

Europe-Africa Research & Innovation News

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EU-South Africa Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC)

13 January 2014 – Brussels: The 12th EU-South Africa JSTCC meeting was the opportunity to review S&T strategies, current state of collaboration and plans for extending cooperation in new areas such as: marine research; mining and minerals research, including environmental remediation; food security, sustainable agriculture and the bio-economy; and environmental technologies.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2014&na=na-130114>

ESASTAP Plus seminar on South Africa

14 January 2014 – Brussels: ESASTAP Plus organised a seminar to present to the European S&T community the opportunities for cooperation with South African researchers through Horizon 2020.

Further information: <http://www.esastap.org.za/presentations/index.php>

EU-Mediterranean Partner Countries ICT policy dialogue launched

15 January 2014 – Amman: The newly launched MED-Dialogue project held its first meeting in Jordan, with partners from Africa, the Middle East and Europe. The project will aim at enhancing EU-MPC (Mediterranean Partner Countries) policy dialogue and collaborative research in the field of ICT.

Further information: www.med-dialogue.eu – contact: Thies Wittig, IT Consult (itconsult@acm.org)

South Africa's (industrial) investments in R&D in decline

16 January 2014 – Johannesburg: South Africa's investment in R&D went down from 0.87% to 0.76% in financial year 2010-11, for the 4th consecutive year, according to a survey by the Human Sciences Research Council (HRSC). This is mainly a consequence of falling investment by the industrial sector, while public sector investment has actually increased. In this context, the DST reaffirmed its target of spending 1% of GDP on research. Source: Business Day, South Africa.

See article: www.bdlive.co.za/national/science/2014/01/16/sa-research-spend-falls-for-fourth-year

2014 Kwame Nkrumah Prize for African Scientists

30 January 2014 – Addis Ababa: At the opening of the 22nd African Union summit, the 2014 Kwame Nkrumah Prize for African Scientists was presented to Prof. Andre Bationo from Burkina Faso, in the field of Earth and Life Sciences and to Prof. Kayode Oyeboade Adebowale from Nigeria, in the field of Basic Science, Technology and Innovation.

More: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/press_corner/all_news/news/2014/2014013102_en.htm

Horizon 2020 information workshops in Africa (January & February 2014)

The Horizon 2020 information campaign reached a high point with 11 events in January and 2 more in February. These were organised in close collaboration with the national authorities and EU-funded initiatives, such as CAAST-Net Plus, IST-Africa and ESASTAP Plus for South Africa: Tanzania – 20 January 2014, Kenya – 21 January 2014, Uganda – 22 January 2014, Malawi – 24 January 2014, South Africa (7 events) – 27-31 January 2014, Egypt (for the Med region) – 9 February 2014, Ethiopia (at ILRI) – 13 February 2014. **Next: Angola – 6 March 2014 (see below).**

For information on Horizon 2020 workshops in Africa, contact: stephane.hogan@eeas.europa.eu

5th Space Troika meeting between AUC and EC

6 February 2014 – Addis Ababa: The Space Troika, which brings together AUC and EC representatives dealing with space matters, agreed to continue to support the GMES and Africa process as a framework for Earth Observation (EO) activities in Africa. Based on the workshops organised by BRAGMA on 3 priority areas (see box below). The Troika decided to launch an identification study for the formulation of a programme on these priorities and pursue the validation process for other areas.

For information, contact: stephane.hogan@eeas.europa.eu

1st BRICS STI Ministerial meeting hosted by South Africa

10 February 2014 – Cape Town: The ministers responsible for Science and Technology from the five BRICS countries held their first meeting to discuss mutual interests and identify future directions for cooperation. As a first step, five thematic areas were identified: climate change and natural disasters (led by Brazil), water resources and pollution treatment (Russia), geospatial technology and its application (India), new and renewable energy and energy efficiency (China) and astronomy (South Africa). A memorandum of understanding on cooperation in STI will be signed at the 6th BRICS Summit in Brazil in July 2014 – the "Cape Town Declaration" see link for details).

Declaration: www.brics5.co.za/assets/BRICS-STI-CAPE-TOWN-COMMUNIQUE-OF-10-FEBRUARY-2014.pdf

Agricultural Biotechnology for Sustainable Development in Africa – workshop

25-26 February 2014 – Addis Ababa: This workshop was organised jointly by the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) to initiate a dialogue between scientists and policy-makers (represented by AUC, UNECA, EC, etc.) and to support the development of science-based advice on agricultural biotechnology in Africa. Participating from the European Commission was Prof. Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor to the President.

See EASAC press release (27/02/2014): www.easac.eu

Showcasing EU-Africa collaboration in Research – in this edition: Space research.

BRAGMA – Bridging Actions for GMES and Africa

Aim: to support the coordination/governance of the GMES & Africa process, promote awareness and contribute to a strategy for Africa-EU collaboration in this domain. BRAGMA organised workshops on 3 thematic areas (Marine & Coastal Management, Water Management and Long Term Management of Natural resources), followed by validation workshop on all 3 areas, leading to a "Call for Implementation for GMEs and Africa" outlining future action for GMES and Africa and more generally for EO in Africa.

This FP7 project ran from January 2012 to December 2013 with an EU contribution of €1 million. It was led by Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (Portugal) with 5 other European partners and 5 African partners. [project website: www.bragma.eu]

Upcoming events:

- 6 March 2014 – Luanda: Horizon 2020 information workshop organised by IST-Africa (www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=horizon2020ws)
- 31 March – Brussels: Workshop on engaging SMEs in EU-Africa cooperation on STI (org. by UniPID)
- 1-2 April – Athens: Workshop on promoting South-Africa-EU cooperation in marine research
- 1 April – Brussels: closed session on "Innovation serving food & nutrition security and sustainable agriculture" at the EU-Africa Business Forum (<http://euafrica-businessforum.eu/>)
- 2-3 April – Brussels: **4th Africa-EU Summit** (www.africa-eu-partnership.org/4th-africa-eu-summit)
- 6-9 May 2014 – Mauritius: **IST-Africa 2014 Conference** (www.ist-africa.org/conference2014/).

Website of EU Delegation to the African Union (AU): http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union
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