



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the November issue of our newsletter.

This month the European Commission launched the first call for proposals for what it claims will be the world's largest program of investment in low carbon and renewable energy demonstration projects. The **News in Brief** section brings more information about this initiative. We also report on several recent studies, including a new Eurobarometer survey on life sciences and biotechnology, and the Community Innovation Survey.

In the **Funding Opportunities and Fellowships** section we present a large number of new calls, many coming from Europe. Among them, the IRSES allows short term research visits of project staff, including researchers and administrators. There is also the Career Integration Call (CIG) and the Initial Training Networks Call (ITN). For professionals going to Europe, there are visiting professorships to the UK, France and Sweden, and postdoctoral fellowships to Germany, Ireland and Holland.

The **In Focus** section presents findings from an evaluation of the Seventh Framework Program (FP7) recently conducted by a group of independent international experts and supported by an extensive base of evaluation evidence, including studies and statistics. Our coverage includes a list of research questions that were used in the evaluation, as well as

an outline of findings and recommendations resulting from the program review.

Please check the **Forthcoming Events** section for detailed information about the European Career Fair, which will be held on 22-23 January at MIT, Cambridge, MA. As in previous years, the European Delegation and EURAXESS Links USA will host an exhibit booth. Also present will be the European Research Council, the Joint Research Centre, and many European companies looking for top level research talent. Please visit the Fair's website at www.euro-career.com

The **Past Event Reports** section brings updates on our recent events in Philadelphia and San Diego. We welcome all new members who joined the EURAXESS Links USA network at these events!

We look forward to your feedback and any information and contributions that you may want to make to this newsletter.

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

US-EU Energy Council Initiative: European Union and U.S. Define Strategic Goals for Research on Energy Storage

Experts from Europe and the United States have agreed on strengthening cooperation in research on energy storage for power grids. Following a two-day, high-level workshop in Washington (DC) in October, they stressed the importance of energy storage technologies for a sustainable energy system. Currently, the lack of cost-effective energy storage on power grids is regarded as the biggest obstacle for harnessing the potential of renewable energies. In addition, innovative material solutions are needed for the efficient storage and release of energy.

[More information](#)

NER300: €9 Billion Call for Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Projects

The European Commission has launched the first call for proposals for what it claims will be the world's largest program of investment in low carbon and renewable energy demonstration projects. The initiative, known as NER300, will provide substantial financial support for at least eight carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects and at least 34 projects involving renewable energy. The aim is to drive low carbon economic development in Europe, create jobs and contribute to the EU's climate change goals.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is collaborating with the Commission in the implementation of the program, which is intended to act as a catalyst for demonstrating low carbon technologies on a commercial scale.

Companies interested in making proposals have three months to submit bids at a national level. The EIB will undertake detailed financial and technical due diligence of project proposals before ranking the project proposals and submitting their recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will consult with other Member States and make the final decision on which projects to co-finance. No less than one and no more than three projects will be funded in each Member State.

The NER300 initiative will fund up to 50 per cent of the construction and operation costs of the CCS and renewables projects. This support can be combined with financing from other EU instruments, including the Structural and Cohesion Funds and the European Energy Program for Recovery.

Eight CCS projects will receive financing:

- A minimum of one and maximum of three projects in the following categories: pre-combustion, post-combustion, oxy-fuel and industrial applications.
- A minimum of three projects using saline aquifers for CO₂ storage and a minimum of three using depleted hydrocarbon reservoirs.
- Power stations taking part in CCS projects must have a generation capacity of at least 250 MW and be designed to capture at least 85 per cent of their CO₂ emissions.

Innovative renewable energy technology project categories

The 34 renewable energy projects to be financed comprise the following:

- Bio-energy 9
- Concentrated solar power 5
- Solar photovoltaic 3
- Wind 6
- Geothermal 4
- Ocean (wave and tidal power, ocean thermal energy conversion) 3
- Hydro-electric 1
- Distributed renewables management (Smart Grids) 3

For more information, visit the NER300 website:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm

Europe-Wide Poll Shows Public Support for Responsible Innovation in Life Sciences and Biotechnology

A new Eurobarometer survey on life sciences and biotechnology shows that Europeans are optimistic about biotechnology. Fifty three percent of respondents believe biotechnology will have a positive effect in the future, while only 20% fear a negative effect. The survey also reveals important knowledge gaps pointing to a need for more communication. A majority of respondents have never heard of some of the areas covered by the survey such as nanotechnology (55% unaware), biobanks (67% unaware) and synthetic biology (83% unaware), while skepticism and concern persist in some areas such as genetically modified foods. The Eurobarometer, carried out in February 2010, is the seventh in a series since 1991 and is based on representative samples from 32 European countries. [More information](#)

The report – with summary - data and country fiches are available on the Eurobarometer website at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm#341

Sixth Community Innovation Survey: More than Half of EU27 Enterprises are Innovative

In the EU27, 52% of enterprises from industry and services reported innovation activity between 2006 and 2008. Among the EU27 Member States, the highest proportions of enterprises with innovation activity in this period were recorded in Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Portugal and Ireland.

