



Dear Colleagues,

We have recently launched an online discussion titled **European S&T Diasporas in the United States—Challenges and Opportunities for Contributions to Research and Innovation in Their Home Countries**. This discussion forum aims to explore opportunities for the expatriate community of European scientists in the United States to contribute to research and innovation in their home countries. **What are the barriers and facilitators to such involvement? Are there sufficient mechanisms to promote collaborations between European research scientists in the United States and research institutions in their home countries? What can be done to increase this collaboration?**

The launch caused some confusion among our members with how the list works; many of you had to request your login information in order to access the EURAXESS Links USA community space. Based on this experience, we are working on the system to make it easier to access. In the meantime, many thanks for all the feedback that we have received so far!

Please continue sharing your thoughts on the above subject. You can access the discussion directly at

http://europa.eu/sinapse/directaccess/euraxess_links_usa/e-debates/disc0002/,

or just send us your contribution to

izabella.zandberg@euraxess.net

In December, we will launch another online discussion, this time focused on the specific reasons for transatlantic mobility of

European researchers. We hope that you will participate in it as well, either by logging into the community forum, or by sending your contributions via email.

We would like to present your thoughts on the above two subjects and discuss them further at the EURAXESS Links workshop titled **European Scientists in the United States: Challenges and Opportunities**, that we are planning to host at the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) conference in San Diego (18–22 February 2010

<http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2010/>).

Please, let us know if you plan to attend the AAAS conference. If so, we hope that you will join us at the above mentioned **EURAXESS Links USA session on Saturday, 20 February, afternoon (3–5PM)**. We expect that this interactive event will provide a forum for a lively discussion and result in concrete recommendations. **We should have a limited number of free AAAS conference access registration passes for those network members who would like to participate in the EURAXESS Links USA workshop on 20 February**. You will find more details about the AAAS event in the Forthcoming Events section of this newsletter.

We look forward to your feedback and commentary.

The EURAXESS Links USA team.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/index_en.htm

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF

The EC Delegation to the United States Changed Its Name to the Delegation of the European Union to the United States

As of 1 December 2009, with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States became the Delegation of the European Union to the United States. Click [here](#) for more information.

<http://www.eurunion.org/eu/>

Commission Launches Consultation on EU 2020: A New Strategy to Make the EU a Smarter, Greener Social Market

The Commission issued this month a public consultation document on giving the EU economy a brighter future through the EU 2020 Strategy. EU 2020 aims to deliver greener and socially inclusive growth, as outlined by President Barroso in his Political Guidelines. The new Strategy will build on the achievements of the Lisbon Strategy, while learning its lessons. The consultation paper sets out a vision for how EU 2020 will focus on entrenching recovery from the crisis, helping to prevent a

similar one in future and on three thematic objectives: creating value through knowledge; empowering people in inclusive societies; and creating a competitive, connected and greener economy. **The deadline for responses to the consultation is 15 January 2010.** The new Commission will then make a detailed proposal to the Spring European Council.

To view the consultation document and send your comments please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/eu>

BILAT-USA and LINK2US: Two New Programs to Encourage Research Collaboration between the European Union and the United States

The European Union hopes to strengthen links with the United States and improve the research expertise of both continents with two new projects. **BILAT-USA** (Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T partnerships between the European Union and the United States of America) and **LINK2US** (European Union - United States research cooperation network) aim to encourage discussion between scientists and identify barriers to EU participation in US-funded research.

The two projects began this month and are scheduled to run for three years, coordinated by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

BILAT-USA, with EU funding of €500,000 (US\$738,000), will foster dialogue between science and technology stakeholders from EU member states, associated countries and the US. It will bring together stakeholders from the EU and US to discuss the most important innovation areas to concentrate on, including issues of global importance such as climate

change. It will also organize workshops, conferences and symposia on multidisciplinary science and technology issues and help to establish new research partnerships by promoting and disseminating information on cooperative activities in the European Union and the United States.

LINK2US, was set up to enhance EU-US science and technology cooperation activities by highlighting barriers to participation in US research funding schemes by EU scientists and organizations. It will collate information about funding schemes and research opportunities in the United States and raise awareness of these among EU scientists and research institutes. It will also identify possible obstacles to successful participation by EU scientists in US research schemes. The outcome of the projects is intended to be a clearer focus on the most pressing research topics, as well as inspiration for a fruitful EU-US research collaboration based on those topics. The new projects follow the EU-US Science and Technology Agreement established in 1998 and renewed in 2004 for another five years. (SOURCE: University World News 0099)

"Challenging Futures of Science in Society—Emerging Trends and Cutting-Edge Issues"—Important Seventh Framework Program (FP7) Report Available Online

The MASIS (Monitoring Science in Society Activities in Europe) Expert Group report "Challenging Futures of Science in Society—Emerging trends and cutting-edge issues" is

accessible online, on the Science-in-Society portal in the EUROPA server:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/the-masis-report_en.pdf

