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PROJECT ABSTRACT

The EuroAfrica-ICT.org project is defined in full continuity with and builds upon the substantial results obtained and the significant momentum created by two previous European projects: the FP6/IST START and the FP7/ICT EuroAfriCa-ICT FP7 projects.

“The EuroAfrica-ICT initiative”, which has been developing since 2006 through these two projects and which is supported by a high number of key stakeholders 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.

The EuroAfrica-ICT.org partnership built this new support action by capitalising on its past experience, its significant network of contacts, its past achievements, and the conclusions of the 1st and the 2nd “Euro-Africa Cooperation Forums on ICT Research” which has been successfully and respectively organised in March 2009 in Belgium and in February 2010 in Ethiopia by the FP7/ICT EuroAfriCa-ICT project.

Project activities (all specifically targeting Europe and sub-Saharan Africa) will be implemented over a 24-month period:

- Policy and research priorities in the ICT field will be explored through an approach involving the highest number of stakeholders from the two continents and recommendations for future cooperation opportunities will be derived from them,
- Cooperation events will be organised both in Europe and Africa, synchronised whenever and wherever possible with policy dialogue meetings in order to facilitate the development of synergies with other programmes and initiatives (including the CAAST-Net INCO project), involve key stakeholders in the field (such as the ETPs and JTIs in the ICT area), fine tune priorities, etc. To be noted: two key cooperation events organised by the project will be the 2010 and 2011 editions of the “Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research”, which provide key stakeholders in the field with a key opportunity to celebrate and further strengthen the development of cooperation on ICT research between Europe and Africa,
- Support and guidance will be provided to European and African organisations in their efforts to connect and develop joint research projects in the ICT field (through an active online community of researchers from both regions, a database of African excellence research centres, proactive helpdesk services, etc.),
- Dissemination activities will support all other project activities and maximise the overall project impact.

The EuroAfrica-ICT.org project is therefore:

- A focused, result-oriented and ambitious project (while requiring a reasonable amount of resources),
- Presented by a limited yet well-established partnership, offering all necessary skills to efficiently implement planned activities from the very beginning of the project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	6
1 – DATABASE OF AFRICAN EXCELLENCE RESEARCH CENTRES ON ICT	7
1.1 – AIMS & OBJECTIVES	7
1.2 – IMPLEMENTATION.....	7
1.2.1 – COLLECTION OF DATA: METHODOLOGY & CATEGORISATION	7
1.2.2 – VISIBILITY OF ONLINE DATABASE	9
1.3 – RESULTS	9
1.4 – PERSPECTIVES	9
2 – ONLINE COMMUNITY	10
2.1 – AIMS & OBJECTIVES	10
2.2 – ACTIVITIES.....	10
2.2.1 – LINKEDIN GROUP	10
2.2.2 – INDIVIDUAL CORRESPONDENCE.....	11
2.2.3 – PROMOTION OF THE COMMUNITY.....	11
2.2.4 – EXTERNAL EVENTS	12
2.3 – PERSPECTIVES	14
3 – HELPDESK	15
3.1 – AIMS & OBJECTIVES	15
3.2 – ACTIVITIES.....	15
3.2.1 – PROMOTION OF THE HELPDESK	15
3.2.2 – PROVIDING INFORMATION	16
3.2.3 – SUPPORTING PARTNER SEARCHES	16
3.3 – PERSPECTIVES	16
CONCLUSIONS	17
ANNEXES	18
ANNEX 1 – DISTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN DATABASE	18
ANNEX 2 – EXAMPLE OF POSTCARD DISTRIBUTED AT EVENTS	20
ANNEX 3 – EUROAFRICA-ICT COMMUNITY ON LINKEDIN.....	21
ANNEX 4 – EUROAFRICA-ICT GROUP ON TWITTER	22
ANNEX 5 – DATABASE TOOL	23
ANNEX 6 –EUROAFRICA-ICT WEBSITE: HELPDESK PAGE	24

ANNEX 7 –EUROAFRICA-ICT WEBSITE: COMMUNITY PAGE 25

Introduction

The present document is a deliverable of the EuroAfrica-ICT.org project, funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General Information Society and Media (DG INFSO), under its 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

The EuroAfrica-ICT.org project is divided into Work Packages (WP), each of them being subdivided into Tasks (T). The first task of Work Package 3 (Task 3.1 – Database of excellence research centres) consists of further extending the existing "Database of excellence research centres" produced by the EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 project. This objective is achieved by updating the mapping of the previous "Database of excellence research centres" according to a defined methodology, extending the current database with the aim of including at least two research centres on ICT in each of the 54 African countries listed, and validating the research centres included through a peer-review by African and European partners.

The second WP3 task (Task 3.2 – Online community) consists of developing the community section of the website and promoting the online community among the European and African ICT research communities. This objective is achieved by identifying and specifying the functionalities (such as a collaborative work space, and various social or professional networks, for example, LinkedIn) to be added to the website, and then widely promote the online community within the EU-AU ICT research organisations, and handle various requests from interested parties as a result of the promotion campaign.

