

The EU-AU Partnership for Science, Information Society (ICT), & Space

Karine Valin
Managing Director, Sigma Orionis
Project Coordinator, EuroAfriCa-ICT

10th EuroAfriCa-ICT FP7 Awareness Workshop

Organised by the EuroAfriCa-ICT Consortium & Hosted by Makerere University

Protea Hotel - Kampala, Uganda

Oct. 20-21, 2008



The EU-AU Partnership for Science, ICT, & Space - Background

The European Commission (EC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) agreed on a EU-Africa Strategic Partnership during the EU-AU Summit held in Lisbon (Portugal) in Dec. 2007.



Eight thematic partnerships have been identified - the 8th of these being the partnership for “Science, Information Society, and Space”.

The EU-AU Partnership for Science, ICT, & Space - Implementation

October 2008

The EC and the AUC have made substantial progress towards the definition of a broad range of projects with a strong capacity building component. These respond to the priorities identified in the Africa-EU Partnership on “Science, Information Society and Space”. These projects will help to:

- Bridge both scientific and digital divides,
- Strengthen Africa’s base in the areas of S&T,
- Enhancing the use of ICTs and space applications as enablers for growth and socio-economic development.

AU Commissioner (Jean-Pierre Onvehoun Ezin) and EU Commissioners (Janez Potočnik, Viviane Reding, Günter Verheugen and Louis Michel) agree to consider a book of 19 "lighthouse projects" as the framework for the implementation of the EU-AU Partnership on “Science, Information Society and Space” and its Action Plan. These projects will be further refined and prioritized through the involvement of the Member States (MS) and all relevant players on both sides, with a view to **identify the most appropriate and viable implementation modalities and possible sources of funding.**

The EU-AU Partnership for Science, ICT, & Space - Implementation (ctd)

Among the 19 identified projects, 2 ICT related projects are ready for early implementation:

Africa Connect...

Extend the reach of the European research/education high-speed network GEANT to SSA

Support to the development of regional research and education networks in Sub-Saharan Africa and their interconnection with the European GEANT2 network. Objective: contribute to integrate the African research community both at regional and international levels, through interconnection with the most cost-effective high bandwidth capacity.

The African Internet Exchange System (AXIS)...

Enhance Internet deployment/use in Africa

Support the establishment of a continental African internet infrastructure through national and regional internet exchange points. Such deployment is considered crucial for the development of the Internet in Africa, generating huge costs savings by keeping local traffic local and offering better quality of service and new applications opportunities.

The related projects have been identified and developed by the AUC on the basis of Africa's development priorities and challenges. They are consistent with Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) developed by the AUC and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) published in 2005.

Conclusions!!!

The EU/AU Commissioners share the strong conviction that **research, innovation and the development of the information society are vital instruments** for attaining equitable and sustained economic growth, alleviating poverty, eradicating disease and bridging the digital divide. They are essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Commissioners also agree to further reinforce EC/AUC cooperation in S&T. The European Framework Programme for R&D (FP7) is a primary tool to pursue that objective. Under FP7 (2007-2013) **various collaborative schemes - some of them specifically focused on Euro-African cooperation - will be used to**

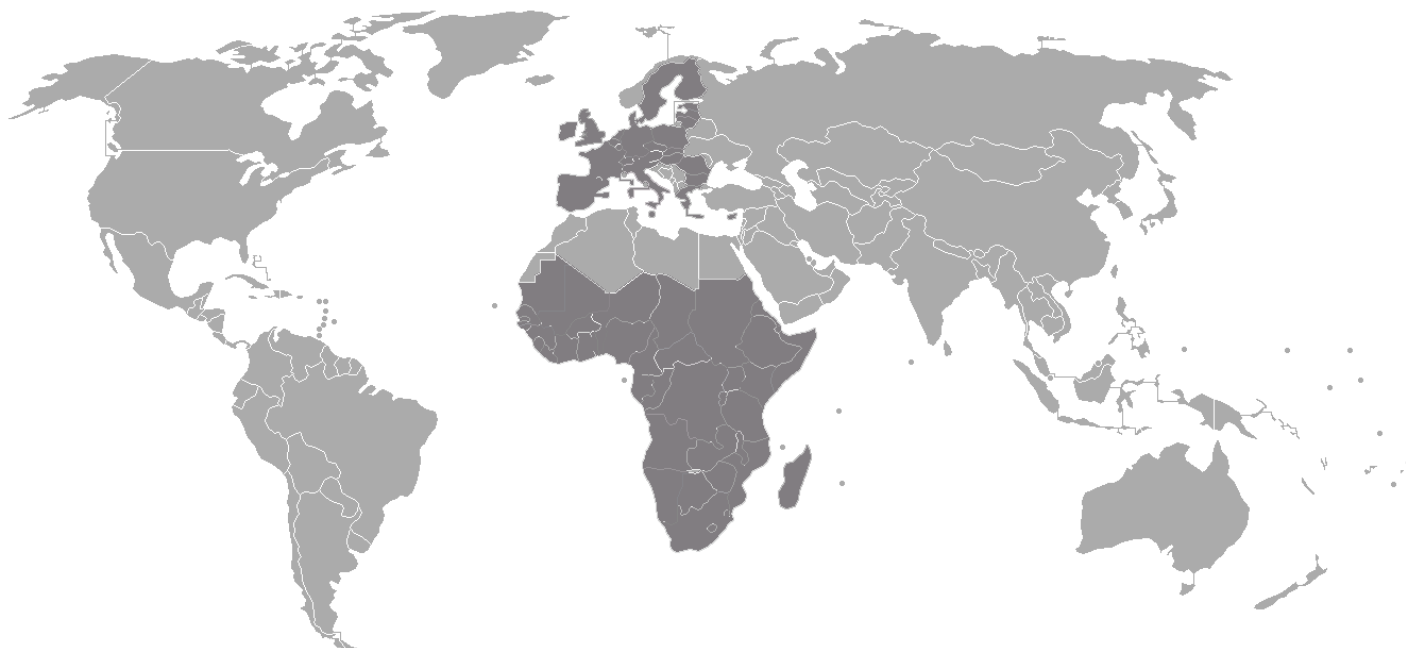
- Identify priorities,
- Promote the access of African scientists to projects and networks,
- Bring together the best researchers from both sides,
- Produce results that are both of high scientific value and great economic and social impact.

Appropriate funding instruments (coming from EU, national, regional or private sources) **will be identified to ensure the successful implementation of the 8th partnership action plan.**

As an outcome of these efforts, **research cooperation between Africa & Europe is expected to become more substantial, more focused and more relevant.**

Working WITH Africa / Not only working FOR Africa!

Thank you for your attention!



Contact us at info@euroafrica-ict.org

Visit www.euroafrica-ict.org