This is a forward-looking collective reflection on new developments and ideas at the interface of

science in society (SiS), as dealt with by FP7, in the Capacities Specific Program. It contains the hypothesis for a European Model of SiS,

and argues that the EU can play a leading role within the globally-observed trend towards contextualization and opening up of science to wider publics. The analyses provided are addressed to both researchers and policy makers and can be considered as an input to the full realization of the European Research Area, the Lisbon Strategy and the implementation of the Ljubljana Process. (SOURCE: DG Research)

European Commission Proposed an Innovation Paving the Way Towards a Public-Private Partnership on the Future Internet

The European Commission proposed on 28 October 2009 an EU-wide internet innovation strategy linking governments and different industry sectors across Europe. The strategy aims to improve key infrastructures to the European economy and society by making them better able to process massive amounts of data in their daily tasks. It calls on Europe's governments and its Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector to take advantage of the increasing demand for innovative applications of the internet to make existing infrastructures like healthcare systems, energy grids, or traffic management 'smart'. To do this, it will launch a partnership between public authorities and major ICT players with a

budget for 2011–2013 of €300 million available for projects to be selected in the near future, to complement the €200 million yearly ICT support to ongoing research for underlying internet technology. (SOURCE: Rapid Press Release, 28 October 2009)

Click here to access the [Communication](#) paving the way towards a public-private partnership on the Future Internet.

The [Future Internet sub-site on Europa](#) web site also holds a great deal of information, including upcoming events such as the [FIA Stockholm](#) workshop.

[Press Release](#)

Memorandum of Understanding is Signed Between the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The AAAS and the JRC have strengthened their ongoing collaboration with the signing of a memorandum of understanding this month. The three-year agreement will allow both partners to arrange joint workshops, to collaborate on the publication of reports and to exchange information on key issues. The first activities under the agreement will cover nuclear forensics, nuclear and radiological security, and technologies to monitor arms control treaties.

According to AAAS' CEO, EU-U.S. research cooperation started in 1998, but recent years have not been very productive. The tough American internal policy put into place in the aftermath of 9/11 caused a sharp decrease in foreign scientists applying to work in the United States. However, the official US stance on science is changing. The US government is

currently taking actions to increase investments in science and to improve the quality of science education.

AAAS' CEO also noted that the EU and the US should make a major contribution to establishing a worldwide scientific community. Scientists from developing countries have to be involved in the wider international research community. By working together, scientists will be able to harmonize crucial issues such as research ethics and intellectual property rights. (SOURCE: IPR HelpDesk)

Related Links:

[Related News item in CORDIS](#)

[Related information in JRC's Web site](#)

IN FOCUS

New EU-US Energy Council to Boost Transatlantic Energy Cooperation

A new EU-US Energy Council was launched on 4 November in Washington. The meeting brought together the Commissioners for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, External Relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and Research, Janez Potočnik, with the US Secretary of State, Hilary Rodham Clinton and US Secretary for Energy Steven Chu to launch the EU-US Energy Council. The EU-US Energy Council will provide a new framework for deepening the transatlantic dialogue on strategic energy issues such as security of supply or policies to move towards low carbon energy sources while strengthening the ongoing scientific collaboration on energy technologies.

"The Energy Council is a timely initiative in the context of growing global concerns on energy security and the important role that the energy sector has in climate change. Elevating these discussions between us to a political level underscores the importance we both attach to this area of our relationship", said Commissioner Piebalgs.

"I want to see energy security and climate change centre stage in all our partnerships around the world, and it is the right moment to step up our cooperation with the United States. As two of the greatest consumers of energy, we have a responsibility to work together to find solutions to some of the most challenging questions of our day", said External Relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik added "Scientific cooperation to foster development of low carbon energy technologies will be a key pillar of this new EU-US Energy Council. The inclusion of research in this bilateral cooperation is also a political recognition of the importance of science to address our common challenges."

With the Energy Council the European Union and the United States aim to deepen their bilateral energy cooperation and to address the growing challenges of global energy security, sustainability and climate change.

The European Representatives in the Energy Council will be the EU Commissioners for External Relations, for Energy, and for Science and Research, as well as the EU Presidency. Their counterparts on the US side will be the Secretaries of State and of Energy. It will meet annually, alternately in the European Union and the United States, and report to the EU-US Summit.

The work of the Council will be structured through working groups of senior officials from both sides that will focus on three specific areas under the headings: Energy Policies, Global Energy Security and Global Markets, and Energy Technologies Research Cooperation.

The European Union and the United States agreed to develop strategic cooperation on energy and energy security, presented in a joint declaration at the EU-US Vienna Presidential Summit on 21 June 2006. The establishment of the EU-US Energy Council moves this bilateral energy cooperation up a gear, on the basis of more structured bilateral cooperation.

Examples of energy cooperation between the European Union and the United States, to date, include the initialing of a new Energy Star EU-US Agreement on the coordination of energy-efficient labeling programs for office equipment, and cooperation on the development of energy technologies such as hydrogen or the ITER project for nuclear fusion.

Q&A: EU-US Energy Council

What is the EU-US Energy Council?

