

### 3. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES / REGIONS

#### 3.1. South Africa

##### 3.1.1. *The Republic of South Africa as a partner of the EU*

The Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) of 2000 is the legal basis for the overall relations between the Republic of South Africa (South Africa) and the EU. The TDCA covers political dialogue, the establishment of a free trade area over an asymmetrical twelve-year period, development cooperation, economic cooperation, and cooperation in a whole series of other areas. Scientific collaboration between South Africa and the EU is monitored by the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement which was concluded in 1996 and entered into force in November 1997. The cooperation allows to jointly tackle global challenges building on complementary knowledge, geographical conditions and optimising the use of world-class research infrastructures. Moreover, the EU and South Africa agree that one of the requirements for an effective fight against poverty in the African Caribbean Pacific countries is the application of knowledge gained from science and technology to promote innovation and develop appropriate technologies to be deployed locally. Positive achievements also result from effective synergies between EU Research and Development policies and instruments in addressing South Africa's needs in terms of strengthening local scientific and technological capacities and contributing to the emergence of an innovation-friendly environment.

##### 3.1.2. *Priorities for S&T cooperation*

As member of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership<sup>46</sup> (EDCTP2), South Africa will continue to cooperate with the EU and EDCTP2 members on infectious and parasitic diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, sleeping sickness, hookworm diseases and Ebola. South Africa and the EU will continue to cooperate in multilateral health research initiatives which aim to address global health challenges, such as the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness, in which both South Africa and the European Commission participate as members. Cooperation also takes place in the Global Tuberculosis Vaccine Partnership, co-chaired by the Medical Research Council and the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa.

The EU and South Africa have a good level of cooperation in research infrastructures, e.g. in radio-astronomy and astro-particle physics. South Africa is one of the major players in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) ESFRI roadmap projects, and has already designed and built the MeerKAT telescope as a pathfinder to the SKA. In the next years, the EU will continue supporting the development of the Square Kilometre Array through a dedicated grant signed at the end of 2015. South Africa is also an active member of the Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures for which it has offered to take the chairmanship as of October 2016. South Africa will co-host with the European Commission, the International Conference on Research Infrastructures in Cape Town from 3 to 5 October 2016.

South Africa has set out a clear Earth Observation Strategy. Together with the European Commission (DG RTD), it co-chairs the Group on Earth Observations (GEO<sup>47</sup>). The focus will be on supporting the implementation of the new 10 year strategic plan of the

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.edctp.org/>

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.earthobservations.org/about\\_geo.shtml](http://www.earthobservations.org/about_geo.shtml)

Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and AfriGEOSS, the African segment of GEOSS. The EC and South Africa are also involved in the development of an Integrated Atlantic Observing System. Launched at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, 'Future Earth' is a 10-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and for supporting transformation towards global sustainability in the coming decades. Although a regional hub in Africa is being established, South Africa is still under-represented in this initiative. The South African National Research Foundation is the only African research & innovation funding agency that is a member of the Belmont Forum. The EU-South Africa Partnership could gain from more South African research and innovation funding agencies becoming members of the Forum.

South Africa has committed to the EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. A roadmap<sup>48</sup> towards this Research and Innovation Partnership, comprising a research agenda, short- to medium-term actions towards implementation (2014-2017) and reflections on long-term options for implementation (by 2020 and beyond) was adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on 4-5 April 2016, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. To-date, the Commission has committed 47.5 MEUR over 4 years (2014 and 2017) to this Research and Innovation Partnership, 30 MEUR from Horizon 2020 and 17.5 MEUR from the Pan-African Instrument and welcomes similar commitments from European and African countries.

Atlantic Ocean research cooperation is one of the main developing areas of joint interest. In parallel with the ongoing North Atlantic cooperation, significant steps have been taken towards an All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. South Africa signaled its interest to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission, similar to the one already signed with Brazil in November 2015. This document is scheduled to be signed in South Africa on the occasion of the next EU-South Africa JSTCC meeting in October 2016. In parallel, South Africa and Brazil signed a joint document on South-South Atlantic research cooperation in October 2015<sup>49</sup> aiming at developing a South Atlantic Science Plan. It also involves other South Atlantic countries, such as Namibia, Angola, Argentina and Uruguay. In this context, a broadening towards the Antarctic should be explored in the short term.

South Africa is actively involved in the ERANET COFUND Waterworks2015 which aims at pooling resources to implement a joint call for proposals in the area of sustainable water use in agriculture and forestry.

South Africa is a partner in the ERANET ERAMIN on mining and minerals research and innovation. Building on South Africa's involvement in this project, enhanced cooperation will be sought in the context of the European Innovation Partnership on raw materials.

### 3.1.3. *Framework Conditions*

Several activities have been undertaken in support of the participation of entities established in South Africa to Horizon 2020, namely training activities and information days about participation in Horizon 2020 were provided both to South African national contact points (NCPs) and to researchers and academics in South Africa. South Africa has set up a well-functioning network of National Contact Points.

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<sup>48</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/eu-africa\\_roadmap\\_2016.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/eu-africa_roadmap_2016.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/declaration\\_of\\_intent.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/declaration_of_intent.pdf)

An Implementing Arrangement was signed in 2015 between the European Research Council and the National Research Foundation providing research opportunities in Europe for South African early-mid career researchers. South Africa became a member of EUREKA in 2014 and established a Europe Enterprise Network node in 2015.

A remaining problem lies in the commercialisation of research results<sup>50</sup>. The EU shares its lessons-learnt with South Africa in this domain. South Africa has been a WTO member since 1995 and is a signatory to the TRIPS Agreement<sup>51</sup> that resulted in expanded commitments to internationally binding guarantees of intellectual property rights.

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<sup>50</sup> OECD Review Report on South Africa (2006)

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/other\\_treaties/parties.jsp?treaty\\_id=231&group\\_id=22](http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/other_treaties/parties.jsp?treaty_id=231&group_id=22)