Among enterprises with innovation activities in the EU27, 34% cooperated with other enterprises, universities or public research institutes, while the remaining 66% innovated using only internal resources. The highest proportions of innovation co-operation were found in Denmark, Cyprus, Belgium and Estonia.

In the EU27, 3% of innovative enterprises had innovation cooperation with a partner in the United States and 2% with a partner in India or China.

For cooperation with partners in the United States, Sweden and Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg had the largest shares. Sweden and Finland and Belgium had also the highest shares of cooperation with partners in India or China.

This information comes from the Community Innovation Survey 2008, covering the three-year period 2006 to 2008 inclusive in the EU27 Member States, Norway and Croatia. The survey contains a broad set of indicators on innovation activities of enterprises and for the first time provides information on innovation with environmental benefits. (SOURCE: RAPID, 10 Nov. 2010)

[More information](#)

ERC Starting Grant Results

The European Research Council outlined the results of their 2010 call for the Starting Grants. In all, 427 grants have been awarded, worth up to €2 million each. 2,873 applications were received. Forty two percent of these in the physical sciences and engineering field, 35.8% in the life science field, and 22.2% in the social science and humanities field.

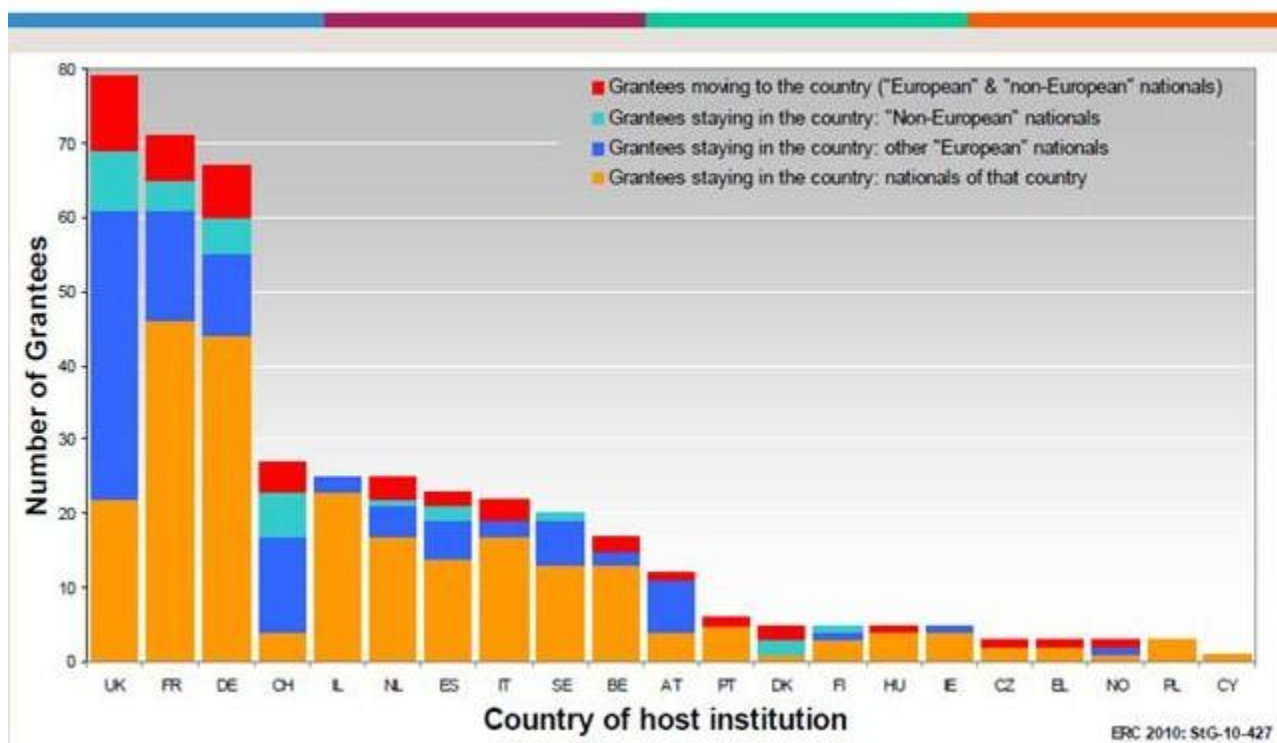
The overall success rate was 15%. By field, the success rate was 35.8% in the life sciences, 45.7% in the physical sciences and engineering, and 18.5% in the social science and humanities. By country, the UK, France and Germany have quite a lead on their closest rivals. Seventy nine grantees will be based in the United Kingdom, 71 in France, 67 in Germany. Switzerland, the next ranked country, has 27 grantees. In total 21 countries will host ERC grant recipients.

