

Research Fairness Initiative Conference Report

**RFI Conference, Brussels
28th September 2016**



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Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges



CAAST-Net Plus is funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 311806. This document reflects only the author's views and the European Union cannot be held liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

Author(s): Lauranne Botti, Katharina Kuss, Isabella Wagner

Organisation Name(s): ACU, COHRED, FCSAI, MOHEST, ZSI

02.11.2016 | Version 1.2 | PUBLIC |

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Abstract

This conference report outlines the discussions held on the current stage of development of the Research Fairness Initiative (RFI), a sustainable platform supporting EU-AU cooperation in research and innovation, and its applicability for bi-regional implementation. The report summarises the feedback provided by the three panel discussions and highlights the input made by participants on the need for further testing of the tool as the logical next step for its implementation, proposed by carrying out RFI pilots in various countries and sectors involved in research and innovation.

Introduction

This one-day Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) Conference was organised by the Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Policy (FCSAI), Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology (MOHEST), Kenya, and the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) - partners in the EU funded network CAAST-Net Plus.

The event was hosted by the Spanish Health Institute Carlos III (ISCIII) in Brussels on September 28th, 2016. Key stakeholders from government, international organisations, academia, research bodies, the pharmaceutical industry, the European Commission and African Union Commission were gathered to discuss the relevance and applicability of the Research Fairness Initiative (RFI), a system proposed as a sustainable platform to support EU-AU cooperation in research and innovation.

The participants of the previous three RFI African Workshops organised in collaboration with CAAST-Net Plus were able to attend the Brussels conference and share their experiences on working with and examining the RFI framework in their respective countries. The three workshops were held at:

1. The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Nairobi, Kenya, on May 23-24, 2016, co-organised by MOHEST;
2. The Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC) in Abuja, Nigeria, on July 25-26, 2016, co-organised by the National Office for Technological Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP); and
3. The Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, on August 3-4, 2016, co-organised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieure et de la Recherche [MESR]) and Pharmalys, Ltd.

The purpose of this RFI Conference in Brussels was to:

- Enhance fairness in global health research by presenting RFI and the experiences of RFI workshops to relevant stakeholders
- Inform a critical mass about RFI, particularly about its potential to strengthen bi-regional research cooperation and efficient use of resources
- Increase intra EU coordination of support for bi-regional health research cooperation by exchange on good practices in North-South research cooperation
- Seek advice on further development of the RFI for leveraging diverse programmes for more efficient impact on outcomes of joint health priorities.
- Improve RFI as sustainable collaboration platform/compliance tool to support bi-regional S&T co-operation
- Evaluate areas of the RFI that need improvement in order to successfully encourage and promote high quality, fair research collaborations.

Opening Remarks

The conference opened with keynote remarks from **Mrs. Nienke Buisman, European Commission DG Research and Innovation**, stating that the RFI report underlines that there are no frameworks to define the fairness, efficiency or impact of partnerships, though success criteria have been established through work undertaken in the EU-Africa High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) and joint regional strategies. From the very start of the conference, the RFI was deemed a very ambitious initiative and she invited the organisers to explore how it can be linked up with other initiatives.

Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Head of Division of Science and Technology at the African Union Commission, followed by saying that the RFI is a tool that can support many science priority areas and can address more than just health research collaborations. The RFI will contribute to creating, supporting and increasing EU-African science cooperation.

Presentations

The first presentation of the conference was conducted by **Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden, Executive Director of COHRED**, who set the scene on the global health arena and provided an overview on the Research Fairness Initiative. He highlighted the importance of the role played by collaborations to advance research and innovation infrastructures and how the RFI can act as a guideline and compliance tool that can lead organisations collaborating in research to become more fair as partners by reflecting on issues like IP, data sharing and research contracts. The RFI also serves as a key management tool and learning platform as a sustainable system that will point out the gaps and trends that exist in science collaborations, it points out areas where organisations can improve and increase their research competitiveness. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss how the RFI can be further improved and how to make it an operational tool.

