



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission
To South Africa

Fact sheet: Key elements of EU-SA cooperation in Science and Technology

Horizon 2020

According to preliminary results (April 2016), 48 South African research institutions participate in 33 projects receiving €11 million in EU Funds. This includes

- South Africa's share of the European Commission support for the detailed design of the infrastructure required at the [two Square Kilometer Array \(SKA\)](#) telescope co-host sites – the Murchison region of Western Australia and the Karoo region of South Africa.
- Mobility support programme [Marie Skłodowska-Curie](#) focuses on international and inter-sectoral mobility to leading labs and institutes in Europe and around the world, including South Africa.
- The second phase of the [European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership \(EDCTP\)](#) was launched in Cape Town in December 2014 with the European Commission pledging €800 million over a seven-year period. The programme focuses on HIB/AIDS, TB, malaria and other neglected tropical diseases. South Africa has been one of the most successful participating countries. Under the 1st phase of the programme, 88 clinical trials were done in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- [ESASTAP 2020](#) project represents an advisory, information and support platform for researchers about Horizon 2020 and other European programmes in area of science, technology and innovation. It is implemented by a consortium led by the Department of Science and Technology and includes a network of National Contact Points.

7th Framework Programme

- At the end of 2013, South Africa had established itself as the EU's 5th most important international cooperation partner directly after Russia, the US, China and India. South African institutions participate in over 200 grant projects and benefit from over €37 million in the EU funding. The focus of cooperation has been on Food, Agriculture and Bio-technology; Health; Environment and ICT.
- As part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility programme, a total of 470 South African researchers from 77 institutions were funded during the period 2007-2014 with the EU contribution totalling €4.9 million.

Development cooperation

- The [Department of Science and Technology](#) is receiving support from the EU-SA National Development Policy Support Programme for two initiatives: 'Innovation Partnerships for Rural Development' and 'ICT for Development'.
- Since 2011, the [Erasmus Mundus](#) programme supported about 800 South African beneficiaries through scholarships to study, research or teach in Europe. These include postdocs, Doctoral candidates, Masters' Students and University staff. This mobility programme is now continuing under the Erasmus Plus programme.

- Between 2008 and 2013 the EU provided €30 million in sector budget support to the Department of Science and Technology for the 'Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Programme'. The programme tested certain innovations and especially their links to improved livelihoods. In one of the projects, for example, Wireless Mesh Network technology was successfully used to connect multiple rural facilities to the Internet. 174 schools were connected as well as a number of rural clinics. In addition, this technology was used to support small businesses in remote areas of Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces through the establishment of Internet cafes. The Wireless Mesh Network was subsequently included in the South Africa ICT Research, Development and Innovation Roadmap approved by Cabinet in 2013.
- South Africa benefited from two phases of the [EU-ACP cooperation Programme on Science & Technology](#), which focuses on capacity-building activities. In total, 15 South African institutions participated in 11 projects with a great focus on agriculture and biodiversity.

Other

- South Africa and the EU collaborate to advance the science and technology agenda on the African continent through the EU-Africa High-level Policy Dialogue and through a specific partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). Partners from South Africa and the EU participate in the [CAAST-Net project](#), which focuses on advancing science, technology and innovation cooperation between Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU.
- The [European Commission's Joint Research Centre](#) (DG JRC) has 23 partnerships with South African institutions. The key area of cooperation is Earth observation to address developmental challenges. One specific example of cooperation is using Earth observation data to map and monitor formal and informal settlements in South Africa.
- In June 2014, South Africa (the Department of Science and Technology) became an associated member of the EUREKA Network (<http://www.eurekanetwork.org/>), the network of over 40 European governments serving as a platform for the development of innovative joint R&D projects.
- South Africa has also signed an agreement with the [EU Eurostars Programme](#) that supports research-performing small and medium enterprises to boost their competitive advantage.
- An Implementing Arrangement between the Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission for Providing Research Opportunities in Europe for SA Early-Mid Career Researchers has been signed in October 2015 with the focus on cooperation with the [European Research Council](#) (ERC).
- A reciprocal arrangement between the European Cooperation in Scientific and Technical Research (COST) Office and the Department of Science and Technology entered into force in 2009, under which both sides provide funding for short-term scientific missions to be undertaken by SA and European researchers related to SA's participation in COST actions (scientific networks).
- The Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission also maintain active collaboration within multilateral forums and programmes, such as the [OECD's Global Science Forum](#), the [Group on Earth Observations \(GEO\)](#) as well as the Carnegie Group.