

IST-Africa December 2009 Newsletter

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Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are keeping well. We would like to bring a number of important developments to your attention in this month's newsletter – Open Calls for Proposals & Updated Guide to FP7, IST-Africa 2010 and Upcoming Events.

We wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Current Open Calls for Proposals

There are currently two Calls for Proposals currently open - FP7-AFRICA-2010 and FP7-ICT-Call6.

IST-Africa has prepared a [Guide to FP7](#) to assist organisations looking at the Framework Programme 7 for the first time. This Guide provides an overview of FP7, how to go about identifying relevant research areas, open Action Lines, how to prepare a budget and Frequently Asked Questions. This is a living document, which is updated based on Open Calls.

DG Research – FP7-Africa-2010 Call – Opened 30 July, Closes 14 Jan '10

DG Research launched a new Call focused on two major areas: Water and Food Security and Better Health for Africa. It is focused on a holistic approach involving various scientific and technological research fields such as food, agriculture, health, land and water resources including their interaction with climate change and integrating broader socio-economic factors such as migration and resettlement, urbanisation, health care systems and programme interventions.

Action Lines are open under three themes:

- Theme 1: Health
- Theme 2 – Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology
- Theme 6 – Environment (including Climate Change).

For more information, please visit [FP7-Africa-2010](#)

To download the Call documentation, please go to

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=268

FP7-ICT-Call 6 – Opened 24 November 2009, Closes 13 April 2010

[FP7-ICT-Call 6](#) opened on 24 November 2009 with a closing date of **13 April 2010**.

Open objectives include:

- ICT 2009.2.1 Cognitive Systems and Robotics, Instruments: CP, CSA (CA only)
- ICT 2009.4.1 Digital Libraries and Digital Preservation, Instruments: CP, NoE, CSA
- ICT 2009.5.3 Virtual Physiological Human, Instruments: CP, CSA
- ICT 2009.6.2 ICT for Mobility of the Future, Instruments: CP, CSA
- ICT 2009.8.7,8,9,10 FET-Proactive, Instruments: CP, CSA
- ICT 2009.9.1 International Cooperation, Instruments: CP (STREP/SICA only)

To download the Call documentation and Guide for Applicants, please go to

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=297

IST-Africa 2010 Conference

Hosted by Government of South Africa through the Department of Science and Technology, IST-Africa 2010 Conference & Exhibition will take place in Durban, 19 – 21 May 2010

Part of the IST-Africa Initiative, which is supported by the European Commission under the ICT Theme of Framework Programme 7 (FP7), IST-Africa 2010 is the fifth in an Annual Conference Series which brings together senior representatives from leading commercial, government & research organisations across Africa and from Europe, to bridge the Digital Divide by sharing knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice and discussing policy related issues.

IST-Africa 2010 is also Supported by the South Africa - Finland Knowledge Partnership on ICT project (SAFIPA) and Technically Co-Sponsored by the Computer Society of South Africa and IEEE South Africa Computer Chapter.

The Call for Papers can be downloaded from

http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2010/files/ISTAfrica2010_CallForPapers.pdf

The scientific programme for IST-Africa 2010 is based on an open Call for Papers and the Advance Programme will be published in mid January.

Core Thematic Priorities for IST-Africa 2010

- eHealth - Health Information Systems
- eInfrastructures
- Technology Enhanced Learning & ICT Skills
- Digital Libraries and Intelligent Content
- Living Labs
- Technology Transfer
- Open Source Software Applications
- ICT for eInclusion and eAccessibility
- ICT for Environmental Sustainability
- RFID and Networked Enterprise
- eGovernment - Secure Services to Citizens & Business

More information is available at

<http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2010/default.asp?page=priorities>

eSkills Summit 2010 Call for Papers Deadline 29 January 2010

Hosted by the Government of South Africa through the Department of Communications and the eSkills Institute, eSkills Summit South Africa 2010 will take place in Cape Town, 26 – 28 July 2010.

The e-Skills Summit South Africa provides a platform to engage government, business and civil society to:

- Raise awareness of current practices and development of e-Skills in South Africa
- Identify gaps in the institutional and programmatic structure concerning e-Skills development in South Africa and provide a means for all stakeholders across Africa to benefit from this process
- Develop a Platform for an initial Plan of Action for e-Skills enhancement in South Africa

The e-Skills Summit 2010 will act as a focal point to establish and deliver contributions providing South Africa with the necessary skills to become a leading member of the Information Society and to contribute to meeting the aims of the South African Medium Term Strategic

Framework (MTSF), the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on the Information Society Plan of Action.