The presentation made by **Katharina Kuss from the Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Policy** informed the audience on CAAST-Net Plus, the network's activities and how RFI is being developed within the project's goal of improving framework conditions for bi-regional cooperation. The concept for the RFI workshops was jointly developed by COHRED, FCSAI and MoEST. It was first tested in Kenya, later in Nigeria and Senegal together with other CAAST NET Plus partners. She explained that RFI workshops provide vibrant platforms for research communities to discuss the national research infrastructure and their needs e.g. the issue of National Ethics Committee in Kenya or the institutionalisation National Research and Innovation Fund in Nigeria. She concluded by pointing three challenges for RFI: 1) How to keep the reporting burden low? 2) How to ensure confidentiality/corporate reports? 3) How to provide feedback to institutional reports?

Panels

Three panel discussions were organised throughout the day to set the scene on the importance of fairness in current bi-regional research and innovation collaborations, to discuss the applicability of the RFI and to determine the RFI's potential to support intra-EU cooperation.

Panel I: What is Fairness in Global Health Research, why is it important, and how can the RFI enhance this?

Moderation: Dr. Stéphane Hogan, European Commission DG RTD

Glaudina Loots, Director of Health Innovation at the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa, was the first panellist of Panel I. She expressed her experience in being involved in research funding as a recipient as well as a donor. She questioned whether the RFI would support the recipient organisation in contract negotiation if the donor is unwilling to share information. The RFI could stand as a guidance tool, but an enforcement mechanism should be set in place. There is a lot of capacity building infrastructure in South Africa, but it is the contract fine print that determines the fairness of the partnership in the end.

The second panellist, **Gonzalo Vicente from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain**, shared that the RFI would have been a very helpful tool while setting up the collaboration with one of the Barcelona Institute for Global Health's partners. He stressed that establishing trust between partners is a crucial aspect for creating a fair partnership, especially in a competitive environment. Thus, guidelines can be useful for managers to encourage and create a culture for stimulating and encouraging science for development. A legal enforcement mechanism is not the solution, since fair science collaboration is more of a cultural issue.

Prof. Dr. Marleen Temmerman, Aga Khan University, Kenya, and Ghent University, Belgium, also foresees that the RFI will have enforcement issues. The initiative attempts to address problems in collaborations in a similar manner presented by previous efforts through resolutions and guidelines. It is imperative to find a means to translate this information into policies and practices. Innovation is key, but the world is suffering from *pilotitis* and the implementation of new concepts and tools is what is most needed by communities.

Dr. Samba Cor Sarr from the Ministry of Health in Senegal was the last panellist of Panel I. He stated that the RFI should help African regulatory bodies build capacity to evaluate the new clinical trial protocol. Gauging this protocol is key in order to successfully meet the interests of local communities and population. He called for the need to organise more consultative workshops in order to share experiences and information in relation to addressing local needs through health research.

Panel I Discussion

The moderator opened the floor for discussion. The recurring theme in the participants' input was the lack of opportunity to create and sustain fair partnerships with African collaborators as there is a minute academic sector in the region, which results in a lack of funding options. **Andreas Strecker, DFG**, stated that DFG focuses on training for the region because of the small academic base. In addition to this limitation, **Martin Mengel, AMP**, raised the issue of language barriers for donors, African institutions and inter-regional collaboration. He suggested that funders could fill in the existing gap by supporting agencies to act as a means to encourage and aid collaborations by taking into account different institutional cultures for fair partnerships, to which **Stéphane Hogan** stated

the importance of breaking away from traditional collaboration ties. **Marleen Temmerman** also added that the RFI could help bring more academic leadership in African institutions if it can offer to screen the institution's knowledge base when applying for new research, which could aid in creating more African coordinators of international projects. However, as **Stéphane Hogan** pointed out, the reason why many African institutions do not lead projects is due to administrative issues like currency exchanges, for example.

