

International Cooperation Projects in Support of Research & Innovation Policies and Competence Building: Special Call on Africa



Sector Public Health
Directorate Health DG Research – European Commission





Cross-cutting issues: child health, the health of ageing population
gender-related health issues

Activity (Pillar) 4: Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs) and other actions across the theme – EU policy needs

Area 2.3

Translational research in major infectious diseases

- HIV/AIDS, Malaria & TB
- Neglected Infectious Diseases
- AMR
- Emerging epidemics

EDCTP

Infectious Diseases in FP7

Target	No. of projects	EU contribution (million €)
HIV/AIDS	16	83
Malaria	18	56
TB	18	65
Neglected infectious diseases	15	66

MDG 6

Confronting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

EC is 3rd largest global funder of research in Poverty- and Neglected Infectious Diseases – G-Finder (2008)

Optimising the delivery of healthcare to European citizens + SICAs

Support to Activity 3 SICAs

International public health & health systems research

- Calls 1-4:
 - 35 projects 97 million €
- 5th call - a further 16 million €
 - 6 projects under negotiation
- 6th call – 18 million € on health systems & capacity building



Health policy research, health systems and healthcare service research, maternal and child health, reproductive health, control and surveillance of neglected communicable diseases

Activity 3

Optimising the delivery of healthcare to European citizens

http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/public-health/index_en.html



The context of the Africa-Call

- A targeted **cross-thematic call** research effort to meet the challenges for Water, Food Security and Better Health for Africa
- Science and research are major elements of the **EU-Africa Strategic Partnership**
- 7th Research Framework Programme represents a great opportunity for **strengthening Africa's base in research** areas addressing complex issues such as global water and food security public concern for the health of populations in developing countries.

Influencing factors ...

Already in 2007 Commissioner Potočník, meeting with Dr Chan Director-General of the WHO in 2007, expressed a shared personal commitment to deliver health benefits in Africa - using the **EU's 7th Framework Programme as a driver for health development.**

Important for the EU-AU joint Strategy and Action Plan – the 8th Partnership calls on S&T capacity building; furthermore a core element of the EDCTP focuses on capacity building and networking

Important for EC development policy and policy coherence, at the same time capacity building on the agenda of for example the G8 (G8/AMCOST), the WHO & WHA, GSPOA, Africa Union Commission and NEPAD





SPECIAL CALL ON AFRICA:

Implemented jointly by 3 themes:
Health, Food & Environment

- Total call budget: EUR 63 000 000 (15 topics)
- Total budget allocated to the selected proposals : EUR 71 510 000 of which:
 - **Theme 1 – Health:** EUR 47 250 000 (6 topics)
 - **Theme 2 - Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology:** EUR 6 460 000 (4 topics)
 - **Theme 6 - Environment (Including Climate Change):** EUR 17 800 000 (5 topics)



Press Release

INFO DAY
AFRICA CALL
(FP7-AFRICA-2010)
63 million €

Today, the European Commission launched a call for proposals entirely dedicated to research for Africa. Africa continues to face serious challenges to sustain its development and research can develop solutions. This special initiative for Africa will address some of the science and technology objectives included in the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership agreed on by the European Commission and the African Union Commission in December 2007. Up to €63 million will be allocated to research projects in 2010 aiming to improve health conditions, and water and food security in Africa. Supported research activities will involve African partners, with the aim to strengthen Africa's research base.

EU Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potočnik said: *"With this "Africa call" we are turning words into actions. The EU-Africa Strategic Partnership is harnessing the potential of science and technology to meet the water, food security and health challenges of Africa. It is getting researchers from Europe and Africa to work together in the true spirit of this Partnership; we are working not only for, but with Africa".*



3rd ACTIVITY - OPTIMISING THE DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE

Area 3.4: International public health systems

Topic 3.4-3 Building sustainable capacity for research for health in Africa.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (Coordinating Action) (ACP/MPC) .

EC contribution: max. EUR 2 000 000. More than one project can be selected.



CAPACITY BUILDING:

The call intends principally to strengthen local capacities in the relevant science and technology fields and their applications, also through appropriate training activities and exchange of staff. The final outputs should provide amongst others, innovative management and governance tools and adaptive technologies suitable for the relevant authorities and stakeholders for providing contributions to reduce poverty, increase food security, academic training and health research networks, manage water more efficiently and protect natural ecosystems in Africa.

The participation of local stakeholders, and/or regional actors, and the necessary networking, is considered of paramount importance to achieve the expected impact.

