

research connection



09

contents

- 1 ○ Research Connection comes to a close
- 2 ○ The EU-12 and environmental research
○ Making solar power crystal clear
- 3 ○ Social science and the financial crisis
○ Science meets society
- 4 ○ Business angels to the rescue
○ Innovation the SME way
- 5 ○ Regions in the research picture
○ The right instrument for your project
○ Clustering for better food
- 6 ○ NCPs are here to help
○ Industrial technologies in the ERA
○ In support of international cooperation
- 7 ○ Full costing in FP7
○ Opportunities for individual researchers
○ Going places in transport research
- 8 ○ Backstage at the conference
○ Research Connection in pictures
○ Forthcoming events

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Research Connection 2009:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/rtd-2009/>



Zoran Stančič

EU research at a crossroads

Research Connection 2009 comes to a close

After two days, the Research Connection 2009 conference in Prague came to a close. In his closing speech, Zoran Stančič, Deputy Director of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research, praised it as a great success. If the two days in Prague 'are a reflection of our work in research, we should feel very proud of everything that has been accomplished, not only under the stewardship of Commissioner Potočnik, but also through some 40 years of research,' he said.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without 'being connected', Stančič stressed, a necessity that Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik had also highlighted when opening the event. 'Connections underpin the Lisbon Strategy and its research 'arm' the European Research Area They spread across the Ljubljana Process and the 2020 Vision initiative to improve future governance of the European research ecosystem,' Stančič went on to say.

European research could learn a lesson or two from the Czech Republic on how to bring together and connect different players to the benefit of all, he said, using the examples of Budweiser Beer and the carmaker Škoda, two of their most famous brands. One of the keys to success is Public-Private Partnerships. Mr Stančič reminded his audience that the Commission is establishing three specific Public-Private Partnerships as part of its Economic Recovery Package. They address manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings and green vehicles.

The conference represented a crossroads and could be perceived as a connection between the past, the present and the future, Mr Stančič added. 'We are in the middle of the Seventh Framework Programme, a point where we are taking stock and drawing lessons from the past And from that perspective, of course, we are learning lessons regarding the preparation of the Eighth Framework Programme.'

Turning his attention to the European Research Area (ERA), Stančič called for more commitment. Quoting the former president of the Czech Republic, he said: 'Mr Václav Havel ... , in another context, said: " Work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed." So what I want to say to you is: The European Research Area is going to happen, but it's only going to be a success if all of us are going to work on it and if we are willing to invest our time, our knowledge and our technology in order to make it a success.'

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Science is global, cooperation is vital

EU-12 must play a part in environment research

'We have a lot of expertise in the EU and we need to make the most of that,' said moderator Ece Ozdemiroglu at Friday's discussion on 'Finding research partners in an enlarged Europe'.

The focus was on the importance of environmental research, and on pointing out that newer Member States partners have much to contribute to EU projects in the field. Manuela Soares, the Director for Environment at the Research DG, spoke of the need to improve participation of the newer Member States in environmental research.

'We must do our best to build the ERA,' she said, 'and we must react as a matter of urgency to environmental problems such as pollution and climate change that are threatening life on Earth.'

Research is playing a vital role in the protection of the environment. The Commission is encouraging as much participation as possible from the EU-12. Its activities include specific topics for research and identification of specific capacities in EU-12, mobilizing EU-12 experts as evaluators, and setting up, together with authorities in the EU-12 countries, National Contact Points for researchers to find their way in the Framework Programme, to network and to identify potential collaborations.

So, why should the new Member States get involved? 'Science is global, so cooperation is vital,' said Alena Bartonova from the Norwegian Institute for Air Research. 'It is a huge challenge for different disciplines to work together.'

Zbigniew Kundzewicz, from the Polish Academy of Sciences, made the point that partnership encourages a multi-angle perspective. 'You can pool resources, which enhances multidisciplinary research,' he said. 'It is politically correct to have a partner from a new Member State, but perhaps there should be a rule about this in order to get more EU-12 countries involved.'

