



## ERA-LINK USA NEWS – JANUARY 2008

### **EDITORIAL MESSAGE**

Welcome to 2008! It's a busy beginning of a new year, with several upcoming ERA-link events in the making. First, we hope to see you at the co-sponsored by the EU Delegation International Career Fair at MIT in Boston, on February 1-4. Then, on February 14, ERA-Link members will meet with the E.U. Commissioner for Science & Research, Janez Potočnik on the occasion of his visit to Washington, DC. After that, on February 28, we will co-host with swissnex an ERA-Link networking event in San Francisco, and then attend the International Career Fair on Feb. 29-March 1. You will find herewith all the details about these events. We also bring you updates on the ERC starting grants, information on new calls for proposals, and upcoming employment opportunities.

*The ERA-Link team.*

[http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/about\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/about_en.html)

<http://www.eurunion.org/policyareas/science.htm>

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**ERA-Link meeting with Janez Potočnik, the E.U. Commissioner for Science & Research: February 14, 2008**

The EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, will meet with ERA-Link members in Washington, D.C on February 14, 2008. The meeting and the following reception will be held at the Austrian Embassy, 3526 International Ct., NW, between 12:00 and 2:00PM. All ERA-Link members will receive an invitation to attend.



Commissioner Potočnik will talk about new developments in European research policy, among them the European Research Area (ERA) and Seventh Framework Program (FP&). He will also be available after his presentation to answer your questions on science and research in the EU, and on the EU-US cooperation in R&D. Also present will be Dr. Eeckhout, one of the 300 researchers who have received the European Research Council starting grant this year. His research proposal was selected from among over 9,000 applications for this funding opportunity that were submitted to ERC in response to the first call (please see below more information about who received the starting grants). For all ERA-Link members who won't be able to attend the meeting, a recording of the Commissioner's presentation and Q&A session will be made and posted on our website. If you have any questions for the Commissioner, please forward them to: [eralink.usa@cordis.europa.eu](mailto:eralink.usa@cordis.europa.eu). There will also be an opportunity to ask additional questions in person. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

To visit Commissioner Potočnik's website, go to:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/potocnik/indexfl\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/potocnik/indexfl_en.htm)

In this issue of ERA-Link News you will find more information about ERA. For more information about the Seventh Framework Program, go to: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

## **European Career Fair and a Round Table at MIT, 1-4 February 2008**



The 12th European Career Fair will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in Cambridge on 1 to 4 February, 2008. The European Commission partnered with the MIT European Club to organize a dedicated Science & Technology (S&T) space at the Career Fair. The space will promote Europe as a place to pursue a career in science and technology, be it in industry, research organizations, academia or science policy. It will present the best that Europe has to offer, in all its diversity: public, private, national and international. EU Member States will promote participation by their national research organizations and companies engaged in research.

As an introduction to the Fair, the European Commission and MISTI (International Education at MIT) will hold on February 1<sup>st</sup> a round table on the subject of "Globalization of the Knowledge Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for Research-Intensive Universities in the EU and the US." The event will take place between 3:30 and 6:15 pm in the Tang Center, Wang Auditorium, MIT. The aim of this Round Table will be to discuss the challenges and opportunities that increasingly global, knowledge-oriented economies pose for leading research-intensive universities. This new situation appears to call for their greater institutional autonomy and independence in order to address traditional core missions well, yet also a more strategic style of partnership (including with industry), more effective public sharing of research results and more inclusive networking of the major infrastructures required to support advanced research. The panel will give particular attention to prospects for cooperation and mutual learning among institutions in Europe and North America, especially in light of trends and expectations from industry.

For more information about the Career Fair, go to:  
<https://www.euro-career.com/>

For more information about the round table, go to:  
<http://mit.edu/misti/news-events/ecf2008.html>

## **European researchers' get together in San Francisco, 28 February 2008**

ERA-Link members are cordially invited to an ERA-Link Members' get-together co-organized by ERA-Link USA, the Delegation of the European Commission and swissnex (the Swiss Knowledge Network) on Thursday, 28 February 2007, from 6:30pm to 9:00pm at swissnex, 730 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA. Mr. Christian Simms, Director of swissnex, will introduce the event. ERA-Link members will have an opportunity to meet Mr. Laurent Bochereau, Head of Science, Technology & Education, Delegation of the European Commission to the US in Washington DC, who will talk about new directions in European research, and Ms. Elena Bordini from the European Research Council, whose presentation will focus on the ERC's state of play and plans for the future. Izabella Zandberg, the ERA-Link Project Manager will be there to provide updates on ERA-Link current state of affairs and our plans for the future. A Q&A session and a networking reception will follow.

RSVP: Acceptances only <http://www.swissnex.org/our-actions/events/eralink> by Friday, February 22nd.

