



# Description of Work (2008-2011)

## STAKEHOLDER COPY

THE NETWORK FOR THE COORDINATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA-EU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION  
IS A PROJECT SUPPORTED UNDER THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S  
SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 21625



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# Explanatory note

This is an abridged version (November 2008) of the original Description of Work of 16 October 2007 approved by the European Commission. Further changes to this document may be required to reflect changes within the project.

# List of Acronyms

<b>ACP</b>	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AMCOST</b>	African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CAAST-Net</b>	Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Africa-EU Science and Technology Cooperation
<b>CPA</b>	Consolidated Plan of Action
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EDF</b>	European Development Fund
<b>ERA</b>	European Research Area
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>FP7</b>	Framework Programme 7
<b>INCO</b>	Instruments for Cooperation
<b>ICSU</b>	International Council for Science
<b>MDGs</b>	Millenium Development Goals
<b>NCP</b>	National Contact Point
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>RTD</b>	Research and Technology Development
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>OCT</b>	Outermost Countries and Territories
<b>SICAs</b>	Specific International Cooperation Actions
<b>S&amp;T</b>	Science and Technology
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>WP</b>	Work Package

# List of Consortium Partners

<b>AU, ACU</b>	Africa Unit, Association of Commonwealth Universities, United Kingdom
<b>IRD</b>	International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
<b>IRD</b>	Institut de Recherche Pour le Développement, France
<b>RA</b>	ResearchResearch (Africa) (Pty) Ltd., South Africa
<b>MOST-KE</b>	Ministry of Science and Technology, Kenya
<b>UNCST</b>	Ugandan National Council for Science and Technology, Uganda
<b>MINISTR</b>	Ministry of Science and Technology, Rwanda
<b>RCN</b>	The Research Council of Norway, Division for Strategic Priorities, Norway
<b>DST</b>	Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
<b>UniPID</b>	Finnish Universities' Partnership for International Development (on behalf of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Finland
<b>VINNOVA</b>	Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, Sweden
<b>CIRAD</b>	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement, France
<b>DR-MENRS</b>	Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Madagascar
<b>MinESS</b>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Science, Ghana
<b>DGESC</b>	Direcção Geral de Ensino Superior e Ciência, Cape Verde
<b>MINRESI</b>	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Cameroon
<b>MRS</b>	Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique, Sénégal
<b>FCT</b>	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal

# 1. Concept and objectives

CAAST-Net will establish a platform to promote improved cooperation in science and technology between Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. To achieve this objective, CAAST-Net will critically analyse the current EU-Africa science and technology (S&T) cooperation landscape, as well as undertake other relevant S&T policy analyses. Informed by the outcomes of these analyses, CAAST-Net will initiate and support Europe-Africa S&T policy dialogues, which will advance cooperation and improve coordination of partnership initiatives.

CAAST-Net outcomes will include the identification of specific research topics for Europe-Africa cooperation and their recommendation for inclusion in the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). CAAST-Net will promote African participation in the FP7, as well as promoting greater synergy between outcomes of research and technology development (RTD) instruments under FP7 and other areas of technical cooperation with development cooperation instruments.

Implemented by a consortium of leading European and African agencies mandated by their governments to promote international S&T cooperation, CAAST-Net will be a key instrument to support the implementation of the overall S&T cooperation programmes agreed to by the mandated authorities of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU). CAAST-Net will be guided by decisions of the formal EU-AU forums, and will not seek to replace or duplicate the recognised intergovernmental structures and processes for Europe-Africa cooperation.

CAAST-Net has, however, been developed with the support of the AU as well as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and, as an FP7 INCO-Net platform, will also be endorsed by the European Commission. It will therefore enjoy the necessary recognition from key European and African policy- and decision-makers to effectively implement activities to strengthen Europe-Africa cooperation. This will, for example, include the harnessing of Europe-Africa cooperation under FP7 to work towards the objectives of NEPAD's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA).

CAAST-Net has been developed against the background of the emerging global consensus that S&T is essential not only to modern economic competitiveness, but also to sustainable development and poverty reduction. In Africa, a growing number of governments are prioritising S&T as a key sector of their national and regional growth and development programmes. Consequently there is an increasingly important focus on S&T under Europe-Africa cooperation programmes.

The internationalisation of research and development (R&D) programmes is also a policy objective shared by Europe and Africa. Responding to this dynamic but complex environment, in which current S&T cooperation initiatives frequently lack coherence with policy objectives and suffer from fragmentation, the analytical, policy dialogue and partnership interventions proposed by

CAAST-Net will play an essential role to ensure the optimal evolution of the Europe-Africa S&T relationship.

The current environment for the development of science and technology cooperation between Europe and Africa is very conducive. The report of the Commission for Africa,<sup>1</sup> and the recommendations of the 2005 G8 summit at Gleneagles, provide a strong case for increased investment in Africa's S&T capacity and for investment in skilled human capacity to stimulate economic growth, alleviate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The renewed international focus on Africa, as shown for example in the EU's adoption in 2005 of a New Strategy for Africa (and the current preparation of a Joint EU-Africa strategy for adoption at this year's EU-Africa Summit of Heads of Government), and the acknowledged role of science, technology and innovation in economic transformation, sustainable development and poverty alleviation has contributed to a step change in the perception of the potential of S&T on the African continent.

Recent years have therefore seen a greater interest in S&T cooperation with Africa, through collaborative R&D programmes such as the Framework Programmes, but also through development cooperation instruments – the first ever Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity-Building Programme to be funded under the European Development Fund (EDF) of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement will, for example be launched in 2007.

Framed with regard to the relevant policy objectives for Europe-Africa cooperation as set by for example the European and African Commissions, the primary goal of CAAST-Net is to foster the value and quality of S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa, and the supporting policy dialogue process. In pursuit of this goal, CAAST-Net has a series of primary objectives (Table 1 overleaf). Each objective is associated with a set of activities conducted with discrete yet interdependent work packages (WP) with clearly defined and measurable milestones.

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<sup>1</sup> *Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa* (2005).

## **Table 1: CAAST-Net Primary Objectives**

- **To optimally support Europe-Africa S&T dialogue and cooperation platforms so that synergies and gaps are identified and addressed, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders such as the Diaspora communities, science academies and research, policy, academic, industrial and business networks, as well as civil society.**
- **The identification and prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit to the EU and Africa, especially for inclusion in the thematic priorities of the Cooperation Specific Programme FP7 cooperation activities.**
- **To harness Europe-Africa S&T cooperation to address specific problems faced locally and regionally within Africa, as well as to address common problems of a global nature on the basis of mutual interest and benefit.**
- **To promote, support and contribute to Europe-Africa cooperation under FP7, achieving synergy with other instruments for international S&T cooperation including bilateral country to country cooperation partnerships.**
- **To promote synergy between Europe-Africa S&T partnerships and development cooperation instruments in order to enhance the creation and application of new knowledge in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, poverty alleviation and economic growth.**
- **To monitor the performance and impact of Europe-Africa S&T cooperation and cooperation policy under FP6 and FP7.**

## 2. Progress beyond the state of the art

The last fifteen years have seen a transition in many African countries from conflict, to post-conflict, to stable democratic governments coupled with an emphasis on good governance. African leaders are also looking to embrace S&T for their economic and social development as demonstrated by the AU Summit in January 2007 held in Addis Ababa, which put S&T close to the top of the agenda, and by the CPA developed by African Governments through the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) and NEPAD.

The CPA identifies 12 flagship programmes that collectively reflect Africa's development priorities, its unique natural resources, and its established and emerging scientific strengths. New S&T partnerships are being forged between African countries and other regions of the world. As a consequence, across the continent new collaborative initiatives are being implemented that have the potential to contribute to alleviating the continent's profound challenges and lead to a significant transformation of Africa's standing in the global economy.

Africa as a continent currently lacks domestic S&T capabilities and ability both to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and to benefit from existing R&D outcomes by adapting them to the local context. The innovation capacity index is less than 15% in sub-Saharan Africa, as compared to over 50% in emerging economies and close to 90% in Western Europe. As Africa's economy revives therefore, there needs to be a concerted action on the part of Africa's partners to develop coherent and coordinated cooperation policies to maximise the benefits derived by Africa, and complement the strategic priorities already set up at national, regional and continental levels. S&T collaboration is of course mutually beneficial and will also strengthen trade, development and economic cooperation between partner regions. Furthermore, S&T collaborations are imperative if we are to collectively address global challenges: S&T partnerships promote interaction between the participants' knowledge systems and create excellent conditions for Europe's access to knowledge systems in partner countries to tackle problems of common interest.

Within the context described, S&T relations between EU and Africa have been fast evolving over recent years, with cooperation supported through a diversity of financing and implementing mechanisms across many thematic, geographic and cross-cutting issues. Science and technology cooperation policy dialogues or elements thereof likewise take place in many different forums and at different levels; some of those are elaborated below.

1. **EU to individual countries:** S&T dialogues take place between those few African countries with which the EU has concluded a bilateral S&T Cooperation Agreement (e.g. South Africa, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). In the case of South Africa that agreement has been used to good effect. Several EU Member States also enjoy bilateral science and technology partnerships with African countries, which include elements of a science and technology policy dialogue.
2. **EU to regions:** relationships between the EU and African Regional Economic Communities

3. **EU to AU:** there is an emerging dialogue at the level of the European and AU Commissions as the parties seek to also harness S&T to achieve the growth and development objectives of the EU's new Strategy for Africa. Science and technology is therefore emerging as an important focus area for the EU-AU cooperation including capacity building for the S&T component of the AU Commission.
4. **Within a multilateral context and between the EU – African Development Agencies and Organisations:** There is for example an indirect S&T policy exchange in multilateral forums such as UNESCO and the ICSU family of organisations where European and African scientists have a history of working together. In the case of the African Development Bank a stakeholders' consultation was recently held in Accra, Ghana to discuss the AfDB's strategy on Higher Education, Science and Technology. The forum came up with a number of strategies for collaboration and capacity building in S&T. The strong linkage between the EU and the AfDB includes the representation in the AfDB of many of the member countries as policy makers and funders of the AfDB.
5. **EU and ACP Group of States:** A level of S&T dialogue occurs periodically in the partnership forums between the EU and the ACP Group of States framed by the Cotonou Partnership Agreement – a successful ACP-EU Forum on Research for Sustainable Development was for example held in Cape Town in 2002, attended by several African Ministers, but unfortunately the process was not continued.
6. **FP6 projects:** There are various Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) projects currently ongoing, aimed at promoting African participation in FP7 which directly or indirectly contribute to informing a Europe-Africa S&T policy dialogue. In particular, projects especially funded under the targeted instruments for cooperation with developing countries (INCO) under FP6 and the Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) also contributed to inform such a dialogue.

Whilst the growing diversity of S&T collaboration and the Europe-Africa S&T policy dialogue could be indicative of the emerging relative strength of Europe-Africa S&T relations, one possible negative consequence might be a degree of fragmentation with consequent loss of efficiency. There is therefore a pressing need for a broad-based high-level platform that operates to provide a communication and knowledge repository for sharing information and creating a commonality of goal and purpose for the different levels of Europe-Africa S&T cooperation debate, leading to greater harmonization and strengthening of Europe-Africa S&T collaboration, cooperation policy and cooperation outcomes. The development of CAAST-Net is a response to create such a platform.

### 3. Advances

The main benefit of enhanced S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa which should result from the CAAST-Net actions will be the quantitative and qualitative improvement in the coordination of the S&T policy dialogues between the two partner regions. These dialogues will deliver concrete outcomes such as the identification of research priorities where the best potential exists for mutually beneficial Europe-Africa cooperation, and they will deliver recommendations on how these priorities should be included in the FP7, especially under the thematic areas of the FP7 Cooperation Specific Programme. Indeed, it was the absence of a coordinating platform to initiate and guide an appropriate Europe-Africa dialogue during the FP7 preparatory phase, that resulted in the inclusion in the first round of FP7 Work Programmes of very few Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs) specifically targeting Sub-Saharan Africa.