On the other hand, **Kimani Gachuhi from the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)** shared the possibility that dissemination and implementation of research may be a role fit for ministries or the industry rather than academia. Building capacity to form professional scientists in Africa is extremely important, but there are no funds to support this and there is a lack of negotiation power for African institutions. **Glaudina Loots** responded that there are strategic health and innovation partnerships (SHIP), developed and encouraged by the South African Medical Research Council, that specifically tackle these challenges and focus on applying technologies and innovations for the benefit of project management in South African institutions.

Marième Ba, Pharmalys Ltd., also raised the problem of transfer knowledge of research being given back to Africa. **Soukèye Dia Tine, MERS**, added that access to information and funds is unequal between partners and that much work still needs to be done to understand what fair practices are and how to implement them in research collaborations. To avoid brain drain, **Patrick Suykerbuyk, Global Health Institute Antwerp**, mentioned that the RFI could play a pivotal role in the measurement of where trained people continue their careers and offer their knowledge. **Alice Jamieson from the Wellcome Trust** questioned whether there were other initiatives fixing barriers and that, perhaps, it is necessary to first address the basic issues of grant funding and financial management standards.

Lastly, **Kevin McCarthy, European Commission DG of DEVCO**, shared that the legal and financial difficulties are potentially enormous for partners based outside of Europe, making it very difficult to allow fair negotiation. Nevertheless, ways can be found to resolve problems such as designating an academic coordinator from Europe as well as Africa to manage the collaboration – this would contribute to ensuring scientific equality in research partnerships.

Panel II: Opportunities and challenges of RFI implementation - Potential for RFI to reinforce Africa-Europe research cooperation

Moderation: Dr. Andrew Cherry, Association of Commonwealth Universities and CAAST-Net Plus Coordinator

Panel II was structured to assess the results of the RFI Workshops held in Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal, where the RFI was tested for applicability to local organisations. Other frameworks were also presented by panellists as a comparison to the RFI.

This panel's first speaker was **Dr. Kimani Gachuhi from the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)**, who hosted the first Research Fairness Initiative Workshop in Nairobi on May 23-24. He provided a history of KEMRI and its funding programmes, demonstrating the 75% of Kenya's health research budget is externally funded. Their goal is to assign 2% of GDP for research. KEMRI has guiding principles, but the way in which they are formed, set and enforced could receive further guidance. A scientific and ethical approval process exists and, since February this year, a partnership policy document has been introduced. KEMRI's challenges raised at the RFI workshop in Nairobi included issues such as a lack of capacity for effective contract negotiations, a lack of opportunity and knowledge in finding adequate partners, a lack of monitoring instruments and challenges in capacity to translate findings to other fields for sharing of information, IP and adoption of skills. The RFI, therefore, has the ability to aid in addressing these problems within the organisation. Institutions should be familiar with the RFI as a process that can add to and strengthen existing standards of practice.

The second panellist was **Prof. Soukèye Dia Tine from the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MERS), Senegal**, who was able to co-organise and attend the RFI workshop in Dakar on August 3-4. She summarised the events of the RFI workshop that assessed how to promote and support collaborations between Northern and Southern institutions. The indicators of the RFI framework were also examined and 25 topics were discussed in addition to the 15 proposed by the RFI. An economic and social plan lays out Senegal's national priorities, which is well-known and accessible to Senegalese researchers. Key challenges where the RFI could have an impact in Senegal include financing projects to support researchers, as well as the infrastructure and the need to organise research networks. A National Ethics Committee exists in Senegal, but there were many additional contributions made at the RFI workshop on ethics, human dignity and fairness. Southern countries must participate more in bi-regional collaborations, and the way to achieve this is by integrating the pharmaceutical industry and national centres to promote research and IP rights to Senegal and Africa as a whole. In order to further test the applicability of the RFI, we need to organise pilots. The Bambey University, the Center of Excellence for Mother and Child Health (CEA SAMEF) and Prof. Souleymane Mboup's Bacteriology and Virology Laboratories expressed interest in hosting these RFI pilots.