During the question-and-answer session the speakers discussed the best way to present a proposal with maximum impact. Ece Ozdemiroglu said: 'My advice to new Member States who want to submit a proposal for funding is to get the proposal in as soon as possible and write it as clearly as possible.'

'Getting the project funding is only the start; the real work begins after you win.'

The crystal clear project

Making solar power even greener!

Scientists in the EU-funded Crystal Clear project have halved the manufacturing costs of silicon solar modules while also slashing the amount of energy and materials used in their production.

The 5-year, 16-partner project, which is just drawing to a close, received EUR 16 million from the Sixth Framework Programme.

On the cost front, the team succeeded in reducing the manufacturing costs of the cells from over EUR 2 per watt peak (the unit used to measure the production cost of solar modules) to around EUR 1 per watt peak.

The researchers also achieved their goal of cutting the energy and materials required to make the modules, 'so that it's not just renewable, which solar energy is automatically, but also sustainable,' commented project coordinator Wim Sinke of the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN).

The energy indicator used by the team was 'energy payback time' - the time the system needs to operate in order to generate the energy needed to manufacture and install it. 'In the project, energy payback time has been brought back to around two years for southern Europe, whereas it was between three and four years when we started,' said Sinke.

The material input is also lower; partly because the partners made the silicon wafers even thinner (around 120 microns, compared to the usual thickness of 180-200 microns), and partly because they made the cells more efficient. 'If you have a higher efficiency, you need (fewer) materials per watt of module,' Sinke explained.

In fact, the team broke the world efficiency record for photovoltaic modules with multicrystalline silicon solar cells, reaching a conversion efficiency of 16.4%.

Some of the technologies developed by the project are ready for commercialisation; Sinke expects this process to take another one or two years.

Ece Ozdemiroglu



Wim Sinke



Europe's turning point?

The role of the social sciences in crisis recovery

Dealing with the consequences of the economic crisis is less about seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and more like realising there is a high-speed train approaching, said Professor Elzbieta Stadtmüller of Poland's Wroclaw University. She spoke at Friday's session on the relevance of the socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) in getting the train, as it were, back on track.

One of the distinguishing factors of SSH is their ability to provide evidence of the current changes taking place globally and to forecast future changes. It provides the groundwork (such as fact-based policy) on which to base recovery decisions.

'SSH are at stake now due to the crisis and the evolution of the world,' said Mr Jean-Michel Baer, Director of the European Commission's Science, Economy and Society Directorate. 'The solution to the crisis we are facing today won't come and leave from technical innovation. It will come from human research, social innovation and SSH. We have to be very aware of that.'

László Halpern of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences explained that there is speculation on the form the crisis will take; whether recovery will be fast (V-shaped), long and drawn-out (U-shaped) or whether there will be any recovery at all (L-shaped). The experts, he explained, are divided on the matter.

Among the social consequences of the crisis, we should expect a rise in unemployment, decline in social transfers (such as family allowances and welfare) and a rise in extreme populism (radical political ideas that may spread and manifest into, for example, xenophobia). 'People should be prepared that the crisis is something that hits their everyday life,' said Halpern.

His long list of recommendations for dealing with these changes includes greater EU-wide coordination, more active EU participation in shaping global tendencies, more effective surveillance and supervision with respect to the financial sector, and the need for economic adjustment mechanisms (such as the minimal wage).

Baer explained that his directorate will respond to the different dimensions of the crisis through its research agenda, in consultation with Member States and the scientific community.



László Halpern



David Stewart Boak



Luisa Prista

Reaching beyond the converted

Where is the public in your science?

Statistics tell us that people have a genuine interest in science, explained David Stewart Boak, the force behind pioneering work in science communication and moderator of a session that looked at ways of engaging the broader community in science.

And yet, although the public recognises the importance of scientific endeavour, there is still a lot of commitment required to win it over. 'We are influenced by science every day, almost every minute, of our lives,' explained Boak. 'We [as citizens] ought to feel that there's an opportunity for us to influence the future of these developments.'