The impact of CAAST-Net will extend beyond the FP7. Broader Europe-Africa S&T cooperation will benefit immensely from CAAST-Net's focused and coordinated analysis, monitoring and review activities. The absence of a specific capacity to undertake such analytical actions in a coordinated manner linked to policy dialogues, has resulted in Europe-Africa S&T cooperation initiatives frequently suffering from a lack of strategic direction and impact. CAAST-Net will be able to offer high quality policy advice and seek to ensure its up-take in order to improve this situation. An example of an area where CAAST-Net will contribute specific added value is in assisting European and African partners to better understand and leverage the synergy between their S&T partnerships and development cooperation instruments.

Through its coordinating focus CAAST-Net will also achieve coherence among the array of different initiatives existing to promote African participation in FP7. CAAST-Net's coordinating efforts will have as a key outcome advice to research actors on the more efficient mobilisation and allocation of resources for Europe-Africa S&T cooperation, including the development of a better understanding of the potential for synergy between the FP7 and other instruments for international S&T cooperation, (including bilateral cooperation between European and African countries). By directly and indirectly facilitating coordination of the efforts of key actors involved in Europe-Africa S&T cooperation, CAAST-Net will contribute to developing more strategic and efficient partnerships.

It should be emphasised that improved S&T collaboration with Europe will significantly benefit the development of African S&T. Greater African participation in the FP7 will result in greater numbers of African researchers gaining the rich experience of working on cutting-edge collaborative R&D projects with leading European counterparts. The experience gained and lessons learnt will be invaluable from an African capacity-building perspective. FP7 participation will also boost Africa's integration with the global S&T community thereby internationalising African R&D, and strengthening the continent's capacity for other global R&D projects. FP7 participation opportunities, which enable the growth of international scientific careers, are also an attractive incentive for retaining researchers in their countries of origin. CAAST-Net will of course

also contribute to greater leveraging of development cooperation funding, for support to S&T capacity-building in Africa, for example at the level of basic resources and infrastructures.

## 4. CAAST-Net outcomes

In pursuit of the goal of improved Europe-Africa S&T cooperation and through its coordinating actions CAAST-Net will achieve the following outcomes:

**Table 2: CAAST-Net outcomes**

- **Reinforced Africa-Europe S&T policy forums and networks, which will for example be able to identify common research areas of mutual interest and benefit to Europe and Africa and consequently also strengthen regional integration and cooperation within both partner regions. Agreed research themes, complementing the strategic priorities identified in the AU/NEPAD CPA, for SICAs to be included in the thematic areas of the Cooperation Specific Programme of the FP7.**
- **Stronger Europe-Africa cooperation within FP7 as a whole through the identification and implementation of interventions to better facilitate African participation in all of the Specific Programmes of FP7 (though with special emphasis on the Cooperation Specific Programme).**
- **Substantive Europe-Africa S&T collaboration on local and regional priorities in areas of mutual interest and benefit, and which specifically leads to enhanced production of knowledge and scientific excellence to address the MDGs.**
- **Substantive Europe-Africa S&T collaboration on shared global challenges, such as climate change, food security, poverty-related communicable diseases or disaster prevention and management, and the concurrent strengthening of Europe-Africa cooperation in multilateral forums and programmes.**
- **Improved coherence between Europe-Africa S&T cooperation and the overall objectives and policy framework of Europe-Africa cooperation and greater synergy between Europe-Africa S&T cooperation, especially FP7 partnerships, and other relevant international cooperation mechanisms such as development cooperation instruments.**
- **Enhanced European and African competitiveness and economic growth achieved through strategic S&T partnerships which complement trade and economic cooperation.**

Within the context of the CAAST-Net outcomes described above, the platform's coordinating actions will contribute to the enhancement of Europe-Africa S&T cooperation, by addressing in a more effective manner important policy challenges, which have hampered the growth and development of cooperation. CAAST-Net will also, through better coordination, stimulate new activities in areas where cooperation has been less than optimal. CAAST-Net's impact in this context will include:

- i. A coordinated analytical focus to better take into account the diversity of S&T capacities and needs across Africa in order to accurately inform the harmonisation of Europe-Africa S&T cooperation policies and make cooperation instruments more effective.
- ii. A coordinated approach to increasing mutual awareness of S&T policies and R&D priorities, capacities and knowledge, in order to identify Europe and Africa's respective comparative advantages, (for example with regard to specific geographic locations, or knowledge and expertise held) which would constitute an optimal basis for mutually beneficial R&D partnerships.
- iii. A coordinated approach to cooperation in order to achieve greater coherence between different instruments in order to ensure the optimal contribution of European and African S&T expertise to meeting political, social, economic and humanitarian commitments in sustainable development, including through the strengthening and development of Africa's S&T human capital.

The impact of CAAST-Net's coordinating and networking actions will also extend to areas beyond S&T cooperation itself such as:

- iv. At the economic level, where improved S&T cooperation with Europe, including innovation policy learning, will support dynamic innovation system activities in Africa such as the growth of innovative small and medium enterprises, the use of public procurement for innovation or the stimulation of a venture capital sector. These in turn enrich Africa's contribution to, and active participation in a vibrant and diverse global economy.
- v. At the political level, where the strengthening of the overall Europe-Africa policy dialogue through improved S&T cooperation will assist both parties to more effectively pursue their respective and common foreign policy goals such as the promotion of peace, democracy and stability, and a more equitable international trade regime.
- vi. At the multilateral level, where improved Europe-Africa S&T cooperation in areas related to the implementation of international agreements, such as those on biodiversity and climate change to which both European and African countries are signatories, will also promote Europe-Africa policy consensus on major multilateral issues.

It should also be emphasised that the CAAST-Net coordination and networking activities will be a key instrument to attain the objectives set out in the European Commission's new Green Paper on 'The European Research Area: New Perspectives' with regard to Africa. The Green Paper recommends that Europe's cooperation with Africa should include a significant focus on strengthening Africa's S&T capacity and on supporting its sustainable development in close liaison with development policy. The Paper also encourages Europe's cooperation with African stakeholders as partners in global initiatives and engaging multilateral and regional organisations such as the AU and NEPAD.

Indeed, the improved coordination and networking to be effected by CAAST-Net will help to ensure that Africa and Europe will continue to remain privileged partners, from both the general and the S&T specific perspectives. Both parties, in the light of globalisation, are actively diversifying their international collaborations. For Africa, south-south cooperation has become a priority with rapidly developing links between the continent and major emerging economies, notably China, India and Brazil. On the other hand Europe is prioritising partnerships with countries in its immediate geographic neighbourhood. Through its improved coordination of policy and other actions, CAAST-Net will promote the long-term sustainable growth of Europe-Africa S&T relations, for example by informing more efficient investments in, and a greater strategic focus on the development of their partnerships by both parties.

## 5. Criteria and performance indicators

CAAST-Net will fulfil two fundamental roles in the addressing its goal and executing its tasks: (1), the facilitation of stakeholder dialogue and partnerships through the creation of appropriate forums, platforms or networks; and (2), the provision of expert advice, guidance and analysis. Success, in terms of impact is dependent on two major factors: (1) The quality of its facilitation and expertise; (2) the legitimacy the project is able to lever. Both factors are interdependent and two processes will influence these factors: (1), Quality control and (2), Communication. Recognising the importance of these processes, during the CAAST-Net establishment phase the project leader and Board will establish criteria and performance indicators as part of the project governance framework.

For example, analytic outputs of WP1 and WP2 should be subjected to peer-review processes, usually on an internal basis initially, followed by external evaluation; or through publication in appropriate peer-reviewed outlets before final release to stakeholders and/or posting on the external web-site. Events should adopt minimum acceptable quality standards and establish procedures for inviting participant feedback, evaluation, and incorporation of recommendations. Project legitimacy will depend on both the quality and rigour of its outputs and activities, its ability to represent the widest possible range of stakeholders, and on the ability to communicate its purpose effectively to these stakeholder communities.

On a basic level, project progress can be monitored by completion of tasks and achievement of milestones, verified by timely deliverables, strategic decisions, and project reports. Assessment of project progress will ultimately be based on quantitative and qualitative measurements of increased S&T cooperation. Baseline data, for example on African applications to FP6, African success rate in FP6, funding allocated to African partners under FP6 are already available and continuously monitored. Attribution of increases in these parameters to CAAST-Net activities, or CAAST-Net contribution to the figures will not be straightforward and may not be fully realised during the lifetime of the project. Alternative parameters to demonstrate CAAST-Net impact are therefore needed. It is proposed that these should be elaborated during the establishment phase in collaboration with EC project officers, other INCO-Net coordinators and CAST-Net participants.

# 6. Methodology

## Overall strategy and general description

The overall strategy of the work plan is to establish a dedicated platform, CAAST-Net, through provision a set of conditions that will be designed to facilitate and promote the enhancement of Europe-Africa S&T cooperation at multiple levels, particularly but not exclusively under FP7, through strengthening the S&T policy dialogue between Europe and Africa.

The CAAST-Net platform is built on several interlinked pillars:

- i. A dedicated capacity to gather and analyse information on the current state of Europe-Africa S&T collaboration, on cooperation between EU funding instruments, and on the partner regions' respective S&T policies and capacities which determine the scope and opportunities for future cooperation;
- ii. The identification of areas of mutual interest and benefit;
- iii. The provision a high-level Steering Platform for policy dialogue, informed by policy analysis; The provision of multiple forums for dissemination of information, training, networking, brokerage and facilitation of partnerships;
- iv. A comprehensive knowledge management and distribution system.

An important cross-cutting theme to CAAST-Net activities is the promotion of closer alignment and coordination of S&T outputs with developmental priorities. Thus while CAAST-Net takes a non-thematic approach to its goal there is a recognition that certain fields, notably health, food security, sustainable natural resources management, energy and innovations systems, are particularly crucial to the development agenda.

To avoid isolation, CAAST-Net will take into account discussions taking place in the larger framework of EU-Africa external relations and cooperation programmes and policies. For example, the development of the draft Joint EU-Africa Strategy, proposed for adoption at the forthcoming Lisbon Summit, is of particular importance at this time. Preliminary discussions have taken place between the CAAST-Net project leader and the UK Foreign Office with responsibility for UK inputs to the Joint Strategy. These discussions suggested scope may exist for CAAST-Net to play a role in the action plan for implementation of the Joint Strategy's S&T components with which there is good coherence.

The evolution of the European Research Area, a cornerstone for a European knowledge society, is another key example of recent developments that CAAST-Net will take into account. The recent Green Paper<sup>2</sup> assesses evolution of the ERA: The accelerating globalisation of S&T brings opportunities for Europe and its partners and international cooperation will become an

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<sup>2</sup> European Commission Green Paper (04.04.2007). *Inventing out Future together. The European Research Area: New Perspectives*. COM(2007)161.

increasingly important dimension of the ERA and provides a stage for CAAST-Net to play a role in ERA relations with Africa.

While CAAST-Net activities will be coordinated and implemented by a consortium of European and African participants representing national bodies with responsibility for coordination of international cooperation in S&T, it should be highlighted that participation in CAAST-Net activities, for example the workshops, information days and brokerage events, will be open to S&T stakeholders from all European and African states, since the objective will be to promote broader Europe-Africa S&T partnerships and not only between consortium participants' countries. CAAST-Net will strongly encourage involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society, industry, the private and public sectors.

At this point it is worth noting that CAAST-Net represents sub-Saharan Africa, yet the North African region has particular S&T strengths and three North Africa countries (Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) have concluded bilateral S&T agreements with EU. The North African region is incorporated into the INCO-Net for the Mediterranean region, MIRA, and it is therefore appropriate for MIRA and CAAST-Net to develop close collaboration in order to represent the entire continent.

