

RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT TO FOSTER SOUTH AFRICA - COST INTERACTIONS

between the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP), Pretoria
and the COST Office, Brussels

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The Agreement

This agreement would establish the basis for the establishment of reciprocal cooperation, in the mutual interest, of South African and European scientists in COST Actions. Under COST guidelines, South Africa would be regarded as a country with a reciprocal arrangement.

Reimbursements for any mutually agreed participation in a COST Action would comprise:

- (i) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe for South African scientists;
and
- (ii) travel and subsistence expenses to and within South Africa for European scientists participating and collaborating in the same COST Action

in line with the principles of the COST financial rules and procedures for Short Term Scientific Missions under this Reciprocal Agreement (RSTSMs) of COST.

All RSTSMs must be for five days minimum and three months maximum duration.

Funding of (i) above would be administered by the South African Department of Science and Technology's DST-designated implementing agent, the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP). Reimbursement for (ii) above would be made by the COST Office.

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Reciprocal Contributions

Under the terms of this agreement, COST's contribution would be up to €50,000 per annum from 1 July 2009 until 1 July 2014, subject to the availability of reciprocal financing from South Africa each year. South Africa's contribution would be up to R 500 000 (South African Rands) per annum, with appropriate support provided to the ESASTAP to cover administrative overheads.

ESASTAP would be contracted to take primary responsibility for managing South Africa involvement in COST, including making recommendations on particular applications, liaising directly with COST, supported by the South African Senior Science and Technology Representative in Brussels on COST negotiations, and facilitating travel arrangements for South African scientists travelling to Europe under COST Actions.

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RSTSM Financial Assistance

The financial contribution provided by COST for a European scientist travelling to South Africa, in 2009 values this would be a fixed grant not exceeding € 2,500 per visit, except through special justification. This would comprise travel expenses of up to €1,000 and a daily allowance of €160 for accommodation and meals expenses, to a total not exceeding € 2,500.

For South African researchers travelling to Europe, the total grant in 2009 values would not exceed R50 000 per visit, covering a return airfare of up to R25 000 and daily living allowances. Daily living allowances, covering accommodation and meals would be provided at the rate of R2 000 per day or a maximum of R25 000 per month, whichever is the smaller amount.

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Application procedure

Participants in COST Actions involving official participations from South Africa are eligible to draw on these funds. Applications for funding would be made by the scientists seeking funding, or by their employers. Applications for funding will be processed as follows:

- for participants from the COST countries wishing to travel to South Africa the application will be submitted to the COST Office and a statement of support from the Chair of the Action will be required along with a work plan and budget breakdown as per Section 11 of the COST Vademecum; and
- for participants from South Africa wishing to travel to Europe for COST Action meetings the application will be submitted to ESASTAP according to the procedures outlined on its web page.

From time to time priority areas may be agreed by South Africa and COST under the auspices of the South Africa – European Union Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee or at such other time as the parties may agree.

Applications would be considered independently by the COST Office and ESASTAP in accordance with each party's financial rules and procedures. Until such time as priority areas or other criteria such as giving priority to first time applicants are agreed applications will be treated in order of receipt. The COST Office and ESASTAP will each form their own views as to the applications' suitability for funding, and accordingly approve or otherwise, consulting with each other in this process only as each party deems necessary.

Once an exchange visit is approved:

- (i) The COST Office would grant an amount following § 3 to the European scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within South Africa; and
- (ii) ESASTAP would grant an amount following § 3 to the South African scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe.

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Entry into force

This agreement will enter into force 1 July 2009.

Brussels, 26 June 2009

Mmboneni Muofhe
Fri Jun 26 15:45:26 2009


Mr. Mmboneni MUOFHE
Chief Director
for ESASTAP



Dr. Martin GRABERT
Director
for the COST Office