



## **Horizon Europe Launch Event– focus on Africa initiative**

**16 July 2021 – virtual format**

### **Concept Note**

#### **Registration**

Please click on the link below for registration:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XxXNbY7Z33>

#### **Background**

The role of research and innovation activities and policy is becoming increasingly central and urgent in facing Africa and Europe's shared challenges: the need to promote sustainable growth and jobs, green transition, digital transformation, mobility, security and good governance, and today, crucially, a pandemic.

The Horizon 2020 programme made funding available between 2014 and 2020. Its emphasis was on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. Horizon Europe is the EU's research and innovation framework programme running from 2021-2027, and succeeding H2020. It has budget of €95.5 billion for the period of 7 years, making it the most ambitious research and innovation programme in the world.

The work programme of Horizon Europe for 2021-2022 has been adopted on 16 June, and includes targeted actions with key non-EU partners, including the first ever ambitious and comprehensive 'Africa Initiative'.

As a strategic partner, the EU seeks to enhance cooperation with Africa to promote actions targeted to finding locally adapted solutions to challenges that are global in nature, but which often hit Africa hardest. The Horizon Europe work programme 2021-2022 includes around 40 topics with a budget of around €350 million under Calls for Proposals that are particularly relevant for cooperation with Africa. This reflects the joint priorities as agreed at the EU-AU Research & Innovation Ministerial meeting in July 2020: Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation & Technology and Capacities for Science.

#### **Content**

The event, organized in partnership with the Department of Science and Innovation of South Africa, intends to inform the scientific community of the programmes and calls under the Africa Initiative.

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) will provide an overview of its priorities through the White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation as well as its implementation through the decadal plan. The DSI will also reflect on the cooperation between South Africa and the EU under Horizon 2020.

The European Commission will give presentations on its recently adopted strategy for international cooperation - the Global Approach to Research and Innovation; state of progress of the present



cooperation in Research and Innovation and intended direction; as well as detailed information on the Horizon Europe and the Africa Initiative work programme.

South African scientists with previous participation in European R&I programmes will share their experiences and advice.

Sessions will address selected themes of cooperation, and in conclusion, a brief introduction will be given on the programmes and platforms which aim to advance the skills, knowledge and mobility of researchers.

## **ESASTAP**

ESASTAP is a collaborative initiative between South Africa and the European Union established through the Department of Science and Innovation to promote, facilitate and coordinate research, development and innovation (RDI) cooperation between South Africa and the European Union in areas of common interest. <https://esastap.org.za/>

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### Programme

**Moderators** Dr. Piero Venturi, EU Science Counsellor to the African Union  
Ms Vinny Pillay, SA Science Counsellor to the European Union

#### 09.30–10.00 Opening

- Director Cristina Russo, DG Research and Innovation
- Ms Riina Kionka, European Union Ambassador to South Africa
- Deputy Director General Daan du Toit, Department of Science and Innovation

#### 10.00–10.30 On-going cooperation

- Ms Tugela Matubatuba, Acting Director Strategic Partnerships, DSI
- Dr Bernard Rey, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to South Africa
- Ms. Nienke Buisman, Head of Unit, International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation, EC

#### 10.30–11.30 New cooperation prospects and perspectives

- Mr. Jens Hoegel, Policy Officer, DG Research and Innovation, EC
- South African experiences in previous EU Research Framework Programmes:
- Professor Gerhard Pietersen, Stellenbosch University: *“The Marie Skłodowska Curie Rise H2020 Program; perspectives of a gratified South African grant recipient”*-MSCA Project
- Professor Nikki Wagner, University of Johannesburg: *“Coal char as a substituting material of natural graphite in green energy technologies-CHARPHITE”*-ERAMIN Project
- Professor Shirley Motaung, Durban University of Technology and Professor Benedicta Nkeh-Chungag, Walter Sisulu University: *“SARS-CoV-2 infection in HIV-positive patients with or without antiretroviral therapy in sub-Saharan Africa”*-EDCTP Project

#### 11.30- 11:50 Other Platforms for Researchers

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Julie Lepretre, EAC, EC)
- EURAXESS (Dalibor Drljaca, Programme Officer Euraxess Africa)

#### 11.50-12.20 Questions and Answer session



**12.20–12.30 Conclusions & closing**