

## **PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY**

### **1.1. Project context and objectives**

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Africa and Europe have recognised that the development of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and the spreading of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to all components of a society are key for socio-economic growth. The '8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership' ('Partnership 8' or 'P8') interlinks three priorities that can leverage a faster socio-economic development in Africa: Science, Information Society and Space. Partnership 8 Action Plan II lists as a priority the development of an inclusive information society in Africa. From this perspective a multi-stakeholder implementation group was formed, co-chaired by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission (EC) and aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two regions.

EuroAfrica-P8 is an FP7 project funded by the European Commission (DG CONNECT) and spanning 24 months (2012-2013) with the main aim of strengthening ICT research and policy links between Africa and Europe under the '8th Strategic Partnership' (P8). The project is defined in full continuity with and builds upon the substantial results obtained and the significant momentum created by several previous projects (2006+), designated - over the years - as 'the EuroAfrica-ICT Initiative'.

The project is gathering partners able to significantly impact the expansion of Euro-African cooperation on ICT research in close liaison with the EC and the AUC and in partnership with key stakeholders in the field.

The Consortium consists of eleven partners with significant experience of ICT policies in both regions, as well as Africa-EU S&T/ICT cooperation. They enjoy access to important networks and they have previously participated in EU/FP projects. Collectively they complement each other in such a manner that the consortium is well balanced and qualified to reach the project objectives.

The EuroAfrica-P8 main objectives are the following:

- Strengthen EU-African policy and ICT research links with the aim of reinforcing the '8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership' (P8);
- Identify, analyse and map EU-African joint ICT research priorities;
- Provide evidence-based recommendations to the European and African Union Commissions for future cooperation initiatives;
- Provide support and guidance to European and African organisations in their efforts to connect and develop joint research projects in the ICT field;
- Support and sustain the activities of the P8 Africa-EU Implementation Group on ICT (IG8/ICT) and the Joint Expert Group (JEG8);
- Enhance the participation of African organisations in FP7/Horizon2020 collaborative projects; and
- Achieve strategic coordination with other initiatives/projects/programmes sharing similar or related objectives.

## **1.2. Main results in the reporting period**

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During the first period of the project (from January to December 2012) a number of activities have been successfully developed, making the partnership even more confident that the project objectives can be fully reached during the second and last project period (from January to December 2013).

### *DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT WEBSITE*

During the first four months of the project, the previous EuroAfrica-ICT.org website has been further developed and modernised, in order to offer extended services to European and African organisations interested in the development of collaborative research projects in the ICT field, and to more easily collect useful inputs from these stakeholders. The domain name "www.euroafrica-ict.org" has been maintained in order to ensure continuity with the previous website.

The project website is updated on a day-to-day basis with news and event announcements, provided both by the project consortium members (all partners contribute actively with news, event announcements, etc.) and by other related projects, programmes, dialogues and initiatives. In addition, the Project Coordinator (Sigma Orionis) is conducting a daily monitoring of the Internet in order to find out the latest developments and publications in the field to feed the project website and the social/professional networks.

The website not only provides detailed information on project objectives and activities, but also includes a substantial amount of background information and some new features such as:

- A new logo and banner that give a new graphical identity to the project;
- A repository section that includes a list of reference documents and links, a photo gallery (<http://euroafrica-ict.org/project-resources/photogallery/>) and a video channel (<http://euroafrica-ict.org/project-resources/video-channel/>), where pictures and videos of past events organised in the framework of the project are uploaded;
- A page dedicated to Africa-EU relationships (context, supporting documents, milestones, events, etc.);
- A Helpdesk with useful links and information on the FP7, Horizon2020, Partner search, Glossary, etc.;
- Links to social networks: the website is closely linked to LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=2892844](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=2892844)) & Twitter ([http://twitter.com/EuroAfrica\\_ICT](http://twitter.com/EuroAfrica_ICT)): each time a news item is posted on the website, it directly appears on these social networks. The LinkedIn group is composed of 772 members as of December 2012, while Twitter is followed by 302 subscribers.

In 2012 the EuroAfrica-ICT website was visited 20396 times, with an highest peak on November 2012, that is in conjunction with the '2012 Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT'.

The top-10 visitor's locations are: France, South Africa, Portugal, United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Nigeria, Italy, Germany and Spain.