By nationality, 83 grantees are German, 62 French, 41 Italian, 28 Israeli and 28 from the UK. From non-EU nationalities, there are 11 U.S. grantees, 5 Russian grantees, 2 Argentinean grantees and 2 Japanese grantees.

The number of successful researchers coming from outside Europe in this year's Starting Grant competition doubled from last year. **Of these 18 incoming scientists, 12 are Europeans returning from the U.S.**

The average age of the selected researchers is about 36 years and 26.5% are women, which is an increase from last year's 23%.

Mobility: Incoming & Staying Grantees. Source: 427 proposals, ERC Starting Grant 2010



The statistics are available from the [ERC](#). For the full list of results, see [here](#).

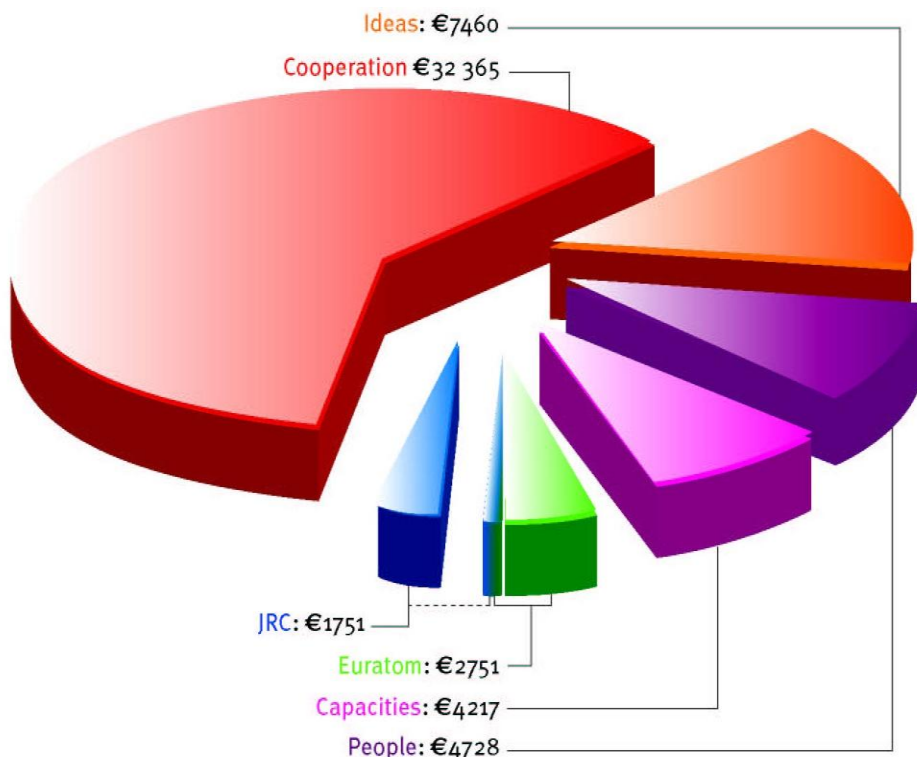
IN FOCUS

Interim Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Program - Report of the Expert Group

The Seventh Framework Program for Research and Technological Development (FP7 in short), is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe. The program runs from 2007 to 2013, with a total budget for those seven years of €50.5 billion (the Euratom program brings additional €2.7 billion). This amount represents a 63% increase from the FP6 at 2007 prices.

FP7 is made up of 4 main blocks of activities forming 4 specific programs: Cooperation; Ideas, People, and Capacities, plus a fifth specific program on nuclear research and the [Joint Research Centre](#). The indicative breakdown of funding for each of the programs (in € Million) is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Indicative breakdown of FP7 funding per program (in € Million)



More information about FP7 can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding

The interim evaluation of the Seventh Framework Program (FP7) was carried out by a group of independent, international experts and supported by an extensive base of evaluation evidence including studies and statistics. Chaired by Mr. Rolf Annerberg, Director General of FORMAS (The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning), the experts carried out their work through a number of meetings held over a seventh month period.

Among others, the following **research questions** were addressed by the evaluation panel (For the full list of research

questions that guided the evaluation, click [here](#)):

- How far has FP7 advanced in achieving its general objectives, including those of the specific programs?
- How can the impact of FP7 and future Framework Programs shape the European Research Area and improve other major policies?
- Does FP7 play an adequate role in positioning Europe on the global map of science and technology?

