

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

January 2012 Issue Twenty

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

POLICY

Carnegie Group Meeting

DG RTD Director-General Robert-Jan Smits represented Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn at the Carnegie Group of Science Ministers and Advisers of the G8+5 (South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, India, China) meeting in Cape Town on 11-13 November. The issues discussed were: international cooperation in STI to address global challenges; brain and knowledge migration policy; and building S&T capacities in the south; as well as the work of the Group of Senior Officials (GSO) on global research infrastructures. Whilst in Cape Town, the Director-General took the opportunity to visit the EDCTP Africa Office, and the Emavundleni Prevention Centre in Nyanga Township which has been funded through the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials partnership (EDCTP) for research in clinical trials in adolescents.

*For further information, contact Mary Kavanagh, DG RTD
Directorate D*

Research Infrastructures GSO Meeting

The Group of Senior Officials on Global Research Infrastructures (GSO) met in Cape Town on 9-10 November. DG RTD Director-General Robert-Jan Smits attended on behalf of the European Commission. The GSO is preparing a set of Guidelines for the governance of research infrastructures, such as: data collection and storage; IPR; funding; cost containment; 'sunset' clause; etc. The GSO expects to agree the guidelines in the first semester of 2012 and to submit the draft guidelines to the next Carnegie Meeting in November 2012.

*For further information, contact Elena Righi Steele, DG RTD
Directorate B*

12th SFIC Meeting

The Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC) [held its 12th meeting](#) on 16 December. The Commission gave an overview of the international dimension of Horizon 2020 and information on the planned Communication on 'Enhancing and focusing international cooperation in Research and Innovation'. The progress in the three pilot initiatives was examined: China (workshop on framework conditions for collaboration with China and exchange of views on the roadmap for a coherent EU/MS-China strategy); USA (an exchange of views on next steps for the pilot; the Polish Presidency event in Washington; and the 'Destination Europe' conference in Boston in January); and India (EU-India S&T cooperation days and stakeholder consultation on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda).

*For further information, contact Sofie Norager, DG RTD,
Directorate D*

Western Balkans Steering Platform

The Steering Platform for the Western Balkans Countries (WBC) took place on 1 December in Sarajevo. A presentation of the 'Horizon 2020' proposal, which had been adopted by the Commission the day before the meeting, was given. The platform was informed that the next Pre-Accession Instrument (2014-2020) should, in principle, allow for increased support for the WBCs to build research capacity and excellence. All WBCs expressed interest in future cooperation under Horizon 2020 and the Innovation Union, whilst recognising their need to take action to strengthen R&I capacity, participation in FP7 and the production of reliable S&T statistics. Research in second

generation bio-fuels was considered an area of particular interest for creating critical research mass in the WBC. The Steering Platform was asked to consider actions to facilitate the implementation of the research component (priority area 7) of the [EU Strategy for the Danube region](#). Finally, the [WBC.INCO.NET](#) project presented a survey on the innovation capacity in the region from which demonstrated that the landscape is very fragmented and in need of further financial support. The next meeting of the Steering Platform will be hosted by Albania in June 2012 and co-chaired by the European Commission and the Danish EU Presidency.

For further information, contact Michele Genovese or Tania Friederichs, DG RTD, Directorate D

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Joint Committee meeting with Israel

The sixth EU-Israel Joint Committee meeting took place on 29 November in Tel Aviv, co-chaired by Isi Saragossi, Director of International Cooperation, DG RTD, and Avi Hassan, Chair of the [ISERD](#) Steering Group. Given Israel's status as an FP7 Associated Country, the committee meeting dealt with a number of operational issues rather than focusing on research and innovation as such. Israel has a good record of participation in FP7 and in particular in ERC grants. The issue of participation in Joint Undertakings, where there are difficulties for Associated Countries fulfilling some of the requirements for membership of governing boards, was once again on the agenda. A practical methodology is being sought for applying the EU regulations on the governance of Joint Undertakings in Israel. In the meantime, it is clear that Israeli entities can participate in projects funded by Joint Undertakings. The issue of trilateral cooperation (EU, Israel and the Palestinian authority) was touched upon and well received in the field of R&I. In addition, the meeting recalled that Israeli entities need to be established within the pre-1967 borders of Israel to be eligible for EU funding.