The purpose of this session, however, was not about winning over the public, but about convincing researchers themselves – particularly the scientific community from the newer EU Member States where participation in initiatives to inspire dialogue with the public is lower despite the potential that exists.

'It's easy for those of us who have been doing this for many years to see what the future holds because you see all the opportunities and all the challenges. But for someone who feels there is a job to be done but (who hasn't) yet engaged with it, this is how to get them onto that first platform,' Boak added.

Support for projects that address these issues comes from the Science in Society (SIS) programme. Projects include POLLEN, funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), which focuses on the early development of scientific literacy.

'When we compare the importance of science with the decreasing interest and ability to learn science [among young people] we have a problem,' said Kristina Zoldosova of Slovakia's Trnava University on the driving factor behind POLLEN. Other members of the panel also showcased interesting methods used to target the same issue through travelling exhibitions and festivals.

The SIS field also targets ethics and governance as well as activities intended to draw and retain more women in scientific careers. 'We have to go beyond the knowledge,' said Luisa Prista, who heads the SIS programme, and integrate disciplines and communities that may have different perspectives on what this knowledge should be and how it should be used.

Angels to the rescue

Financing innovation

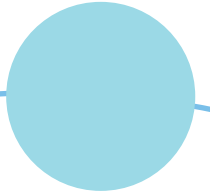
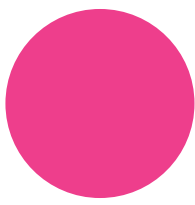
With money tight and share prices plummeting, you might suppose that these are tough times for those seeking investment to get a fledgling product or service onto the market. Not so, explained Jenny Tooth, Business Development Director at the UK's GLE Growth Capital during Friday's innovation session.

Admittedly, investment from 'business angels' in the UK fell by 50% in 2008, while cash injections from venture capital companies dropped by EUR 1 billion. But 'clever people know that it's in the downturn that there are opportunities,' said Tooth. If your project is ready, now could be the perfect time to take it forward.

A business angel is someone who puts a portion of their wealth into a business and watches it grow. They come in after the research has been done and won't expect returns for three to five years. So it's understandable that a business angel will not invest unless the project is really ready. For a business angel, 'ready' means there is a proven need or market for the product or service, a clear business model for how money will be made, growth potential, protected intellectual property, a clear financial strategy and a strong management team. 'If you are the academic that came up with the idea, now is the time to think about who else you need to involve in your project,' said Tooth.

Both business angels and venture capitalists often work in networks to spread the risk of investments, but tend to put money into local projects. There were therefore no guarantees that the EASY (Early Stage Investors Action for Growth of Innovating Businesses) project, funded under the Commission's Pro INNO initiative and bringing together 17 partners from 11 countries, would succeed. The project sought to improve connectivity between investors with the goal of increasing the availability of funding for start-up companies.

And it worked. The EU funding allowed the project partners to meet and build up trust – essential if the investors were to work together and have confidence in deals proposed by others. EASY led to six cross-border deals and EUR 5.6 million in trans-national contracts. Tooth now has plans for a EUR 45 million catalytic cross-border fund to forge closer links between innovation investors around Europe.



Innovation the SME way

Smaller companies get the most out of EU funding



There was a wide cross section of sectors represented by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Friday morning's session on research and innovation. CEOs and employees discussed chocolates, computer codes, oil spills, anti-inflammatory drugs, dyslexia and recycled packaging, to name a few.

But all had one thing in common: each had received EU funding that enabled the further development or market exploitation of a new product.

Mitja Grbec is acting head of department at TEC Ltd in Slovenia. Founded in 2008, the company brought together two unlikely bedfellows – the maritime and the paper industries. The sludge left over when paper is manufactured has been piling up in landfills for decades. Research found a use for it – absorbing oil spills. The concept, which benefits the environment in two important ways, was awarded funding from the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) to undertake real life tests.

