



ERA-LINK NEWS – NOVEMBER 2007

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

Two years after its launch by the European Commission, the ERA-LINK network of European researchers in the USA is now expanding its activities with the help of Izabella Zandberg, a social scientist and ERA-LINK member. Izabella is the new fully dedicated project manager for the ERA-Link network in the US.

You will find herewith the first issue of the ERA-Link News, a monthly newsletter that will keep you informed about EU research policies, research funding and career options available in Europe, and opportunities for collaboration with partners in Europe. We hope that you will find this newsletter useful and encourage you to forward it to other European researchers working in the US. As this is the first issue, please feel free to communicate your comments and suggestions to us in order to make sure that we best meet your expectations.

The ERA-Link team.

http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/about_en.html

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

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FEATURES

European Commission congratulates European winners of Nobel science prizes

Four European scientists have been awarded the Nobel prizes for Medicine, Physics and Chemistry. Sir Martin Evans, of Cardiff University, shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine with two

scientists based in America for their work on mouse genetics. Albert Fert of Université Paris-Sud and CNRS and Peter Grünberg of Forschungszentrum Jülich shared the Nobel Prize for Physics for their discovery of the effect underlying data retrieval from hard disks. Gerhard Ertl of the Fritz-Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society in Berlin has been honored with the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his study of chemical processes on solid surfaces.

Thumbs up for European Research Area

A preliminary analysis of the European Commission's public consultation on the future of the European Research Area (ERA) has shown that there is widespread support for ERA among stakeholders. The submissions received online as well as through a free format - approximately 800 contributions from universities (6%), research institutions (4.8%), commercial organisations (3.6%), non-governmental organisations (6%) and individuals (70%) from all over Europe - 'provide ideas on how to reinforce and extend the ERA', the European Commission says. By and large, six priority areas which had already been suggested by the Commission were confirmed by the analysis of the data: knowledge sharing; facilitating mobility of researchers; development of pan-European research infrastructures; improvement of excellence and competitiveness of research institutions; streamlining of research programmes; and international cooperation. Knowledge-sharing as well as the realisation of a single labour market for researchers turned out to be the most important matters from the point of view of respondents.

Further details are available on the ERA-Link Website:

http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/wnew_en.html

For further information on the consultation, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/progress-on-debate/stakeholder-consultation_en.html

New EU-US Atlantis program paves way for transatlantic university degrees

One year after the signature of the new eight-year EU-US education agreement, the European Commission is launching jointly with the United States 14 new transatlantic cooperation projects. The European Commission will invest a total of 3.8 million euros in these projects, an amount that will be matched by the United States. The purpose is to foster transatlantic academic cooperation through innovative student exchanges resulting in double degrees, joint curriculum development and policy studies.

The 3.8 million euros invested by the European Commission, for this year, will go to 14 new projects selected from a total of 56 funding applications. In total, the selected projects cover 32 European institutions from 12 EU Member States and 22 American institutions. The 14 grants will support 380 students in two-way transatlantic exchanges with full recognition by the home institution of the studies undertaken abroad. Of these, 284 students will be funded by the Transatlantic Degree action, spending a full academic year on the other side of the Atlantic and receiving, upon successful completion of their study program, a joint or a double degree from one university in Europe and one in the United States.

Further details are available on the ERA-Link Website: http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/col-op_en.html

Rising spending on cancer research in Europe

Spending on cancer research in Europe is on the up, and Europe is now a major contributor to the global cancer research effort, according to the second cancer research funding survey by the European Cancer Research Managers (ECRM) Forum. According to the survey, which was launched at the European Parliament on 18 September this year, a total of €3.2 billion was spent on cancer research in Europe in 2004, representing an increase of 38% since the last survey two years ago. Just over half of this amount comes from governmental organizations, with the rest coming from the charitable sector.

Although Europe still spends less on cancer research as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) than the US, the gap is closing. Furthermore, Europe and the US are evenly matched when it comes to the volume of cancer research publications produced.

“Contrary to public perception, a phenomenal amount of cancer research is carried out in Europe, evidenced by the huge amount of cancer research papers being published here,” commented Professor Richard Sullivan, Chair of the ECRM Forum. “This is important, as many policy makers assume the global funding for cancer research is overwhelmingly concentrated in the USA. Our data indicate that this is not true and the effort is truly a global one. The possibilities for fruitful partnerships not only exist, but should be the basis for future long-term policy.”

Further details are available on the ERA-Link Website:

http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/wnew_en.html

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

French program Young Entrepreneurs Initiative for technology ventures

Are you considering or currently starting a technology venture? Think global. The fiercely competitive global technology market is a challenge to any entrepreneur, and the key to success is being able to internationalize your vision and activities at an early stage. France's Young Entrepreneurs Initiative can help you achieve your goal through a free, personalized, one stop service.

