



Call for Twinning Activities in Marine Sciences and Raw Materials

About ESASTAP Plus

ESASTAP Plus is funded (2012-2015) by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, under the 7th Framework Programme to support the deepening of scientific and technological cooperation between Europe and South Africa (SA) with a focus on innovation. This will be achieved by supporting South Africa's participation in Horizon 2020, but also by promoting reciprocal European participation in South African programmes. Specific input will be provided to enrich the bilateral policy dialogue, notably to identify priority areas for mutually beneficial cooperation. A major focus will be to promote coordination of Member States (MS) and Associated Countries' (AC) research policies and programmes vis-à-vis South Africa, encouraging the development of new joint initiatives implemented by several countries. Synergy between different EU cooperation initiatives is also encouraged, e.g. between development cooperation and research programmes.

Why a Call for Twinning Activities?

The European Union and South Africa have long been committed to strategic cooperation in science and technology, dating back to their 1996 Cooperation Agreement, which facilitated cooperation under the Framework Programmes. On the other hand, South Africa has signed several bilateral cooperation agreements with EU Member States, and is aiming to create a robust national system of innovation to enable its transition to a knowledge economy, achieving sustained growth and development.

The very strong South African participation in FP7 is the basis for further effort to expand this success in Horizon 2020. Twinning activities within the framework of ESASTAP Plus are an ideal instrument for strengthening this objective. This is further supported by the SA's Department of Science and Technology agenda of seeking to broaden bilateral cooperation between SA research institutions/universities/SME's with relevant stakeholders in MS/AC of the EU.

The mechanism within the ESASTAP Plus framework is intended to further intensify scientific and technological collaboration by deepening cooperation in a few selected areas. Programmes such as the mobility support programme are designed to build on existing research collaborations and relationships and to establish new research relationships or collaborative projects. The objective of this call is to establish long-term, institutional cooperation between EU and South African partners and reach a new level of partnership by strengthening a small number of strategic alliances between South African and European groups. The activity is a targeted intervention to foster relationship

between South Africa and Europe which have potential to grow e.g. may also act as precursors for larger projects and in particular for future applications to Horizon 2020.

Objective for twinning

The activity relates to exploration and networking for R&D collaborations between meritorious EU and South African research institutions, universities and SMEs, with the following main purpose:

- To produce scenarios for strategic, long-term international partnerships for EU universities and research institutions and to create the conditions for implementation of these.

including also:

- To explore the potential of both partner countries in science, research, technological development and for the application of research findings
- To establish new contacts with stakeholders in the partner countries
- To support ongoing R&D activities by fostering networks amongst the next generation of scientists (PhD students/early to mid-career researchers) in participating countries
- To develop joint project ideas in key areas of the European research programmes, and to undertake preliminary scientific work in relation to this for a successful application in Horizon 2020

Target group:

The call is open to research institutions, universities and SMEs from Europe (MS/ AC) and South Africa. The proposal has to be jointly prepared.

Sector focus:

The SA-EU Joint S&T Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) has identified in January 2014 several challenges for strengthening European-South African cooperation on research and innovation. ESASTAP plus selected two areas to strengthen a small number of strategic alliances between South African and European groups as:

- **Marine Sciences including Polar Science**
oceanography, marine ecology, marine geology, marine biology, maritime meteorology and climatology,
- **Raw Materials, Mineral & Mining Research**
recovery and supply of raw materials through sustainable extraction (e.g. novel mining techniques), waste managed as a resource (recycling).

Nature, scope and amount of funding

Funding is granted as non-repayable subsidies. For mobility activities (travel & accommodation to and from as well as within in South Africa and Europe) each successful consortium will be provided with a lump sum of 6000 €. The visits must be undertaken prior to 31 May 2015. A mandatory travel report must be delivered after the conclusion of the visit no later than 30.6.2015. Subsidies will ONLY be disbursed upon receipt of this report.

The consortium must consist of at least one institution from EU-MS/AC and one from South Africa. Each institution will need to nominate at least 3 persons to travel (inter alia 1 senior researcher and 1 early career scientist). To further endorse the commitment of the institutions it will be necessary for a third nominee to be financed from home institution resources. The total grant of 6000 € can only be spent on travel and accommodation costs.

How to apply?

Only applications using the [template](#) and jointly delivered on behalf of (at least) one EU and one South African institution will be accepted. A consortium coordinator has to be appointed who will receive the funds and who is responsible to deliver the report. **The deadline for submission is 7.5.2014.** No late submission will be accepted. The applications have to be sent electronically to twinning@esastap.org.za. Please contact this e-mail address if you need further information.

The following documents are additionally requested

- Information on each involved institution and the (3) researchers (including CV) proposed for travelling – max 1 page per institution
- Description of intensity and experience of international cooperation especially with South Africa (e.g. in the context of actual and/or former FPs) – max 1 page.
- Proposed concept for collaboration – max 3 pages
- Programme of activities tabulated with names of travelers, institutions and scheduled dates – max 1 page

The documents must be written in Arial 11 pt, single-space.

Evaluation criteria

The applications are evaluated by international experts according to the following criteria (reference score in %):

- Quality and excellence of the applicant (institution/researcher) - 20 %
- Quality and intensity of experience with international cooperation(s) – 15 %
- Originality of the proposed cooperation topics and their relevance to the R&D targets of SA-EU cooperation - 20%
- Quality of the concept in reference to the achievement of objectives – 15 %
- New level of partnership – 10%
- Impact/potential of the collaboration – 20%

Assessment Process

After assessing compatibility and eligibility of the proposals, members of the ESASTAP plus Executive Review Committee review the proposals and offer their recommendations.

The final decision for successful grants is scheduled for July 2014.

The International Bureau/DLR as ESASTAP Plus partner and coordinator of this call - will inform the applicants and provide for 2 consortia per thematic area a lump sum of 6000 €.