



EU Development Aid: Experiences and Recommendations from Stakeholders Driving Science and Innovation

Meeting summary

ISC
Intelligence in Science

21 January 2015
Brussels

Final Agenda

Time	
08:20	<i>Welcome Coffee & Pastries</i>
08:30	Introduction Ms Catherine Bearder Member of the European Parliament
	Moderator Mr Declan Kirrane
8:35 – 8:45	Mr Cecil Masoka Department of Science and Technology, Republic of South Africa International partnerships to harness science, technology and innovation for development: the South African experience
8:45 – 8:55	Prof Farida Fortune CBE Queen Mary University of London Satellite Connections in Education and Health (SCiEH)
8:55 – 9:05	Ms Nienke Buisman European Commission, DG Research & Innovation EU-Africa cooperation on science, technology and innovation
9:05 – 9:15	Dr Stefan Wagener German Aerospace Centre (DLR) Network on Research and Innovation for Europe and Africa and a tool for successful implementation of R&D results
9:15 – 9:25	Ms Emer Costello European & Public Policy Consultant Former MEP & Lord Mayor of Dublin Challenges for policy makers in 2015 and beyond
9:25 – 9:35	Prof Arnold Van Ardenne Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON) A New Education Dynamic
9:35 – 9:45	Mr Andy Cherry Association of Commonwealth Universities Mapping of best practices in S&T cooperation between Africa and Europe
9:45 – 09:55	Mr Declan Kirrane African-European Radio Astronomy Platform (AERAP) Radio Astronomy Research Infrastructure collaboration projects in Africa – case of AERAP
9:55 – 10:00	Conclusion Ms Catherine Bearder Member of the European Parliament, Quaestor

EU Development Aid: Experiences and Recommendations from Stakeholders Driving Science and Innovation

On 21 January 2015 ISC organised a meeting titled “EU Development Aid: Experiences and Recommendations from Stakeholders Driving Science and Innovation” which took place at the European Parliament in Brussels from 08:30 - 10:00 as a follow-up to the "EU Development Aid: Future Challenges and Opportunities within Development Cooperation Instruments" [meeting](#) organised in October 2014, which explored EU-Africa collaboration in the context of the new funding strategies, specifically discussing Research, Technology & Development.

The meeting was hosted by Ms Catherine Bearder, Member of the European Parliament, and was designed to present a series of projects which have been and are currently supported by the European Union in the area of development, specifically encouraging participation by developing nations in collaborative research to address global challenges.

Speakers included:

- π Catherine Bearder, Member of the European Parliament
- π Cecil Masoka - Department of Science and Technology, Republic of South Africa
- π Farida Fortune - Queen Mary University of London
- π Nienke Buisman - European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
- π Stefan Wagener - German Aerospace Centre (DLR)
- π Emer Costello - European & Public Policy Consultant, Former MEP & Lord Mayor of Dublin
- π Arnold Van Ardenne - Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON)
- π Andy Cherry - Association of Commonwealth Universities
- π Declan Kirrane - African-European Radio Astronomy Platform (AERAP)

Catherine Bearder, a Member of the European Parliament, welcomed all the participants at the start of the meeting, expressing her gratitude to the speakers in particular. During her introduction, she highlighted the importance of the contribution of science-based initiatives to the development process, while stressing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the many challenges faced by less developed nations. Prior to giving the floor to the speakers, Ms Bearder emphasised the importance of raising the potential for collaborative innovation and promoting the idea of equal partnership.

Declan Kirrane, Managing Director of ISC, who also moderated the meeting, reflected on the increasing contingency of science and research on policy and the regulatory environment, while stressing the importance of science in responding to global challenges. Mr Kirrane emphasised that the focus of the meeting would be on projects which have been and are currently supported by the European Union in the area of development. He equally

underlined the need for capacity building and the value of exploring new ways of addressing global challenges.

