

EU-Africa 8th Partnership

Science, Information Society, Space

4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research

Cape Town, 14 Nov 2011

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European Co-Chair of EU–Africa 8th Partnership



MAIN INSTRUMENTS



EU-Africa 8th Partnership

Main Reasons to Strengthen EU-Africa Cooperation in S&T

- Special strategic interest for both regions
- International Knowledge Networks are of foremost importance in a globalizing world of knowledge-based economies
- Collaborative work involving cultural and regional diversity is particularly productive and rewarding



MAIN INSTRUMENTS



EU-Africa 8th Partnership

Main Instruments

→ FP7 2007-2013

General calls on themes in the Cooperation Programme

Geographically targeted calls

Coordinated calls

European and international programmes, e.g., EDCTP, HFSP

Coordination and Support Actions in the Capacities Programme

→ EDF – European Development Fund

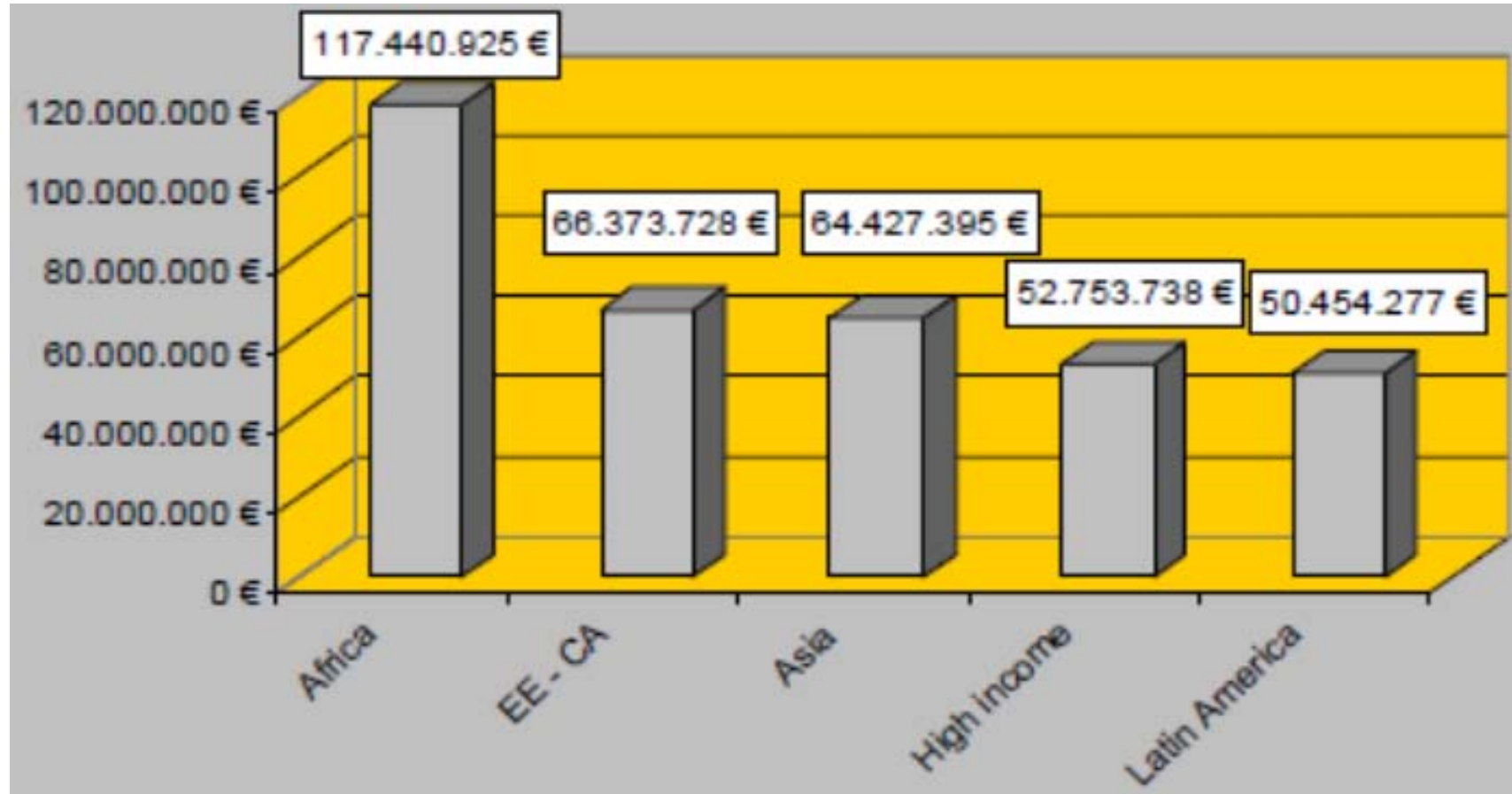


FP7 EU-Africa Related Projects

- 778 African participations
- Contribution to African participants approx. 120 M€
- FP7 Africa Call 2010 (67 M€)
Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnologies
- EDCTP – European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Platform
- Coordination and Support Actions
S&T Europe Africa Programme (ST-EAP) • INCONet for Africa (CAAST-Net) • INCONet for Mediterranean countries (MIRA) • ERA-Net Africa



