

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

PROMOTING AFRICA-EU RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS

Thon EU Hotel
Brussels, Belgium - March 7-8, 2013

INFORMATION PACKAGE



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities

INTRODUCTION

A high-level conference on “Promoting Africa-EU Research Infrastructure Partnerships” will take place on 7-8 March 2013 at the Thon EU Hotel in Brussels, Belgium. The conference will present the outcomes of the [PAERIP](#) (Promoting African European Research Infrastructures Partnerships) project, funded under the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

Over the past two years PAERIP undertook an extensive analysis of Africa-EU research infrastructure partnerships, including best practices that could be identified from current cooperation and the formulation of recommendations to enhance collaboration. In this context PAERIP considered cooperation activities such as how to enhance transnational access to research infrastructures for African and European researchers, and the promotion of networks integrating African and European research infrastructures.

The conference is taking place at a crucial time for the development of new cooperation instruments for Africa-EU cooperation including for collaboration in science, technology and innovation. These instruments include, for example, the new EU Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the EU Development Cooperation Instrument and the European Development Fund. Within this context, one of the highlights of the conference will be the presentation of PAERIP’s recommendations on how research infrastructure partnerships could best be promoted as part of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

The programme of the conference will include the following sessions:

- A high-level opening session with the participation of senior representatives from the European Commission and the African Union Commission;
- Presentations of the PAERIP analysis and recommendations:
 - ∴ Interventions to enhance African and European researchers’ transnational access to African and European research infrastructures;
 - ∴ Opportunities for Africa and Europe to collaborate in developing new large-scale research infrastructures; and
 - ∴ The merit of investment from development and economic cooperation instruments in Africa-EU research infrastructure partnerships, due to their socio-economic benefit.
- Presentations of case studies of potential flagship Africa-EU research infrastructure cooperation initiatives in areas such as life sciences, environmental research, astronomy and e-Infrastructures.
- A concluding session on the way forward for Africa-EU research infrastructure partnerships, including a discussion on policy recommendations with regard to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, and a presentation on ensuring the sustainability of the PAERIP initiative.

Organised by [Sigma Orionis](#) (France) with the support of [DST](#) (South Africa), [ISC](#) (Belgium) and all project [partners](#), this conference is a side event to the “EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration” [conference](#), taking place in Brussels on March 4-8, 2013. Hosted by the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, the event will place EU research at the centre of the scientific response to global challenges, bringing together scientists and science policymakers from 100 countries.

VENUE

Thon EU Hotel is situated in the European Quarter of Brussels: most of the European Institutions are within walking distance and the historical city centre is also easily accessible on foot and by public transports.

Address Venue

Thon EU Hotel

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 75

1040 Brussels – Belgium

Tél.: +32 (0)2 204 3911

URL: <http://www.thonhotels.be/hotels/countrys/belgique/bruxelles/thon-hotel-eu/>

How to get there from Brussels airport


By train/metro:

- Take the [train](#) at the Airport (cost: 7,40€)
- Stop at Brussels Central Station
- Take the [Metro](#) line 1 (direction Stockel) or line 5 (direction Hermann-Debroux)
- Stop at Maelbeek Station
- Thon Hotel EU is just in front of the station exit

By taxi

- Take a taxi to Thon Hotel EU (cost: approx. 45 €)



 **Thon EU Hotel**
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 75 B-1040 Brussels

 **Kokob restaurant**
Rue des Grands Carmes 10 1000 Bruxelles, Belgique

The dinner on March 7, at the end of the first day of the conference, is taking place at the Kokob restaurant, an Ethiopian restaurant located in the centre of Brussels <http://www.kokob.be/>.

REGISTRATION & IDENTIFICATION BADGES

The conference registration form is available at this link: <http://store.sigma-orionis.com/login?conferenceid=68>.

Participants are required to register online and obtain identification badges at the registration desk, prior to the opening of the meeting. Registrations on site won't be accepted. For security reasons, all participants should wear identification badges at all times.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The programme of the event will be updated periodically and made available on the [PAERIP website](#). Printed copies will also be available in the conference pack.

LANGUAGE

The Workshop will be held exclusively in English. No translation will be provided.

EVENT PROCEEDINGS

Events proceedings (PowerPoint presentations as Acrobat files and event report) will be made available on the PAERIP website a few days after the event.

For more information, please contact:

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