



## Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the October edition of the EURAXESS Links USA Newsletter.

Ms. Odile Quintin, the EC Director General for Education, Training, Culture, and Youth visited the United States this month, and we bring you a brief report from her visit to Washington, DC, Boston, and Berkeley. In our In Focus section, we invite you to read an interview with Director General Quintin, where she explains her objectives and expectations for this visit.

In the EURAXESS Links USA Reports, you will also find a short report from the Workshop on Neuroscience in Europe held at the SfN's annual meeting in Chicago, and the European Science Series event hosted by the Embassy of Slovenia.

Our News in Brief section updates you on the European Research Council's Starting Grant results. The success rate has grown from 3% in the first call, to 10% in this round. The some 240 awardees represent thirty-three nations, their average age is thirty-six and 23 percent of them are women.

We also bring you data on EU spending on R&D, which according to the newly released figures from Eurostat, remained unchanged in 2007. In that year, the European Union spent the equivalent of 1.85 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on R&D. Just two countries spent over 3 percent of GDP on R&D: Sweden and Finland spent 3.60 percent and 3.47 percent, respectively.

We also bring you updates on the current open call for proposals. This includes the Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant, and the current open calls for the Starting Grant and Advanced Grants from the European Research Council.

We hope that this newsletter will be of interest to you, and we look forward to your feedback and commentary.

*The EURAXESS Links USA team.*

[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/index_en.htm)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Latest News from the European Research Council: Starting Grant Results Are Announced**

The recipients of the second round of Starting Grants were announced in early September by the European Research Council (ERC). A total of €325 million will be given to just over 240 researchers who will undertake their research across Europe.

#### **Supporting up-and-coming researchers**

ERC Starting Grants are designed to help research leaders of the future who are working to establish research teams to conduct research in Europe. The scheme targets researchers who have proven their potential of becoming independent research leaders. With each grant providing up to €2 million over the course of five years to cover project costs, they present an excellent opportunity for their recipients to conduct groundbreaking research and establish themselves as leaders in their fields.

Interdisciplinarity is encouraged and proposals are accepted in three different categories:

1. life sciences
2. physical sciences and engineering
3. social sciences and humanities

#### **The success rate rises**

The first call for Starting Grants proposals was a huge success. More than 9,000 proposals were received and 299 grants were awarded. With the experience from the first round, the ERC was able to fine-tune the process. As such fewer submissions were received (2,503 proposals) while the quality remained very high. Indeed, with the second call receiving one third of the number of the first round, the success rate has grown from 3% to 10%.

Some 240 Starting Grant winners of this call come from diverse backgrounds. Their average age is thirty-three and 23 percent are women. Furthermore, they represent thirty-three nationalities and will carry out their work in host institutions in nineteen countries across the European Union and Associated Countries. Nine grantees come from outside Europe and will move here to begin their work.

#### **The Starting Grant scheme—going forward**

The ERC president, Fotis Kafatos, said that the Starting Grants will remain a key part of the ERC and will "receive increasing budgetary emphasis" in the future. To build on the past success, the next Starting Grant call will be divided into two parts, with deadlines this autumn. One will target



researchers with 2 to 6 years of post-doctoral experience, while the other will be for those with 6 to 10 years of experience. The ERC hopes that this will attract more

candidates who truly are in the early phases of their career.

(SOURCE: Europe4Researchers)

## Newly Funded Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities Projects to Address Europe's Major Societal Challenges

The European Commission has allocated €70 million to thirty-one research projects in the field of socio-economic sciences and humanities. These projects will involve 260 different research institutions from Europe and beyond. The results from these projects will help understand how major societal issues evolve. The subjects include: the impact of the service economy on growth and welfare; the social, cultural and political factors behind social inequality; and the impact of hydro-climatic hazards on social tensions and conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Sahel regions. The results from projects selected will feed into future policy-making.

While helping to generate an in-depth understanding of the major challenges confronting Europe, the new projects will also focus on the production of new interdisciplinary knowledge. Additionally they will enable the strengthening of the capability of the socio-economic sciences and humanities to contribute to the development of EU policies and the European Research Area, in particular regarding foresight and forward looking activities. (SOURCE: News Alert, 13 October 2009)

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

## EU Research & Development Spending Unchanged in 2007

**In 2007 the European Union spent €229 billion on research and development (R&D), the equivalent of 1.85 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to newly-released figures from Eurostat. The EU has set itself the goal of spending 3 percent of GDP on R&D by 2010; however, spending has remained stable at around 1.85 percent of GDP over the past few years.**

2001 to 2.56 percent in 2007), Estonia (0.71 percent to 1.14 percent) and Portugal (0.80 percent to 1.18 percent). However, ten EU Member States still spend less than 1 percent of GDP on research; Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Slovakia all spent less than 0.5 percent.