Grbec had this advice for companies looking for similar support: get past the research stage; ensure that your idea has potential for a European market; see whether your project ties in with any EU policies; select partners that are complementary to your organisation; and get letters of support from interested stakeholders and potential users.

For Finnish company Biotie, the Marie Curie scheme was the most fitting funding scheme. It paid for an exchange of researchers between Biotie and the University of Birmingham in the UK over a four-year period. Both partners gained from an influx of new skills, as did their research on anti-inflammatory drugs for the liver, according to Biotie's head of inflammatory disease drug development, David Smith. Trials of a new drug will take place in Birmingham in the near future.

The Eurostars programme, managed by EUREKA but with support from the EU, was the right source of support for B&M InterNets. The Czech software development SME became involved in the DYSLEXTTEST project, developing a system of online exercises for people with dyslexia. It analyses each individual's progress and develops personal training methods. The company's marketing manager, Marika Hrubešová, was enthusiastic about its involvement in Eurostars, saying that the company had learnt from the experience of bigger players within the project and gained access to new and larger markets.

Mind the gap

Putting regions
in the research picture

'We have excellent knowledge in the EU, but it often arrives too late in the market, which is why we must work together more,' said Serafin de la Concha, from the Ministry of Science and Innovation in Spain, at Friday's session on synergies.

The session's recurring themes were the frequent gap between research and regional development and the need for regions to become much more involved in networking.

'The European Commission is acting as an overall facilitator in the development of cooperation between the regions in R&D,' said Jean-David Malo, Head of Unit at the Commission's DG Research. 'But much more cooperation is needed between companies and research institutions as well.'

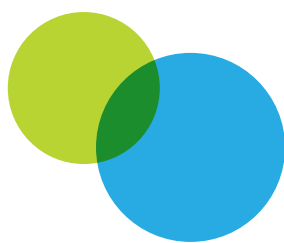
There are three main funding instruments for R&D: Cohesion Policy; the Research Framework Programmes; and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). A 'Practical Guide' and a 'Mind Map' were created in 2007 to help streamline and simplify funding information.

'Authorities must promote the use of the Guide and Map through national contact points and innovation centres,' said Pierre Godin from the Commission's DG for Regional Policy. 'There are different funding programmes with different priorities and rules, which can be difficult to bring together; therefore chances to develop synergies are often missed.'

However, schemes to boost synergies are taking off. 'Under the Swedish [EU] Presidency we will launch workshops on regional and national development to publicise examples of best practice and identify difficulties,' said Jean-David Malo.

'This discussion is just a starting point. We have some good practice, but there must be more harmonisation of synergies. The EC cannot act alone – we need regions to work alongside us.'

Jean-David Malo



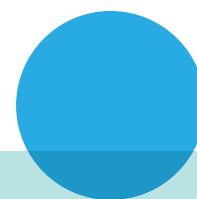
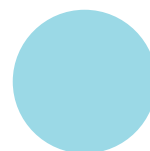
United in diversity

Clustering for better food

The FOOD-CLUSTER initiative, launched in 2008, brings together public and private research bodies to create synergies and ultimately develop a more comprehensive food research strategy for Europe.

The cluster unites 31 regions from EU Member States and associated countries. It also interlinks 12 projects funded under the Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes and the INTERREG Programme, making it a multiplier for research funded under a variety of EU schemes (Structural Funds, Regions of Knowledge, Research Potential, Knowledge Based Bio-Economy, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance).

'Although food production and research is often fragmented across Europe, we have a lot of common problems,' explains the initiative's coordinator Linze Rijswijk. 'There are, of course, a lot of different food cultures. The ... initiative wants to benefit from these differences. We would like to promote the diversity of Europe from the food production, but also from a research perspective. We can learn a lot from each other.'



The right support at the right time

Choosing the right instrument
for your project

EU funding for research and innovation is varied. This means that there are many opportunities for different types of projects and for projects in different developmental phases.

The major sources are the Structural Funds, the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). While funds from these programmes can't all be used for the same project at the application stage, they can be used to complement one another. When discoveries or innovations funded by FP7 are ready for production, for example, CIP funds can then support a pilot market project.

