



# **EU-Africa cooperation on ICT in MFF 2014-2020 – State of Play**

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Infrastructure Reference Group meeting  
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*Vlassios Venner  
European Commission  
DG Communications Networks, Content & Technology  
International Unit*



## MFF 2014-2020: *Why* ICT for Africa?

Africa's "mobile decade": From less than 10 million fixed-line phones in 2000 to around 650 million mobile subscriptions by 2012

Impact on growth (2011): > 5 million jobs; around €11 billion direct government revenues (sales and import taxes, regulatory fees)

Africa's GDP: 7% by ICT

Solutions/Challenges: education (e-learning vs. illiteracy/innumeracy); health (e-health vs. infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS); agriculture (e.g. *Esoko* in Ghana); services (e.g. online financial services like *M-PESA* in Kenya); government (transparent and open, e.g. Kenya's *Open Data Initiative*)

***“ICTs can empower the lives of Africans and drive entrepreneurship, innovation and income growth”***



# 4<sup>th</sup> EU-Africa Summit: ICT4D Strategy for Africa

## **ROADMAP 2014-2017 – Point 50 "Connecting Africa":**

### ***Priority 1: Approximation of the e-communications & media policies and of the underlying legal & regulatory frameworks***

- Objective: an improved global regulatory system, fair and transparent

### ***Priority 2: Interconnection of the research and education network infrastructures – e-infrastructures***

- Objective: increased R&D cooperation, generating scientific excellence, fighting 'brain drain' and contributing to economic and social well-being

### ***Priority 3: ICT capacity building – ICT uptake, broadband, resilient systems, free and open access to the Internet***

- Objective: 'ICT research and innovation'-based solutions adapted to local environment and needs

# **Priority 1: Approximation of the enabling legal & regulatory frameworks**

## **State of play:**

- **HIP-AFRICA: Harmonisation of ICT Policies, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks in Africa** (*currently under preparation/negotiation*)
  - ❑ Regulatory approximation/cooperation for ICT enabling environments (*build upon HIPSSA*)
  - ❑ Transition from analogue to digital broadcasting (DSO, Digital Dividend)
  - ❑ Cyber-security
  - ❑ Conformity and interoperability (C&I)
  - ❑ Internet Governance capacity building

## Priority 2: Interconnection of e-infrastructures

***GÉANT: the pan-European Research and Education Network  
(speeds at 100Gbps; up to 500Gbps)***

### ***State of play:***

- **AfricaConnect:** interconnecting the Southern and Eastern Africa with GÉANT (155Mbps-1.4Gbps)
- **AfricaConnect 2:** Expansion to the Central and Western Africa

