2010 EURO-AFRICA WEEK
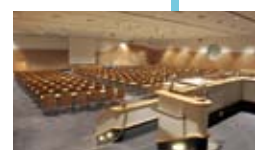## ON ICT RESEARCH & E-INFRASTRUCTURES

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 + Ministry of Employment and the Economy).

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).

	Tues. 7/12	Wed. 8/12	Thur. 9/12	Frid. 10/12
3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research ▸	▨	▨		
2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference ▸			▨	▨
Lab Visits ▸				▨

OBJECTIVES

▸ Allow European and African stakeholders to get together
▸ Allow participants to exchange views, share information, and identify synergies in order to increase the impact of their activities
▸ Further support policy dialogues, apprehend medium- to long term perspectives and agree on an overall and coherent vision
▸ Raise awareness on FP7/ICT and Euro-African collaborative opportunities
▸ Give the highest visibility to ongoing Euro-African initiatives
▸ Increase the number of sub-Saharan organisations involved in EU/FP7 collaborative projects

EXPECTED AUDIENCE

▸ 300 key stakeholders in the field coming from all over Europe and Africa
▸ 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
▸ Institutions | National and international companies | SMEs | Academia | Research institutes | Etc.

FEES & REGISTRATIONS

Free of charge event (note: since the number of seats will be limited to 300, pre-registrations will be requested and applications will be accepted by the organisers on a case by case basis)

EVENT FORMATS

Plenary sessions | Thematic parallel sessions | Presentation sessions | Discussions and debates | Networking events (eg. networking cocktails and dinners) | Technical/Lab visits

MOBILITY GRANTS

To ensure a higher participation of African stakeholders in the event a limited budget has been planned by the organisers to contribute to travel and subsistence expenses for some of the delegates. In addition, donor organisations will be encouraged to sponsor the event and collected sponsorship fees will be primarily used to invite more African delegates to join the event.

PARTNERS

▸ Honorary Committee (EC and AUC officials / International, regional, and local authorities)
▸ Advisory and Programme Committee (acknowledged experts in the field)
▸ Organising Committee (EU members, AU members, EuroAfrica-ICT and el-Africa consortium members)
▸ Associated Partners, Media Partners, and Sponsors supporting African participation in the event

3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research
Helsinki, Finland (Scandic Marina Congress Centre)
December 7-8, 2010

A Forum organised as a side-event to the 3rd Africa-EU Summit (Libya - Nov. 29-30, 2010)
An event designed to anyone with an interest in Euro-African collaborative research on ICT

Agenda at a glance
(as of Sept. 20, 2010)

DAY 1 - December 7, 2010	
07:00+ am	Registrations & welcome of participants
08:30 - 10:00 am	Opening session & welcome addresses
10:00 - 10:30 am	Coffee & tea break
10:30 - 10:45 am	Launch of the UNCTAD 2010 Information Economy Report: ICT, enterprises & poverty alleviation
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	AU and EU Frameworks - Priorities, implementation status, and remaining challenges
12:00 - 01:00 pm	Networking buffet lunch
01:00 - 03:00 pm	Africa-EU Partnerships - Strengthening capacities
03:00 - 03:30 pm	Coffee & tea break
03:30 - 04:30 pm	ICT Key mechanisms for innovation - The enabling environment (tangible case studies & flagship projects)
04:30 - 05:30 pm	Roundtable Discussion - Financing ICT development & innovation in Africa
05:30 - 06:30 pm	Roundtable Discussion - Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): the private sector's viewpoint
07:00 - 10:00 pm	Networking dinner