For comparison, the United States spent 2.67 percent of GDP on R&D in 2007, and in 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), Japan spent 3.40 percent.

On the employment front, some 2.3 million people (full-time equivalent) were involved in R&D work in the European Union in 2007. In addition to researchers, this figure includes research managers, administrators and clerical staff. These R&D personnel made up 1.6 percent of the EU's workforce.

In 2007, just 2 countries spent over 3 percent of GDP on R&D: Sweden and Finland spent 3.60 percent and 3.47 percent, respectively, although even these nations spent less than they had in 2005. A further four countries (Denmark, Germany, France and Austria) spent over 2 percent of GDP on R&D in 2007.

As with R&D spending, there are immense differences between the Member States. In Finland, R&D personnel account for 3.2 percent of total employment. R&D personnel make up over 2 percent of employment in Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria, and Sweden. In contrast, they account for less than 1 percent of employment in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Poland, Portugal, and Romania. (SOURCE: Eurostat)

The countries that have increased their R&D spending the most since 2001 are Austria (which increased its spending from 2.07 percent in

Click [here](#) to find out more

## **IN FOCUS**

### **Interview with Ms. Odile Quintin, EC Director General for Education, Training, Culture, and Youth**

#### ***The Federal Technology Watch (FTW)***

interviewed European Commission (EC) Director General for Education & Society Odile Quintin during her Washington visit in October this year. An edited transcript of the session follows:

*Odile Quintin joined the European Commission (EC) in 1971. She has worked in senior positions on several directorates and served as Director General for Employment, Social Affairs & Social Equality (2000-2005) and as Director General for Education & Culture since 2006. A lawyer of French nationality, she has degrees in law and political science*

#### ***FTW: What do you hope to achieve during your US visit?***

**OQ:** My visit here has two purposes. The first has been launch of this education policy forum with the United States. We've had the Atlantix program since 1995, and it's now developing a lot and we've much more money than at the start. This year we've each committed €6-million [about \$8 million]. Since its start there have been about 6,000 students and twenty-five projects, and it's made progress on mobility and also the issue of joint and double degrees, which represents real change. We had planned, in the past, to have a policy dialogue, but didn't find strong interest from the United States. When we had contacts with [U.S. officials] at the Bologna Policy Forum, we found issues of common interest on both sides to explore together issues. It was very clear that higher education reforms and the new skills that will be needed for future jobs in the knowledge area were topics [of mutual interest]. So launch of the EU-U.S. education policy forum was very important. The second reason was to use the opportunity to visit some of the U.S. success stories in the context of what we call the Knowledge Triangle, linking education, research, and innovation. So I will visit Silicon Valley and Stanford in California and MIT in the Boston area because we've launched the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Despite the title, we don't intend it to be competition to MIT, but to use part of the concept.

#### ***FTW: What will the EIT do?***

**OQ:** One reason for its name is because we're a community of twenty-seven states, and we aren't going to create a new campus, but work on the basis of networks of existing centers of excellence in Europe and potential cooperation with the United States and the rest of the world.

#### ***FTW: How does the European Union compare with the United States in entrepreneurship?***

**OQ:** We're much less risk takers in Europe than the United States and our education system is not really oriented toward entrepreneurship. We've recently launched a number of initiatives, including a forum between business and universities to examine entrepreneurship issues, which companies are also very interested in, too. EIT, which will soon be selecting its first Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) for the bulk of its work, is also interested in this issue. It will be composed of consortia, business, research centers, and universities and can deliver results in the area of higher education research and innovation output, as well as a strong element of education. The master's degrees and doctorates, which should be developed within the KICs, should have entrepreneurship as a focus. It's modest at this stage, but it's also a new model for a new kind of education governance. Putting academia and business together requires common strategies and a more entrepreneurial approach.

#### ***FTW: It also seems as if it might attract venture capital.***

**OQ:** Absolutely! This is another area in which the United States is more developed. We have some good pilot examples in Europe, here and there, but what we lack is the critical mass. And EIT will also be examining how we can attract excellence, developing venture capital to a critical mass, not just one interesting example somewhere.