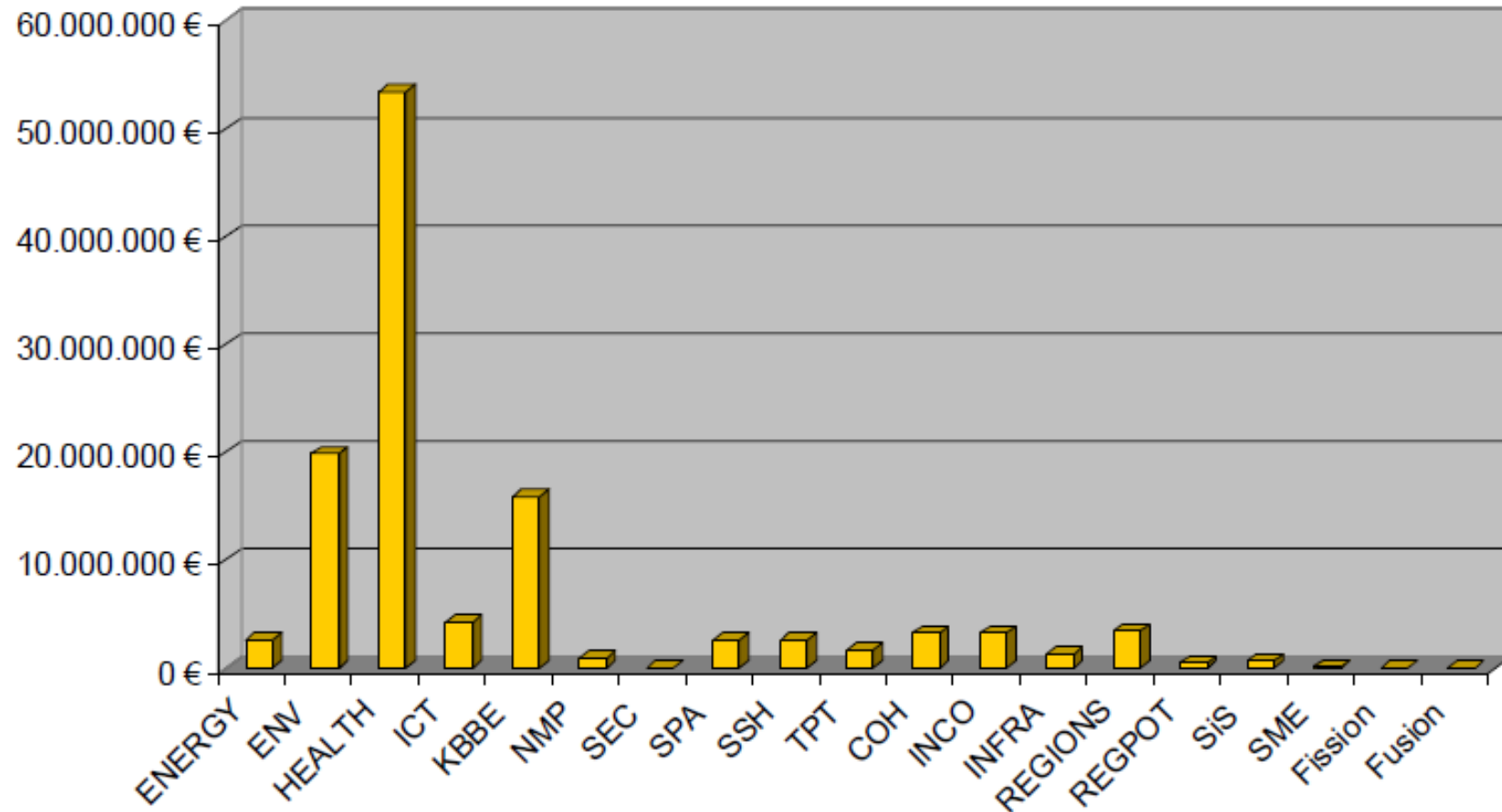
FP7 Contributions to Participants from External Countries – signed contracts per region



Source: DG Research and Innovation, European Commission



FP7 Contributions to Participants from External Countries – signed contracts per theme



Source: DG Research and Innovation, European Commission



Main EDF EU-Africa Related Projects

→ AfricaConnect (12 M€)

Connection of Eastern and Southern Africa NRENs to European GEANT

→ African Union Research Grants (20 M€)

1st Call (7 M€): Water and Sanitation, Post-harvest and Agriculture, Renewable and Sustainable Energy

→ HIPSSA (8.5 M€)

