



***SOUTH AFRICA at
Euroscience Open Forum
(ESOF)***

South Africa at ESOF

- ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) is the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe and will be taking place in Toulouse from 9-14 July 2018. It is dedicated to scientific research and innovation and offers a platform for engagement and debate between scientists, innovators, policy makers, business people and the general public.

The 8th edition of ESOF will take place in Toulouse, France, from 9 till 14 July 2018

- South Africa, through the Department of Science & Technology has participated actively in the last few editions of ESOF and will continue to do so at ESOF 2018. South Africa will be present at various sessions, engaging on broad issues that are of relevance globally, bringing a South African perspective to the conversations that will be taking place at ESOF.

Date: 10 July 2018

Time: 18:30 -19:15 (Plenary)

“The role of science in fostering peace and reconciliation – the South African experience and legacy of former President Mandela”

Science in Africa - working towards agenda 2063 & new paradigms in STI partnerships

Date: 10 July 2018

Time: 10:15 -11:30

- Africa is harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation (STI) in enhancing its growth and economy. Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.
- Agenda 2063 acknowledges the role of STI as a key enabler for achieving its vision. The successful implementation of Africa's science agenda will also contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- At the same time a significant change has come over the relations between Africa and Europe with regard to STI. From a largely donor-recipient relationship - with Africa looking northward both for funding and the transfer of expertise and infrastructure - a steady increase in domestic African spending on research and innovation and ever-greater exposure to international scientific engagement has led to a commensurate growth in homegrown human- and technical resources.
- This has resulted in the creation of a more level playing field between the two continents in the STI arena. A prime example of this new spirit of joint cooperation is the EU-Africa collaborative research support project ERAFRICA and the LEAP-Agri partnership
- To consider this changed and changing landscape of STI in Africa, the new collaborative paradigm and its implications, a high-level panel discussion will highlight some of the strategic opportunities for STI in Africa, as well as discuss how the various players could enhance STI on the continent. This panel will elaborate also on discussions held during the YASE - Young African Scientists in Europe conference, a satellite event of ESOF2018 (6th July 2018, Toulouse).

Organised by Vinny Pillay – Senior Science & Technology Representative, South African Department of Science & Technology; Jean Albergel - the French National Research Institute for sustainable Development IRD and Luc Allemand - Afriscitech (France)

Speakers

- Phil MJWARA – Director General Department of Science & Technology of South Africa
- Jean-Eric PAQUET - Director General EC DG REsearch
- Ghada BASSIONI - Associate Professor and Head of the Chemistry Division at the Faculty of Engineering ,Ain Shams University
- Romain MURENZI - Executive director of TWAS
- Élisabeth BARBIER - Deputy Director General of IRD

African perspectives on science policy-making: Towards the Cape Town Declaration?

Date: 10 July 2018

Time: 13:30 -14:45

This high-level panel bridges the 2017 launch of the Brussels Declaration to ongoing work towards its pan-African equivalent, the Cape Town Declaration to be launched at the World Science Forum in 2021. Why the Brussels Declaration matters is because it is a unique, twenty-point blueprint for a new set of ethics & principles to inform work at the boundary between science, society and policy. Its strength lies in its five-year reflection period, the robustness of twenty-five preparatory workshops and above all, the diversity of its contributors with over 350 draftees and 3000 reviewers.

With over five million views already, it makes the case for a multi-disciplinary approach to policy encouraging greater integrity and accountability amongst all stakeholders. The Cape Town Process (2017-2021) picks up this

baton and following two initial workshops brings its first findings to ESOF.

It adopts a similar bottom-up approach within the African 55 nations to involve the grass-roots with politicians, science advisers, chief scientific officers from industry, civil society leaders, medical doctors, social scientists, academics and science editors. In open debate, panellists will boost understanding of how power operates in science & society and explain why evidence plus dialogue rarely equals good decisions & laws. Speakers will argue that most policy decisions worldwide are informed by evidence provided by experts.

All too often, who these experts are, how they are chosen and how reliable their advice really is, is open to question. This decadal-long initiative will emphasize our collective interest in benefiting from 'evidence-based policy-making' rather than suffering 'policy-biased evidence-making'. The key to promoting public discourse, scientific clarity, policy implementation and ethical balance is not only greater transparency and scrutiny, but genuine inclusivity.