## **Significant risks/contingencies**

The prevalent lack of awareness and understanding of FP7 opportunities throughout the African S&T community, and also among African Governments, will make it essential for CAAST-Net to undertake concerted and early awareness-raising activities, to explain CAAST-Net objectives and work plans, as well as to secure the active participation as implementation partners of African partners, in addition to the original core consortium.

## 7. Work package overview

The foundation of the work plan is the establishment of a dedicated capacity to gather and analyse information on the current state of Europe-Africa S&T collaboration as well as the two partner regions' respective S&T policies and capacities, which determine the scope and opportunities for future cooperation. This analytical work, which will constitute a dedicated Work Package (WP1), will inform the content of discussions in the European–African S&T policy dialogue platform as well as the work of the Europe-Africa S&T cooperation platforms.

The S&T policy dialogue platform, established under the dedicated WP3, will promote deepened Europe-Africa S&T policy discussions on themes identified during the analytical work in order to frame an optimally enabling policy environment for S&T cooperation. The S&T cooperation platforms, established under a dedicated Work Package (WP4), will undertake concerted activities to actively promote Europe-Africa S&T partnerships, especially under FP7 drawing on the policy analysis and advice (for example with regard to identification of research priorities to be included in FP7 as SICAs for Africa).

CAAST-Net will have a specific focus on promoting cooperation under FP7, but will also foster greater synergy between S&T partnerships and other instruments for Europe-Africa cooperation. Work Package 5 will therefore focus on improving FP7 information and advisory capacities available to African researchers, whilst another Work Package (WP2) will seek to deepen participants' understanding of and exploit the synergy between S&T partnerships and development cooperation instruments.

The Work Packages portfolio will be completed by one focused on knowledge management and outreach (WP6), in order, for example, to ensure the sharing of project outcomes with a broader community of stakeholders, and one dedicated to ensuring efficient project management (WP7).

Activities will be coordinated by a core consortium of European and African participants. The CAAST-Net governance structures will include the Project Board as the highest decision-making authority acting under the guidance of a high-level Advisory Panel and under the policy direction of the AU/NEPAD and formal EU-AU structures. It should be highlighted that participation in CAAST-Net activities, e.g. workshops and brokerage events, will be open to S&T stakeholders from all European and Sub-Saharan African states, since the objective will be to promote broader Europe-Africa S&T partnerships, and not only between those countries represented by consortium participants.

Within the above context, the list below provides a summary of the Work Packages proposed. Work Package 1 provides desk-based data gathering and analytical services to the project, Work Packages 2-5 provide the action-oriented implementation activities, and Work Packages 6 and 7 are focused on the horizontal knowledge and outreach activities as well as management of the project. Work packages 1-6 relate to coordination activities, while work package 7 relates to management activities.

# Work Package 1

An observatory for Europe-Africa S&T cooperation activities: Gathering the evidence	
Co-leader Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Africa Unit, Association of Commonwealth Universities, United Kingdom</li> <li>Department of Science and Technology, South Africa</li> </ul>
List of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PT-DLR, IRD, FCT, RA, MOST-KE, UNCST, MINISTR, RCN, UniPID, VINNOVA, CIRAD, DR-MENRS, MinESS, DGESC, MINRESI, MRS</li> </ul>
Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An identification of potential areas and instruments for research collaboration between the EU and Africa that could be supported under FP7, based on analysis of S&amp;T strengths and priorities, gaps in existing activities and programmes, potential socio-economic and environmental impacts, and the development of forward looking scenarios</li> <li>An analysis of existing Europe-Africa dialogues relating to S&amp;T cooperation and S&amp;T policy issues, identifying potential gaps and overlaps, and taking account of relevant intra-EU and intra-African dialogues. This analysis should extend beyond S&amp;T cooperation activities under DG Research and the framework programme to build and disseminate knowledge of the S&amp;T actions of other Directorate-Generals in the EU Commission that also have S&amp;T activities with Africa (for example, DGs for Trade, Development, External Relations and EuropeAid) that can, for example, be used to promote greater cohesion in EU-Africa S&amp;T cooperation</li> <li>A mapping of the objectives and activities of EU funding and cooperation instruments other than the Framework Programmes for Research, relevant to African S&amp;T, such as those mentioned in the point above; analysing how these relate to the Framework Programmes and to each other, and identifying potential gaps and synergies</li> </ul>	
Description of Work	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Task 1.1</b> Develop a set of criteria to identify areas for Europe-Africa collaboration</li> <li><b>Task 1.2</b> Identify African science policy objectives and scientific strengths best suited to FP7 cooperation and to recommend how collaboration under these areas could best be supported under FP7</li> <li><b>Task 1.3</b> To analyse past and on-going Europe-Africa S&amp;T collaboration under the EU RTD Framework Programmes, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation schemes</li> <li><b>Task 1.4</b> Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of Europe-Africa S&amp;T collaboration as advanced through CAAST-Net</li> <li><b>Task 1.5</b> An analysis of the current state of S&amp;T policy dialogue in existing Europe-Africa forums</li> <li><b>Task 1.6</b> Horizon-scanning to provide visions for future S&amp;T policy and R&amp;D trends</li> <li><b>Task 1.7.</b> Links with other coordination and support activities targeting S&amp;T cooperation with Africa</li> <li><b>Task 1.8</b> Barriers to the participation of African countries on the FP</li> </ul>	
Deliverables (overleaf)	

- 1.1 Set of criteria for identifying collaborative research areas
- 1.2.1 Report which informs actions to be taken under WP 4 to promote cooperation in identified priority areas. Process to be reviewed/repeated mid-project
- 1.2.2 Inventory of leading African S&T institutes
- 1.2.3 Inventory of opportunities for African participation in 'Peoples' and 'Ideas' Specific Programmes
- 1.3.1 Inventory of FP6/7 projects related to Europe-Africa S&T collaboration
- 1.3.2 Report on existing barriers and good cooperation practice in international collaborative S&T projects under FP submitted to WP 4
- 1.4.1 Yearly M&E reports which are fed into and inform the actions in the policy dialogue of WP 3 and cooperation actions of WP 4 & 5
- 1.5.1 Report on the current state of S&T policy dialogue in existing Europe-Africa forums.
- 1.6.1 Two reports: A long-term scanning report on future R&D trends and scenarios; and a report on policy implications of the identified trends
- 1.7 Reports from the annual meetings of the Europe-Africa Project Coordination Board.
- 1.8 Report and Africa workshop validation on identifying and overcoming barriers to ICPC participation in FP actions

# Work Package 2

<b>Synergy between development cooperation instruments and S&amp;T partnerships: Supporting S&amp;T capacity-building and fighting poverty</b>	
Co-Leader Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uganda National Council of Science and Technology, Uganda</li> <li>The Research Council, Norway</li> </ul>
List of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACU, DST, PT-DLR, IRD, FCT, RA, MOST-KE, MINISTR, UniPID, VINNOVA, CIRAD, DR-MENRS, MinESS, DGESC, MINRESI, MRS</li> </ul>
Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote greater take-up of development orientated Framework Programme research, strengthening innovation</li> <li>To promote synergy between EDF development goals and FP7 S&amp;T cooperation with Africa;</li> <li>Development to strengthen the support to regional indicative programmes</li> <li>Identifying regional S&amp;T bodies in Africa (for example: NEPAD, CODESIA, ANSTI) which might undertake further actions/activities related to enhanced African participation in FP7</li> </ul>	
Description of Work	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Task 2.1</b> Analysis of synergy between EDF and FPs.</li> <li><b>Task 2.2</b> Identify future possible Framework Programme research actions relevant to development cooperation.</li> <li><b>Task 2.3</b> Presentation of the analyses – workshop</li> <li><b>Task 2.4</b> Following up of the result from the workshop</li> </ul>	
Deliverables	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2.1</b> Report on potential for FP-EDF synergy, with recommendations.</li> <li><b>2.2</b> Report on feasibility of using EDF funds to support FP participation with focus on identified research areas to support development cooperation.</li> <li><b>2.3</b> Workshop held at a location to be decided.</li> <li><b>2.4</b> Report of workshop.</li> </ul>	

# Work Package 3

<b>Europe-Africa S&amp;T policy dialogue platform: Fostering an optimal policy environment for S&amp;T cooperation</b>	
Co-Leader Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Management Agency of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre, Germany</li> <li>• Ministry of Science and Technology, Kenya</li> </ul>
List of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACU, DST, IRD, FCT, RA, UNCST, MINISTR, RCN, UniPID, VINNOVA, CIRAD, DR-MENRS, MinESS, DGESC, MINRESI, MRS</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the establishment of a 'Steering Platform for EU-African S&amp;T cooperation' building on the ownership of European and African policy stakeholders</li> <li>• To continuously assist the 'Steering Platform' by creating conditions for sustainable mutual learning between EU and African policy-makers in key policy areas (such as research priority setting; research funding instruments; evaluation; development and use of indicators; ethical and gender aspects of research and last but not least internationalisation policy of S&amp;T) and for strategic development and monitoring of EU-African S&amp;T cooperation with particular emphasis on FP7 addressing areas of bi-regional interest and global problems (i.e. MDGs)</li> <li>• To develop a sustainability plan for the 'Steering Platform' after termination of the CAAST-Net</li> <li>• To convene annual meetings of the project Advisory Panel</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of work</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Task 3.1</b> Setting-up the S&amp;T Steering Platform for EU-African Cooperation</li> <li>• <b>Task 3.2</b> Providing Services to the Steering Platform</li> <li>• <b>Task 3.3</b> Enabling the dialogue with other stakeholders</li> <li>• <b>Task 3.4</b> Dissemination, Links and Sustainability</li> <li>• <b>Task 3.5</b> Advisory Panel</li> </ul>	
<b>Deliverables</b>	
<p>3.1 Concept and Terms of Reference for the Steering Platform</p> <p>3.2.1 Updated lists of the members of the Steering Platform</p> <p>3.2.2 Steering Platform meetings with minutes</p> <p>3.3.1 2 EU-African stakeholders conferences with conference conclusions</p> <p>3.3.2 Draft recommendations on enhanced EU-African S&amp;T cooperation</p> <p>3.4.1 Contributions to the Project Website, Web Portal, Newsletter, Press Releases</p> <p>3.4.2 Draft sustainability plan</p> <p>3.5.1 Panel meetings convened and strategic guidance offered to CAAST-Net consortium and Board</p>	

# Work Package 4

<b>Europe-Africa S&amp;T cooperation platforms: Building partnerships for Europe-Africa S&amp;T cooperation</b>	
Co-Leader Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The French Institute for Development Research, France</li> <li>• Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique, Sénégal</li> </ul>
List of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACU, DST, PT-DLR, FCT, RA, MOST-KE, UNCST, RCN, MINISTR, RCN, UniPID, VINNOVA, CIRAD, DR-MENRS, MinESS, DGESC, MINRESI, MRS</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop proposals for areas and themes for potential SICAs, outline the conditions of their implementation and convey the information to the Commission and Programme Management Committees for future implementation</li> <li>• To analyse existing EU-African S&amp;T cooperation under FP6 and under bilateral cooperation schemes in order to capitalize on these experiences for future initiatives that stimulate S&amp;T cooperation with Africa within FP7 and beyond</li> <li>• To coordinate the results with other INCO-NET initiatives in order to develop a common multi-regional cooperation scenario in relevant thematic area for specific FP7 activities with ICPC</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Work</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Task 4.1</b> Developing proposals for SICAs in future FP7 calls</li> <li>• <b>Task 4.2</b> Lessons learnt from specific bi- and multilateral S&amp;T activities between the EU and Africa</li> <li>• <b>Task 4.3</b> Dialogue and co-operation with other bilateral INCO-Nets.</li> </ul>	
<b>Deliverables (brief description and month of delivery)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4.1.1</b> Methodological terms of reference for the Thematic Workshops</li> <li>• <b>4.1.2</b> 6 Thematic Workshops</li> <li>• <b>4.1.3</b> 6 workshop documentation including knowledge based conclusions for future SICAs</li> <li>• <b>4.2.1</b> 1 Expert Workshop resulting in an analytical paper on good practice and recommendations for future S&amp;T cooperation</li> <li>• <b>4.3.1</b> Joint recommendations with other INCO-NETS addressed to EC and Programme Committees</li> </ul>	

