

South African Mechanisms to Promote S&T Cooperation with EU

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CSIR FP7 Workshop - 18 November 2009



Why SA prioritises international S&T cooperation

- Human capacity development, retaining & attracting expertise
- Enables joint knowledge generation to address global challenges
- Maximizes benefits from national investments by strategically leveraging international investment
- Comprises R&D policy dialogue, allowing for international benchmarking and identification of best practices
- Critical mass to address global challenges



Institutional Arrangements

- Unit dedicated to management of SA-EU science relationship
- European – South Africa Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP)
- Network of National Contact Points (NCPs)
- DST Financing
- Senior S&T Representative in Brussels (SSTR)
- Joint Science & Technology Coordination Committee Meetings



What is ESASTAP?

- Specific Support Action co-funded by DST and EC and implemented by DST
- Dedicated platform created to promote SA-EU S&T cooperation, bringing together existing efforts from:
 - DST and EC
 - NCPs
 - SSTR



Why ESASTAP?

- Insufficient awareness of opportunities - in SA and the EU
- Instruments for cooperation frequently perceived as complex – need to improve understanding
- Difficulties for SA researchers to find European FP consortium partners
- Need to broaden range of participants – especially SMEs, industry, HEI, UT



ESASTAP Objectives

- Create dedicated programme and branding for SA-EU S&T cooperation
- Supporting SA's FP preparation
- Marketing SA's S&T excellence in Europe
- Exploit synergies between FP participation with other international cooperation activities, especially bilateral links with European countries.



ESASTAP Instruments (1)

- **Awareness-raising & marketing:**
 - Website: <http://www.esastap.org.za>
 - E-mail updates
 - Brochures and catalogues (incl. electronic document library)
 - Seminars and workshops (both locally and internationally)



ESASTAP Instruments (2)

- **Partner-matching service:**
 - Through ESASTAP website
 - Dissemination of information via European and South African networks
 - Dedicated partner-matching events
 - Seed Funding – travel costs for partners to and from South Africa



ESASTAP Instruments (3)

- **Advisory and support mechanisms:**
 - Providing institutional support to NCPs
 - Guidance and support to SA FP participants through dedicated help desks
 - Preparation of SA specific FP materials and other instrument guidance notes
 - Strategic co-investment funding



Enablers

- Strong political commitment to SA-EU S&T cooperation
- SA's existing knowledge base
- Experience in successful (and unsuccessful) FP participation
- Existing bilateral links with EU countries
- Representation in Brussels



Benefits

- Progressively greater opportunities for international cooperation in FP
- Connect with global research
- Financial resources leveraged, but also knowledge generation & human capacity development
- Long-term strategic networks built
- Marketing SA S&T excellence



SA Strategy for FP7 engagements

- SA participation informed by national policy:
 - Connection of SA to global R&D research
 - Increase leveraging of international resources for SA R&D
- Approach: Raising awareness, identifying opportunities, explaining modalities, and fostering partnerships with Europe
- Learn from successful SA participation in FP4 - 6



SA Strategy for FP7 engagements (2)

- Information-sharing with other African countries
 - How to start up similar arrangements
 - Lessons from successful and unsuccessful projects in FP4, FP5 and FP6

- Initiatives such as:

CAASTNet: Network for the Coordination and Advancement of sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology Cooperation

- aimed at promoting research and technology cooperation between Africa and the European Union



SA Strategy for FP7 engagements (3)

INCONTACT: Sub-Saharan Trans-National Cooperation among NCPs for International Cooperation

- aimed at building African regional capacity with regard to FP7 and promoting networking between African National Information Points and EU NCPs
- INCONTACT One World starting in January 2010

ST-EAP



Work done so far

- Finance and legal aspects training
- Mobility and proposal writing
- Aeronautics symposium
- Hosting of an SME event
- EC technical visit to SA on energy research
- Lesotho information sharing workshops
- INCONTACT Workshop
- CAASTNet Workshops and stakeholder comments



Achievements to date

- Increased SA participation in FP7
- Increased EU investment in South African STI (R150 mil in FP7)
- Increased uptake of DST's seed funding and co-investment instruments
- Signing of COST agreement and approval of 8 South African participations in COST Actions
- Establishment of various instruments to encourage wider African participation in FP7



Thank You - Enkosi



www.esastap.org.za