The third and last task of this WP (Task 3.3 – Helpdesk), consists of the direct provision (following email or telephone requests), of support and guidance services to European and African organisations interested in the development of joint research projects, particularly under FP7. This objective is achieved by listing two contact points, one for European requests (handled by the ACU), and one for African requests (handled by Meraka/CSIR) on the helpdesk section of the project website, and providing answers to specific requests made via email or telephone, whilst working in liaison with Sigma to suggest improvements to the helpdesk section of the website, so that it can better support the services provided.

These tasks, which make up WP3, are logically linked with WP4 (Project dissemination), since the project website will be central in the provision of the envisioned information and services.

The present deliverable (D3.1 – Support for EU and AU organisations), prepared by the ACU (Work Package Leader), is the first intermediate report related to this activity.

1 – Database of African Excellence Research Centres on ICT

A number of research centres focusing on ICT can be characterised today by skilled researchers, substantial research infrastructures and high connections at the international level. They can therefore be considered, ‘excellence research centres in ICT’ and represent potential partners for collaborative projects (under FP7 or not).

1.1 – Aims & Objectives

The overall objectives of this task are to validate and further extend the database produced under the EuroAfriCa-ICT FP7 project, and update the mapping of the excellence research centres included in the database, whilst taking into consideration a revised list of objectives of the FP7 programme for the ICT theme. It is the aim of this task to provide support and guidance to European and African organisations interested in collaborating and developing joint research projects in the ICT field.

In addition, this database will help European organisations identify tangible cooperation opportunities from ICT research topics in which African research laboratories are truly specialised.

This task aims at referencing at least two research centres in ICT (research organisations, university departments/institutes, research laboratories, etc.) in each of the 54 African countries listed. All centres will be mapped in a database, which will then be made accessible online.

Furthermore, it has recently been suggested and accepted that the name ‘Database of African Excellence Research Centres’ be changed to ‘Database of African Research Institutes’. Therefore, all references to the database from now on shall be made using the latter term.

1.2 – Implementation

In order to provide support for EU and AU organisations, the Database of Research Institutes has been implemented to:

- Reference a wide range of ICT focused institutions based in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Provide a comprehensive and efficient resource to enable European research organisations to easily identify potential African partners;
- Track new partners/institutions/organisations in the field in Africa; and
- Inform European partners of the current landscape of ICT research centres in Sub-Saharan Africa.

1.2.1 – Collection of Data: Methodology & Categorisation

In order to ensure that the new entries to be included within the updated database are relevant and suitable for organisations to become partners with, an effective methodology was drafted and validated by the task leader

(Makerere), in close liaison with the project coordinator (Sigma). In the first instance, it was agreed during the 2nd EuroAfrica-ICT.org Consortium meeting in Brussels, that the term 'Excellence Research Centres', should be changed to 'Research Institutes'. This allowed for the inclusion of many more contacts within the database, as many of the organisations which deal with research in ICT in Africa, are considered as research institutes based within Universities. In addition, the database and the details on the website have been renamed, in order to emphasise this amendment. An agreed definition of a research institute was also reached, and any organisation at the legal entity level (e.g. a university/department/research group/or an independent research laboratory that conducts research on ICT), was considered as appropriate.

A template was also agreed upon, which would efficiently categorise the work being done within a research centre, making it easier for European research organisations to search for potential African partners, based on their specific areas of work. The template asked for the following information for the database:

- Organisation name
- Laboratory name
- URL
- City
- Country
- Contact person & job title
- Email address
- Main research areas in ICT

Furthermore, the main research areas in ICT, were based upon research areas as laid out in the stated priorities of the EU, and consisted of ten different areas of ICT research:

- #01 – e-Learning, ICT for Education/e-Skills (Technology Enhanced Learning);
- #02 – e-Health, ICT for Health (Advanced Technology to Improve Health);
- #03 – e-Governance (Secure Services to Citizens & Business/Including ICT policies & regulation);
- #04 – e-Infrastructures (From networks to usage. From research networking to global virtual research collaboration. Infrastructures & Access);
- #05 – e-Libraries/Digital Library Services & Digital Content Infrastructures;
- #06 – e-Inclusion and e-Adoption & e-Accessibility (ICT for independent living);
- #07 – e-Agriculture, ICT for Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency (Enabling Environment, Climate Change Effects, Disaster Management, etc.);
- #08 – Evolution and convergence of networks, infrastructures, equipment and services towards Future Network solutions;
- #09 – Social Inclusion, Youth/Women and the Information Society; and
- #10 – Software and services (in various sectors: enterprise, agriculture, etc.)

By using the above research areas within the template sent to ICT research institutes in Africa, and asking them to state which areas their particular research fell into, has provided one of the key criteria used to indicate the appropriateness of the institute for inclusion within the database. In addition, after potential entries have been received by the task leader (Makerere), a peer review process must be implemented among all consortium partners to further ensure that the referenced ICT research institutes are well-balanced.

1.2.2 – Visibility of Online Database

In order to allow visitors to the website the opportunity to search and potentially find new partners to develop joint ICT research projects, the new Database of Research Institutes must be made visible on the EuroAfrica-ICT website. A new webpage dedicated to the database has been designed (see Annex 5) and is ready for publication on the EuroAfrica-ICT website, as well as an online tool which can be updated with incoming contact details from research institutes when they are received. The Project Coordinator (Sigma), has successfully undertaken both of these assignments, and is waiting for the list of research institutes to be finalised and validated so it can be published on the website.

