

High-level conference to launch the initiative

Destination Europe: Your Research & Innovation Opportunities

IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, USA, 20 JANUARY 2012

OVERVIEW

Europe has a vibrant and exciting science and technology culture and offers many excellent and generous career and funding opportunities for researchers and innovators, no matter where they come from in the world. The objective of this conference is to raise awareness of these opportunities and to promote Europe as a research and innovation destination.

Presentations by high-level speakers, representing some of the major funding organizations and research intensive industries in Europe, will be illustrated by testimonials from researchers who have taken advantage of the opportunities offered to develop their careers in Europe.

Europe is serious in its ambition to attract new talent to complement and catalyse the talent that we already have. This conference will demonstrate that:

- Europe has a vibrant and attractive science, technology and innovation culture;
- Europe provides opportunities for career development and advancement;
- Europe's industry and research organizations offer challenging opportunities to work in world-class environments;
- Europe offers attractive opportunities for women researchers.

The Conference is the first of a series of events planned for the USA and has been organized by the European Commission and the European Research Council, in consultation with EU Member States and the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Conference will be of particular interest to researchers interested in new options for developing their careers by moving to or returning to Europe. It will be an opportunity to engage in and contribute to the discussion with high-level policy makers, top researchers and business leaders. It will also be an opportunity to network and to exchange experiences with European researchers, with people who have already moved to/ returned to Europe and with major research funding organizations and employers.

For European research funders and employers it will be an opportunity to promote the opportunities they offer and to meet prospective applicants.

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

The conference will bring together about 250 people:

- researchers currently based in the USA;
- opinion leaders and representatives from leading US universities;
- multipliers from the EU networks working in the USA;
- representatives of the science diplomacy community and the media.

The keynote address will be delivered by Commissioner **Maire Geoghegan-Quinn**.

The conference will be structured in three plenary sessions:

Session 1: Europe: A vibrant place for frontier science

Focus: An overview of the richness of the European scientific landscape and culture; the political commitment to investment in research and innovation; and the reasons to consider working in Europe.

Session 2: Europe: Fertile soil for innovation

Focus: Opportunities for technology ventures and start-up firms, academia-industry cooperation.

Session 3: Europe: Career opportunities

Focus: Job opportunities; career development: grant schemes; mobility programmes; fellowships

Coffee breaks, a buffet lunch and a closing reception are foreseen for networking.

The Conference will take place back-to-back with the MIT European Career Fair (21 – 23 January 2012) at which over 100 European companies and research organisations participated last year.

REGISTRATION AND VENUE

THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HYATT REGENCY, 575 MEMORIAL DRIVE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, USA, 02139.

Participation is free but prior registration is essential.

DETAILED INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON THE DEDICATED WEBSITE OF THE CONFERENCE:

<http://destinationeurope.teamwork.fr>

DRAFT PROGRAMME

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"Destination Europe: Your Research & Innovation Opportunities"

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, 20 January 2012

8:00 - 8:45 **Registration and coffee**

9:00 - 9.10 **Opening/ Welcome** (moderator: **Lesley Wilson**, Secretary General of the European Universities Association)

Session 1 Europe: A vibrant place for frontier science

Focus: An overview of the richness of the European scientific landscape and culture; the political commitment to investment in research and innovation; and the reasons to consider working in Europe.

9.10 -11:40 **Donald Dingwell**, European Research Council (ERC), Secretary General
Dragos Mihael Ciuparu, President of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS), Ministry of Education, Research, Sport and Youth
John Wood, Chair of the European Research & Innovation Area Board, Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities
Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary General of the League of European Research Universities, Professor at K.U. Leuven, Belgium
Tim Hunt, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Cancer Research UK

Testimonials:

Jia Chen, Mount Sinai Medical School (former Fellow at LIARC/ Lyons, FR)
Jennifer Lyn Baker, ERC grantee from USA working in Denmark

Questions and Answers

11:40 -12:00 **Keynote address: Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn**

"Europe - your destination for research and innovation"

12:00 - 2:00 **Networking Lunch**

Session 2 Europe: Fertile soil for innovation

Focus: Opportunities for technology ventures and start-up firms, academia-industry cooperation.

2:00 - 3:45 **Willem Jonker**, CEO of "ICT Labs", European Institute of Innovation and Technology - Knowledge and Innovation Community; former Vice President of Philips Research
Peter Heffernan, Chief Executive, Marine Institute, Ireland
Arantxa Sanz Garcia, Head of Corporate Projects, Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), Spain

Testimonials:

Gitte Neubauer, CEO Cellzome, Winner of the EU Prize for Women Innovators, 2011
Sarah Lynn Wastell, ERC grantee from USA working in UK (University of London)
Eugene Freuder, Science Foundation Ireland Grantee, University College Cork, Ireland (tbc).

Questions and Answers

3:45 - 4:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

Session 3 Europe: Career Opportunities

4:00 - 5:45 Focus on job and working opportunities/ career development: grant schemes (ERC grants, national schemes), mobility programmes (e.g. Marie Curie, national schemes), fellowships.

Matthias Kleiner, President DFG, German Research Foundation
Riitta Mustonen, Vice-President Research Academy of Finland, chair of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation
Jean-Pierre Bourignon, Director, Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, Professor of Mathematics at the École Polytechnique, FR.

Testimonials:

Aziz Moqrich, ERC Grantee working in France (Institut de Biologie du Développement de Marseille-Luminy)
Stefan Bilbao, ERC grantee from Canada, working in the UK (Edinburgh University)
Aksam Merched, Beneficiary of Marie Curie grant to reintegrate into Europe (INSERM, FR).

Questions and Answers

5:45- 6:00 **Summing-up and conclusions (moderator)**

6.15- 7.15 **Networking Reception**