#### ***FTW: It's sometimes said that venture capital follows smart people, perhaps by tracking the top researchers by their patent filings.***

**OQ:** Exactly. But you need the first one to start the process and this is where our institutions in Europe are more hesitant. Our education systems are risk averse. We don't like the risk of failure. In the United States, if you fail, you fail and it's bad but you can come back. In Europe, it's very difficult if you fail. It's absolutely contrary to the mindset linked to education. You must be successful!

**FTW:** *It's like a scientific experiment that doesn't produce the result you hoped for, but you learn something from it.*

**OQ:** Yes, you learn from what doesn't work.

**FTW:** *In the United States, some former business executives have retired and then found second careers, often part-time, in universities helping faculty and students*

***understand how to work with industry. Could this work in Europe?***

**OQ:** Yes. They can play the part of mentors. It's something that touches on my previous role because of the issue of employment of senior [citizens], which is well developed here. In Europe it's often very difficult to work after you've reached your official retirement.

**FTW:** *But universities can benefit a lot from such knowledge and experience of people who have worked in industry...*

**OQ:** Universities in Europe tend to focus on degrees and diplomas, but what we need in a world that changes very fast are skills, the ability to adapt and an entrepreneurial spirit.

(SOURCE: 12 FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY WATCH/OCTOBER 19 2009

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## EURAXESS LINKS USA REPORTS

### **Visit of Director General for Education and Culture Odile Quintin to Washington DC, San Francisco, and Boston, 7–15 October 2009**

Director General Odile Quintin visited the United States in October to participate in the first EU-U.S. Education Policy Forum (8–9 October 2009). The purpose of the EU-U.S. Education policy forum was to exchange views on common challenges and share experiences and best practices in selected policy areas. The agenda of the meeting focused in particular on higher education reforms—notably the Bologna process—and on university-business cooperation aiming at enhancing openness and responsiveness of education and training systems to tackle the skills mismatch.



Director Odile Quintin (Photo: File)

This policy dialogue was the natural evolution of a long standing cooperation with the United States on higher education through the Atlantis program. Building on the positive experience of this first edition, the two sides agreed to focus the second meeting (Brussels, fall 2010) on schools and teacher development as well as skills development for changing labor market needs. The main conclusions of the event including, among others, the launch of a joint EU-U.S. tuning project and dedicated studies can be found in the news brief (to view news brief [click here](#)).

In the margin of the EU-U.S. Education Policy Forum, the European Institute hosted on 9 October a breakfast meeting on the “Transatlantic Role in Internationalizing Higher Education” with the participation of Director General Quintin and Allan Goodman, President and CEO of the Institute of International Education. In her speech, Director General Quintin pointed to the fact that the current economic crisis clarified the complexity of today's society, making the dialogue about modernizing education and building partnerships between universities and businesses even more urgent. Dr. Goodman stressed that international exposure should be central to academic education. He also reminded

the audience that about 600,000 international students study every year in the United States, which constitutes 45 percent of all international students worldwide. Their economic impact on the country's economy is undeniable. Overall, international education is a \$45 billion business globally, with the United States representing one third of this budget. The lively debate that followed addressed a wide range of factors affecting international education, including economics (sustainability of public funding, discrepancies in tuition fees), and the rise of distant learning as a supplement rather than a substitute for traditional education. The lack of interest among U.S. students to go abroad was also discussed. It was observed that while most students entering college have an interest in doing a period of study abroad, the faculty members show a much more inward looking perspective and do not sufficiently promote partnerships and study abroad opportunities. This stands in sharp contrast with the advantage that studying abroad provides, enabling graduates with the opportunity to take up international positions in an increasingly globalized labor market. Director Quintin added that opportunities for international exposure will be increased for Europeans with the upcoming internships opportunities under Erasmus Mundus. It has been observed that participation in Erasmus turns out to be an important factor in getting a job, or a better job, as well as to give a sense of European citizenship. Other issues discussed in the Q&A session included the entrepreneurship deficit in Europe as well as visa issues that, in spite of recent improvements, may still prevent foreign students from coming to the United States or going to some European countries.