For further information, contact John Claxton, DG RTD, Directorate D

Collaboration with Tunisia

The fifth [Joint Committee meeting with Tunisia](#) took place in Tunis on 13-14 December, co-chaired by Jejel Ezzine, Head of the International Cooperation Department in the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Laurent Bocheureau, Head of Unit for International Cooperation Policy in DG RTD. The meeting was carried out jointly with the sub-committee meeting on research, innovation and education established under

the [EU-Tunisia Association Agreement](#). The EU Delegation representatives underlined a complete change in attitude of our Tunisian interlocutors since the Arab Spring. Discussions have become transparent, dynamic and forward looking. Hope is expressed for improvement in the country and closer cooperation with the EU is one of the major aims. The Tunisian side provided information on its future aspirations in R&I: a clear strategy is in the process of being developed, with a focus on setting research priorities and the valorisation and commercialisation of research project results. Successful FP7 projects were also discussed: the Research Potential and ERA-Wide projects for their capacity-building benefits and for their concrete socio-economic impact and the [ARIMNET ERA-Net](#) for its capacity to coordinate activities and actors in the area of agriculture. It was agreed that a joint evaluation on the impact of the S&T Cooperation Agreement will be launched, which will include a reflection on the priority domains for future cooperation, regional perspectives and reciprocity. Finally, the preparations for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference that will take place in Barcelona on 2-3 April 2012 were discussed, in which Tunisia already plays an important role.

For further information, contact Nienke Buisman, DG RTD, Directorate D

EU-Egypt Year of Science and Innovation 2012

On 6 December the EU Delegation in Cairo, EU Member States and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research met to discuss the preliminary programme for the EU-Egypt Year of Science and Innovation. Eighteen representatives from the EU Member States attended the meeting, expressing willingness and enthusiasm to make the upcoming EU-Egypt Year of Science and Innovation a success. There are already more than 20 events proposed for 2012, mostly organised by the Member States. The official launch event of the Year is planned to take place in February.

For further information, contact Georges Papageorgiou, EU Delegation Cairo

EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Research Committee

The first EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Research Committee, established under the FP7 Association Agreement, took place on 2 December in Sarajevo. Bosnian participation in FP7 remains very low despite the association of the country in 2009. BiH explained that lack of national funding due to the political situation in the country stymies the building of research capacity and FP7 participation. Several FP7 information days have been organised through support from Austria and funding from the EU

Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA). IPA funding will also be used for the purchase of research equipment and for supporting SMEs. The Committee considered some measures on which BiH should focus, such as concentrating efforts on areas of regional interest, smart specialisation, as well as identifying success stories to stimulate R&I cooperation with European partners. Finally, BiH expressed interest in increasing cooperation with the JRC.

*For more information, contact Tania Friederichs, DG RTD
Directorate D*

Space Collaboration with Ukraine

The first meeting of the EU-Ukraine Space working group took place at the State Space Agency of Ukraine (SSAU) in Kyiv on 1-2 December. The meeting was co-chaired by Reinhard Schulte-Braucks, Head of Unit for Space R&D in DG Enterprise and Industry and Borys Atamanenko, Head of International Relations at SSAU. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss research priorities and identify areas of mutual interest for possible future collaboration. Three potential areas were identified relating to applications for GMES, space debris and materials for space-based systems. The next meeting of the working group is planned to take place in Brussels in November 2012.