The third panellist, **Emeka Orji, National Office for Technological Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)**, was unable to attend the conference to due visa issues, but was able to share his impressions of the RFI workshop held in Abuja on July 25-26 in written form. The workshop participants accepted the RFI as a tool that can strengthen collaborative research and can act as a measurable indicator of the impact that these collaborations have on research and innovation. It was agreed amongst participants that the RFI has the potential to strengthen IP policy for research projects in bi-regional and interregional partnerships. It was also noted that participants were committed to adopting the RFI as a guidance tool to advance research in Nigeria and to stimulate collaborations for greater opportunities for bi-regional cooperation. This increasing of partnerships between Nigeria and Europe can be achieved by establishing RFI Desks in the institutions to have the ability to implement the initiative. Lastly, the RFI is a platform that has been developed first and

foremost with the health sector in mind, but is not limited to this field and can be adopted by all research collaborations.

The next series of panellists in Panel II are individuals who are working on developing or have developed similar initiatives to enhance fair research and innovation.

Prof. Anne-Marie Moulin from l'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France, presented the IRD's guidelines with 16 principles that have very similar objectives to the RFI. The principles examine necessary aspects of research partnerships before, during and after research in order to make them fairer collaborations. The IRD's guidelines does not analyse the principles further in the way the RFI does. Collaborations are very complex and all institutions can gain by applying guidelines in their research and scientific contributions. When reviewing IRD indicators, she noticed that approximately 30% of the publications were co-signed by partners. Partners that work together on publications require more than merely co-signing, which also signifies that there can be a lead partner. The lead partner should take necessary measures to create a fairer relationship with its collaborators. Overall, the governance aspect of the RFI is crucial and can contribute to the societal role of addressing local needs and interests of communities.

Dr. Golbahar Pahlavan from the Pasteur Center for Global Health, France, highlighted that the Center's project is aiming to strengthen African universities by providing training through research programmes. It is important to create and sustain infrastructure within the university network, which can result in the provision of management and leadership skills to researchers. She raised the issue of gender equality and the importance to have agendas set to increase women's access to participate in and conduct research. Language barriers must also be tackled; for example, Uganda had a case of Ebola in 2003 and sharing the information on this event would have played a pivotal role in preventing future cases across Western Africa. She also pointed out that mobile laboratories were built within a very short time, but this infrastructure was not made sustainable. Applying the RFI in advance would help instigate more effective action in emergency cases.

The last speaker of Panel II, **Kevin McCarthy from DG DEVCO,** stressed that a key aspect of partnerships is variability in power and roles between collaborators. The RFI can make a difference by contributing to the empowerment of all stakeholders. The RFI is very relevant to the work achieved by the EDCTP, and a possible next step should perhaps include reflection and discussions on how the EDCTP can take part-ownership or be involved in the process. The effectiveness of the tool can be increased once there is a clear engagement by partners. The HLPD that has identified FNSSA can contribute to the development of the initiative and can provide a testing ground. In addition, the RFI must be aligned with the SDGs and the universal agenda for 2030. Presenting examples to illustrate good practices can help understand how an initiative like the RFI can be implemented: for instance, one project in the field of HIV/AIDS conducted in Mozambique presented at a RTD workshop earlier this year, can provide an example of good practice. Examples need to be made available to prove the effectiveness of the RFI, which can be done with some of the projects identified. There are many publications that demonstrate that the concepts behind RFI can be useful, but the purpose of the initiative needs to be clarified with further evidence.

Panel II Discussion

The panel discussion was opened to the floor and **Patrick Suykerbuyk, Global Health Institute Antwerp,** was the first to comment. He called for the use and importance of *accountability* and of its applicability to the RFI. Equality and equity are two different things; an equal partnership may not consider local needs. **Simon Langat, NACOSTI,** then stated that the feedback provided by the

Nigerian RFI Workshop demonstrates that their interest in the RFI is for it to focus on health and all of research and development (R&D), while the participants of the Senegal Workshop see the RFI as a strategic tool to develop R&D. Kenya, however, perceive their management of science technology and innovation as a learning process on how to improve possibilities for collaborations, such as for matching grants.

