

2010 EURO-AFRICA WEEK ON ICT RESEARCH & E-INFRASTRUCTURES

Marina Congress Centre - Helsinki, Finland
December 6-10, 2010



A series of events held under the aegis of the **European Commission** (DG INFSO: International Relations Unit + GÉANT and e-Infrastructures Unit) and the **African Union Commission** with the support of the **Finnish Government** (Ministry for Foreign Affairs).



A week organised by the FP7 **EuroAfrica-ICT** (www.euroafrica-ict.org) and the **ei-Africa** (www.ei-africa.eu) EU-funded projects with the support of the **VTT Technical Research Center of Finland** (www.vtt.fi).



FOUR PUBLIC EVENTS WITHIN A WEEK!

3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research ▶

2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference ▶

Lab Visits ▶

(TBC) Meeting of the Joint Expert Group for the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (JEG8) ▶

	Mond. 6/12	Tues. 7/12	Wed. 8/12	Thur. 9/12	Frid. 10/12
3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research					
2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference					
Lab Visits					
(TBC) Meeting of the Joint Expert Group for the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (JEG8)					

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Allow European and African stakeholders to get together
- ▶ Allow participants to exchange views, share information, and identify synergies in order to increase the impact of their activities
- ▶ Further support policy dialogues, apprehend medium- to long term perspectives and agree on an overall and coherent vision
- ▶ Raise awareness on FP7/ICT and Euro-African collaborative opportunities
- ▶ Give the highest visibility to ongoing Euro-African initiatives
- ▶ Increase the number of sub-Saharan organisations involved in EU/FP7 collaborative projects

EXPECTED AUDIENCE

- ▶ 300 key stakeholders in the field coming from all over Europe and Africa
- ▶ Policymakers | Senior representatives from Governments | Representatives from international development cooperation agencies | ICT project managers | Programme managers | Heads of research labs | Researchers | IT engineers | Deans, directors, lecturers and researchers from universities and the higher education sector | Managers of NGOs, professional associations, centres of excellence, trade unions, chambers of commerce, etc. | Industry stakeholders
- ▶ Institutions | National and international companies | SMEs | Academia | Research institutes | Etc.

FEES & REGISTRATIONS

Free of charge event (note: since the number of seats will be limited to 300, pre-registrations will be requested and applications will be accepted by the organisers on a case by case basis)

EVENT FORMATS

Plenary sessions | Thematic parallel sessions | Presentation sessions | Discussions and debates | Networking events (eg. networking cocktails and dinners) | Technical/Lab visits

MOBILITY GRANTS

To ensure a higher participation of African stakeholders in the event a budget has

been planned by the organisers to contribute to travel and subsistence expenses for some of the delegates. In addition, donor organisations will be encouraged to sponsor the event and collected sponsorship fees will be primarily used to invite more African delegates to join the event.

PARTNERS

- ▶ Honorary Committee (EC and AUC officials / International, regional, and local authorities)
- ▶ Advisory and Programme Committee (acknowledged experts in the field)
- ▶ Organising Committee (EU members, AU members, EuroAfrica-ICT and ei-Africa consortium members)
- ▶ Associated Partners, Media Partners, and Sponsors supporting African participation in the event



EuroAfrica-ICT - FACT SHEET

Supporting Policy Dialogues & Strengthening Cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa

EuroAfrica-ICT (www.euroafrica-ict.org) is a EU/FP7 project spanning over 24 months (2010-2011) with the aim of supporting policy dialogues and strengthening cooperation on ICT research between Europe & sub-Saharan 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/IST START project (2006-2008) and the FP7/ICT EuroAfrica-ICT project (2008-2009) - 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 started to identify policy 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 thanks to - among other things - the organisation of the "Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research" - a 3rd conference filled 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.



