

IST-AFRICA 2010 – 2011

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PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

IST-Africa (2010 – 2011) is a collaborative Initiative between 1 European and 14 African partners: 11 Ministries & 3 National Councils responsible for ICT adoption, Science, Technology & Innovation policy & research across **North Africa** (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt), **Southern Africa** (Department of Science & Technology, South Africa; Ministry of Education, Namibia; Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Lesotho; Unidade Technica de Implementacao da Politica de Informatica, Mozambique; Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Botswana and National Computer Board, Mauritius), **East Africa** (Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology; Uganda National Council for Science and Technology; Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Kenya; Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Burundi and Ministry in the President's Office in Charge of Information Communications Technology, Rwanda), **West Africa** (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, des Universités et des Centres Universitaires Régionaux et de la Recherche Scientifique, Senegal) & **Central Africa** (Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication, Cameroon).

The main objectives of the IST-Africa Initiative (2010 – 2011) are:

- To strengthen the research dimension of Information Society policy dialogues between the European Commission and African countries and key regional organisations
- The organisation of events in Europe and Africa synchronised with policy dialogue meetings, providing input on common policy & R&D priorities, opportunities & challenges
- The identification and analysis of African ICT policy and research priorities, including long term perspectives aligned with EU priorities and recommendations for future Africa – EU co-operation initiatives
- The development of synergies with Africa focused on international dialogues and activities launched under the Capacities and People Specific Programmes, notably the INCO-NET schemes, and related activities by EU Member States and Associated States.

IST-Africa (2010 – 2011) will achieve these goals through the following actions:

- Organise 2 Ministerial level international research conferences (IST-Africa 2010, IST-Africa 2011) and a series of bi-lateral/multi-lateral meetings in Africa with Regional Economic Communities & other key Regional stakeholders
- Facilitate multi-lateral Informal Policy Meetings in Europe hosted by EU Member States or EC, focused on facilitating a more coordinated approach to ICT related engagement in Africa by EU Member States, and developing synergies with European government agencies supporting ICT related research, developmental projects and training across Africa
- Organise 2 IST-Africa Workshops in association with European conferences (ICT, eChallenges) to highlight African research capacity, and opportunities for research adaptation and collaboration
- Document and provide outline analysis of existing African national & regional STI/ICT policies and engage with key African STI/ICT Stakeholders to identify research priorities and recommendations for future co-operation initiatives
- Organise six IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops in new Partner Countries (Senegal, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Mauritius) to validate national and regional research priorities and inform recommendations for future cooperation
- Strengthen international cooperation by promoting research cooperation between European and African organizations under FP7-ICT in proposals addressing:
 - Challenge 1: Pervasive and Trusted Network and Service Infrastructures
 - Challenge 4: Digital Libraries and Content

- Challenge 5: Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare
 - Challenge 6: ICT for Mobility, Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency
 - Challenge 7: ICT for Independent Living and Inclusion
 - Research Infrastructures
- Promote Africa focused cooperation under Capacities & People Specific Programmes
- Maximize regional impact by engaging with relevant Technology Platforms and publishing relevant content (reports, news, papers, presentations) on the IST-Africa portal

IST-Africa (2010 – 2011) commenced in October 2009, and the project has made good progress during the initial fourteen months (October '09 – November '10).

During **Period 1 (October 2009 – November 2010)**, the project focused on the mobilisation of the national and regional research community, organising and promoting the first FP7 Training Workshops in Burundi, Rwanda, Mauritius and Senegal, supporting informal meetings of the Information Society track of the JEG8 in Europe, organisation of the IST-Africa 2010 Conference & Exhibition in Durban, South Africa, organisation of a demonstration stand in the AU Summit Exhibition, organisation of a demonstration stand and networking session during ICT 2010 in Brussels and a demonstration stand and public awareness raising workshop during eChallenges e2010 in Poland in October 2010. A repository of STI and ICT Policy Documents has been published on the IST-Africa portal¹.

FP7 Training Workshops & Mobilisation of the Research Community

IST-Africa organised the first FP7 Training Workshops² in Burundi on 30 October '09, Rwanda on 02 November '09 and Mauritius on 09 November '09 focused on FP7-AFRICA-2010 and FP7-ICT-Call 6.

During September 2010, IST-Africa provided FP7 Training Workshops focused on FP7-ICT-Calls 7 – 9 in Namibia hosted by the Ministry of Education on 15 September '10 and in Botswana hosted by the Department of Research, Science and Technology on 21 September.