'If you have a big project,' said Michelle Perello, EU Projects Advisor, 'it's a good opportunity to combine funds, depending on the phase of the project.'

Looking at EU funding from a policy point of view, Professor Maria Calderini, President of the Finpiemonte, a Regional Development Agency in Italy, said that there is much room for improvement in the way the EUR 86 billion of Structural Funds are used in different regions.

EU Funding policies support strong relationships between universities, research institutions and industry. Moreover, said Professor Calderini, opening up the system and creating or joining international networks is essential for innovation.



Guidance is just around the corner

NCPs are here to help

Navigating the maze of proposal writing can be difficult. National Contact Points (NCPs) are available in all EU Member States and Associated Countries to help FP7 applicants with personalised support that only a local can provide. That means getting the right information in your own language to see your application through to completion stage.

'Many NCPs are able to provide tailor-made, eye-to-eye advice,' says Dr Erika Szendrák, from one of Hungary's NCPs, who has been helping scientists in this way for the last 10 years. She explains that part of her role involves managing expectations, encouraging participation and acting as a middleman for scientists. Her advice for potential applicants? 'Be realistic, know the opportunities, be brave!'

You can find your NCP through the CORDIS website:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.htm



Bilge Imer



Rikardo Bueno



Liviu Jalba

Adventures in the European arena

Experiences in industrial technologies

FATRONIK-Tecnalia is one of the biggest research and development (R&D) organisations in Europe, employing 1 500 researchers. However, as Rikardo Bueno explained in a session on industrial technologies, it started small. When FATRONIK was founded over 20 years ago, it had just 5 employees.

'One of the most important decisions we took was to try to go to the European arena in research,' said Bueno. 'We were also able to embark on more ambitious projects. Career-wise, I did my PhD by using research I had done in a European project, so it was very helpful!' FATRONIK is now a major player in many EU-funded projects.

Liviu Jalba of Microelectronica offered a Romanian perspective on SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) in Europe. Pointing out that 92% of SMEs employ fewer than 10 people, he commented, 'That means that almost all the SMEs are kind of family-based organisations. So if you make a policy for SMEs, you need to bear in mind they are families, and families behave differently to bigger companies.'

Jalba also highlighted the positive side of failure. 'I think that failure is not a tragedy. Even more than that, failure is the engine of progress. When you have a failure, you rethink and try to find new, better methods. If there are no failures, this is not research!'

Bilge Imer of Turkish power company GAMA encouraged researchers to collaborate widely. 'One cannot possibly obtain all experience, resources, expertise alone. All countries, all sorts of entities should come together to move forward,' she noted, adding that both the public and private sectors in Turkey host excellent researchers and offer world class facilities.

Andrea Reinhardt of microTEC Gesellschaft für Mikrotechnologie in Germany endorsed the pro-European message, saying: 'You will find bright minds and interesting companies all over Europe.'

Breaking down borders

A passionate argument in favour of international cooperation

'Why should EU researchers cooperate with third countries? Is it worth it?' asked George Bonas of Greece's Hellenic Research Foundation and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, at Friday's session on international cooperation.

Yes, he answered emphatically, 'Because we can find state-of-the-art expertise. That is obvious with industrialised countries. But niches of excellence also exist elsewhere. Some third countries are making huge efforts to invest in science and technology and this is not always well known.'

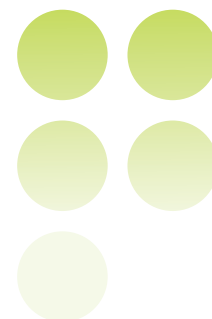
What's more, third countries are home to useful mid-range infrastructures, such as telescopes, that are more readily available than those at home and can often be adapted according to a researcher's needs, he added.

And as many of the challenges we face today don't recognise borders, international cooperation in researching solutions is essential. 'A single country or small group cannot tackle these issues alone,' noted Bonas. 'The EU can do a lot, but it would be better if it was doing this with its neighbours.'