### **Presentation-reception at the University of Berkeley**



Dir. Odile Quintin at the event in Berkeley (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

Following introductions by the European Union Center of Excellence co-directors Jeff Pennington and Beverly Crawford, and Robert Price, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Research, Director General Odile Quintin gave a presentation on “European Identity and Educational Diversity: the Role of the Erasmus Program and the Bologna Process”. The audience, consisting of a mix of academics and students, studying European politics or interested in studying in Europe, asked many questions after the presentation. Attendees were generally well informed about European education policies/programs and mobility issues. Questions touched upon a wide range of subjects including credit recognition when studying abroad; mobility schemes with developing countries; mobility and lifelong learning within the EU labor market; respect of minorities; as well as the relative lack of attractiveness of European universities vs. U.S. universities in spite of their more affordable fee structures.

### **Presentation-reception at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

After an introduction by Claude Canizares, MIT Associate Provost and Vice President for Research, Director General Odile Quintin gave a presentation on the latest European higher education developments with an emphasis on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The Q&A session provided an excellent forum for discussing the objectives and implementation modalities of the EIT. Participants were interested in understanding the exact nature of the knowledge and innovation communities, particularly their emphasis on basic research, possible links with existing higher education networks, IPR regime and plans for attracting the best students. Other questions were related to the links between the Bologna process and the U.S. higher education system and the expected benefits for U.S. students to come to Europe vs. Asia. VP Canizares concluded the session by stressing the importance of international partnerships for MIT and expressing interest in the EIT model.



From left to right: Claude Canizares, MIT Vice-President and Odile Quintin, EU Director General for Education, Training, Culture and Youth (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

## Visits and meetings in other U.S. universities

Beyond the two formal presentation-receptions at UC Berkeley and MIT, Director General Quintin visited several U.S. universities in the San Francisco and Boston areas, including Stanford University, Boston University, and Harvard. The aim was to discuss recent trends related to university-business relations, university reforms, student/scholar mobility, and curricula development.

The other meetings in the Silicon Valley helped understand the role of non-academic actors within the innovation ecosystem. Those included the European Entrepreneurship and Innovation Thought Leaders Program, which was launched last year with the support of several EU Member States and will be expanded next year with additional EU countries and regions, as well as Angels and Venture Capitalists, who explained how they interact with entrepreneurs and the current difficulties faced in raising capital for new ventures. The legal environment for hiring/firing personnel is providing increased flexibility and limited liability for entrepreneurs and funders. Not all universities can be top research universities such as Stanford University. There are a number of higher education organizations in the United States addressing differentiated sets of objectives. In that respect, the recently established Singularity University provides an interesting model for developing creative summer schools that bring together innovative graduate students interested in applying the latest science and technology towards global challenges and for helping executives in the public and private sectors stay ahead of rapid technological developments.



Director Odile Quintin (center right) in Harvard (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

The visit to Harvard University consisted of a series of bilateral meetings followed by a round-table with international visiting scholars (mainly European). The roundtable provided a very good forum for sharing experience gained by European visiting scholars. Director General Quintin delivered opening remarks on the latest European higher education developments and opportunities offered by transatlantic education programs. Several participants praised the significant progress made in the last years and called for increased advertisement of the various existing funding schemes. Others questioned the exact role of the European Commission in the area of higher education, the different implementation modalities of the

Bologna process in different EU Member States, the limited number of students benefiting from the Erasmus program, the difficulties related to the transfer of pension rights for academics and researchers and the exact return on investment of mobility programs.

The visit to Boston University included a lecture on “European Integration, Unity in Diversity” for students at the Institute for Human Sciences and a round-table discussion with faculty members on European studies and EU-U.S. students/scholars exchanges. Boston University students had many challenging questions addressing issues such as the role of education mobility in European integration, the impact of education on regional development, the future of European defense and security policies, as well as the necessary skills and competences needed to work in an international organization like the European Commission. The round-table also led to interesting discussions on the recent massification of education, brain circulation schemes with developing countries, access to education by immigrant population, opportunities offered by advanced IT solutions, and the increasing role of central examination in the early definition of education paths.

## **Workshop On Neuroscience in Europe: German and EU Research Funding Opportunities, Neuroscience 2009, SfN's 39th Annual Meeting, October 17–21, 2009 in Chicago**

The Society for Neurosciences annual meeting (<http://www.sfn.org/am2009>) draws over 30,000 participants including a large contingent from Europe (roughly 5000). The five-day conference consisted of a variety of mainstream and satellite events allowing participants to listen to the leading scientists in the field and to present and discuss their results in poster sessions.

