

IST-Africa Newsletter March 2017

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Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are keeping well. This newsletter is primarily focused on raising awareness of IST-Africa Week 2017, ICT-39-2017 Horizon 2020 Call (submission deadline 25 April) and IST-Africa publications.

IST-Africa 2017 – Advance Programme

Hosted by the Government of Namibia through the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, and Supported by the European Commission and African Union Commission, [IST-Africa 2017](#) (31 May - 02 June, Windhoek, Namibia) is the twelfth in an annual series of Ministerial level Technology Research and Innovation Conferences. It will be preceded by a full day participatory workshop on 30 May.

IST-Africa Week provides a prestigious annual platform in Africa to strengthen ICT-enabled Innovation, Science and Technology related policy dialogues within Africa and between Africa and Europe, Global Development, Research and Innovation Cooperation and Community Building. It also provides an opportunity to identify and build relationships with potential partners for future research cooperation under Horizon 2020. IST-Africa is a unique community that brings together cross-disciplinary stakeholders from the public, private, education and research, societal and funding sectors with end user communities focused on ICT and Innovation, Science and Technology related Research and Innovation.

The [Advance Programme](#) features an Opening and Closing Plenary Session and a Scientific Programme with 40 thematically focused sessions featuring over 190 presenters from public, private, education and research organisations representing 35 countries. Thematic areas include: International Cooperation, eHealth, Technology-enhanced Learning, CyberSecurity, Next Generation Computing & Internet of Things, eGovernment, ICT4D, eAgriculture and Societal Implications of Technology. The IST-Africa Workshop on Open Innovation, ICT and Social Entrepreneurship in Africa is on Tuesday 30 May. Click [here](#) to download the Advance Programme brochure.

Plenary Panellists confirmed to date include:

- Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Namibia
- Dr Eino Mvula, CEO, National Commission on Research Science and Technology, Namibia
- Mr Mbeuta Ua-Ndjarakana, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Namibia
- Presenter to be confirmed, Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia
- Ms Karin Amukugo, Department of Public Service Information Technology Management
- Dr Pascal Hoba, CEO, UbuntuNet Alliance
- Dr Anicia Peters, Dean: Faculty of Computing and Informatics, Namibia University of Science and Technology
- Prof Kingo Mchombu, Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic and Research, International University of Management
- Mr. John Sifani, Director: Centre for Innovation and Development, University of Namibia
- Mr Theo Klein, Managing Director, Telecom Namibia
- Mr Francesco Affinito, Head of sector for Research or Development, DG DEVCO, European Commission

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Practitioners not already included in the programme who are interested in sharing insight and lessons learnt from implementation and research projects in developing countries should contact Secretariat@IST-Africa.org as soon as possible.

Early bird [registration](#) is available up to 31 March.

H2020 ICT-39-2017 Call for Proposals (Innovation Actions, deadline 25 April '17)

IST-Africa provided the European Commission with evidence to justify the inclusion of two dedicated calls for ICT and Innovation-related cooperation between Europe and Africa focused on African research challenges - ICT-39-2015 (which was very successful and funded four projects out of 45 proposals) and ICT-39-2017 (deadline 25 April '17, budget €13 million).

IST-Africa presented African research capacity and priority areas in the context of the ICT-39-2017 Call during the International Cooperation session during ICT Proposers Day in Bratislava on 26 September.

IST-Africa organised a series of Horizon 2020 Training Workshops in Africa (Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Cameroon, Mauritius) from late October - December 2016 to raise awareness of the ICT-39-2017 Call and other relevant calls focused on strategic engagement with Africa. More information is available at <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=horizon2020ws>

The ICT-39-2017 Call for Proposals (deadline 25 April 2017) provides a unique opportunity for African institutions undertaking Research and Innovation to co-design an Innovation Action in cooperation with European partners focused on addressing end-user requirements in sub-Saharan African countries. See <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/files/IST-Africa ICT-39-2017 Overview.pdf>

The ICT-39-2017 call provides an opportunity for **multi-disciplinary teams** incorporating thematic experts (e.g., Health, Agriculture, Environment) and ICT experts to co-design an Innovation Action based on **end-user requirements in sub-Saharan African Partner Countries**. Innovation Actions have **limited research and development** related to **adaptation of existing technology**. It is expected that any research related to the challenge to be addressed and understanding of the state of the art in the thematic area is already undertaken and demonstrated in the proposal submitted. Since **demonstration and market validation** is the primary focus of an Innovation Action, the consortium must demonstrate relevant links with end-user communities who will be involved in the validation process and this needs to be clearly demonstrated in the proposal submitted.

See <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/ict-39-2016-2017.html>

Horizon 2020 2016 - 2017 Work Programmes

[Horizon 2020](#) commenced in January 2014 as the new Framework Programme for research and innovation from 2014 – 2020. There are three main pillars – Excellence Science, Industrial Leadership, Societal Challenges.

ICT is a horizontal activity that is included across a number of Work Programmes within LEIT and within Societal Challenges. Download [Guide to ICT-related Activities in 2016 - 2017 Work Programmes](#)

The European Commission published the 2016 - 2017 Work Programmes on 14 October 2015 and updated the 2017 Work Programmes on 25 July 2016. The IST-Africa portal has a specific Horizon 2020 section, which provides links to all updated Work Programmes - Marie Curie,

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Infrastructures, Societal Challenges (Health, Food Security and Agriculture, Energy, Transport, Climate action and Environment, Inclusive and Reflective Societies; Secure Societies) and LEIT. Click [here](#) to download the individual work programmes.

