EU grants € 1.5 million to improve economic governance in Namibia

The European Commission today approved the Annual Action Programme 2009 in favour of Namibia to provide € 1.5 million through the 10th European Development Fund to support the country’s economic governance.

"It is necessary for Namibia to fast-track implementation of structural reforms in order to achieve the necessary growth rates to further reduce poverty in the country. This year’s Annual Action Programme facilitates policy makers' access to reliable data and economic research to take informed decisions," said Elisabeth Pape, Head of the European Union Delegation to Namibia.

The objective of this year’s Annual Action Programme (AAP) is to support Namibia’s strategic approach to poverty reduction embedded in its Vision 2030 and the Millennium Development Goals by enabling the country to access economic policy advice and to conduct qualitative economic research. Therefore, the project will reinforce the capacity of the Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU), an independent research institute. NEPRU, created at the time of Namibia’s independence in 1990, is one of the 6 leading economic research institutes in Africa. The project with NEPRU will be implemented over the four coming years.

This new Annual Action Plan follows the 2008 AAP, which totalled € 9.65 million and included programmes aiming at improving the capacity of key public institutions, increasing efficiency in public service delivery and facilitating intensified dialogue on economic and democratic governance. The forthcoming cooperation AAP 2010 is expected to focus on both education and water supply and sanitation.

EU cooperation with Namibia provides a total of € 103 million under the 10th European Development Fund for the period 2008-2013 to support the efforts of the Government of Namibia to reduce poverty by focusing on rural development (€ 42.5 million), human resources development (€ 42,15 million) and support to governance, capacity building and non-state actors (€ 15,65 million).

For more information please contact:

Joris Heeren
Delegation of the European Union to Namibia
Phone: +264 61 202 6000
Joris.Heeren@ec.europa.eu
http://delnam.ec.europa.eu