

REPORT ON EURO-AFRICA START WORKSHOP-BOTSWANA 8-9 OCTOBER 2007

INTRODUCTION

ST-EAP (Science & Technology-Europe Africa Project) was invited to participate at the Euro Africa-ICT FP7 awareness workshop in Gaborone.

ST-EAP DELEGATION

Dr Iba Kone – Executive Director: Africa Academy of Science
Nomkhosi Mvubelo- ST-EAP Project Assistant: CSIR

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The aim of the workshop was to connect sub-Saharan African and European organisations for ICT partnerships in the seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development and to develop and strengthen scientific and technological cooperation between the two regions.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

DAY 1

Presentations on the importance of Research and Development on ICT in Africa, the Successful Euro-Africa S&T Partnerships and an Introduction to FP7.

There was also a presentation on the ICT Call 3

DAY 2

Presentations on the On-going initiatives addressing EU-Africa Co-operation and a capacity building workshop on how to build an FP7 /ICT proposal.

ST-EAP PRESENTATION

ST-EAP was invited to present an overview of the project's role and objectives, which was presented by Nomkhosi Mvubelo. This gave the project an opportunity of marketing exposure and to build a networking data base.

FINDINGS/FEEDBACK

After the presentation and networking the findings were that:

Most of the audience was an informed group of people on both the framework programme and the On-going Initiatives addressing EU-Africa Co-operation. Many people mentioned that they had actually heard about ST-EAP from the IST-AFRICA Conference in Mozambique.

It was even more interesting to meet colleagues from the African Institute of South Africa operating from the NEPAD offices at the CSIR, who when they spoke kept using the ST-EAP presentation as a point of reference as the presentation made reference to the fact that our goals are aligned with NEPAD's vision.

The people had more understanding that Specific Support Actions are not funding instruments but programmes that organise research and promote Information sharing and networking.

Now that they had better knowledge of the EU Framework Programme and its *Modus operandi*, it evoked interest on how ST-EAP and other SSA's will be able to assist them in finding European partners.

People find the Work Programmes on Calls quite complicated, tedious and overwhelming to read which can be quite discouraging, hence defeating the purpose of our objectives.

At the breakaway session that I took part in, it was agreed that the only way to succeed in the framework programmes is for Africans themselves to come together and pull their ideas together to come up with one winning idea, as well as find good European partners, i.e collaborate first with African partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important for the ST-EAP team to work on the partnering database as success in the framework programme depends heavily on finding the right partners.

We have done very well in raising the awareness of the ST-EAP project and it is now time to begin concentrating on other work packages and deliverables especially Work Package 2 which Focuses on Fostering networks and partnerships. We have to apply our minds on the Work Packages and table the proposed activities, key milestones and timeframes.

It is recommended that, before the year comes to a close, another consortium meeting is held either in Kenya or South Africa so we can establish a way forward on the deliberables and finances, and prepare for the next Quarterly report.

In collaboration with WAITRO, we should also be part of the process of workshaping African Scientists or Researchers on how to read the Work Programmes and how to develop FP7 proposals in response to calls.