1st Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research (March 2009 - Brussels, Belgium) & 2nd Forum (February 2010 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

EuroAfrica-ICT Partnership

- ▶ ACU - The Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK
- ▶ AUF - The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Belgium
- ▶ CSIR - The Meraka Institute of CSIR, South Africa
- ▶ KIST - The Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Rwanda
- ▶ MAKERERE - 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

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

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

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

- ▶ Thematic Area: International Cooperation / Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- ▶ 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)
- ▶ Partnership (7): ACU / AUF / CSIR / KIST / Makerere / Sigma Orionis / TWAS
- ▶ Website: www.euroafrica-ict.org



ei-Africa - FACT SHEET

Strengthening Cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & Africa

ei-Africa (www.ei-africa.eu) is an EU/FP7 project spanning over 18 months (Oct. 2009 - March 2011) with the aim of strengthening cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & Africa.

EI-Africa (e-Infrastructures Africa) has the strategic objective to promote European e-Infrastructures developments and exploitation in Africa and to develop stronger cooperation links between Europe and Africa thanks to - among other things - the organisation of the "2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference". As an international e-Infrastructures project, ei-Africa also seeks to reinforce the relevance of Europe's e-Infrastructures in Africa, to raise awareness on e-Infrastructures in Africa, and to ensure that e-Infrastructures project activities can get the highest visibility on the African continent.

Event addressed topics: from research networking to global virtual research collaboration...

- ▶ Innovating the scientific process (global virtual research communities)
- ▶ Accessing knowledge (scientific data)
- ▶ Experimenting in silico (simulation and visualisation)
- ▶ Sharing the best computational resources (e-Science grid, supercomputing)
- ▶ Linking at the speed of the light (GÉANT)

The European Union and the African Union have agreed, end of 2007 during their Summit in Lisbon, on an ambitious "Joint Africa-EU partnership" paving the way for a partnership of equals based on mutual interest, fully taking into account the increased economic and social development of the African continent and its move towards an integrated area of peace and prosperity. S&T cooperation on ICT can fully contribute strengthening the relations between the two continents, which has been acknowledged by the implementation of the so-called 8th Partnership: "EU-AU Partnership for Science, Information Society, and Space".

E-Infrastructures are logically playing a key role in the development of this cooperation, benefiting from the "EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructures" signed in Oct. 2007, the quick development of African NRENs and their interconnection, the launch of the FEAST feasibility study, the AfricaConnect flagship project supporting the development of NRENs in sub-Saharan Africa and their interconnection to the European's GÉANT network, the AXIS flagship project, etc.

Meeting the networking needs of the e-Infrastructures domain, the "2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference" aims at becoming a key place for main stakeholders in the field coming from all over Africa and Europe. The conference organising team is gearing up for a very first exciting event filled with discussions and debates, networking opportunities, and knowledge-sharing among all key stakeholders in the field and policymakers. This event - the first of its kind in the field - aims at standing out as the premier gathering place for all experts and stakeholders engaged (or interested) in the e-Infrastructures domain.



1st Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research (March 2009 - Brussels, Belgium) & 2nd Forum (February 2010 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

The "2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference" is an event designed to anyone with an interest in e-Infrastructures. This Conference represents a unique opportunity for all parties involved in e-Infrastructures (from strategy to management), to increase the visibility and the impact of their activities, to network, and expand their knowledge:

- ▶ Find out how to increase the visibility and impact of your projects/programmes!
- ▶ Meet with your worldwide peers and debate/discuss best practices!
- ▶ Understand what is important when implementing NRENs or RRENs!
- ▶ Hear about success stories and case studies presenting innovative approaches and strategies!
- ▶ Benefit from valuable opinions and long experience of acknowledged experts in the field!
- ▶ Stay up to date with latest developments and trends in the e-Infrastructures field!
- ▶ Examine key components of effective e-Infrastructures developments and applications!
- ▶ Discuss with high-level policymakers!
- ▶ And many more benefits!