# AfricaConnect first phase



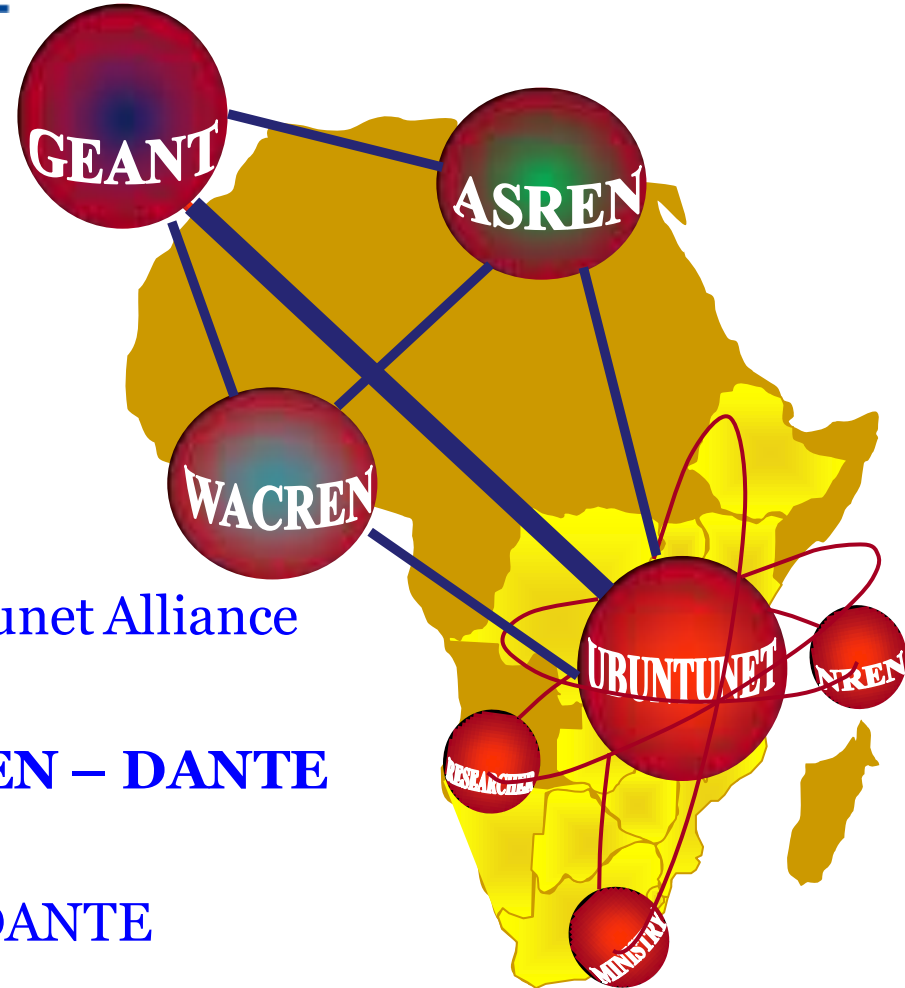
- Sept 2008 –AfricaConnect "lighthouse project" of the EU-AU Partnership on IS
- May 2011 – 2015 Implementation of AfricaConnect (focusing on South-East Africa): 14.8 M€ costs, EC ACP Funding: 11.8M€
- Fully operational network **in and for Africa**: RwEdNet – Rwanda, RENU – Uganda, KENET – Kenya, ZAMREN – Zambia, MoRENet – Mozambique, TENET – South Africa, MAREN – Malawi (in process), Eb@le - DRC (pending)
- **97% price reduction** in prices for interconnecting African national research and education networks
- Capacity building and increased collaboration (teaching, research, and administration) of African stakeholders
- Support to shared applications e.g. e-learning platforms; management information systems; i-labs; video-conference platforms; grid-computing;



# AfricaConnect second phase



- AfricaConnect2 part of DEVCO Pan-African Programme, **ensuring smooth transition from AC1 to AC2 and extension to pan-African scope**
- **(expected May) 2015-2019, 26.6 M€ costs, EC Funding : 20M€**
  - Cluster 1 (South East Africa, Ubruntunet Alliance implementing partner)
  - **Cluster 2 (West Africa, WACREN – DANTE implementing partner)**
  - Cluster 3 (North Africa, ASREN – DANTE implementing partner)



## Priority 3: ICT capacity building

***Scope: ICT uptake/solutions, broadband, resilient systems, free and open access to the Internet***

### ***State of play:***

- **IST-Africa:** 2015 Annual Conference in Lilongwe (Malawi), 5-8 May
- **H2020 LEIT-ICT WP 2014-15 Call 2 (closes on 14/04/15):** Specific objective ICT 39 – 2015: *'International partnership building in low and middle income countries'*, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa (Budget: **EUR 11 million**)
  - ❑ targeted collaborative research projects addressing the requirements of end-user communities. Specific technological targets: e.g. co-design, adaptation, demonstration and validation (pilots) of ICT R&I in H2020 thematic areas (incl. Content Technologies & Societal Challenges)





# EU-Africa cooperation on ICT: 'Win-Win'

2015 College-to-College meeting:  
***“ICT & regulatory approximation”***

*Thank you*

*vlassios.venner@ec.europa.eu*