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EU-Africa collaboration on cutting edge research challenges

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The dialogue on Research Infrastructures between Africa and the European Union is strategically valuable and builds on a number of relevant initiatives such as the European Commission 7th Framework Programme project -PAERIP— aimed at Promoting African- European Research Infrastructure Partnerships, which mapped the RI context and its potential as well as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) initiative which represents a clear example of how African and EU interests can converge around a cutting edge scientific challenge.

The development of a roadmap for the African Light Source could pave the way for a further enhancement of the scientific cooperation between European and African scientists in line with the "Open to the World" priority promoted by the European Commission.

European lessons learned and best practices derived from ongoing and past activities in the domain of Research Infrastructures, including the SESAME initiative could provide valuable input in the frame of the African Light Source initiative. An analysis of the key aspects for Research Infrastructure long term sustainability, road-mapping, user needs analysis, multidisciplinary approach and strategic governance will provide the basis for a wider international debate.

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