



Trans-national Co-operation among NCPs for International Cooperation

The South African Department of Science and Technology is pleased to invite you to participate in the INCONTACT workshop to be held in Centurion, South Africa on 1-2 December 2008. INCONTACT is a project funded under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research. The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

Building African regional capacity with regard to FP7 understanding and improving the ability of officially designated FP7 National Information Points (NIPs) in Africa to carry out their responsibilities to promote FP7 participation in their countries;

Providing a basis for networking between African NIPs in order to promote cooperation and coordination between African countries with regard to promoting African participation in FP7;

Facilitating contact between African NIPs and EU international cooperation (INCO) National Contact Points (NCPs) INCO NCPs to share experiences and identifying best practice in provision of NCP / NIP services and creating a platform for future cooperation in FP7 and fostering appropriate integration of African NIPs into the FP7NCP networks;

Raising awareness among participating European FP7 INCO NCPs of the potential for researchers in Africa to participate in FP7 as well as looking into the challenges thereof and

Considering and recommending on modalities for African participation in FP7.

The draft programme for the workshop is attached for your information. I trust that you will accept the invitation and kindly request that you contact Ms Mabatho Ndwandwa, who is the contact person for INCONTACT in South Africa at Mabatho.ndwandwa@dst.gov.za or fax number +27 86 681 0191; or Khanyisa.matiwane@dst.gov.za Tel: +27 12 843 6351 on or before 20 November 2008.

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2008

08:30 Opening

Welcoming address by representatives of the Department of Science and Technology and the Director-General Research of the European Commission

09:00 Overview of the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research

Presented by the Coordinator of the South African Network of FP7 Contact, including basic overview of the structure and functioning of FP7, highlighting the value for third countries to participate and the specific dimension of their engagement

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 Overview of the FP7 programme

Presented by the European NCPs and other African FP7 Contacts)

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Overview of the FP7 Peoples and Capacities programmes

Presented by the European NCPs and Africa FP7 Contacts

15:00 Refreshments

15:30 Overview of FP7 Legal and Financial Aspects

Presented by the European NCPs and South African Legal and Financial Contact

17:00 Closure

19:00 Social networking event hosted by the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2008

09:00 Overview of the functioning of FP7 and Contact Networks
Presented by the European NCPs and African FP7 Contacts

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 Discussion on best practice in NCPs and FP7 Contact activities

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Presentation of opportunities and challenges for African countries in cooperating with Europe

15:00 Refreshments

15:30 Discussion on next steps to promote cooperation between European NCPs and African FP7 Contacts

16:30 Closure