



THE EUROAFRICA-ICT INITIATIVE

**Supporting Policy Dialogues & Strengthening Cooperation
between Europe & sub-Saharan Africa
on ICT Research**





Overview



EuroAfrica-ICT - FACT SHEET

SUPPORTING POLICY DIALOGUES & STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH AFRICA

EuroAfrica-ICT is a EURAF project spanning over 24 months (2010-2011) with the aim of supporting policy dialogues and strengthening cooperation in ICT research between Europe & Africa. The EuroAfrica-ICT project is defined in full continuity with and builds upon the substantial results obtained and the significant momentum created by two previous initiatives: the FP6/FP7 STREP project (2000-2006) and the FP7/ICT EuroAfrica-ICT project (2009-2009) - both coordinated by Sigma Orionis.

The EuroAfrica-ICT initiative which has been developing since 2005 through these two projects and which is supported by a high number of key stakeholders in the field both in Europe and in Africa, has established close synergies with most national and international programmes and initiatives: has already identified joint and research priorities to support the development of policy dialogues and has provided the European and African research communities with continuous and reliable support and guidance.

EuroAfrica-ICT has the strategic objective to promote and enhance ICT research cooperation between the two continents through: among other things - the organisation of the "EuroAfrica Cooperation Forum and ICT Research" conferences (held with discussions and debates, networking opportunities and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders in the field and policymakers coming from all over Europe and Africa. As an international project, EuroAfrica-ICT also seeks to raise awareness on FP7/ICT cooperation opportunities between the two continents.



EuroAfrica-ICT Partnership

- ACU - The Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK
- AUF - The Agency Universitaire de la Francophonie, Belgium
- CSIR - The Meraka Institute of CSIR, South Africa
- KIST - The Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Rwanda
- MAKSERENE - The Makerere University, Uganda
- SIGMA - Sigma Orionis, France (Project Coordinator)
- TWAS - The academy of sciences for the developing world, Italy



MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Identify Euro-African ICT Research Priorities (once identified and analysed in detail, these priorities will lead to recommendations which may be taken into consideration in facilitating the rapid emergence of Euro-African collaborative projects addressing these specific ICT research areas).

Provide Support and Guidance to European and African organisations in their efforts to connect and develop collaborative research projects in the ICT field (portal community of researchers, database of African research institutes, proactive helpdesk services, etc).

Organise Cooperation Events both in Europe and in Africa (conferences, meetings targeting the development of synergies between national and international cooperation initiatives, awareness and thematic workshops mainly aimed at raising awareness on FP7/ICT and cooperation opportunities, and cooperation forums focusing particularly on ICT policy and research priorities).

- Project acronym: EuroAfrica-ICT.org
- Project identifier: Supporting Policy Dialogues and Strengthening Cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa 248376
- Funding Scheme: Coordination & Support Action / CSA-SA
- Programme: FP7
- Specific Programme: Cooperation
- Call Identifier: FP7-ICT-2009-4

- Thematic Area: International Cooperation
- Duration: 24 months (2010-2011)
- EC Project Officer: Thierry Devars, International Relations Unit, DG INFSO-EC
- Project Coordinator: Karine Valin, Sigma Orionis (www.sigma-orionis.com)
- Partnerships (7): ACU / AUF / CSIR / KIST / Makerere / Sigma Orionis / TWAS
- Website: www.euroafrica-ict.org
- E-mail: info@euroafrica-ict.org