DAY 2 - December 8, 2010			
08:00+ am	Registrations and welcome of participants		
09:00 - 10:00 am	Cooperation under EU Research Programmes		
10:00 - 10:30 am	Coffee & tea break		
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Thematic sessions - Part I		
	Session 1a - e-Learning & e-Skills (technology enhanced learning)	Session 1b - e-Infrastructures & GÉANT (from research networking to global virtual research collaboration)	Session 1c - e-Health (advanced technology to improve health)	Session 1d - e-Libraries (services & digital content infrastructures)
12:00 - 01:30 pm	Networking buffet lunch		
01:30 - 03:00 pm	Thematic sessions - Part II		
	Session 2a - e-Agriculture, e-Food, ICT for Environmental Sustainability & Energy Efficiency (enabling environment, climate change effects, disaster management, etc.)	Session 2b - Evolution and convergence of networks, infrastructures, equipment and services towards Future Network solutions	Session 2c - e-Inclusion & e-Accessibility (ICT for independent living, social inclusion, youth/women and the Information Society, etc.)	Session 2d - e-Governance (secure services to citizens & business)
03:00 - 03:30 pm	Coffee & tea break		
03:30 - 05:00 pm	Thematic sessions - Part III		
	Session 3a - Local innovation & technology transfer	Session 3b - m-Banking	Session 3c - WORKSHOP Building and Strengthening Capacities in ICT Research in Africa (training programmes, ongoing initiatives, etc.)	Session 3d - WORKSHOP Identifying joint ICT Research Priorities
05:00 - 05:30 pm	Closing session & concluding addresses		
06:30 - 08:30 pm	Networking Cocktail		

More details are available at www.euroafrica-ict.org (event objectves, partners, tentative agenda, expected audience, registration form, newsroom, etc.)

European Commission
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ei-africa
www.ei-africa.eu

2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference
Helsinki, Finland (Scandic Marina Congress Centre)
December 9-10, 2010

An event designed to anyone with an interest in Euro-African Cooperation on e-Infrastructures

Agenda at a glance

DAY 1 - December 9, 2010 Setting the Scene…	
07:30+ am	Registrations & welcome of participants
09:00 - 10:00 am	Opening session & welcome addresses
10:00 - 10:45 am	Setting the Scene… Part I - Research Infrastructures & e-Infrastructures for Science
10:45 - 11:15 am	Coffee & tea break
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	Setting the Scene… Part II - From research networking to global virtual research collaboration…
12:00 - 12:30 pm	Interconnecting Africa - Creating and sustaining regional infrastructure networks and services in Africa
12:30 - 01:30 pm	Networking buffet lunch
01:30 - 02:30 pm	Interconnecting the African NRENs to each other & to global research and education resources via GÉANT
02:30 - 04:00 pm	Roundtable Discussion - International Cooperation; Donor Partners
04:00 - 04:30 pm	Coffee & tea break
04:30 - 05:15 pm	Sea Cables - Status & Perspectives
05:15 - 06:15 pm	Shaping the NRENs landscape in Africa - Harnessing on European National Research & Education Networks (NRENs) best practices
06:15 - 08:30 pm	Networking cocktail sponsored by the ERINA4Africa EU project ERINA AFRICA

DAY 2 - December 10, 2010 Linking Policies to Applications	
08:00+ am	Welcome of participants
08:30 - 08:45 am	Linking policies to applications - Overview and existing synergies
08:45 - 10:45 am	Exploiting e-Infrastructures potential for boosting research and innovation in Africa and for fostering Euro-Africa cooperation Investigating best practices for e-Infrastructure application development - Part I SPECIFIC FOCUS on e-GOVERNMENT, e-SECURITY, e-LEARNING and e-HEALTH ERINA AFRICA
10:45 - 11:15 am	Coffee & tea break
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Exploiting e-Infrastructures potential for boosting research and innovation in Africa and for fostering Euro-Africa cooperation Investigating best practices for e-Infrastructure application development - Part II SPECIFIC FOCUS on EARTH OBSERVATIONS & e-AGRICULTURE
12:15 - 01:15 pm	Roundtable Discussion - Linking policies to applications: recommendations & action plan ERINA AFRICA
01:15 - 01:45 pm	Closing session & concluding addresses
01:45 - 02:30 pm	Networking buffet lunch & end of the event

More details available at www.ei-africa.eu (event objectives, tentative agenda, partners, expected audience, registration form, newsroom, polls, etc.)

e-infrastructure

European Commission
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BACKGROUND
S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa has entered a very promising phase…

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In the last decade, the African continent has quite significantly changed politically and economically and seems to have entered a true period of economic and social development, and started to move - under the aegis of the African Union (AU) created in 2002 - towards an integrated area of peace and prosperity.