France is evolving quickly and now offers significant advantages to innovators and entrepreneurs

- World class R&D labs and business hubs ready to partner with technology ventures
- Highly skilled workforce - labour costs 20%-50% lower than in the US
- Fertile, productive business environment - advantages and benefits for startups
- Access to European R&D partners projects, funding and markets

US-based entrepreneurs selected to participate in the Young Entrepreneurs Initiative will benefit from mentoring, funding and a networking program to help them study the feasibility of setting up their venture in France, the stepping stone to Europe.

The Young Entrepreneurs Initiative (YEI) offers one stop access to:

- Mentoring and \$US600k funding

- A network of successful entrepreneurs
- Lead customers and business clusters
- Business Angels, VC groups, and grants for high tech startups
- Technology clusters and shared platforms
- Incubators and local venture ecosystems

The Young Entrepreneurs Initiative is a non for profit program managed by the Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the United States. **Deadline for applications: 30 November 2008.**

To apply for the YEI Program, please visit: <http://www.france-science.org/innovation/yei>

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: The Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has opened competition for innovative projects by early-career researchers from all countries and disciplines. Applicants for the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award must have completed a doctoral degree within the past six years and have published in prestigious international journals or academic presses. The award is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The funding – up to 1.65 million Euros per award – enables exceptionally promising junior scientists and scholars with outstanding research records to concentrate on high level, innovative research in Germany. **Deadline for applications: 4 January 2008.**

Further details are available on the ERA-Link Website:
http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/wnew_en.html

European University Institute Senior Fellowships

The European University Institute in Florence, Italy is currently offering the following fellowships in the area of history, law, economics, political and social science:

Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowships

The Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship Programme provides a framework for established academics with an international reputation for the pursuit of research at the Institute.

Fellows carry out their research in one of the Institute's four departments. The departments invite fellows to participate in the activities that they organize (seminars, workshops, colloquia). They also hope that fellows will make contact with researchers with the same academic interests as them, and they may be involved in the teaching and thesis supervision tasks of Institute's professors. Fellows may be associated with one of the research projects under way at the Institute. **Deadlines for applications: 30 March and 30 September 2008.**

For further details go to: <http://www.iue.it/Servac/Postdoctoral/SeniorFellowships/Index.shtml>

RESEARCH CAREERS

Research Assistant/Documentalist, European Commission, Washington, DC

The European Commission is looking for an experienced person to research and analyze science developments in the US and Europe, to manage the STE library and arrange distribution of documentation in the US. Relevant education and prior experience in similar role, proven organizational, IT and communication skills, a good team spirit, excellent English and a good command of at least one other European language (French preferable) are required.

Please apply by midday Thursday, 22 November 2007 to silvia.massa-reategui@ec.europa.eu

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

The EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, will be the featured speaker at the ERA-Link meeting on February 14, 2008, in Washington, D.C. The highlight of the meeting will be Commissioner Potočnik's introduction of the Seventh Framework Programme, a 2007-2013 funding initiative to advance research and technology development, create jobs, and increase competitiveness and quality of research in the EU.

Commissioner Potočnik 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. More details about the meeting and on how to submit questions for Commissioner Potočnik will be provided in the upcoming ERA-Link newsletters, and on our website.

For more information about the Seventh Framework Program go to:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

Two European Career Fairs in 2008

The European Commission partnered with the organizers of two Career Fairs with a focus on Science and Technology careers in Europe:

- European Career Fair at MIT, Cambridge, MA: 2-4 February 2008

- International Career Fair, San Francisco, CA: 29 February –1 March 2008.

Further details will be soon available on the ERA-Link Website:

http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/wnew_en.html

EUROSCIENCE Open Forum: Barcelona, 18-22 July 2008

EuroScience Open Forum will provide Europe-wide opportunity for everyone working in or with an interest in research to meet and debate the direction that European research is taking. ESOF is a biennial event, and the 2008 edition will be hosted by Barcelona. Previous Forums were held in Stockholm, 2004, and Munich, 2006. The venue for 2010 will be Torino. The main elements of the ESOF 2008 program are: Scientific Program, Career Program, Outreach Activities, Research and Innovation Exhibition, Satellite Events and Social Events.

The Scientific Program will highlight leading technology issues in Europe and the world, and will stimulate debate on how science, technology and the humanities have an impact on society and economy. The Career Program will include practical sessions, panel discussions, debates, presentations and networking events where opportunities will be presented open to young and mid-career researchers in Europe and around the world. Registration for the Forum will start in December 2007, and details will be available on the ESOF2008 website.

For more information go to: <http://www.esof2008.org>

ABOUT ERA-LINK

ERA-Link 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, please visit:

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.