ISTAfrica

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IST-Africa Newsletter October 2017

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are keeping well. This newsletter is primarily focused on raising awareness of the IST-Africa 2018 Call for Papers, interim results from ICT-39-2017 Horizon 2020 Call, developments on the Horizon 2020 2018 - 2020 Work Programmes, IST-Africa 2017 proceedings and conference report and upcoming events.

Click here to download this newsletter in pdf format.

IST-Africa 2018 Call for Papers Deadline 15 December 2017

Supported by the European Commission and African Union Commission, IST-Africa 2018 (May) is the thirteenth in an annual series of Ministerial level Technology Research Conferences. The host country and dates in May will be published after Cabinet approval has been finalised.

IST-Africa provides a 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 potential partners for future research cooperation under Horizon 2020. IST-Africa is a unique community that brings together cross-disciplinary stakeholders from public, private, education and research, societal sector with end user communities focused on ICT and STI Research and Innovation.

IST-Africa 2018 Call for Papers invited full papers (8 pages in length) using the paper guidelines and IST-Africa template to be submitted online for review by 15 December. All papers are double blind peer reviewed. Each presenter can present one paper in the Programme. Full Papers accepted for the Conference Proceedings and presented during the conference will be submitted for publication to IEEE Xplore as an additional dissemination channel.

Thematic areas include: eHealth/mHealth; Technology-enhanced Learning; eAgriculture/mAgriculture; eInfrastructures and NRENs; Energy; Next Generation Computing (Big data, Cloud computing, Future Internet, Internet of Things); eGovernment; Content Technologies (Languages, Digital Preservation); Cyber Security; Collaborative Open Innovation and ICT-enabled Entrepreneurship; Global Development including ICT4D and Societal Implications of Technology.

Please download the Call for Papers for more information.

H2020 ICT-39-2017 Call - Interim Results

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, which were both heavily oversubscribed with good quality proposals - ICT-39-2015 (funded four projects out of 45 proposals) and ICT-39-2017 (received 71 Innovation Action proposals, short listed 7 projects for funding).

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

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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 was very successful with 71 Innovation Actions submitted with 659 participations. Participants represented 29 African countries including good levels of participation from IST-Africa partner countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa. The proposals addressed a wide range of topics incorporating an ICT component across Horizon 2020 thematic areas. The most prevalent thematic areas addressed in the proposals submitted were eHealth and eLearning.

Thirty-three proposals were over threshold with seven projects short-listed for funding, based on the available funding envelope. The thematic areas addressed in the short listed projects for funding include Cybersecurity, Internet of Things, eAgriculture and eLearning.

Click here for more information.

Horizon 2020 2018 - 2020 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.

The European Commission is currently finalising the 2018 - 2020 Work Programmes. Draft versions are available at https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-work-programme

When the final versions are available in November, links will be published within the Horizon 2020 section of the IST-Africa portal.

The ICT Proposers Day in Budapest on 09 – 10 November provides an opportunity to participate in networking sessions around specific themes in the LEIT Work Programme. Click here to view the Programme

IST-Africa 2017 Conference Report and Proceedings

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) was 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.

The Final Programme including 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. Three of the four ICT-39-2015 projects shared interim results during IST-Africa 2017: mHealth4Afrika; its4land and WAZIUP.

Click here to download the IST-Africa 2017 Conference Report.

The IST-Africa 2017 Conference Proceedings, which incorporates over 150 double blind peer reviewed papers, is available in the IST-Africa paper Repository on an open access basic to the IST-Africa community.

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IST-Africa cooperated with IEEE Internet Initiative to co-organised the first IEEE ETAP Forum on CyberSecurity in Africa as a pre-conference event on 30 May. It was very well attended with over 65 participants from 25 countries. Click here to learn more and download the report.

IST-Africa Keynote presentation during NCST Research Dissemination Conference, Malawi, 28 September 2017

Paul Cunningham, IIMC / IST-Africa was invited to provide a keynote presentation on Collaborative Innovation and Research Collaboration in the opening Plenary of the National Commission of Science and Technology Research Dissemination Conference in Malawi on 28 September. The keynote presentation focused on raising awareness of issues to be considered to continue supporting an Innovation Culture in Malawi. The keynote was very well received by the 200 participants from universities, Ministries, agencies, private sector and NGOs.

mHealth4Afrika demonstrated its maternal health system and medical sensors currently being piloted in healthcare clinics in Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa in the Exhibition, providing conference participants with access to tangible results coming out of one of the Research and Innovation Actions funded through the Horizon 2020 ICT-39-2015 Call.

Click here to read more.

IST-Africa shared results during Global Humanitarian Technology Conference, 20 - 22 October 2017

Paul Cunningham, IIMC/ IST-Africa shared ongoing results and experiences from the IST-Africa Initiative during the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference, from 20 - 22 October 2017.

On 20 October, Paul Cunningham organised a highly participatory workshop leveraging results from IST-Africa focused on the Role of Collaborative Open Innovation / Co-Designing a Development Project during the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Workshop focused on Global Development. The participants found the very practical examples from IST-Africa experiences to be very valuable.

mHealth4Afrika presented results from the alpha validation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and South Africa in Session C1: mHealth on 20 October. This was very well received.

On 21 October Paul Cunningham organised and moderated a plenary panel on "Healthcare in Developing Countries" leveraging experiences from both IST-Africa and mHealth4Afrika. Panellists included representatives from Stanford University, Lehigh University, PATH and Global Good Fund. The knowledge sharing during this panel was very well received among the 200 plus participants.

Click here to read more.

UbuntuNet-Connect 2017, Addis Ababa, 02 – 03 November 2017

UbuntuNet-Connect 2017 is being hosted in Addis Ababa by EthERNet, the National Education and Research Network (NREN) for Ethiopia. This conference brings together NREN members from UbuntuNet Alliance and other interested parties focused on research and networking activities in Africa.

A Workshop on African Open Science Platform Framework will take place on 01 November. Click here to view the Program.

The UbuntuNet-Connect 2017 Program incorporates sessions on NRENs as facilitators of Intra-African Collaboration; Libraries, Access to Information and Research and Collaboration;

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Projects for Intra-African Collaboration; Tools and e-Infrastructure required for Intra-African Collaboration; Tracking and Contributing to Intra-African Collaboration in Research and Education and Roundtable Discussion on the role of NRENs in enabling Intra-African collaboration in research and education. Click here for more details

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

- UbuntuNet-Connect 2017, 02 - 03 November 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- ICT Proposers Day, 09 - 10 November 2017, Budapest, Hungry
- e-AGE 2017, 03 - 04 December 2017, Cairo, Egypt
- IST-Africa 2018 - Call for Papers Deadline 15 December

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