GAIN, the German Academic International Network, organized a workshop inform attendees about the long-term and secured investment that Germany, along with the EU, is making in research and science, specifically in neuroscience. The workshop also provided an opportunity for informal exchange between members of the neuroscience community, leading German/European scientists in the field, representatives of German research funding organizations, and the European Commission.

Dr. Cathleen S. Fisher, Executive Director, American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation moderated the panel which included Dr. Laurent Bocheureau, Delegation of the European Commission; Prof. Dr. Herta Flor, Central Institute of Mental Health, University of Heidelberg; Dr. Rainer Girgenrath, DLR Project Management Agency; Prof. Dr. med. Uwe Heinemann, Institute of Neurophysiology, Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Prof. Dr. Bernhard A. Sabel, Vice-President for Research Otto-v.-Guericke University of Magdeburg and Director of the Institute of Medical Psychology; and Prof. Patrick K. Stanton, New York Medical College.

The three-hour session was divided into two parts. In the first part, the scientists on the panel provided some brief comments on their research field, the personal/professional advantages of doing neuroscience in Germany/Europe and their transatlantic experience. All scientists stressed the added value brought by their transatlantic mobility experience due to the extra technical training they received, the opportunity

for increased networking, and personal development. The American scientist also referred to the lifelong experience provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

The second part was focused on the practicalities related to funding opportunities (EC, The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), German Research Foundation (DFG), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and career paths in Neurosciences in Germany/Europe. The opportunities offered by the cooperation program (sixty-nine neurosciences-related projects funded in the first three 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program (FP7) years for a total EC funding of nearly €350 million), the People program and the Ideas program (one of the twenty-five panels is dedicated to neurosciences and neural disorders). The representative from BMBF also referred to the Neuron Era-Net project, which brings together eighteen funding agencies from eleven countries including Canada and Israel. Funding opportunities offered by DFG and AvH are very attractive and somewhat comparable to those provided by the European Research Council.

The audience consisted of young scientists (pre- and postdocs) and more advanced scientists based equally in Europe and the United States. Some of them provided short testimonials regarding their career paths while the majority of questions came from post-docs who wanted to repatriate or come to Europe to continue their scientific career. Participants wanted to learn more about the specificities of the various funding opportunities and get guidance about how to find the best host European laboratory, particularly when working in research areas new to Europe. Practical issues related to visa and family constraints were also mentioned. Overall, the session provided an excellent forum for advertising career and funding opportunities in Europe.

## European Science Series Event: “Global Health Forum 2009: Connecting Through Innovation and Partnership,” Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC, 23 October 2009

On 23 October 2009, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted the second day of the Global Health Forum, organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy. The Slovenian event was offered as a part of our European Science Series, and was focused on the diverse array of issues related to contemporary healthcare. Dr. Mateja de Leonni Stanonik served as the Organizing and Scientific Committee Chair of the seminar. The morning session was devoted to “The Essence of Healthcare: Local and Global Perspectives,” and touched upon the issues of mental health in refugee populations, health inequity in Latin America, the U.S. healthcare reform, and the challenges of eliminating the so called “neglected tropical diseases,” that affect many people at the bottom of the income spectrum around the globe. The speakers included Dr. Jim Sherry, Center for Global Health, George Washington University; Andres Pumariega, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center; Keith E. Hansen, The World Bank; Alan Spielman, President and CEO of URAC, and Peter Hotez, Distinguished Research Professor, George Washington University. The afternoon session was devoted to “Science, Technology and Health Diplomacy,” and featured among others Colonel Ronald Poropatich from the U.S. Army



Dr. Mateja de Leonni Stanonik, left, opened the discussion (Photo: Embassy of Slovenia)



Presentation by Dr. Andres Pumariega, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center (Photo: Embassy of Slovenia)

Medical Research and Material Command (USAMRMC), who spoke about operational use of U.S. Army telemedicine information systems; and Professor Dale Alverson, President-elect of the American Telemedicine Association and professor of pediatrics at the University of New Mexico. The panel presentations were followed by a lively discussion on the applicability of telemedicine in various institutional contexts, its strengths and weaknesses, as well as facilitators and barriers to its development, including issues related to doctors' credentials and their right to practice across borders. The participants concluded that telemedicine cannot be considered a substitute for the face-to-face interaction between the doctor and the patient, but might provide useful tools for making diagnosis faster and more accurate, particularly in remote areas, and in circumstances of armed conflict.

