

ESASTAP Plus

**Strengthening Technology, Research
and Innovation Cooperation
between Europe and South Africa**



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ESASTAP Plus is..

A dedicated platform for the enhancement of European – South African Scientific and Technological cooperation, with emphasis on innovation



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ESASTAP background

1st and 2nd phases implemented by DST with main focus to raise awareness of FP7 & other EU funding opportunities in SA

3rd phase - ESASTAP Plus
(more partners, duration 3 yrs starting in November 2012)

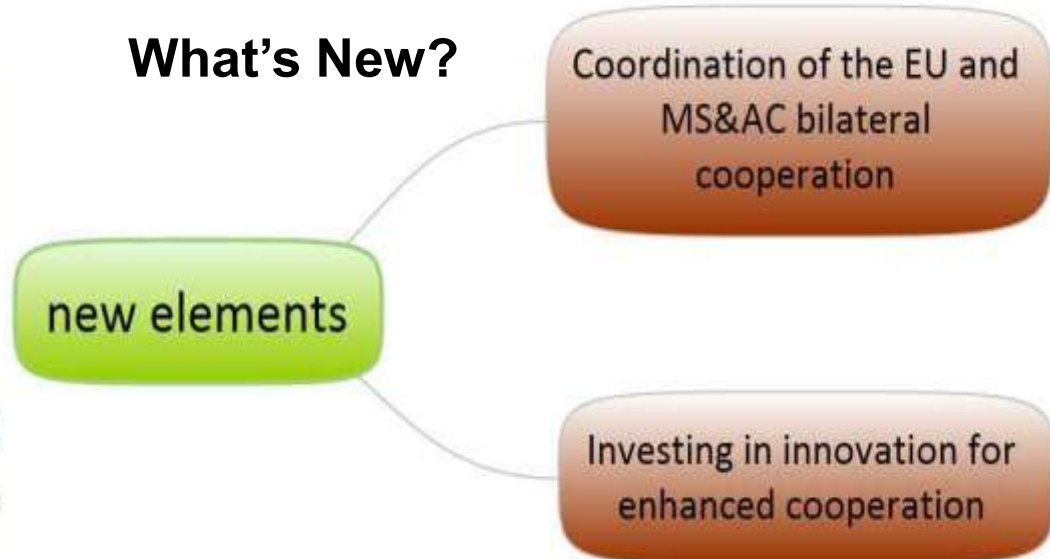


Looking into reciprocity

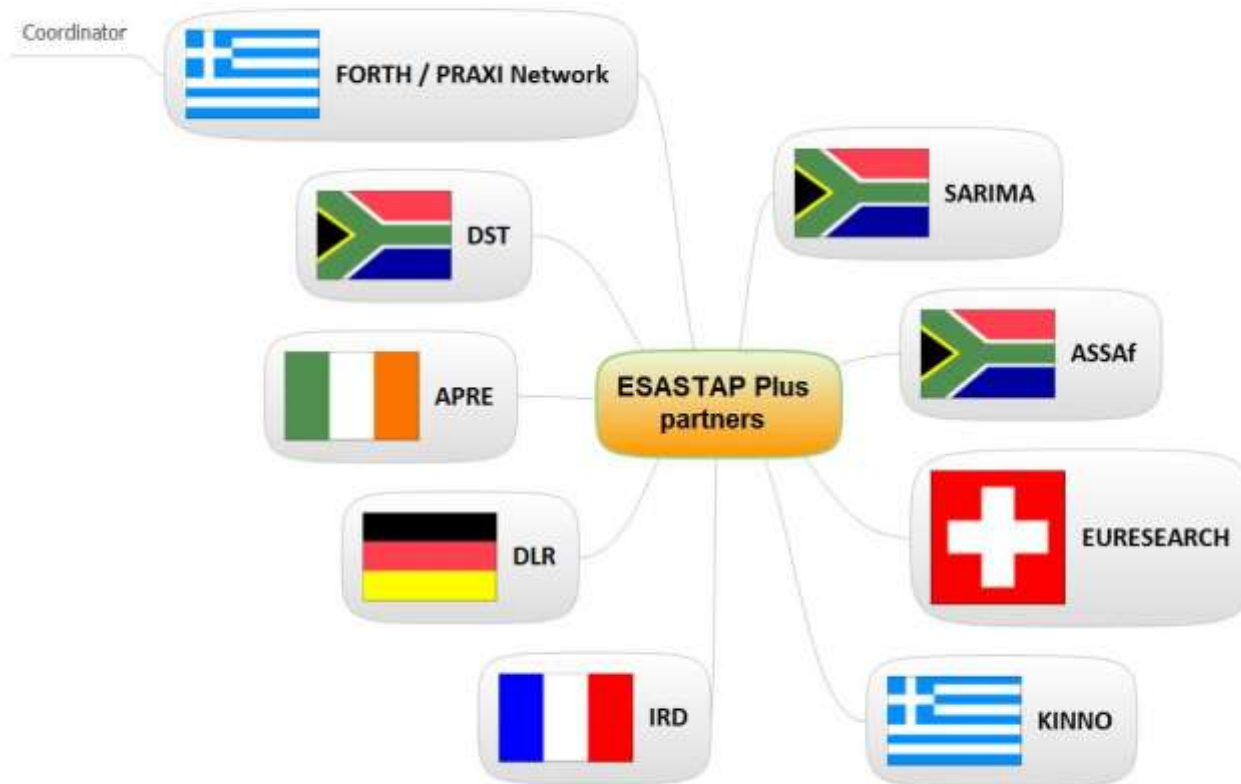


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What's New?



Partners



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ESASTAP achievements

- Awareness of the EU funding programmes in SA
- Established a good partnership with HEIs, science councils
- Increased SA participation in FP7 - currently ranked first of 3rd country participants
- Established funding instrument to support SA participants in the EU funding programmes
- Establishment of an effective SA National Contact Point (NCP) network for all FP7 themes including non-thematic areas
- Assisted with establishment of NCP networks in other African countries (concerted efforts of ESASTAP 2 and CAAST-Net projects)



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Achievements...

- Growth in the ICT and space research in the last few years (Traditional partner in the health, environment and Knowledge Based Bio-Economy (KBBE))
- Increased uptake of the Marie Curie Actions (MCA) opportunities
- Partner matching activities (portal, NCPs, Brussels office and SAccess)
- Highlighted the SA-EU research cooperation during the SA-EU Summits since 2008
- Increased SA participation also in the EDCTP (European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership) and COST (European Co-operation in S&T) programmes



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Strategic approach to promoting SA participation in FP

- SA own responsibility to promote cooperation, understand nature of EU instruments
