

Science and international development in the European Commission

This document aims to give a brief overview of the work of the European Commission (EC) on science, research and international development, with a focus on Africa. It outlines the parts of the EC involved in international development, provides an overview of the joint Africa-Europe Strategy and describes how research is funded by the Commission. The final page of the document provides links to more detailed information.

1 International development in the European Commission

There are three directorates in the EC that have responsibility for development:

- The [Directorate General for Development](#) is responsible for formulating **development policy** at global and sectoral level
- The [Directorate General for External Relations \(DG RELEX\)](#) develops **external relations policy** for the EU and coordinates external relations activities
- [Europe Aid](#)'s mission is to **deliver** the external **aid programmes** based on the policy set by DG Development and DG RELEX.

The main objective of EU development policy is to eradicate poverty and build a more stable and equitable world. EU action is based on the European Consensus on Development (2005) which defines the framework of common principles within which the EU and its Member States will each implement their development policies.

The European Development Fund (EDF) is the main source of EU funding for development cooperation for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states. Each EDF covers a period of several years and is implemented within an international agreement drawn up by the European Community and the partner countries. The current (10th) EDF has a budget of €22.7bn for 2008-2013.

There are three major programmes under the 10th EDF: National programmes; Regional

programmes; and Intra- ACP programmes (which covers issues such as climate change, renewable energy, environment, water & sanitation, science & research, ICT, agriculture). The majority of funding for research and S&T capacity building comes from the Intra-ACP programme.

The Intra-ACP innovations and capacity-building programme is currently funding S&T capacity building to support the EU-Africa 8th partnership (see below) and Africa's S&T Consolidated Plan of Action (see box). It is expected that reinforcing research capacity in the ACP regions will enable better uptake of opportunities under the European Research Framework Programmes.

Whilst having an overall policy for development, the EU has developed and defined its relationships with different regions: Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Overseas Countries and Territories. This document focuses on Africa.

Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA)

In September 2005, the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, 2006-2010. The Plan 'articulates Africa's common objectives and commitment to collective actions to develop and use science and technology for the socio-economic transformation of the continent and its integration into the world economy. It focuses on capacity-building, knowledge production and technological innovation

2 EU -Africa Strategic plan

The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) is a new long-term political framework redefining Europe-Africa relations, adopted by Africa and European leaders at the second EU-Africa Summit in 2007. It sets out long-term policy objectives and focuses more on promoting an equitable partnership between the Africa Union and the Europe Union. The JAES will be implemented through successive short-term action plans. The strategy's first action plan (2008-2010) outlines 8 areas for strategic partnership. These partnership areas are:

1. Peace and security
2. Democratic governance & human rights
3. Trade, regional integration & infrastructure
4. Millennium Development Goals
5. Energy
6. Climate change
7. Migration, mobility & employment
8. Science, information society & space

Implementation

The strategy is implemented and monitored through a range of channels:

- Summits –held every 3 years (with the next Summit planned in Libya in 2010).
- Africa-EU Ministerial Troikas -held twice a year.
- Africa-EU task force (made up of staff from AUC and EC) - meets every six months.
- College-to-College –annual meetings between the two Commissions where mainly political matters are discussed.
- Joint Africa-EU Expert Groups (JEG) which are being established under each partnership.
- Links between the European Parliament and Pan-African Parliament.
- The Africa Working Group (COAFR) -a working group of the European Council.
- The AU representation in Brussels and the reciprocal EC representation in Addis Ababa.

8th Partnership on Information Society, Science and Space

The P8 Joint Africa-EU Expert Groups (JEG) is responsible for taking forward the commitments made on enhancing the impact of science on achieving development goals and on improving the capacity within Africa to engage in and contribute to scientific and technological developments. The P8 JEG is composed of two sub groups: the African Implementation Team 8 (AIT8); and the European Implementation Team 8 (EIT8).

The AIT8 is chaired by Tunisia and includes Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Egypt and Kenya. The EIT8 is chaired by France and has been attended by a varying number of EU Member States. Regularly present are France, Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Finland, Sweden and the Czech Republic. The UK has attended more recently.

A list of projects that align with the key areas of the P8 was published by the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) of the African Union Commission in September 2008. This *Book of Lighthouse Projects* has 19 priority projects (12 in Science, 5 in Information Society, and 2 in Space) for the short-medium term implementation of the Partnership.