The first IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshop in Senegal was hosted by Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, des Universités et des Centres Universitaires Régionaux et de la Recherche Scientifique on Wednesday 24 November '10 and focused on FP7-ICT-Calls 7 – 9.

The goal of the IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops is to inform researchers and government officials responsible for supporting research at national level in Burundi, Rwanda, Mauritius and Senegal about FP7-ICT and specific opportunities to participate, qualify organisations with the necessary track record and research capacity to participate in FP7-ICT, and promote such organisations to potential European partners. Each national IST-Africa partner was responsible for organising the workshop and mobilising the participation of the national research community. IIMC (IST-Africa Co-ordinator) provided the training during these workshops as part of the “Train the Trainer” strategy to support each national partner. The training workshops were very interactive in design, with frequent questions from participants as the workshops proceeded.

As part of the IST-Africa FP7 Training workshops, a consultation is held with the research community in each country in relation to mapping research activities and expertise at national level with research areas that can be funded under FP7-ICT. This analysis is then incorporated into the Research Priorities Report.

Updated Training Materials are prepared following the publication of relevant Calls. All IST-Africa partners circulated the pack to their national research community to ensure that they are aware of upcoming opportunities for collaborative projects.

¹ <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=ictpolicies>

² <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=fp7ws>

It is clear that FP7 is of considerable interest. As part of the qualification process, each workshop participant was requested to do further internal research to prepare organisational profiles and identify specific research areas where they could demonstrate capacity to participate in collaborative research with international partners.

Many of the universities have at least some existing co-operation agreements with European universities and Embassies. Other universities clearly need to build these relationships over time. Following these training workshops the national IST-Africa partners followed up and provided coaching for those organisations identified as having high potential, to help them prepare material to forward to European organisations with whom existing co-operation agreements are in place and to prepare an organisation profile to help attract new potential partners.

Support was also provided in relation to proposals submitted under FP7-AFRICA-2010 and FP7-ICT-Call 6 in terms of providing introductions to relevant organisations as partners and providing the African partners with direct support to prepare their contributions for the proposals submitted. A number of proposals were submitted under each open Call.

Support to 8th Partnership and JEG8

During December 2007, the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon agreed the **8th Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space**³ and process to shortlist flagship projects and agree funding mechanisms commenced. This introduced a wider policy dimension⁴ and opened up new opportunities for cooperation between the EC & African Union Commission. A Joint Implementation Task Force focused on Implementation of the 8th Partnership meet regularly to discuss progress and put necessary systems in place. Joint Expert Groups have been established by the EU and African Member States to provide input to this process and technical expertise.

IST-Africa has participated in the formal JEG8 Meetings organised in Africa: Hammamat, Tunisia on 23 November 2009, in Cairo on 05 – 06 March 2010 and in Durban on 19 – 20 May 2010.

IST-Africa has participated in the informal meetings of Information Society Group of the JEG8 in Europe: Helsinki, Finland on 12 November 2009 (hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland) and Brussels, Belgium on 21 April 2010 (hosted by European Commission).

IST-Africa has undertaken a survey of bilateral cooperation between Europe and Africa in order to raise awareness of current projects being funded and to identify projects that could be expanded to have a greater regional impact.

IST-Africa 2010, Durban

The IST-Africa 2010⁵ Conference and Exhibition took place in Durban from 19 – 21 May 2010, Hosted by the Government of South Africa through the Department of Science and Technology, Supported by the European Commission and Technically Co-Sponsored by IEEE.

IST-Africa 2010 focused on the Role of ICT for Africa's Development, and specifically on Applied ICT research topics addressing major societal and economic challenges, which is part of the European Commission's ICT Theme of FP7. The Conference Programme combined strategic keynote presentations, technical and policy papers, case studies, workshops, an exhibition and social activities.

The IST-Africa Initiative and the IST-Africa Conference Series directly supports the goals of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space, the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) and the Consolidated Plan of Action for the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE).

The 3-day programme featured an invigorating mix of business and government case studies, technical and policy papers and interactive workshops. As well as Opening and Closing Plenary

³ www.IST-Africa.org/home/default.asp?page=euafrika

⁴ <http://africa-eu-partnership.org>

⁵ <http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2010/>

Sessions, delegates could participate in 40 thematically focused parallel sessions featuring different aspects of International Cooperation, eHealth, eInfrastructures, Technology Enhanced Learning and ICT Skills, ICT for Inclusion, ICT for Networked Enterprise and eGovernment and eDemocracy.