The EU-US Energy Council will be a formal framework for deepening the transatlantic dialogue on strategic energy issues of mutual interest. It will also be the platform for cooperation on energy policies and research collaboration on sustainable and clean energy technologies. Given that the European Union and the United

States are two of the world's consumers of energy it is in the interests of both to deepen their bilateral energy cooperation to address the growing challenges of global energy security, sustainability and climate change.

How will the EU-US Energy Council work?

Members of the council will be on the EU side the Commissioners for External Relations, for Energy and for Science and Research, as well as the EU Presidency, and on the US side, the Secretaries of State and of Energy. It is expected to meet annually, alternately in the EU and U.-S, and report to the EU-US Summit.

The EU-US Energy Council may decide to delegate preparatory work and follow-up to working groups at senior official level, which should meet regularly and report to the EU-US Energy Council. Furthermore, subgroups at working level may also be established in order to tackle specific issues as appropriate. Areas expected to be covered are Global Energy Security and Global Markets, Energy Policies and Energy Technologies Research Cooperation.

What does the European Commission expect from this new dialogue structure?

The Commission's objectives for the Energy Council are:

- to develop the transatlantic perspective on global energy security, including transparent energy markets, diversification of supplies, vital energy infrastructure needs, and equitable access to energy in developing countries,
- to embark on a deeper exchange on energy policies, including areas that are critical within the climate change equation, such as renewable energy, Carbon Capture and Storage, and energy efficiency;
- to work together towards the mutual/reciprocal opening of funding of R&D energy programs across the Atlantic;
- to deepen ongoing joint research and development of low carbon energy technologies and to broaden cooperation to new areas, in particular on smart grids, energy efficient building technologies and new materials for energy applications.
- Start new EU-US cooperation on promotion and dissemination of existing and expanding energy technology.

Where does this initiative come from?

The United States and the European Union have a long history of cooperation on energy policies (through our Strategic Energy Review) and on energy R&D (under our Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation). The new Obama administration has opened new opportunities for further co operation.

Concretely, the proposal to set up an EU-US Energy Council was officially tabled in June 2009 via a letter that Secretary Clinton's special envoy for Eurasian Energy questions, Ambassador Morningstar¹ sent to Minister Fule, HR Solana, the President of the Commission as well as Commissioners Ferrero-Waldner, Piebalgs and Potocnik. On 16 September the EU provided a common response suggesting areas of work under three main headings, namely Energy Policies, Global Energy Security and Global Markets and Energy Technologies Research Cooperation.

Will the EU-US Energy Council discuss climate change issues?

While the EU-US Energy Council will not be a forum for climate change negotiations, the policy issues of energy and climate change are intrinsically linked. Enhanced consultation on energy matters will thus underpin the common efforts to tackle climate change and, where appropriate, the EU-US Energy Council would complement the multilateral work on transformational energy technologies, such as under the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.

¹

Do the European Union and the United States already cooperate in energy research?

Under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Commission and the United States, well-established and successful cooperation occurs on biofuels, carbon capture and storage, solar power, and hydrogen-fuel cells. In the international context, the European Union and the United States are leading partners in both the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) nuclear fusion project and in efforts to develop safe and efficient fourth-generation nuclear fission reactors. Importantly, several individual EU Member States also pursue bilateral activities in energy technology research with the United States.

In the context of the new EU-US Council, the cooperation on existing areas such as solar power, hydrogen and fuel cells, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage and nuclear energy, both fusion and fission, will continue and deepen. In addition, this cooperation will be extended within the next years to new strategic areas in order priority sectors: smart grids, energy efficient buildings and advanced materials for energy applications.

Has the Commission other similar structures with other countries?

In the field of research in energy, there is no similar council.

The longest-running and best-established bilateral energy dialogue is the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue. There is also cooperation with key energy producers like Norway, OPEC, Gulf Cooperation Council, and with countries of Central Asia, as well as key transit countries like Ukraine and Turkey. Memoranda of Understanding on energy security have been signed with Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Egypt, and another with Iraq is close to signature. There are formalised relations with the countries of the Western Balkans and some of the eastern neighbours through the Energy Community Treaty, as well as close Euro-Mediterranean cooperation with the countries of the Mashreq/Maghreb. The EU also maintains strong relations with other major consumers such as China, India, and Japan bilaterally, but also through organizations such as the IEA, the Africa-Europe Partnership, and ASEAN.

¹ From 1999 to 2001 Ambassador Morningstar served as US envoy to the European Union and he is thus quite familiar with the workings of the European institutions.

EURAXESS LINKS USA REPORTS

Science Café: “The Dutch Water Sector,” the Embassy of Netherlands, 17 November 2009

On 17 November, the Science Café held at the Royal Netherlands Embassy introduced the efforts of public-private partnerships in the Netherlands to keep the water out, purify it, and use it to develop alternative sources of energy. The Embassy of Netherlands was the most appropriate place to hold a discussion devoted

to “Living with Water.” The topography of the Netherlands has made the Dutch world-class experts in planning, design, construction, and maintenance of dams, levees, surge barriers, and other flood control structures.

The Dutch Water sector

The Netherlands Office for Science and Technology invites you to
the Science Café
at the Royal Netherlands Embassy

WHAT: Part of the European Science Series - an informal lecture on the topic 'Living with Water'

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 17 6:30-8:00 PM - program begins at 6:45 PM.

