

3. Expected impact

It is expected that the SAccess project will further promote the mutually beneficial EU-SA research partnership by identifying/ enhancing access opportunities for the participation of EU research entities, and their scientists, in the national research and innovation programmes facilitated by South Africa.

These access opportunities will be evaluated and disseminated through a dynamic and multidisciplinary approach to reach all relevant stakeholders within Europe and SA, thus enlarging the options for S&T cooperation between EU and SA stakeholders.

The overall process will provide new and additional inputs to the S&T policy dialogue carried out by the European Union -South African Joint Science and Technology Committee, it will particularly address the issue of reciprocity and it will contribute to the overall enhancement of S&T cooperation between Europe and South Africa.

List of Partners

- **Foundation of Research and Technology Hellas** – FORTH – Greece
- **The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems** – VINNOVA – Sweden
- **Department of Science and Technology** – DST – South Africa
- **Institut de Recherche pour le Développement** – IRD – France
- **Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea** – APRE – Italy



Supporting the EU access to South Africa's research and innovation programmes – SAccess

Website: www.saccess-project.eu

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 243851

EC contribution: EUR 498 747

Starting date: 1 September 2009

Duration: 36 months



COORDINATOR

Name: Constantine Vaitsas

Phone: +30 210 3607690

Email: vaitsas@help-forward.gr

www.saccess-project.eu

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation concluded between the EU and SA in 1996, amongst other benefits, afforded SA researchers the opportunity to fully participate in the EU's Framework Programmes, thus contributing to enhancement of the international knowledge base and human resource development while promoting the overall sustainable development.

The new SAccess project complements and further enhances this successful research partnership. It aims at increasing the awareness and dissemination in the EU Member States and Associated Countries of access opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in national research and innovation programmes facilitated by South Africa.

The project will provide substantial information relevant to the national research and innovation structures, capacities and programmes of South Africa. It will disseminate this information to all relevant stakeholders in Europe thus complementing the effective research collaborations between the EU and the South



Mr Constantine Vaitsas,
coordinator of the SAccess project

Africa R&D communities. By identifying greater synergies between FP7 and South Africa's national research and innovation programmes, the project will also contribute to improved implementation of the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC).

SAccess is thus targeted towards two main objectives:

- increase the participation of European stakeholders to South Africa's research and innovation programmes; and
- improve the prospects of research activities which are of international dimension and of mutual interest to Europe and South Africa.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The foreseen activities of SAccess will be implemented through four work packages. Implementation relies heavily on available information related to South Africa's R&D facilities and structures as well as on the events for communication and dissemination of information. A set of high visibility tools will be developed and utilised in an effort to make available the generated information to as many stakeholders as possible in Europe. It should be underlined that the SAccess project aims to serve the wider European research community that can act as participants in South Africa's programmes.

Europeans will discover that South Africa offers exciting opportunities for participation in diverse research and innovation programmes.

Furthermore, the SAccess project will provide valuable feedback and will positively contribute to the policy dialogue within the context of the South African – European Union Joint Science and Technology Committee. A major input to the policy dialogue will be the identification of the conditions that will encourage/enhance and realize the participation of European researchers to South Africa's programmes and consequently facilitate reciprocity between Europe and South Africa.

The SAccess project will seek to leverage dissemination and awareness creation synergies with other ACCESS4EU projects, with the aim of maximising the visibility of information provision through joint activities. In addition, the ESASTAP 'portal' for the overall S&T cooperation activities between the EU and SA, the NCP networks (EU and SA) and the CAAST Net INCO Net for SSA will ensure the broadest possible dissemination of the project outcomes.