The College to College meeting in October 2008 identified six of the Lighthouse Projects as "Early Deliverables" for the two commissions to focus on. These projects are: in Information Society: *Africa Connect* and the *African Internet Exchange System*; in Science: *African research Grants* and *Water and Food Security in Africa* and in Space: *The African Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES-Africa)* and *the Implementation of the African Reference Frame*. These projects are at varying stages and some will be funded initially by the EDF and the Africa call under FP7 (see below)

3 Science and research in the European Commission

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is the main instrument for funding research across Europe. It was launched in 2007 and has a budget of €50.5 billion over 7 years. It is delivered by DG Research and its main aim is to support excellent research to improve European growth and competitiveness. However, FP7 also funds research that addresses global challenges.

FP7 is made up of 4 specific programmes:

1) Cooperation (€32.4bn) – enabling collaborative research between industry and academia in key technology areas. It has 10 themed areas:

1. [Health](#)
2. [Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology](#)
3. [Information and Communication Technologies](#)
4. [Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies](#)
5. [Energy](#)
6. [Environment \(including climate change\)](#)
7. [Transport \(including aeronautics\)](#)
8. [Socio-economic sciences and humanities](#)
9. [Security](#)
10. [Space](#)

2) Ideas (€7.5bn) – funding basic research at the scientific frontiers (through the European Research Council)

3) People (€4.7bn) - supporting mobility and career development for researchers both within and outside Europe

4) Capacities (€4.2bn) - enhancing research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensuring their optimal use. This includes programmes on: Research infrastructures; Research for the benefit of SMEs; Regions of Knowledge; Research Potential; Science in Society; Support to the coherent

development of research policies; Specific activities of international cooperation

Collaboration with countries outside of the EU is specified in the thematic programmes of the Cooperation programme when there is a specific topic or issue that would benefit from collaboration with particular countries (identified in calls as Specific International Cooperation Actions –SICAs). A specific 'Africa' call to support the science strand of the 8th partnership was published in July 2009, with a budget around €63 million. The call emphasised 'Water and Food Security' and 'Better Health for Africa'. A link to this call can be found on the final page.

Activities to improve dialogue, information sharing and priority setting between the EU and other regions and countries are funded under the 'Specific activities of International Cooperation'(which sits within the Capacities specific programme). For example, INCO-Nets bring together a range of stakeholders to jointly identify topics of mutual interest for collaboration under FP7 thematic programmes and member states programmes, define policy directions and implement specific activities dedicated to strengthening participation from targeted countries and regions. The INCO-Net for Sub-Saharan Africa, CAAST-Net, is coordinated by the UK. A link to the project's website is below, as is a link to MIRA, the INCO-Net which covers the north Africa region.

A call for establishing an ERA-NET for Africa was published in July 2009. This ERA-NET will aim to coordinate EU Member State's national programmes and policies for international S&T cooperation with Africa. It will align with the 8th Partnership and should work alongside CAAST-Net.

Useful links

UKCDS – National contact point for INCO in FP7- EU pages

<http://www.ukcde.org.uk/pages.php?page=26>

Organisations

Europe Aid http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm

Directorate General External relations http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/index_en.htm

Directorate General International Development

http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm

Policies, instruments and activities

The European Consensus on Development

http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/consensus_en.cfm

The Cotonou agreement

http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/cotonouintro_en.cfm

European Development Fund

http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/source-funding/edf_en.cfm

Consolidated Plan of Action [http://www.africa-](http://www.africa-union.org/root/UA/Annonces/HRST/Africa%20s%20Consolidated%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf)

[union.org/root/UA/Annonces/HRST/Africa%20s%20Consolidated%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/root/UA/Annonces/HRST/Africa%20s%20Consolidated%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf)

INCONETS: CAAST-Net <http://www.caast-net.org/> MIRA – Net <http://www.miraproject.eu/>

Joint Africa-EU strategy

News and resources on the Joint Africa –EU strategy <http://europafrica.net/>

Africa and Europe in partnership (includes page on main events)

<http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/au-eu/pages/templates/home.jsp?subkey=1&locale=en>

Book of light house projects [http://africa-eu-](http://africa-eu-partnership.org/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/e0c3f9b6-42bf-11de-b5ef-1d2658eaf8dd/090515_P8lighthouse.pdf?guest=true#nameddest=science)

[partnership.org/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/e0c3f9b6-42bf-11de-b5ef-1d2658eaf8dd/090515_P8lighthouse.pdf?guest=true#nameddest=science](http://africa-eu-partnership.org/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/e0c3f9b6-42bf-11de-b5ef-1d2658eaf8dd/090515_P8lighthouse.pdf?guest=true#nameddest=science)

Research funding

Seventh Framework Programme ‘Find a call’ <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

EU FP7 2010 ‘Africa call’

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=268

Call for ERA-Net for Africa

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=230#infopack