WHERE: The Royal Netherlands Embassy, 4200 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington DC.
Located near UDC - VAN NESS Metro (red line). Parking is available on the street.

WHO: Hans de Groene, DG Deputy Director-General for Enterprise & Innovation of the Dutch Department of Economic Affairs
and Dale Morris, Senior Policy Advisor of the Royal Netherlands Embassy

HOW: Short informal talk, followed by Q&A
The Science Café is free and open to the public.
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. PLEASE RSVP to rsvp@nest.org.



In the first presentation, **Hans de Groene, DG Deputy Director-General for Enterprise & Innovation of the Dutch Department of Economic Affairs**, described the importance of the water sector to the Dutch economy. Historically, due to the country's geographic location, the water sector is

ABOUT THE TOPIC: ...

The DutchThe Topography of the Netherlands has made the Dutch world-class experts in planning, design, construction, and maintenance of dams, levees, surge barriers, and other flood control structures. The talk in this Science Café will introduce the efforts of public-private partnerships in the Netherlands to keep the water out.

the key technology area in the Netherlands, including its three major components: ship building, delta technology, and water purification. High-level technology achievements in the area of water management include absolute leakage control in the water system with virtually no water loss, and treatment of 100% of wastewater. However, the speaker underscored that in spite of having excellent knowledge of the water sector and the huge economic potential of the water industry, the country is not fulfilling its economic potential in this area. One of the reasons is the fact that risk-averse small companies dominate the industry in the country, and there is little initiative towards commercialization of knowledge. Mr. Groene introduced the Water Innovation Program of the Dutch Department of Economic Affairs, whose goal is to double the export of innovation in the water area by creating public-private partnerships between the government, academia, and private enterprises. One of the facets of the program is financial backing of new technologies—e.g., if a company incorporates a new water-related technology and the technology fails, they get reimbursed for their expenses related to incorporating this new technology (up to a certain amount). This new program has been implemented in the last two to three years, and so far a “Silicon Valley for water technology” has been created in the Netherlands, with several large international companies establishing their water research centers there. Also, R&D cooperation in the water area has been increasing between the Netherlands and “focus countries” such as Spain and Finland. The Netherlands hopes to excel in water adaptation, and make it the top areas of innovation in the country.

The second presentation, by **Dale Morris, Senior Policy Advisor of the Royal Netherlands Embassy**, focused on delta-related activities and the exchange of expertise between the Netherlands and the United States in this area. The speaker reminded the audience of the great North Sea flood of 1953, when more than 1800 people died. The tragedy resulted in the Netherlands developing the Delta plan, completed in the 1980s. Currently, the Dutch experts provide engineers in Louisiana with their perspective on flood reduction and landscape stabilization in the Mississippi River delta area.

During the Q&A session, the audience asked about how the Netherlands deals with the near term changes in CO₂ and potential rise of water levels. The speakers characterized the Dutch approach to the issue as “falling in the middle” and stressed the increasing acceptance of soft-structure approaches to water protection, which gives the rivers more room to flood (the “Room for the Rivers” projects). However, one needs to remember that the Netherlands is the 10th most populated country in the world, which makes taking land to establish temporary flood areas quite problematic. Other questions from the audience focused on diplomatic initiatives undertaken with neighboring countries to prevent the flood of headwaters. The speakers stressed that cooperation in this area is ongoing, particularly under the EU water directive that requires countries to cooperate in this area.

European Science Series Event: “Transatlantic Cooperation in Research and Education: Challenges and Opportunities,” Consulate General of Poland in Chicago, 19 November 2009

The European Science Series travelled for the first time outside of Washington, DC. The event on 19 November was co-organized by EURAXESS Links USA in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Commission to the USA, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland. Held on the beautiful premises of the Consulate (with a view on Lake Michigan), it provided a fresh look at the issues of transatlantic collaboration in research and education. Among the event participants were the EURAXESS Links network members, European faculty members from the local universities, international officers at several US universities, and representatives of several European consulates in Chicago.



Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Zygmunt Matynia (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

After welcoming remarks from **Consul Zygmunt Matynia, Laurent Bochereau, Head of Science, Technology & Education Section in the EC Delegation to the United States** introduced the context for the discussion. He reviewed the current research policies on both sides of the Atlantic that relate to research and education collaboration (the Lisbon Treaty, the Bologna process), and described European funding for research that aims to facilitate such collaborations between United States and EU-based partners (including Cooperation, Ideas, and People programs). A panel discussion followed.



