

ESASTAP & DST INSTRUMENTS FOR SUPPORTING SA PARTICIPATION IN FP7

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Overview of Presentation

- **Why cooperate internationally?**
- **DST Institutional Arrangements**
- **ESASTAP – What is it? Why do we need it?**
- **How ESASTAP instruments**
- **Enablers**
- **Benefits**
- **SA strategy for FP7 participation**
- **DST support instruments**



Why SA prioritises international S&T cooperation

- Human capacity development, retaining & attracting expertise
- Enables joint knowledge generation to address global challenges
- Maximizes benefits from national investments by strategically leveraging international investment
- Comprises R&D policy dialogue, allowing for international benchmarking and identification of best practices
- Critical mass to address global challenges



Institutional Arrangements

- Unit dedicated to management of SA-EU science relationship (Strategic Partnerships)
- European – South Africa Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP)
- Network of National Contact Points (NCPs)
- DST Financing
- Senior S&T Representative in Brussels (SSTR)



What is ESASTAP?

- Dedicated platform to promote scientific and technological cooperation between SA and EU
- Specific Support Action implemented by DST under the FP6 and supported by EC
- Created a dedicated platform to promote SA-EU S&T cooperation, bringing together existing efforts from:
 - DST and EC
 - National Contact Points
 - SA Senior S&T Representative in Brussels



Why ESASTAP?

- Insufficient awareness of opportunities – both within SA and the EU
- Instruments for cooperation frequently perceived as complex – need to improve understanding
- Difficulties for SA researchers to find European FP consortia partners
- Need to broaden range of participants – especially SMEs, industry, HEI, UT



ESASTAP Priorities

- Create dedicated programme and branding for SA-EU S&T cooperation
- Supporting SA's FP preparation
- Marketing SA's S&T excellence in Europe
- Exploit synergies between FP participation with other international cooperation activities, especially bilateral links with European countries.



ESASTAP Instruments

- **Awareness-raising & marketing:**
 - Website: <http://www.esastap.org.za>
 - Regular e-mail updates
 - Brochures and catalogues
(incl. electronic document library)
 - Seminars and workshops (both locally and internationally)



ESASTAP Instruments (2)

- **Partner-matching service:**
 - Active on the ESASTAP website
 - Dissemination of information via European and South African networks
 - Dedicated partner-matching events



ESASTAP Instruments (3)

- **Advisory and support mechanisms:**
 - Providing institutional support to NCPs
 - Guidance and support to SA FP participants through dedicated help desks
 - Preparation of SA specific FP materials and other instrument guidance notes
 - Strategic Co-Investment funding instrument



Enablers

- Strong political commitment to SA-EU S&T cooperation
- SA's existing knowledge base
- Experience in successful (and unsuccessful) FP participation
- Existing bilateral links with EU countries



Benefits

- Progressively greater opportunities for international cooperation in FPs
- Connect with global research
- Financial resources leveraged, but also knowledge generation & human capacity development
- Long-term strategic networks built
- Marketing SA S&T excellence



SA strategy for FP7 engagements

- SA participation informed by national policy perspective:
 - Connection of SA to global R&D research
 - Increase leveraging of international funding for SA R&D
- Strategy: Raising awareness, identifying opportunities, explaining modalities, and fostering partnerships with Europe
- Learn from successful SA project funded in FP4, FP5 and FP6



SA strategy for FP7 engagements(2)

- Information-sharing with other African countries
 - *How to start up similar arrangements*
 - *Lessons from successful and unsuccessful projects in FP 4-6*
- Initiatives such as:

CAASTNet: Network for the Coordination and Advancement of sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology Cooperation

- *promoting cooperation between Africa and the EU*

INCONTACT: Sub-Saharan Trans-National Cooperation among NCPs for International Cooperation

- *aimed at building African regional capacity with regard to FP7 and promoting networking between African National Information Points and EU NCPs*



DST Financial support

- Seed funding
- Strategic Co-investment funding



Achievements to date

- Increased SA participation in FP7
- Increased uptake of DST's seed funding and co-investment instruments
- Increased access to EU funding
- Establishment of various instruments to encourage wider African participation in FP7



Thank you!

More information
www.esastap.org.za



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