Environment Theme

(87 proposals in total)

Topic	Title	Proposals submitted	Proposals funded
ENV.2010.1.2.1-1	The effect of environmental change on the occurrence and distribution of water related vector-borne diseases in Africa	6	1
ENV.2010.1.3.3-1	Early warning and forecasting systems to predict climate related drought vulnerability and risks in Africa	9	1
ENV.2010.2.1.1-1	Integrated management of water and natural resources in Africa	38	1
ENV.2010.3.1.1-3	Decentralised water supply and sanitation technologies and systems for small communities and peri-urban areas	25	2
ENV.2010.3.1.1-4	Water harvesting technologies in Africa	9	2

Health Theme

(84 proposals in total)

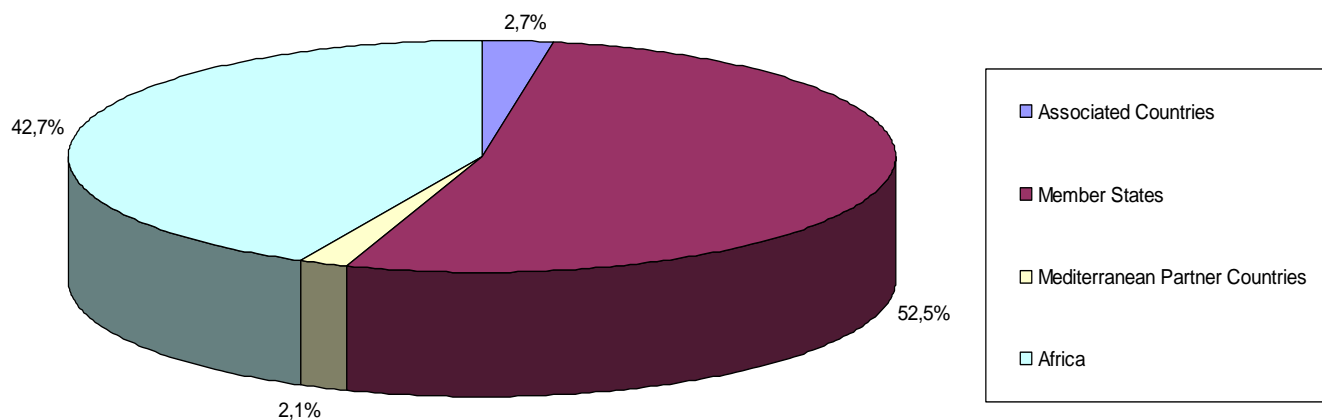
Topic	Title	Proposals submitted	Proposals funded
HEALTH.2010.2.3.2-4	Controlling malaria by hitting the vector: New or Improved – Vector Control Tools	4	1
HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-4	Infectious agents and cancer in Africa	17	2
HEALTH.2010.3.4-1	Develop and assess key interventions and policies to address the human resource crisis in the health sector	14	3
HEALTH.2010.3.4-2	Feasibility and community effectiveness of innovative intervention packages for maternal and new-born health in Africa	19	3
HEALTH.2010.3.4-3	Building sustainable capacity for research for health in Africa	28	6
HEALTH.2010.3.4-4	Assessment of migrants' health, disease patterns and impact on health systems	2	-

KBBE Theme

(17 proposals in total)

Topic	Title	Proposals submitted	Proposals funded
KBBE.2010.1.-2-03	Sustainable water resources management (WRM) and Soil fertility conservation for food production in Africa - SICA (Africa)	8	1
KBBE.2010.2.2-03	Identifying research needs on malnutrition in Africa – (Mandatory Africa)	4	1
KBBE.2010.3.5-02	Coping with water scarcity in developing countries: Role of biotechnology in water treatment – Mandatory ICPC (Africa)	3	1
KBBE.2010.4-02	Networking of non-governmental organisations involved in agricultural research for development	2	1

All Topics Requested EC contributions in ranked proposals



Theme/Activity	Proposals Received	Requested EC Contribution
HEALTH		
HEALTH.2010.2.3.2-4	4	36 M€
HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-4	17	45 M€
HEALTH.2010.3.4-1	14	34 M€
HEALTH.2010.3.4-2	19	55 M€
HEALTH.2010.3.4-3	28	54 M€
HEALTH.2010.3.4-4	2	4 M€
Total	84 (79 evaluated)	228 M€

AFRICA Call: capacity building – some comments

Topic 3.4-3 - Health research capacity

This topic received most submissions – 25 out of 28 proposals evaluated. These include a wide range of areas, regions and approaches. For example one proposal focuses on (1) blood transfusion and replacement techniques and services, another proposes (2) a multi-disciplinary approach to research on medical plants and bio-active ingredients; others focus on key areas of health research such as (3) epidemiology, (4) health systems and (5) health policy research.

Innovative approaches are applied such mentorship, e-learning and the use of existing centres of excellence as hubs. All regions are covered with emphasis on East Africa and South African institutions.

