



## EU – South Africa cooperation in Research & Innovation

In 2016, the EU and South Africa celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement**, driving their bilateral R&I relations. This is the first agreement that the EU signed with SA since the advent of democracy in SA in 1994. SA-EU scientific collaboration is monitored and facilitated by the **Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee**, established under the Agreement. Science and Technology is embedded into the joint **Action Plan** implementing the **EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership**. In 2012 South Africa's National Space Agency signed a Scientific Cooperation Agreement with the Joint Research Council. In 2015, the European Commission and the SA Department of Science and Technology signed an Implementing Arrangement to enable SA researchers supported by the SA National Research Foundation to undertake research visits to teams supported by the European Research Council. In the same year SA also signed an Association Agreement with EUREKA. A milestone in SA-EU R&I relations is their cooperation in Health research and innovation, showcased, among others, by the success stories of the **European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership**. The two partners have also developed notable cooperation in Earth Observations and Research Infrastructures; SA and the Commission, together with USA and China, co-chair the **Group on Earth Observations**. They also collaborate for the development of a **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)**. The **International Conference on Research Infrastructures** took place between 3-5 October 2016 and was hosted by the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the European Commission. The EU and South Africa are currently exploring additional fields of R&I cooperation, including those of Marine research and Innovation, Bioeconomy and Renewable Energy. On 3 October 2016, the EC and DST concluded the signing of the **Declaration of Intent on Marine research and innovation**. Finally, the EU and South Africa work together for the implementation of the EU-Africa R&I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture.

Legal entities from South Africa are eligible to receive funding through **Horizon 2020** grants. SA-EU cooperation under H2020 covers several areas ranging from research infrastructures to health, food, transport, energy, etc. SA-EU relations in Science, Technology and Innovation are further promoted through the [ESASTAP 2020](#) project, which aims to enrich bilateral policy dialogue and identify priority areas for mutually beneficial cooperation.

FP7 – number of grants, participations and EC contribution to projects	186 grants, with 235 participations, receiving € 33.1 million
FP7: Success rate (Overall = 22,6%)	26,7%
FP7: Top collaborative links	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. United Kingdom</li> <li>2. France</li> <li>3. Germany</li> <li>4. Italy</li> <li>5. The Netherlands</li> </ol>
FP7: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – number of participations	470 South African researchers
FP7: European Research Council – number of grants	1 (starting grant)
Horizon 2020 <sup>1</sup> – number of grants, participations and EC contribution to projects	54 grants, with 82 participations, receiving € 17.0 million
Horizon 2020 <sup>1</sup> : Success rate (Overall= 14,3%)	22 %
Horizon 2020 <sup>1</sup> : Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – number of participations	58 South African researchers
Horizon 2020: European Research Council – number of grants	1 (advanced grant)
Horizon 2020 <sup>1</sup> : Top collaborative links	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Germany</li> <li>2. United Kingdom</li> <li>3. France</li> <li>4. Italy</li> <li>5. The Netherlands</li> </ol>
Horizon 2020 <sup>1</sup> : Top Institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Research Foundation</li> <li>2. Stellenbosch University</li> <li>3. Department of Science and Technology</li> <li>4. University of Cape Town</li> <li>5. Kelvion Thermal Solutions</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> All Horizon 2020 figures refer to 25/04/2017