The panel, from left to right: Piergiorgio Uslenghi, Allan Lerner, Laurent Bochereau, and Anthony Kossiakoff (Photo: Enrico Partiti, URP Consolato Generale d'Italia-Chicago)

Professor Allan Lerner, Associate Provost for International Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago, focused on recent development and growth of joint and dual graduate degree programs between EU and US universities. He proposed using a new term to describe the degrees that are offered by two different institutions—multi-institutional degrees (MIDs)—rather than dual degrees, which are offered when two universities give two separate degrees to a student. In the multi-institutional degrees, two or more institutions will together combine their degrees into one. He observed that with joint degrees, a question arises of where the degree resides, which may be the reason why European institutions prefer dual degrees (i.e., providing two separate diplomas). The goal, however, should be to have a more explicit joint degree, with zero redundancy, and conferred jointly by two institutions. Professor Lerner further discussed additional problems with establishing joint and dual degrees, including: issues of branding; possible preference of US universities to look for

partners in the United States rather than outside of the country; challenges related to intellectual property rights; issues related to commercialization of research findings that may result from such collaborative programs; as well as contractual issues between partner universities; and accreditation of the new degrees. Among the factors that facilitate establishment of such collaborative degrees, he listed faculty champions who have contacts in other countries and are willing to commit time and energy to such programs. Changes at the institutional level, such as establishing a new function of vice-president for global strategy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, are also a strong signal of an increasing recognition of how important the issues of multinational collaboration in research are.

In the second part of the discussion, the panel presented examples of successful international programs, including key issues concerning their design and operation. **Professor Piergiorgio Uslenghi, Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago**, brought up three concrete examples of programs implemented in collaboration between the University of Illinois at Chicago and universities in Torino and Milan, Italy and Jagiellonian University in Poland. Ten to thirteen students from Torino and fourteen to twenty-two students from Milan have attended the programs each year. Italian students paid one-third of the US tuition, while collaborating institutions covered the rest. So far, 220 students have graduated from these programs. Unfortunately, the program of exchange with the Jagiellonian University ended after operating for two years, because the original commercial sponsor could not continue funding it. The key learning lessons resulting from those programs centered on the importance of providing a stable source of funding.



Event participants (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

Professor Anthony Kossiakoff, Otho S.A. Sprague Professor and Chair at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Chicago, introduced his program of exchange of master-level students from several universities in Poland (including Jagiellonian University, the University of Gdansk, the University of Wroclaw, Technical University of Lodz, and the University of Lodz). The program started in 2006, as a joint program of the University of Chicago with the University of Virginia (incoming Polish students can choose between the two universities). Each university signs a cooperation agreement that formalizes the obligations of the participating universities. On average, the program involves six students per year. The hosting department covers one-half of the cost of their stay in the

United States, while the mentor covers the other half. Among the challenges to implementing such programs, Professor Kossiakoff listed logistics, and a need to facilitate student acculturation and transition from the European system to the US system; as well as the need to monitor progress and adjust the program if necessary.



Networking reception (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

During the Q&A part of the discussion, the audience raised issues of intellectual property protection in the context of such collaborative programs. Of interest was the extent of freedom in picking possible combinations of specializations in dual degrees (e.g., electrical engineering and biochemistry). The answer was that the degree needs to be in one field, but the specific topics can be interdepartmental and interdisciplinary. Audience members reacted to the mostly one-way flow of students in the programs (from Italy and Poland to the United States), underscoring that in research areas outside of science and technology (e.g., in the humanities), the flow of students from the United States to Europe, Latin American, or Asia is more balanced. Creative ways to cover tuition expenses of

incoming students were suggested (such as in-kind contributions by students' home universities), and the need to find ways to itemize such contributions by the partner university in the United States was underscored by the panel. Audience members were interested in the steps that Europe is undertaking to provide better opportunities to those researchers, who decide to return to their home country from the United States. The Lisbon Treaty was brought up by the panelists as an example of a current initiative that aims to facilitate that return.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Beyond Copenhagen: Scientific Perspectives on Adaptation and Sustainability: Washington, DC, 3 December 2009

This seminar series provides scientific perspectives to key sustainability and climate change policy issues that are still on the horizon and that lay beyond Copenhagen, particularly focusing on how the United States and Europe might adapt to changes in planetary water cycles. Each event will begin with an introduction that sets the discussion within a geopolitical context. Short presentations by both a European and an American scientist are followed by a moderated discussion and Q&A session.

Two events in the series have been already held:

- "Water, Agriculture & Terrestrial Resources" on 1 October 2009, hosted by the Delegation of the European Commission;
- "Water & Urban Infrastructure" on 5 November 2009, hosted by the Embassy of Sweden.

The third event, "Water & Marine Services" will be held on **3 December**, hosted by AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Sustainability.

European Workshops at the AAAS Annual Conference in San Diego, 20 February 2010.

The following three European-sponsored workshops will be held on **Saturday, 20 February 2010**, during the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual conference in San Diego (18-22 Feb. 2010):

8:30-11:30AM Symposium "Flows of People, Ideas and Resources: When Science Goes Global, Can Everybody Win?" (Organized by the EC Directorate General Research) Moderator: Mary Minch, Director, International Cooperation, EC Directorate General Research. Speakers: Fiona Williams, Ericsson GmbH; Sylvia Schwaag Serger, Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA); John Wood, Imperial College, and others.

1:00PM-2:00PM Workshop "Funding Opportunities in Europe for Creative Minds from Anywhere in the World" (Organized by the Marie Curie Office, European Research Council and EURAXESS) Speakers: Representatives from the Marie Curie Office, European Research Council and EURAXESS.

