

IST-Africa Initiative

Building Research Partnerships addressing African Societal Challenges Networking Session, ICT 2018, 05 December 2018

Miriam Cunningham, IIMC / IST-Africa Institute

Gift Kadzamira, NCST, Malawi

Loi Namugenyi, UNCST, Uganda

Jacob Njagih, Ministry of Education, Kenya

www.IST-Africa.org

secretariat@IST-Africa.org

Founded in 2002 as a not-for-profit Strategic Partnership between IIMC (Ireland) and Ministries and National Councils responsible for Innovation, Science and Technology

Supported by European Commission and African Union Commission, with current participation by 18 African Member States – open to all African MS

Objectives

Foster a cross-border, multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary approach to policy, research and innovation collaboration

Strengthen capacity by sharing good practices and lessons learnt, promoting linkages and cooperation opportunities, and increase awareness of research & innovation related outcomes

Monitor ICT-related research and innovation activities in IST-Africa Partner Countries to identify and provide input on common R&D priorities and future cooperation opportunities

Promote participation in international funded research

Impact

Helped African universities secure >€185 million research funding in last 10 years to build research groups & postgraduate programs addressing national and regional societal challenges

Comprehensive reference reports on ICT Initiatives, research capacity, Innovation Spaces to support policy development

Significant increase in research publications from Africa and about Africa (IST-Africa Week, published in IEEE Xplore)

Showcases African research and Innovation capacity and facilitates capacity building, partnerships & knowledge sharing



- Coordination of national Innovation ecosystem stakeholders to formulate research and innovation priorities and activities addressing socio-economic challenges
 - Raise awareness of research and innovation cooperation opportunities between Africa and Europe under Horizon 2020 (ICT-39-2017 and other relevant Calls)
 - Identify common R&D priorities and map research and innovation capacity across IST-Africa partner countries to assist well focused proposals to be submitted under relevant calls and inform future Horizon 2020 and FP9 Calls
- Monitor ICT-related research and innovation activities across IST-Africa partner countries to Inform policy and identify cross-border collaboration opportunities
 - Analysis of African adoption, implementation, policy and research priorities
 - Analysis of African Innovation Spaces and HEI Research Capacity
- H2020 Workshops facilitating training, consortia building & NCP capacity building
- Organisation of annual IST-Africa Week hosted by IST-Africa Partner Countries to
 - Showcase high-level policy discussion, European and African research and innovation capacity and Africa-EU collaboration success stories
 - Provide a platform for African and European researchers to build relationships
 - Increase the number of international ICT-related scientific publications sharing African related research and innovation results (publication in IEEE Xplore)
 - **IST-Africa Week 2019, Nairobi, Kenya, May**

- Horizon 2020 is fully open to international cooperation
 - Up to August 2018, 336 Horizon 2020, 574 participations from 31 African countries
 - >€81.6 million in research funding secured by African research centres and universities (€62.5 million to IST-Africa partner countries)
 - ICT should be considered as a horizontal enabler across all thematic areas and work programmes
- IST-Africa provided European Commission evidence to include two dedicated H2020 calls focused on addressing African ICT & Innovation-related research challenges (€26m) based on end user requirements
 - ICT-39-2015 - 45 proposals submitted with 194 participations from Africa (439 participants in total), 23 proposals over threshold, 4 projects funded
 - mHealth4Afrika** (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa); **DMC-MALVEC** (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia); **Its4land** (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda); **WAZIUP** (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo)
 - ICT-39-2017 – 71 proposals submitted with participation from 29 African countries, 33 proposals over threshold, 7 projects funded (CyberSecurity, IoT, eAgriculture, eLearning)
 - Projects started in Jan 2018 - **Go-GA** (Nigeria, Kenya, Benin); **WAZIHUB** (Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda); **EPICA** (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), **SAMS** (Ethiopia), **ISOOKO** (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda), **FANFAR** (Niger, Nigeria)

Overview of H2020 projects funded under ICT-39-2015 and ICT-39-2017 focused on African Research Challenges

Miriam Cunningham, Paul Cunningham
IIMC / IST-Africa Institute, Ireland

Email: miriam@iimg.com, paul@iimg.com, secretariat@IST-Africa.org

- Two dedicated H2020 calls focused on addressing African ICT & Innovation-related research challenges based on end user requirements

- ICT-39-2015 Projects - **Research and Innovation Actions**

mHealth4Afrika (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa) – Integrated Electronic Health Records for Resource Constrained Environments

DMC-MALVEC (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Zambia) - Automated diagnostic platform, data management system and innovative communication tool, for improving the impact of malaria vector control interventions

Its4land (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda) - land tenure recording tools

WAZIUP (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo) – IoT for Agriculture

- ICT-39-2017 Projects – **Innovation Actions**

Go-GA (Nigeria, Kenya, Benin) - adaptation of Go-Lab Learning ecosystem (STEM)

EPICA (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) – ePortfolio, Skills

SAMS (Ethiopia) – Remote sensing technology to support beekeepers

FANFAR (Niger, Nigeria) – Flood forecasting and alerts in West Africa

WAZIHUB (Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda) – IoT Innovation Program

ISOOKO (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda) - digital technologies to support peace education



- Strategic partnership for the co-design of an innovative and scalable ePortfolio ecosystem to improve the quality and visibility of skills (2018 – 2021, Innovation Action, Grant No. 780435)

Activities during first 12 months

- Organization of three Open Days in Maseno University, Kenya, Open University, Tanzania, Makerere University, Uganda to engage with local stakeholders
- The **ePortfolio Maturity and needs report** describing the needs and the maturity level in the implementation of the ePortfolio ecosystem has been Finalized.
- **Pedagogical and Users' requirements** being collected through the EPICA pilots (M3 - M12)
- **Legal and Business Requirements** being collected (M12). Analysis of the Pedagogical, Users', Legal and business requirement is underway and is supporting the definition of **technical requirements**.
- The Development of a **Roadmap for technological development** and the design of the **ePortfolio user interface** are being developed in accordance to the previous requirements' analysis and both are nearing to finalization (M12)



Consortium

- ICDE – International Council for Open and Distance Education - Norway
- MYD – MyDocumenta - Spain
- UOC – Open University of Catalunya - Spain
- ICWE – Integrated Communications Worldwide Events - Germany
- OUT - Open University of Tanzania - Tanzania
- MAK - Makerere University - Uganda
- MU - Maseno University - Kenya
- AVU - African Virtual University – Kenya

www.epica-initiative.com

For further information please contact

Jean-Baptiste Milon (milon@icde.org)

