Strengthening African-European cooperation in ICT

EuroAfrica-ICT, Brussels 23 June 2010

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A comprehensive ICT cooperation framework now in place...

- EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructures
- EU-Africa Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space

EDF Programmes and facilities

Funding from FP7, EDF, MSs, Financial Institutions, Private Sector
The EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructures

- 5.6 billion euros earmarked from the 10th EDF
- Creation of a Trust Fund with the European Investment Bank (initial 370 million euros in grants from EC and MSs + 200 million euros from EDF10) + loans from EU Development Banks
- Innovative governance: coordination between EU and AU/NEPAD + Development Banks, multi-donors approach, PPPs
- EASSY, AXIS, IOC submarine cable, ????
The key objective of the ITF: **Blending Capacities**

Grant resources from the Commission and EU Member States

Lending resources & technical capacity of nominated Financiers

Fund

Projects
( must combine certain characteristics)

Partnership with African Development Bank
Key eligibility criteria: The ITF can support infrastructure projects with the following characteristics:

– Trans-border infrastructure projects (or a national project with a demonstrable regional impact)
– African ownership
– Carried out by public, private or mixed-capital entities
– Targeted infrastructure sectors:
  ➢ Energy
  ➢ Transport
  ➢ Water & Sanitation
  ➢ ICT
Forms of GRANT support:

Grants from the ITF can take one or more of the following forms:

- **Interest rate subsidies (IRS)** – can be applied in flexible ways to reduce the total amount of debt payable by the borrower
- **Technical assistance (TA)** – preparatory work for eligible projects, project supervision and targeted capacity building
- **Direct Grants (DG)** – to finance project components with social or environmental benefits
- **Insurance Premia (IP)** - Payment of early-stage premia for launching infrastructure projects
Governance Structure and Grant Request Process:

EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership Steering Committee

The Executive Committee
Governing body of the Trust Fund, Examines and decides on Grant Requests

The Project Financiers Group
informal professional group: identifies, discusses Grant Operation and submits requests to the Executive Committee

Submission of Grant Requests

Requests for project financing

Identification of projects: public or private sponsors/project promoters

ITF Secretariat
Assistance to the Executive Committee

Trust Fund Manager
EIB - Responsible for treasury and accounting

(*) 3 categories: (1) Voting Members = Donors, (2) non-voting Members: M.S. non-Donors , (3) ITF Manager and ITF Secretariat (non-voting)

(**) double majority voting rule
The mobile boom

internet users penetration of 6.8% (1.3% ISP subscription)

• broadband penetration below 1% (0.12% for sub-Saharan Africa), weak rural connectivity

• interconnection costs, prohibitively high tariffs, weak computer literacy, lack of IT skills, lack of relevant content

• wide disparities among and between African countries
ICT is key to socio-economic growth

Innovative e/m-applications:
- m-banking (e.g. M-Peza, Wizzit)
- e-agriculture (Market Information Systems)
- e-education, e-health, e-government
- e-trade (paperless trade, traceability)
+ political, social advantages
+ economic sector devt, job creation

Source: Qiang, 2009, World Bank
Need for a Comprehensive Strategy

Need to complement investments on physical infrastructures by investments in capacity-building:

- enabling environment: policy/regulatory frameworks to foster private investments and maximise usage (reduce costs, expand coverage)
- e-skills +digital literacy
- relevant local content and e-applications
- coordination, harmonization, interconnection/interoperability: regional integration
A comprehensive ICT cooperation framework now in place…

Funding from FP7, EDF, MSs, Financial Institutions, Private Sector
Enabling environment

**HIPSSA** : 6M€ (EDF9) EC agreement with ITU for supporting
Harmonization of ICT regulation in Sub-Saharan Africa
- scale-up of previous EC/ITU initiative in ECOWAS
- Catalytic nature, co-ordinating bilateral initiatives, involving all key
  stakeholders, RECs, regional association of regulators, AUC, ATU,
  association of operators etc…
- 8 topics : licensing; universal service&access; frequency
  management; numbering; interconnection, cybersecurity; statistics;
  analog to digital migration

**NATP** (New Approach to Telecommunications Policy) : support to the
regional harmonization in the Med region (including North Africa);
EMERG (Euro-MED Regulators Group)
Launched 12/08; first Steering Committee 03/09