3:00PM-5:00PM Interactive Workshop "European Scientists in the United States: Challenges and Opportunities" (Organized by EURAXESS Links USA, tbc) Speakers: José Manuel Silva Rodríguez, Director General, DG Research, European Commission, Representatives of EURAXESS and EU Member States networks, contributions from members of EURAXESS Links USA, general discussion.

Please let us know if you are going to attend the conference. If so, we hope that you will plan on attending the above workshops. **We should receive a limited number of free conference access registration passes for those network members who would like to participate in the 3:00-5:00PM EURAXESS Links USA workshop on 20 February.** Please let us know if you would like to attend this event and use one of the free conference registration passes.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the AAAS conference by sending an email to izabella.zandberg@euraxess.net

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Cultural Studies in Literary Interzones—Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Program

INTERZONES is the first Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Program selected and funded by the European Union for its innovative and challenging approach to the Humanities. It is designed to nurture and promote research in the field of comparative literatures, visual culture, and anthropology, in a dynamic, multi-centre, and cosmopolitan environment. Co-ordinated by the University of Bergamo (Italy), the Interzones Consortium (Five Degree-Awarding Partners and Eleven Associate Members around the world) seeks to prepare top students to become tomorrow's "global academics" in the field of European Humanities, or highly valued consultants in private business sectors interested in global cultural phenomena. For any general enquiries relating to applications, fellowships, admission criteria, the mobility program, etc. write to interzones.phd@unibg.it

<http://www.mundusphd-interzones.eu/index.asp>

EU, US Nanotech Research: A Coordinated Call for Proposals Has Been Launched

A coordinated call has been launched by the European Union and the United States for research proposals within the framework of their cooperation on the environmental, health and safety (EHS) impacts of engineered nanoparticles. The initiative is a coordinated effort by the European Commission (EC) and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center of Environmental Research (NCER) with the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

EPA as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, NSF, and NIFA, are seeking applications proposing research to provide data that improves the scientific understanding of the fate/transport and behavior of engineered nanomaterials. Fostering international research collaboration is one aim of the solicitation. It is encouraged and will be evaluated as part of the peer review evaluation.

It is anticipated that about seven awards, in the form of grants or cooperative agreements, will be made. EPA will fund up to three awards (\$1.8 million); NSF will fund up to two awards (\$1.2 million); and USDA/NIFA will fund no more than two awards (\$1.2 million). There will about \$4.2 million total available for all awards.

Potential funding per award will be up to a total of \$600,000, including direct and indirect costs, with a maximum duration of four years. Cost-sharing is not required. **For more details, visit: www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2010/2010_star_nano.html. The deadline for applications on the US side is 10 February 2010.**

On the European side, the deadline for proposals on modeling toxicity behavior of engineered nanoparticles under the EC's FP7 is expected to be extended to 28 **January 2010** to give researchers time to develop solid proposals with research teams from both sides of the Atlantic.

The maximum possible funding request under the EC's FP7 program is €1 million and the overall indicative budget is €6 million. Proposals require coordination with a US project funded by one of the listed US federal agencies. While the FP7 project and US grant will be legally separate, they will be coordinated closely. (SOURCE: Federal Technology Watch—16 November 2009)

International Network Program Call from the Danish Agency for Science Technology and Innovation

The Danish Agency for Science Technology and Innovation has issued the first call for its new International Network Program. Support will be provided to networking and matchmaking initiatives seeking to identify potential for bilateral research collaboration.

Applications for the following grant types are invited:

- Exploratory bilateral scientific workshops and conferences with participation of researchers and scientists from Denmark and from one or more of the following countries: China, India, Israel, Japan, United States, and Brazil.
- Visiting Scientist Grants—Travel between Denmark and China, India, Israel, Japan, United States, and Brazil, respectively, in order to identify collaborative projects and partners.

Consortia selected will receive individual research stipends for PhD students as well as research grants for PhD students.

The deadline is 1 December 2009.

Further Information: [DASTI](#)

Current Open Calls for Proposals under the Seventh Framework Program

The following calls for proposals are currently open under the [People](#) program:

Call for proposals	Launched	Deadline
Marie Curie Reintegration Grants	9 October 2009	9 March 2010 and 7 September 2010
Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)	25 November 2009	25 March 2010
Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN)	8 September 2009	22 December 2009
Marie Curie Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programs (COFUND)	18 November 2009	18 February 2010

The following calls are currently open under the [Ideas](#) program:

European Research Council's Starting Grant:

Discipline	Proposal deadline
Social Sciences and Humanities	9 December 2009

Calls for proposals in the areas of Physical Sciences and Engineering and Life Sciences are currently closed.