International Cooperation Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) 24 months (2010-2011)
Thierry Devars, International Relations Unit, DG INFSO-EC
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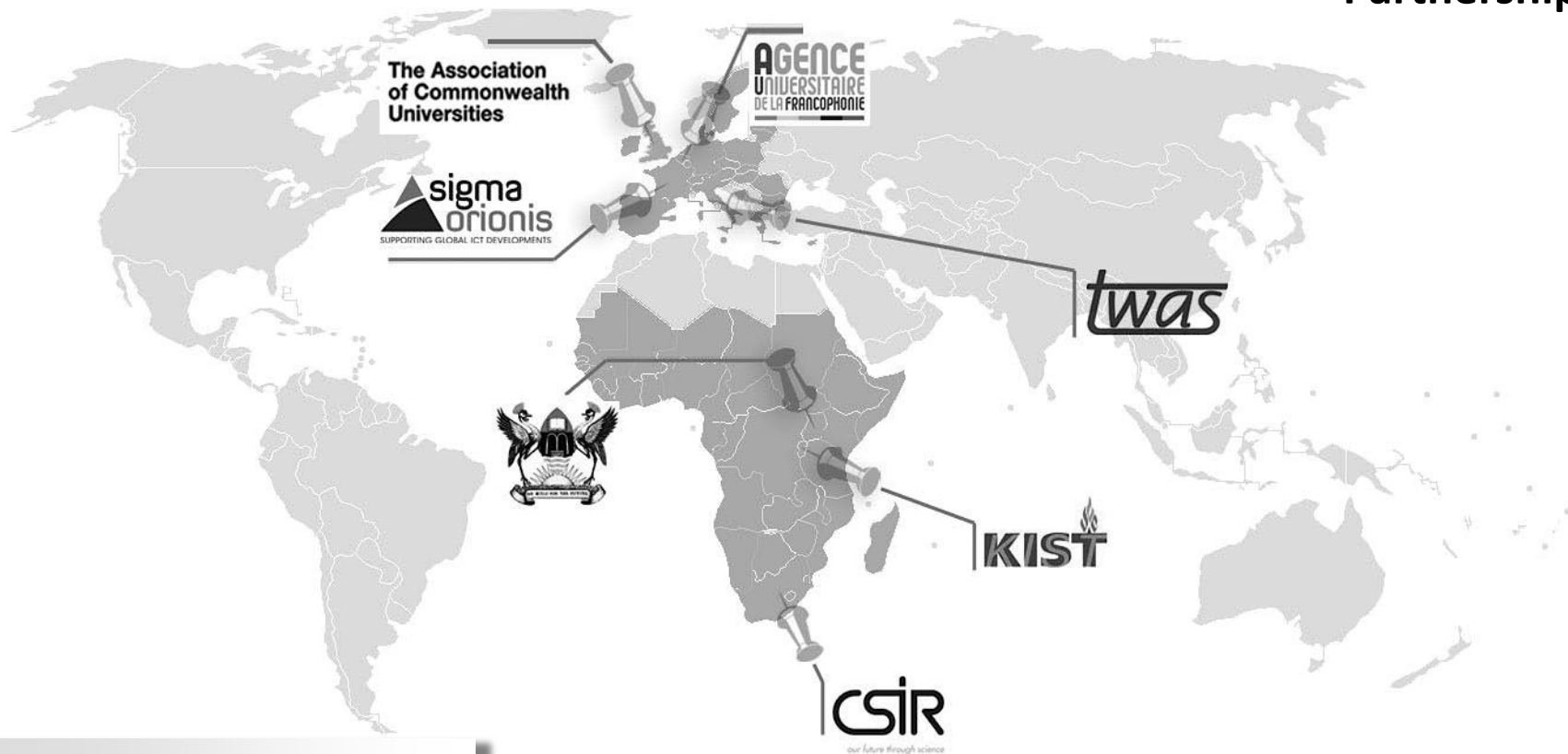
- + **Project acronym** : EuroAfrica-ICT.org
- + **Project baseline** : Policy dialogues & strengthened cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa
- + **Project number** : 248376
- + **Funding scheme** : Coordination & support action (CSA-SA)
- + **Programme** : FP7
- + **Specific programme** : Cooperation
- + **Thematic area** : International cooperation
- + **Call identifier** : FP7-ICT-2009-4
- + **Duration** : 24 months (Jan. 2010 – Dec. 2011)
- + **EC Officer** : Thierry Devars, European Commission
- + **Coordinator** : Karine Valin, Sigma Orionis
- + **Partnership (7)** : ACU, AUF, CSIR, KIST, Makerere, Sigma Orionis, TWAS
- + **Project url** : www.euroafrica-ict.org



European Commission
Information Society and Media



Partnership



An initiative supported by the European Commission (DG INFSO) & the African Union Commission





Main objectives





Main activities & expected outputs

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

Organisation of **EURO-AFRICAN COOPERATION EVENTS** both in Europe & Africa

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



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

*Virtual community of researchers on LinkedIn
Database of African research Institutes
Helpdesk services
Etc.*

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



EuroAfrica-ICT COOPERATION EVENTS

**Concertation Meetings
FP7/ICT Awareness & Thematic Workshops
Cooperation Forums on ICT Research
Technical & Lab Visits**



