

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

September 2011 Issue Sixteen

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DG DIRECTORATE D: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MONTHLY INFO FLASH ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

BILATERAL RELATIONS

EU-Russia Dialogue

The annual meeting of the EU-Russia Joint Committee took place in Brussels on 29 June, co-chaired by Robert-Jan Smits, DG RTD Director-General and Sergei Ivanets, Deputy-Minister in the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. Increasing cooperation in the areas of aeronautics, ICT and nano-technology were major agenda items, with agreement to work towards new coordinated calls in 2013 (ICT and aeronautics) and enhanced cooperation under the 2012 nanotechnology/materials work programme. The outcomes of the first meetings of the working groups in research infrastructures, e-infrastructure and researcher mobility were also presented, highlighting the potential for further cooperation in these fields.

For more information, contact Martin Penny

Space cooperation with Russia

The 6th Steering Board meeting of the EU-Russia Space Dialogue, involving the European Commission, the European Space Agency and the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) took place on 30 June at the ESA Space Research and Technology Centre site in Noordwijk, Netherlands. The strong Russian participation in the FP7 Space Theme was noted. Under the recent 4th call five proposals with six Russian partners were selected for negotiation. Two of those may particularly raise interest: namely the launch and operation of 50 cube satellites produced by universities from more than 25 countries and four continents with a Russian launcher in 2014; and a scientific venture of major Russian, EU and US research establishments to explore actions and

technologies to mitigate potential impacts from a collision of asteroids with our planet. The three parties stated also the progress towards an EU-Russia Cooperation Agreement in the area of global navigation satellite systems and noted the successful preparation of the first flight of the Soyuz launcher from the European spaceport in French Guiana with two Galileo satellites on board.

For more information, please contact Antoine Kopp, DG ENTR

EU and Member States' cooperation with Russia

The second version of a Compendium, setting out an overview of the support which is available for science and technology cooperation between the EU, its 27 Member States and Russia has been produced by the S&T team at the EU Delegation in Moscow together with the Embassies of the EU Member States in Moscow and with the support of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. It is targeted towards scientists and research organisations in the EU and in Russia who are interested in cooperating, and towards policy-makers and science managers requiring an insight into the agreements and programmes which underpin scientific cooperation between the EU and its Member States and Russia. The publication will shortly be available for download from the website of the [Delegation of the European Union to Russia](#)

For more information, contact Manuel Hallen, EU Delegation, Moscow

Joint Committee with Korea

The third EU-Korea Joint Committee took place in Seoul on 7-8 July, co-chaired by the DG RTD Deputy Director-General Rudolf Strohmeier and assistant vice-Minister K Cho from the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The meeting

focused on increasing cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including energy, industrial technologies, ICT and the mobility of researchers. Both sides confirmed that participation of their researchers in the programmes of the other party would balance cooperation and deepen collaboration in key areas such as hydrogen fuel cell and industrial technology applications. Interaction with industry was a priority for the EU delegation and meetings were also held with the Korean Chamber of Commerce, representatives of large Korean companies and EU-Korean Joint ventures. The meeting took place the week after the entry into force of the new EU-Korea Free Trade and Framework Agreements that should, in the longer term, boost research and innovation cooperation.

For more information, please contact Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, or Sunmi Lee, EU Delegation, Seoul

EU-Japan cooperation on Cooperative Systems

A Memorandum of Cooperation on 'Cooperative Systems in the Field of Intelligent Transport Systems' was signed by the DG Information Society and Media and the Road Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) in Lyon on 9 June. The Memorandum builds on previous successful cooperation and aims to identify the R&D areas that will benefit from a harmonised approach and which could be addressed by coordinated research activities. Both sides believe that Cooperative Systems based on vehicle-to-infrastructure and vehicle-to-vehicle communications can deliver significant benefits for all road users and the public, with surface transport becoming safer, more energy efficient and less polluting. Similar cooperation procedures have existed with the US Department of Transport since 2009. This Memorandum with Japan will now pave the way towards trilateral cooperation allowing the joint development of cooperative systems.

For more information, contact Eva Boethius, DG INFSO

EU-US Staff exchange in the area of ICT for Transport

In 2009 DG INFSO and the Research and Innovative Technology Administration of the US Department of Transportation ([USDOT](#)), signed an Implementing Arrangement to coordinate research on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for transport. Since then, the governmental bodies have exchanged information and set a working plan to coordinate efforts on safety applications, evaluation and test tools, driver distraction, and international standards harmonisation. The EU and the US are planning to

showcase the benefits achieved from the joint research at the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress in 2012 in Vienna. From June 2011 to August 2011, a first exchange of administrative staff took place, with the Team Leader for ITS research in USDOT working in the DG INFSO ICT for Transport unit, planning a coordinated call for research between the US and the EU in 2013. The exchange enabled a faster and more robust discussion on technical details of the joint work activities.

For more information, please contact Wolfgang Hoefs, DG INFSO

Agreement between the JRC and the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

A delegation from the [US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) discussed the strengthening of scientific collaboration with the JRC and members of the Cabinet of Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn in July in Brussels. The meeting is part of the preparations for a planned co-operation agreement between JRC and NOAA, expected to be signed this autumn. As a first step, a Letter of Intent (LoI) on increased co-operation was signed earlier this year by JRC Director-General Dominique Ristori and NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco.