Finally, he said, science and technology cooperation is an important 'soft' diplomacy tool, helping the EU strengthen its links with the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, the EU is keen to emphasise that research organisations from all around world can participate in FP7. 'This must be stressed over and over again,' said the European Commission's Patrick Brenier. In fact, third country researchers are often more successful in applying for EU funding than EU-based researchers.

The EU supports international research cooperation through many measures. Two examples are joint calls launched in close cooperation with a funding agency in a third country, and INCO-NETs, which promote cooperation between EU researchers and scientists in another region of the world.



George Bonas



Universities count the full cost

New reimbursements under FP7

Largely in response to incentives from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), European universities are adopting 'full costing', a financial management system that covers the actual costs of their teaching and research activities.

Universities are expected to support research over the long term. But, 'you can only fund correctly if you know exactly what the costs are', explained Stefaan Hermans, Head of Unit in the Commission's Research DG.

Excellence in research is only possible when it is supported by excellent management of resources, added Willem Wolters of Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Full costing has been implemented to varying degrees: the UK has 10 years of experience in it, while Poland is just starting to discuss it. The FP7 Full Cost model provides funding for 60% of the indirect costs (overheads) of the projects it funds; this rate is the same for all projects.

While FP7 has been an important driver, Mr Hermans remarked, 'Member States themselves should put some effort into raising awareness and providing incentives for making this happen.' In the Netherlands, all universities will use full costing by 2010. According to Michael Schijns, the country's FP7 Financial National Contact Point, 'It takes a lot of effort to make the transition, but it is feasible.'



Willem Wolters

Top talents

ERC grants, Marie Curie Actions and Euraxess

Talented researchers whose careers are just starting, or who are ready for a leadership role, can seek funding from the European Research Council (ERC) and from Marie Curie actions. These programmes, which are part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), serve to foster individual research in the sciences and the humanities.

According to Gianpietro Van de Goor of the European Commission, the ERC provides researchers with an opportunity to work independently for five years.

ERC grant recipient František Stěpánek of Prague's Institute of Chemical Technology is currently using his EUR 1.64 million grant to develop electronics-free 'chemical robots'. 'The ERC grant gives me an opportunity to work on a research project of my own choice,' he said. 'Because the ERC encourages high-risk, high-gain proposals, you have a chance to discover something really novel.'

Marie Curie actions are not just for established leaders but also for researchers at all stages of their careers. Initial training networks (ITN) specifically support pre-PhD academics.

Marta Muter, Project Officer for Marie Curie Actions, explained that the programme not only requires mobility, but also emphasises diversifying skills and training in transferable skills such as entrepreneurship and knowledge of intellectual property rights.

And for researchers looking for jobs, Euraxess, the 'European researcher portal', is a one-stop-shop website for career opportunities and relocation services.



Marta Muter

Yes! Participate!

Transport research in the new Member States

Participation by the newer Member States in the 'transport' theme of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is good, but could be better. This was the consensus at Friday's session on 'Your guide to going places with EU transport research projects'.

Comparing 2007 to 2008, the Commission noticed a decrease in successful proposals involving one or more of the 12 States that have joined the EU since 2004. In surface transport, the drop was particularly noticeable: while the number of proposals involving one of the EU-12 did not change, the percentage selected for funding dropped by 35.5%. According to Mihaela Williams, Project Officer at the Commission's DG Research, the reasons are twofold: in 2008, the quality of those proposals was lower and the competition higher.

But the transport industry remains one of Europe's most important assets, said András Siegler, a director at DG Research: it is one of the biggest investors in research and development and generates roughly 20 million jobs. The newer Member States are strongly represented in this field, being home to 50% of Europe's top 100 equipment suppliers.

For some, a dilemma remains: 'To participate or not to participate is the question,' said Andrzej Urbanik of the Polish Road and Bridge Institute. He already has his answer: 'Yes, participate! ...It opens the European window, it allows for technology transfer, it allows for staff development.'