In this context, many world powers have logically been striving during this period for closer links with the African continent. It has obviously been the case of European countries but it has, first and foremost, been the case of the European Union (EU):

▸ Adopting a "**EU Strategy for Africa**" in 2005; promoting in particular a more coordinated approach of the European Member States (MS) policies and activities regarding Africa.

▸ Agreeing with the AU, end of 2007 in Lisbon (during the second **EU-AU Summit**), on a "**Africa-EU Joint Strategy and Action Plan - JSAP**" going beyond donor-recipient arrangements, and paving the way for a partnership of equals based on mutual interest.

The EU's wish to treat Africa as one region is quite challenging, not only because Africa remains diverse (development status, population size, political stability, etc.) but also because current EU policies and programmes typically consider three main areas in Africa:

▸ **North Africa** - addressed through the "Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" (Euromed), formerly known as the "Barcelona process" and re-launched in 2008 as the "Union for the Mediterranean".

▸ **Sub-Saharan Africa** - addressed through the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement", known as the "Cotonou Agreement" signed in 2000 in Cotonou, Benin and entered into force in 2003.

▸ **South Africa** - addressed through a Strategic Partnership signed in 2007 and building on former and thematic agreements.

Africa has also recognised that S&T and ICT are key vectors for bridging the scientific and digital divides, for reducing poverty and ensuring socio-economic development, for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and, eventually, for supporting the sustainable evolution of Africa. The Africa Science and Technology (S&T) Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) formulated by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the AU, the creation of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), and the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), are only some of recent examples of Africa's determination to rely on S&T and ICT to achieve its growth and development objectives.

Meanwhile, in their determination to ensure Europe's global leadership in ICT and in line with their i2010 initiative, the EU Member States have earmarked a total of EUR 9.1 billion for funding ICT research over the duration of FP7, a research programme including an important international dimension, being open to the participation of sub-Saharan African organisations. In this context, a strengthened S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa on ICT is of mutual and strategic interest to the European and African research organisations and industries, and can efficiently contribute to implementing the new EU-AU Joint Strategy.

It is also quite logical that one of the 8 thematic partnerships identified in Lisbon in 2007 on the occasion of the EU-AU Summit is a "Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space" (also known as the "8th partnership"). This thematic partnership focusing on 19 lighthouse projects (6 of them being considered as early deliverables) is under implementation since October 2008 and should widely contribute to strengthening S&T cooperation links between the two continents in the ICT domain.

In the Information Society domain: Africa Connect and the African Internet Exchange System (AXIS) are considered as early deliverables.

▸ **AfricaConnect**
The AfricaConnect project will support the development of regional research and education networks in Sub-Saharan Africa and their interconnection with the European GÉANT network, building on a similar initiative, Eumed Connect, implemented in North Africa (currently interconnecting around 1,5 Million users across more than 500 research organisations). The objective will be to contribute integrating the African research community both at regional and international levels, through interconnection with the most cost-effective high bandwidth capacity.

▸ **The African Internet Exchange System (AXIS)**
This project aims to support the establishment of a continental African Internet infrastructure through national and regional Internet exchange points. Such deployment is considered crucial for the development of the Internet in Africa, generating huge costs savings by keeping local traffic local and offering better quality of service and new applications opportunities. AXIS activities will include technical assistance on planning, regulatory/policy issues, as well as human training to achieve this objective.