Nienke Buisman, EC DG Research and Innovation, took note of the commitment by the Kenyan and Senegalese institutions to the RFI and stressed the importance of testing the initiative. She raised key questions, such as: *How seriously will people answer these RFI questions?* and *Will people only be ticking boxes?*. She sees an opportunity to test the RFI at least partially, as the whole tool is very heavy to impose as a pilot. Consideration could be given to testing it in the framework of ERANET COFUND on FNSSA or the African Union Research Grants but this needs careful discussion with relevant actors.

Hambani Masheleni, Senior Policy Officer for Human Resources at the Science and Technology Department of the AUC, added that the RFI is the tool to enhance partnerships and can, more importantly, empower all stakeholders. He stated that we can all agree that the initiative can build confidence and trust between partners. Nevertheless, he posed the question on how it can be ensured that the RFI enforces a set of policies. The funding for research and innovation in Africa usually is of an external source due to weak intra-African collaborations. As Nienke has said, there is a second call under evaluation where a grant could receive up to one million Euros to support the FNSSA. This grant can provide an entry point on next steps to promote the RFI.

From the point of view of the health sector, **Tomas Lopez Peña from ISCIII** shared that in order to move this good initiative forward, the relevance to support national health systems in LMICs should be considered. The RFI will be difficult to push forward if these prior conditions are not addressed, since health authorities have set governance strategies on priorities. **Henrique Silveira, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal**, followed by stating that the RFI needs to be widespread to be effective. Piloting is the first step towards achieving this. The RFI can further help by increasing inter-African partnerships, which will highlight the differences in research levels between countries.

Panel III: Increasing intra-EU coordination

The first panellist for Panel III, **Dr. Ricardo Pereira from the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal**, provided an overview of FCT's programmes that are dedicated to collaboration across lusophone countries and to increasing human capacity in lusophone African countries. The RFI could be a good tool to improve policy tenets underlying national initiatives, in addition to helping monitor existing projects and enhancing trust in the partnership. He mentioned the joint programme initiative on neurodegenerative disease research that finds common grounds for negotiations, which is a successful method for attracting new partners. FCT is starting off its participation in a CSA on transfer of organizational innovations towards resilient health services and systems in Europe, in which it plans a seminar aimed at connecting to Portuguese-speaking countries, notably in Africa. Pending on discussions, RFI may have a role there.

The second panellist was **Dr. Gabrielle Breugelmanns from the EDCTP**, who outlined the aims of the EDCTP and its structure. She reviewed that the EDCTP does not fund isolated clinical trials, though they financially support other activities in addition to clinical trials. There are many overlaps between the RFI and what the EDCTP strives to do on a daily basis. They focus on vulnerable populations and conduct clinical trials on pregnant women, mostly because the industry usually excludes this category even though there is much demand for more information on this area.

Dr. Andreas Strecker from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany, started by clarifying that the DFG has neither any science policy, nor any preferred area to address for funding support. The DFG would like to encourage and establish more prominent roles to African institutions in project work, and also helps to establish science funding agencies in the region. Their long-term vision is for Northern and Southern funders to collaborate on fairness as a prerequisite for receiving funding. The RFI could aid by addressing project roles and by disseminating information on the projects to help them become more well-known in their sectors. There is a need for guidance in writing proposals for African stakeholders.