1.3 – Results

As a result of the information collected, so far, there have been 65 contacts received which can be added to the new database on the website. The 65 contacts are located within 23 of the 54 countries listed, with the most contacts identified within South Africa (15), whilst Kenya, Mauritius and Uganda also have several research units included within the database, 7, 6 and 8 respectively.

In addition, of the 23 countries from which we have received contact details, 13 are represented with just 1 research unit, and 31 countries have none.

All of the main ICT research topics have been covered by the research units included within the new database, with topic #01, e-Learning, ICT for Education/e-Skills (Technology Enhanced Learning) the area most researched, with 43 out of the 65 units citing it as an area of ICT research on which they focus. Furthermore, topic #04, e-Infrastructures (From networks to usage. From research networking to global virtual research collaboration. Infrastructures & Access), and topic #10, Software and services (in various sectors: enterprise, agriculture, etc.), were both indicated as research topics currently concentrated on by 33 out of the 65 research units. The topic with the least focus on was #06 (e-Inclusion and e-Adoption) & e-Accessibility (ICT for independent living), with only 13 of the ICT units conducting research in this area.

The table in Annex 1 provides the total distribution of the new research institutes included in the database.

1.4 – Perspectives

During the first period of the project, the main aim of the 'African Database of Research Institutes' has been to develop and update the database created under phase 1 of the EuroAfrica-ICT project, and a new platform to host the database was needed, which has been successfully developed by the Project Coordinator (Sigma Orionis). For the remainder of the project, as further contacts are identified and received from the Task leader (Makerere), they will be uploaded to the database on the EuroAfrica-ICT website by Sigma Orionis.

In addition, the newly developed 'African Database of Research Institutes' will be promoted and highlighted by the EuroAfrica-ICT consortium in the future, when it has been successfully launched on the website.

2 – Online community

2.1 – Aims & Objectives

The key aims of this task are to expand the resources available on the EuroAfrica-ICT.org website, to allow interested individuals, organisations or members who visit the project online, to receive guidance and support to facilitate their participation in Euro-African ICT research partnerships, and provides and highlights links to social and professional networks in order to strengthen and develop their network of contacts and find potential partners for ICT projects.

There are several unique characteristics of the 'Online community' on the EuroAfrica-ICT website, including:

- The online community comprises European and African researchers;
- Members receive guidance and support to facilitate their participation in Euro-African S&T/ICT collaborative activities; and
- Members are part of targeted and relevant contact network.

2.2 – Activities

The DoW envisions that the Task leader (KIST), in liaison with Sigma, will specify the functionalities to be added to the community section of the website. Such as Web2.0 functionalities, a collaborative work space, and other services typical to social or professional networks, etc., so that it can be even more useful to European and African organisations willing to connect and develop joint ICT cooperation/research projects.

During the first period of the project, in order to reach these objectives, the Task leader still with the support of Sigma and all of the EuroAfrica-ICT partners have been actively and widely promoting the newly developed and expanded online community in several ways, such as:

- Through a LinkedIn group (see Annex 3);
- Individual correspondence through email and mail blasts to known mailing lists;
- Promotion of the community in newsletters, through known contacts and via a flyer/postcard; and
- Holding presentations at relevant external events.

2.2.1 – *LinkedIn Group*

A LinkedIn Euro-Africa Cooperation on ICT Research group has recently been created by Sigma and at present there are 330 members (available from <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&qid=2892844>). In addition, members of the 'old community' from the original EuroAfrica-ICT project were all informed about and encouraged to join the new LinkedIn group by KIST.

The LinkedIn group is kept alive and active through various postings about events, synergies, news, projects, upcoming funding, possible partners, etc. by all partners. The EuroAfrica-ICT.org website is tightly linked to the LinkedIn group through a RSS feed system: each time a new post is published in the website, it directly appears in the homepage of the Community group on LinkedIn. This allows members of the Community to constantly receive updates on the project activities and events.

In addition, all partners have previously stimulated, and will continue to stimulate discussions on the LinkedIn group, according to their respective EuroAfrica-ICT activities (research priorities by CSIR; forums by TWAS; awareness workshops by AUF/Makerere; research institutes by Makerere; helpdesk by ACU, etc.). Any requests for further information on the EuroAfrica-ICT project were also invited to join the LinkedIn group as a member.

2.2.2 – Individual Correspondence

Some partners also responded to requests for further information and promoted the new online community through answering requests received by email or telephone.

A letter was written and distributed by the Task leader (KIST), and sent to participants of the Kigali EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 awareness workshop, informing members of the online community and highlighting the creation of the new LinkedIn group.

Email blasts were sent by the Task leader (KIST) to over 500 European and African researchers, informing them of the new online community, and inviting them to visit the webpage, and join the LinkedIn group. In addition, a small flyer was produced to aid promoting the newly formed LinkedIn group, as detailed below.

