



Guidance for FP7 New Comers

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*Cape Town, South Africa - www.euroafrica-ict.org
4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research*





Speakers

- **Alvis Ancas, DG INFSO, European Commission**
- **Segopotso Moshapo, SAP/Meraka, South Africa**
- **Mamohloding Tlhagale, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa**
- **Towela Nyirenda Jere, NEPAD e-Africa Programme, South Africa**
- **Roger Layton, Roger Layton Associates, South Africa**






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Alvis Ancas delivered a presentation on the Future Framework Programme for Research and Innovation after FP7, called "Horizon 2020". The programme will run from 2014 until 2020. Compared to FP7, the investment in research and innovation in the next seven years will be significantly increased. The programme recognises leadership enablement and it will build on the combination of the existing framework programmes. It will use the challenge based approach and structured into specific objectives. There will be more simplified rules for participation, eligibility, accounting, reporting and auditing. The next steps are the following: on Nov. 30 the European Commission will adopt the draft legislative proposal and between 2012 – 2013 the Council of the EU and the European Parliament will discuss and take the final decision for it to start in 2014.

Segopotso Moshapo spoke about the EU- Africa Collaboration Successes in FP7 from a South African perspective. South African participation in FP7 is enabled by the existence of: more than 20 public universities providing qualification in ICT, a strong industry (i.e. multinationals based in Europe but also in South Africa), research facilities (the SKA, CSIR Meraka Institute, CHPC, etc.) and several research institutions. The national strategy of the DST on ICT gives a clear mandate and direction of ICT research in SA. The success in the submission of proposals and in the formation of consortia, as well as the retained projects (the number of proposals submitted in FP7 in South Africa is comparable to Tunisia, South Korea, Colombia), indicate that there is a fair awareness about the FP7 programme in South Africa.




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Mr Moshapo continued presenting some data of South African participation in FP6 and FP7: in FP6, South Africa had 6 participations, this means that 6 organisations awarded participation in FP6 and about 5 consortiums featured SA participation. In 2010 (FP7), about 14 participation in 14 consortia were recorded. 5 projects are ongoing and 6 completed, most of these are coordination and support actions. There are also 2 Strep projects (Sasol, T-System) and 1 SICA project with SA's participation and the CSIR Meraka Institute is participating and targeted the VOICES project which aims at developing voice-based tools and applications for mobile services in developing countries. The total value of the 14 projects is just over 14 million €; this is a clear indication that there is space for improvement. More success is possible by using ICT research to address major socio-economic challenges.

Mamohloding Tlhagale described the FP7 Marie Curie Actions (MCA). This is a programme that provides an opportunity for researchers to travel to other countries for research purposes. The submission of a proposal is the same as for any other FP7 proposal. However, it is not possible to respond to a proposal alone: it is necessary to work with other partners. The evaluation process focuses more on mutual benefits, complementarity, and impact during and after the programme. The MCA is divided into 2 actions: Institutional action and Individual action (fellowship). There are opportunities for South African researchers to participate in exchange programmes for researchers, technical exchange and management of staff between countries that have or are in the process of establishing S&T agreements with the EU.







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(summary part III)

Ms Tlhagale continued introducing several Marie Curie Actions: she mentioned the Initial Training Networks (ITN) offering early-stage researchers the opportunity to improve their research skills, to join established research teams and enhance their career prospects; the International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) helps research organisations to set up or strengthen long-term cooperation with others, through a coordinated exchange programme for their staff, the Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPPs) aim to boost skills exchange between the commercial and non-commercial sectors.

Towela Nyirenda Jere presented the African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative. ASTII was designed to strengthen Africa's capacity to develop Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (STI) and use this information to guide implementation and policy direction in the continent. Activities include conducting surveys to get indicators and provide information in a condensed manner and easy to use form. The programme's objective is to provide support to the countries to conduct surveys and integrate it to the Innovation outlook instrument. The African Innovation Outlook 2012 features 17 countries: there is R&D and innovation data for 8 countries, R&D only for 5 countries and Innovation only for 4 countries. Most of the Government expenditure by Sector of research and Development (GERD) is in Government and Education sectors combined, while the private non profit sector accounts for a small share of R&D activities. Most of African countries are dependent on foreign funding to do research. This has to be changed to allow research to be funded locally. A lot of countries are falling below 50% mark when you compare the number of researchers per personnel in the research institutions. There is a lot of work to be done to build capacity of research in African institutions. There is still a very low number of PhD's within research personnel. According to the OECD guidelines research should be conducted by PhD accredited personnel, and this is clearly a challenge.





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Roger Layton's presentation focused on how getting SME's into FP7. SMEs are trying to get into FP7, but the question is perhaps, why they should be involved. Small companies are keen to improve life and have big and small clients. SME have the advantage that they can develop and innovate faster than massive organisations as they are not bogged down by massive and complex overheads. There is a great potential for SME's, as they are able to self fund their own projects and take risks. However, accessing funding from SAFIPA and ESSASTAP is a must. The Roger Layton Associates South Africa is the only SME that has been invited from South Africa to participate in the CIP and the only organisation participating from Africa. SME's thrive in innovation because they often define focus markets in very unique sectors and development based areas of society i.e. building websites and technology applications for the smallest entrepreneurs who work in their backyards. The role of SMEs should be to develop products and continuously look for ways on how those products can be improved in the future. Roger Layton Associates (RLA) worked on a digital library national policy on digitisation for the South African Arts and Culture Department. There should be dedicated support for SME to be in FP7, there is also a need to measure the impact of SME in the FP7 programme, create partnerships and consortia that are SME driven and focused.





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From the discussions emerged a common consensus on the need to increase consultation with Francophone countries in Africa regarding FP7. Africa- Africa collaboration was also highlighted as important, including collaboration between Africa- Africa researchers through existing bilateral agreements.

