

## **An analysis of Horizon 2020 and its impact on European research infrastructures**

On 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, the European Commission presented a final version of the Horizon 2020 – the new name for the coming 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. “Horizon 2020” is the new, integrated funding system that will cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), bringing together these different types of funding in a coherent and flexible manner. This €80 billion package for research and innovation funding will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, after the end of FP7 on 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2013.

For the first time, the Framework Programme will provide a set of common objectives based on the Europe 2020 strategy and the related Digital Agenda for Europe and Innovation Union initiatives across funding for research and innovation. It will be based on three main themes: excellence in science, tackling societal challenges and creating industrial leadership and competitive frameworks.

### **Importance of Research Infrastructure**

“Excellence in Science” is the theme relevant to the operation, development and cooperation of research infrastructures. With a budget of €24.6 billion, which includes a funding of €2.4 billion available for supporting access to and networking of priority research infrastructures across Europe, it will have great influence on research facilities. Such funding will help to ensure that Europe has world-class research infrastructures (including e-infrastructure) accessible to all researchers in Europe and beyond, and make Europe an attractive location for the world’s best researchers, at the same time advancing the state of science on the continent.

### **Research cooperation with Africa**

One of the most relevant features of Horizon 2020 is the objective of strengthening international cooperation with third countries. Horizon 2020 sets the goal of increasing the Union’s excellence and attractiveness in research to tackle global challenges jointly, support the Union’s external policies and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The emphasis on international cooperation with third countries will certainly create many new opportunities for European-African research infrastructure cooperation.