- **Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies**
 - Future Internet; Content technologies and information management;
- **Excellent Science**
 - Marie Curie, Research Infrastructures

Mode of Selection of NCP's

- The 2003 S&T Act that guides NCST establishes national sector-specific functional committees such as:
 - Health , Social Science and Humanities, Agriculture and Natural Sciences , Technology Transfer , ICT and Knowledge Management so most of the NCPs are officers that are desk officers in these committees
- The fact that NCST's officers cant conduct research ,rules out issues of conflict of interest in terms or application for proposals

Mode of Selection of NCP's 2

- Responsible Officers in charge of these Committees have strong links with researchers in their respective disciplines/ sectors there by able to identify potential researchers, increase awareness and monitor operations (Science Diplomacy)

Public /Private Sector

- Malawis NCP's are drawn from the Public Sector
 - Malawi has less number of Researchers from the Private Sector/ Industry
 - Malawi is mostly a consuming importing nation and its manufacturing base is very low hence low number of Researchers in the Private sector to draw NCP's from.

Funding Mechanism

- Mainly **NCP activities have leveraged on**
 - The funding of NCST' from Govt - (Host organisation) so H2020 activities e.g. are done on NCST programmes i.e . Research dissemination conferences and Workshops
 - Information dissemination through - Website, Email circulation and Social Media tools
 - IST-Africa Events mostly the H2020 Workshops
 - In addition to other activities , IST activities also include African-focused calls under H2020, ICT-39-2015 and ICT-39-2017
 - Download and sharing Horizon 2020 related reports

H2020 Projects to date

- **ICT (2)**
 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology-
Coordination and support action;
 - mHealth4Afrika (2015-2018) (University of Malawi;
Baobab Health Trust) -Research and Innovation action;
- **Water (1)**
 - WATERSPOUTT (2016-2020) (University of Malawi) Research and
Innovation action

Challenges

- Funding for NCP's activities amidst financial constraints of the host institution
- Identification of European partners is a challenge due to
 - Need for African research institutions to participate as part of International Consortia with partners from Europe to apply for funding
 - Requirement to have three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States (MS) or Associated countries (AC)
- Lack of cooperation with the non existing Enterprise Europe Network as indicated in the NCP guiding principles
- Inadequate active and operational NCPs network at national level as a result of lack of dedicated funding to support NCPs local activities
- In relation to workshops held in Europe, African NCPs are not supported financially, they are told to facilitate their own travel which is impossible due to the many financial constraints.

Thank you

Comments and
Questions