The conference programme was complemented by an Exhibition focused on showcasing demonstrations and technology exploitation, a Networking Reception on Wednesday 19 May and Gala Dinner on Thursday 20 May.

The Opening Plenary Session was in two parts, starting with a number of high-level presentations from the Host Government, European Commission and African Union Commission to provide an overall political context for the IST-Africa 2010 Conference & Exhibition. Presentations were delivered by the Honourable Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa; Honourable Maged El Sherbiny on behalf of Hon. Prof. Hany Helal, Minister of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research, Egypt (AMCOST Chair); Mrs Vera Brenda Ngosi, Director, HRST, African Union Commission; Dr. Phil Mjwara, Director-General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa and Mr. Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director-General, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission.

This was then complemented by a High-level Round Table on the Implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space, with representation from the African Union Commission; European Commission; Department of Science and Technology, South Africa; Department of Communications, South Africa; Minister of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research, Egypt (AMCOST Chair); Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche des Télécommunications (CERT), Tunisia (Co-Chair JEG8); Conseil d'Etat, France (Co-Chair JEG8); Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (Chair, Information Society Track, JEG8); Vodafone Health Solutions and European Research Area. The Round Table was very interactive in nature and provided delegates with a unique opportunity to experience first-hand the intricacies involved in planning the implementation of a new programme and sourcing funding for international flagship projects.

The Closing Plenary focused primarily on Initiatives Supporting Development of Regional S&T, with presentations from Honourable Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa; Ms. Helena Tapper, Counsellor for Information Society for Development, Science and Technology, Embassy of Finland, South Africa; Thierry Devars, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission and Ms. Fadila Boughanemi, DG Research, European Commission.

Over 450 delegates from Europe and Africa participated at IST-Africa 2010.

Much of the European research results presented in this year's conference is co-funded under the FP6 IST Programme and FP7 ICT Programme - IST-Africa (FP7), MAP-IT (FP7), Think-Trust EU-IST (FP7 Coordination Action), HealthCycle (FP7), iWebcare (FP7), Contrapunctus (FP7), MaPEeR SME (FP7), C@R (FP6), EU SEAMLESS (FP7), EU ACVDCC (Leonardo da Vinci), Africa4All (ACP/EuropeAid), OASIS (FP7), Remote (FP7), SAVE ME (FP7), ACCESSIBLE (FP7), ACCESS2ALL (FP7), Europeana, 3D-COFORM (FP7), PLANETS (FP7), DRIVER (FP7), OPENAire (FP7), 6DEPLOY (FP7), BELIEF II (FP7), EELA2 (FP7), GILDA (FP), EUGrid (FP), FEAST Feasibility Study, Erina4Africa (FP7), ESASTAP (FP7), CAAST-NET (FP7), INCONTACT (FP7), ST-EAP (FP7), EuroAfrica-ICT (FP7).

IST-Africa Awareness Workshops in Europe

IST-Africa has organised a demonstration stand⁶ and networking session⁷ during ICT 2010 in Brussels and a demonstration stand and public awareness-raising workshop of research capacity and ICT Initiatives being undertaken in the 14 participating African countries during eChallenges e2010 in Poland in October 2010.

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3366&displaypage=main

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3512&displaypage=main

Repository of National ICT/STI Policy Documents

A repository of STI and ICT Policy Documents has been published on the IST-Africa portal⁸. Based on the current national ICT and STI Policy Documents, the Consortium is compiling a Guide to STI/ICT Policy in IST-Africa Partner Countries. It is important that there is an awareness of the current national policy to ensure that future regional and international projects launched are aligned with national priorities.

Survey of ICT Initiatives and Research priorities

It is important that national ICT research priorities are aligned with national strategic priorities and available expertise. As a result the IST-Africa Consortium has undertaken an extensive consultation with the research communities in 14 African Countries across North Africa (Egypt), West Africa (Senegal), East Africa (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda), Central Africa (Cameroon) and Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa). This consultation has been undertaken as part of national workshop supplemented by direct one-on-one engagement with senior representatives of key stakeholders undertaking ICT-related research at a national level. All organisations have been encouraged and provided with assistance as requested, in relation to preparing an organisational profile to highlight their track record and expertise.

A survey has also been undertaken to provide an overview of the ICT Environment and ICT related initiatives currently ongoing at a national level based on consultation of all key research actors.

For more information on IST-Africa, please visit www.IST-Africa.org

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⁸ <http://www.ist-africa.org/home/default.asp?page=ictpolicies>