The fourth panellist, **Julia Lichtkoppler-Moser from the Commission for Development Research (KEF) and the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR), Austria**, provided an overview of KEF's and APPEAR's objectives and activities. KEF considers itself as bridging the gap between science and development. It finances cooperative research projects, offers consulting services on development-related topics and it aims at making development research activities and connected development political issues known and accessible to a broader public. APPEAR is financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation and aims at strengthening capacities in higher education research, teaching and management of the participating individuals and institutions. APPEAR funds Academic Partnerships, Advanced Academic Partnerships and also provides preparatory funding. Both KEF and APPEAR are committed to the establishment of participatory, fair and transparent research/academic partnerships. In this regard, the RFI is considered an excellent initiative as it touches upon a fundamental issue of research partnerships, namely research fairness. If there is interest from the side of the RFI team, KEF and APPEAR can offer valuable experience and lessons learned on this topic. The RFI could furthermore become a platform of exchange and sharing of experiences in order to keep research fairness on the agenda and to exchange good practices on this topic. It is suggested that the RFI should be engaged in outreach work and should provide more information on accessibility vs. confidentiality for its users.

Dr. Julie Calkins, UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS), explained that UKCDS is an organisation that represents 14 funding organisations throughout the UK that fund developing research. She highlighted a rise in available funding for research and development, which has been mainly distributed by DFID and between government and research councils. Global Challenges

Research Fund calls are out now. The RFI is a tool that could positively impact the UK and its research community, especially with the issue of transparency in both Northern and Southern institutions. Currently, there is no quality assessment tool in use for research projects in funding institutions. There is potential within the UK for creating impact on research excellence with a framework exercise that assesses the quality of research and funding for academia using qualitative and quantitative analysis. There are other challenges to face, such as how other countries will implement the initiative.

The last panellist for Panel III was **Dr. Marième Ba, Director of Pharmalys Ltd., Senegal**. She reflected on how, 20 years ago, no African country was actively known to work on clinical trials, other than South Africa. There is a clear growth in researchers from African countries participating in clinical trials research; EDCTP has been a great help in achieving to increase their contribution and the global awareness of African participation. Good regulatory practices will help improve research in Africa and the RFI can have an impact on this as a compliance tool and learning platform. Having a common platform for institutions and inexperienced researchers would offer opportunities for everyone involved in research to reach an acceptable level in having good practices. Locally, researchers do not always understand why some projects do not receive funding, and the RFI can be used as a tool to explain why this is the case. At the same time, an agreement must be made on which indicators are most important to keep in the RFI's framework. The endorsement of the tool by experts in Africa who have the access and means to relay researchers is very important for the implementation of the RFI.

Panel III Discussion

The discussion opened to the floor for comments. **George Ombakho, MOHEST, Kenya**, suggested that the RFI be put in place at the stage of proposal-writing in order for fairness to be applied from the composition of the project. **Simon Langat from NACOSTI, Kenya**, pressed the fact that it is agreed that the RFI is relevant and timely, so the discussion on promoting the tool and next steps for implementation is most important now. Following the comment on implementing the initiative, **Golbahar Pahlavan, Institut Pasteur**, stated that it is not as difficult as one may expect to implement a tool like the RFI and could be considered as a prerequisite for setting up collaborations in bi-lateral cooperation within European countries. Lastly, **Anne-Marie Moulin, IRD**, shared that the IRD helped guide projects that worked in collaborations by interviewing participants to improve the submission of the project proposal for the call. This aid in submitting proposals could be an area that the RFI could address.

Concluding Remarks

Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden, COHRED, made a few concluding remarks and recommendations on how to further develop the RFI for sustainability. He stated evidence-based medicine has significantly improved in the last 30 years, but there is still no systematic framework to learn how to make collaborations sustainable in building capacity and improving infrastructure. Every partnership can address some of the aspects touched by the RFI and realise that it is in their interest to submit a report on how fair their research is as a part of their annual reporting process. He concluded with his vision on the RFI and how it is an initiative that will continue to grow in the years to come.