# Work Package 5

Supporting and strengthening African participation in FP7: Improving information and advisory services	
Co-Leader Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal</li> <li>• Direcção Geral de Ensino Superior e Ciência, Cape Verde</li> <li>• Ministry in the President's Office in Charge of Science, Technology and Scientific Research, Rwanda</li> </ul>
List of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACU, DST, IRD, RA, PT-DLR, MOST-KE, UNCST, RCN, UniPID, VINNOVA, CIRAD, DR-MENRS, MinESS, MINRESI, MRS</li> </ul>
Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness both in Africa and in the EU of the opportunities for EU-African S&amp;T cooperation</li> <li>• Providing better information in Africa on the scope for participation in FP7</li> <li>• Fostering contacts and stimulating brokerage between EU and African Higher Education Institutions, non-university S&amp;T institutes and S&amp;T intensive industries aiming at stronger joint participation in the FP7 calls for proposals</li> <li>• Increasing the brain circulation between the EU and Africa through an enhanced use of the 'People' Specific Programme</li> <li>• Promoting and widening the existing NCP system in Africa and increasing the efficiency of African NCPs through sustainable capacity building and integration into EU-NCP networks</li> <li>• Making optimum use of synergies between complementary activities of this INCO-NET and other related coordination and support activities within and beyond FP7</li> </ul>	
Description of Work	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Task 5.1</b> Awareness Raising and information dissemination on African participation on FP7</li> <li>• <b>Task 5.2</b> Brokerage events for increased participation in FP7 calls</li> <li>• <b>Task 5.3</b> Increased participation in the 'People' programme of FP7</li> <li>• <b>Task 5.4</b> Raising the capacities of African NCPs</li> </ul>	
Deliverables (overleaf)	

- 5.1.1 3 Regional Information Days
- 5.1.2 African sessions' in 3 major European scientific conferences
- 5.2.1 3 international 'Brokerage Events' incl. evaluation reports
- 5.3.1 Workshop on barriers to mobility to and from Africa resulting in recommendations on enhanced brain circulation between EU and Africa
- 5.3.2 Inventory of potential host institutions in Africa for EU researchers including their profiles
- 5.4.1 Draft terms of reference for analyzing the state of the art of NCPs in Africa incl. interview guidelines
- 5.4.2 Draft core curriculum for the 3-day basic training for African NCPs
- 5.4.3 Expert Meeting on methodology of NCP analysis and basic training
- 5.4.4 Visits to/interviews of African NCPs resulting in 3 analytical reports of regional dimension (West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa) with recommendations for strengthening the African NCPs incl. regional options for cooperation and presentation to the African authorities
- 5.4.5 3 regional 3-days basic training sessions for African NCP staff in Cap Verde, South Africa, Malagasy Republic including assessment report
- 5.4.6 3 one-week training visits for African NCP staff from West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa in EU-NCPs in Lisbon, Stockholm, Bonn, including assessment reports
- 5.4.7 Annual report on activities towards networking with EU NCPs

# Work Package 6

<b>Knowledge management and outreach</b>	
<b>Leader Institution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ResearchResearch (Africa), South Africa</li> </ul>
<b>List of Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACU, DST, PT-DLR, IRD, FCT, MOST-KE, UNCST, MINISTR, RCN, DR-MENRS, MinESS, DGESC, MINRESI, MRS</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a repository of material created by the project</li> <li>• To provide communications interfaces for dialogue and knowledge sharing.</li> <li>• To provide dissemination tools, to both segmented and general communities that are active in Africa-EU STI policy and practice</li> <li>• To provide a nexus for activity between agencies, governments, research institutes, businesses, civil society and the wider public</li> <li>• To provide editorialised news services disseminating information about the CAAST-Net itself; its deliverables, and be a definitive information source about EU-African S&amp;T policy and activities</li> <li>• To convene biennial meetings of the Project Assembly, jointly with WP7</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Work</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Task 6.1</b> RA to establish terms of reference and run public tender process for website development</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.2</b> Sub-contractor to customise the existing licensed web-based application service solution based on open standards</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.3</b> The WP manager will write and produce online FAQ to assist the CAAST-Net participants and stakeholders to use the site functionalities and tools, and provide on-line help-desk</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.4</b> Subcontractor will host and maintain the CAAST-net site, applications service solution and electronic news delivery services under the supervision of the WP manager</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.5</b> In collaboration with WP leaders, decide on the type of media and range of modes of dissemination, segmentation of readerships – Participants, stakeholders, general public</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.6</b> Provide editorialised e-news services</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.7</b> Management and administration of WP6 financial and time-keeping systems and provision of reports</li> <li>• <b>Task 6.8</b> Convene annual meetings of the Project Assembly</li> </ul>	
<b>Deliverables (overleaf)</b>	

- **6.1.1** Terms of reference drawn up and public tender process conducted
- **6.1.2** CAAST-net initial intranet for Participants with Wiki access control
- **6.2.1** CAAST-net initial website with branding, basic information about the project, Participant contact details for the public
- **6.2.2** Specification of CAAST-net applications services
- **6.2.3** Delivery of CAAST-net website with integrated application service solution providing document libraries; integrated web publishing and eNewsletters; registration and personalisation; wiki; forums; and other functionality identified in participant user-needs survey
- **6.3.1** CAAST-net website Help and FAQ facilities
- **6.4.1** CAAST-Net site hosted and maintained
- **6.5.1** CAAST-Net site participant user needs identified
- **6.6.1** Ongoing e-Publication production as agreed with other WP Participants
- **6.7.1** WP6 financial and progress reports to CAAST-Net coordinator
- **6.8.1** Annual Project Assembly meetings held, in conjunction with Advisory Panel and Board meetings, reports compiled and distributed

# Work Package 7

<b>Project establishment and management</b>	
<b>Leader Institution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Africa Unit, Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage CAAST-Net such that all contractual deliverables are met on time by all participants</li> <li>Manage overall financial issues, including facilitation of audits by the EC, justification of management costs, provision of financial statements, payments of money to participants</li> <li>Manage project legal issues</li> <li>Manage project political aspects such as gender, conflict, ethics.</li> <li>Manage and ensure regular and quality communication between participants to facilitate knowledge sharing; integration of all efforts; resolution of conflicts; gender issues, and WP progress</li> <li>Manage all meetings of the Project Board</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Work</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Task 7.1</b> Project establishment</li> <li><b>Task 7.2</b> Project coordination and consortium management.</li> <li><b>Task 7.3</b> Monitoring and evaluation of project activities and outputs.</li> <li><b>Task 7.4</b> Communication and dissemination</li> <li><b>Task 7.5</b> Administrative and financial management</li> </ul>	
<b>Deliverables (brief description and month of delivery)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1.1 A three day combined project launch and initial project board meeting held and report compiled</li> <li>7.1.2 Agreed set of project procedures, terms of reference and timetables</li> <li>7.2.1 Contractual deliverables on time– reports and milestones</li> <li>7.2.2 Project Board meetings held annually and reports compiled</li> <li>7.3.1 Internal monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment criteria and methodology established</li> <li>7.3.2 ME and impact assessments conducted, report written, results and recommendations implemented</li> <li>7.3.3 Reporting on gender issues</li> <li>7.4.1 Reports and outputs delivered to target stakeholders via Knowledge Platform in WP6</li> <li>7.5.1 Contractual deliverables on time – financial statements and information for audits</li> <li>7.5.2 Payment of money to participants</li> <li>7.5.3 Collation of regular financial statements from participants</li> </ul>	

## 8. Management and governance

CAAST-Net will be managed by an executive Project Board and Chairperson comprising WP leaders from the CAAST-Net consortium. Project management is here defined as the organisation and management of CAAST-Net's human and financial resources in such a way that the project is completed to the satisfaction of the European Commission and stakeholder community within the defined constraints of budget and time to meet the objectives established in the Grant Agreement with the European Commission.

A logical sequence of CAAST-Net management activities will cover project planning, analysis of objectives, assessing and controlling risks, estimating and allocating CAAST-Net's human and financial resources, organizing the work, assigning tasks and directing activities, monitoring project execution and reporting progress, delivering outputs, assuring quality management, issue management, addressing and resolving change, communication to stakeholders, developing future strategies, and project closure.

A vital component of CAAST-Net management will be project governance, the responsibility for which also rests with the Project Board. Project governance will consist of the application of a formal and internally agreed set of policies, procedures and standards. These will, for example cover the definition of accountabilities, quality assurance standards, internal monitoring and evaluation procedures, criteria for success and indicators of failure, definition of desired outcomes, mechanisms for assuring stakeholder commitment, removal of obstacles, conflict resolution and disciplinary procedures and measures, and development of the project's delivery capability to maximise value.

Overall responsibility for coordination of CAAST-Net technical cooperation, and management activities outlined above and detailed below will rest with the project coordinator, represented by the project leader. The project leader is the individual within the coordinating participant organisation acting on behalf of, and with responsibility to the Board for providing strong leadership, ensuring implementation and coordination of CAAST-Net activities, disseminating outcomes and ensuring that the goal of the project is achieved in a timely and quality-assured fashion, and fulfilling administrative and financial management and reporting tasks as required by the Grant Agreement with the Commission. The project leader will be supported in his tasks by a regional co-leader for Africa who will also function as a deputy as needs arise. The project leader and regional co-leader will act effectively as a coordinating team.

Collectively, the Board has extensive experience of EC project management and implementation and its members individually are experts in many fields of S&T policy and/or RTD and international development. Notwithstanding this collective capacity, there is a clear need for high-level strategic guidance from a multisectorial constituency of stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, and government that gives CAAST-Net a wider appreciation of the role of S&T in society and the scope and application of its activities. For this reason, CAAST-Net management will convene, and work closely with a small but multisectorial and Advisory Panel drawn from a pool of senior individuals from both regions who have agreed to provide such guidance.

It is envisaged that the team of the project leader and regional co-leader would, together with a core group of the Advisory Panel, act as a CAAST-Net steering group. Given this vision, it will be especially important that CAAST-Net strives to engage individuals to the Advisory Panel who are fully committed to the goals of CAAST-Net and wider aspirations of EU-Africa cooperation in S&T, and who have the trust of the Project Board and consortium as a whole. Potential member categories for the Advisory Panel are discussed below.

Guidance and advice from the Advisory Panel will be transmitted formally to the Project Board by the Project Leader for debate and eventual decision making at Board meetings. Neither the informal steering group, nor the Advisory panel would have executive decision making rights, which rest solely with the Board, except where, for pragmatic purposes, the Board delegates decision making for specific areas of management and coordination to the Project Leader.

One further forum is required for the whole consortium to meet and to engage with the Board, Advisory Panel and stakeholders. The Project Assembly is foreseen as that forum.

It is proposed that formal, face-to-face meetings of the CAAST-Net consortium, its management and advisory structures will take place on an annual basis only for reasons of economy and time constraints, recognising the wide geographic distribution of consortium participants, and likely Advisory Panel members, but also with consideration to minimising unnecessary travel. For this reason it is likely that the Advisory Panel and steering group would operate principally in a virtual environment, meeting on a formal basis with the Project Board only once a year. Likewise, the Project Board, meeting formally only once a year will rely heavily on both *ad hoc* meetings at CAAST-Net events and on a calendar of virtual meetings to be established by the project leader.