2.2.3 – Promotion of the Community

Promotion of the online community has taken place through various and wide-ranging means:

- The online community has been promoted in the monthly EuroAfrica-ICT Newsletter by Sigma (including the LinkedIn group);
- A webpage dedicated solely to the new online community has also been created on the EuroAfrica-ICT project website by Sigma (available from <http://euroafrica-ict.org/community/>);
- The online community has been promoted by all partners whenever possible through relevant networks and contacts; and
- A 'Join Us!' flyer/postcard about the Online community and the LinkedIn group was prepared by the Task Leader (KIST) with the help of Sigma, and distributed to the consortium, to be printed and distributed during relevant events (see Annex 2 for example of the flyer), including:
 - During an awareness workshop in Mauritius, in November 2010;
 - During the 3rd Cooperation Forum in Helsinki, December 2010;
 - During the 2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference, December 2010; and
 - By the ACU at the ICTD London 2010 conference, also in December 2010.

The postcard has also been placed in prominent positions in several of the partners organisations, including in the Vive-Chancellor's office and the Dean of the Faculty of Computing and IT's office at Makerere University, and the Abdus Salem International Centre for Theoretical Physics where TWAS is based, for visitors to the centre attending various workshops can pick them up. In addition, a Twitter group (see Annex 4) for the EuroAfrica-ICT project has newly been created by the task leader KIST (http://twitter.com/#!/EuroAfrica_ICT) and will be further developed during the next months (see Annex 7).

2.2.4 – External Events

The EuroAfrica-ICT project and online community have been promoted during all external events attended by one or more members of the project consortium:

- Event name : Workshop on "Building the East African Network of Research Excellence (EANRE) and observatory (EANREO)"
- Date(s) : February 22-23, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (participation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : 6th BELIEF Brainstorming Workshop
- Date(s) : February 24, 2010
- Location : Brussels, Belgium
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.beliefproject.org/events/6th-belief-bs>

- Event name : FEAST Final Workshop
- Date(s) : February 25, 2010
- Location : Brussels, Belgium
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.erina4africa.eu/events/feast-final-workshop>

- Event name : 4th JEG8 Meeting
- Date(s) : March 4-5, 2010
- Location : Cairo, Egypt
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (participation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : Voices from Africa Workshop
- Date(s) : March 22-23, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (participation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : European Conf. on Research Infrastructures - ECRI 2010
- Date(s) : March 23-24, 2010
- Location : Barcelona, Spain
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.ecri2010.es/>

- Event name : 2nd Workshop on Satellite Navigation and Technology for Africa' at ICTP
- Date(s) : April 6-24, 2010
- Location : Trieste, Italy
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : TWAS (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a09138

- Event name : 4th Annual National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) Exhibition
- Date(s) : April 16-18, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (participation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : 'ICT: Revolutionary Tools' conference
- Date(s) : May 4-5, 2010
- Location : Edinburgh (UK)
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : ACU (participation + standard dissemination)
- Website : http://www.cas.ed.ac.uk/events/annual_conference/2010

- Event name : AICT 2010
- Date(s) : May 9-15, 2010
- Location : Barcelona, Spain

- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : KIST (participation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.iaria.org/conferences2010/AICT10.html>

- Event name : CAAST-Net GA
- Date(s) : May 16-18, 2010
- Location : Durban, South Africa
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (participation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.caast-net.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/CAASTnet+Annual+Assembly+III>

- Event name : 5th JEG8 Meeting
- Date(s) : May 18-21, 2010
- Location : Durban, South Africa
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (participation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : IST-Africa
- Date(s) : May 19-21, 2010
- Location : Durban, South Africa
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : CSIR-Meraka/ Sigma Orionis (project presentation)
- Website : <http://www.ist-africa.org/conference2010/>

- Event name : GEANT & e-Infrastructures Infoday
- Date(s) : June 11, 2010
- Location : Brussels, Belgium
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/events-0100611_en.html

- Event name : Workshop on Customer Relations Management
- Date(s) : June 28- July 2, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (project presentation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : 3rd Workshop on Innovative Mobile Technology & Services for Developing Countries (IMTS-DC'10)
- Date(s) : July 30, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (project presentation + standard dissemination)

- Event name : International Conference on Computing and ICT Research (ICCI R'10)
- Date(s) : August 1-4, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (standard dissemination)

- Event name : ICT 2010 Event
- Date(s) : Sept. 27-29, 2010
- Location : Brussels, Belgium
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : All consortium (exhibition booth, presentation, networking session)
- Website : http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2010/index_en.htm

- Event name : 2nd ERI NA4AFRICA Workshop
- Date(s) : Oct. 6-7, 2010
- Location : Lilongue – Malawi
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.ubuntunet.net/erina4africa>

- Event name : 8th Concertation Meeting on e-Infrastructures
- Date(s) : Nov. 4-5, 2010
- Location : Geneva, Switzerland
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (participation + project dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.e-sciencetalk.org/e-concertation/>

- Event name : East Africa Community e-Health workshop

- Date(s) : Nov. 8-10 2010
- Location : Kigali, Rwanda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : KIST (participation + project dissemination)
- Website : http://www.bciu.org/wip01/event_1435_online_event_invitation.asp

