

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

June 2011

Issue Fourteen

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DG
DIRECTORATE D: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MONTHLY INFO FLASH ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES

POLICY

CSF: the international dimension

A consultation event on the international dimension of the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (CSF) was held in Brussels on 17 May. The event was attended by over 100 Brussels-based participants, including Ambassadors and Science Counsellors from international partner countries, representatives from international research organisations and from Brussels-based research liaison offices. The meeting was opened and chaired by Director-General Robert-Jan Smits and included an introductory speech by Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn and presentations from five representatives from a range of research-based organisations. The discussion highlighted the importance of the international dimension of research in addressing global challenges, including more industrial-based challenges, the need for capacity building in partner countries and increased synergy with European and international aid programmes, as well as the importance for international partner countries to invest in support services to facilitate the participation of their researchers in EU programmes. The need for simplification, including procedures for IPR and reporting, was also strongly emphasised by participants.

For more information, contact Laurent Bochereau

SFIC Annual Activity Report

The Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC) adopted its second Annual Report of Activities on 18 May. The report provides an overview on how the Commission and the MS have worked in partnership during 2010 to contribute to the European strategy on international S&T cooperation. This includes joint actions between Member States,

Associated countries and the EU such as the India pilot initiative focusing on 'water and bio-resource related challenges'; the conceptual development of cooperation priorities for the EU and its Member States with China and USA; and continued work on a thematic pilot initiative on energy focusing on the strategic cooperation with the EU SET-Plan (Strategic Energy Technology Plan).

For more information contact Sofie Norager

A common strategy towards China

The SFIC workshop on 'How to approach China', hosted by Finland and co-organised by Finland, Austria, Norway and the Commission, was held in Brussels on 3-4 May. The aim of the workshop was to make progress towards a more coherent EU/Member States strategy *vis-à-vis* China, notably to agree on policy priorities and a roadmap of actions. The conclusions of the workshop marked EU/Member States commitment to move forward to developing a common STI strategy for cooperation towards China. More specifically, participants stressed the need to raise the visibility of Europe in China, to develop a shared European Intelligence platform, to intensify mobility of researchers, to connect public and private sector ST&I activities, and to 'think big' when setting up joint initiatives on specific themes.

For more information contact Jean-Claude Thivolle

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn visits China

Research and Innovation Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, visited Shanghai and Beijing in the People's Republic of China in late May for a series of high-level meetings, including with the Minister of Science and Technology (MOST), Wan Gang, and the vice-

Minister Cao Jianlin, as well as with high-level officials from other Chinese Ministries. MOST representatives promised to take steps to increase the openness of Chinese research programmes to European entities and to foster researcher mobility programmes. The principle of a new EU-China taskforce on innovation was presented to the Chinese authorities as a possible deliverable of the China-EU Summit which will take place in Beijing in the autumn. This would focus on: (1) the networking of innovation clusters/industrial parks; (2) cooperation between SMEs, building on the Enterprise Europe Network which has already been expanded to China; and (3) cooperation on indicators to measure innovation performance and the impact of public research.

For more information, contact Mario Catizzone

Extending EU-Swiss relations

The Joint Switzerland-EU and Euratom Committee met for the 17th time in Brussels on 5 May to discuss Switzerland's future association to the CSF and Euratom FP7+2 (2012-13). It was noted that Swiss participation in Framework Programmes has been mutually beneficial. Switzerland has been a successful participant in the Framework Programmes since 1985 with a higher average success rate (26%) than the EU average (20.7%) in FP7. At the meeting, Switzerland confirmed its interest in associating to the Common Strategic Framework and to the Euratom FP for 2012-2013.

For more information, contact Minna Wilkki

EUC-AUC College to College meeting

The European and the African Union Commission Colleges will be meeting on 31 May – 1 June. The entire African Union College, led by their President, Jean Ping, will come to Brussels on this occasion. This two-day meeting will be the opportunity to follow-up on the third Africa-EU Summit (Tripoli 29-30 November 2010) and to define the priorities for STI cooperation between the two institutions for the year to come, notably in the framework of the newly adopted Action Plan (2011-2013) of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

For more information, contact Fadila Boughanémi

Development of STI in Africa

More than 800 participants attended the second session of the Committee on Development Information Science and Technology (CODIST II) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 2-5 May. The overall theme of CODIST-II was to explore the extent to which African countries have harnessed the power of innovation to enhance industrial development on the continent, and the extent to which industrial development has been linked to the countries' innovation systems. The meeting brought

together decision-makers, scientists, lawyers and journalists, representing African countries, national, international, regional and sub-regional organisations and development partners.