The report provides a detailed assessment of the implementation of FP7 so far: The Expert Group concluded that FP7 is making a difference, that there is a very high likelihood of positive impacts and that it is contributing to the development of the European Research Area. The principle of excellence in project selection is largely achieved the principle of excellence. In much of the Cooperation Program, where nearly two-thirds of FP7 funding is allocated, leading researchers are being funded, the quality of proposals is generally assessed to be high and there is robust competition for funding. The mobility and training of researchers continue to be underpinned by the 'Marie Curie actions' under the People program and make a valuable contribution to the development of the human capital of researchers. However, the low success rates in some of the Marie Curie actions suggest that some rebalancing of resources within the specific program could enhance its impact. FP7 is also having a positive

effect on research infrastructures, raising questions of whether more future emphasis should be given to this element of the program. In addition, there is some evidence that successive FPs, and FP7 in particular, are having a positive 'leverage' effect in promoting national research efforts and reinforcing the research and innovative capacity of industry.

At the same time, several areas in need for improvement were identified, including the administrative burdens of involvement in FP7. Many procedures continue to be unwieldy or disproportionate to the very marginal benefits they provide in terms of control of public spending. Furthermore, there is strong evidence of a lack of flexibility; insufficient female participation (although FP7 has contributed to boosting women's presence in scientific research); and lower than anticipated participation of small businesses, which are more easily deterred by 'complexity' in procedures and delays in contracts.

The Report presents 10 recommendations for improvements:

- 1. To advance ERA and Innovation Union objectives**, integrating the research base by overcoming fragmentation in research is vital, while simultaneously achieving a sharper division of labor between what is done at the EU level and what is undertaken in national programs.
- 2. To develop and implement high quality research infrastructures.**
- 3. The level of funding should be maintained, if not elevated.**
- 4. A well-articulated innovation strategy** needs to ensure that instruments and priorities encourage participation from a broad spectrum of small and large enterprises, universities and research and technology organizations.
- 5. Simplification needs a quantum leap** and the Expert Group calls for all Directorates-General and agencies to rapidly implement the short-term simplification measures recently put forward in a Communication by the Commission. The Group calls for members to ensure that these measures are applied rigorously from 2011-2013.
- 6. The mix of funding measures in FP7 and successor programs should strike a different balance between bottom-up and top-down approaches to research.** Greater emphasis should be placed on more open calls, specifically in the Cooperation program during 2011-2013.
- 7. A moratorium on new instruments** should be considered until the existing ones have been sufficiently developed and adequately evaluated.
- 8. Further steps to increase female participation in FP7 should be taken in its remaining years.**
- 9. To pave the way for increased participation from Member States that are underrepresented.** Greater prominence should be given to improved connections between the Structural Funds and the FP.
- 10. The opening of FP7 to international cooperation is of great value.** The international perspective must be integrated into all programs and instruments.

Read the ["Interim Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Program - Report of the Expert Group"](#)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

European Career Fair, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, 22–24 January 2011

Looking for a full-time job or an internship, thinking of studying or pursuing a professional career in Europe? Then the European Career Fair (ECF) at MIT is a great place to start your search.

Discover the many opportunities that international companies, academic institutions and non-profit organizations from Europe have to offer.

Submit your resume online at www.euro-career.com. Registration is free!

The **deadline** for resume submission is **Friday December 3, 2010**.

ECF 2011: What to expect?

- **January 22, 2011** - Career Fair Day with exhibits and presentations by representatives from industry, academia and research.
- **January 23 – 24, 2011** - Interviews for selected candidates. ECF-affiliated seminars on career development, opportunities and other activities.

ECF 2011: Why should you attend?

- **It's big!** The ECF is the largest career fair of its kind in the US with more than 130 companies and over 4000 participants.
- **Variety!** ECF aims to represent the full breadth of the European job market, whether you are looking for a job in industry or in the non-profit sector.
- **Diversity!** ECF welcomes candidates from all backgrounds and all levels of experience.
- **Interviews!** Our searchable database allows employers to view your resume and schedule interviews with selected candidates.
- **Networking!** You will have the opportunity to connect with many employers and other candidates on the day of the Fair.

For more information visit the ECF 2011 website at <http://www.euro-career.com>

Visit ECF 2011 on Facebook <http://goo.gl/azp2> and LinkedIn <http://goo.gl/rFn2>

EURAXESS LINKS USA REPORTS

International Opportunities Fair, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 5 November 2010

EURAXESS Links USA, in collaboration with the EU Delegation to the United States, hosted an exhibit booth on 5 November at the International Opportunities Fair in Philadelphia. The event was attended by approx. 620 students, mostly undergraduates, looking for internship and employment opportunities outside of the USA. Visitors to our booth were particularly interested in the Erasmus Mundus program, which offers opportunities for non-Europeans to pursue Master's and PhD degrees in Europe.