ICT 2017 Calls close on 25 April 2017 - For more information, see

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-ict-2016-2017.html - c.topics=callIdentifier/t/H2020-ICT-2016>

IST-Africa Horizon 2020 Resources

IST-Africa has prepared a number of resources to assist newcomers to Horizon 2020:

[IST-Africa Introduction to Horizon 2020](#) is designed to support newcomers to Horizon 2020 to better understand the structure, rules and expectations. Chapter 1 provides a short introduction to Horizon 2020, the role of International Cooperation including insights into African participation under FP7 and Horizon 2020 to date and summarises the key differences between FP7 and Horizon 2020. Chapter 2 provides more details in relation to Research Areas, Participation Rules, Funding Instruments and African participation under initial calls of Horizon 2020. Chapter 3 provides insights into a number of preparatory steps that need to be considered prior to preparing a proposal for submission under Horizon 2020. These include identification of relevant research areas and calls, identification of complementary partners and correct funding instrument.

[IST-Africa Guide to 2017 Calls for Proposals in Horizon 2020](#) is based on updated 2017 Work Programmes to provide an overview of Calls, themes and deadlines within the Marie Curie, eInfrastructures, Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT - International Cooperation, Future Internet, Content, Robotics and Autonomous Systems, Key enabling Technologies) and each of the Societal Challenges (Health, Food Security and Agriculture, Energy, Transport, Environment, Inclusive and Reflective Societies, Secure Societies) Work Programmes.

[Overview of ICT-39-2017 Call](#)

[IST-Africa Report on ICT Initiatives and Research Capacity in IST-Africa partner countries](#) provides an overview of the current ICT Initiatives, Research Capacity, mapping of thematic priorities and research capacity in the context of the ICT-39 H2020 Call and updated mapping of research priorities under Horizon 2020 in Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda as at January 2016. ISBN No: 978-1-905824-47-2. This is a valuable reference report to assist in identifying partners for inclusion in ICT-39 Proposals.

ICT-39-2015 Research and Innovation Projects

The ICT-39-2015 Call was very successful receiving over 45 proposals with 439 participations including 194 participations from Africa. The proposals submitted were considered to be high quality and relevant to the focus of the call with 23 proposals over threshold. Four Research and Innovation projects were selected for funding with participation from 11 African countries.

[DMC-MALVEC](#) (Development of integrated and automated multiplex vector-diagnostic platform for malaria) is focused on developing a fully integrated and automated multiplex vector-diagnostic platform (LabDisk) for monitoring malaria. The LabDisk will interface and connect with Decision Support systems. This project is lead by the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB) at the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, Greece with partners from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Switzerland and UK

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[mHealth4Afrika](#) is focused on co-designing an open source, multilingual mHealth platform to support quality community-based maternal and Newborn healthcare delivery at clinic level, based on end-user requirements in Southern Africa (Malawi, South Africa), East Africa (Kenya) & Horn of Africa (Ethiopia). The consortium brings together multidisciplinary expertise from seven countries: IIMC (Ireland, Coordinator), University of Gondar (Ethiopia), @iLabAfrica, Strathmore University (Kenya), Chancellor College, University of Malawi (Malawi), University of (Oslo Norway), Centre for Community Technologies, NMMU (South Africa) and University of Ulster (UK).

[its4land](#) is focused on geospatial technology (including smart sketchmaps, UAVs, automated feature extraction, and geocloud services, to deliver land recording services that are end-user responsive, market driven, and fit-for-purpose) for land tenure security in East Africa. It is lead by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management at ITC, University of Twente (Netherlands) with partners from KU Leuven (Belgium); Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia); Westfaelische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Hansa Luftbild AG (Germany); The Technical University of Kenya (Kenya) and Institut d'Enseignement Superieur de Ruhengeri and Esri Rwanda Ltd (Rwanda).

[WAZIUP](#) aims to develop or adapt low cost and energy efficient hardware, design and develop IoT mixed communication and networking infrastructure and offer an open source platform for developers and SME communities. IoT application domains include irrigation, livestock farming, fish farming, water, storage and logistics. The project is lead by Create-Net (Italy), with partner from France (Easy Global Market, University of Pau), Portugal (Unparallel Innovation), Germany (Innotec21), Senegal (University Gaston Berger de Saint Louis, Coder4Africa and CTIC Dakar), Burkina-Faso (Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso), Ghana (iSpace, Farmerline) and Togo (L'Africaine D'Architecture)

IST-Africa 2016 Conference Proceedings

The IST-Africa 2016 Conference Proceedings, which incorporated over 140 double blind peer reviewed papers, is available in the [IST-Africa paper Repository](#) on an open access basis to the IST-Africa community.

Papers accepted for inclusion in the Proceedings and physically presented during the event are also published via [IEEE Xplore](#).

IST-Africa Reports

Download [IST-Africa Reports](#) to learn more about the ICT Innovation ecosystem and ICT Research Capacity.

IST-Africa Project Repository

Visit the IST-Africa [Project Repository](#) to research projects and stakeholders involved in previous successful projects in your thematic area

IST-Africa Organisational Repository

Visit the IST-Africa [Organisational Repository](#) to identify potential partners

Upcoming Events

- 30 - 31 March, [WACREN Conference](#), Cote D'Ivoire
- 30 May - 02 June, IST-Africa 2017 Week, Windhoek, Namibia

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- 19 - 22 October, IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC) 2017
San Jose, California, USA

Contact Details

IST-Africa Initiative

E-mail: secretariat@IST-Africa.org Web: www.IST-Africa.org Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ISTAfricaNews>