

EU ERA-Net for Africa (First Phase December 2010 – November 2014)

### ERAfrica – Call Preparation

Building up a **network of STI funders** between Europe and Africa  
**SWOT Analysis** in STI cooperation: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats  
 Identifying **topics of common interests**  
 Creation of **joint EU-Africa RD&I funding scheme**

**Three funding themes:** Renewable Energy, Interfacing Challenges, New Ideas  
**Three funding instruments:** Collaborative Research Projects, Research for Innovation, Institutional Capacity Building  
**Funding pledges** total more than €10 million

### First Phase Results

**124 proposals** received (€70 million)  
 Two-phase evaluation framework based on **scientific excellence & national priorities**  
**17 projects** funded for more than €8 million (three-year duration)  
 Research teams representing **65 institutions**  
 First Meeting of Project Coordinators: **November 2014**  
 First annual reviews: **July 2015**

### PROJECT EXAMPLE ...

#### Connessa – CONNECTing knowledge in in sub-Saharan Africa (2014-2017).

Soil degradation is a major driver of poor agricultural productivity. This project builds on the premise that integrated solutions for sustainable land use, combined with local adaptation of soil fertility management are urgently needed to address the challenges associated with smallholder agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Lead Partner:** University of Eldoret /Kenya  
**Cooperating countries:** Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Kenya, Netherlands  
**Total financial volume:** 1.050.107 €

### Insights Gained and Lessons Learned

No substitute for **equal partnership and joint participation** from the start  
 Establish a **single vision of scope** and outcome  
 Keep **funding mechanisms simple**, but allow maximum **flexibility** for national variation  
**Secure institutional funding commitments** Ensure **funding parity or equivalent**

### Plans for the future

Operating independently of any EU grant agreement with a **sustainable project consortium** capable of expansion: **grow and draw in new participants**  
 Building on first phase to launch **second call in 2015**  
 twin themes of **"Food and Nutritional Security"** and **"Resilience"**

