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## PanAfGeo project: A Pan African support to the EGS-OAGS partnership

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As part of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), the European Commission and the African Union Commission adopted the Roadmap 2014-2017, which sets out the five key priorities and areas of mutual interest for joint Africa-EU cooperation. In its Multiannual Indicative Programme, the Pan-African Programme includes a component dedicated to “Raw materials” aiming at “improving geological knowledge and skills in the Africa mining sector.” In this context, the European Commission (DG-DEVCO, in coordination with DG-ENTR) launched a feasibility study in 2013 which aimed to propose a pan-African project to strengthen the capacity of OAGS (Organisation of African Geological Surveys) members and the organisation itself. This study was conducted under the leadership of EGS (EuroGeoSurveys) jointly with OAGS. This effort has resulted in the development of a comprehensive, multi-annual, continental-scale project for the implementation of the agreed cooperation concept, which was given the acronym “PanAfGeo”. The feasibility study evidenced current levels of staffing and expertise at African Geological Surveys and the identification of a project to strengthen geological knowledge and skills while building on existing capacities and facilities. The project proposal covers main topics as mentioned below:

- Trainings done by European and African geoscientists to African Geological Surveys staff who will ask for reinforcing their expertise;
- Improvement of OAGS members’ geoscientific expertise;
- Dissemination of training courses throughout Africa via free accessible documents and websites.

The project relies on high-quality training in the areas of: geoscientific mapping, mineral resources assessment, artisanal and small-scale mining, environmental management of mines, geohazards, geoheritage and geoinformation management.

Throughout the duration of the project, governance and sustainability will constitute strong commitments with the establishment of positive relationships and shared visions among involved institutions and all stakeholders in the frame of the development of a specific geosciences capacity building programme in Africa.

The project will aim to establish a long-term strategic cooperation and foster an institutional twinning between European and African Geological Surveys - collaboration between organisations having comparable roles and duties in their respective countries. It will be done through a direct grant to BRGM-The French Geological Survey who will form a Consortium with EGS and several of its members to

implement the action. PanAfGeo project will be the support of strengthened partnership between EGS and OAGS.