## Transatlantic Event at the University of Colorado at Boulder, 4 November 2009

The event titled “Opportunities for Transatlantic Research Cooperation and Researcher Mobility—The European Commission’s 7th Framework Program” was held on November 4th, 2009, at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

This event provided information on the research funding and collaboration opportunities for professors and graduate students across a variety of disciplines, both in Europe and in partnership with European institutions. The European Commission’s FP7, particularly the People, Ideas and

Cooperation programs, were discussed in detail, including the increased opportunities for transatlantic mobility and collaboration of researchers, and improved opportunities for involvement for both European and non-European researchers. The speaker also presented activities and services of EURAXESS Links USA—the Network of European Researchers Abroad.

Welcome were provided by **Dr. Joseph Jupille**, Associate Professor of Political

Science and the Director of the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, University of Colorado at Boulder, and followed by a presentation by **Dr. Astrid-Christina Koch**, Counselor, Science, Technology & Education, Delegation of the European Commission in Washington DC. The event was co-organized by the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence (CEUCE), the Delegation of the European Commission to the USA and EURAXESS Links USA.

## **Beyond Copenhagen: Scientific Perspectives on Adaptation and Sustainability. “Water & Urban Infrastructure,” House of Sweden, Washington, DC, 5 November**

The “Water & Urban Infrastructure” event was hosted on November 5 by the Embassy of Sweden.

The Welcomes were provided by **Ambassador Jonas Hafström**, Embassy of Sweden. Context for the discussion was presented by **Christian Borg**, Swedish Innovation Correspondent based in the United States. The panel included **Dr. Jonas Olsson**, Researcher, Environmental Hydrology, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and **Dr. David Major**, Senior Research Scientist, Columbia University Earth Institute, Center for Climate Systems Research.

The speakers explored how society can adapt and prepare for the impact that climate change will have on water resources. The following questions were addressed:

- What evidence is there of changing water resources, a sea level rise and their extremes?
- What are the likely effects of these extreme events on urban infrastructure and planning?
- What are the current strategies to help to adapt to these changes?
- What are the remaining challenges?

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Science Cafe at the Embassy of Netherlands, 17 November 2009**

The Netherlands Office for Science and Technology invites you to the Science Cafe ‘Living with Water’ on **Tuesday, Nov. 17 6:30–8:00 p.m.** (program begins at 6:45 p.m.).

The event will be held at the Royal Netherlands Embassy, 4200 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington DC, located near UDC-VAN NESS Metro (red Line). Parking is available on the street.

**ABOUT THE TOPIC:** 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 talk in this Science Cafe will introduce the efforts of public-private partnerships in the Netherlands to keep the water out.

The Science Cafe is free and open to the public. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED. PLEASE RSVP to [rsvp@nost.org](mailto:rsvp@nost.org).**

## European Science Series event at the Polish Consulate in Chicago, 19 November 2009

**A European Science Series event titled “Transatlantic Cooperation in Research and Education: Challenges and Opportunities” will be held on Thursday, 19 November, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, 1530 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60610.**

This event will provide a fresh look at the issues of transatlantic collaboration in research and education. The panelists will review the current research policies on both sides of the Atlantic that relate to such collaboration, present recent development and growth of joint and dual graduate degree programs between EU and U.S. universities, and discuss their potential for contributing to an inherently transatlantic research community. The panel will also comment on key issues concerning the design, and operation of transatlantic programs. Examples of successful programs will be discussed, including barriers and facilitators that have been encountered so far in their implementation. Information about existing opportunities and European funding for transatlantic research will be provided.

The panel will include **Dr. Laurent Bochereau**, Minister-Counselor, Head of Science, Technology & Education, Delegation of the European Commission in Washington DC; **Prof. Allan Lerner**, Associate Provost for International Affairs, Office of International Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago; **Prof. Piergiorgio Uslenghi**, Associate Dean, College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago; **and Prof. Anthony Kossiakoff**, Otho S. A. Sprague Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Chicago. A networking reception will follow the discussion.

The event is co-organized by EURAXESS Links USA, the Delegation of the European Commission to the USA, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland.

