

The eI-Africa Project

Strengthening Cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & Africa

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Project Rationale Partnership Agreements

I **EU Strategy for Africa**

- | Adopted in 2005
- | The EU's response to the challenge of getting Africa back on the track of sustainable development & meeting the MDGs
- | Promoting a more coordinated approach of EU MS policies/activities towards Africa

I **Africa-EU Joint Strategy & Action Plan (JSAP)**

- | EU-AU agreement signed in 2007 (Lisbon EU-AU Summit)
- | Going beyond donor-recipient arrangements
- | Paving the way for a partnership of equals based on mutual interests

I **North Africa - The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euromed)**

- | Ex Barcelona process - Re-launched in 2008 as the 'Union for the Mediterranean'
- | Raise the political level of the strategic relationship between the EU & its southern neighbours

I **Sub-Saharan Africa - ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement)**

- | Between the members of the ACP Group of States & the European Community and its MS
- | Signed in 2000 (ex Yaounde / ex Lomé Conventions) - Entered into force in 2003 - Revised in 2005
- | Reduce & eventually eradicate poverty (in coherence with the objectives of sustainable development & the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy)

I **South Africa - SA-EU Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan**

- | Signed in 2007 - Building on former agreements (e.g. Trade, Development & Coop. Agreement - TDCA)
- | Environment & climate change, macro-economic policy, peace & security, migration, transport, education & training, ICT, social matters

S&T Cooperation between Europe & Africa is now getting into a very promising phase...

I African Ministerial Council on S&T (AMCOST)

- | Established in 2003 under the auspices of the New Partnership for Africa's Dvpt (NEPAD) & the AU
- | A high-level platform for developing policies & setting priorities on S&T & innovation for African dvpt
- | Provides political/policy leadership for the implementation of the S&T CPA

I Africa S&T Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA)

- | Developed & adopted by AMCOST
- | Develop & use S&T for the socio-economic transformation of the continent & its integration into the world economy

I African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

- | Aims at building a region fully benefiting from ICT services by 2015
- | Developed upon request of the 2nd African Regional Preparatory Conf. for the WSIS (Accra, 2005)
- | Based on the vision defined by the African Info. Society Initiative (AISII) & the NEPAD, under the AU leadership
- | A Regional Action Plan for rolling out the info. society in the continent

I EU-Africa Partnership for Science, Info. Society & Space (8th Partnership)

- | The EC & the AUC agreed on a EU-Africa Strategic Partnership (EU-AU Summit, Lisbon'07)
- | 8 thematic partnerships identified; the 8th one being "Science, Info. Society, & Space"
- | Bridge scientific & digital divides / Strengthen Africa's base in the S&T field
- | Enhance the use of ICT & space apps as enablers for growth & socio-economic dvpt
- | A book of 19 lighthouse projects. Among them 2 ICT related projects are ready for early implementation:
 - AfricaConnect - Extend the reach of the European research/education high-speed network GEANT to SSA
 - The African Internet Exchange Syst. (AXIS) - Enhance Internet deployment/use in Africa



Project Rationale

The key role of e-Infrastructures

I **EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructures - Interconnecting Africa**

- | Signed in 2007 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- | Aiming at creating & sustaining regional infrastructure networks & services
- | Aiming at securing the interconnectivity of the African continent (transport, water, energy & ICT) & its different regions
- | Aiming at substantially increasing investment in infrastructure & delivery of related services
- | Supporting the creation of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund

I **African National Research and Education Networks (NRENs)**

- | Provide data communications networking facilities to the research & education community on a national basis
- | Interconnection between NRENs is key
- | A momentum supported by the African UbuntuNet Alliance
(secure affordable high speed international connectivity & efficient ICT access/usage for African NRENs)

I **FEAST Feasibility Study (www.feast-project.org)**

- | Aiming at providing the EC with a roadmap to implement the AfricaConnect initiative

I **AfricaConnect Project**

- | 1 of the 6 “early deliverables” of the 8th Partnership
- | Support the establishment of sustainable & extensible regional backbone networks dedicated to the interconnection of African NRENs to each other and to the world via the pan-European GÉANT Network

I **ERINA4Africa Foresight Study (www.erina4africa.eu)**

- | Aiming at providing the EC with a comprehensive study on e-Infrastructures in Africa