Recommendations were made to African Governments to: (1) reaffirm their commitments to STI and to demonstrate this commitment through budget allocations, in line with the previous African Union recommendation of 1% of GDP; (2) work closely with the private sector and financial institutions in monitoring national systems of innovation and industrial development in Africa; and (3) undertake capacity building activities for technology transfer and adaptation.

For more information, contact Fadila Boughanémi

IST-Africa 2011

Hosted by the Government of Botswana through the Department of Research, Science and Technology, supported by the European Commission and the African Union Commission, [IST-Africa 2011](#) took place in Gaborone, on 10-13 May. IST-Africa 2011, forms part of the IST-Africa Initiative, supported by the FP7 ICT Theme and is the sixth in a series of annual conferences, which bring together senior representatives from government, research and commercial organisations across Africa and Europe. The aim is to facilitate EU-African research cooperation and the successful exploitation of research results, to stimulate take-up of RTD results by industry, SMEs and the public sector, and to promote knowledge sharing between commercial organisations, government agencies and the research community, as well as exchanging experience, supporting international scientific cooperation and opening up the European Research Area to Africa.

For more information, contact Fadila Boughanémi or Thierry Devars, DG INFSO

The 2nd EU-ASEAN S&T dialogue

The second meeting of the EU Dialogue on Science and Technology with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held on 12 May in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The ASEAN delegation provided information on the new 'Krabai Initiative' for the 'Future of Science, Technology and Innovation for a Competitive, Sustainable and Inclusive ASEAN by 2015 and beyond', which aims to reinforce ASEAN competitiveness through research and innovation. The recent progress in EU-ASEAN cooperation through FP7, which stands at 110 successful participations, was noted. New dialogues between the ASEAN sub-committees and interested Themes of the Cooperation Programme were suggested to define potential priorities and topics of mutual interest. Finally, the

Committee endorsed the initiative for a 2012 ASEAN 'Science Year' proposed by the ['SEA-EU-NET'](#) INCO NET Project. One of the objectives of the Science Year will be to coordinate EU-Member States and ASEAN joint S&T events, and to launch a joint communication platform.

For more information contact Jean-Michel Sers or Tarik Meziani

Research cooperation with Kosovo (UN 1244/99)

On 12 May a sectoral dialogue meeting took place in Pristina to assess progress made on research and innovation policy as part of the overall implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Process with Kosovo. Despite the fact that Kosovo had declared research a priority policy last year, and adopted a National Strategy for Science, very few actions have been taken. The Ministry of Education and Science presented the national programme on funding research, which has a budget of 1 million euro. Kosovo views that their non-associated status as a barrier to benefit fully from FP7. The Commission emphasised that ICPC participants may participate fully in FP7, with funding, and underlined increasing participation also required efforts at national level to strengthen research capacity. An FP7 information day, with Commission support, is planned for later in the year, following the launch of the new calls in July 2011.

For more information, contact Tania Friederichs

Research with the Eastern Partnership

The fifth meeting of the Eastern Partnership 'Contacts between People' Platform, which covers cooperation in research, education, culture and information society issues, took place on 5 May. The meetings bring together delegates from the EU Member States and the six countries of the Eastern Partnership to discuss areas of mutual interest. Research and innovation featured strongly on the agenda, with discussions on the Innovation Union, the Green Paper on the Common Strategic Framework, the ERA-WIDE call, and the opportunities offered by the Marie Curie Actions as well as the forthcoming calls in the 2012 work programme.

For more information, contact Martin Penny

More solar energy for Japan

The Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan announced, during the recent G8 meeting a plan to install solar panels on all structurally eligible buildings and homes in Japan. This came just days after an 11.5 million euro research project on photovoltaics had been signed between the EU and Japan. The project, which aims to create 'a new generation of concentrator photovoltaic cells, modules and systems', came as a result of the first joint call by DG RTD and the

Japanese New Energy and Industrial Technology Organisation.

For more information, contact Maeve Barry, RTD Dir. K or Barbara Rhode EU Delegation, Tokyo

European Supercomputer in Rokkasho

On 16 May the installation of the EU supercomputer provided by the French CEA (France) started in Rokkasho, Japan. The computer which will be ready by the end of 2011, and will be amongst the most powerful supercomputers in the world (1 petaflop) will serve European and Japanese fusion researchers for the next five years. This installation marks an important milestone for Europe's contribution to the Broader Approach, the bilateral Agreement between Europe and Japan which complements the ITER international fusion project. Broader Approach activities consists of three projects, located in Japan and jointly funded by the EU and Japan, which aim to accelerate the arrival of the new energy source of nuclear fusion.

