

THE EUROAFRICA-ICT INITIATIVE - ICT POLICY AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Andy Cherry, Association of Commonwealth Universities, United Kingdom

Tshepang Mosiea, Meraka Institute, CSIR, South Africa,

Tina James, icteum consulting, South Africa.

Supporting policy dialogues & strengthening cooperation
between Europe & sub-Saharan Africa
on ICT Research



European Commission
Information Society and Media

Project objectives



Main activities & expected outputs

Organisation of **EUROAFRICAN-ICT COOPERATION EVENTS** both in Europe & Africa (synchronised whenever & wherever possible with policy dialogue meetings in order to facilitate the development of synergies with other programmes & initiatives, to involve more key stakeholders in the field, to fine-tune priorities, etc.)

*Concertation meetings
FP7/ICT awareness & thematic
workshops
Cooperation Forum on ICT Research
Technical visits*

Identification of **EURO-AFRICAN ICT POLICY & RESEARCH PRIORITIES** (once identified and analysed, these priorities may lead to recommendations to be taken into consideration in facilitating the emergence of Euro-African collaborative projects addressing identified ICT research areas)



Provide **SUPPORT & GUIDANCE** to European & African organisations in their efforts to connect & develop joint research projects in the ICT field

*Virtual community of researchers
Database of African excellence
research centres
Helpdesk services
Etc.*

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES are supporting all project activities to maximise the overall project impact on the whole Euro-African ICT communities

Preliminary list of identified priority research topics :

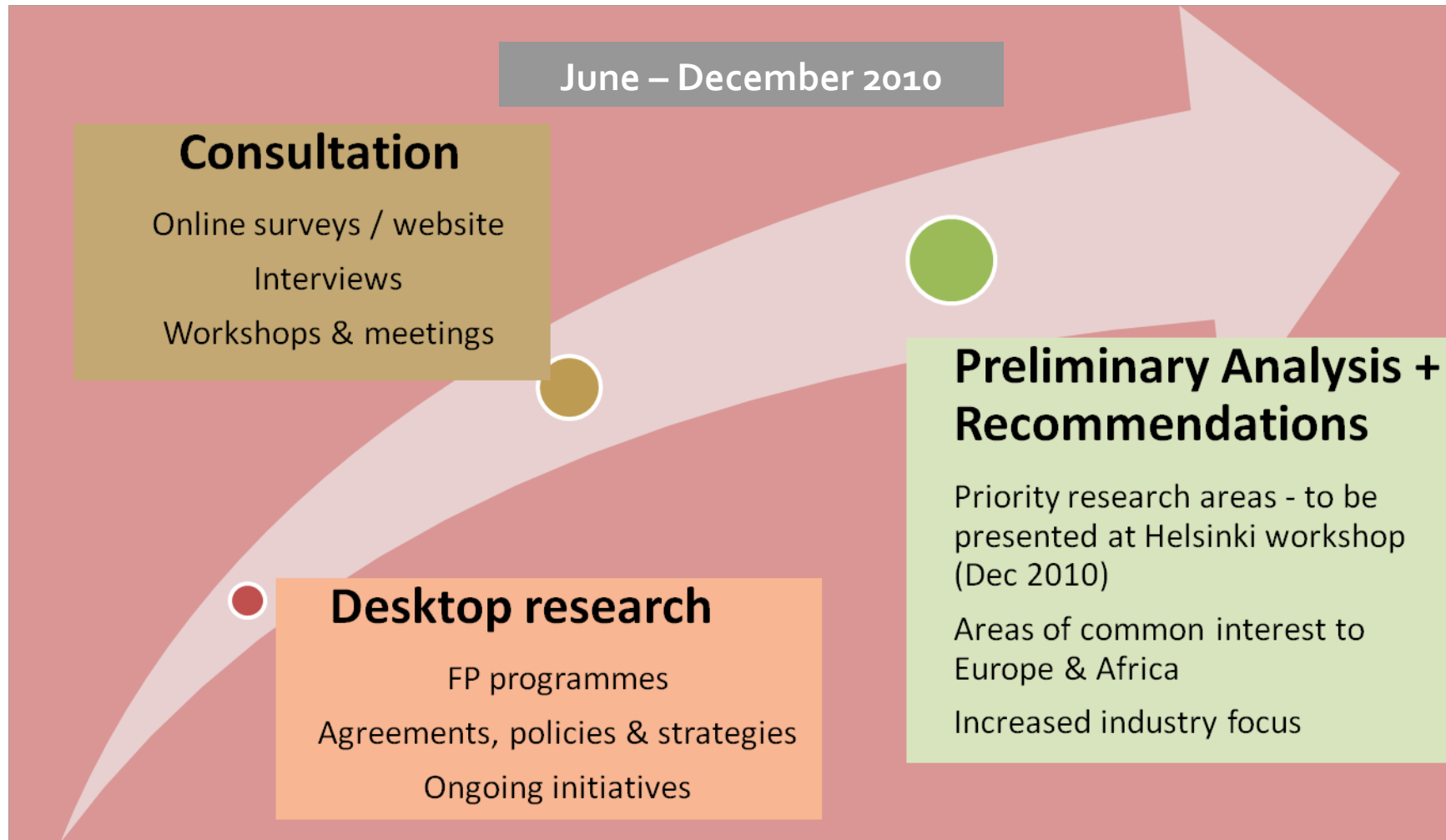
- + e-Learning, ICT for Education / e-Skills (Technology Enhanced Learning)**
- + e-Health, ICT for Health (Advanced Technology to Improve Health)**
- + e-Governance (Secure Services to Citizens & Business / Including ICT policies and regulation)**
- + e-Infrastructures & GÉANT (From research networking to global virtual research collaboration. Infrastructures & Access)**
- + e-Libraries / Digital Library Services & Digital Content Infrastructures**
- + e-Inclusion (and e-Adoption) & e-Accessibility (ICT for independent living)**
- + e-Agriculture, ICT for Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency (Enabling Environment, Climate Change Effects, Disaster Management, etc.)**
- + Evolution and convergence of networks, infrastructures, equipment and services towards Future Network solutions**
- + Social inclusion, youth/women and the Information Society**
- + Software and services (in various sectors: enterprise, agriculture, etc.)**