- Participation should be aligned with own national strategic objectives
- Create enabling national environment for researchers to participate – proactively identifying (*Noting that FP will not be appropriate in all instances*):
 - FP topics relevant to SA priorities and strengths
 - SA researchers best placed to respond
 - Support SA links to leading European groups
- Promote long-term strategic relations
- Enrich and complement bilateral cooperation



ESASTAP plus objectives

- Enrich the science, technology and innovation policy dialogue;
- Promote strategic cooperation under the main instruments, chiefly the Framework Programme;
- Better coordinate and exploit synergy between different EU and national programmes; and
- Expand cooperation to specifically address innovation partnerships.



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Advisory and Support instruments

Pillar 1: Policy

- Continue providing input to the S&T dialogue
- Establish the SA-EU Innovation policy dialogue and implementation of activities
- Finalise the EUREKA associate membership
- Establish the EEN (Enterprise Europe Network) node in SA



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Advisory and Support instruments

Pillar 2: Enhancing cooperation through Framework Programmes

- Finalising the SA H2020 NCP network, and training
- Establishment of a forum to facilitate SA programmes awareness activities in Europe (reciprocity)
- H2020 awareness raising and information dissemination - National road shows for first calls to targeted institutions
- Offer financial support through dedicated instruments



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Financial support mechanisms

- Seed funding – for SA researchers preparing for participation in H2020, EDCTP, ACP S&T, up to 80% of expenses
- Co-investment funding – for SA researchers participating in approved FP7/H2020, EDCTP, ACP S&T project needing matching funding
- Mobility matching fund – for SA researchers participating in approved Marie Skłodowska Curie or European Research Council (ERC) projects
- Networking support for participation in COST, EUREKA and EEN network activities