- Event name : M4D2010
- Date(s) : November 10-11, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (standard dissemination)

- Event name : The 2nd Annual ICTEXPO2010 & The East Africa Digital Revolution Forum
- Date(s) : November 23-24, 2010
- Location : Kampala, Uganda
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Makerere (standard dissemination)

- Event name : 4th EU-Africa Business Forum
- Date(s) : Nov. 27-28, 2010
- Location : Tripoli, Libya
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : Sigma Orionis (project presentation + standard dissemination)
- Website : <http://www.euafrica-businessforum.org/>

- Event name : ICTDLondon2010
- Date(s) : Dec. 13-16, 2010
- Location : London (UK)
- EuroAfrica-ICT.org involvement : ACU (participation)
- Website : <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

In addition, the 'Join Us!' postcard was distributed in the events mentioned above, but it was also noted that it can be used during other relevant external events for distribution and promotion of the EuroAfrica-ICT project, including the online community and the LinkedIn group.

2.3 – Perspectives

The 'Online Community' section of the website has recently been fully expanded and updated, and as a result, has been transformed and allowed the work of the EuroAfrica-ICT project to be brought to the attention of and conveyed to a much wider audience.

This development of the 'Online Community' has included bringing together the registered members of the old community with the new community, with the objective to make this aspect of the website more professional and interactive, in order to better serve the users' interests and develop an active network of contacts.

The EuroAfrica-ICT Online Community will be constantly feed in 2011 with new posts, news and discussions and Community members will be encouraged to actively contribute with their own posts. Many more new members are expected to join this LinkedIn group: new requests are received and approved on a daily basis by the Community group administrator (Sigma Orionis).

3 – Helpdesk

3.1 – Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of this task are the direct provision (following email or telephone requests) of support and guidance services to European and African organisations interested in the development of joint research projects, particularly under FP7.

ACU handles European requests while Meraka/CSIR handles African ones, both being mentioned as contact points in the helpdesk section of the project website, and both working in close liaison with Sigma Orionis, in charge of the development of this website through Task 4.1, to specify, all along the project, improvements of the helpdesk section of the website so that it can better support the services provided by email or telephone.

3.2 – Activities

The EuroAfrica-ICT Helpdesk has been involved with several different important activities, namely:

- Promoting the services of the Helpdesk;
- Providing information on FP7 calls, the ICT Work Programmes, information days and other relevant information; and
- Supporting partner searches.

The number of requests received by both desks, one for Europe and one for Africa, have been gradually increasing, and during the months April – December 2010, about 50 requests have been made, covering a wide-ranging list of issues.

3.2.1 – *Promotion of the Helpdesk*

One of the main objectives with regards to the helpdesk has been the continued and regular promotion of its activities and services which it can provide to individuals and organisations interested in joint collaborative research in the area of ICT. This objective has been achieved in several ways, including:

- Promoting the helpdesk in the monthly EuroAfrica-ICT newsletters;
- By initiating a discussion topic on the helpdesk on the EuroAfrica LinkedIn group;
- Highlighting the helpdesk section of the EuroAfrica-ICT website, by making it more visible and adding to its content (undertaken by Sigma);
- Presenting the helpdesk services at the EuroAfrica-ICT events; and
- Promoting the helpdesk at external related events (see paragraph 2.2.4).

3.2.2 – *Providing Information*

The kind of information which has been requested from the Helpdesk has encompassed various wide-ranging subjects, namely:

- General information on FP7, and more specific information on current FP7 ICT calls, by providing relevant informative documents, such as the FP7 'Cooperation' Work Programme for ICT;
- Dealing with requests from other organisations who would like to possibly collaborate with EuroAfrica-ICT;
- Providing additional information on the 3rd Cooperation Forum, including, how to participate through registering online and how to become involved as a speaker; and
- Dealing with enquiries about becoming a 'supporting organisation' for the Helsinki Forum.

In addition, the helpdesk section of the website provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about FP7, what it does and how individuals can apply and find further information on how to go about accessing funding. A link has also been provided from the EuroAfrica-ICT helpdesk webpage to the FP7 Finance-Helpdesk site, where visitors can access more detailed and specific information to their requests or queries.

3.2.3 – *Supporting Partner Searches*

The Helpdesks have aided in facilitating partner searching by informing interested parties on potential networking opportunities in ICT research in several different ways. The following points below are examples which further highlight the Helpdesk's ability to deal with and support partner requests, particularly through:

- Distributing information on the EuroAfrica-ICT 3rd Cooperation Forum in December and other EuroAfrica-ICT events, in response to more general and also specific information requests, where participants had the opportunity to network and make additional contacts during the events;
- Posting a discussion on the EuroAfrica-ICT LinkedIn webpage informing members of the group about the Helpdesk, where it was also made known that members could receive support and guidance for the development of joint research projects, particularly under FP7;
- Advising interested parties to look at and draw from examples of previous experiences of the existing members of the consortium, by visiting the 'Success Stories' section of the EuroAfrica-ICT website, and
- Referring organisations and individuals to the Ideal-IST website through a link on the helpdesk webpage, an international ICT partner search network with more than 60,000 contacts;

In addition, it is expected that the 'African Database of Research Institutes' (mentioned in chapter 1), will be available to view and search online by visitors to the Helpdesk section of the EuroAfrica-ICT website in the near future.