For more information, contact Ole Ostermann, JRC

PROJECTS

Europe-Pacific Cooperation

The first bi-regional platform of the PACE-Net project was held in Brisbane from 5-7 July with more than 60 participants from Pacific ACP countries and overseas territories (OCT), New Zealand, Australia and Europe. PACE-Net is an FP7 INCO-Net project which aims to strengthen bi-regional S&T dialogue and increased cooperation in the natural and social sciences between Europe and the Pacific. The project consortium includes 11 research institutions from the EU and the Pacific region), as well as two Pacific regional organisations. Information on the analyses and inventories of the existing S&T cooperation programmes in the Pacific area were presented to the platform, as well as a range of European financial instruments. During the dialogue the Pacific representatives insisted on the importance of understanding Pacific region S&T priorities as a basis for developing actions of mutual interest with European partners. The next bi-regional platform is planned for March 2012 in Brussels.

For more information, contact Armand Beuf or Lynne Hunter, EU Delegation Canberra

The gender dimension in integrated water resources management

A workshop on the of gender dimension in integrated water resources management was organised in Brussels on 13-14 July, examining the lessons learned and challenges for the Mediterranean region. The project was the final step of the FP6 [GEWAMED](#) (Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region) project. The workshop included representatives from 16 countries of the Mediterranean region and addressed four major issues: (1) Gender and irrigation: Promoting gender mainstreaming in irrigated agriculture. What works?; (2) Contributing to Women Empowerment: How will women and men in agricultural development institutions empower themselves?; (3) Gender and Water Data: What gender differentiated data is available and needed and how to disseminate it?; and (4) The future of GEWAMED: Future action strategies and recommendations. Full information on the workshop is available on the [GERAMED website](#).

For more information, please contact Paul Vossen

EVENTS

Good practice in international cooperation

The DG RTD International Cooperation Directorate organised, on 16-17 June, a workshop on international cooperation projects in support of research and innovation policies and competence building. The workshop targeted four regions: Mediterranean; Sub-Saharan Africa; South-East Asia; and Latin America and the Caribbean region. The programme featured several FP thematic projects, the INCO-NET projects and a significant number of projects funded or run by other Directorates-General, including DG Development Cooperation, the Joint Research Centre and DG Health and Consumers, as well as actions of the European Investment Bank and the European Environmental Agency. The workshop was attended by some 160 participants, from 44 countries and four continents. A number of exploitable conclusions and recommendations were produced. These will contribute to the introduction of improved practices in international cooperation projects, to enhance synergies and increase complementarities between programmes funded by various funding instruments or mechanisms. The program and the presentations of the event are available on the [workshop website](#).

For more information, contact Elisabeth Lipiatou

FP7 Info Day in the US

The EU Delegation in Washington hosted an information event on 26 July following the official launch of the calls for the 2012 work programme. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the opportunities for US researchers to participate in FP7. The event was attended by the science counsellors from the EU Member States as well as representatives from federal agencies, research institutions and companies.

For more information, contact Astrid-Christina Koch, EU Delegation, Washington

FP7 information tour in Russia

The S&T team at the EU Delegation to Russia has co-organised and will present information on the latest FP7 calls at information meetings in eight Russian cities between 5 September and 4 October: Nizhny Novgorod, Yekaterinburg, Tomsk, Kazan, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, St. Petersburg, and Voronezh. Russian researchers and research organisations have a very strong record of participation in the Framework Programmes. This tour will contribute to maintaining and developing EU-Russian cooperation.

For more information, contact Manuel Hallen, EU Delegation, Moscow

Russian international aviation and space show

[MAKS](#) in Russia is one of the world's leading air shows, demonstrating the latest developments in Russian aeronautics and space technologies and providing access to the Russian market to foreign partners through joint projects. The 11th MAKS was held from 16-21 August and attended by some 800 companies from 40 countries and over 444,000 people. The event also included scientific conferences, roundtables and symposia. A workshop on 'Aviation Technologies of the 21st Century' included a presentation from the EU Science Counsellor in Moscow, providing an overview of the existing S&T cooperation between the EU and Russia and information on the recently issued FP7 calls in aeronautics.

For more information, contact Manuel Hallen, EU Delegation, Moscow

Eastern dimension of mobility

A Polish Presidency conference on the Eastern dimension of mobility in education, youth, research, culture and sport was held in Warsaw on 6-7 July. It was dedicated to the reinforcement of mobility, including the issues related to the broader access of participants from the six countries of the Eastern Partnership to the EU programmes in the areas of

education, youth, research, culture and sport. Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou addressed the conference and highlighted the need to support not only more student exchanges but also to strive to increase the mobility of teachers, young people, and researchers as well as professionals in the cultural sector. She pointed out that the instruments – Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, the FP7 Marie Curie Actions and Youth in Action – already exist and have all proven to be valuable for the free movement and exchange of ideas and knowledge. The Commissioner also reminded conference participants of the Commission's recent proposals to develop the

Neighbourhood policy to offer an ever closer relationship with the EU, and establish an area of stability built on prosperity and democracy. She noted that mobility and the contacts that it stimulates between people are essential to achieving these objectives. The Commission has proposed a substantial financial increase for the participation of neighbouring countries in all education, youth and culture programmes for the period 2012-2013. The conference also included

For more information, contact Kamila Partyka, DG EAC

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2011)

Joint Committee Meetings			Other Meetings		
28 Sep	Morocco	Rabat	5 Sep	SFIC India Group Meeting	Brussels
3-4 Oct	Canada	Ottawa	6 Sep	SFIC Priorities Task Force Meeting	Brussels
4 Nov	USA	Brussels	7 Sep	Consultation Meeting on the International Dimension of ERA	Brussels
8 Nov	Chile	Brussels	12 Sep	SIRIC	Brussels
17-18 Nov	Mexico	Mexico	21-22 Sep	Science Counsellors Annual Meeting	Brussels
Nov (date tbc)	Brazil	Brasilia	26 Oct	SFIC Meeting	Brussels
23 Nov	Ukraine	Brussels	9-10 Nov	Research Infrastructures Senior Officials Meeting	Cape Town
			11-13 Nov	Carnegie Group Meeting	Cape Town