



# Relevant EU instruments and outcomes of AERAP Workshop in Brussels

Presented by

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# Joint Africa-EU Strategy: Action Plan 2011



- **Objective:** To strengthen African capacities in the area of science and technology, in order to enhance the use of science and technology and to improve S&T cooperation
- **Finance:**
  - Dedicated Financing Tools
  - 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, DCI, FP7, ENPI, EIB, AfDB
  - Bilateral contributions from EU and AU Member States, from the RECs and the European regions and from local authorities
  - Multilateral cooperation between MS, e.g. a grouping of African and European MS, who initiate and finance joint projects of mutual interest
  - Private Sector and Foundations that support R&D

# Snapshot of available instruments



- European Development Fund
  - EU Development Cooperation Instrument for South Africa
- Research funding
- Researcher mobility, staff exchange and education programmes
- Africa-EU Infrastructure Trust Fund
- Philanthropic funding
- Venture capital

# European Development Fund Background



- Supports African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries in:
  - Economic development;
  - Human and social development;
  - Regional cooperation and integration.
- 10<sup>th</sup> EDF total budget of €22 682 million (2007-2013)
  - More than 80 % National and Indicative Regional Programmes
  - E.g. €116 for SADC region (poverty alleviation)
    - Regional Economic Integration
    - Regional Political Cooperation
- **EU Development Cooperation Instrument for South Africa**
  - €980 million for 2007-2013
  - Including €30 million for Innovation for Poverty Alleviation
- **Intra-ACP Cooperation**
  - ACP Science and Technology Programme (€35 million) – focus on capacity-building

# European Development Fund Opportunities



- **Short-term:**

- Planned next call of ACP Science and Technology Programme likely in second half of 2012
  - Likely budget €23 million (20 million EDF, 3 million EU DCI SA)
  - Focus on capacity-building, e.g. integrating industry and academia in research cooperation programmes
- National / Regional Authorising Officers – “unallocated funding”

- **Medium-term (for 2014-2020)**

- Engage with preparation of
  - new Development Cooperation Instrument (2014-2020)
    - Global Public Goods and Challenges
    - Pan-African Instrument
  - new Partnership Instrument
    - Scientific cooperation
  - 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund

# Research Funding Opportunity



- Very limited remaining in FP7, but first call for proposals due end of 2012 of ERA-Net for Africa (ERAfrica) supporting Joint Africa-EU Strategy
- African and European funders of research and innovation – likely budget €15 million
- Opportunity for radio astronomy: category “idea-driven” – bottom-up / non-thematic
- Only criteria likely excellence and impact, and African-European consortium

# Researcher mobility, staff exchange, and education opportunities



- **Marie Curie Actions:**
  - International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)
  - Industry Academia Partnerships Pathways (IAPP)
  - International Incoming Fellowships
  - International Outgoing Fellowships
  - Initial Training Networks
- **European Research Council:**
  - Starting Grant
  - Advanced Grant
- **Erasmus Mundus**

# EU-Africa Infrastructures Trust Fund



- Financing of infrastructure programmes which facilitate interconnectivity and regional integration on the African continent (African ownership / long-term sustainability)
- Combines lending and technical resources of Investment Banks with grant operations of European Commission and Member States (access several hundred million €)
- Funding support:
  - Interest rate subsidies
  - Technical assistance – e.g. feasibility studies
  - Direct grants – social or environmental components
  - Insurance premia
- Sectors:
  - Transport
  - Energy
  - Water
  - ICT including telecommunications

# AERAP Helpdesk

## Practical Assistance for African-European Cooperation



- Early information on funding opportunities and upcoming calls for research and development cooperation projects
- Bring together researchers and companies who are interested in radio astronomy cooperation projects by
  - creating a data base of interested African and European Radio Astronomers (in preparation)
  - facilitating the contact to potential industry partners
  - facilitating seed funding for proposal coordination meetings between African and European researchers
- Guidance in writing proposals and contact to successful applicants
- Advice in legal and financial matters

# AERAP Workshop – “Leveraging new funding opportunities for African-European Radio Astronomy partnerships” 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2012



Bernie Fanaroff, Gerlinde Bedö, Séan Kelly, Takalani Nemaungani

# AERAP Workshop – “Leveraging new funding opportunities for African-European Radio Astronomy partnerships”

29<sup>th</sup> of May 2012



- Purpose of the workshop:
  - present recent policy developments in EU-Africa cooperation of relevance to radio astronomy
  - explore new opportunities that such cooperation can offer to the scientific community and industry
  - discuss the policy basis for radio astronomy cooperation and highlight success stories of Africa-EU radio astronomy cooperation
- 50 participants from several European countries and South Africa
  - Industry representatives, e.g. Nokia-Siemens-Networks and EIE European Industrial Engineering
  - Research Institutions such as the Max Planck Institute or NWO

# AERAP Workshop – “Leveraging new funding opportunities for African-European Radio Astronomy partnerships”



## Outcomes

- Part I - Policy context and case studies
  - MEP Sean Kelly stressed that decision makers need to be provided with input so that the Parliament can effectively facilitate growth and success in areas that are based around expertise
  - MEP Britta Thomsen underlined that it is more important than ever to invest in science and innovation, includes basic research and applied research activities
  - Elena Righi Steele (DG Research and Innovation): Within FP7, research infrastructures have a vital role to play in optimising the quality of research itself and research cooperation between Europe and Africa.
  - Dr. Calvia-Götz (European Investment Bank) indicated readiness of the EIB to discuss support for radio astronomy infrastructure cooperation with Africa.

# AERAP Workshop – “Leveraging new funding opportunities for African-European Radio Astronomy partnerships”



## Outcomes

- Part II - Marrying Ideas with Funding (workshop session)

### Discussion on Human Capital Development:

- Importance of complementing support for the SKA with support for the wider radio astronomy ecosystem, exchange of researchers/students and engineering meetings.
- The need to build on existing policy structures rather than something entirely new in order to keep momentum.
- Importance to support “resource starved universities” in Africa and the possibility of European universities taking on more postgraduate and postdoctoral students from Africa.
- Enormous potential value of AERAP in helping the radio astronomy community to comprehend and take full advantage of the overwhelming amount of available cooperation instruments.

# AERAP Workshop – “Leveraging new funding opportunities for African-European Radio Astronomy partnerships”



## Outcomes

- Part II - Marrying Ideas with Funding (workshop session)

### Industrial Partnerships and Infrastructure Investment:

- Major scientific endeavours, like SKA, will generate new technical solutions, which in turn will translate into new products, services and intellectual property.
- Professor Jones (Oxford University) outlined the importance of small-and-medium-sized projects and their contribution to innovation, as well as a source of valuable employment and training for post-doctoral researchers.
- The need to clarify the “value proposition” of radio astronomy to industry to enable academic-industry partnerships.
- The need for the radio astronomy community to engage outside their area of expertise on the topic of renewable energy.