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CONCERTATION MEETINGS

- + Aiming at facilitating interaction and synergies between the EuroAfrica-ICT initiative & other related programmes / projects
- + Past events (Brussels, Belgium): Dec. '06, March '07, Sept. '07, Jan. '08, June '08, Dec. '08, Oct. '09, June '10
- + Upcoming events: June 6, '11 (Pretoria, South Africa)



FP7/ICT AWARENESS & THEMATIC WORKSHOPS (RAISE AWARENESS & IDENTIFY PARTNERS)

- + Aiming at raising awareness on FP7 (ICT theme)
- + Aiming at enhancing and supporting Euro-African collaborative projects on ICT research
- + Past events: Senegal '07, South Africa '07 & '08, Ghana '07, Kenya '07, Botswana '07, Cameroon '07, Nigeria '08, Tanzania '08, Uganda '08, Rwanda '09, Jamaica '09, Benin '09, Mauritius '10, and Sudan '11





COOPERATION FORUMS ON ICT RESEARCH (MEET! UNDERSTAND! HEAR! LEARN! DISCUSS!)

- + Organised under the aegis of the EC & the AUC
- + Past events: March '09 (Brussels, Belgium), Feb. '10 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), and Dec. '10 (Helsinki, Finland)
- + Upcoming event: November 14-15, '11 (Cape Town, South Africa)



TECHNICAL AND LAB VISITS (FIND PARTNERS!)

- + Past visits: Senegal '07, South Africa '07 & '08, Ghana '07, Kenya '07, Botswana '07, Cameroon '07, Nigeria '08, Tanzania '08, Uganda '08, Rwanda '09, Jamaica '09, Benin '09, Mauritius '10, and Sudan '11





SUPPORT TO EUROPEAN & AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS

Database of Research Institutes
Virtual Community of researchers
Helpdesks and guidance



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DATABASE OF AFRICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- + A list of African research Institutes will be available on-line soon!

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OF RESEARCHERS

- + European & African acknowledged ICT experts eager to derive maximum benefits from the EuroAfrica-ICT initiative are strongly encouraged to register as a member of the “EuroAfrica-ICT Community”.
- + Members will receive guidance & support to facilitate their participation in Euro-African S&T/ICT collaborative activities. They will also benefit from a very targeted contact network.
- + Join us! (www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=2892844)

HELPDESK & GUIDANCE

- + FP7 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - General & Financial Information
- + Searching for a partner? Ideal-IST (www.ideal-ist.net)
- + EuroAfrica-ICT Contact Points
 - + helpdesk-EU@euroafrica-ict.org
 - + helpdesk-AU@euroafrica-ict.org





ICT RESEARCH PRIORITIES

**Identification
Analysis
Recommendations**



OBJECTIVES

- + Identify and analyse ICT research priorities, and provide recommendations for future cooperation initiatives
- + Facilitate the rapid emergence of Euro-African collaborative projects addressing identified joint ICT research areas

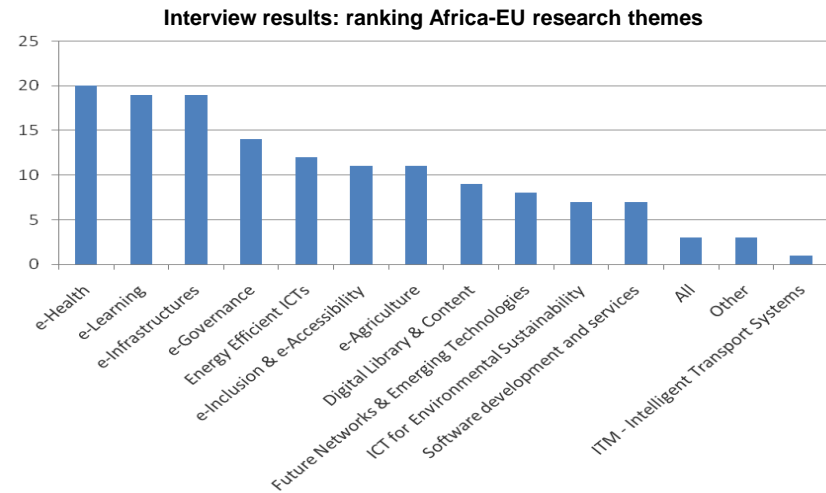
METHODOLOGY

- + Public online consultation (about 400 contributions)
- + Interviews of key European and African stakeholders in the field
- + Specific thematic sessions organised during EuroAfrica-ICT events (FP7 Awareness Workshops, cooperation forums, etc.)
- + Desktop review of existing documentation on ICT research priorities