3.3 – Perspectives

The 'Helpdesk' has been created to provide support or guidance services, in response to email and telephone request, to interested individuals and organisations: in 2011 new requests will be catered and the helpdesk services will be further promoted on LinkedIn and through the EuroAfrica-ICT monthly e-n'letter. In addition, the 'Helpdesk' section of the website has recently been developed and improved by the Project Coordinator (Sigma Orionis) through task 4.1, so that it can better support the services provided by email or telephone (see Annex 6).

Conclusions

Overall, the tasks under WP3 have been largely successful, and will be built on during the second year of the EuroAfrica-ICT.org project.

Currently, the 'African Database of Research Institutes' has a few noticeable aspects. In particular, the most noticeable aspect of the updated list of contacts received is the difference between the number located in South Africa compared with the other countries. This is most likely because of the advanced position which South Africa is in, as they currently have more universities which conduct ICT research activities. Therefore, it has been noted, that countries which do not have any entries may not have any universities with specific ICT institutes within them as yet. The 'African Database of Research Institutes' is intended to be developed and updated further when additional contacts are identified and received from the Task leader (Makerere), and added to the database on the EuroAfrica-ICT website by Sigma. In addition, it is intended that the database will be useful with regards to the Helpdesk, when requests for assistance in identifying and contacting potential partners are received. As a result, it shall be the main aim during the second period of the project to achieve one of the key objectives of this task, by further contributing to the database in order to reach the initial target of representing 2 research institutes per African country.

The aims and objectives of the 'Online Community' have been largely met, with a renewed focus and direction of the community section of the EuroAfrica-ICT project taking place, with more of a focus on utilising already available social and professional networks, such as LinkedIn (which currently already has over 330 members and increasing) and Twitter. Therefore, the additional resources available for the community online, with the aim to be even more useful to European and African organisations willing to develop joint ICT research projects has been achieved, and can be further promoted and added to during the second phase of the project.

The final task of WP3, the 'Helpdesk', has been a main contributor to the promotion of several other aspects of the EuroAfrica-ICT project, including promoting the newly developed online community (especially inviting interested parties to join the EuroAfrica-ICT LinkedIn group), providing information on suitable FP7 funding calls and contributing to the success of the 3rd Cooperation Forum through informing individuals about the event and inviting them to register and attend the conference, furthering the potential for future joint ICT cooperation/research projects. During the final phase of the project, the helpdesk shall aim to further expand on these activities, and will continue to promote the services it provides, in order to increase the number of requests received in both Europe and Africa.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Distribution of African Research Institutes in Database

	Country	Number of Research Institutes
1	Algeria	
2	Angola	
3	Benin	
4	Botswana	1
5	Burkina Faso	
6	Burundi	1
7	Cameroon	1
8	Cape Verde	
9	Central African Rep.	
10	Chad	
11	Congo	
12	Dem. Rep. of Congo	1
13	Djibouti	
14	Egypt	1
15	Equatorial Guinea	
16	Eritrea	
17	Ethiopia	1
18	Gabon	
19	Gambia	
20	Ghana	1
21	Guinea Bissau	
22	Guinea	
23	Ivory Coast	1
24	Kenya	7
25	Lesotho	
26	Liberia	
27	Libya	
28	Madagascar	
29	Malawi	2
30	Mali	
31	Mauritania	
32	Mauritius	6
33	Morocco	
34	Mozambique	1
35	Namibia	1
36	Niger	
37	Nigeria	4

38	Reunion	
39	Rwanda	1
40	Sao Tome & Principe	
41	Senegal	2
42	Seychelles	
43	Sierra Leone	
44	Somalia	
45	South Africa	15
46	Sudan	4
47	Swaziland	2
48	Tanzania	2
49	Togo	
50	Tunisia	
51	Uganda	8
52	Zambia	1
53	Zanzibar	
54	Zimbabwe	1
	Total	65

Annex 2 – Example of postcard distributed at events




Annex 3 – EuroAfrica-ICT Community on LinkedIn

LinkedIn Account Type: Basic ▼ Laura De Nale [Add Connections](#)

Home Profile Contacts Groups Jobs Inbox 2 Companies More Groups


euroafrica-ict Euro-Africa Cooperation on ICT Research [Invite others](#)

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 Start a discussion or share something with the group...
 Maximum length is 200 characters.
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 According to the HABITATS user-driven approach to standardisation, the full impact of results will be sparked off by the pilot scenarios...
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Most Popular Discussions


 **"Euro-Africa Cooperation on ICT Research" is now an open group**
 Dear Group Members,
 I am very pleased to announce that, as the owner of this group, I have just switched us to an open discussion group.
 From now on, all future discussions will be fully visible, searchable, and shareable on the Web.
 All past discussions are now ...
 posted 1 month ago
COLLENCE TAKAINGENHA CHISITA 1 month ago · **COLLENCE TAKAINGENHA** likes this.
[See more](#)