Cecil Masoka, Director of Multilateral Cooperation at the South African Department of Science and Technology, firstly described the crucial role of philanthropic organisations in maintaining effective collaboration between governments and industries. Secondly, he described the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership and the relevant types of grants that apply. Mr Masoka also briefed the participants about South Africa's participation in EU funded-projects over the past and current Framework Programmes. Finally, he described the Sector Budget Support Programme, worth €30 million, focusing on "Innovation for Poverty Alleviation", specifically highlighting the programme's achievements, lessons learned and recommendations.

Farida Fortune, Professor at the Queen Mary University of London, emphasised the importance of strong education networks in Middle Eastern and African regions, which can only be achieved and maintained by close collaboration with academics and local partners from the respective regions. Professor Fortune also stressed that it is crucial that collaboration with developing nations is based on a dialogue where the needs of the local communities are taken into consideration prior to taking any action. Finally, she noted that ideally, there should be a transfer of total leadership to local partners in order to achieve sustainability and a strong governance framework based on integrity and sovereignty without disrupting the economic and political foundations.

Nienke Buisman, a Policy Officer for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) relations with Africa at the European Commission, Directorate General Research & Innovation, at the start of her presentation stated that the EU and Africa are strong partners in cooperating on science, technology and innovation and that this cooperation is based on equal partnership, common interest and mutual benefit. She further reflected on the 7th Framework Programme and its successor, Horizon 2020, and stated that the European Commission will evaluate the two programmes and report on the results in the second half of the European Year for Development, which was initiated earlier this month. With respect to Horizon 2020 in particular, Ms Buisman stated that the programme is open to participants from all over the world and that both European and developing countries are eligible to receive funding. Finally, she emphasised that 2015 will be an important year, as it marks the end by which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are to be achieved and also represents a time for setting up the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Stefan Wagener from the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) briefed the audience about the Research and Innovation Network for Europe and Africa (RINEA) project funded under Horizon 2020, which, among other objectives, aims to analyse and monitor bi-regional STI partnerships and promote EU-Africa STI cooperation together with RINEA's activities within a wider STI stakeholder community. The main rationale behind this project lies in

maintaining an ongoing dialogue with Ministries and Implementation Agencies in partner countries and strengthening the economic and institutional expertise of the R&D consortia.

Andy Cherry from the Association of Commonwealth Universities explained the attendees the outcomes of a 2013 study into good practice collaborative models and effective financing mechanisms for EU-Africa STI cooperation. Some of the main findings report on co-ownership as a core value of bi-regional cooperation, while on the other hand, there appears to be a prominent gap with respect to the absence of a co-financing arrangement. Moreover, successful partnerships seem to be based on equitability, good communication, transparency, long-term investment and clear purpose, to mention a few.

Emer Costello, European & Public Policy Consultant and a former Member of the European Parliament, further elaborated on Ms Buisman's argument about 2015 being a year of key importance, especially due to the conclusion of the MDGs, which to a considerable degree succeeded in taking the world's population out of poverty, but have not fully tackled the problems related to the quality of education. Ms Costello also emphasised the importance of effective collaboration which would allow the breaking of the silo mentality which is often found in Europe as a hindrance to development. Supporting the arguments put forward by other speakers, Ms Costello also highlighted the importance of local ownership, adding that harnessing the knowledge and resources of diaspora communities is also of crucial value.

Arnold van Ardenne, from the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON), briefly introduced the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, which significantly contributes to the enhancement of knowledge exchange between Africa and Europe and considerably broadens the research originating from and based in Africa. According to Professor van Ardenne, science & technology collaboration between the two continents could be significantly enhanced by a more intensified and more constructive dialogue and a strengthened collaboration between the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation.

Towards the end of the meeting, **Ms Bearder** emphasised that with regards to development projects, it is important to combine the finances from public sources with the skills and abilities of local communities and also with private investments, in order to achieve the maximum level of long-term effectiveness.

Discussion

Following the fruitful contributions of all speakers, there was a brief discussion amongst the attendees, which reflected on the ideas presented and expanded them further with a number of observations and recommendations.

Professor Fortune once again reiterated the importance of funding being distributed equally, also to local organisations, emphasising that unequal allocation and lack of transparency will not prove successful in a long-term perspective.

