

# South Africa - United Kingdom

Science and Technology  
Partnerships in the  
European Union's  
6<sup>th</sup> Framework  
Programme



**ESASTAP**

european - south african science and technology  
advancement programme



# SA-UK CO-OPERATION

SA and UK researchers have successfully collaborated in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme projects since 1996, with numerous examples existing where SA and UK participants added considerable value to the work of the European consortia.

SA and UK researchers are currently engaged in several Sixth Framework Programme projects. A few examples of FP6 projects, that have been contractually-finalised and are currently being executed, are provided below.

- Standardisation of HIV Neutralisation Assays to be used in Vaccine Research and Clinical Trials (NeutNet) - a group of thirteen participants from all over the world is participating in this Specific Support Action in the Life Sciences, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health theme. Neutnet proposes to coordinate activities aimed at standardising methods for the measurements of neutralising antibodies to HIV-1 for use in human clinical trials of candidate AIDS vaccines. The Duke University Medical Centre, the National Biologicals Standards Board, and the University of Oxford comprise the UK project participants, while the National Institute for Communicable Diseases is the SA project participant.
  - European Research Network on Excellence in Processing Open Cultural Heritage (EPOCH) - this Network of Excellence (NoE) in the Information Society Technologies thematic priority promotes the integration of research efforts relating to the effective and sustainable application of digital technology to archaeological research and cultural heritage presentation at museums, monuments, and historic sites. The NoE is coordinated by the University of Bristol.
- Several other UK organisations are also participating, with the Department of Computer Science at the University of Cape Town as the SA representative.
- Virtual Research Lab for a Knowledge Community in Production (VRL KCIP) - Through the VRL-Kip Network of Excellence, Europe will be able to federate many research teams in the field of design, production and innovation, and thus preserve the common inheritance of manufacturing processes while carrying out a collaborative system of design integrating a module of virtual production. This NoE forms part of the Nanotechnology and Nanosciences, Knowledge-based Multifunctional Materials and New Production Processes and Devices thematic priority. The University of Bath and the University of Durham comprise the UK representatives on the project. SA is represented by the University of Stellenbosch.
  - Promoting Food Safety through a New Integrated Risk Analysis Approach for Foods (SAFEFOODS) is an Integrated Project in the Food Quality and Safety thematic priority that seeks to address how consumer confidence in



consumer protection and risk analysis can be restored and strengthened. UK representatives on the project include Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland, the Institute of Food Research, King's College London, the Scottish Crop Research Institute, and the University of Sussex. The SA consortium member is the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

- Floodwater Recharge of Alluvial Aquifers in Dryland Environments (WADE) - The WADE Specific Targeted Research Project, relating to the Sustainable Development, Global Change and Ecosystems theme, aims to assess long-term (decades to centuries) water resources in selected semi-arid to hyperacid ephemeral river basins by determining long-term transmission losses from floods and quantifying floodwater recharge into alluvial aquifers. The research will be undertaken in 4 research basins, twinning catchments in Spain and Israel with study catchments in Namibia and South Africa. SA is consequently well-represented on the consortium; the Kamiesburg Municipality; Nama Khoi Municipality, Surplus People Project and the Leslie Hill Institute for Plant Conservation, Botany Department at the University of Cape Town are participating in the project. The UK is represented by the University of Edinburgh.
- New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management under Uncertainty (NeWATER) The NeWATER is an Integrated Project in the Sustainable Development, Global Change and Ecosystems thematic priority. The central tenet of NeWATER is a transition from currently

prevailing regimes of river basin water management into more adaptive regimes in the future. This transition calls for a highly integrated water resources management concept. Cranfield University, HR Wallingford Ltd, Manchester Metropolitan University, Natural Environment RES Council, the University of Exeter, and the York University are all UK-based consortium members, while the Institute of Natural Resources is the South African consortium member.

- Transboundary Networks of Marine Protected Areas for Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development: Biophysical, Socio-economic and Governance Assessment in East Africa (TRANSMAP) - the goal of this Specific Targeted Research Project, being funded under the FP6 International Co-operation (INCO) priority, is to develop scientific knowledge for the creation of transboundary networks of marine protected areas in the East African region. The Overseas Development Group at the University of East Anglia, and the Natural History Museum, London are the UK participants, while the South African Association for Marine Biological Research and Statistical Sciences at the University of Cape Town are the South African project participants.

The projects showcased above are but a few of the FP6 projects that are currently in execution, or under negotiation. There is significant scope for researchers from the UK and SA participating in these projects to positively impact on issues of global priority, as well as for deepened co-operation under the 7th Framework Programme.

# ABOUT ESASTAP



SA and UK researchers eager to derive maximum benefit from the ESASTAP services are encouraged to register as a member of the "ESASTAP Community." Registration as a member of the ESASTAP Community will also enable the ESASTAP team to provide you with proactive and targeted advice and support to facilitate your participation in SA-UK and SA-EU S&T co-operation activities. Register at [www.esastap.org.za](http://www.esastap.org.za)

The European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP), a recently launched Sixth Framework (FP6) Specific Support Action project, seeks to promote science and technology co-operation between South Africa and the EU.

ESASTAP aims to significantly enhance the support and assistance available to both South African and European researchers to optimally leverage mutual benefits from these partnerships.

ESASTAP's goals include:

- Promoting improved co-operation between South African and European research groups, drawing on the instruments of the Framework Programmes.
- Promoting synergy between South Africa's Framework Programmes participation and bilateral co-operation with EU Member States.
- Highlighting South African S&T excellence

internationally in order to encourage S&T partnerships with South Africa.

- Advancing the achievement of strategic South African national S&T priorities, including the strengthening of regional partnerships within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and contributions to the S&T programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
- Enhancing the internationalisation of the European Research Area.
- Deriving benefit for the people of the participating countries through the leveraging of economic growth and social development benefits through S&T co-operation.

ESASTAP welcomes the opportunity to offer its services and support to facilitate networking and partnership development between SA and UK researchers / organisations, especially within the participation context of EU Framework Programme initiatives.

## Contact details

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