**Please RSVP to [delegation-usa-era@ec.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-usa-era@ec.europa.eu) by 16 November 2009.** (Suggested parking: 1750 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60614 (Clark & Stockton Intersection, South end of Lincoln Park))

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

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. One more event is being planned in the **Beyond Copenhagen: Scientific Perspectives on Adaptation and Sustainability** series held in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden,

the Delegation of the European Commission in Washington, DC, and the America Association for the Advancement of Science. Please mark your calendars: **“Water & Marine Services” on 3 December**, hosted by AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Sustainability. More information about the event will be posted on our website, as soon as it becomes available.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### **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.

**Deadline: 1 December 2009.**

Further Information: [DASTI](#)

## Marie Curie Reintegration Grants

**The new call for applicants to the Marie Curie Reintegration grants opened on 9 October 2009.**

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 (3) 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.

Deadline: 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.

## 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 Initial Training Networks (ITN)	8 September 2009	22 December 2009

A number of new calls were released on 30 July 2009 under the **Cooperation and Capacities** programs of the Seventh Framework Program (FP7). Participants from the United States are eligible to join research proposals under these schemes.

The following calls are open under the **Cooperation** program:

The following calls for proposals are currently open under the **People** program:

- Health / **6** Open calls
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology / **5** Open calls
- Information and Communication Technologies / **6** Open calls
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies / **10** Open calls
- Energy / **5** Open calls
- Environment (including Climate Change) / **6** Open calls
- Transport (including Aeronautics) / **9** Open calls
- Socio-economic sciences and Humanities / **5** Open calls
- Space / **1** Open call
- Security / **1** Open call
- General Activities / **1** Open call

These programs require at least three partners in three different EU or Associated Countries + the United States. In principle, there is no funding from the EU for the U.S.-based partners, unless the participation of the U.S. partner is deemed necessary for the success of the program.

The following calls are open under the **Capacities** program:

- Research Infrastructures / **2** Open calls
- 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>

## European Research Council's Starting Grant

The ERC Starting Grant provides younger researchers (between two and ten years after their PhD) the opportunity to develop an independent career and support the creation of independent and excellent new individual research teams. They will conduct their research in a host organization (public or private) situated 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.

Discipline	Proposal deadline
Physical Sciences and Engineering	28 October 2009
Life Sciences	18 November 2009
Social Sciences and Humanities	9 December 2009

## 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):

Discipline	Proposal deadline
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](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/funding_opportunities_en.htm)

## Forthcoming Deadlines on European Grants and Fellowships

Call for proposals	Location	Deadline
<b>CERN Non-Member State Fellowship</b> For researchers from non CERN member countries working in the area of theoretical physics, the opportunity to spend one or two years at CERN. <b>Further Information:</b> <a href="#">CERN</a>	France	4 December 2009.
<b>DAAD-DLR Fellowships</b> Numerous fellowships in the Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research fields. <b>Further Information:</b> <a href="#">DAAD</a>	Germany	Various deadlines
<b>Austrian Science Fund</b> 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: <a href="#">FWF</a>	Austria	18 December 2009
<b>JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability</b> <a href="#">PhD/Postdoc</a> (12–36 months) and Senior Researcher (3–24 months) Fellowships.	Italy	3 November 2009
<b>JRC Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements</b> <a href="#">Postdoctoral Positions</a> .	Belgium	15 November 2009
<b>Volkswagen Foundation</b> <a href="#">Lichtenberg Professorships</a> - Candidates should preferably be returning or coming to Germany from abroad, working in innovative fields of education and research.	Germany	1 November 2009

## Calls for Tenders Related to the Directorate-General for Research

Among others, the following calls for tenders from DG RTD are currently open:

- Options for a European nanotechnology R&D strategy—a technometric and socioeconometric analysis**  
 The study aims at establishing a monitoring system that will allow examination of the economic impact of nanotechnologies and nanosciences; examine how nanoscale research, products, and markets are evolving over time; and present detailed analyses of key domains for future investments (modalities, instruments, expected impacts) in nanotechnology R&D, showing the highest growth potential for European industry and society at large.

**Call deadline:** 4 December 2009 16:00

**Deadline for requesting documents:** 29 November 2009 17:00

[More information.](#)

## **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 October, there were **665 jobs** advertised on the EURAXESS Jobs website. Also advertised were **13 grants and fellowship** under the European funding, **396 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](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](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)

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

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

## **RESOURCES**

### **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 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](#)

## **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 Page: 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](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](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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