[More information about Erasmus Mundus](#)



Julia Garcia-Pascual, EU Delegation, at the European booth, International Opportunities Fair, Philadelphia (Photo: EURAXESS Links USA)

Society for Neuroscience Annual Conference in San Diego, 13–17 November, 2010

EURAXESS Links USA, together with the European Research Council, co-hosted an exhibit booth at the annual conference of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, 13–17 November 2010. Present at the booth were: Nicolas Voilley and Samantha Christey, ERC; Julia Garcia-Pascual, EU Delegation; and Izabella Zandberg, EURAXESS Links USA. The European booth was located in the non-profit exhibit area among organizations such as NIH, NSF and many others. Visitors to our booth were mostly interested in research opportunities in Europe at the postdoctoral and senior researcher-levels. Among others, we provided information on the [ERC Starting and Advanced Grants](#), Marie Curie Mobility Actions (particularly the [International Incoming Fellowships](#) and [Career Integration Grant](#)), as well as the EURAXESS – Researchers In Motion initiative, including [EURAXESS Jobs](#) and [EURAXESS Services](#) and [EURAXESS Rights](#).

Dr. Nicolas Voilley of ERC spoke on Monday, Nov. 15th at the workshop titled “Funding Career Transitions.” The workshop, attended by approx. 300 participants, provided information about sources of funding to assist early-career scientists (predoctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty) in transitioning to the status of independent investigator. Other speakers represented the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association and other organizations. After the presentations and a question/answer session, agency representatives were available to discuss specific programs and to make appointments to meet with potential candidates.

The conference passes that were available with the exhibit booth, and not used by our team, were offered at no charge to the EURAXESS Links USA network members, and the names of the recipients were drawn randomly from the list of interested members.



Nicolas Voilley (first from left) on the workshop panel (Photo: ERC)

We welcome all the new members who joined the EURAXESS Links network at the SfN conference!



European booth at the SfN annual conference in San Diego, 2010. Izabella Zandberg (left) and Samantha Christey talk with booth visitors. (Photo: ERC)



Nicolas Voilley, ERC, talks with booth visitors (Photo: ERC)



Julia Garcia-Pascual, EU Delegation (right), speaks with a visitor at the ERC booth (Photo: ERC)

European Researchers' Get-Together with the French Bio Beach Network, San Diego, 16 November 2010

EURAXESS Links USA, EU Delegation to the United States, and European Research Council joined forces with the French Bio Beach Network in California to co-host a European Researchers Get-Together on November 16. The event, devoted to European funding for research under the Seventh Framework Program, was attended by approx. 40 participants representing the research and entrepreneurial community of San Diego. It featured the presentations "Opportunities of the 7th Framework Program for EU Research" by Izabella Zandberg, "EU Funding trends in Neuroscience research" by Nicolas Voilley, ERC; "Introduction to the European Research Council's funding schemes" by Samantha Christey, ERC; and "The EURAXESS Portal – A One-Stop Resource on Research Opportunities in Europe" by Izabella Zandberg, followed by a Q&A session, and a networking reception.

Please see a short video from the event (standing from left to right are: Nicolas Voilley and Samantha Christey, ERC; Izabella Zandberg, EURAXESS Links; and Lionel Bochorberg, French Bio Beach Network): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NSBs53i4DM>

Pictures and PowerPoint presentations have been posted on the French Bio Beach Network's website.

Many thanks to Dr. Stephane Richard and the French Bio Beach Network for making this event possible.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

NIH: New Program to Accelerate Research Independence

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) intends to invest approximately \$60 million over the next five years in the NIH Director's Early Independence Award (EIA) program to help junior investigators leapfrog over traditional post-doctoral training and move into independent academic positions at U.S. institutions directly upon completion of their graduate research degrees. The NIH expects to issue up to ten awards in the fall of 2011. To apply for these awards, exceptional junior investigators must identify a host institution. Alternatively, institutions may actively recruit exceptional junior scientists to apply for these positions. These awards will be very selective, and each institution may only submit two applications. EIA recipients will receive up to \$250,000 in direct costs per year for

up to five years for research that complements and enhances an institution's research program. **The deadline for submitting Early Independence Award applications is 21 January 2011.**

NIH Director's Early Independence Award (EIA): <http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence/>
NIH Press Release—6 October 2010: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2010/od-06.htm>

NSF: Federal Cyber Scholarships

The National Science Foundation is seeking applications for the [Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service program](#). The program seeks to increase the number of students entering the fields of information assurance and computer security, along with enhancing the capacity to produce such students and professionals. The program is composed of two tracks. The Scholarship Track provides funding for students completing the final two years of undergraduate level, two years of master's level, or the final two years of Ph.D. level study in the relevant fields (graduate student stipend levels were increased to \$15,000). Upon graduation, awardees are required to serve two years in the federal government. The Capacity Building Track provides funds to institutions to improve the quality and increase the production of such professionals in these key areas. \$12.5 million is expected to be available for FY 11, and 6-8 Scholarship Track awards and 7-9 Capacity Building awards will be granted. **Applications are due Feb. 11, 2011.** (Source: Council of Graduate Schools - Nov. 19, 2010)

6th Annual French-American Competition for Innovative Entrepreneurs

Retis, the French innovation network, launched the "Young Entrepreneurs Initiative" (YEi) competition for innovative entrepreneurs interested in creating their ventures in France.