European Research Council's Advanced Grant

Discipline	Proposal deadline
Physical Sciences and Engineering	24 February 2010
Life Sciences	17 March 2010
Social Sciences and Humanities	07 April 2010

The following calls are open under the [Cooperation](#) program:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Health / 3 Open calls▪ Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology / 4 Open calls▪ Information and Communication Technologies / 2 Open calls▪ Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies / 8 Open calls▪ Energy / 4 Open calls

- Environment (including Climate Change) / **5** Open calls
- Transport (including Aeronautics) / **9** Open calls
- Socio-economic sciences and Humanities / **5** Open calls
- Space / **1** Open call
- General Activities / **1** Open call
- Joint Technology Initiatives (Annex IV-SP1) / **1** Open call

Participants from the United States are eligible to join research proposals under these schemes. To do so, these programs require at least three partners in three different EU or Associated Countries plus a partner the United States. In principle, there is no funding from the European Union for the US-based partners, unless the participation of the US partner is deemed necessary for the success of the program.

The following calls are open under the [Capacities](#) program:

- Research Infrastructures / **1** Open call
- Research for the benefit of SMEs / **1** Open call
- Regions of Knowledge / **1** Open call
- Research Potential / **1** Open call
- Science in Society / **4** Open calls
- Activities of International Cooperation / **4** Open calls

To access a full list of currently open calls for proposals launched by the European Commission, go to: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage>

Detailed descriptions of the currently open calls that are relevant to individual applicants are provided in the following sections.

Marie Curie Reintegration Grants

The Marie Curie International Reintegration Grants provide financial assistance to researchers who wish to return and find a job in Europe after they have worked in research in a third country for at least three years. The duration of the grants is between two and four years. Research projects are chosen freely by candidates.

Eligible to apply are researchers from EU Member States or Associated Countries (i.e. Albania, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Lichtenstein, Norway, Republic of Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey) with at least four years full-time postgraduate research experience or a doctoral degree, who at the deadline of submission foreseen in the call for proposals have been active in research in a third country for at least three years. The researcher applies in liaison with a reintegration host organization located in an EU Member State or Associated Country. Proposals from all areas of scientific and technological research of interest to the European Community are welcome.

Applications are evaluated twice a year. If the proposal is selected, the Commission signs a grant agreement with the reintegration host. The reintegration host will then sign an employment agreement

with the researcher. The grant is a flat-rate contribution to the project costs and amounts to €25,000 per year during the period of reintegration.

Continuous submission with cut-off dates on 9 March 2010 and 7 September 2010.

Further information: [Cordis](#) including links to contact points and enquiry services.

Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)

The call for Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme in the People program of FP7 was opened on 25 November 2009. This funding scheme aims at strengthening research partnership through short staff exchanges and networking between European research organizations and organizations with countries with which the European Community has an S&T agreement (such as the United States). This funding is open to all domains of research, except for the areas covered by the Euratom Treaty.

A partnership under this scheme needs to be composed of at least two independent participants (e.g., research institutions) located in at least two different Member States or Associated Countries, and one organization either located in countries with which the European Union has an S&T Agreement or in countries covered by the European Neighborhood Policy.

The program will involve short term exchanges (maximum of 12 months) of research staff. Technical and management staff can also participate in the partnership. The funding under this scheme will cover mobility costs of the “outgoing” European researchers in the amount of €1800 /researcher/month. Contracts between research organizations will be for a period of twenty-four to forty-eight months.

The call will close on 25 March 2010.

Full details:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=245

European Research Council's Starting Grant

The ERC Starting Grant provides young researchers (between two and ten years after their PhD) the opportunity to develop an independent career. The grant supports the creation of independent and excellent new individual research teams. The researchers awarded this grant will conduct their research in a host organization (public or private) in an EU Member State or Associated Country (The Associated Countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, FYR of Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey). **The grant scheme operates on a “bottom-up” basis without predetermined topics or thematic priorities.** Depending on the subject area of a research proposal there are three deadlines for proposal submission. It is up to the applicant to choose and decide on the most appropriate ERC peer-review evaluation panel and the corresponding deadline. Applicants must submit their proposals before the deadline of the selected ERC Panel.

Applications in the area of Social Sciences and Humanities are due on 9 December 2009.

Calls in the areas of Life sciences and Physical Sciences and Engineering are currently closed.

European Research Council's Advanced Grant

The ERC Advanced Investigator Grant (ERC Advanced Grant) funding scheme complements the ERC Starting Grant funding scheme by targeting researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right. ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional, established research leaders in any field of science, engineering, and scholarship to pursue frontier research of their choice. Candidates can be of any nationality, must be [scientifically independent](#) and have a recent research track-record and profile which identifies them as leaders in their respective field(s) of research. They will be required to conduct their research in a host organization (public or private research organization) situated in an [EU Member State](#) or an Associated Country. **The grant scheme operates on a “bottom-up” basis without predetermined topics or thematic priorities.**

The new call for the European Research Council's Advanced Grant proposals was launched on 29 October 2009, with the following deadlines (depending on the subject area):

Physical Sciences and Engineering: 24 February 2010

Life Sciences: 17 March 2010

Social Sciences and Humanities: 07 April 2010

Further information is available from the [ERC](#).