Special relationships are particularly envisaged with Delegates and/or representatives of the European Commission (including CAAST-Net project officers), and with the AU/NEPAD-OST and AMCOST structures. These relationships remain to be elaborated through discussion with the appropriate bodies. The former will be invited to participate at any and all levels of the project cooperation and management activities. The relationship with the latter might most effectively be established within the framework of the Advisory Panel and steering group.

## 9. Consortium partners

### The Africa Unit, Association of Commonwealth Universities (AU-ACU)

The Africa Unit was established at the at the London office of the Association of Commonwealth Universities initially with support from the UK Department Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), and later from the Government Office of Science (GO-Science) to take forward the recommendations of the report of the Commission for Africa on tertiary education, science and technology, and sustainable development. In its March 2005 report, the Committee stated the imperative need for specific action in strengthening the science, engineering and technology capacity for Africa<sup>3</sup> as well as strong recommendations for the revitalisation of higher education. As a result, the G8 leaders at the Gleneagles summit in July 2005 put science and technology high on its development agenda and made the following commitment:

*“Helping develop skilled professionals for Africa’s private and public sectors, through supporting networks of excellence between African’s and other countries’ institutions of higher education and centres of excellence in science and technology institutions.”*

Furthermore, a key aim of the UK’s October 2006 cross-Government International Strategy for Science and Innovation is to co-ordinate EU goals in support of AU/NEPAD’s Consolidated Plan of Action on Science & Technology: the Africa Unit – principally through Dr Andrew Cherry – provides a critically important delivery agent to this end. The CAAST-Net provides an excellent mechanism for investigating ways of coordinating European science and technology players and programmes in support of the implementation of this Plan and the Africa Unit enjoys the UK Government’s full political support.

The Government Office of Science provides the cross-government mechanism for engaging all key UK players (government departments, research institutes, academia and innovation agencies) in CAAST-Net, through the Global Science and Innovation Forum, chaired by the Government’s Chief Scientific Adviser. Its members – including DIUS and the Department for International Development (DfID) – will readily make available all requested information to the Work Package teams, ensuring that the UK’s contribution is complete and comprehensive. The primary focus of the Africa Unit is on brokering and facilitating partnerships and networks between HEIs in the United Kingdom, Europe, the Commonwealth and Africa. Central to this process is the gathering, analysis and dissemination of information about current good practice in partnerships. The central thematic focus of the Unit is on science and technology. The work of the Unit is disseminated through its sponsors, through the ACU’s own networks and through its collaboration with UNESCO, the World Bank and other national and international partners.

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<sup>3</sup> *Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa* (2005), pp.137-138.

The Africa Unit represents a substantial resource for government departments, universities, business and civil society for information, research, analysis, liaison and lobbying in the field of higher education, science and innovation for development in Africa. The Africa Unit staff in the project act primarily to provide project coordination, management, and secretariat services under WP7. Dr Cherry is also co-leader of WP1.

## National Research Foundation, South Africa (NRF)

The objective of the National Research Foundation (NRF) is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities, in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of the natural and social sciences, humanities and technology. In so doing, it contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the country. The organization was established in 1999 as a result of The NRF Act.

As the government's national agency responsible for promoting and supporting basic and applied research as well as innovation, the NRF upholds excellence in its investments in knowledge, people, products and infrastructure. The NRF provides services and grants to support research and postgraduate research training, vital to the development of South Africa. It is the NRF's vision to be a key instrument in the creation of an innovative, knowledge-driven society where all citizens are empowered to contribute to a globally competitive and prosperous country.

Funding from the NRF is largely directed towards academic research, developing high-level human resources, and supporting the nation's national research facilities. The NRF's task is to advance research in all fields of the humanities, social and natural sciences, engineering, and technology; including indigenous knowledge. By forging strategic partnerships locally and internationally, it extends the resources that researchers need to foster and expand South Africa's research capabilities and, ultimately, to improve the quality of life for all.

Other areas of its core business are to promote research capacity development (RCD), to unlock the full creative potential of the research community and to establish equity and redress. The NRF fosters strategic partnerships and knowledge networks to make South Africa globally relevant and competitive. It provides research information and strategic advice.

## The South African Department of Science and Technology, South Africa (DST)

The South African Department of Science and Technology is the national government authority responsible for science, technology and innovation policy in South Africa. The Department is also responsible for overseeing and advancing South Africa's international science and technology cooperation. An important part of South Africa's international science and technology cooperation portfolio, is the country's relations with the European Union, including participation in the European Union Framework Programmes for Research, and several active bilateral relations with European Union Member States or countries associated to the Framework Programmes.

South Africa has signed a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement with the European Union in 1996, and the Department of Science and Technology has therefore been responsible over the past decade, in partnership with the European Commission's Directorate-General Research to coordinate, monitor and promote cooperation under the Agreement – this has included South African participation in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes (FP4-7). The Department has also engaged in a regular science and technology policy dialogue with the European Commission through the annual South Africa – European Commission Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee meetings.

In promoting South African participation in the Framework Programmes, the Department has over the past five years been overseeing and guiding the work of a comprehensive Network of Framework Programme National Contact Points (NCPs) it had established. The work of the South African NCPs has been especially successful under FP6. The Department has also implemented the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP), a bilateral Specific Support Action, implemented under the FP6 and which had contributed to South Africa's more than 120 FP6 participations. The Department of Science and Technology also plays a leading role in efforts to promote regional science and technology cooperation between the European Union and Africa – and is therefore also actively contributing to the FP7 INCO-Net for Africa – CAAST-Net.

The Department has, since 2003, operated a fully-fledged Science and Technology Representative Office in Brussels – incorporated as part of the South African Mission to the European Union. The Representative Office is tasked with maintaining South Africa's strategic and high-level science and technology relations in Europe, including advancing South Africa's Framework Programme participation. The current Senior Science and Technology Representative in Europe, Mr Daan du Toit, has significant experience of close to a decade in promoting South Africa's science and technology partnerships with Europe, having *inter alia* served as South Africa's FP6 NCP Coordinator and Manager of the ESASTAP initiative. He and the current ESASTAP Manager and South African FP7 NCP Coordinator, Mr Mmboneni Muofhe, will be key members of the South African team to contributing to CAAST-Net.

## **Project Management Agency of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre, Germany (PT-DLR)**

The Project Management Agency of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) assists the BMBF in the planning and implementation of a wide range of national research programmes in various thematic areas and related European and international affairs. It provides direct services to the Ministry and also administers BMBF funding to German higher education, public research institutions and industries.

The International Bureau of the BMBF (IB) as part of PT-DLR supports bilateral cooperation in science, technology and education with about 50 countries around the world, with a special emphasis on the development of the European Research Area and its neighbourhood regions. With respect to Africa, South Africa is of highest priority in this context, with well established bilateral cooperation schemes. The IB acts also as national contact point for European and international organisations programmes and initiatives, including the International Science and Technology Centre (ISTC) and the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine (STCU).

The IB participates in a number of European coordination and support activities. We currently coordinate the SSA 'Scenarios for a co-ordinated approach to sustainable S/T co-operation with the Eastern Neighbours of the EU (SCOPE-EAST)' (funded in the INCO-programme of FP6) and participate actively in a number of EU-projects for setting up frameworks for international cooperation.

The EU-Bureau of the BMBF (EUB) as part of PT-DLR has a long tradition in providing particular services to the BMBF with respect to horizontal issues of the European RTD FP. It coordinates the German network of NCPs and is NCP for a number of FP7 activities like 'International Cooperation', 'Research Infrastructures', 'Regions of Knowledge', 'Raising Full Potential', 'Science in Society' and 'Legal and Financial Issues'. The EUB is actively involved in the development of NCP-systems in particular in Central, Eastern and SE Europe and was coordinator and partner of a number of EU support activities (FP 5 & 6). With respect to Africa, PT-DLR contributes to the FP6 CPN-Africa project aiming at building the capacities of NCPs in health research in Africa.

Through its long experience with the international governmental S&T cooperation of Germany, the active involvement in the planning and implementation of the European RTD FPs and the proactive participation in a number of EU CSAs, PT-DLR has developed specific expertise to contribute to all elements of the proposed INCO NET with particular emphasis on WP3 'Europe-Africa S&T policy dialogue platform'.

## The French Institute for Development Research, France (IRD)

IRD is the pre-eminent French research organisation dedicated to development. Created in 1944 (formerly ORSTOM) and attached to the Ministries of Research and of Foreign Affairs, it is a not-for-profit government-funded public organisation whose general mission is to conduct research and research training with a view to promoting the economic, social and cultural development in Southern countries. IRD has a budget of 190 M€.

About 45% of IRD's personnel (more than 2250 permanent staff) works outside France, in the French overseas territories and in 40 countries, mainly in Africa (where it has permanent delegations in 13 countries), and also in Asia, the Indian Ocean, Latin America and the Pacific area. As such, IRD has a long history of working with partner institutions in those regions and has established strong and well-recognized research networks.

IRD supports directly the Southern scientific communities through grant allocation and sponsored projects and is an active member of the International Foundation for Science. IRD puts a special emphasis on knowledge-sharing activities and the pro-active involvement of the Southern research communities.

The aim of research performed at IRD is to respond to the major development challenges regarding the societies and human health, earth, environment and living resources, and to bring the fruits of research into sustainable development for the better live of people. To reach this goal, IRD has mobilized its resources to address six development priorities: combating poverty and exclusion, international migration, emerging infectious diseases, climate change and environmental hazards, water resources and access to water, ecosystems.

## **ResearchResearch (Africa) (Pty.) Ltd., South Africa (RA)**

ResearchResearch (Africa) (Pty.) Ltd., (RRA) is a private company registered in South Africa, incorporated under Act 61 of 1973, Reg. No. 2005/042215/07.

RRA is a multi-media publishing house that provides paper and website accessed news, information and services to subscribers. The markets in which Research Africa operates are principally the geographic region of Africa, and worldwide (the 'Africanist' readership).

The reader segmentation is higher education institutions, research institutes S&T and Science Capacity Building departments of governments, NGOs, INGOs, and philanthropic organisations.

## Ministry of Science and Technology, Kenya (MOST-KE)

The Ministry of Science and Technology in Kenya spearheads and promotes integration of science, technology and innovation into national production systems for sustainable development. It promotes and facilitates the integration of science and technology into the policy, planning and the national development processes.

The role of MOST-KE in CAAST-Net is as co-leader of WP3 with analytical inputs and responsibility for workshops under other WPs.

The Ministry's Strategic Plan aims at realizing the objectives of the country's Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERSWEC) in line with Vision 2030, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) flagship programmes. These will be addressed through the following policy priorities:

- Promote evidence based policy making and national development through integration of STI and TE considerations,
- Review and enhance capacity of the national STI and TE system towards demand driven services and effective use of talents and facilities,
- Involve stakeholders in the development of comprehensive national STI and TIVET strategies,
- Improve quality, relevance, equity and access to Technical, Industrial, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TIVET),
- Develop programmes to encourage private sector participation in STI and TE,
- Develop programmes for promoting excellence, innovation and investment in STI and TE,
- Strengthen the national STI and TE standing and its competitiveness in the global arena through promotion of excellence, creativity, innovation and investment in STI and TE.

The Ministry's current organizational structure consists of three departments and one Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA). The three Departments are; the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Directorate of Research Development (DRD) and the Administrative Support services Department. The National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) is the SAGA.