Identifying joint ICT research
priorities & issuing recommendations

ICT policy & research priorities

Fact finding and consultation
Analysis
Recommendations
Validation

Methodology – Phase I



+ **Fact finding:**

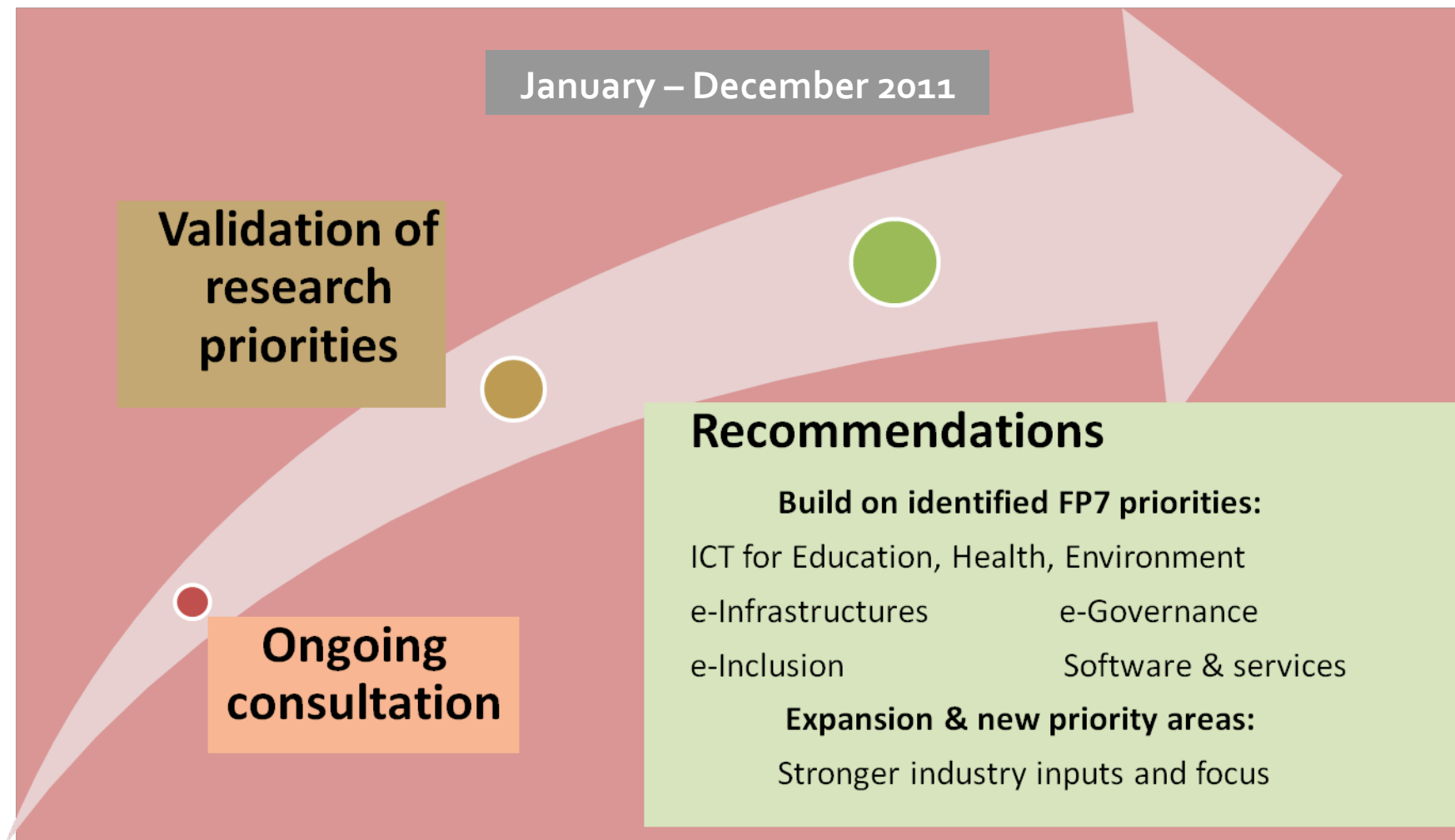
- + EuroAfrica-ICT outputs,
- + Priorities & recommendations of existing action plans,
- + Results from a consultation of experts & stakeholders in the field (private sector, academia, civil society, media, international organisations, SMEs, NGOs, etc.),
- + Consultation of participants in EuroAfrica-ICT activities.

Challenges and assumption #1:

INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION - GENERAL

- + Industry and particularly SMEs, generally low attendance at meetings,**
- + Industry unwilling to disclose R&D focus,**
- + Telecom industries easier to track – generally larger and more presence in Africa,**
- + Software / services – smaller companies, harder to track interests & priorities,**

Methodology – Phase II



Challenges and assumption #2:

INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION – AFRICA

- + Limited ICT R&D conducted by industry in Africa,
- + Little known about levels of ICT R&D investment in Africa by industry ,
- + Most large multinationals operating in Africa carry out research in other countries outside of Africa,
- + Low levels of industry participation on previous FPs, FP6 and FP7;
- + Appropriate yard stick to determine interest and current level of involvement in R&D?

Questions for consideration:

- + How to assure effective involvement of African industry?
- + Have we considered all the key “players”?
- + Should / could we focus on specific countries as case examples?

Thank you for your attention!



23 June 2010
EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 Project
#248376