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<th>Coordinating REC</th>
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- Already fully implemented and organisations involved are mentionned.
- Partially implemented but some supplementary actions are planned.
- Partially implemented or under process supplementary actions are to be planned.
- To be implemented by the project in collaboration with mentionned organisations but on a subset of the listed subjects.
- Beneficiary countries are offered to chose two out of the five first main subjects or combined some into two separate sessions.
- To be implemented by the project in collaboration with the mentionned organisations.
## HIPSSA: example West Africa

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@CP-ICT programme

• 9,5 M€ programme (EDF9 intr-ACP) for ICT capacity-building (Call for proposals launched in 2008, projects launched in 2009)

• Support ACP governments and institutions to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their ICT national, regional and continental policies towards sustainable development, by providing high-quality, globally-benchmarked but locally-relevant policy advice, training and related capacity

• Example: the Africa4All Project on eParliament
P8 Implementation : ICT lighthouse projects

- **Africacconnect** : support regional research and education networks in Sub-Saharan Africa and interconnection with GEANT
- **African Virtual Campus** : pan-African e-learning network
- **AXIS** : support deployment of local IXPs and regional internet hubs
- **ALICT** : pan-African ICT training programme
- **AYIN** : digital literacy programme + innovation and entrepreneurship targeting the youth
P8 Implementation: ICT lighthouse projects

- **Africaconnect**: connectivity study (FEAST) achieved, first deployment mid 2010 (EDF 10 funding)
- **AXIS**: funding route = Infrastructures Trust Fund, Lux Development Lead Financier
- **African Virtual Campus**: implementation started in 11 West African countries, through initial funding from Spain
- **ALICT**: funding from Finland to start implementation in Eastern and Southern Africa in collaboration with GeSCI and UNECA
- **AYIN**: championed by Egypt (MICT), links with EU/African LivingLabs to be established
Strengthening existing « lighthouse projects »

+ 

JEG8 prioritization criteria for proposing new initiatives:

- Relevance to P8 priorities
- Regional scope (ideal pan-African; min trans-border cooperation ?)
- Critical mass of stakeholders / credible capacity
- EU-African partners / synergies-complementarity with international activities (eg UN, World Bank)
- Proven model / Demonstrated impact / Added value
- Sustainability / PPPs
- Committed / requested resources, in-kind contributions
Essential role of public authorities

- Increased usage
- Higher utilization of networks
- Increased profits
- Operator strategies and innovation

Policy and regulatory approach

- Easy market entry

Essential role of public authorities

- Decreased risk of investment
- Transparent regulation
- Lower tax burden
- Low prices
- Broad socio-economic benefits
- Easy market entry

Operator strategies and innovation

- Decreased risk of investment
- Transparent regulation
- Lower tax burden
- Low prices
Support in the regulatory domain

Implementation
- Statistics, implementation report,
- Infringement,…
- Best practices, independence,
  roaming, infrastructures
  sharing,…
- Interconnection& costs
  modelling, USO, …

Pan-African network of
Regulators

HIPSSA

Human Resources
capacity-building

Sectoral/Competition Law

Spectrum management
- Frequency planning, DSO,
  HCM,…

Dispute Settlement

Implementation of the AU reference Framework and Action Plan for ICT Policies Harmonization
A comprehensive ICT cooperation framework now in place...

Funding from **FP7, EDF, MSs, Financial Institutions, Private Sector**
FP 7 STRUCTURE
(2007-2013)

Co-operation (10 thematic priorities) : 32,4 B€

- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies 9,1 B€
  Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including Climate Change)
- Transport
- Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities
- Security
- Space

ICT

Capacities : 4,1 B€

- Research Infrastructures
- Research for the Benefit Of SMEs
- Regions of Knowledge
- Research Potential
- Science in Society
- Activities of International Co-operation
- Coherent Development of Policies

Ideas – European Research Council (ERC) : 7,5 B€

- Starting Independent Researcher Grants
- Advanced Investigator Grants

People – Marie Curie : 4,75 B€

- Initial Training of Researchers
- Lifelong Learning and Career Development
- Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways
- The International Dimension
- Specific Actions