## Ugandan National Council of Science and Technology, Uganda (UNCST)

The UNCST is the principal Ugandan Government organ for providing innovative leadership in the formulation of policies and strategies for development, promotion and application of science and technology and its integration in sustainable national development. UNCST's mandate is the development and coordination of policies and strategies for integrating Science and Technology (S&T) into the national development processes; to advise the government of Uganda on policy matters necessary for promoting S&T and; coordinating and guiding national research and development (R&D) efforts. UNCST has a vision to be the centre of excellence for effective management and integration of science and technology into the national development process

UNCST is made up of a Council (Governing Board), comprised of 32 eminent scientists appointed by the Minister responsible for Science and Technology matters. It is the supreme policy making organ and responsible for implementing the UNCST Statute through its organs. UNCST also comprises an Executive Committee, Specialized Committees and a Secretariat.

The UNCST S&T Policy and Coordination division, which would oversee UNCST involvement in CAAST-Net aims at operationalising the national S&T policy; formulating and coordinating the implementation of other related policies; strengthening the national S&T human resource capacity and; strengthening the technology transfer and intellectual property management.

UNCST has successfully supervised implementation of projects in ICT, Health, Agriculture, Indigenous knowledge, Education, Biotechnology, Public policy and many others, with support from Government of Uganda and International Partners, including, EU, IDRC, USAID, SIDA, UNDP, and the World Bank. The UNCST has of recent pioneered the implementation of the 5 year US\$ 30 million-Millennium Science Initiative project in Africa, starting in 2007.

## **Ministry in the President's Office in Charge of Science, Technology and Scientific Research, Rwanda (MINISTR)**

The mission of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Scientific Research (MINISTR) is to formulate, coordinate, and manage national science, technology, and research (STR) policies and strategic plans for economic growth and poverty reduction. In fulfilling this mission, MINISTR shall integrate Science, Technology, Scientific Research and Innovation in a regulatory and legal framework that includes capability building, technical transfer initiatives, and the promotion of innovation, in the context of the issues facing Rwanda.

## The Research Council of Norway, Norway (RCN)

The Research Council of Norway is a national strategic body and funding agency for research and innovation activities. The Research Council covers all fields of research and innovation and works together with research institutions as well as the private and public sectors to reach the national financial goals and quality targets set in this area.

The Research Council plays a vital role in developing and implementing the country's national research strategy. The Research Council has an annual budget of approximately NOK 5 billion (approximately 670 M €). This is 30% of the public funding of the Norwegian research, and utilises specifically-targeted funding schemes to help translate national research policy goals into action. It acts as:

- a government adviser, identifying present and future needs for knowledge and research, and recommending national priorities;
- a funding agency for research programmes and independent projects, strategic programmes at research institutions, and Norwegian participation in international research activities;
- a co-ordinator, initiating networks and promoting co-operation between research institutions, ministries, business and industry, public agencies and enterprises, other sources of funding, and users of research.

### Organisation

The Research Council of Norway has approximately 350 employees and comprises three research divisions: Division for Science, Division for Strategic Priorities and Division for Innovation.

The Executive Board of the Research Council is responsible for the Council's policy at the national level. Three Division Boards, one for each research division, advise and report to the Executive Board.

Increased internationalisation is a main priority in the Research Council's overall strategy. The Research Council gives priority to strengthening Norwegian participation in fora in which international research policy is being formulated, with special emphasis on research policy efforts in key European institutions.

The Research Council of Norway is member of several international organisations, programmes and institutes and has signed cooperation agreements with institutions in many countries.

More information about the Research Council can be found at [www.forskingsradet.no](http://www.forskingsradet.no).

## Finnish Universities' Partnership for International Development, Finland (JYU-UniPID)

The Finnish Universities' Partnership for International Development (UniPID) is a network of universities aiming at promoting and implementing sustainable development in the world through establishing durable, long-lasting research cooperation, based on the principles of partnership between universities in Finland and in the South, according to the concept of institutional partnership approved at the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

The coordinating university of UniPID is the University of Jyväskylä (JyU) for the term 2006-2008. UniPID cooperation agreement brings together the following 14 Finnish universities: Helsinki School of Economics, Tampere University of Technology, University of Helsinki, University of Tampere, University of Joensuu, Helsinki University of Technology, University of Jyväskylä, Turku School of Economics, University of Kuopio, University of Turku, University of Lapland, Åbo Akademi University, University of Oulu, and the University of Vaasa.

UniPID expands the CAAST-Net consortium's coverage of European universities to non-Commonwealth countries. As a network of universities, UniPID brings along 14 universities without adding the administrative burden since UniPID will coordinate among its member universities. Since UniPID has been established specifically for North-South university partnerships, it brings in several particular Europe-Africa university networks, existing and emerging, which include other than Finnish universities too from Europe. Existing partnerships with African universities are in many fields, e.g., social sciences, public health, ICT, tropical forestry, fishing and fish cultivation, water engineering, educational technology, etc., and involve Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malagasy Republic, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, among others.

UniPID will contribute to CAAST-Net by organizing thematic workshops together with African partners. UniPID will liaise with the Academy of Finland and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland especially regarding the work of FP7 National Contact Points. The UniPID Board provides the following expertise, among others:

## Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, Sweden (VINNOVA)

### Capacities of the organisation

VINNOVA integrates research and development in technology, transport and working life. VINNOVA's mission is to promote sustainable growth by financing RTD and developing effective innovation systems. Within its International Division VINNOVA hosts the European Programmes Department where all Swedish NCPs are coordinated. This department is commissioned by the Swedish Government to aid all Swedish organisations interested in EU's Framework programmes as well as other research initiatives from the European Commission.

The European Programmes at VINNOVA is a centralised NCP-organisation, for the Framework Programme since 1992. VINNOVA has all NCPs in the department and provide information and advice concerning all aspects of the EU Framework Programmes. VINNOVA also monitor Sweden's progress in the framework programme and compile statistics and perform evaluations and analysis of results. We give advice and support on all EU framework programmes, from research priorities to applications and contract issues. Our contact persons are familiar with the priorities in all areas and our legal counsel has extensive experience and answers for all activities concerning rules for participation, contracts and other agreements. VINNOVA's office in Brussels assist with meeting facilities and contacts or example with the European Commission and other institutions in Brussels. The office acts as a link and contact point and discussion partner and arrange seminars on-site in Brussels. The office is part of the IGLO network of research offices in Brussels.

## Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, France (CIRAD)

CIRAD is specialised in development-oriented agricultural research for tropical, sub-tropical regions. CIRAD has a mandate to contribute to rural development in tropical and subtropical countries through research, experimentation, training operations in France and overseas, and scientific and technical information, primarily in the fields of agriculture, veterinary, forestry and agrifoods. This mandate has broadened to include environmental issues and natural resource management, and also involves CIRAD in drawing up public development aid policy. CIRAD has a budget of 200 million euros and a staff of 1 820 agents, including 1 050 senior staff members working in more than 50 countries worldwide. CIRAD is organized in three research departments (The Performance of Tropical Production and Processing Systems Department; The Biological Systems Department; The Environments and Societies Department) and is organised in 60 research units. CIRAD operates through its own research centres and collaborates with national agricultural research systems, universities and international centers, private firms, producer groups, smallholder professional organizations, agroindustrial firms and nongovernmental organizations. CIRAD is member of ECART (European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics).

CIRAD has 106 researchers permanently assigned in the African-countries (20 in Malagasy Republic, 17 in oriental and austral Africa, 31 in central Africa and 38 in Ouest Africa) and four regional offices in these regions. Research topics addressed by CIRAD and its partners focus on management of water resources, animal health & emerging animal disease, food quality and security, certification of food products, agricultural waste management, biotechnology, natural resources management, agro-ecology and agro-forestry, aquaculture, pest integrated management and control, support of family agriculture, public policy economics, Sustainable cropping systems, peri-urban farming and distribution chains.

## Direction of Research, Madagascar (DR-MENRS)

The Direction of Research is a technical direction within the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research (DR-MENRS). Its principal mission is to coordinate research activities carried out by the Centers, Institutes and Universities. Moreover, it ensures the steering and orientation of research activities undertaken in these entities:

1. The FOFIFA (the National Center of Applied Research for Rural Development)
2. The CNARP (the National Center of Applied Pharmaceutical Research)
3. The CNRIT (the National Center of Industrial and Technological Research)
4. The CNRE (the National Center of Environmental Research)
5. The CIDST (the Center of Scientific and Technical Documentation)
6. The CNRO (the National Center of Oceanographic Research)
7. The IMVAVET (the Malagasy Institute of Veterinary Vaccines)
8. The INSTN (the National Institute of Nuclear Sciences and Techniques)
9. The PBZT (the Botanical and Zoological Park of Tsimbazaza), and
10. The Research Institutes and Laboratories of Universities in Madagascar.

It has also the mandate of searching and strengthening national and international scientific and technical cooperation through conventions and agreements between different partners. The collaboration covers Environment and Biodiversity, Agriculture, Energy, Technology and Industry, Research and Development.

The Direction of Research currently contributes to the implementation of regional research networks in Africa, Indian Ocean, International Institutes or Agencies (e.g. IAEA), United Nation Organization (UNESCO); among the European partners, there are IRD, CIRAD, CNRS, MNHN (Museum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris). It organizes in a regular basis scientific forums and facilitates dissemination of scientific results through seminars and scientific meetings.

The Direction is currently representing Madagascar on the Steering Committee of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology, to which Madagascar had been elected as one of two representatives for Eastern Africa. Madagascar has participated in 17 Framework Programmes over the years.

## Ministry of Education, Sport and Science, Ghana (MINESS)

The Ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of national S&T policies in Ghana. The current priority is the S&T components of Ghana's macro economic and social development strategies- Ghana Vision 2020 Ghana growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Department has developed and is implementing S&T sectoral strategies in areas such as information and communication Technology (ICT), biotechnology, bio-safety, nuclear research, energy and agriculture. Specific attention is being paid to ICT and initiatives include the development of Science Park at the Kwame Nkrumah University of science and Technology to support small and medium enterprises active in software and hardware testing and development.

The Ministry administers the National Council for Tertiary Education under which jurisdiction Ghana's six universities fall. The Ministry thus directs R&D at these institutions and other Public research institution including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC). The Ministry represents Ghana on the Steering Committee of the African Ministerial Council of Science and Technology to which Ghana had been elected as one of two representatives for Western Africa.

Ghana has participated in 47 Framework Programmes. The Ministry is responsible for Ghana's international R&D cooperation initiatives, including collaboration with the EU.

Currently, Ghana seeks within its priorities in science and technology policies to:

- Review ST&I policies in collaboration with Development Partners including the Division of Investment Technology Enterprise Division (DITE) of United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank.
- Commercialize S&T research outputs .Public research will be revamped to be mission-oriented so as to create a balance with basic research.
- Promote the new Education Sector Reform targets Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as an agent to produce a critical mass of technologists, technician and other middle level workforce to enhance Ghana's industrial drive. There is the need to infuse Entrepreneurship programme into the TVET curricula and also to build capacities in human resource infrastructure and equipment.
- Enhance Private sector participation in Research and Development is an area that needs to be explored as that sector is the prime beneficiary of S&T results; a programme to sensitize the Private Sector or R&D will stimulate their involvement in capital venture exploits and a general suitable funding mechanisms.
- To install an STI system that promotes sub-regional and regional cooperation as a vehicle in the globalization process.

## Direcção Geral de Ensino Superior e Ciência, Cape Verde (DGESC)

Direcção Geral do Ensino Superior e Ciência (DGESC) – Directorate General for Higher Education and Science is integrated in the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports.

