



# *Investing in the knowledge economy within ACP states*

*Joint Stakeholders Conference of the Programmes:*

**EDULINK II**

**ACP-Science & Technology Programme (S&T II)**

**ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme  
for Sustainable Development**

**1 - 2 April 2014**

**ACP House  
Avenue George Henri 451  
Brussels, Belgium**



## ***Introduction***

The **ACP-EC Partnership Agreement** signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (and revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005) brings together 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the 28 Member States of the European Union, with the common objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty in a way consistent with sustainable development and gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy.

The **intra-ACP Strategy and Multiannual Indicative programme 2008-2013**, has identified three clusters of actions to be financed under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, the second of which include measures aiming at integrating the ACP States both among themselves and in the world economy by means of investments in higher education, science and research, among others.

This conference gathers together beneficiaries of three ACP-EU co-operation programmes financed under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF: **EDULINK II**, the **ACP-Science & Technology Programme (S&T II)** and the **ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development**. The grant beneficiaries of these programmes are sometimes the same universities or university networks in ACP and EU countries. In addition, the beneficiaries of the latter two programmes also include other public, academic, private and civil sector organizations.

The objective of the conference is to foster networking and co-operation among grant beneficiaries of the three programmes. Participants will establish contacts, share experiences, discuss plans and future collaborations, and gain knowledge on appropriately managing their projects.

### **EDULINK II**

The EDULINK programme has recently started a second phase. The 2012 Call for Proposals has awarded 47 grant projects, for a total financing of € 23.3 M sourced from both the European Development Fund and the EU Budget (co-operation with South Africa).

EDULINK's overall objective is to foster capacity building and regional integration in the field of higher education through institutional networking. The current phase II of EDULINK is designed to continue and enhance the achievements realized under the previous phase, targeting improvements in the effectiveness, management, and visibility of ACP Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as well as promoting innovation and ensuring their competitiveness in the global environment.

EDULINK II focuses on two priority thematic areas, '*Energy access and efficiency*' and '*Agriculture and food security*', which have been identified as part of the development aid policy between the European Union and the ACP Group of States.

## **ACP Science & Technology Programme (S&T II)**

The ACP S&T Programme has also started a second phase. The 2012 Call for Proposals has awarded 21 grant projects, for a total financing of € 20.8 M sourced from both the European Development Fund and the EU Budget (co-operation with South Africa).

The objectives of ACP S&T II are to address the scientific and technological divide between ACP member states and the most industrialised countries; to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in ACP countries to enable creation, update and use of scientific knowledge; and to enhance the use of STI as a key enabler for poverty reduction, growth and socio-economic development. The Programme is convinced that one of the requirements for an effective fight against poverty in the ACP countries is the application of knowledge gained from Science and Technology in order to promote innovation and ultimately develop appropriate technologies, which could be effectively deployed within the context of local needs and resources.

S&T II focuses also on the two priority thematic areas, '*Energy access and efficiency*' and '*Agriculture and food security*'.

## **ACP Caribbean & Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development**

The 2010 Call for Proposals has awarded 10 grant projects, for a total financing of € 4.8 M sourced from the European Development Fund.

The Programme is complementary to other ACP and/or EU initiatives such as the EDULINK and ACP S&T programmes and the FP7 Framework Programme for Research. For sustainable development, the inclusion of Science and Technology is imperative not only for Caribbean and Pacific (C&P) countries to become more resilient to adverse impacts of climate change, but also to become self-sufficient and to meet the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the 'eradication of extreme poverty and hunger'.

The objective of this Programme is to contribute to sustainable development of C&P countries belonging to the ACP Group of States through research in science and technologies by supporting research projects in the fields of '*Post-harvest and Agriculture*', '*Renewable and Sustainable Energy*', '*Water & Sanitation*' and '*Climate Change*'.

