



South Africa's S&T partnership with the European Union



Why Horizon 2020 matters for South
Africa



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Overview

- Drivers for international S&T cooperation
- Framework for S&T cooperation with Europe
- SA Participation in the EU Framework Programmes
- Strategies for promoting participation in FP7
- Perspectives on Horizon 2020



International Cooperation in Ten Year Innovation Plan

- International cooperation required to:
 - Enhance knowledge generation capacity
 - Support technology transfer
- Goal: Make South Africa a preferred destination for international S&T investment
 - To notably support:
 - Human capital development
 - Research infrastructure partnerships
 - By strategically leveraging foreign investment



Drivers for South Africa's International S&T Cooperation

- Human Resource Development
 - Retention and attraction (Diaspora)
- Maximize return on national investment
 - Leverage foreign funding
- Share experience and expertise
 - *SA performs 0.5% of global R&D - need to connect other 99.5%*
- Policy benchmarking / best practices
- Science diplomacy including trade
 - Multilateralism, global challenges



Framework for South Africa's S&T cooperation with Europe

- SA – EU S&T Cooperation Agreement
- Bilateral S&T Agreements Member States and Associated Countries
- SA – EU Strategic Partnership – strong focus on S&T at annual Summits
 - Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement
- Support Joint Africa-EU Strategy



SA-EU S&T Cooperation beyond Framework Programmes

- Development cooperation: Innovation for Poverty Alleviation (sector budget support)
- Joint Africa-EU Strategy
- Other programmes:
 - COST, EUREKA, EDCTP, ACP S&T
- Diversity in focus:
 - Policy dialogue, multilateral cooperation
- Multiple partners:
 - Multinational companies, foundations, EIP



What are the EU Framework Programmes

- Main EU instrument for research and innovation
- EU programme with EU objectives but open SA participation
- Competitive calls for proposals comprehensive thematic scope
- Excellence-based criteria



South Africa and the Framework Programmes

- One of the priority instruments for internationalization of South African S&T
- FP4-FP6: close to 250 participations
 - Dominated so-called INCO activity
- FP7: More than 220 projects with SA partners
 - 2007-2013
 - Direct EC investment more than €37 million
 - Rank only behind USA, Russia, China and India



Analysis South African FP7 participation

- Most successful areas
 - Health; environment; bio-economy (agriculture)
- Important progress:
 - ICT, aeronautics, transport, space, social sciences / humanities, nuclear, researcher mobility
- Challenge:
 - Energy, manufacturing, nanotechnology
 - Relatively low industry / SME participation



Benefits from South Africa's Framework Programme participation

- Not only funding – long-term strategic relations
- Meaningful involvement knowledge generation builds capacity
- Enrich and complement bilateral cooperation
- R&D cooperation addressing global challenges
- Mature evaluation and management processes facilitate leveraging national investment
- Creates other cooperation opportunities



Strategic considerations for SA's FP participation

- Framework Programme is not panacea and will not be appropriate in all instances
- SA own responsibility to promote cooperation – understand nature of instruments – difference with development cooperation
- Participation should be aligned with own national strategic objectives
 - *FP funded by European taxpayers and has largely European objectives, countries such as SA therefore need own strategy!*



Strategic approach for promoting SA's Framework Programme participation

- Create enabling national environment for researchers to participate
 - Information / training / seed funding, etc.
- Proactive encourage participation target areas:
 - Identify FP7 topics relevant to SA priorities and strengths
 - Identify SA researchers best placed to respond
 - Support SA links to leading European groups with best chances of success, bearing in mind:
 - Lead in proposal preparation coming for Europe
 - Highly competitive – excellence key criteria



Institutional support for South African Framework Programme participation

- Network of National Contact Points
- National funding instruments: Strategic Co-investment Funding / Seed Funding
- SA S&T Office in Brussels
- Dedicated platform: European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP)
- *Also SACCESS: Promoting European participation in SA programmes*



Historical perspective of South Africa – EU S&T relations

- Took time to mature – long-term investments – many aspects of South Africa's current success were built on FP4 and FP5 INCO programmes
- Developed and remain committed to a specific strategy, but should remain flexible – EU research landscape fast-evolving
- Strategic relationship-building invaluable, personal and institutional relations matter
- Success breeds success – success stories important to encourage cooperation



Historical perspective of South Africa – EU S&T relations (2)

- Successful research cooperation provides foundation for policy dialogue – step by step approach – which further boosts research cooperation
- Proactively sought to establish synergy between different aspects of cooperation
 - (e.g. FP6 success paved way for development cooperation support)
- Mainstreamed S&T cooperation with broader political and economic cooperation
 - Helps visibility and awareness critical



SA Perspectives on Horizon 2020

- Share policy view drivers for international cooperation informed by own priorities
- Support greater focus: SA like EU cannot cooperate with all partners in all areas – strategic choices must be made
 - With strategic partners more ambitious relationships, e.g. coordinated calls or twinning
- Appreciate reciprocity context of mutual-benefit
- Agree with increased focus on innovation

Challenges for international cooperation in Horizon 2020

- Reconcile “competition” and “collaboration”
 - How harness pursuit competitiveness to address global challenges?
 - Brain drain or brain circulation?
 - Relocation of corporate R&D?
- Respond to increased diversity of global research and innovation partnerships
 - South-South cooperation
 - Intensified cooperation and integration in other regions , e.g. Africa
 - Coordination between EC and Member State programmes
 - Alignment and synergy with economic and development cooperation instruments?

Summary of strategy for S&T cooperation with EU

- Understand and integrate own and partners' drivers for international cooperation
- Exploit comparative (geographical or knowledge) advantages
- Market excellence to promote interest in collaboration
- Develop own strategies in function of rules of instruments
- Make own institutional investments
 - Researcher support and advisory mechanisms



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Thank You



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