With respect to Science and Technology, the main objectives of this Director General cover namely the following dimensions

- The coordination between Higher Education, Science and Technology and Research aiming at enhancing national development and production
- The coordination of all research activities in the country
- The development of actions enabling the creation of a national system of Science and Technology (S&T)
- The access, disclosure, collection, analysis and dissemination of scientific and technical information
- The monitoring of the national capacity on S&T
- The dissemination of scientific knowledge (as a tool to promote the interest for activities on S&T)

This Director General takes account as well of the more general objectives of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports in relation to S&T, such as:

- The reinforcement of the national community on S&T
- The coordination of the international scientific and technological cooperation
- The enhancement of research activities in public and private firms
- The support to basic research, namely in the higher education sector namely through public programs aiming at capacity building of research centres and intensification of the training of researchers

## **Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Cameroon (MINRESI)**

In Cameroon, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation is responsible for the elaboration, execution and the evaluation of government policies in all matters of Scientific Research and Innovation. There are a number of organisations reporting to the Ministry such as for example the Academy of Science of Cameroon and the Council for Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Specialist organisations falling under the Ministry are for example focused on animal health and production, agricultural research for development, geology and mines, medical research, medicinal plants, cartography,

The Ministry is responsible for international scientific and technological cooperation in Cameroon.

Collaboration with Africa is a big priority and the Ministry for example hosts the Secretariat of the Ministerial Conference of Ministers Responsible for Research in West and Central Africa.

A specific policy priority of the Ministry is technology development and commercialisation. The Ministry is responsible for the development of several new national strategies in the S&T field. Cameroon has participated in 73 Framework Programme projects over the years.

## Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique, Sénégal (MRS)

The Ministry of Scientific Research in Senegal (MRS) is the national government authority responsible for science, technology and innovation policy. It is responsible for fundamental and applied research by promoting the direct application of science and technology in the national development. MRS has also the mission of coordinating and to guiding national research in Universities, research institutes and centres. To achieve this mission, MRS in collaboration with partners will set up an African Centre for Research and Applications for creating favourable conditions to exercise a quality research directed towards the satisfaction of the needs of populations by:

- Favours a research environment adopted to scientific and technical innovation by creating well equipped laboratories;
- Promoting technology, research transfers towards industry and small farmers;
- Favours an open advisory environment along with the enterprises , to encourage research as a source of innovation and profit;
- Making a census and evaluate research results able to be vulgarised in terms of agricultural, agro-alimentary and bio medical applications;
- Defining a policy of intellectual property
- 

The MRS has already taken part in 7th PCRD of European Commission, specifically in the START project dedicated to the promotion of R&D and scientific cooperation between Sub-Saharan Africa and European Union in the field of Communication and Information Technologies (Euro-Africa ICT). The Minister for Scientific Research, Professor Yaye Kène Gassama DIA chaired on March 21, 2007, a workshop of information and exchanges on Project Euro Africa ICT, organized in partnership with the Institute Panos Africa of the west.

## Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal (FCT)

FCT undertakes currently activities along the following lines:

- Coordination of actions aiming at promoting the international cooperation inherent to the membership of Portugal in the EU
- Coordination of actions in the field of cooperation associated with the international organizations which Portugal integrates
- Ensuring the bilateral and multilateral relations with departments of the Portuguese Administration holding competences in the field of European affairs and External relations
- Promoting the diffusion of the Portuguese Potential on Science and Higher Education abroad

With respect to EU RTD Framework Programme (FP), FCT focuses its activities in the following main areas:

- Dissemination of the programme in all its actions
- Conception and organization of events
- Technical support to the Portuguese partners in the process of preparation of proposals to be submitted to the FP
- Active search of partners
- Preparation of the Portuguese views on science policy in the EU context
- Follow up of the activities of the national delegates to the different programmes of the FP
- Follow up and monitoring of the participation of Portuguese partners in the FP
- 

FCT is still responsible for the network of National Contact Points (NCP) relative to the 6<sup>th</sup> FP in cooperation with other entities. Therefore, in all areas, there is always an officer of our office as a NCP who takes the main responsibility in the country in each area of the FP.

# 10. The consortium as a whole

The FP7 Capacities Work Programme for international cooperation activities stipulates that INCO-Net consortia should be balanced between European and third country participants from the targeted region concerned. This is achieved by the CAAST-Net consortium, which currently consists of eight of leading agencies responsible for S&T cooperation from Europe and ten from Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the distribution of consortium participants ensures coverage of all major regions, with representatives included from Southern (South Africa), Eastern (Uganda and Kenya), Central (Rwanda and Cameroon) and Western Africa (Senegal, Ghana, and Cape Verde), as well as the Indian Ocean islands (Madagascar), which will ensure CAAST-Net will be able to advance Europe-Africa S&T cooperation in a geographically comprehensive manner. In addition to broad geographic distribution, participants represent francophone (Cameroon, Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal), anglophone (Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa) and lusophone (Cape Verde) communities.

Furthermore, five of the African members of the CAAST-Net consortium are also their countries' representatives on the Steering Committee of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST.) This, together with the other close linkages established between CAAST-Net and the AU/NEPAD, will ensure the implementation of the project with the full support of the mandated African continental authorities responsible for S&T. CAAST-Net implementation will therefore be aligned with and optimally support the realisation of African goals such as those elaborated in the CPA.

The consortium consists of individual participating organisations with rich and varied experience and expertise. This diversity is for example found in the different organisational focuses of the participants or in their respective experience of past Europe-Africa S&T cooperation. Collectively the participants complement in each other in such a manner, as will be described below, that the consortium is well-balanced and equipped with all the necessary resources to obtain the project objectives.

The consortium members all have responsibility for aspects of international S&T cooperation in their countries. Some are government ministries responsible largely for S&T policy formulation, while others are implementing organisations, such as agencies responsible for administering R&D funding programmes. This complementarity of competencies and experience throughout the consortium will ensure it is well placed to implement CAAST-Net activities; both those with policy and analytical focus, and those of a more operational nature in S&T cooperation.

It should also be highlighted that within the consortium, there are both African and Europe participants with extensive experience of the EU Framework Programmes – some are for example responsible for administering their countries' FP7 Networks of National Contact Points. This experience will be an invaluable resource, for example in learning from African participation in FP6, as strategies are designed and implemented to promote African participation in FP7. The extensive experience in EC-FP project management of several European participants in the CAAST-Net consortium serves to mitigate any perceived weaknesses among other participants. However, the participation of African participants in the consortium with much less experience of the Framework

Programmes, will also ensure the project implementation is informed by an accurate understanding of the challenges faced by countries with little or no experience of Framework Programme participation.

Several participants, both African and European, in the consortium, work in close partnership with other agencies and government bodies responsible for areas relevant to S&T such as development cooperation or trade. CAAST-Net will of course have as one of its priorities to identify and leverage synergy between S&T cooperation and other relevant instruments. Again the experience, within the consortium equips CAAST-Net well to achieve this objective – many participants for example have experience of seeking to secure development cooperation support for S&T capacity-building.

The diversity of participants' experience is indeed an important asset for the consortium. Several European participants for example have experience of cooperation with Africa in research programmes with development orientated objectives, within a generic or thematic specific context, for example agriculture. Other European participants have less, or emerging experience of R&D cooperation with Africa, but will contribute important insights into how S&T cooperation with Africa could be fostered also outside the traditional development-orientated R&D programmes, for example, with regard to innovation.

It should also be noted that many of the consortium participants already enjoy strong bilateral relations – this pertains to both the relations between African and European partners, as well as intra-African and intra-European relations. This past history of cooperation means many of the participants have a very good understanding of other members in the consortium's respective capacities and organisational 'culture.' This experience of cooperation, including the strong inter-institutional and inter-personal relations which exist between members of the consortium will be an invaluable asset for the project.

The efficient and focused project management structure proposed for CAAST-Net will ensure the respective skills, capacities and experience of the consortium members will be optimally leveraged for the project as a whole. For example, consortium members will be responsible for the implementation of specific tasks in areas where they have specific expertise and experience, and which are also aligned with the focus and mandates of their organisations. All consortium members are also strongly committed to the realisation of the CAAST-Net objectives, as evidenced by the direction for their participation in the project issued at the highest government level.

# 11. Impact

CAAST-Net will achieve all the desired impacts listed in the work programme for the INCO-Net for Africa. A European approach will be essential to ensure CAAST-Net's success as will be the close interface with other international entities such as the AU and NEPAD. The attainment of the impacts is further described below.

## (a) Structured fora for dialogue between the EU and Sub-Saharan Africa

CAAST-Net will in the first instance critically analyse the current landscape of structures for Europe-Africa policy dialogues on S&T cooperation. Informed by the outcome of the analysis, CAAST-Net will establish a Steering Platform for Europe-Africa S&T Cooperation to complement the existing intergovernmental policy dialogues at the level of EU-AU/NEPAD cooperation. Through an enhanced policy dialogue the Steering Platform will specifically seek to promote Europe-Africa cooperation under FP7 and therefore add value to the formal intergovernmental processes, which are not for considering instruments such as the FP7 in detail.

The Steering Platform will address fragmentation in the Europe-Africa policy dialogues on S&T cooperation as well as any lack of coherence between S&T cooperation and other Europe-Africa policy objectives such as development cooperation. The Steering Platform will be aligned with and guided by the formal EU-AU/NEPAD structures and not seek to replace or duplicate them. The Steering Platform would therefore become an instrument for European and African governments to advance their cooperation.

In the light of the multilateral focus of the policy dialogue and the Steering Platform a European contribution is essential, since these activities can not be addressed at the national or local level. Coordination of instruments and initiatives are indeed essential to advance Europe-Africa S&T cooperation.

The policy dialogue implemented by the Steering Platform will consider the synergy to be leveraged between European and African countries' bilateral cooperation and their participation in multilateral programmes such as FP7. However, the policy dialogue will only consider national research activities as inputs, which shape Europe-Africa cooperation, the prerogative for implementing them will remain with the countries concerned. As already indicated above, the Steering Platform will be aligned with international research activities such as the CPA of the AU/NEPAD, and will become an instrument for the EU – AU/NEPAD to advance their cooperation.

The Steering Platform will be successful if it is recognised as a legitimate forum and instrument for advancing Europe-Africa S&T cooperation. To achieve this legitimacy, the Steering Platform must be developed, as has been done with CAAST-Net, in close partnership with the intergovernmental bodies mandated to advance EU-AU/NEPAD cooperation.

In this regard, discussions are on-going at the time of writing with the Ministry of Science and Technology in Kenya (via the Permanent Secretary Professor Kiamba), which is due to takeover as chair

of AMCOST from November 2007. Discussions are considering the presentation of CAAST-Net at the forthcoming AMCOST meeting in November in Kenya as a significant instrument of EU-Africa cooperation in science and technology. AMCOST support for CAAST-Net will offer legitimacy for effective implementation of its actions. In the same direction, an invitation has been received to present CAAST-Net at a forthcoming G8-AMCOST meeting in Berlin during October 2007. In both these actions, through coordination with the INCO-Net for EU-Mediterranean a united approach to the cooperation between EU and the whole of Africa will be achieved. The strength of several north African countries in S&T makes this coordinated approach essential to achieving support for the broad goals of EU-Africa INCO-Nets. Discussions with the coordinator of MIRA net have been opened.

## **(b) Setting of priorities for S&T cooperation based on mutual interest and benefit**

One of the key objectives of CAAST-Net will be to identify research areas of joint interest to Europe and Africa, where the potential exists for mutually beneficial Europe-Africa S&T cooperation. CAAST-Net will identify such areas through the analysis by its Observatory of the partner regions' respective R&D policies, priorities and capacities. The European – African S&T cooperation platform to be established by CAAST-Net will further develop through for example workshops of African and European experts, the areas identified through the analyses into SICAs for recommended inclusion in the FP7 Cooperation Specific Programme. The inclusion of SICAs focused on Africa in the FP7 Cooperation Specific Programme's thematic priorities will achieve an optimally efficient targeted use of the available resources.

