



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



From FP4 to Horizon 2020



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# 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



# S&T Cooperation beyond Framework Programmes

- Development cooperation: Sector budget support for S&T
- Joint Africa-EU Strategy
- Other programmes:
  - COST, EUREKA, EDCTP, ACP S&T
- Diversity in focus:
  - Policy dialogue, multilateral cooperation
- Multiple partners:
  - Multinationals, foundations, EIB



# South Africa and the Framework Programmes

- Priority instrument for internationalization of South African S&T
- FP4-FP6: close to 250 participations
  - Dominated so-called INCO activity
- FP7: 243 participations in 195 projects
  - International Cooperation Partner Country
  - Direct EC investment more than €30million
  - Rank only behind USA, Russia, China and India



# Analysis South African FP7 participation

- Most successful areas
  - Health; environment; bio-economy
- Important progress:
  - ICT, aeronautics, transport, space, social sciences / humanities, nuclear, researcher mobility
- Challenge:
  - Energy, NMP
  - 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 approach for promoting SA's Framework Programme participation

- Create enabling national environment for researchers to participate – proactively identifying:
  - FP7 topics relevant to SA priorities and strengths
  - 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



# 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!*



# 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



# 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
- Approach 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 with and synergy with external relations?

# 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