### *ORGANISATION OF COOPERATION EVENTS*

During the first 12 months of the project, four cooperation events have already been organised, in line with what is planned in the DoW:

- Two EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 Awareness and Training Workshops: the first one organised in Maseru (Lesotho) on June 13-14, 2012 and the second one held in Tunis (Tunisia) on October 9-10, 2012;
- One Thematic Working Group Meeting on e-Infrastructures and e-Services, organised in Yaoundé (Cameroon) on November 13, 2012 back-to-back with the AfriComm2012 conference;
- The 2012 edition of the 'Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT', organised in Lisbon (Portugal) on Nov. 29-30, 2012, as the main event of the '2012 Africa-EU Week on ICT' (event report: [http://euroafrica-ict.org/files/2012/12/EuroAfrica-ICT\\_P8\\_Forum\\_Event\\_report.pdf](http://euroafrica-ict.org/files/2012/12/EuroAfrica-ICT_P8_Forum_Event_report.pdf)).

Proceedings and reports of these events are available online at <http://euroafrica-ict.org/events/>.

#### PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

The objectives and activities of the EuroAfrica-P8 project have already been widely disseminated within the European and African ICT communities, through direct contacts, participation in external events (25), contribution to publications (10), email blasts, e-Newsletters, website and social/professional networks, etc. Some project dissemination material has been prepared in the first months of 2012: a factsheet, different versions of brochure/flyers, roll-up banners (2 versions), folders (3 versions) and a short video trailer.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF EURO-AFRICA JOINT ICT RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The first phase of the study on the identification of joint Euro-African ICT research priorities has been completed. The intermediate results of this first reporting period are:

- Refined methodology;
- Review of past projects and a variety of related documents (desktop study);
- Motivation and selection of six ICT research focus areas, namely:
  - Health,
  - Environment & Energy,
  - Learning,
  - Agriculture,
  - ICT Infrastructure, and
  - Government Services;
- Collection of thematic ICT research project ideas from a variety of sources and meetings;
- Structure for focus area and research project descriptions; and
- Identification of next steps for work during 2013

#### ZOOM/CASE STUDIES

Three case studies featuring success stories, innovating ICT research and/or technological developments or results in specific African countries or regions have been published in 2012:

- The case of irrigation and ICT in Egypt;
- The case of health and ICT in Ethiopia; and
- The case of education and ICT in Uganda.

The case studies can be downloaded from the EuroAfrica-ICT website: <http://euroafrica-ict.org/ict-research-priorities/zoomcase-studies/>.

#### DATABASE OF AFRICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTES

In order to support the development of Euro-African collaborative projects on ICT research, a database of African Research Institutes specialising in the ICT domain has been developed and made available in the project website to allow European research organisations interested in developing collaborative projects to contact potential African partners (<http://euroafrica-ict.org/ict-research-priorities/database-research-institutes/>). This first version will be expanded and refined during 2013.

#### LIGHTHOUSE DEMONSTRATORS

Ideas for demonstrator projects and interested coordinators, potential consortia of stakeholders and calls from potential funders to target was recurrently discussed by the EuroAfrica-P8 consortium and in some cases with EC and AUC representatives and regional and national policymakers (including RECs), to make sure that their priorities were met by the selected set of demonstrators. In 2012 discussions and working sessions happened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (May 2012), during the EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 Awareness Workshops held in Maseru, Lesotho (June 2012) and during the '2012 Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT' hosted in Lisbon, Portugal (Nov. 2012).

A list of topics and potential demonstrator projects was circulated among the consortium and other stakeholders, and is linked with the areas identified in the study on the identification of Euro-Africa Joint ICT research priorities: Governance, Healthcare, Education, Environment Monitoring and Water Management, ICT and Energy Infrastructure, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

During 2012 seven proposals have been identified for submission to various funding opportunities (African Union Calls, EU/FP7 Calls, National Calls, Calls from Donors and Financial Institutions): four of them have so far resulted in a proposal submission.

#### SYNERGIES WITH RELATED PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

To continuously interact with the main programmes and initiatives in the Euro-Africa cooperation context in the ICT research domain, the EuroAfrica-P8 consortium has been connecting with key institutions in Africa and Europe to identify joint European and African research priorities and foster required synergies. During the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the project's lifetime, the EuroAfrica-P8 consortium has contacted a significant number of institutions, with the main aim of strengthening ICT research links between European and African organisations. The consortium has used several forums to build a strong network, to help to set up new projects and to settle a basis for further coordination with relevant stakeholders, initiatives and programmes (e.g. the EC, the AUC, the RECs, ERA-Net and INCO-Net projects, FP7 CSA projects, Living Labs, Industrial players, NRENS, etc.).

#### ASSISTANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP OF THE AFRICA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 8

The EuroAfrica-P8 consortium has assisted the 'P8 multi-stakeholder implementation group' co-chaired by the EC and the AUC (IG8/ICT) and the European and the Joint Expert Groups (EEG8 and JEG8) improving as much as possible the operation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership 8:

- Support the organisation of an EEG8 meeting that took place back to back with the 'Africa-EU Week on ICT' held in Lisbon, Portugal on November 2012;
- Support the organisation of a REC+EEG8 meeting that was held on Nov. 27 in Lisbon, Portugal, on the occasion of the '2012 Africa-EU Week on ICT' organised by EuroAfrica-P8;

- Financially support the participation of the JEG8 African chair in the November 2012 meeting (Nov. 6-8, 2012 - Cape Town, South Africa);
- Produce an organisational chart related to the EC/JAES/P8 matters;
- Organise in close liaison with the EC and the AUC an IG8/ICT meeting (Nov. 30, Lisbon, Portugal) and produce wrap-up notes;
- Encourage key African and European stakeholders to participate in the '2012 Africa-EU Cooperation Week on ICT' and the IG8/ICT meeting (Nov. 2012, Lisbon, Portugal); and
- Improve the communication of key information (e.g. eLINK, the newsletter of the Africa-European Union Partnership) among key stakeholders in the field.

### **1.3. Expected final results and potential impact**

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The EuroAfrica-P8 Project is undertaking actions supporting dialogues between the EC and strategic partner countries and regions, to increase cooperation with strategic third countries and third country organisations in collaborative ICT R&D both within FP7 and under third country programmes. The project activities include the identification and analysis of ICT research priorities, the provision of recommendations for future cooperation initiatives, the organisation of cooperation and thematic events synchronised - whenever possible - with policy dialogue meetings, and the support to the multi-stakeholder implementation group (ICT component) of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership 8. Specific work packages are also addressing synergies with other programmes or initiatives as well as marketing and communication (MarCom) activities.

EuroAfrica-P8's activities and focus are fully aligned with the prescribed impacts listed in the Work Programme:

- Reinforcement of strategic partnerships with selected countries and regions in areas of mutual interest and added value in jointly addressing important issues.
- Reinforced international dimension of the EU ICT research programme and higher level of international cooperation with low- and middle-income countries in ICT R&D with a focus on areas where the EU has a comparative advantage and where there are new leadership opportunities for Europe.

With a dedicated communication platform and several targeted information initiatives (including the website, e-Newsletters, information days, cooperation forums, thematic working group meetings, awareness workshops, training workshops, etc.) EuroAfrica-P8 is significantly raising awareness in Europe and Africa of the opportunities for cooperation and available instruments, which could support partnerships.

EuroAfrica-P8 is also going beyond the mere provision of information: through the dedicated virtual helpdesk it also provides advice to partners wishing to develop cooperation. Information and support services aimed at supporting cooperation under the FP7 are also provided on the occasion of the EuroAfrica-ICT FP7 Awareness workshops, where dedicated training sessions are organised on the subject. It can therefore be expected that under the upcoming FP/ICT research calls for Proposals, there could be an increased involvement of African partners. The impact of these activities will likely be to encourage such cooperation under the future Horizon 2020 Programme.

Through the analytical work undertaken by EuroAfrica-P8, policymakers are having a comprehensive series of evidence-based recommendations covering specific ICT research cooperation opportunities between Africa and Europe.

Whilst EuroAfrica-P8 is providing support to researchers and indeed ICT research stakeholders willing to engage in cooperation, as well as suggesting policy options to policymakers for promoting cooperation, optimal impact will not be achieved unless those entrusted with policy mandates for international S&T cooperation and indeed broader R&D and government policies, are convinced that African-European cooperation in ICT research should be pursued as a priority activity. EuroAfrica-P8 is thus encouraging and supporting a high-level policy discussion on the importance of ICT research cooperation within its events and the members of the Implementation Group of Partnership 8 (IG8/ICT entrusted with the oversight of the Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space - Partnership 8).

#### **1.4. Contact details**

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Please visit [www.euroafrica-ict.org](http://www.euroafrica-ict.org) or contact the project coordinator:

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