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PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

IST-Africa (2012 – 2013) is a collaborative Initiative between 1 European and 18 African partners: 15 Ministries & 3 National Councils responsible for ICT (Information Communication Technologies) and/or STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) adoption, policy and research in 

North Africa: (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt; Ministere de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Tunisia),

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 Infrastructure, Science and Technology, Botswana and National Computer Board, Mauritius; Ministry of Information Communication Technology, Swaziland; National Commission for Science and Technology, Malawi),

East Africa: (Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology; Uganda National Council for Science and Technology; Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Kenya; Ministere de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Burundi and Ministry of Science and Technology, Ethiopia),

West Africa: (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur de la Recherche, Senegal and Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana),

Central Africa: (Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication, Cameroon).

The main objectives of the IST-Africa Initiative (2012 – 2013) are to:

- Support the Implementation of the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership
- Strengthen the research dimension of Information Society policy dialogues between the EC, AUC, European and African Member States and other regional stakeholders
- Organise community building events in Europe and Africa synchronised with policy dialogue meetings, provide input on common policy and R&D priorities, opportunities and challenges
- Identify and analyse African ICT policy and research priorities aligned with EU priorities, to provide necessary insight and recommendations for future co-operation
- Strengthen cooperative research links between European organisations and relevant African national & regional organisations with the aim of establishing strategic partnerships
- Support development of National Contact Points (NCP) in IST-Africa Partner Countries.

IST-Africa (2012 – 2013) has carried out the following actions to date:

- Actively participated in EEG8 and JEG8 Meetings to share results from IST-Africa ICT Initiative and Research Capacity survey and Bilateral Cooperation Survey during the following meetings: JEG8 Meeting during IST-Africa 2012, 08 - 11 May 2012; EEG8 Meeting, Brussels, 04 June 2012; EEG8 Information Society Meeting, Helsinki, 04 October 2012; EEG8 Meeting, Brussels, 24 October 2012 and JEG8 Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa, 06 - 08 November 2012
- Organised IST-Africa 2012 in Dar es Salaam in May 2012, which brought together over 480 participants from Europe, Africa, Australia, Canada and the US. A series of bi-lateral/multi-lateral meetings among key stakeholders were facilitated around the conference.
- Organised the second IST-Africa Living Labs Thematic Working Group meeting as a pre-conference event on 08 May 2012, bringing together over 90 participants from Africa and Europe for a participatory hands on session.
- Organised five IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops in Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Lesotho and Mauritius to raise awareness of FP7 Calls for Proposals and to validate national and regional research activities and research priorities
- Strengthened 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
- Organised a public IST-Africa workshop during the eChallenges Conference in October 2012
to raise awareness of research capacity in IST-Africa Partner Countries

- Expanded the survey of current National ICT initiatives, capacity and priorities for cooperation through National consultation to include all 18 IST-Africa Partner Countries
- Expanded the survey of bilateral cooperation to include all 18 IST-Africa partner countries to create awareness of Initiatives currently funded and to encourage a more coordinated approach to ICT-related Support under the Second Action Plan
- Publishing relevant content (reports, news, papers, presentations) related to FP7, other relevant Calls for research funding and the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on the IST-Africa portal


**Support to 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and JEG8**

During December 2007, the Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon agreed the 8th Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space and the process to shortlist flagship projects and agree funding mechanisms commenced. This introduced a wider policy dimension 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. The 2nd Action Plan 2011 - 2013 was adopted at the 3rd Africa EU Summit which took place in Tripoli, Libya 29 - 30 November 2010.

The IST-Africa Initiative through its partnership ensures the contributions of the relevant Ministries and National Councils for ICT/STI in eighteen African Member States in this important dialogue in terms of sharing information on current initiatives being support and national priorities.

IST-Africa hosted the JEG8 Meeting in Dar es Salaam (08 - 11 May) around IST-Africa 2012 to ensure that the maximum number of African and European experts could contribute.

IST-Africa contributed to the EEG8 and JEG8 meetings in Brussels, 04 June; Helsinki, 04 October; Brussels 24 October and Cape Town, 06 - 08 November 2012, sharing interim results from IST-Africa surveys on ICT Research Initiatives and Research Capacity and Bilateral Cooperation.

The IST-Africa 2012 Conference highlighted developments under the 8th Africa EU Strategic Partnership through interactive High-Level Plenary Roundtables bringing together relevant stakeholders from Europe and Africa.

IST-Africa results were disseminated at the Africa-Ireland Economic Forum, Dublin on 22 October.

IST-Africa is updating and expanding a **Survey of ICT-related Bilateral Cooperation** between Europe and Africa (focusing in particular on IST-Africa Partner Countries) in order to raise awareness of current projects being funded and to encourage a more coordinated approach to ICT engagement. It is important that European and African governments look at the range of projects already funded through bilateral cooperation to identify projects that could be replicated and expanded to have a regional impact.

IST-Africa organised an IST-Africa **Living Lab Thematic Working Group Meeting** in cooperation with TANZICT as a pre-conference event in Dar es Salaam on 08 May 2012, thus directly supporting one of the main focuses of the Second Action Plan. IST-Africa invited key stakeholders

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2. [http://africa-eu-partnership.org](http://africa-eu-partnership.org)
including European Commission (EC) and African Union Commission (AUC), Co-chairs of the 8th Africa – EU Strategic Partnership (Portugal and Tunisia), IST-Africa National Partners, World Bank, LLISA Network (Living Labs in Southern Africa), ENoLL (European Network of Living Labs), as well as other thematic experts from government, research and private sector to contribute to this Workshop. There were almost 90 participants in this interactive participatory meeting.