Dr. Gianpietro van de Goor, DG Health for the European Commission, clearly addressed the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative in his concluding remarks. He started by saying that COHRED has triggered an important debate and process on fairness in research collaborations. He then questioned what the next steps could be to implement the RFI and why this could matter. He noted that the RFI is very ambitious in seeking its adoption by nations, institutions as well as individual projects and researchers. The explanation of the RFI concept and process needs to be clearer such that it is comprehensible for potential users how likely benefits outweigh required commitments. He called for some degree of caution and not to expect research funders to impose additional reporting requirements on grant holders. The RFI should be seen in the wider context of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Research Integrity. The Council of the EU endorsed in 2015 the first [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) which calls for researchers to respect the principles of fairness and responsibility for future science generation, amongst others, and called for measures to prevent research misconduct. These principles have now been included by the Commission in the model grant agreements of Horizon 2020 but concerns all types, challenges and topics of research and innovation supported under Horizon 2020.

Hambani Masheleni, Senior Policy Officer for Human Resources at the Science and Technology Department of the AUC, concluded that the RFI is a global platform that can improve the efficiency of research and can aid in international development. The RFI can strengthen collaborations and raise awareness on the importance of research. Political endorsements, however, will be necessary to successfully implement this initiative.

What Did We Learn?

CAAST-Net Plus partners have learned that there is potential for the RFI to reinforce EU-AU cooperation in research and innovation as a compliance tool and learning platform to support researchers from both regions.

In order to achieve as a platform to be used by nations, institutions and projects involved in health and other research sectors both inter- and intra-regionally, the following steps need to be taken into account:

1. The RFI framework is very ambitious and the number of indicators should be reconsidered in order to be less daunting as another reporting process and requirement for institutions to undertake;
2. The RFI's target of governments, national research bodies, academia, donors, international organisations and the pharmaceutical industry and other businesses would be easier to reach with political endorsements;
3. In order to receive political endorsements, the RFI must provide a proof of concept which can be achieved through further testing of the tool. Several institutions from Kenya, Senegal and the Philippines have already expressed an interest in piloting the RFI;
4. The sustainability of the RFI can be accomplished by pursuing one or more of the many funding avenues that have been mentioned during the conference; and
5. RFI can help funding institutions to exchange good practices on North-South research cooperation and hereby increase intra-EU coordination of support for research cooperation.

Overall, we thank all participants for providing feedback on the Research Fairness Initiative and all speakers for sharing their views and experiences.

Further information and presentations

If you wish to access the presentations, please find them on the [CAAST NET Plus website](#)¹ and some photos [here](#).²

The meeting was also covered in the [Research Africa bulletin](#)³ and is a [SciDev.Net publication](#).⁴ An interview with Carel IJsselmuiden and Glaudina Loots was published [here](#).⁵

We ask that you please visit also the [RFI website](#)⁶ for any upcoming events and updates.

¹ <https://caast-net-plus.org/object/news/1603>

² <https://www.flickr.com/photos/114969654@N02/albums/with/72157659897446984>

³ <http://www.researchresearch.com/news/article/?articleId=1363261>

⁴ <https://www.scidev.net/global/policy/scidev-net-at-large/tool-targets-fairness-deficit-research.html>

⁵ <http://www.scidev.net/global/capacity-building/feature/standard-fair-partnerships-Carel-IJsselmuiden.html>

⁶ <http://rfi.cohred.org/>

Appendices

Appendix A: Agenda



Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) Conference 28th September 2016
Rue de Trone 62, 7th floor, Brussels

- 09.30 Welcome coffee**
- 09.45 Opening remarks**
- Nienke Buisman, European Commission DG RTD
Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, African Union Commission
- 10.00 Presentation of Research Fairness Initiative**
- Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden, Council on Health Research for Development
Katharina Kuss, Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Policy
- 10.30 Panel I: What is Fairness in Global Health Research, why is it important, and how can the RFI enhance this?**
- Moderation: Dr. Stéphane Hogan, European Commission DG RTD
- Prof. Doris Schroeder, University of Central Lancashire, UK (video on TRUST project)
Glaudina Loots, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
Gonzalo Vicente, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain
Prof. Dr. Marleen Temmerman, Aga Khan University, Kenya and Ghent University, Belgium
Dr. Samba Cor Sarr, Ministry of Health, Senegal
- 12.00 Lunch**
- 13.00 Panel II: Opportunities and challenges of RFI implementation - Potential for RFI to reinforce Africa-Europe research cooperation**
- Moderation: Dr. Andrew Cherry, Association of Commonwealth Universities and CAAST Net Plus Coordinator
- Dr. Kimani Gachuhi, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya
Prof. Soukeye Dia Tine, Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique, Senegal
Kevin McCarthy, European Commission DG DEV