## **International Career Fair, San Francisco, CA, 29 February –1 March 2008**

The European Commission is one of the sponsors of the International Career Fair. The Fair will be held at the Nikko Hotel in San Francisco, CA on 29 February –1 March 2008. This recruitment event will bring together engineering, scientific and business graduate students with leading companies from Europe and the US looking for highly qualified candidates for positions throughout the world. With company presentations and exhibits, keynotes and workshops relative to international careers, and one-on-one interviews, the International Career Fair is an event that cannot be missed by anyone interested in working in an international environment. There is no participation fee for qualified candidates, but pre-registration is required.

For more information, go to: [www.internationalcareerfair.com/jsp/core/PlageHome.jsp](http://www.internationalcareerfair.com/jsp/core/PlageHome.jsp)

## **FEATURES**

### **Global perspective and cooperation vital for European Research Area (ERA)**



As is often heard in European science policy circles, the fragmented European scientific landscape is the barrier to strengthening European science. Hence the current debate on building the European Research Area launched by the European Commission in 2007. However, when it comes to innovation, frontier research or addressing specific societal problems such as climate change or emerging diseases, it is 'old hat' to let national or even European priorities determine the type of investments in science. Global cooperation between scientists from a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines is needed that would involve the best groups, which are not necessarily only in Europe, let alone in a single country. In addition, there is also the question of the increasing role of expensive research infrastructures.

The international dimension of the European Research Area has been mostly approached from the politico-economic perspective of competition between Europe and the US and Japan. For the scientific community, on the other hand, creating the best conditions for excellence and for advancing frontiers in science is another, far more interesting, perspective. From the fusion power project ITER, bringing together seven national and supranational parties, to CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory, examples of the global dimension of research infrastructures are increasingly obvious. 'I think the word GLOREA [Global Research Area], which was first coined by the ESF in its response to the Green Paper, has now become a word with a meaning and a context,' commented Dr John Marks, the CEO of the European Science Foundation (ESF).

For more information about the European Research Area, please visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.html)

To access the Green Paper, go to: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/era\\_gp\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/era_gp_final_en.pdf)

For more information about the European Science Foundation, go to: <http://www.esf.org/>

## Two new executive agencies to manage European research

Two new agencies were created on 14 December 2007 to manage projects funded under the EU's research framework programs:

**The European Research Council Executive Agency** will help to manage the projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC), established under the Seventh Framework Program (FP7). It will be responsible for around €7 billion over the course of FP7 (2007 to 2013).



**The Research Executive Agency** will administer the Marie Curie fellowship schemes, research programs designed for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and parts of the space and security research themes. The agency will manage funding of €6.5 billion.

Both agencies will be based in Brussels. The agencies are intended to improve the efficiency of research management by the European Commission, providing the best possible service to the European research community. Other FP7 measures intended to reduce the administrative burden include a reduction in reporting requirements, a new registration facility and a more streamlined computer system within the Commission.

For further information, please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/rea> and <http://erc.europa.eu>

For information about upcoming employment opportunities with REA, go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/rea/index.cfm?pg=working>

## Researcher Mobility Survey

The European Commission is undertaking a study on European researcher mobility. Although mobility is essential for fostering knowledge transfer across Europe, studies show that a number of structural and practical problems still hamper scientists' ability to move from one country to another. Please take a few minutes to answer the Researcher Mobility Survey, which will help the EC collect information on individual experiences and opinions on mobility among European researchers, and develop a better understanding of key factors that affect researcher mobility. Although the survey is focused on mobility within Europe, of great interest are also opinions and

experiences of European researchers currently living and working in the US. The survey should not take more than 10 minutes to complete.



To access the survey, please go to:

<http://prest.admbs.mbs.ac.uk/surveylet/survey.asp?rd=0%2E551861&sqi=&si=49%2E4C%2E4A%2E50%2E4F&ui=43&page=1&ip=1&qri=>

## **European Research Council awards first starting grants**

The selection procedure for the first European Research Council (ERC) starting grants has been completed, providing 300 young researchers with the financial means to establish themselves as independent research leaders. The call elicited over 9,000 applications, and over 800 scientists and scholars from throughout the world participated as peer reviewers of those applications. The successful candidates represent over 30 nationalities and are based in around 170 different institutions in 21 countries. The average grantee is 35 years old. Seventy four percent of those selected are men. Nineteen percent of the first-round grants are going to researchers at UK institutions, 13 percent to French researchers and 11 percent to Germany. The next call will be published in summer 2008.

