

## FLASH NOTE

Visit of RTD Delegation to Morocco, 28 September 2011

- **Sixth Joint S&T Committee Meeting with Morocco.** The steering committee meeting of the S&T Cooperation Agreement was convened together with the Sub-Committee meeting Research and Innovation under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. El Majid (Director of Technology) and Mr. Bochereau (Head of Unit International Cooperation Policy of DG RTD). The meeting was well structured, constructive and positive. Despite a decrease of Morocco's participation in FP7, there appears to be a clear vision and strategy for strengthening future research policy in the country. Morocco expressed its interest to increase cooperation in the area of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research. Mr. Bochereau seized the chance to announce the upcoming Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation expected to take place in Barcelona in April 2012.
- **Launching conference of the institutional twinning project "Appui au Système National de la Recherche au Maroc pour une intégration à l'Espace Européen de la Recherche"** funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The contract will last from 2011 to 2013 with a budget of **1.35 M€**. The main objective of this project is to improve the performance of the National Research System (SNR) in Morocco with the view to accelerate its integration in the European Research Area (ERA) and strengthening Moroccan participation in the Framework Programme. Morocco is twinning with France and Spain. Key people speaking at the conference were: **Mr. Akhchichine** (Moroccan Minister of National Education, Higher Education, Professional Education and Scientific Research), **Mr. Bourita** (General Secretary of the Moroccan Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation), **Mr. Landaburu** (Head of EU Delegation in Rabat), **Mr. Joubert** (Ambassador of France), **Mr. Navarro Gonzalez** (Ambassador of Spain) and the project managers. The event had strong media coverage (TV, radio, written press).
- **Meeting with Science, Technology and Innovation Counsellors of the EU Member States** at the EU Delegation. Member States present: Spain, France, Denmark, Germany, Italy and Poland. Mr. Bochereau shortly presented the state of affairs of research and innovation (Horizon2020, MFF2014-2020), debriefed on the Joint S&T Committee meeting with Morocco and invited the Member States to present their work on research and innovation in Morocco.