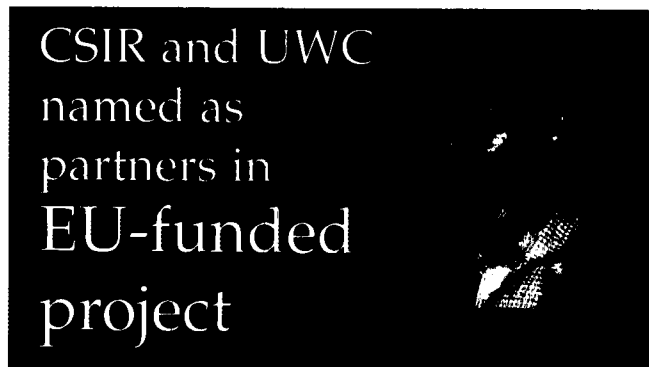


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The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) are participating as partners in a project for Global Free and Open Source Software Research, FLOSSWorld. The two-year project involves 17 partners in 12 countries around the world, jointly receiving a total of R4,8 million from the European Union's 6th Framework Research programme. The importance of this unique project for SA is underlined by the joint participation of the CSIR and UWC, both leaders locally in the field of free and open source software research.

FLOSSWorld promotes international collaboration for the first time between the EU and developing countries conducting research and developing policy related to Free/Libre/Open Source Software. These countries are Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, India, Malaysia and SA.

Led by the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT) at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands, the project brings together major European research academies and leading public research institutes in the participating countries. FLOSSWorld will build upon the past research of the EU partners: MERIT, the Oxford Internet Institute, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos Madrid and FUNDECYT/Government of Extremadura, Spain, and extend this research experience beyond the EU, embedding it in a high-profile global network.

Members of the FLOSSWorld consortium, who will be funded by the EU include USUARIA, the largest ICT business user organisation, and Fundacion Via Libre, a developer community organisation (both in Argentina); the National Information Technology Institute of the Office of the President of Brazil, and the University of Campinas (Brazil); Internet Society Bulgaria; China Education and Research Network under the Ministry of Education and China Standard Software Co. Ltd, the country's leading Free/Libre/Open Source Software vendor; Multimedia Institute MI2 (Zagreb) and the Croatian Academic Research Network under the Ministry of Science and Technology; the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing under the Ministry of Information Technology in India; MIMOS Bhd, owned by the government of Malaysia and author of the National Open Source Policy; CSIR, the largest public R&D organisation in Africa and home to the Meraka Institute's Open Source Centre, and the University of the Western Cape (SA).

Supporting organisations include the National Association of Software and Service Companies which represents India's IT industry; Stanford University's Institute for Economic Policy Research (USA); Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc (Japan); the Open Society Institute and UNCTAD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. For more information, contact Kim Tucker, ktucker@csir.co.za or Professor Derek Keats, dkeats@uwc.ac.za, www.flossworld.org