Organised by Aidan Gilligan - SciCom - Making Sense of Science and Roseanne Diab - Academy of Science of South Africa

Speakers

- Sarah ANYANG AGBOR - African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science & Technology
- Phil MJWARA – Director General Department of Science & Technology of South Africa
- Wilson COMPTON - National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health & Brussels Declaration Co-Chair
- Roseanne DIAB - Academy of Science of South Africa,
- Aidan GILLIGAN - SciCom - Making Sense of Science, Michel KAZATCHKINE - United Nations & Brussels Declaration Co-Chair
- Flavia SCHLEGEL - UNESCO
- Mohammed YAHIA - World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) & Nature Research in the Middle East

“Going Digital – supporting the sustainable development goals the at ESOF2018”

Date: 10 July 2018

Time: 17:00 -18:15

- Going digital is key to driving the economy, addressing social issues and developing skills. E-infrastructures, research clouds and the management of data are all central to this digital agenda, and enable the implementation of national, regional and global plans. Both in Europe and in Africa, the digital revolution is seen as providing a multitude of benefits, and key platforms that help to address diverse global challenges, from health and climate change to disaster management.
- The implementation of the UNs Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the African Unions Agenda 2063 in addressing the global issues,

will benefit from the digital agenda. This session will highlight strategic platforms to maximise the benefits of data in addressing the key challenges.

- The development of an African Data Intensive Research Cloud will provide a unique platform to enable African researchers across many disciplines to access large data sets and tools for data analytics. The European Open Science Cloud will assist with better data management and access. Initiatives such as the Group on Earth Observations and the European Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership will also highlight the strategic work that is undertaken through the use of digital platforms and data in informing decision-making and strengthening partnerships between Africa and Europe.
- Ultimately, these initiatives could help to assist with the key issues of analysis and decision-making towards the enhancement of quality of life and economic growth.

Organised by Vinny Pillay – Senior Science & Technology Representative, South African Department of Science & Technology

Moderator: Thandi Mgwebi Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Tshwane University of Technology - Postgraduate studies, Research, Innovation & Engagement

Speakers:

- Jean-Claude BURGELMAN - Head of Unit - Open Data Policies and Science Cloud, DG Research & Innovation
- Michael MAKANGA - European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)
- Lidia BRITO – UNESCO

“Research integrity & ethics are we getting it right?”

Date: 12 July 2018

Time: 8:45 -10:00

- Research integrity and ethics are the pillars of effective and innovative research initiatives, cutting across the research work of many institutions in both the public as well as private sector.
- Questions remain as to which mechanisms need to be put in place to encourage and promote the issue of research integrity. What roles do governments, institutions, academia, the private sector and researchers

themselves have to undertake to foster an enabling environment? This panel will discuss the current state-of-play and what more is needed to facilitate this, as well as considering the challenges of publishing in a world of open data. We will highlight some of the principles, codes of conduct, frameworks and research integrity policies countries are adopting, and the need for better integration in various institutional mechanisms.

- Central to this is the issue of communication and training: are we training the next generation of young and emerging researchers to be able to navigate these issues optimally in the emerging discourse of the digital drivers that influence the fundamentals of science, research and innovation?

Organised by Vinny Pillay – Senior Science & Technology Representative, South African Department of Science & Technology

Moderator:

Thandi Mgwebi Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Tshwane University of Technology - Postgraduate studies, Research, Innovation & Engagement (www.tut.ac.za)

Speakers

- Glenda GRAY - South African Medical Research Council
- Carel IJSSELMUIDEN - COHRED
- Tony MAYER - Nanyang Technological University
- Robert-Jan SMITS - European Commission
- Catriona FENNEL - Elsevier

A delegation from South Africa will also include six representatives from Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDI):

1. University of Fort Hare <http://www.ufh.ac.za/>
2. University of Limpopo <https://www.ul.ac.za/>
3. Walter Sisulu University of Technology <http://www.wsu.ac.za/waltersisulu/>
4. Mangosuthu University of Technology <https://www.mut.ac.za/>

And six representatives who have been awarded the EuroScience Forum 2018 Awards from:

1. University of South Africa (UNISA) www.unisa.ac.za/
2. University of Kwa-Zulu Natal <https://www.ukzn.ac.za/>
3. Human Scientific Research Council www.hsrc.ac.za
4. University of Stellenbosch <https://www.sun.ac.za/english>
5. University of Pretoria www.up.ac.za/
6. University of Cape Town www.uct.ac.za

VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AT THE SA-EU STI COOPERATION EXHIBITION SUPPORTED THROUGH THE ESASTAP 2020 PROJECT (STAND 2):

To meet with the researchers from the South African Universities, get more information on SA-EU cooperation (in Science, Technology and Innovation) and on the Science Forum South Africa (SFSA 2018)

www.esof.eu/en/programme.html