Project Overview

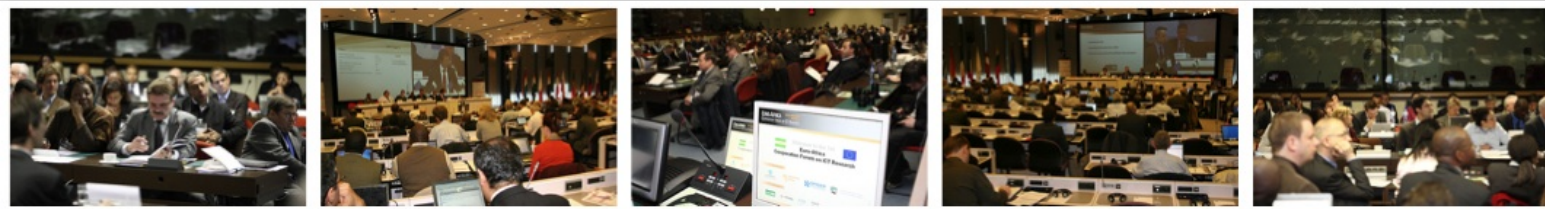


- Project acronym : **eI-Africa**
- Project baseline : **Strengthening Cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & sub-Saharan Africa**
- Project Number : **246650**
- Funding Scheme : **3.3 - Coordination & Support Action / CAS-SA**
- Programme : **FP7**
- Specific Prog. : **Capacities**
- Thematic Area : **Research Infrastructures**
- Call Identifier : **FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2009-1**
- Duration : **18 months (Oct. 2009 - March 2011)**
- EC Project Officer : **Leonardo Flores**

The e-Infrastructures Conference Main Objectives

It is today strategic to organise an e-Infrastructure community gathering!

- | **Allowing main stakeholders in the field to:**
 - | Exchange views
 - | Share information
 - | Identify synergies
 - | Give the highest visibility to their activities and increase their impact
- | **Further supporting policy dialogues**
 - | (apprehending medium to long term perspectives and agreeing on an overall & coherent vision)
- | **Raising awareness and promoting the use of e-Infrastructures**
- | **Encouraging the emergence of early adopters**
- | **Supporting the development of flagship projects in terms of applications**
- | **Issuing roadmaps & recommendations to the competent authorities**
- | **Giving the highest visibility to the initiatives aiming at supporting the development of NRENs in Africa and their interconnection to GEANT**



The e-Infrastructure Conference Concept

■ When?

- | Dec. 9-10, 2010

■ Where?

- | Helsinki, Finland

■ Which addressed topics?

- | The whole e-Infrastructures programme
- | From networks to usages
- | From research networking to global virtual research collaboration

■ What?

- | A 1,5-day event
- | Held under the aegis of the EC and the AUC
- | Organised by the eI-Africa Project

■ Registration fee?

- | Free of charge (but pre-registrations will be compulsory & a pre-selection made)

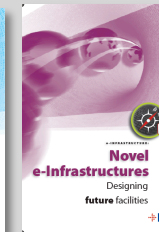
Innovating the scientific process
global virtual research communities

Accessing knowledge
scientific data

Experimenting in silico
simulation and visualisation

Sharing the best computational resources
e-Science grid, supercomputing

Linking at the speed of the light
GÉANT, RedCLARA, TEIN, EumedConnect



2010 EURO-AFRICA WEEK

ON ICT RESEARCH & E-INFRASTRUCTURES

Marina Congress Centre - Helsinki, Finland
December 6-10, 2010

A series of events held under the aegis of the **European Commission** (DG INFSO: International Relations Unit + GÉANT and e-Infrastructures Unit) and the **African Union Commission** with the support of the **Finnish Government** (Ministry for Foreign Affairs).



A week organised by the FP7 **EuroAfrica-ICT** (www.euroafrica-ict.org) and the **ei-Africa** (www.ei-africa.eu) EU-funded projects with the support of the **VTT Technical Research Center of Finland** (www.vtt.fi).



FOUR PUBLIC EVENTS WITHIN A WEEK!