The identification of research areas of joint interest imperatively requires a European approach, since such areas can not be identified through a national or local approach, but requires collective regional reflection and analysis. In identifying areas of joint interest, especially for FP7 SICAs, it would also be essential to take into consideration research priorities identified in international research programmes, such as the CPA of the AU/NEPAD. CAAST-Net will accordingly identify areas of joint interest guided by priorities established by the formal EU-AU/NEPAD processes and documents like the CPA.

For CAAST-Net to achieve its objectives with regard to the identification of areas of mutual interest and benefit, the quality of the Observatory's analyses will be critical. These analyses would also need to be validated through further consideration by experts and policy-makers, and be aligned with existing regional priorities such as the CPA. The latter will be important for CAAST-Net's identification of research themes to be endorsed as legitimate by formal EU-AU/NEPAD intergovernmental structures. In the CAAST-Net implementation these imperatives will be respected.

## **(c) Enhanced Sub-Saharan African participation in FP7**

Promoting improved Sub-Saharan African participation in FP7 will be a key objective of CAAST-Net. This will be achieved through concerted actions such awareness-raising of FP7 opportunities among the African R&D community, brokerage events to match European and African partners preparing FP7 proposals, targeted initiatives focusing on specific aspects of the FP7 such as the People Programme and the strengthening of the 'National Contact Point' advisory and information capacities in Sub-Saharan Africa. These traditional FP7 promotion activities will be complemented by strategic

interventions such as the policy analysis of conditions which hamper African participation or the identification and recommendation of SICAs.

A European approach is essential for the FP7 promotion effort given the focus of the Programme on transnational cooperation, which requires a multilateral promotion effort. The FP7 promotion effort will take account national research programmes, from a comparative strength perspective, since they will constitute the basis upon which African countries will seek to achieve FP7 participation. The FP7 promotion effort will also be aligned with international research programmes such as the CPA of the AU/NEPAD, since through the enabling the internationalisation of African R&D, FP7 can play a valuable role in supporting the implementation of the CPA. For the FP7 promotion effort to be successful, authorities in African countries responsible for national R&D strategies, would have to prioritise the FP7 as an instrument for international cooperation. Indeed, FP7 participation will be most valuable to those countries, which have mainstreamed its FP7 engagement as part of their national R&D programmes.

#### (d) Effective implementation of joint activities

The carefully considered strategy for the CAAST-Net work programme will ensure effective implementation of joint activities. Implementation will be guided by the well-informed policy advice from the Observatory, bolstered by the policy dialogue established by the Steering Platform and supported by the efforts of the Cooperation Platform. Given the focus on transnational cooperation a European approach is again essential, whilst joint activities will serve to complement national and international research programmes – indeed CAAST-Net will endeavour to exploit synergy between multilateral and bilateral cooperation. External factors such both regions' ongoing higher-level commitment to cooperation will of course impact on the implementation of joint activities, but the Steering Platform will seek to nurture such commitment.

#### (e) Participation by a large number of Sub-Saharan African countries

In order for CAAST-Net to achieve its objective the participation by a large number of Sub-Saharan African countries will be essential. This will be achieved through the participation by a core group of leading African agencies responsible for S&T policy in their countries as members of the implementing consortium. This group is representative of all Africa's regions. Outreach to African countries not represented in the consortium will be one of the first priorities for CAAST-Net. All CAAST-Net activities will also have a comprehensive geographical focus, e.g. workshops will be open to representatives from across Sub-Saharan Africa, whilst studies will focus on cooperation with Sub-Saharan African from a regional perspective. CAAST-Net will also maintain close cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities in Africa and with African S&T bodies with a regional focus, e.g. the ICSU Regional Office for Africa. CAAST-Net will of course also be implemented under the advice of the AU/NEPAD, which will ensure comprehensive continental support for activities.

In order to develop relations with Sub-Saharan Africa in an inter-regional and multilateral context an European approach is essential. There will be interface with national R&D programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, as these will benefit from FP7 engagement, whilst Africa's FP7 participation will also seek to complement international research programmes such as the AU/NEPAD CPA. The participation by a

large number of Sub-Saharan African countries in CAAST-Net will be dependent on the ongoing AU/NEPAD support for the project, which of course will be maintained as a priority.

#### (f) Forum for the exchange of views with relevant partners and stakeholders

In order to advance cooperation, regular dialogue on relevant R&D policy issues with partners and stakeholders will be essential. CAAST-Net will foster such a dialogue as part of the Steering Platform to be established. The policy analysis undertaken by the Observatory in WP1 will ensure relevant topics are addressed during the dialogues and its analysis of the Europe-Africa S&T cooperation landscape will ensure all relevant stakeholders are identified in order for them to be involved in appropriate dialogues. These dialogues will for example target academia, industry, civil society, etc. in order to ensure a comprehensive and accurate understanding of R&D policy issues is obtained, which should be addressed in order to improve Africa-Europe S&T cooperation. Given the multilateral nature of CAAST-Net, a European approach will be essential in order to ensure an optimal exchange of views. Relevant international research programmes and their relation to for example FP7 will certainly also inform the exchange of views. The perceived legitimacy of the Forum will be essential for it to play a consequential role in informing Africa-Europe S&T cooperation – this will be achieved through close partnership with for example AU/NEPAD as obtained by CAAST-Net.

#### (g) Leveraging links with other activities such as development cooperation and trade

One of the key objectives of CAAST-Net is to better understand the interface between S&T partnerships and other aspects of Europe's relations with Africa, for example development cooperation and trade. A specific Work Package will therefore be dedicated to the leveraging of synergy between S&T partnerships and development cooperation. As part of the policy dialogue to be advanced by the CAAST-Net Steering Platform, the interface between S&T cooperation and trade, within the context of the EU's new Economic Partnership Agreements with Sub-Saharan Africa, will also be considered.

With regard to the interface between S&T cooperation and development cooperation instruments, CAAST-Net will specifically consider how the European Development Fund (EDF) could be leveraged to more effectively to support S&T capacity-building in Africa. This will be achieved through analyses and subsequent workshops with decision-makers to map strategies for programming EDF resources for S&T capacity-building. Other dimensions, which will be considered in this context, include formulating recommendations on how the FP7 could support development-orientated research and how S&T could be introduced more effectively as a key horizontal instrument in thematic development cooperation programmes.

Europe's development cooperation and trade relations with Africa are fundamentally based on a European approach, in the light of the provisions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement concluded between the EU and the ACP Group of States. The interface between these areas and S&T partnerships therefore also requires a European approach. The interface with other international research programmes, such as the new ACP S&T and Innovation Capacity-Building Programme, funded from the EDF, will also be considered. National experiences of leveraging synergy between development cooperation and S&T will also be interrogated as part of the analytical work. In order for the outcomes

of the analyses to be meaningfully implemented, the participation of key decision-makers responsible for economic affairs and development planning in Africa will be essential. This will be achieved through CAAST-Net strong inter-governmental support.

## (h) Promoting cooperation with EU Outermost Countries and Territories (OCT)

Among the EU's OCTs, only the following are in close geographic proximity to Africa: Mayotte, St Helena and the British Indian Ocean Territory. There is undoubtedly limited scope for S&T cooperation with these territories, but the objective of promoting where applicable cooperation with them, will be taken into account during CAAST-Net's activities. The limited R&D activities in these territories will be the main constraining factor. It should be noted, that CAAST-Net will also seek to promote R&D cooperation with other EU territories, not forming part of the OCT list, in close geographic proximity to Africa such as Madeira (Portugal), the Canary Islands (Spain) or Reunion (France). The latter efforts will be mainstreamed as part of the overall endeavour to promote Africa-Europe S&T cooperation, but the geographic proximity could represent a comparative advantage to be exploited. Because of this mainstreaming focus a European approach will be essential and any relevant national or international programmes will be taken into account.

## (i) The EU-Africa joint strategy

In 2005 the EU developed the EU strategy for Africa which articulated a coordinated EU approach to relations with Africa. While this fundamentally an EU-owned strategy continues to be valid, in the intervening period, as EU-African relations progress, a new need has been recognised for a joint EU-Africa strategy to develop a political vision and practical approaches for the future partnership between the EU and Africa, based on mutual respect, common interests and the principle of ownership. Science and technology features explicitly in the new strategy and there is good complementarity between the strategy and CAAST-Net. Science and technology is recognised as a common concern and within the pillar of key development issues, building on the 2007 Addis Ababa declaration to strengthen cooperation in science and technology for development, and on working together on global issues of sustainability and climate change are clear routes for CAAST-Net to play a role in the implementation of the strategy. Progress of the EU-Africa strategy at the Lisbon summit will be followed carefully and options for CAAST-Net (and MIRA) to be integrated into the strategy's Action Plan will be actively investigated at an early stage in the project.

## 12. Dissemination

### Spreading excellence, exploiting results, disseminating knowledge

CAAST-Net will only be successful in its objective to meaningfully strengthen Africa-Europe S&T cooperation if the outcomes of its analyses, and the experiences gained through the project are shared widely across both the African, and European S&T communities. In order to fulfil this very important task an entire Work Package (WP6) will be dedicated to Knowledge Management and Outreach. Under this Work Package, the CAAST-Net Community Knowledge Management Platform will be created, a specific technical instrument for optimal communication, both inside the consortium and with the broader public.

The Knowledge Management Platform will in the first instance become the knowledge depository for information gathered and experiences gained during the project. This knowledge depository will become a valuable resource for the FP7 contact and information points, whose establishment CAAST-Net will support. These contact and information points will therefore also play an important role in the dissemination of information, policy advice or best practices generated and identified through CAAST-Net. Indeed, knowledge dissemination is a key horizontal theme throughout all work packages.

It should be emphasised that all relevant stakeholders will be included in the knowledge dissemination activities, with the Knowledge Management Platform, as described in the Work Package, providing a nexus for activity between agencies, governments, research institutes, businesses, civil society and the wider public. The CAAST-Net knowledge dissemination activities will also complement other relevant platforms. Indeed, the Knowledge Management Platform to facilitate integration with other services will be based on open standards.

CAAST-Net will also provide editorialised news services – which apart from ensuring knowledge dissemination on Europe-Africa S&T cooperation, will also help to foster public debate on, and understanding of the role played by S&T as an instrument for sustainable development, especially poverty alleviation. Through its knowledge dissemination with regard to Europe-Africa S&T cooperation activities – specifically with regard to FP7, CAAST-Net will also directly contribute to spreading excellence throughout cooperation initiatives, for example through the sharing of experiences and best practices.

CAAST-Net will not generate research results for exploitation, as understood in a conventional manner. The outcomes of CAAST-Net analyses, studies and forums will, however, be elaborated in a practical manner through for example the policy dialogue undertaken by the Steering Platform and the initiatives of the Cooperation Platform. This will ensure the direct take-up of CAAST-Net advice and recommendations by African and European authorities as well as other stakeholders involved in S&T cooperation.

The consortium does not envisage that CAAST-Net outputs constituting ‘intellectual property’ would require protection through formal IPR. For that reason no IP strategy has been adopted at this stage. Any cases arising will be dealt with through existing management structures.

## **Contribution to policy developments**

As a coordinating and support action, CAAST-Net’s fundamental role is the facilitation of stakeholder dialogue and partnerships through the creation of appropriate forums, platforms or networks combined with the provision of expert advice, guidance and analysis in order to achieve the goal of improved cooperation in science and technology between Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa through policy development. While CAAST-Net will act as a protagonist for, and advocate of improved policies of Europe-Africa cooperation in S&T, and RTD, it is not the role of CAAST-Net to act as, or seek to replace established regional, governmental or intergovernmental European and/or African policy-making instruments.

The foregoing sections of this Annex elaborate the routes by which CAAST-Net will approach this goal. S&T cooperation between EU and Africa is embedded in several levels of EU-Africa dialogue and policy that are elaborated in section B1.2. CAAST-Net aims to support, facilitate and bring greater harmony to these levels of dialogue, placing particular emphasis on those that have greatest potential impact.