6 successful proposals funded: +/- 14 M€

AFRICA-BUILD - Universidad Politecnica de Madrid Building a Research and Education Infrastructure for Africa

To promote health research, education and practice in Africa through the creation of centres of excellence, by using information technology (IT), 'know-how', e-learning and knowledge-sharing through Web-enabled virtual communities. Initial EU-Africa transfer aims to create sustainable South-South communities of African researchers. Expected impact: Based on the experience of the partners – including WHO – we aim to improve know-how, research and technological capacities at the African centres of excellence. Successful actions will be transferred to other organisations and industry.

APARET - Bernhard-Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine African Programme for Advanced Research Epidemiology Training

This fellowship programme will catalyse independent research activities of graduates of Field Epidemiology Training Programmes and Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training programmes in Africa. It will support the fellows in meeting the following objectives: 1) Proposal preparation for a major research grant. 2) i. Plan, develop and conduct an epidemiological research project. ii. Perform epidemiological analyses. iii. Submission to a peer-reviewed journal. iv. Submit an abstract for poster or oral presentation at a scientific conference. v. Critically review a scientific paper. vi. Participate in the training of other epidemiologists. APARET supports well trained epidemiologists in establishing a career in Africa.



ARCADE HSSR – Karolinska Institute African Regional Capacity Development for Health Systems and Services Research

This project will add new research training capacity at sub-Saharan African (SSA) universities, for health systems and services strengthening. The focus is doctoral and post-doctoral training, institutional strengthening for education, financial and administrative research management, and South-South network building. ARCADE-HSSR will support evidence-informed service delivery by producing a stream of well trained young HSSR scientists, the next generation of health system leaders and researchers in SSA. Activities will be aimed at individuals, institutions and at the network.

CHEPSAA London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Consortium for Health Policy and Systems Analysis in Africa

The goal of this project is to extend sustainable African capacity to produce and use high quality health policy and systems (HPS) research. It will review capacity development needs amongst the African organisations and their national networks; strengthen African skills and organisational capacity to support HPS research and training; extend existing training programmes provided by the African participants; and support the development of excellent academic teaching and research networks both to sustain national and regional demand for HPS training and research, and to facilitate the use of research in policymaking.



MUTHI – University of Oslo
Multi-disciplinary University Traditional Health Initiative - Building Sustainable Research Capacity on Plants for Better Public Health in Africa

The overall objective of this project is to create sustainable research capacity and research networks in Africa (Mali, South Africa and Uganda). We will identify needs and develop and implement research training programmes. The research institutions from Africa will have implemented research methodologies so that they are able to improve traditional medicines, identify bio-active compounds, and clinically evaluate and register medicinal products that are used for treatment of illnesses that are frequent in African countries.

T-REC - Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Building research capacity of blood transfusion services in Africa

The purpose of this project is to build sustainable capacity for research in blood transfusion services in Africa. This project will coordinate EU and African collaborations to transfer research skills to the African partners. EU partners will benefit by enhancing their own blood transfusion research skills. To do this we will support three research training schemes (PhD, under/post graduates, in-service) in each of three African partner transfusion services.



Capacity building projects in the health inequalities field 5th Call: **under negotiation**

- **SDH-NET & INTREC:** Addresses research capacities on social determinants of health in African and Latin American low- and middle income countries.
- **RESCAP-MED:** Seeks to strengthen the capacities and enhance networking and cooperation on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in countries in the East and the South of the Mediterranean.
- **ARCADE RSDH:** Focus on doctoral and post-doc training, strengthening of educational institutions and networking on social determinants of health in low to middle income countries in Africa and Latin America.



6th Call Topic on Health Systems – capacity building included

3.4 – International public health & health systems

3.4-1 Research on Health systems and services in low/middle income countries.

- Aims to put best practices into best policies for more effective, efficient and equitable health systems.
- Collaboration between selected projects and ongoing EU funded projects welcome.
- One third of the EU contribution must go to capacity building.
- Maximum : 5 years' duration.
- **Min. 6 different ICPC partners & 2 EU/AC partners from different countries.**

Funding scheme: CP-FP (SICA), max. €6m/project, ~3 projects



CAPACITIES – International Cooperation INCO-NET – Regional coverage

The 5th call provided an opportunity for the INCO-NET projects selected in the first call (FP7-INCO-2007-1) to **expand** their geographical coverage and/or **deepen** their coordination and structuring activities and enhance projects' capacities to disseminate.

The INCO-NET projects targeted by the call are:

- **CAAST-NET** for Sub-Saharan Africa,
- **MIRA** for Mediterranean Partner Countries,
- **WBC-INCO-NET** for Western Balkan Countries,
- **SEA-EU-NET** for South East Asian Countries.

