



## Summary Report

### **3<sup>rd</sup> AERAP Workshop on the Implementation of the AERAP Framework Programme for Cooperation**

On 4 and 5 November 2013, more than 40 researchers, engineers and industry representatives from Africa and Europe came together for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on the Implementation of the AERAP Framework Programme for Cooperation.

The meeting started with a short report by Declan Kirrane on AERAP's activities since the last meeting in Brussels in June 2013, including a [workshop in Cape Town](#) in July and the participation of AERAP in an [URSI event in Mauritius](#) in September. Declan emphasised especially the successful engagement with MEPs and African diplomats during a networking dinner on 1 October: Italian MEP Vittorio Prodi suggested establishing radio astronomy for science capacity in Africa as a topic for the Greek and Italian Council presidency in 2013/2014. MEPs Michael Gahler and Gay Mitchell offered their support for AERAP in securing funding for the projects proposed in the AERAP Framework Programme for Cooperation.

Daan du Toit, science counsellor at the South African Mission to the EU, spoke about the latest developments on funding instruments accessible to AERAP. The preparations for the EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 are nearly finalised and the first calls will be published on 11 December 2013. According to draft work programmes for Horizon 2020 which are already circulating unofficially (some of them are accessible [here](#)), specific funding for the SKA will become available during the second phase of the Horizon 2020 programme cycle. In the work programme on research infrastructures, an Africa related call is foreseen which could allow the continuation of [PAERIP](#) (Promoting African – European Research Infrastructure Partnerships). It is conceivable that AERAP would be built into this continuation of PAERIP. The AERAP secretariat will analyse the work programmes in view of suitable calls for key actions in the AERAP Framework Programme for Cooperation as soon as reliable information is available. Information on the new Marie Curie Actions, now called Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, has been presented by Veselina Angelova from DG Education and Culture, her presentation is available [here](#).

In the framework of the EU development cooperation programmes, a funding opportunity worth €15 to €20 million (over 3-4 years) that could be suitable for AERAP's project ideas will become available. To seize this opportunity, a project proposal needs to be submitted before the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December. Several volunteers expressed their interest in becoming part of a working group which will prepare such a proposal. The first conference call to plan the proposal writing will be organised in the week of 16 December 2013.

The First AERAP Implementation Plan could be the basis for such a proposal. During the workshop, the draft version of the Implementation Plan has been discussed and various modifications have been suggested. Taking these suggestions into account, the AERAP secretariat will update the Implementation Plan and make the next version available by 16 December 2013.

Workshop participants also suggested the organisation of the following meetings for 2014:

- Workshop on the co-location of scientific instruments at radio astronomy sites
- Joint RadioNet-AVN event
- Major AERAP meeting in Africa (e.g. Kenya or Ghana)