Jan Maarten de Vet from Ecorys added that it is also important to rethink the relationships and cooperation ties with developing countries and be particularly cautious during the process of designing these relationships. He further stated that given the presence of strong players such as Japan and China, we need to keep in mind that Africa is not solely reliant on European countries as partners and can choose the collaboration paths which it considers most beneficial.

Miriam Roelofs from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, who is also part of the consortium within the GO-SKA project, referred back to the SKA project and highlighted the fact that it will bring important spin-offs for the local communities in Africa, particularly in terms of human capacity building. ICT solutions, noted Ms Roelofs, developed in the context of the SKA, will also bring wide-ranging benefits for countries both in and outside of Africa.

Key recommendations

The meeting titled “EU Development Aid: Experiences and Recommendations from Stakeholders Driving Science and Innovation” which welcomed more than 30 participants, resulted in a number of key recommendations, which are presented in the section below:

- π Co-ownership should be a core value of bi-regional cooperation
- π Collaboration with developing nations should be based on a dialogue where the needs of the local communities are taken into consideration prior to taking any action
- π Harnessing the knowledge and resources of diaspora communities should be a key factor to consider when collaborating with developing nations
- π With regards to development projects, it is important to combine the finances from public sources with the skills and abilities of local communities and also with private investments, in order to achieve the maximum level of long-term effectiveness
- π Unequal allocation of resources and lack of transparency in development projects do not prove successful in a long-term perspective
- π Science-based initiatives are of key importance in the development process and represent an effective long-term response to global challenges

- π Partnerships with developing countries should be based on equitability, good communication, transparency, long-term investment and clear purpose
- π Philanthropic organisations have an essential role to play in maintaining effective collaboration between governments and industries
- π Achieving a collaboration which would allow the breaking of the silo mentality, which is often found in Europe as a hindrance to development, is of key importance
- π Science & technology collaboration between the EU and Africa could be significantly enhanced by a more constructive dialogue and a strengthened collaboration between the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation

List of Participants

1	Matteo	Angeli	Liaison Office of the Autonomous Province of Trento
2	Michael	Brennan	Pan European Networks
3	Nienke	Buisman	DG Research and Innovation
4	Andrew	Cherry	Association of Commonwealth Universities
5	Emer	Costello	Former MEP
6	Jan Maarten	DE VET	Ecorys
7	Bernhard	Fabianek	European Commission
8	Agnes Csilla	Ferenczy	Hungarian Academy of Sciences
9	Farida	Fortune	Queen Mary University of London
10	Rachel	Greaves	ALDE Stagiaire, FEMM & LIBE Committees
11	Stefan	Haffner	German Aerospace Centre (DLR)
12	Finnian	Hanrahan	European Commission
13	Declan	Kirrane	AERAP
14	Beatriz	Marín García	Centre Balears Europa
15	Cecil	Masoka	Department of Science and Technology
16	Kevin	McCarthy	EC International Cooperation & Development
17	Lukas	Micka	Access EU! - EEIG
18	Elisa	Molino	IBM Europe
19	Celia	Moore	IBM
20	Musenge	Mukuma	Embassy of the Republic of Zambia
21	Annie	Mutamba	Meridia Partners
23	Kristine	Nielsen	Central Denmark EU Office
24	Marie-Thérèse	Nolf	CVLT
25	Lauren	O'Brien	ISC
26	Jennifer	Ogbonna	ENoMW
27	Simona	Ondrejko	ISC
28	Gloria	Osman	KULEUVEN
29	Mario	Parrot	European Commission
30	Georgi	Pirinsky	MEP
31	Miriam	Roelofs	GO SKA
32	Timothy	Reynolds	SusChem ETP / Royal Society of Chemistry
33	Paul	Sampo	Stagiaire at DG A at the European Parliament
34	Miguel	Silva	Wikistrat Inc.
35	Nancy	Terryn	Ghent University
36	Stefanie	Ubrig	Alliance 4-Universities (A-4U) - OPERA
37	Alex	van Nieuwland	ALDE stagiaire, LIBE Committee
38	Stefan	Wagener	German Aerospace Centre (DLR)
39	Bwalya Zulu	Yombwe	Embassy of the Republic of Zambia



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