For more information, contact Denis O'Brien, RTD, Dir. K or Barbara Rhode EU Delegation, Tokyo

EVENTS

ACCESS4EU meeting

The German International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (DLR) organised a meeting of all FP7 [ACCESS4EU](#) projects in Bonn on April 14. The meeting aimed for a better coordination of common dissemination activities. All ACCESS4EU projects were represented either through their coordinators or through project partners, notably those responsible for dissemination. Overviews and the current state of all projects were discussed during the meeting, together with general issues affecting all projects, such as: the monitoring tasks being undertaken; the links between the projects and the Joint Committee meetings; common information days and national information days; and the need to increase awareness of the services offered by the projects.

For more information, contact Paul Vossen

EU aeronautics event attracts high international presence

The largest EU-Aeronautics research event ever, [Aerodays 2011](#), took place in Madrid on 30 March – 1 April under the title 'Innovation for Sustainable Aviation in a Global Environment'. The *ca* 1500 attendees were able to enjoy plenary sessions including the Head of NASA-Aeronautics and the Head of Chinese Aeronautics presenting on 'How the Global Scene is Evolving' together with top speakers from Canadian and Russian companies, and the Chief Technical Officers of Boeing and Airbus side by side with JTI Clean Sky Director in a session on 'Mastering

the Future in Aeronautics'. The event was opened by Commissioner Kallas and closed by Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn. Aerodays is an event co-organised every five years by the European Commission with a national research funding agency. Aerodays2011 included six plenary sessions and more than 50 parallel sessions, with the international dimension highly present. Three parallel sessions were focused on international cooperation with 'the Americas', 'Asia and Africa' and 'Russia and Ukraine'. Parallel high-level meetings took place between the Commission and delegations from China; NASA; Russia and Canada and parallel workshops and networking events were organised by Canadian and Mexican aeronautical organisations.

For more information, contact Pablo Perez-Illana, RTD Dir H

FP7 Health Information Day

On 9 June the Health Directorate of DG RTD will organise an Information Day on the FP7 Health Theme. The event, which will take place in Brussels, will highlight the new opportunities in the 2012 work programme which is due to be published in July. The information day will include a dedicated session on international cooperation in health research, as well as providing guidance on proposal preparation and management, and offering an opportunity for information exchange and networking.

For more information, contact Aziza Haas, RTD Dir F

Carrying out health research in third countries

A separate event 'Opportunities for doing Health research in Third Countries' [Access4EU info-session](#) will be organised by the Italian [Agency for the Promotion of European Research](#) in parallel to the Health Info Day. The session will provide participants at the Info Day with an overview of the funding opportunities for health research that exist outside Europe and the possibilities for accessing them.

For more information, contact Philippe Froissard or Aziza Haas, RTD Dir F

Information Events in South East Asia

A series of NCP Training events and FP7 Info Days for South East Asia (SEA) is planned to take place on

20-23 June in Indonesia and Thailand. The FP7 Info Day will take place on the first day and will include presentations by EU NCPs on plans for the upcoming calls for proposals, with a particular focus on topics of interest for SEA. A networking event between the SEA and European NCPs will also be held. On the second day, FP7 European NCPs will lead training on the thematic and horizontal aspects of FP7.

For more information, contact Tarik Meziani or Destriani Nugroho EEAS –Jakarta

SEA-EU-NET NCP training days

Two NCP training events are planned for June organised by the FP7 southeast Asia [SEA-EU-NET](#) project. An NCP training event will take place on 6-10 June in Bern, Switzerland and will feature cross-cutting issues on FP7, including how to set up and run an NCP network as well as overview of FP7 thematic areas and upcoming calls under the FP7 Cooperation programme. The event will continue in Brussels in conjunction with the Health Info Day and FP7 Health Research Partnering event with the aim of strengthening the cooperation between SEA Health NCPs and European NCPs.

For more information, contact Tarik Meziani

ERC around the world in 30 days

In June, the ERC will undertake an awareness campaign in four different countries in collaboration with the EU Delegation offices based in these countries. It will start in India with a campaign to reach out to some 3000 Indian researchers. An ERC delegation will also be visiting Beijing to meet with researchers from various Universities, as well as the Chinese Academy of Science and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. In June, the ERC will participate in the EU Science Counsellors' Meeting, held in the EU Delegation office to the U.S, in Washington DC. Finally the Head of the ERC Scientific Management Department will head for Brasilia to participate in the seminar 'Cooperation Brazil-EU: opportunities and perspectives', an event which celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Brazilian National Council for Science and Technology Development.

For more information, contact Samantha Christey, ERCEA

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (JUNE – JULY 2011)

Joint Committee Meetings			Regional Meetings		
16 June	Japan	Tokyo	31 May - 1 June	European and the African Union Commission College meeting	Brussels
29 June	Russia	Brussels			
7 July	Korea	Seoul	Other Meetings		
			20 June	SFIC	Brussels