

## SADC National Contact Point Training Session

### 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 researcher's understanding of the programme. In addition, CAAST-Net Plus has encouraged and supported the nomination of NCPs in African countries.

#### Overall Objectives:

The overall objectives of the workshop 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.
- Provide information and tools for new or potential National Contact Points to better carry out the tasks to support their research community.

#### Workshop Concept

The workshop aims to bring together potential and current National Contact Points from the SADC region to take part in a joint training. The two-day workshop will consist of, on the first day, a Horizon 2020 Information Session. Providing NCPs with a refresher on the rules, opportunities, and procedures of Horizon 2020 is an important basis for the training. The second day will consist of a hands-on training for NCPs in specific areas of interest for their work. The day will allow for discussion and sharing experiences between NCPs for mutual learning and development.

#### Participants

The first day could be open to researchers, representatives of research and innovation offices, and current or potential NCPs. The second day is intended exclusively for potential, nominated, or current NCPs.



**SADC Horizon 2020 Information Session  
and  
National Contact Point Training Session  
Agenda**

**Agenda:**

Day 1: Horizon 2020 Information Session		
Opening Session		
Welcoming Remarks	9.00 – 9.30	Mr Alexander BAUM EU Ambassador in Botswana, CN+
Research, Policy and Strategy Development within SADC	9.30 – 10.00	Mr Thembinkosi Mhlongo, SADC Secretariat
CAAST-Net Plus	10.00 – 10.15	Melissa Plath
<i>Coffee and Tea Break</i>	<i>10.15-10.45</i>	
Session 1: Funding Opportunities		
Introduction to Horizon 2020	10.45 – 11.15	Nienke Buisman
African Participation in Horizon 2020: First statistics	11.15 – 11.30	Nienke Buisman
Overview of Horizon 2020: Rules & instruments	11.30 – 12.00	Constantine Vaitsas
Experiences from Horizon 2020: Case Study Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PROIntensAfrica (tbc)</li> <li>• DEWFORA (FP7) (tbc)</li> </ul>	12.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Baitsi K. Podisi</li> <li>• Prof. Berhanu Alemaw</li> </ul>
Opportunities for African Participation in Horizon 2020	12.30 – 13.00	Melissa Plath Masahudu Fuseini
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>13.00 – 14.00</i>	
Session 2: Preparing a Proposal		
Finding Partners for a Horizon Proposal	14.00 – 14.20	Masahudu Fuseini
Proposal Submission Process	14.20 – 14.40	Melissa Plath
Introduction to National Contact Points	14.40 – 15.00	Constantine Vaitsas
<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	<i>15.00 – 15.30</i>	
Breakout Activity: Identify a possible call and draft a letter of interest	15.30 – 16.30	Masahudu Fuseini
Discussion	16.30 – 17.15	
Day 2: NCP Training Session		

Opening Session		
<b>Welcome</b>	9.00 – 9.30	Nienke Buisman, EC, DG RTD  Anneline Morgan, Senior Technical Advisor STI, SADC Secretariat
<b>Introduction to the NCP system</b>	9.30 – 10.00	Constantine Vaitsas
<b>What is an NCP? Roles and Responsibilities for NCPs</b>	10.00 – 10.15	Constantine Vaitsas
<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	<i>10.15 – 10.45</i>	
Session 1: Sharing Experiences		
<b>Setting up an NCP Network: Case Study Presentations</b>	10.45 – 11.00	Constantine Vaitsas
<b>Acting as an NCP: Case Study presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Africa</li> <li>• Ghana</li> <li>• Malawi</li> </ul>	11.00 – 11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Barend Taute</li> <li>• Masahudu Fuseini</li> <li>• Gift Kadzamira</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion: Sharing experiences as NCPs</b>	11.30 – 12.30	Melissa Plath
<b>Breakout session: Identifying key challenges</b>	12.30 – 13:30	Melissa Plath
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>13.30 – 14.30</i>	
Session 2: Hands-on Training		
<b>What makes a good proposal?</b>	14.30 – 15.00	Masahudu Fuseini
<b>Breakout session: Financial Management and Reporting in H2020</b>	15.00 – 16.00	Melissa Plath
<b>Breakout session: Proposal Writing in H2020</b>	16.00 – 16.45	Masahudu Fuseini
<b>Wrap-up and Discussion</b>	16.45 – 17.15	Masahudu Fuseini