To make participation more attractive, some calls for proposals should be tailored more specifically to new Member States' needs, thinks Urbanik. This could mean research on the reuse of existing transport structures or the construction of good roads. The results of such projects could also be implemented in the EU-12.

Under FP7, over EUR 4.1 billion has been set aside for transport research, a rise of nearly 40% per year compared to the Sixth Framework Programme, to fund research in air, road, rail and water transport with a focus on safety and the environment.

Backstage pass

The Making of Research Connection 2009

Some 1 500 people wearing colour-coded name tags and clutching green bags weaved in and out of conference halls over two days at Prague's Congress Centre. You were among the many participants, speakers, exhibitors and journalists who collectively attended 48 sessions, listened to over 160 speakers, saw 15 press briefings and visited 47 exhibition stands to get better acquainted with the many opportunities offered by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

Our host, the EU Czech Presidency, and the many workers behind the scenes made sure the event ran like clockwork, even if a session or two went over time. But then, if the session in question was an inspirational one like Jeremy Rifkin's at the official opening, we can afford to give him a few extra minutes. Rifkin's concept of the 'European Dream' and quality of life was a highlight for Mr Jean-Michel Baer, responsible for the Research Directorate General's Communication Unit (part of the Science, Economy and Society Directorate in the Commission), the team responsible for organising the event. 'It's very nice to hear someone saying there is a European Dream. When you say that in Europe, you are considered an idealist or a dreamer, but when you hear an American say that, it has a truth to it,' he said, laughing.

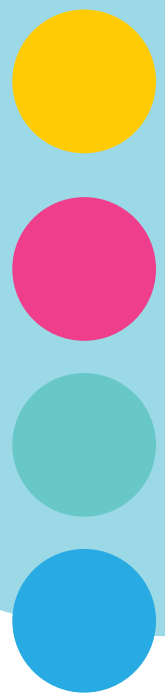
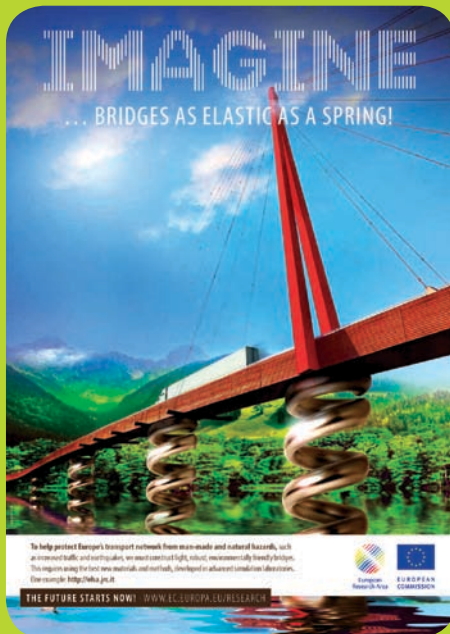
Preparations for the event started one year ago and represent a feat of coordination involving all research directorates of the European Commission. The purpose of Research Connection 2009, said Baer, was to reflect on FP7 at its two-year mark. More specifically, he said, 'We want researchers from new EU Member States to be completely involved in the building of the European Research Area.'

'I think it went very well,' added Baer. We hope you agree.

Don't forget! Speaker presentations are available online.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/rtd-2009/>

2 days in May



Forthcoming events

Conference on 'Sustainable development - a challenge for European research'

Brussels, Belgium / 26-28 May

The event is organised by the European Commission, in cooperation with the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and will highlight the multiple ways in which European research contributes to global sustainable development.

Conference on innovation and the economy

Brussels, Belgium / 2 June

In light of the economic role of innovation and recent and upcoming elections in Europe and the United States, the conference is dedicated to looking at how to go about creating the right global climate to deliver innovation.

Conference on the future of EU socio-economic and humanities research

Brussels, Belgium / 5 June

The conference is designed to inform stakeholders about the new approach which the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) will take with regard to socio-economic sciences and humanities research.

For those who cannot attend, there will be a live web-stream of all sessions on the Commission's website.

More events on:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_EVENT

