



# African-European Radio Astronomy Platform

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## Progress Report

Presented by

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# AERAP - Context



- Written Declaration 45/2011 on “Science Capacity Building in Africa: promoting European-African radio astronomy partnerships”
- Decision “Assembly/AU/Dec.407 CXVIII” of the Heads of State of the African Union:
- for radio astronomy to be a priority focus area for Africa—EU cooperation



## **Written declaration on Science Capacity Building in Africa: promoting European-African radio astronomy partnerships**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, which aims at strengthening science and technology cooperation between the EU and Africa,
- having regard to the Millennium Development Goals, which identify the essential role of science and technology for socio-economic transformation,
- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. recognising the value of research infrastructures in facilitating cooperation with Africa, promoting human capital development and addressing societal challenges, as noted in the Innovation Union and Europe 2020 Strategy,

B. acknowledging Africa's unique competitive advantage in the study of radio astronomy, reflected in the extensive existing radio astronomy projects located in Africa (PAPER, VLBI network, MeerKAT, etc.),



C. recognising that further European involvement in African radio astronomy can become a powerful driver of socioeconomic growth in Africa and create a new range of market opportunities for both continents,

1. Urges the Commission, Council and the parliaments of the Member States to:

(a) support the development of science capacity in Africa through greater investment in research infrastructures, with particular focus on radio astronomy projects,

(b) promote the science of radio astronomy and the innovation and research potential of radio astronomy initiatives in future Africa- EU partnerships,

(c) mobilise EU funding mechanisms, including the Framework Programmes and the Development Cooperation Instrument, to support these objectives;

2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the parliaments of the Member States.

# AERAP - Objectives



- Develop and update agendas for radio astronomy cooperation
- Strengthen research and innovation in Europe and Africa
- Improve knowledge transfer
- Stimulate competitiveness across both continents
- Utilise EU-Africa collaboration in radio astronomy as a platform for broader global partnerships
- Bring together key players from private, public and research sectors

# AERAP Events



- Series of successful events to provide practical advice for the preparation of proposals for funding opportunities:

Date	Event
29 May 2012	Workshop on Leveraging New Funding Opportunities for African-European Radio Astronomy Partnerships
6 September 2012	Workshop on Human Capital Development – Researcher Mobility and Training Programmes
27 September	Workshop on Human Capital Development in Pretoria, South Africa
9 October 2012	Workshop on Renewable Energy Solutions for Radio Astronomy
14 November 2012	Workshop on Infrastructure Investment and Technology Development including Scientific Instrumentation for Radio Astronomy



# AERAP Helpdesk

## Practical assistance for the building of African-European Partnerships

- Early information on funding opportunities + advice about the conditions and the application procedure of these
- Bring together researchers and companies who are interested in radio astronomy cooperation projects by
  - Organising workshops and seminars
  - Facilitating the contact to potential industry partners
  - Facilitating seed funding for proposal coordination meetings between African and European researchers
  - Guidance in writing proposals and contact to successful applicants
  - Advice in legal and financial matters

Contact and further information: [helpdesk@erap.org](mailto:helpdesk@erap.org)

- Launched on 15th of November 2012 in Brussels
- Coordinated by Britta Thomsen MEP
- Anchor for AERAP in the European Parliament
- Objectives:
  - Put African-European radio astronomy cooperation on the agenda of EU policies
  - Be actively involved in the preparation of EU policy and funding instruments
  - Mobilise EU funding mechanisms





- Tools: contribution to reports, resolutions and amendments, parliamentary questions, internal (bimonthly) and public meetings

Date	Topic
January	Event on African-European Radio Astronomy Cooperation and Horizon 2020
February	Exhibition in the European Parliament on the potential of radio astronomy for science capacity and human capital building
May	Workshop on development cooperation instruments for radio astronomy
September	Round Table on market opportunities in the field of radio astronomy

# AERAP Roadmap for 2013



- Actions:
  - Description of funding instruments and calls + timetable on AERAP website
  - Guidelines and practical information on proposal writing, consortium building and project management
  - Database of African and European scientists and engineers active in radio astronomy
  - AERAP Newsletter

# AERAP Roadmap for 2013



- Events:

Date	Topic
January/February	Workshop : Consortium building and proposal writing for ACP S&T II call
February - July	Visit of MEPs to research institutes and infrastructures in their constituencies
4-8 March	AERAP session at the conference “EU Science: Global challenges - Global cooperation”
4-8 March	Concert with African children to explain radio astronomy during conference “EU Science: Global challenges - Global cooperation”
April	Visit of MEPs to Africa (e.g. Ghana ) Participation of AERAP in Young Radio Astronomers Workshop

# Thank you for your attention!



Further information on the AERAP website:

**[www.aerap.org](http://www.aerap.org)**

**Contact:**

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