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Advisory and Support instruments

Pillar 3: Better coordinate and exploit synergy between different EU and national programmes

- Identification of focus areas for coordination of EU R&I cooperation programmes with SA & a roadmap for the coordination process
- Establishment of a pilot group – an instrument to bring together different bilateral cooperation stakeholders to produce implementation plans for joint activities (funding scheme and management model for a pilot joint activity)
- Twinning activities strengthen partnering between research organisations from EU and SA (Exchange of information, and best practices)



Advisory and Support instruments

Twining of Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) Programme

(between MS & AC and SA)

Programme Objective

To support exchange of ideas, information and best practices, and explore potential partnering between EU and SA research and technology organisations



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Twining of RTOs Programme (*between MS&AC and SA*)

Programme characteristics

3 twinning activities to be implemented between EU and SA research and technology organisations

- Each twinning activity is foreseen to include 6 researchers
- Two twinning activities will take place in South Africa (EU researchers going to South Africa to explore cooperation opportunities with South African counterparts), and one in Europe.



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Process and timelines

- 20 January 2014: Agreement on the framework conditions of the call of interest
- 10 February 2014: Circulate invitation for Expression of Interest
- 31 March 2014: Deadline for submission of applications
- 2 May 2014: Review and selection (ESASTAP Plus Committee)
- 10 May 2014: Announcement of successful applicants
- 30 June 2014: Successful applicant and host agree on appropriate time for visit
- Aug 2014-Jul 2015: Twinning Activities
- 1 September 2015: Submission of reports on visits



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Advisory and Support instruments

Pillar 4: Promote Innovation partnerships

- Thorough analysis of the South African innovation landscape and framework conditions
- Enhancing innovation capacity and partnerships
 - South Africa-EU Space Skills Workshop, *19 - 20 November 2013, Pretoria, South Africa*
 - SA ICT event as part of Digital Agenda for Europe ICT 2013, *7 November 2013, Vilnius, Lithuania*
 - Exploring opportunities for greater cooperation and synergy in research and innovation partnerships between South Africa and Europe, *19 July 2013, Pretoria, South Africa*
 - EUREKA network, opportunities and benefits, *13 June 2013, Pretoria, South Africa*
 - Innovation as a driving force in the EU R&I 2014-2020, *27 May 2013, East London, South Africa*
- Supporting innovation collaboration through exchange visits (IP, technology transfer / exploitation)



ESASTAP Short-term Exchange Programme for Technology Transfer Professionals (ESASTAP-STEP)

Programme objectives

- To provide opportunities for exchange of information and good practices in technology transfer between South Africa and Europe.
- To enhance and promote innovation collaboration between South Africa and Europe.
- To identify and reduce barriers to innovation collaboration between South Africa and Europe.



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Programme characteristics

- Duration of visits: Maximum of 2 weeks.
- Funding: 80% of expenses provided for 2 individuals from South Africa to visit host institutions in Europe and 2 individuals from Europe to visit host institutions in SA up to a maximum of R60 000 and €3800 respectively.
- Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years experience in technology transfer.

Application

- Expression of Interest (template will be provided).
- Letter of support from the host institution.
- Letter of support from the applicant's line manager (or other appropriate senior person).
- An up-to-date CV.



Process and timelines

- January/February: Programme launch in Europe and SA
- 10 March 2014: Circulate invitation for Expression of Interest
Contact host and prepare application
- 30 May 2014: Deadline for submission of applications
- 20 June 2014: Review and selection (ESASTAP Plus Committee)
- 4 July 2014: Announcement of successful applicants
- 20 July 2014: Successful applicant and host agree on appropriate time for visit
- Aug 2014-Jul 2015: Exchange visits
- 1 September 2015: Submission of reports on visits



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Thank you!

For more information:

Mamohloding.tlhagale@dst.gov.za

contact@esastap.org.za

www.esastap.org.za

Twitter@ESASTAP Plus



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