Prof. Anne-Marie Moulin, L'Institut de recherche pour le développement, France
Dr. Golbahar Pahlavan, Pasteur Center for Global Health, France

14.30 Coffee break

15.00 Panel III: Increasing intra EU coordination

Moderation: Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden

Dr. Gabrielle Breugelmans, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

Dr. Andreas Strecker, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany
Julia Lichtkoppler-Moser, Commission for Development Research, Austria & Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development

Dr. Ricardo Pereira, Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal

Dr. Julie Calkins, Collaborative on Development Sciences, UK

Dr. Marieme Ba, Pharmalys, Senegal

16.30 Conclusions and recommendation for further development and sustainability of RFI

Prof. Carel IJsselmuiden

Impressions and commitments to support or adopt RFI, especially in the context of the EUAfrica partnership.

Dr. Gianpietro van de Goor, European Commission DG RTD

Hambani Masheleni, African Union Commission

17.00 Closure of the meeting

Rapporteurs: Isabella Wagner and Lauranne Botti



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



CAAST-Net Plus is funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7/2007- 2013) under grant agreement n 11806. European Union cannot be held liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein. For more information, please visit www.caast-net-plus.org.

Appendix B: List of participants

Last Name	First Name	Organisation
Ba	Marième	Pharmalys, Ltd., Senegal
Botti	Lauranne	COHRED, Switzerland
Breugelmans	Gabrielle	EDCTP
Buisman	Nienke	European Commission
Calkins	Julie	UKCDS, UK
Cherry	Andrew	Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK
Cor Sarr	Samba	Ministry of Public Health, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) MoH, Senegal
Curry	Philipe	IRD, France
Despotovic	Zoran	Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Policy (FCSAI), Spain
Dia Tine	Soukèye	MRS, Senegal
Gachuhi	Kimani	KEMRI, Kenya
Hogan	Stephane	European Commission
IJsselmuider	Carel	COHRED
Jamieson	Alice	Wellcome Trust
Kuss	Katharina	Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Policy (FCSAI), Spain
Lachat	Carl	Department of Food Safety and Food Quality, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University, Belgium
Langat	Simon	NACOSTI, Kenya
Lichtkoppler-Moser	Julia	Commission for Development Research, Austria (KEF), & Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR)
Loots	Glaudina	Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa
Lopez Peña	Tomás	Spanish Health Institute Carlos III (ISCIII)
Makri	Anita	SciDev.Net
Martinezr	Benjamin	University of Wolverhampton
Masheleni	Hambani	African Union Commission
McCarthy	Kevin	European Commission
Mengel	Martin	Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP)
Moulin	Anne-Marie	IRD, France
Ombakho	George	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST)
Oucchi	Samira	Institut Pasteur, France
Ouedraogo	Mahama	African Union Commission
Pahlavan	Golbahar	Institut Pasteur, France
Pereira	Ricardo	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
Silveira	Henrique	Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
Strecker	Andreas	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany
Suykerbuyk	Patrick	Global Health Institute of Antwerp
Temmerman	Marleen	Aga Khan University, Kenya and Ghent University, Belgium
van de Goor	Gianpietro	European Commission
van der Graaf	Rieke	University Medical Center Utrecht,
Vicente	Gonzalo	Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain
Vernant	Cécile	Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Germany
Wagner	Isabella	Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria

Appendix C: Group Photo