The first results were unveiled at the “3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research” (Helsinki, Finland - Dec. 2010)

PRELIMINARY LIST OF IDENTIFIED PRIORITY RESEARCH TOPICS

- *e-Learning & e-Skills (Technology Enhanced Learning)*
- *e-Health (Advanced Technology to Improve Health)*
- *e-Governance (Secure Services to Citizens & Business)*
- *e-Infrastructures & GEANT (From Networks to Usages. Infrastructures & Access)*
- *e-Libraries & Digital Content*
- *e-Inclusion & e-Accessibility (ICT for Independent Living)*
- *e-Agriculture, ICT for Environmental Sustainability & Energy Efficiency*
- *Networks of the Future*
- *Social inclusion*





Consolidation of Inputs to date

Building an Information Society

Strengthen the capacity of African policy and decision makers to develop a broader understanding of the impact of ICTs in society. More research is required about how to reach the 'bottom of the pyramid'.

e-Infrastructures

Address the need for robust, cost and energy-efficient e-infrastructures with particular emphasis on the use of mobile technologies and cost/energy efficient heterogeneous wireless backhails.

e- Applications

Develop low cost networks and applications in different vertical sectors such as health, education and agriculture including the need for open access and shared resources. Develop technologies to support self-learning environments which can operate on mobile and low bandwidth platforms.

Environmental Sustainability

The need for energy-efficient ICTs emerged as a possible research area. Green ICT.



Consolidated Perspectives (ctd)

Mobile Technologies

Mobile technologies provide a significant opportunity for ICT in Africa, and particularly in the domain of ICT for development.

Potential is largely untapped due to lack of capacity and investment in relevant technologies such as voice-based services.

Need to strengthen the enabling environment in Africa, and future collaboration will be largely dependent on the progress made in improving research capacity, policy and telecoms regulatory environments, and significant improvements in the cost and availability of high-speed bandwidth.

Research Capacity

Promote capacity for virtual research collaboration between Europe and Africa, contingent on bandwidth and trained researchers in virtual labs.

Future projects

Support problem-oriented, project-driven capacity building which integrates development and learning in multi-stakeholder partnerships focusing on basic public sector services such as consumer needs, health care, education and governance including support to local entrepreneurs.



DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Website & documentation
Contribution to events



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WEBSITE AND DOCUMENTATION

- + Visit our website (www.euroafrica-ict.org)
- + Project documentation (factsheet, brochure, trailer, general presentation, introduction to FP7, etc..) are available online!
- + Follow us on Twitter! (twitter.com/#!/EuroAfrica_ICT)

CONTRIBUTION TO EVENTS

- + The project activities and findings are regularly presented at several events taking place in Europe and Africa



www.EuroAfrica-ICT.org



How to benefit from the EuroAfrica-ICT platform?

INFLUENCE THE IDENTIFICATION OF JOINT ICT COOPERATION PRIORITIES (ANSWER OUR ONLINE OPEN CONSULTATION!)

ACCESS THE LATEST RELEASES OF OUR ANALYSIS OF ICT RESEARCH PRIORITIES!

PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY EVENTS WE ARE ORGANISING IN EUROPE & IN AFRICA (GET CONNECTED! LEARN! EXPLORE! UNDERSTAND! DISCUSS! PROMOTE! FIND SYNERGIES!)



JOIN THE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OF RESEARCHERS!

REFERENCE YOUR ICT RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN OUR DB!

ACCESS OUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION!

BENEFIT FROM OUR HELPDESK SERVICES & GUIDANCE!

AND **MANY MORE BENEFITS!**

MAXIMISE YOUR VISIBILITY USING EUROAFRICA-ICT TO **HIGHLIGHT** YOUR ACTIVITIES (EVENTS, WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER, ETC.)



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**Join us in Cape Town
on Nov. 14-15, 2011!!**

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4th EuroAfrica-ICT Cooperation Forum on ICT Research

Cape Town, South Africa - November 14-15, 2011



Teaming up for a strengthened and
coordinated approach to foster Euro-African
cooperation on ICT Research

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



An event organized by the Meraka Institute of CSIR
and Sigma Orionis under the EuroAfrica-ICT Project



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Thank you for your attention!

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SUPPORTING GLOBAL ICT DEVELOPMENTS

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