- 3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research ▶
- 2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference ▶
- Lab Visits ▶
- the Joint Expert Group for the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (JEG8)

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The e-Infrastructure Conference Committees

- **Honorary Committee**

EU and AUC officials / International, regional, and local authorities

- **Advisory & Programme Committee**

e-Infrastructures experts (members of this Committee are in charge of the Conference programme)

- **Organising Committee**

The European Commission, the African Union Commission, the eI-Africa project

- **Associated Partners**

Associations, NGOs, European Technology Platforms, Chambers of Commerce, etc

- **Media Partners**

Partners supporting the promotion of the event throughout Europe and Africa

- **Donors/Sponsors**

Supporters of African participation in the Conference

The e-Infrastructure Conference Programme

- **Meeting the networking needs of the e-Infrastructures domain**
- **A key place for main stakeholders in the field coming from all over Africa & Europe**
- **A very 1st event filled with discussions & debates, networking opportunities, & knowledge-sharing among all key stakeholders in the field and policymakers**
- **Featuring various session types:**
 - ▮ **Plenary sessions**
Featuring officials from the EC, the AUC, MS, and internationally acknowledged e-Infrastructures experts
 - ▮ **Presentation sessions**
Organised around 4 to 8 main conference themes
 - ▮ **Discussions and debates sessions**
Offering participants the opportunity to actively contribute to the Conference outputs. Intended to be very lively and highly interactive, these sessions will encourage open discussions on many of the e-Infrastructures related topics
 - ▮ **Networking sessions**
Aiming at facilitating additional and informal networking opportunities

The e-Infrastructure Conference Speakers

- **The 1st Conference its kind**
- **Aiming at standing out as the premier gathering place for all experts & stakeholders engaged (or interested) in the e-Infrastructure domain**
- **Everyone concerned with e-Infrastructures developments & exploitation in Africa will be very welcome to join the Conference to both share & learn**
- **All key stakeholders in the e-Infrastructures domain engaged in (or willing to) an African context are strongly encouraged to apply by submitting a communication / papers**

The e-Infrastructure Conference Attendees

- **200+ key stakeholders in the field coming from all over Europe & Africa**

- **Who should attend?**

Policymakers | Senior representatives from governments | Representatives from international development cooperation agencies | ICT project managers | Programme managers | Heads of research labs | Researchers | IT engineers | Deans, directors, lecturers and researchers from universities and the higher education sector | Managers of NGOs, professional associations, centres of excellence, trade unions, chambers of commerce, etc. | Industry stakeholders | etc.

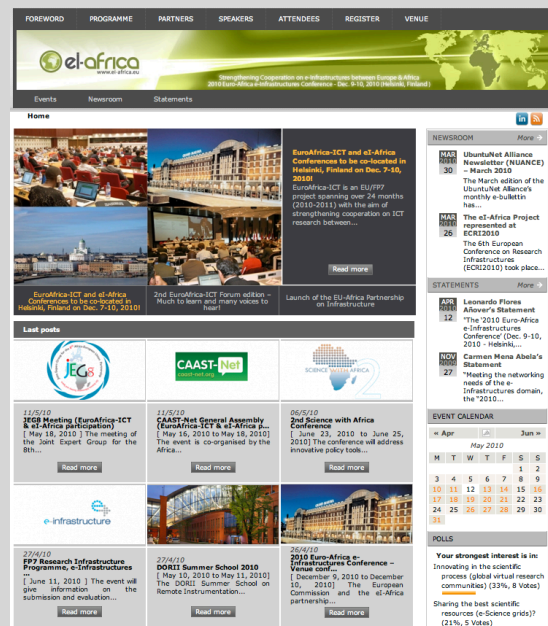
- **A budget is planned to allocate (partial) mobility grants to African researchers**

The e-Infrastructure Conference

Why should people attend?

- **Designed to anyone with an interest in e-Infrastructures**
- **A unique opportunity to expand ones knowledge & network**
- **For all parties involved in e-Infrastructures strategy, implementation or management**
 - ┆ Keep up to date with all the major issues, latest developments and trends in e-Infrastructures
 - ┆ Meet with worldwide peers and debate/discuss best practices
 - ┆ Examine the key components of effective e-Infrastructures developments & applications
 - ┆ Hear about success stories & case studies presenting innovative approaches & strategies
 - ┆ Find out how to increase the visibility and impact of one's projects/programmes
 - ┆ Meet/benefit from valuable opinions/experience of acknowledged experts as well as high-level policymakers
 - ┆ Understand what is important when implementing NRENs or RRENs
 - ┆ And many more benefits
- **"3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research" to be held the same week (same place, same venue)**

Your involvement is key!



www.eI-Africa.eu

- **Help us to promote the event!**
- **Answer the call for communications/papers!**
- **Express your interest in joining the event advisory & programme committee!**
- **Use the eI-Africa website to promote your activities/events!**
- **Sponsor the event!**
(by offering full or partial mobility grants we ensure a larger participation of high-level delegates from Africa)

**Thank you
for your attention!**

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