▶ Project acronym: ei-Africa
 ▶ Project baseline: Strengthening Cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & Africa
 ▶ Project Number: 246650
 ▶ Funding Scheme: 3.3 - Coordination & Support Action / CAS-SA
 ▶ Programme: FP7
 ▶ Specific Programme: Capacities

▶ Call Identifier: FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2009-1
 ▶ Thematic Area: Research Infrastructures
 ▶ Duration: 18 months (Oct. 2009 - March 2011)
 ▶ EC Project Officer: Leonardo Flores, GÉANT and e-Infrastructures Unit, DG INFSO, EC
 ▶ Project Coordinator: Karine Valin, Sigma Orionis (www.sigma-orionis.com)
 ▶ Website: www.ei-africa.eu

EVENT BACKGROUND

S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa has entered a very promising phase...



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In the last decade, the African continent has quite significantly changed politically and economically and seems to have entered a true period of economic and social development, and started to move - under the aegis of the African Union (AU) created in 2002 - towards an integrated area of peace and prosperity.

In this context, many world powers have logically been striving during this period for closer links with the African continent. It has obviously been the case of European countries but it has, first and foremost, been the case of the European Union (EU):

► Adopting a “**EU Strategy for Africa**” in 2005; promoting in particular a more coordinated approach of the European Member States (MS) policies and activities regarding Africa.

► Agreeing with the AU, end of 2007 in Lisbon (during the second **EU-AU Summit**), on a “**Africa-EU Joint Strategy and Action Plan - JSAP**” going beyond donor-recipient arrangements, and paving the way for a partnership of equals based on mutual interest.

The EU's wish to treat Africa as one region is quite challenging, not only because Africa remains diverse (development status, population size, political stability, etc.) but also because current EU policies and programmes typically consider three main areas in Africa:

► **North Africa** - addressed through the “Euro-Mediterranean Partnership” (Euromed), formerly known as the “Barcelona process” and re-launched in 2008 as the “Union for the Mediterranean”.

► **Sub-Saharan Africa** - addressed through the “ACP-EC Partnership Agreement”, known as the “Cotonou Agreement” signed in 2000 in Cotonou, Benin and entered into force in 2003.

► **South Africa** - addressed through a Strategic Partnership signed in 2007 and building on former and thematic agreements.

Africa has also recognised that S&T and ICT are key vectors for bridging the scientific and digital divides, for reducing poverty and ensuring socio-economic development, for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and, eventually, for supporting the sustainable evolution of Africa. The Africa Science and Technology (S&T) Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) formulated by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the AU, the creation of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), and the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), are only some of recent examples of Africa's determination to rely on S&T and ICT to achieve its growth and development objectives.



Meanwhile, in their determination to ensure Europe's global leadership in ICT and in line with their i2010 initiative, the EU Member States have earmarked a total of EUR 9.1 billion for funding ICT research over the duration of FP7, a research programme including an important international dimension, being open to the participation of sub-Saharan African organisations. In this context, a strengthened S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa on ICT is of mutual and strategic interest to the European and African research organisations and industries, and can efficiently contribute to implementing the new EU-AU Joint Strategy.



It is also quite logical that one of the 8 thematic partnerships identified in Lisbon in 2007 on the occasion of the EU-AU Summit is a “Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space” (also known as the “8th partnership”). This thematic partnership focusing on 19 lighthouse projects (6 of them being considered as early deliverables) is under implementation since October 2008 and should widely contribute to strengthening S&T cooperation links between the two continents in the ICT domain.



In the Information Society domain: Africa Connect and the African Internet Exchange System (AXIS) are considered as early deliverables.

► Africa Connect

The Africa Connect project will support the development of regional research and education networks in Sub-Saharan Africa and their interconnection with the European GÉANT network, building on a similar initiative, Eumed Connect, implemented in North Africa (currently interconnecting around 1,5 Million users across more than 500 research organisations). The objective will be to contribute integrating the African research community both at regional and international levels, through interconnection with the most cost-effective high bandwidth capacity.

► The African Internet Exchange System (AXIS)

This project aims to support the establishment of a continental African Internet infrastructure through national and regional Internet exchange points. Such deployment is considered crucial for the development of the Internet in Africa, generating huge costs savings by keeping local traffic local and offering better quality of service and new applications opportunities. AXIS activities will include technical assistance on planning, regulatory/policy issues, as well as human training to achieve this objective.