 **BioMedTalk.com is looking for an FP7 Consortium to join!**
 Dear all,
 BioMedTalk.com is looking for an FP7 Consortium to join.
 BioMedTalk.com, based in Kiev/Ukraine, will be more than happy to join an FP7 Consortium and participate as a partner from an International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) [http://ec.europa.eu/resea ...](http://ec.europa.eu/resea...)
 posted 1 day ago
[See more](#)


 **Call for Applications for Capacity Development Programme in Internet Governance (IG) and Information and Communication Technologies...**
 A call for applications for Diplo's ACP Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Internet Governance (IG) Capacity Development Programme Foundation Course has been issued to all government and sub-regional/regional institutions of ACP countries involved in ICT and ...
 posted 2 days ago
[See more](#)

Manager's Choice
 "Euro-Africa Cooperation on ICT Research" is now an open group
 Karine Valin [See all](#)

Updates: Last 7 Days

 **Tavia Tomlinson** likes: "Euro-Africa Cooperation on ICT Research" is now an open group
 22 hours ago · [Like](#) (4)

 **Sarah Hinz** started a discussion: BioMedTalk.com is looking for an FP7 Consortium to join!
 1 day ago · [Like](#) · [Add comment](#)


 **Morten Minke, Tavia Tomlinson and Mayowa Nolki** have joined the group.
 1 day ago
[See all updates](#)

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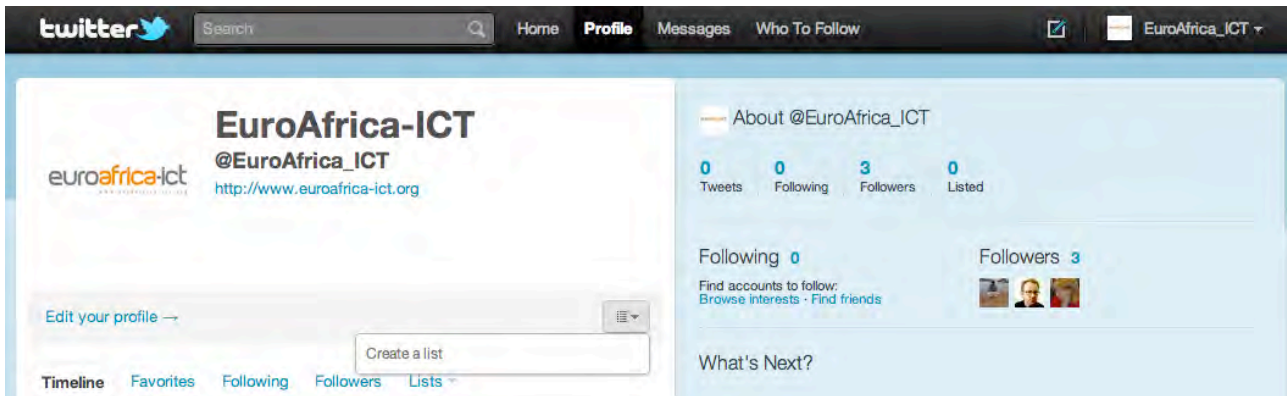
seine saint Denis, confidentielle

- ➔ **DIRECTEUR TECHNIQUE**
Plomberie/Chauffage et Génie Climatique
CALAIS, confidentielle
- ➔ **MÉDECIN TRAITANT**
Paris, € 70.000+
- ➔ **DIRECTEUR(TRICE) DES RESSOURCES HUMAINES**
68, département du Haut-Rhin, € 80.000+
- ➔ **consultant sap H/F**

[Plus d'offres](#)

Top Influencers This Week
 **Karine Valin**

Annex 4 – EuroAfrica-ICT group on Twitter



Annex 5 – Database tool

RESEARCH PRIORITIES | EVENTS | HELPDESK | SUCCESS STORIES | COMMUNITY | REPOSITORY

euroafrica-ict
www.euroafrica-ict.org

Supporting policy dialogues & strengthening cooperation between Europe & sub-Saharan Africa on ICT Research

Newsroom | Event Calendar | EuroAfrica-ICT Events | FP6-FP7 Success Stories

Home > Database Research Institutes

Database Research Institutes

Free search:

Filter by country:

Filter by research area:

Makerere University

Laboratory: Arua ICT Research Centre

Contact person: Peter Okidi-Lating

Job: Head Computer Engineering Mathematics Department

Url: <http://www.aruaeduc.com>

City: Arua

Country: Uganda

Research areas:

- e-Learning, ICT for Education / e-Skills (Technology Enhanced Learning)
- Social inclusion, Youth/Women and the Information Society
- e-Libraries / Digital Library Services & Digital Content Infrastructures

University of Pretoria

Laboratory: Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Unit

Contact person: Ousmane THIARE

Job: Associate Professor

Next EuroAfrica-ICT event

15th FP7 Awareness Workshop
Apr. 6-7, 2011
Khartoum, Sudan

Newsroom

3rd Cooperation Forum


3rd Cooperation Forum on ICT Research
Dec. 7-8, 2010
Helsinki, Finland

At a glance | Newsroom
Brochure | Agenda
Attendee list | Proceedings
Report | Photo Gallery
Evaluation Form