European and Other Funding and Grants with Open or Continuous Calls

Please visit our website: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/funding_opportunities_en.htm

Forthcoming Deadlines on European Grants and Fellowships

Call for proposals	Location	Deadline
CERN Non-Member State Fellowship For researchers from non CERN member countries working in the area of theoretical physics, the opportunity to spend one or two years at CERN. Further Information: CERN	France	4 December 2009.
DAAD-DLR Fellowships Numerous fellowships in the Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research fields. Further Information: DAAD	Germany	Various deadlines
Austrian Science Fund Hertha Firnberg Program for female researchers, under 40; 36 month duration. Elise Richter Program for female scientists, no age limit; 12-48 months. Deadline for both: Further Information: FWF	Austria	18 December 2009

RESEARCH CAREERS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EURAXESS Portal



The [EURAXESS portal](#) provides links to information on career and grant opportunities in science and technology in European countries.

For research careers in Europe, visit the [EURAXESS Jobs](#) website.

As of 30 November, there were **666 jobs** advertised on the EURXESS Jobs website. Also advertised were **13 grants and fellowship** under the European funding, **399 grants and fellowships** offered at national levels, and **22** offered at international level.

For further details, please go to: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm

The European Job Mobility Portal

<http://www.europa.eu.int/eures/>

Other Research Career Sites

The Chronicle of Higher Education Careers Service: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/>

Find A Postdoc: <http://www.findapostdoc.com/>

Career.edu: <http://www.career.edu/index.php>

Nature.jobs: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html>

Jobs.ac.uk: www.jobs.ac.uk

Research Jobs in the Netherlands: <http://www.academictransfer.org/org/>

Euro Science Jobs: <http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/>

RESOURCES

PRESANS—Social Market Place for Researchers: A New Open Innovation Intermediary

A spin-off initiative of the Technology Transfer Office of France's Ecole Polytechnique, PRESANS connects industrial technology needs to a professional network of experts and researchers.

Click [here](#) to find out more.

New Population Research Initiative in Europe: "The European Population Partnership"

Population Europe: The European Population Partnership is a collaborative network of Europe's leading demographic research centers. The aim of the network is to strengthen research collaboration and to contribute reliable facts and evidence-based findings to public discussion of population issues.

<http://www.population-europe.eu>

New Book Examines Academic Collaboration Between the U.S. and Europe

A new book has been released by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and Freie Universität Berlin on collaborative degree programs. The volume is a result of a project that was conducted under the Atlantis program. It focuses mainly on joint and double degrees at bachelor and masters level. However, many of the issues outlined in the book could also be relevant to joint PhD programs.

The new book features practical recommendations for developing and delivering collaborative degree programs between US and European universities. The publication, *Joint and Double Degree Programs: An Emerging Model for Transatlantic Exchange*, features articles and insights from higher education administrators and practitioners on both sides of the Atlantic who are seeking to equip their students with the international experience, perspective, and skills to succeed in today's global economy.

The new book and a related survey are part of a project sponsored by the "European Union-United States Atlantis Program" jointly administered and funded by the US Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture. The project was launched in cooperation with several leading US and European institutions including IIE and the State

University of New York in the United States, and Freie Universität Berlin, the Franco-German University, and the Latvian Rectors' Council in the European Union.

- Read about the Transatlantic Degree Programs project: www.iienetwork.org/?p=TDP
- Buy the book: www.iiebooks.org
- See full press release: www.iie.org

Related news:

IIE Center for International Partnerships in Higher Education

The Institute of International Education recently announced a new Center for International Partnerships in Higher Education, to assist colleges and universities in developing and sustaining institutional partnerships with their counterparts around the world. See announcement: www.iie.org

New Film: Learn About Nuclear Fission in Ten Minutes

EU nuclear research promotes the peaceful use of the nuclear fission and aims to reassure those who are worried about nuclear energy. The objective is to make EU nuclear energy sustainable and extremely safe, in order to attract greater involvement from industry and to gain the trust of its citizens. Through the Euratom Seventh Research Framework Program (Euratom FP7 2007–2011) the European Commission is financing this kind of research.

Understanding research in nuclear science and technology is now much easier. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research presents the topic in this new film. In ten minutes you will get to know about key areas of nuclear research funded by the European Union through the Euratom Framework Program, including research activities in geological disposal, reactor systems and radiation protection.

[New film: Learn about nuclear fission in ten minutes](#)

Gender in FP7 Research Projects—Free Training Sessions



To promote gender equality in scientific research within the FP7, the Research DG of the European Commission offers training opportunities on how to integrate gender aspects into research.

The Gender Toolkit and one-day training sessions are intended for anybody interested in understanding gender aspects in his/her own research field: scientists, research project managers, National Contact Points, expert evaluators, etc.

The sessions provide practical guidance on how the gender dimension can be integrated in research, using clear examples of how gender is relevant to existing FP7 projects.

Material, calendar, and more on: <http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch>

[ABOUT EURAXESS LINKS USA](#)

EURAXESS Links 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. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in the United States or return to Europe.

For further information about EURAXESS Links USA, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/index_en.htm

To sign up for membership in our network, and in the virtual SINAPSE community of European researchers abroad, please go to our website and click on the **Join the EURAXESS Links USA community** hyperlink on the right-hand side of the page:
http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/index_en.htm

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EURAXESS Links USA News is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information of specific interest to the European researchers in the United States.

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