## 1 April 2014 (Day 1)

### ***“The ACP-EU cooperation in higher education, science and technology, and research”***

<b>09:00</b>	<b>Registration + Setting up of posters</b>	
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Opening ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks (<i>Mme. Michèle Dominique RAYMOND, Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs &amp; Human Development, ACP Secretariat</i>)</li> <li>• Introduction to the objective of the day (<i>Mr. Denis Salord, Head of Unit E3, Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>09:45</b>	<b>Presentation of the Grant Programmes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the programmes: background (10<sup>th</sup> EDF), overall objectives and expected results of the current programmes (<i>DEVCO and South Africa’s Representative</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Presentation of the EDULINK II programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief introduction of projects by the project managers. <i>Each project manager will introduce himself to the audience (1 minute each).</i></li> </ul>	
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Presentation of the S&amp;T and Research programmes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief introduction of projects by the project managers <i>Each project manager will introduce himself to the audience (1 minute each).</i></li> </ul>	
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b><i>Parallel Discussion Sessions: Ensuring Objectives and Results</i></b>	
<b>14: 30</b>	<b>Session 1</b> <i>Moderated by the relevant Technical Assistance Unit</i> <i>Rapporteur –(a designated project manager)</i>	
	<b>Room C – EDULINK:</b> ICT and distance learning: challenges and opportunities for ACP HEIs	<b>Room B – S&amp;T and Research:</b> From project to policy: the involvement of policy-makers
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Session 2</b> <i>Moderated by the relevant Technical Assistance Unit</i> <i>Rapporteur –(a designated project manager)</i>	
	<b>Room C – Edulink:</b> Joint curricula development and accreditation in the ACP HEIs	<b>Room B – S&amp;T and Research:</b> Translating capacity building and research into innovation
<b>17.00</b>	<b>Poster Session and Bilateral Meetings</b> <i>Participants will use this time slot to meet each other and present their projects whilst project managers will have a given timeslot for bilateral meetings with the Contracting Authority and TAUs</i>	
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Cocktail reception (foyer ACP House)</b>	

<b>2 April 2014 (Day 2)</b> <b><i>“The management of grant projects”</i></b>			
<b>09:00</b>	<p><i>Moderation: Mr. John Kakule, ACP Secretariat</i></p> <p>Reporting on outcomes of the parallel sessions on Day 1 <i>The rapporteurs of the four parallel sessions of Day 1 will present a summary of the conclusions of each session</i></p>		
<b>09:30</b>	<p><b>Introduction to the objective of the day</b> (<i>Mr. Jérôme Lebouc, Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission</i>)</p> <p><b>Overview of contractual documentation (DEVCO)</b> <i>Information on EC regulations and procedures on project and financial management</i></p>		
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b><i>Parallel Discussion Sessions – working groups</i></b>			
<b>10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Contract financial and reporting rules</b> <i>Discussion on simulated scenarios based on frequently asked questions and project experiences.</i></p>		
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<b>11:45</b>	<p><b>Parallel Sessions 2: Project management</b> <i>Discussion on simulated scenarios based on frequently asked questions and project experiences.</i></p>		
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<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
<b>14:30</b>	<p><b>Reporting from the parallel sessions</b> <i>Moderation: Mr. John Kakule, ACP Secretariat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by the rapporteurs of the outcomes of each session</li> <li>• Questions and answers</li> </ul>		
<b>16:00</b>	<p><b>Information on HORIZON 2020</b> (DG RTD, European Commission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on research collaboration opportunities under Horizon 2020, followed by comments from the representative of South Africa on the participation in Framework Programmes</li> <li>• Questions and answers</li> </ul>		
<b>16:30</b>	<p><b>Closure of the conference</b> Main outcomes of the conference and the upcoming Erasmus+ Programme (DEVCO) Closing remarks (<i>ACP Secretariat</i>) – <i>Mme. Michèle Dominique Raymond, ASG PAHD, ACP Secretariat</i></p>		
<b>17:00</b>	<p><b>Poster Session and Bilateral Meetings</b> <i>Participants will use this time slot to meet each other and present their projects whilst project managers will have a given timeslot for bilateral meetings with the Contracting Authority and TAUs</i></p>		