



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Background

During the last EU-AU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology (HLPD), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2019 the senior officials called "on all European and African Union Member States to consider the questions for reflection on the future orientation of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), and proposed the convening of a consultation event". The South African Department of Science & Innovation (DSI) offered to host the consultation.

This dedicated high level consultation on the EU-Africa Global Health Partnership (GHP), the successor of the EDCTP2 programme, under Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme of Research and Innovation, is part of the ongoing discussions and public consultation about the framework concerning the new GHP.

Building on the EDCTP2 programme, the proposed EU-Africa GHP will aim to:

- Reduce the social and economic burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and by extension in Europe, through the development and uptake of new or improved interventions against infectious diseases;
- Increase the health security in sub-Saharan Africa, and by extension in Europe and worldwide, in particular in the context of environmental and climate change, by reducing the risk of outbreaks, pandemics or antimicrobial resistance.

The GHP will support international research partnerships accelerating the clinical evaluation of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics for key infectious diseases affecting sub-Saharan Africa, as well as novel approaches for surveillance and control of emerging/re-emerging infections. It will also support clinical research capacity in the region. Building on the EDCTP2, the new programme will ensure that more people gain access to new medical interventions and help to protect global health security.

The consultative dialogue will take the form of a workshop organised by DSI in collaboration with the EDCTP Africa Office and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission (EC). The DST, EDCTP and DG RTD are proposing to convene a one-day high-level consultative dialogue on the EU-Africa GHP on 16 March 2020.

The consultation will take place on the day before the final meeting of the EU Horizon2020 research project on Structural Transformation to Attain Responsible BIOSciences (STARBIOS2), to take advantage of the project's experience on Responsible Research and Open Science. This presents an opportunity to leverage off the participation at the GHP consultation event through key STARBIOS attendees. In addition, the participation of Minister Nzimande at the opening of the GHP workshop will also be explored.



Objective

The main objective of the one-day consultative dialogue is to explore opportunities for enhanced Africa-EU cooperation in global health research. The workshop is aimed at presenting and discussing the scope and possible modalities of the new partnership that will be the successor of EDCTP2 programme.

Expected participants:

The target audience for this workshop will include participants from African countries that are already members of EDCTP2 as well as target other Africa countries to discuss the new GHP. The African Union (AU), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), and other key entities within this domain will also be invited to participate:

- EDCTP African Participating States
- EDCTP European Participating State
- African countries that have expressed interest in the EDCTP Association
- (Botswana, Cote D'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya and Rwanda)
- Regional Economic Communities in the African Region
- (East African Community (EAC), Organization for the coordination of the fight against Endemic Diseases in Central Africa (OCEAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and West African Health Organization (WAHO)
- EDCTP High Representative for Europe
- EDCTP High Representatives for Africa
- WHO African Region (WHO/AFRO)
- AU/Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC)
- New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) now known as African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
- Representatives from Science and Technology ministries/entities in Africa
- DSI South Africa
- EDCTP
- European Commission (DG-RTD)
- Academic/Research institutions in South Africa (SAMRC, UCT).

Expected outputs:

- Overview of GHP presented by the European Commission and EDCTP
- Proposals for enhanced Africa-EU cooperation in global health and broadening of the scope of EDCTP activities discussed
- Equity in health research and a roadmap for nurturing the next generation of African scientists through capacity building discussed.
- New partners and participating states that could add value identified.