PUBLIC ONLINE CONSULTATION

Annex 6 –EuroAfrica-ICT website: Helpdesk page

RESEARCH PRIORITIES
EVENTS
HELPDESK
SUCCESS STORIES
COMMUNITY
REPOSITORY



Supporting policy dialogue & strengthening cooperation between
 Europe & sub-Saharan Africa on ICT Research

Newsroom
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EuroAfrica-ICT Events
FP6-FP7 Success Stories

Home > Helpdesk

Helpdesk

EuroAfrica-ICT Contact Points

Should you need support and guidance services for the development of joint research projects, particularly under FP7, don't hesitate to contact the EuroAfrica-ICT Helpdesks:

- [European Contact Point](#)
- [African Contact Point](#)

FP7 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The FP7 FAQs have been designed and conducted by the European Commission in the context of the preparation of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7):

- [What is FP7?](#)
- [What is the overall budget for FP7?](#)
- [How does the Framework Programme work?](#)
- [Who decides which areas will be financed under FP7, and on what basis?](#)
- [How is FP7 structured?](#)
- [Which themes have been identified for FP7?](#)
- [What are the differences between FP7 and its predecessors?](#)
- [How and when can I register as an independent expert for FP7?](#)
- [What are calls for proposals?](#)
- [Are the 'Marie Curie' actions implemented under the FP7?](#)
- [In which languages is FP7 available?](#)
- [What are work programmes?](#)
- [What are 'Third countries' and other non-EU entities that can participate in FP7?](#)
- [I feel lost in the new structures and funding schemes of FP7! What do I do and where can I find help?](#)

FP7 Finance-Helpdesk – Financial Information & FAQs

Visit the FP7 [Finance-Helpdesk](#) to get the latest information related to financial aspects of FP7:

- FP7 participation, subcontractors, third parties
- Risk-sharing finance facility, guarantee mechanism
- Funding regimes, lump sums, flat rates
- Funding rates, activities
- Personnel costs, average personnel costs, employment issues, students
- Receipts
- Eligible & Ineligible costs
- Overheads, possible methods, direct costs vs indirect costs
- Financial planning, financial spreadsheet
- Bookkeeping, accounting records, timesheets, cost recording
- Payments
- Financial reporting, timing and approval of financial reports
- FP7 certificates
- EU audits / liquidated damages
- Consortium agreement financial issues
- The role of the coordinator


Research Institutes in sub-Saharan Africa

A number of research centres focusing on ICT can be characterised today by skilled researchers, substantial research infrastructures, and high connections at the international level. These Research Institutes represent, logically, potential partners for collaborative projects.

In order to support the development of Euro-African collaborative projects, a database of key Research Institutes in sub-Saharan Africa specialising in the ICT domain has been developed and will be available soon. This selection will not have the ambition of being exhaustive and if you consider your research center should be included in this selection, please [contact us](#).

Searching for a partner?


Next EuroAfrica-ICT event



15th FP7 Awareness Workshop
Apr. 6-7, 2011
Nairobi, Kenya

Newsroom

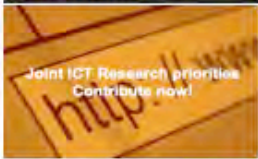
3rd Cooperation Forum



3rd Cooperation Forum on ICT Research
Dec. 7-8, 2010
Helsinki, Finland

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PUBLIC ONLINE CONSULTATION



Joint ICT Research priorities
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Event Calendar

« Jan Mar »

February 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

EuroAfrica-ICT.org Partners



Annex 7 –EuroAfrica-ICT website: Community page

The screenshot shows the 'Community' page of the EuroAfrica-ICT website. The top navigation bar includes 'RESEARCH PRIORITIES', 'EVENTS', 'HELPDESK', 'SUCCESS STORIES', 'COMMUNITY', and 'REPOSITORY'. Below this is a banner with the 'euroafrica-ict' logo and the tagline 'Supporting policy dialogues & strengthening cooperation between Europe & sub-Saharan Africa on ICT Research'. A secondary navigation bar contains 'Newsroom', 'Event Calendar', 'EuroAfrica-ICT Events', and 'FP6-FP7 Success Stories'. The main content area is titled 'Community' and includes a breadcrumb 'Home > Community'. The text describes the community's purpose: 'European and African acknowledged ICT experts (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 | etc.) eager to derive maximum benefits from the EuroAfrica-ICT initiative are strongly encouraged to register as members of the "EuroAfrica-ICT Community".' It also states that members will receive guidance and support to facilitate their participation in Euro-African S&T/ICT collaborative activities. A note mentions that the community has moved to LinkedIn, with links to the 'old Community' and the new one 'here!'. A LinkedIn logo is displayed below the text. On the right side, there are three event announcements: 'Next EuroAfrica-ICT event' (15th FP7 Awareness Workshop, Apr. 6-7, 2011, Khartoum, Sudan), 'Newsroom', and '3rd Cooperation Forum' (3rd Cooperation Forum on ICT Research, Dec. 7-8, 2010, Helsinki, Finland).