

Research Funding Opportunities available under FP7-ICT-Call 4 and ACP-ST Call for Proposals

Political Developments during 2008

During the past two years, there have been a number of developments which have a direct impact for international research funding for African Universities and research centres to apply for joint funding with European universities and research centres.

European research activities are structured around consecutive multi-annual programmes, or so-called Framework Programmes. The 2009 - 2010 Work Programme for ICT Research in Framework Programme 7 (FP7) was published on 19 November 2008. FP7-ICT is fully open to international co-operation with the aim to join forces for addressing major challenges where significant added value is expected to be gained from worldwide R&D cooperation.

During Call 1 & Call 2 of FP7 (2007 – 2008), several projects were funded with participation from African and European partners, including IST-Africa, BELIEF II, Digital World Forum, AIDA, IRMA, FLOSSInclude, CAAST-NET, EuroAfrica-ICT, PAEPARD and INCONTACT.

During the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon in December 2007, the African and European Heads of State agreed the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership which covers 8 thematic areas. For the first time, Science, Information Society and Space is included as a priority area for joint co-operation. On 01 October 2008, the European Commission and African Union Commission discussed a portfolio of 19 "lighthouse projects" identified and designed by the African Union Commission (AUC) to respond to African needs that would serve as the framework for implementing the EU/AU Partnership on Science, ICT and Space and its Action plan. They agreed that 6 of these projects are 'early deliverables' and will receive immediate attention.

The 2 ICT Theme projects selected are the "African Internet Exchange System", focused on enhancing internet deployment and use in Africa, and "Africa Connect" to extend the reach of the European research and education high-speed network GEANT to Sub-Saharan Africa.

The EU and AUC Commissioners also agreed to further use the European 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) to broaden African participation notably in the areas of health, environment and climate, energy, agriculture and food, Information and Communication Technologies and Space applications. The use of FP7 will complement other EC Development programmes.

The ACP has published two Calls for Proposals during 2008: @CP-ICT, which closes on 16 September and ACP-ST which opened on 24 November '08 and closes on 27 February '09.

IST-Africa supported the identification of European and African partners and the submission of a number of proposals under @CP-ICT.

FP7-ICT Call 4

The Work Programme for ICT research in Framework Programme 7 (FP7) for 2009 and 2010 was published on 19 November 2008. FP7-ICT-Call 4 closes on **01 April 2009**.

Organisations interested in participating in FP7 should review the Work Programme carefully and identify thematic areas that are relevant to your organisational strategic objectives and available resources. It is important that all proposals submitted are clearly aligned with the items outlined in the Work Programme, which can be downloaded from

www.ist-africa.eu/home/default.asp?page=fp7

Thematic areas open under Call 4 include:

Challenge 1: Pervasive and Trusted Network and Service Infrastructures

- ICT 2009.1.1 The Network of the Future
- ICT 2009.1.5 Networked Media & 3D Internet

Challenge 5: Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare

- ICT 2009.5.1 Personal Health Systems
- ICT 2009.5.2 ICT for Patient Safety
- ICT 2009.5.4: International Cooperation on Virtual Physiological Human

Challenge 6: ICT for mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency

- ICT 2009.6.1 ICT for Safety and Energy Efficiency in Mobility
- ICT 2009.6.3 ICT for Energy Efficiency
- ICT 2009.6.4 ICT for Environmental Services & Climate Change Adaptation
- ICT 2009.6.5: Novel ICT solutions for Smart Electricity Distribution Networks (Joint call ICT-Energy)

Challenge 7: ICT for independent living, inclusion and participatory governance

- ICT 2009.7.1 ICT and Ageing
- ICT 2009.7.2 Accessible and Assistive ICT
- ICT 2009.7.3 ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling

All proposals submitted under FP7-ICT-Call 4 must address all items outlined in the [Guide to Applicants](#) and be submitted by a consortium consisting of three independent legal entities from three different EU Member States and participants from Third Countries & International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) in addition to minimum EU partner participation. This provides an opportunity to leverage existing partnerships with organisations in Europe.

ACP-ST

The ACP Science and Technology Programme was published on 24 November and closes on **27 February 2009**. The objective of the ACP S&T Programme is to support ACP countries in formulating and implementing science and technology policies that can lead to sustainable development and to poverty reduction through economic growth and progressive integration in the world economy.

The ACP Science and Technology Programme will fund projects that primarily focus on:

- Quality health care: with special attention both to traditional and biodiversity dependent community medicines and to the developments taking place in biotechnology.
- Environmental research activities: addressing climatic variability, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, desertification and rising sea levels, as well as issues associated with upgrading and mainstreaming appropriate indigenous technology and establishing efficient mechanisms for access to and adaptation of appropriate foreign technology.
- Energy: with special attention to renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, hydro and biomass energy.
- Transport: addressing transport congestion, air pollution and accidents.
- Agriculture and agro-industry: addressing food productivity and security, adding value to agro-products and encouraging a stronger participation by farmers in production and post-harvest management.
- Sustainable trade: in order to increase investments, encourage development in the private sector and improve the trading capacity of ACP countries. Attention will be given to the socio-economic impact of international trade agreements and protocols on sustainable development in ACP countries.

All projects proposed must run for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 36 months (ending before 31 December 2012). Grants may be awarded up to maximum of 85% of the total eligible costs. The balance of the funding must be achieved from Applicant's own resources. Only eligible costs incurred during this period will be recognized for funding.



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Applicants must operate with a partnership that must involve at least three organisations from at least two different ACP Member States. The number of non-ACP partners in a partnership cannot be greater than the number of ACP partners.

Actions should mainly take place in one or more of the 79 ACP Member States.

More information is available at www.ist-africa.eu/home/default.asp?page=acpstprog

IST-Africa Support

IST-Africa (Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa) is a collaborative Initiative between IIMC (Ireland, Coordinator), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Botswana), Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (Lesotho), Commonwealth Network of Information Technology for Development (Malta), ICT Policy Implementation Technical Unit (Mozambique), Ministry of Education (Namibia), Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd (South Africa), COSTECH - Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

During 2008 – 2009, IST-Africa is focused on 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 2009 (6 – 8 May) is hosted by Uganda.

If you are interested in participating in a proposal under FP7-ICT-Call 4 or ACP-ST, please download the relevant documentation from www.IST-Africa.eu, identify the areas where your organisation has the relevant expertise and then contact your national IST-Africa partner.

Contact Person	Organisation	Country	Email
Oabona Monngakgotla	DRST, MCST	Botswana	Oabona Monngakgotla
Mrs Williams	MCST	Lesotho	Mrs Williams
Cristina Pinto	Wits Enterprise	South Africa	Cristina Pinto
Ferdinand Katire	Ministry of Education	Namibia	Ferdinand Katire
Lourino Chemane	UTICT	Mozambique	Lourino Chemane
Mr Hamisi Nguli	COSTECH	Tanzania	Hamisi Nguli
Dr Maxwell Otim	UNCST	Uganda	Dr Otim