African governments have expressed an interest in leveraging Living Lab methodologies to support the Innovation ecosystem at national and regional level and as a mechanism to facilitate co-creation between government, industry, research, communities and civil society. IST-Africa Living Lab Workshops were hosted by IST-Africa partner governments on 17 November 2011 (NCST, Malawi), 28 November (MICT, Swaziland), 02 December 2011 (Zambia), 09 November 2012 (Lesotho) and 16 November 2012 (Mauritius) to raise awareness of the potential with national stakeholders.

**FP7 Training Workshops & Mobilisation of the Research Community**

IST-Africa organised the first FP7 Training Workshops in Malawi on 16 November 2011 (hosted by National Commission for Science and Technology), Swaziland on 29 November 2011 (hosted by Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies) and Zambia on 01 December 2011 (hosted by Ministry of Transport and Communications). An additional FP7 Training Workshop was undertaken in Mauritius on 15 November 2012, hosted by National Computer Board.

The goal of the IST-Africa FP7 Training Workshops is to inform researchers and government officials responsible for supporting research at national level 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.

**IST-Africa 2012, Dar es Salaam**

The IST-Africa 2012 Conference and Exhibition took place in Dar es Salaam from 09 - 11 May 2012, Hosted by the Government of Tanzania through the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Supported by the European Commission and African Union Commission and Technically Co-Sponsored by IEEE.

IST-Africa 2012 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 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (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 Sessions, delegates could participate in 48 thematically focused parallel sessions featuring different aspects of International Cooperation, eHealth, eInfrastructures, Technology Enhanced Learning & ICT Skills, ICT for Inclusion, ICT for Networked Enterprise and eGovernment and eDemocracy.

The conference programme was complemented by an Exhibition showcasing demonstrations and technology exploitation and a Gala Dinner facilitating networking and community building.

The Opening Plenary Session was in two parts, starting with a number of high-level presentations from the Host Government, European Commission, African Union Commission and Member States who are supporting Information Society activities in Tanzania to provide an overall political context for the IST-Africa Conference & Exhibition.

2012 Plenary Presentations were delivered by the Honourable Prof Makame Mbarawa, Minister of Communications, Science and Technology, Tanzania; Dr Florens Turuka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications Science and Technology; Dr. Hassan Mshinda, Director General, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology; Moctar Yedaly, African Union Commission, Ethiopia; Costas Glinos, European Commission, Belgium; Enrico Strampelli, Head of Operations, European Delegation and Ambassador Sinikka Antila, Embassy of Finland, Tanzania.

This was followed by a High-level Round Table on Implementation of the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (Science, Information Society, Space), with interventions from Dr Florens Turuka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications Science and Technology; Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society Division, African Union Commission; Costas Glinos, Head of Unit GEANT & e-Infrastructures, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission; Prof John S Nkoma, Director General, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority; Dr Rached Hamza, DG, CERT & African Co-chair of the Africa-EU 8th Partnership; Prof. Luis Magalhães, European Co-chair of JEG8, Portugal; Ambassador Lennarth Hjelmåker, Embassy of Sweden, Tanzania; Dr Jyrki Pulkkinen, Senior Adviser, Information Society & STI for Development, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; Prof. Samuel Wangwe, Executive Secretary, Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), Tanzania; Mr. Anthony Maduekwe, Program Specialist, UNESCO, Tanzania; Jussi Hinkkanen, Vice President, Corporate Relations and Business Environment, Nokia Middle East and Africa and Catherinerose Barretto, KINU, Tanzania. The Round Table was very interactive and provided delegates with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the intricacies involved in planning implementation of a new programme and sourcing funding for international flagship projects.


Over 490 delegates from Europe and Africa participated at IST-Africa 2012.

Much of the European research results presented at IST-Africa 2012 was co-funded under the FP7 ICT Programme - IST-Africa, AEGIS (Open Accessibility Everywhere: Ground-work, Infrastructure, Standards) project; Africa Build Project; CAALYX AAL project; CARARE; 3D-COFORM; 3D-ICONS; EnviroGrids project; European; EuroAfrica-ICT, Habitats; Metafora FP7 project; OASIS IP; REMOTE Project; SAVE ME Project; Satellite African e-HEAih Validation project; TIMBUS FP7 Project; VOICES and VICON (Virtual User Concept for Inclusive Design of Consumer Products and User Interfaces).
IST-Africa Awareness Workshops in Europe

IST-Africa also organised a demonstration stand and public awareness-raising workshop of research capacity and ICT Initiatives being undertaken in the 18 participating African countries during eChallenges e2012 in Portugal in October 2012.

Survey of ICT Initiatives and Research priorities

It is important that national ICT research priorities are aligned with national strategic priorities and available expertise. The IST-Africa Consortium is undertaking an extensive consultation with research communities in 18 African Countries across North Africa (Egypt, Tunisia), West Africa (Senegal, Ghana), East Africa (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), Central Africa (Cameroon) and Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland). A survey was undertaken to provide an overview of the national ICT Environment and current ICT related initiatives based on consultation with all key research actors.

An IST-Africa Guide to current National ICT initiatives, capacity and priorities for cooperation in IST-Africa Partner Countries is currently being updated.

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

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