



EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue
on
Science, Technology and Innovation

Brussels, 28-29 November 2013

“The Way Forward”

Annex to the draft conclusions





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1. Objective

The 'way forward' sets out the short-, medium- and long-term steps and milestones towards the implementation of a long-term jointly funded research and innovation partnership (flagship) between the EU and Africa. As a first priority area of cooperation, "food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture" has been chosen.

2. Relevance

There is clear and ample evidence that investment in research, science, technology and innovation create growth, jobs and improve competitiveness of countries and regions to the benefit of people's lives and societies as a whole. Therefore science, technology and innovation is underpinned as a driver of socio-economic growth.

Enhancing food and nutrition security as well as sustainable agriculture is a challenge common to the EU and Africa. STI are one of the drivers in achieving this. An increase in EU-Africa cooperation in this domain is relevant as it will lead to evidence-based solutions and policy-making and an improved availability of effective agricultural products and services.

3. Focus

The 2nd meeting of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) identified common sub-challenges in the domain of food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture that are recommended to become the focus areas of the STI cooperation: notably the role of STI in improving the contribution of family farms and smallholders farms to food and nutrition security, eco/sustainable intensification pathways to food security (covering the whole supply chain, including waste) and managing risks associated with water supply and land- and water management issues for sustainable agriculture and food security.

Moreover, an integrated approach is taken recognising the important cross-cutting nature of innovation/entrepreneurship, research infrastructures and technical competence building.

Enhancing technical competence should focus on the development of new skills, including through science education, life-long learning and science awareness and public understanding of science, including among the youth as well as on the retaining of expertise (brain circulation). Institutional capacity-building of research and technology organisations should focus on providing sustainable career paths for researchers. There should also be a focus on enhancing the capacity to use research results for evidence-based policy-making and implementation. In terms of research infrastructures, the focus should be on developing new infrastructures, acquiring instrumentation and facilitating cooperation between existing infrastructures as such increasing the stock of R&D facilities. Research on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture should be able to use research infrastructures with a multi-disciplinary focus. The strengthening of innovation and specifically entrepreneurial capacities, especially of small and medium enterprises as well as framework conditions is important for Africa and Europe.

4. How

It is recognised that many joint initiatives already exist in this domain. The added-value the EU-Africa HLPD can offer in terms of additional cooperation in this domain is to establish a framework of enhanced coordination, including the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the process, making the landscape less scattered, increasing coherence while building on existing efforts and working towards new joint initiatives (flagship) promoting synergy between and ownership of all stakeholders and financing instruments.

4.1 Short-term milestone (by end 2015)

To achieve the above, the following short-term milestones are set:

- Establish the EU-Africa HLPD as the key platform for priority-setting and implementation design in the domain of STI in the future JAES
- An expert working group will be set up that will be tasked to develop a detailed roadmap concretely defining the scope and outlining the different steps to be taken towards this new partnership.
- Launch of first calls under Horizon 2020, including research and innovation activities targeted to joint participation of European and African researchers and innovation actors in the identified priority challenge
- The operational discussions on the envelopes dedicated to STI in the Pan-African Programme the Programme of Global Public Goods and Challenges under the Development Cooperation Instrument and the 11th EDF will take into account the outcome of the EU-Africa HLPD. This includes research and research and innovation capacity-building activities targeting Africa in the identified priority challenge
- Possible actions financed by the Member States

4.1.1 Mandate of expert working group

The expert working group should be established by 1 March 2014 and deliver the detailed roadmap 6 months later (1 September 2014). The roadmap must include overall objectives, expected outcomes and output, activities, progress indicators, mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, as well as input and responsibilities. The roadmap should furthermore take account of the expert study commissioned by the first meeting of the EU-Africa HLPD in 2011, '*Mapping of best practice regional and multi-country cooperative STI initiatives between Africa and Europe Identification of effective financial mechanism(s) 2008-2012*'. The roadmap must also include ideas for enhanced communication and awareness raising.

The expert working group will consist of maximum 10 people including experts in the domain of STI for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture from Europe and Africa, the scientific community, civil society, the public sector and the private sector. There will be a co-chair from the EU and one from Africa. The European Commission/African Union Commission/EU-Africa HLPD Bureau will ensure the designation process as well as take care of the secretariat of the working group. The working group will establish links to other relevant existing groups such as the SCAR/EIARD Strategic Working Group and the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development as well as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The reporting mechanism and cycle will be shared at a frequency to be agreed upon by the EU-Africa HLPD Bureau. A progress report will feed into each meeting of the EU-Africa HLPD Bureau, the next meeting of the EU-Africa HLPD, forthcoming Ministerial meetings and Summits. All options for financing the expert working group (eg. travel costs, per diems) will be explored provided they have an available budget by the beginning of 2014.

The effectiveness of the activities of the working group will be monitored by the EU-Africa HLPD Bureau on a yearly basis and changes to its mandate can be made by the Bureau especially when the priority area of cooperation changes.

4.2 Medium-term milestone (by end 2017)

The establishment of a framework of enhanced coordination in the domain of STI for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, making the landscape less scattered, increasing coherence, scale and impact while building on existing efforts (e.g. through clustering) and promoting synergy between and co-ownership of all stakeholders and financing instruments. Impactful instruments and models will be designed based on best practices and successes of other instruments, such as the ERAfrica project.

4.3 Long-term milestone (by end 2020 and beyond)

The development of a jointly funded and co-owned research and innovation partnership between the EU and Africa, promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. Therefore, this long-term partnership could be based on a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model such as Product Development Partnerships (PDP) or Trust Funds or any alternative model that serves the purpose and has proven impact, or be inspired by the achievements of the EDCTP

4.4. The actors

EU-Africa cooperation in the domain of STI includes many stakeholders such as: the European Commission, the African Union Commission, the EU and AU Member States, the regions, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), international financial institutions (EIB, AfDB), the United Nations and its specialised agencies such as UNESCO, the scientific community, higher education establishments, African diaspora organisations, civil society and the private sector. FARA and the Sub-regional Research Organisations (SROs) CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA and NASRO are important actors in the domain of STI promoting food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

The aim is to promote synergies between the different activities of the above actors and create ownership among the stakeholders in doing this as such increasing the coherence of the cooperation.

4.5 The financial instruments

- European Commission: Horizon 2020, European Development Fund (EDF), Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) including the Pan-African Programme (PAP) and the Programme of Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).
- African Union Commission: STI funds and other financial instruments derived from STISA 2024, the African Union Research Grant
- Bilateral contributions from EU and AU Member States and the regions: ERAfrica, National and regional research and innovation funds
- International financial institutions: instruments from the EIB and AfDB (African Development Fund Loans and Grants, Middle Income Countries grants, AfDB loans, multinational window, private sector loans), other....
- Instruments financing the mobility of researchers
- Explore development of jointly-funded instruments, multipurpose instruments and innovative mechanisms for engaging a wider diversity of actors (e.g. Pooled challenge funds, pull mechanisms)
- Other....

The aim is to promote synergies between the financing instruments and as such increase the scale and impact of the cooperation.