Harmonisation of ICT Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa



GOVERNANCE



EU-Africa Partnership Overall Governance

- **Guidance: Africa-EU Ministerial Troika (biannual)**
with inputs from sector-specific Ministerial Troikas
- **Monitoring: College-to-College (C2C) Commissioners Meetings (annual)**
- **Monitoring: Joint AU-EU Task Force (JTF) (6-monthly)**
AUC, EUC and EEAS, Parliaments, African and EU JEG co-chairs, chefs de files, RECs, private sector and civil society representatives (for the African side through AU-ECOSOCC)
- **Implementation Follow Up of each of the 8 Partnerships: Joint Experts Groups (JEGs)**
- **Implementation Coordination in EU: Jointly COM and EEAS**



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Governance

- Co-Chairs (MS): EU (Luis Magalhães, Portugal), AU (Rached Hamza, Tunisia)
- Joint Experts Group of 8th Partnership (JEG8)
- European Experts Group of 8th Partnership (EEG8)
EU members of JEG8 (no African counterpart)
 - EEG8 Sub-group for Science (Chair: France)
 - EEG8 Sub-group for Information Society (Chair: Finland)
 - EEG8 Sub-group for Space (Chair: vacant, Malta expressed interest)



MAIN EXPECTED OUTCOMES
AND
THEMATIC ACTIVITIES
in Action Plan II



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan II

Science

Main expected outcomes are the **strengthening** of:

- African S&T **capacities** and EU capacities for working with Africa
- **Training** of African and EU scientists, technicians and engineers
- **Exchange** programmes
- Pan-African **infrastructure and facilities** for R&D
- S&T **cooperation** (bilateral, bi-regional, bi-continental, REC-level)
- **Innovation capability** of African and European SMEs
- **STI evidence-based AU-EU policy making**, including **Africa STI observatory**



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan II

Science

Thematic activities include:

- African Research Grants Initiative
- African SMEs and Business Incubators network Lighthouse project
- African high quality research infrastructures
- African brain-gain programme
- Capacity building in R&D and R&D policy in Africa and EU
- Focus on the grand challenges faced by Africa and Europe, e.g.,
Climate Change / Energy, Sustainable Agriculture and National Resources
Management, Desertification and Forestry, Water and Food Security, Health



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan II

Information Society

Main expected outcomes are the **strengthening** of:

- **Inclusive** and **affordable access** and **use** of ICT applications and services in order to fast-track the MDGs objectives, notably in **health** and **education**
- Cooperation on **digital economy** and **reduction of the digital divide**
- African economy **competitiveness** through ICT uptake and innovation
- **Consultations on African-EU positions and approaches** in international and regional ICT *fora*
- **Mutually beneficial economic collaboration AU-EU** on ICT industry



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan II

Information Society

Thematic activities include:

- Developing **Research and Education Networks (RENs)** interconnecting the European GEANT to African regional networks and progressing to a **pan-African REN**
- Pursuing the **Harmonisation of ICT Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa (HIPSSA)**
- **Sharing of ICT best practices and successful PPPs**, and improving the links of local/national/regional initiatives with international financing institutions
- Designing initiatives on **digital literacy, e-skills, local digital content, applications with high socio-economic impact**
- Promoting ICT **business incubators and Living Labs**



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan II

Space

Main expected outcomes are the **strengthening** of:

- **Pan-African Institutions** in space technology and applications
- **Integration of space-related issues** in areas such as **navigation, telecommunications and Earth observation for the environment and resource management, climate change, peace and security**
- **Specific projects based on existing space infrastructure (such as telemedicine)** to achieve **regional and global development goals**



EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan II

Space

Thematic activities include:

- **Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa:**
Pursue the process initiated by the Lisbon Summit of 2007
- **African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF)** for projects requiring geo-referencing
- **Space-based applications and technologies** in support of **development goals**
- **Assess the feasibility of an African Space Agency**



SPECIAL PROMISE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND ICT



EU-Africa 8th Partnership

Special Promise of International Cooperation in Science and ICT

- Knowledge is a very peculiar resource, very different from other economic resources. Contrary to material resources, when you give knowledge to others, you do not lose a little bit of it and you end up adding to your own pre-existing knowledge an extra amount.
- ICT has currently such a basic role in all sectors of economy and society – as in education, energy-environment-transportation systems, health and active aging, business and government – that ICT research and application deserves a very special attention.



ULTIMATE GOALS
MUST BE
CENTRED ON PEOPLE



EU-Africa 8th Partnership

Ultimate Goals Must be Centred on PEOPLE

- Importance of S&T and Information Society to the **knowledge based economy** and to the **benefit of Africa and Europe PEOPLE**
- Scientific cooperation is built on strong relationships of **TRUST** and **CONFIDENCE** for high quality **collaborative work**, and stands on the adoption of appropriate processes for their **sustainability**.

TRUST and **CONFIDENCE** ultimately depend on **PERSONAL relationships** between researchers, and on **Knowledge Networks** involving research institutions, universities and enterprises.

The **best possible framework** must be established for **BOTTOM UP collaborations to flourish** and to **produce excellent research contributions** to **SCIENCE, SOCIETY and ECONOMY**.

