

Commission approves €138 million for health, ODA management, and high-level human resource development in South Africa

Today, the European Commission approved €138 million to be provided to the Government of South Africa to improve health, ODA management, and high-level human resource development.

The four programmes that are being financed in 2010 are consistent with the goals of the Joint Country Strategy Paper (2007-2013) on development cooperation between the European Union and South Africa. They focus on reducing poverty and inequality by improving service delivery in key sectors such as education and health, and promoting good governance, and include a regional programme.

EU support in South Africa targets amongst others social service delivery, governance, and private sector development. Emphasis is placed on innovative approaches, best practices, risk-taking, pilot programmes, systems development, capacity building and above all, skills and knowledge transfers. Improving service delivery by means of innovative delivery mechanisms and capacity building is especially important at local level.

In 2010, four programmes are being financed for a total amount of €138 million. The largest of these focuses on improving primary health care through a sector policy budget support operation of €126 million. It is expected to improve access to better quality primary health care particularly for the poorest South Africans. Second, a programme of some €6 million aims to enhance efficient, effective and sustainable management of ODA to optimise its impact on the strategic development priorities of South Africa. A further €3 million provide opportunities for South African students to study in Europe in the context of Action 2 of the current Erasmus Mundus Programme. Finally, the €3 million regional ACP Science and Technology Programme II aims to strengthen systems of innovation by, *inter alia*, increasing capacity for science and technology.

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