



## **The eI-Africa Project**

### **Strengthening Cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & Africa**

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European Commission  
Information Society and Media



## Project Rationale Partnership Agreements

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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)

### 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...**

## Project Rationale S&T/ICT

- **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
- **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
- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> African Regional Preparatory Conf. for the WSIS (Accra, 2005)
  - Based on the vision defined by the African Info. Society Initiative (AISI) & the NEPAD, under the AU leadership
  - A Regional Action Plan for rolling out the info. society in the continent
- **EU-Africa Partnership for Science, Info. Society & Space (8<sup>th</sup> Partnership)**
  - The EC & the AUC agreed on a EU-Africa Strategic Partnership (EU-AU Summit, Lisbon'07)
  - 8 thematic partnerships identified; the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.feast-project.org))**

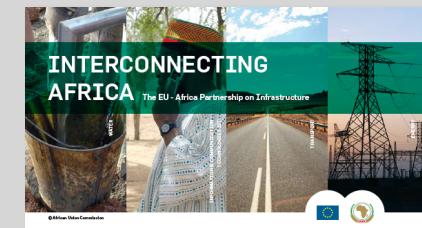
- | Aiming at providing the EC with a roadmap to implement the AfricaConnect initiative

#### I **AfricaConnect Project**

- | 1 of the 6 "early deliverables" of the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.erina4africa.eu))**

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





## Project Overview



**el-Africa • FACT SHEET**  
Strengthening Cooperation on e-Infrastructures between Europe & Africa

**Project Overview**

**Project Acronym:** el-Africa

**Project Baseline:**

**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

- 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**
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- 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

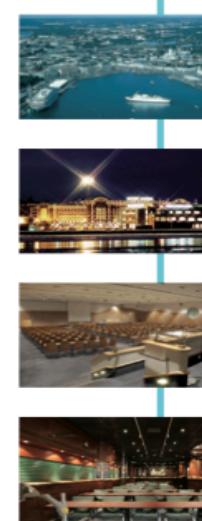
Marina Congress Centre - Helsinki, Finland  
December 6-10, 2010

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](http://www.euroafrica-ict.org)) and the el-Africa ([www.el-africa.eu](http://www.el-africa.eu)) EU-funded projects with the support of the VTT Technical Research Center of Finland ([www.vtt.fi](http://www.vtt.fi)).

**euroafrica-ict**  **el-africa**  **VTT** 



## FOUR PUBLIC EVENTS WITHIN A WEEK!

[3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research](#) ▶

[2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference](#) ▶

[Lab Visits](#) ▶

[\(TBC\) Meeting of the Joint Expert Group for the 8th Africa-EU Strategic Partnership \(JEG8\)](#) ▶

Mond. 6/12	Tues. 7/12	Wed. 8/12	Thur. 9/12	Frid. 10/12



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

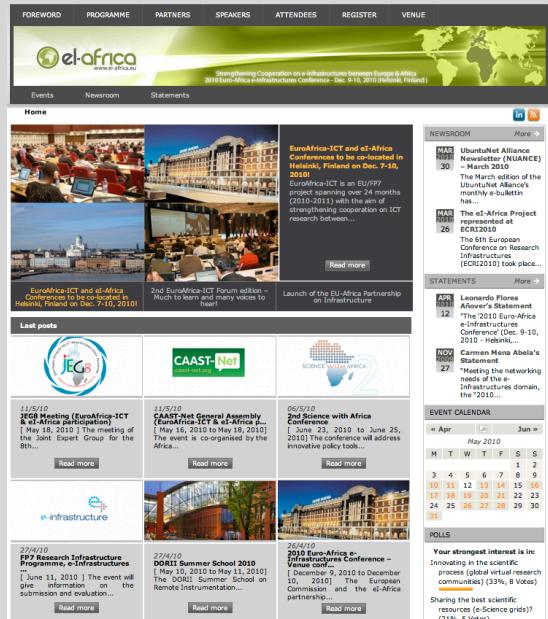


## The e-Infrastructure Conference Why should people attend?

- **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!



The screenshot shows the el-africa website homepage. At the top, there is a banner for the 'EuroAfrica-ICT and e-Africa Conference' held in Helsinki, Finland, on Dec. 7-10, 2010. Below the banner, there are several news items and event announcements. One news item is about the 'Ubuntu-Net Alliance (U-NANCE) - March 2010'. Another is about the 'eI-Africa Project represented at the 6th European Conference on Research Infrastructures (ECRIS2010)'. The website also features a 'NEWSROOM' section with various news items and a 'CALENDAR' section showing events like the '2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructure Conference' and the '2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructure Summer School'.

- **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)*

[www.el-africa.eu](http://www.el-africa.eu)



**Thank you  
for your attention!**

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