For further information, please visit European Research Council: <http://erc.europa.eu/>

To read the "Science Business" magazine interview with the European Research Council Secretary-General, Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, go to:

[http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/ebulletins/showissue.php3?page=/548/2691/9587&rec\\_id=4006](http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/ebulletins/showissue.php3?page=/548/2691/9587&rec_id=4006)

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### **UK hopes to attract international scientists with new fellowship scheme**

The UK Government has announced a new fellowship and alumni initiative to encourage international researchers to go to the UK, and support collaboration between UK and overseas scientists. The Government will provide GBP 13.4 million (€18.6 million) to the Royal Society, the British Academy, and the Royal Academy of Engineering and Research Council UK to run the international fellowship scheme and alumni engagement program. The international fellowship scheme is hoped to build lasting international networks with the best institutions and individuals abroad, and attract outstanding researchers to the UK. The alumni engagement program will support the fellowship scheme by maintaining links with international research fellows after they have returned to their country of origin. ERA-Link will be providing more information about the scheme as soon as it becomes available.

### **European Science Foundation's calls for proposals**

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 75 member organizations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries. It was established in 1974, in order to facilitate cooperation and collaboration in European science on behalf of its principal stakeholders (Member Organizations and Europe's scientific community). Their cross-border activity combines both 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approaches in the long-term development of science. The ESF's

various instruments for promoting European science are open to all members of Europe's scientific community, and include various fellowships and grants.

For more information about ESF calls for proposals, go to: <http://www.esf.org/activities/calls.html>

For information about ESF research fellowships and travel grants available to support researchers' participation in the ESF's scientific activities, go to:  
<http://www.esf.org/activities/calls/esf-grants-calls-applications.html>

## **Funding opportunities for social scientists under new initiative "Science and Society"**

The European Commission has initiated a new initiative, "Science in Society," with a goal to encourage Europe-wide reflection and debate on science and technology and their relation with society and culture. This action line is based on the rationale that the ability of European societies to develop themselves in a positive and sustainable way depends, to a large extent, on their capacity to create and exploit knowledge and to innovate. Various projects will be supported focused on issues such as ethics in science and technology, the reciprocal influence of science and culture, strengthening the role of women in scientific research, or supporting formal and informal science education in schools as well as through science centers and museums and other relevant means.

For further information, please visit: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/isis/>

and [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/isis/about\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/isis/about_en.html)

Calls for proposals under the "Science in Society" program can be found at:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesCallsPage&id\\_activity=17](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesCallsPage&id_activity=17)

## **Council for European Studies pre-dissertation fellowship**

The Council's Fellowship Program provides pre-dissertation fellowships intended to fund young scholars' first major research projects in Europe. Fellowship sponsors three components: a) A two-month stay abroad, during which time fellows pursue original archival and field research; b) Fellows' participation at the CES International Conference, where they present their findings and receive feedback from senior scholars; c) Publication of fellows' research reports in the CES journal, the European Studies Forum (as well as electronically).

In order to be eligible for the award, applicants must fulfill the following four criteria: 1) The CES Fellowship is intended to fund students' first major research project in Europe; 2) Applicants must be in the exploratory, early stage of their research; 3) Applicants are expected to have finished all or a majority of their doctoral coursework; 4) The applicant's home university must be a member of the Council's academic consortium. The council's website, [www.ces.columbia.edu](http://www.ces.columbia.edu), provides a list of all institutional members for easy reference.

**Completed applications must be submitted to CES via email by February 1, 2008.** If interested, please contact <[christian.coryn@wmich.edu](mailto:christian.coryn@wmich.edu)> for application materials.

## **COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Call for proposals: Erasmus Mundus program**

The European Commission has issued a call for proposals for the implementation of Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window in the academic year 2008-2009. The Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window aims at mutual enrichment and better understanding between the EU and Third-Countries. It is designed to foster institutional co-operation in the field of higher education between the European Union and Third-countries through a mobility scheme addressing student and academic exchanges for the purpose of studying, teaching, training and research.

For further information, go to: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/index.htm>

**The deadline for submitting proposals is 15 February 2008.**

## **RESEARCH CAREERS**

### **Upcoming employment opportunities with the Research Executive Agency**

As we mentioned in the FEATURES section of this newsletter, the Research Executive Agency is being set up in Brussels in order to manage large parts of the Seventh Framework Program (FP7), including the Marie Curie Actions of the People Program, the SME-specific activities, the Space and Security themes for the Cooperation Program, and to manage evaluation facilities across the program. It is expected that new vacancies with REA will be published in early 2008.

For more information, please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/rea/index.cfm?pg=working>

## **ERACAREERS**



If you are a researcher planning your next career move, the Pan-European Researcher's Mobility Portal provides links to information on career and grant opportunities in science and technology in European countries.

For further details go to: [http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/index_en.cfm)

## **ABOUT ERA-LINK USA**

**ERA-Link USA is a network of thousands of European researchers, scientists and scholars throughout North America. This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers and allows them to become well connected among themselves and in Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in the U.S. or choose to return.**

**For further information about ERA-Link USA, please visit:**  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/about\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/about_en.html)

## **ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

**ERA-Link News is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information of specific interest to the European researchers in the U.S.**