Between six and ten entrepreneurs will receive customized support from YEi and its transatlantic partners. Not only will they access the YEi's broad network of prestigious incubators, mentors, and investors, but also benefit from a one-week mission to France to meet their potential partners.

Application deadline: 31 December 2010

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any individual residing in the United States whose project encompasses the creation of an innovative company in France may apply, regardless of age, nationality, or professional situation.

[Read the News Release in English](#)

[Read the News Release in French](#)

[How to Apply](#)

French Embassy Partner University Fund (PUF): Call for Projects

The Embassy of France to the United States and the FACE Foundation are pleased to announce the fourth call for project proposals from the Partner University Fund (PUF).

PUF promotes innovative collaborations for excellence in research and education between French and American institutions of higher education. PUF supports emerging transatlantic partnerships with potential for continuation after the end of the grant.

Partnerships may combine elements such as:

- Joint initiatives in research and publications
- Faculty and postdoctoral mobility
- Collaboration in teaching
- Shared programs
- Joint and dual degrees at the master's and PhD levels

PUF currently supports more than 40 multifaceted partnerships in all fields of study.

Thanks to private donors, public contributions, and a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

(www.mellon.org), projects in the humanities submitted during this 2010 funding cycle will be eligible for a higher level of financial support. PUF will fund up to 60% of the cost of the selected projects, at a limit of \$160,000 USD annually, instead of respectively 30% and \$80,000 USD for projects in all other fields. Projects must be jointly submitted by at least one American and one French university.

Project proposals must be submitted by December 15th, 2010. Funding decisions will be announced in April 2011 for the 2011-2012 academic year.

For more information, please contact: puf@ambafrance-us.org+1 202 944 6057 and visit their website: www.facecouncil.org/puf

CERN Fellowships: Switzerland

CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, has published their fellowships opportunities. The forthcoming deadline for the Summer Student program is **26 January 2011**. More information: [CERN](#)

Chaires International de Reserche Blaise Pascal: France

Calls are managed by the Fondation de L'Ecole Normale Supérieure, allowing international researchers and scientists (all fields) to be hosted in France for 12 months, with a possibility to spread the period over 2 years. Applications from female candidates are particularly encouraged. Four candidates will be selected.

Deadline: 10 January; Location: Ile de France

More information: [Chaires Blaise Pascal](#)

European Respiratory Society/Marie Curie Fellowship

The RESPIRE Program is aimed toward promising PhD holders and postgraduates with 4 years of full-time research experience and providing them the opportunity to carry out advanced research projects.

Deadline: 31 January.

Further Information: [ERS](#)

Postdoctoral Stays at the National Institute of Informatics: Germany

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has launched a call for German postdoctoral scientists and scholars to spend time at the National Institute of Informatics, typically lasting one year and starting 1 September 2011. **Deadline: 31 December 2010.**

Further Information: [DAAD](#) (in German)

Research Incentive Scheme: Holland

The NWO opened calls to its VENI scheme. This is to provide funding for three years to researchers who have just completed their doctorates (up to 3 years). Researchers from abroad can apply.

Deadline: 6 January 2011. Further Information: [NWO](#)

Calls for Proposals from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research: Overview

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

Call for proposals	Launched	Deadline
Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)	20 October 2010	17 March 2011

Marie Curie Career Integration Grants (CIG)	20 October 2010	8 March 2011
Marie Curie Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programs (COFUND)	20 October 2010	17 February 2011
Marie Curie Initial Training Networks 2011 (ITN)	20 July 2010	26 January 2011
Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)	20 July 2010	7 December 2010

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

Call for proposals	Launched	Deadline
ERC Advanced Grant for the domain Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)	04 November 2010	09 February 2011
ERC Advanced Grant for the domain Life Sciences (LS)	04 November 2010	10 March 2011
ERC Advanced Grant for the domain Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)	04 November 2010	06 April 2011

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

- Health / **1** Open call
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology / **4** Open calls
- Information and Communication Technologies / **9** Open calls
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies / **6** Open calls
- Energy / **4** Open calls
- Environment (including Climate Change) / **3** Open calls
- Transport (including Aeronautics) / **9** Open calls
- Socio-economic sciences and Humanities / **4** Open calls
- Security / **1** Open call
- General Activities / **1** Open call
- Joint Technology Initiatives (Annex IV-SP1) / **2** Open calls

Participants from the United States are eligible to join research proposals under the Cooperation scheme. To do so, these programs require at least three partners in three different EU or associated countries, plus a partner in the United States. Except for Health proposals, there is no funding from the European Union for U.S.-based partners unless the participation of the U.S. partner is deemed necessary for the success of the program. Cooperation schemes in the area of Health provide for full funding of the U.S.-based partners.