The Programme for eSkills Summit 2010 is based on an open [Call for Papers](#)

The core thematic areas are

- eSkills for Employment Readiness & Sustainable Livelihoods
- eSkills for Capacity Building & Human Resource Development
- eSkills for Business Development
- eSkills for Improving Public Services & Strengthening Democratic Institutions
- eSkills & Education Delivery
- Researching & Evaluating eSkills
- eSkills for Participation in Local Decision Making
- eSkills for African Advancement & Enhancing International Cooperation.

Interested presenters are encouraged to prepare an 8 page paper (4,000 - 5,000) words following the [eSkills Summit 2010 paper guidelines](#) and [paper template](#) for submission online by **29 January**. For more information, click [here](#)

All submissions will be double blind reviewed by the International Programme Committee and authors will receive feedback by 26 February. Accepted authors will then be invited to submit a final paper taking account of feedback provided for inclusion in the conference proceedings by 31 March.

Recent IST-Africa activities

IST-Africa organising FP7 Training Workshops in Burundi on Friday 30 October, in Rwanda on Monday 02 November and in Mauritius on Friday 06 November focused on Africa-2010 and FP7-ICT-Call 6.

Paul Cunningham presented the IST-Africa Initiative at the Joint Expert Group Meeting for the 8th Africa – European Union Strategic Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space on 23 November in Hammamet, Tunisia and presented the IST-Africa and [Africa4All](#) Initiatives during the Plenary session of [ICT4All Forum](#) on 25 November.

Upcoming Events

ICT 2009.2.1 Cognitive Systems and Robotics (Call 6) Information Day, Luxembourg, 14 January 2010

An Information Day on Objective 1.2 Call 6 will be held in Luxembourg on 14 January 2010. More information is available at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/cognition/calls-ict-call6_en.html
A comprehensive Questions and Answers document on Call 6 of Objective 2.1 can be downloaded from ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/cognition/call6-ch-2-1-ga_en.pdf

The Future of Cloud Computing - Opportunities for European Cloud Computing beyond 2010, 26 January 2010, Brussels

During Spring 2009 the Software and Services Unit in DG Information Society and Media of the European Commission established a group of experts to develop a Cloud Computing vision for Europe and future research directions.

This expert group is preparing a report prior to the meeting on 26 January to discuss their findings.

The agenda for this meeting on The Future of Cloud Computing and the Executive Summary of the report is available online at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/ssai/events-20100126-cloud-computing_en.html

African Union 2010 Summit, 29 January – 02 February 2010

The Assembly of the Heads of State at the Second Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2009 approved the Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec. 232(XII)) on to have the January 2010 Summit theme focused on “Information and Communications Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development”.

The 2010 AU Summit will take place in Addis Ababa on 29 January - 02 February 2010 and will be attended by the Heads of States and Governments. During this Summit, key issues for consideration will be:

- (a) The Enabling Environment for Growth
- (b) ICT Infrastructure Development
- (c) Africa in the Economics of the Internet
- (d) Capacity Building and Research & Development

In parallel with the Summit, the Department of Human Resources Science and Technology, AUC in cooperation with UNECA are organising an Exhibition of Information Communication Technologies and Innovation for Africa.

Euro-Africa 2010 Cooperation Forum on ICT Research 04 February 2010

The EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 Project is organising the Euro-Africa 2010 Cooperation Forum in the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 04 February 2010.

Register is available online at http://www.euroafrica-ict.org/forum2_register.php and participation will be confirmed on a “first come - first served” basis.

The draft agenda is published online at <http://www.euroafrica-ict.org/forum2.php> and the Final agenda will be published during January.

IST-Africa Initiative

IST-Africa 2010 - 2011 (Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa) is a collaborative Initiative between IIMC (Ireland, Coordinator), Department of Science and Technology (South Africa), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Botswana), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Lesotho), Ministry of Education (Namibia), ICT Policy Implementation Technical Unit (Mozambique), National Computer Board (Mauritius), COSTECH - Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Kenya), Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Burundi), Ministry in President's Office in charge of Information and Communication Technology (Rwanda), Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (Cameroon), Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique (Senegal) and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Egypt).

With support from DG Information Society and Media under FP7, during 2009 – 2011, IST-Africa is focused on strengthening the research dimension of Information Society policy

dialogues between the European Commission and African countries and key regional organisations; the identification and analysis of African ICT policy and research priorities, including long term perspectives aligned with EU priorities and recommendations for future Africa – EU co-operation initiatives, including identification of matching counterpart funding and raising wider awareness of African research capacity, promoting participation of African organizations in the ICT Theme of FP7 (FP7-ICT) and identifying co-operation opportunities in fields of mutual interest. The goal is to increase visibility of mutual RTD potential and network relevant European and African stakeholders. The Annual IST-Africa Conference provides an opportunity to showcase relevant research capacity. IST-Africa 2010 (19 - 21 May) is hosted by South Africa.

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