



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Pretoria

GER-SA Collaboration on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation

Follow up Workshop: ESASTAP Plus

Pretoria, 16 May 2014

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Germany's Strategy for the Internationalization of Science & Technology (2008)

Four main priorities			
1. Strengthening research cooperation with global leaders	2. International exploitation of innovation potentials	3. Intensifying the cooperation with developing and emerging countries in education, research and development on a long-term basis	4. Assuming international responsibility and mastering global challenges

Governmental Programme 2009 – 2013

„**Education** and **research** will become a priority in our cooperation with emerging countries and developing countries“



Output: Africa Strategy of the BMBF (2014)

- BMBF hosted „**Africa Days**“ in **March 2014** (Berlin): representatives from African partner countries participated & key programmes were presented (including SASSCAL / WASCAL)
- Africa Strategy of the BMBF to be **officially launched** by Minister Wanka in **June 2014**
- Emphasis on **two pillars: Research** (Focus on: environment, health, bioeconomy, resource management, social sciences & humanities) & **Education** (Higher Education & VET)

Bilateral S&T Collaboration (GER-RSA) - Key instruments

- Based on an **intergovernmental agreement** on “Bilateral Cooperation in Science, Research and Technology” between **BMBF and DST from 1996** (same year as EU-SA agreement!)
 - (bi-)annual **Joint Committee (JC)** Meeting (last in May 2012 in Berlin, next in Oct./Nov 2014 in Pretoria, dates tbc)
 - **annual call for proposals** for bilateral research projects (last time Nov/Dec 2013)
 - **long-term projects** (e.g. MOSA-IWRM, Phase 2: 2012-2015)
 - Highlight: **GER-RSA Year of Science 2012/13** (4/2012 – 4/2013)





Current activities & emerging trends

- GER-RSA Year of Science „**Legacy Project**“: **Bilateral Research Chair** at a SA University in a research area of mutual strategic interest (under negotiation);
 - **Joint call for proposals** (DST/NRF–BMBF/IB, joint funding): published in late **2013**; **3 focal areas** (Astronomy, Biotechnology & Resource Management); 55 applications, 38 eligible, 10-12 to be selected for joint funding;
 - **Extended networks and new partnerships**: e.g. **MoU between ASSAf and German National Academy of Sciences – Leopoldina** signed in August 2013 & between **HESA and HRK** signed in September 2013;
 - **Regional and multilateral activities** with SA plus other SADC/African/ European partners (e.g. SPACES, SASSCAL, The Future Okavango, **ESASTAP Plus**, Horizon 2020);
 - Thematic emphasis on **global challenges** such as biodiversity, climate change, energy & food security, resource management, health, urbanisation;
 - Embassy: local **outreach and communication activities** (e.g. „Science Slams“, information & alumni events, e.g. in collaboration with DAAD).
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Examples (1): selected activities in 2014

- Participation at **SciFest Africa 2014** in Grahamstown (March 2014): GER Cluster Exhibition (BASF, DAAD Evonik, Festo, GIZ, Siemens Foundation & GER Embassy) & 3 consecutive **Science Slams**





Examples (2): selected activities in 2014

- Operational: e.g. **joint events with the DAAD**: contribution to Alumni conference (June 2014), Information seminars and Research Lecture Series and “Green Talents Alumni Workshop” (September 2014); *Falling Walls Lab SA* (September 2014) as part of the “20/25” theme 2014 (20 yrs of democracy in SA / 25 yrs Fall of Berlin Wall)
- Strategic: **Bilateral Joint Committee (JC) Meeting (DST-BMBF)** in the context of **BNC** (Oct/Nov 2014) > **strategic planning for 2015/16**

Examples (3): GER involvement in ESASTAP Plus

- Motivation: **access to an established network**
 - **position bilateral activities** in the **European context**
 - **enhance the visibility** of **German involvement** in South Africa

- Activities: coordination of **Call for Twinning Activities in Marine Sciences and Raw Materials**: deadline closed on 7 May 2014, 8 proposals, 5 EU-MS involved (FRA, GER, POL, PRT, UK), 4-5 to be selected for funding (seed mobility funding: € 6000 per activity), decision expected in July 2014
 - > foundation for **enhanced collaboration at inter-institutional level**



What next? The way forward...

Strategic focal areas and **future activities** at bilateral/inter-governmental level to be determined and agreed upon at next **JC Meeting** (Oct./Nov. 2014)

What to expect? (Wishful thinking..???)

- Stronger **alignment with regional & multilateral strategies**, programmes and activities & stronger emphasis on research networks (with other African & European partners)



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Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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