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

- Research for the benefit of SMEs / **2** Open calls
- Regions of Knowledge / **1** Open call
- Science in Society / **1** Open call
- Research Potential / **1** Open call
- Activities of International Cooperation / **3** Open calls

To access a full list of currently open calls for proposals launched by the European Commission, and full details of the calls, go to: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls/>

Marie Curie Career Integration Grant (CIG)

Many researchers currently working around the world would consider getting a stable position in a European research institution. The new Career Integration Grant scheme helps them to achieve this goal.

CIG applicants must be experienced researchers from any country in the world with at least 4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree. They must have been actively engaged in research, but cannot have carried out their work in the country of their host organization for more than twelve months over the last three years. Finally, they must not have previously benefitted from a European or an International Reintegration Grant (ERG or IRG) or from a Career Integration Grant.

The Career Integration Grant is a flat rate contribution towards research costs. These may, for example, contribute to the salary costs, travel costs, consumables, patent costs, and/or publication costs of the researcher or other staff employed for the project. The grant will cover a period of 2 to 4 years and must be used within this period. If the grant application is successful, the European Commission will establish a grant agreement with the host organization in Europe. The host will then provide the selected candidate with an employment contract (if one does not already exist), on the basis of which it is expected to pay salary and ensure the integration of the researcher for at least the duration of the grant. The host organization must be a university, a research centre or an enterprise in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

CIG proposals are welcomed from all areas of scientific and technological research, excluding research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty.

CIG proposals are selected in an open competition. Selection occurs through a transparent, independent peer review, based on excellence, using a series of pre-determined criteria.

The call for Career Integration Grant is currently open. **Applications are due on 8 March 2011.**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/how.htm>

ERC: Advanced Researcher Grant

The European Research Council has launched a call for their Advanced Researcher Grant. These are designed to encourage & support excellent, innovative, investigator-initiated research projects. Applicants are expected to be active researchers who have a track record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years. Although there are no restrictions regarding age, nationality, or current place of residence, the Principal Investigators should be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions.

Applications are welcome in any discipline with the following deadlines:

- Physical Sciences and Engineering (9 February 2011)
- Life Sciences (10 March 2011)
- Social Sciences & Humanities (6 April 2011)

Funding is provided up to €3.5m for a period up to 5 years.

Further information:

More information: [ERC](#) [Cordis](#)

IRSES: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

On 20 October, calls for applications to the IRSES Scheme were opened. This funding scheme allows European research organizations and other research organizations to establish or reinforce long-term research cooperation through the exchange of researchers for short periods. Candidates from the United States are eligible to participate as they have a Science and Technology Agreement with the European Union. Support will be provided for a period of 24-48 months. The maximum duration of the individual staff exchanges is 12 months, which can be split into several exchange periods within the total duration of the program. During this period, joint research, joint training, joint workshops, seminars or other networking activities could be performed.

A minimum of three partners are required (two from EU Member States or Associated Countries + one other country). To provide one example: an Austrian and a Hungarian university could develop an exchange program with a research institute in the United States. Both European-based partners will be eligible to receive funding; however the U.S. based partner organization will need to bring its own funding to this exchange program.

All fields of research are relevant and are to be chosen by the researchers.

Deadline for applications is 17 March 2011.

Further information is available from [Cordis](#) – click the Guide for Applicants page.

Initial Training Networks

ITN's are bottom-up projects that aim to improve the career perspectives of researchers in the first five years of their research career in both public and private sectors. Normally a network will be composed of at least three participants such as university, research centers, commercial enterprises, or nonprofit or charitable organizations. A minimum of three different partners are required in three different Member States. Above this minimum, other third countries (such as the U.S.) are possible. ITN's will provide joint research and training, events, and network opportunities for researchers. **Deadline for applications is 26 January 2011.**

Further information is available from [Cordis](#).

Lifelong Learning Program

As the flagship European Funding program in the field of education and training, the Lifelong Learning Program (LLP) enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. It is an umbrella program integrating various educational and training initiatives. LLP is divided in four sectorial sub programs and four so called 'transversal' programs. The **sectorial sub programs** focus on different stages of education and training and continuing previous programs:

- [Comenius](#) for schools
- [Erasmus](#) for higher education
- [Leonardo da Vinci](#) for vocational education and training
- [Grundtvig](#) for adult education

The **transversal programs** aim to complement the sectorial sub programs and to ensure that they achieve the best results possible. They aim to promote European cooperation in fields covering two or more of the sub-programs. In addition they seek to promote quality and transparency of the education and training systems of Member States.

Four key activities focus on:

- [Policy cooperation and innovation](#)
- [Languages](#)
- [Information and communication technologies - ICT](#)
- [Dissemination and exploitation of results](#)

The **Jean Monnet program** also falls under the LLP umbrella. In addition to the sectorial and transversal programs, The Jean Monnet program stimulates teaching, reflection and debate on the European integration process at higher education institutions.