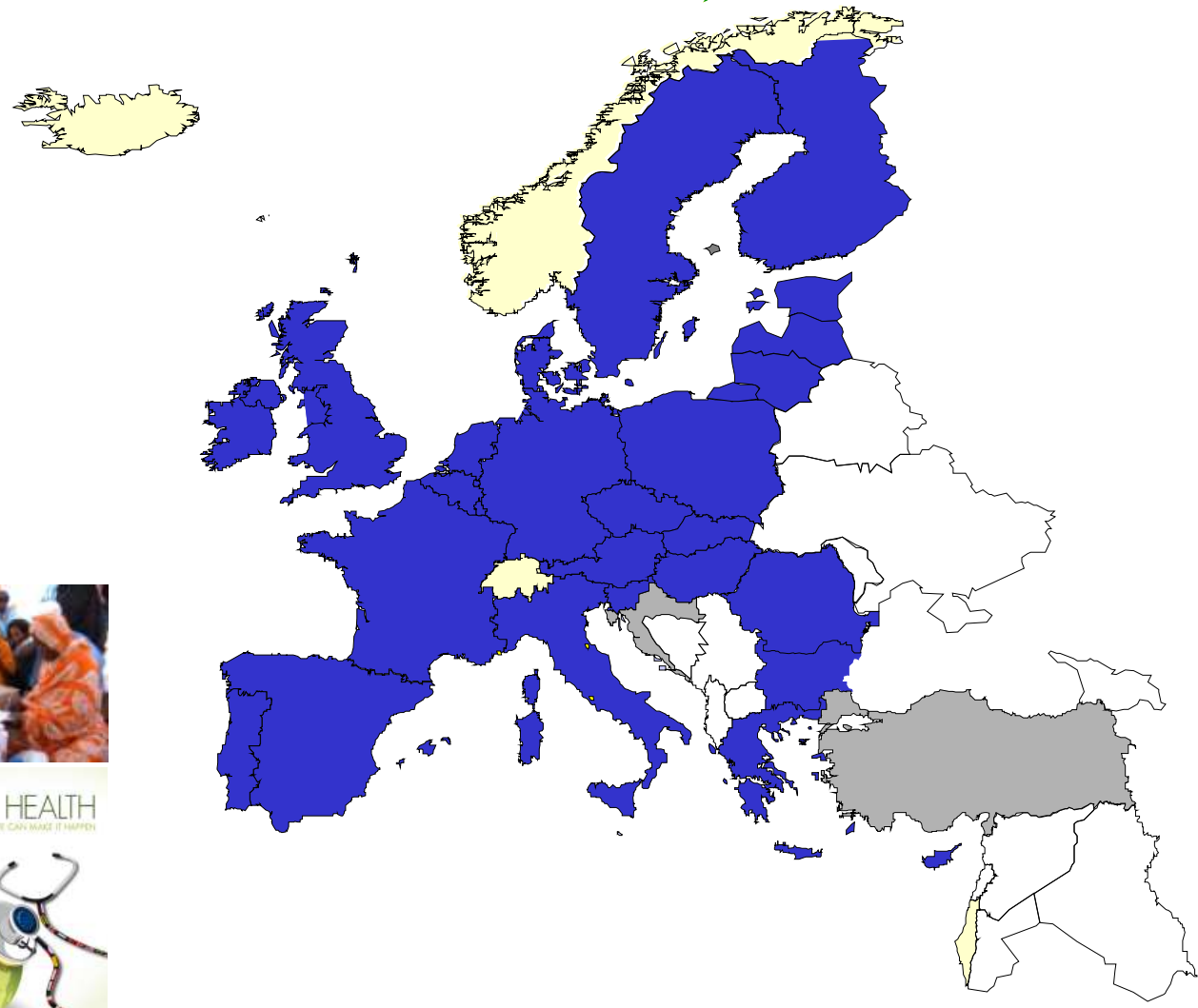


WHAT NEXT?


- Will have a substantial number of capacity building projects delivering over the next 2 to 5 years – benefits need to be harnessed
- Will need an evaluation to assess usefulness – implies developing some indicators (proposal submissions, successful submissions, numbers of post-graduates, areas/regions benefiting ...). Tie in to existing initiatives
- A good thing or a bad thing ? What in fact is capacity building? Frustration - sustainability is not guaranteed – What if nothing had been done?
- A refined approach in the 6th Call – but it's the last time under FP7. Other avenues of funding ? DEVCO, EDCTP ... Other donors ?
- Potential for such an approach in the next FP?



Thank you !



 EU – Member States (n = 27)

 Candidate/Accession countries
• Croatia
• Turkey

 Countries associated with the FP
• Iceland
• Israel
• Norway
• Switzerland



GLOBAL HEALTH
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