The Lifelong Learning Program is an EU program for the participation of the Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries. However, some provisions have been made for the participation of third countries (i.e., non-EU or associated countries from all over the world) in Multilateral Projects and Networks. As of last year, the involvement of third country organizations has been invited clearly in the Call announcement in the Official Journal and in the LLP guidelines, but remains relatively little known.

The 2011 Call for Proposals was launched on 27 October 2010:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:290:0013:0014:EN:PDF>

The LLP Guide Part Iib - "explanations by actions" is of particular importance as it provides explanations of each action in the form of individual fiches. The following actions in the related fiches are open for the participation of third countries (such as the United States):

Fiche No 9: Comenius Multilateral Projects
Fiche No 10: Comenius Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 23: Erasmus Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 24: Erasmus Multilateral Projects
Fiche No 33: Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Projects
Fiche No 34: Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 43: Grundvig Multilateral Projects
Fiche No 44: Grundvig Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 48: Key Activity 1 Policy Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 49: Key Activity 2 Languages Multilateral Projects
Fiche No 50: Key Activity 2 Languages Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 52: Key Activity 3 ICT Multilateral Projects
Fiche No 53: Key Activity 3 ICT Multilateral Networks
Fiche No 54: Key Activity 4 Valorization Multilateral Projects

The deadlines vary and are listed both in the Call announcement as well as in the fiches under the specific actions. Detailed information on how organizations in the United States can participate can be found on the website of the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2011/call_lifelong_learning_2011.php

Interested parties should note that organizations in third countries can participate only as partners. In other words, projects must be initiated and applications submitted by a consortium based in the LLP countries to which further organizations in third countries (i.e., non-EU or associated countries) can be added.

[More information](#)

New Calls for Proposals Specifically Targeting Cooperation with United States

BILAT USA & Link2US have developed a list of the currently open calls for proposals in the recently published FP7 Workprograms 2011 specifically targeting cooperation with the United States. The list can be accessed at: <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/document/show/id/151>

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

Calls for Tenders Related to the Directorate-General for Research

http://ec.europa.eu/research/dgs/tenders/open_en.cfm

RESEARCH CAREERS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Open Competitions for New Research and Technical Staff at the Joint Research Centre

On 30 September 2010, the European Commission launched competitions with a view towards recruiting new research and technical staff. There are 16 open competitions (one AD6 and one AD7 competition in 8 domains). These domains are: "chemistry, biology, health sciences"; "physics"; "structural mechanics"; "quantitative policy analysis"; "spatial sciences"; "environmental sciences"; "energy sciences" and "communication / information technology". These open competitions will globally generate 271 successful candidates (207 AD6 and 64 AD7 candidates).

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is a Directorate-General of the European Commission. Its mission is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support to the conception, development, implementation, and monitoring of European Union policies. As a service of the European Commission, the JRC functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the Community.

The JRC has seven scientific institutes, located in five different sites in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=1440>

For more information: http://europa.eu/epso/apply/today/spe_en.htm

Become an Expert Evaluator for FP7

The website to register as an expert for research activities is available on CORDIS. The call for experts is open both for individuals and for organizations.

[Further information](#)

EURAXESS Jobs

Many new features are waiting for you on EURAXESS Jobs: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index>

Login to discover new graphic and new functionalities. There are 3 options:

- Do you want to upload your CV? Login into your account MyEURAXESS: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/res/index>

- Did you forget your password? Recover it with a simple click: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/passwordRecovery>
- Do you want to delete your account? Click here: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/res/deleteAccount>

The European Job Mobility Portal

<http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

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/>

Brainpower Austria: <http://www.brainpower-austria.at/webfiles/home.asp>

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

RESOURCES

European Conferences and Events for Research: Selection by Theme

With so many events on the calendar it can be hard to find which ones you are interested in ... until now! You can filter the events on the "Conferences and Events" page according to more than 30 themes. You can also select multiple themes to maintain any multiple or cross-cutting interests.

[Conferences and Events Database](#)

List of U.S. Funding Programs Open to European Researchers

The [Link2US](#) project has been established to facilitate easy access to relevant information on U.S. cooperation programs open to European researchers. Link2US has initially identified fourteen funding programs within six U.S. federal government entities that are open to European Union researchers. This information is now available on the Link2US website in database form. Additional programs and entities will be added and updated annually.

[Access the database](#)

Virtual Help Desk for Link2US

The Virtual Help Desk provides answers to your questions about U.S. funding programs open to European researchers, and assists with the details of applying for funding. Assistance is provided via telephone on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Washington DC time (approximately 2:00–4:30 p.m. European time) at +1-202-326-6663.

For all questions and comments outside of the scheduled office hours, please contact info@link2us.eu

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 European researchers in the United States.

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