For further information, contact Hartwig Bischoff, DG ENTR

Joint Committee meeting with South Africa

The [10th meeting of the South Africa-European Union Joint S&T Cooperation Committee](#) took place in Brussels on 8 December. The meeting was co-chaired by DG RTD Director-General, Robert-Jan Smits, and Phil Mjwara, the Director General of the South African Department of S&T, and reconfirmed the excellent level of cooperation, which has made S&T cooperation one of the flagships of the South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. South Africa highlighted its focus on finalising implementation plans for the grand challenges prioritised in its Ten-Year Innovation Plan, which would spell out specific focus areas for SA-EU cooperation. The EU side indicated that the Innovation Union policy would be a particular guiding principle for the work of the Commission. Both sides agreed that they shared a significant number of S&T policy priorities and challenges, especially with regard to harnessing innovation for economic competitiveness and increased social cohesion, and agreed to strengthen cooperation and continue a regular STI policy dialogue, which would allow mutually beneficial learning. The next Joint Committee meeting will take place in Pretoria in November 2012 and provide

the opportunity to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the S&T Cooperation Agreement.

*For further information, contact, Fadila Boughanemi, DG RTD,
Directorate D*

Increasing EU-Chile Cooperation

The [sixth meeting of the EU-Chile Steering Committee](#) of the bilateral S&T Cooperation Agreement took place 6 December in Brussels and discussed progress in cooperation, including the review of the last five years of the implementation of the agreement. The meeting was co-chaired by Isi Saragossi, Director of International Cooperation in DG RTD and José Miguel Aguilera, President of CONICYT, the National S&T Commission in Chile. It was noted that Chile has adopted FP7 evaluation criteria in its own proposal selection process. Specific new cooperation activities have been agreed in ICT and with the JRC. Investment in researcher mobility will also remain a focus of cooperation. Bi-regional cooperation was also addressed as Chile holds the presidency of the Latin America and Caribbean group of countries in the context of the EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation set up by the 2010 Madrid Summit.

*For further information, contact Cornelia Nauen, DG RTD,
Directorate D*

EU-Brazil Cooperation on innovation

A Letter of Intent between the EU and the Brazilian Ministry of STI on Industrial Innovation and Cluster Strategies was signed on 15 December. Both parties acknowledge that industrial innovation and clusters strategies are at the heart of economic competitiveness and agree to establish a dialogue. Both parties will support the organisation of events, such as conferences, training, 'matchmaking' events, in order to identify specific projects or partnerships, which may lead to industrial innovation or joint venture cooperation.

*For further information, contact Angel Landabaso Alvarez, EU
Delegation Brasilia*

New mobility programme in Brazil

On 13 December, the Brazilian President Dilma Roussef launched a new programme 'Science without Borders', to mobilise 100,000 Brazilian students, researchers and innovators, to go abroad for training over the period 2011-2014.

*For further information, contact Angel Landabaso Alvarez,
Delegation Brasilia*

Europe-China R&I cooperation: risk free or too risky?

The SFIC workshop 'Improving framework condition for successful cooperation with China' was held on 15 December in Brussels organised by EU Member

States and the European Commission (DGs Research and Innovation, Trade and Enterprise and Industry). It gathered a large number of participants from EU Member States research and innovation authorities, representatives of interested DGs and specialists on China from public R&D institutions and the private sector. The workshop objectives were to: develop a better understanding of existing framework conditions (intellectual property, standards, public procurement) that are encountered when working with China; share EU/Member States experiences (especially through research industry partnerships) and lessons learned through existing cooperation; define the areas requiring joint actions to allow better protection of European STI interests; and to promote a level playing field with China in research and innovation.

For further information, contact Jean-Claude Thivolle, DG RTD, Directorate D

PROJECTS

ERAfrica Funding Parties Workshop

The FP7 ERA-NET project '[Developing African-European Joint Collaboration for Science and Technology \(ERAfrica\)](#)' will organise a workshop for funding parties on 18 January in Alexandria, Egypt. The workshop represents the main aim of the project to design effective funding and cooperation programmes to strengthening European-African S&T cooperation. The expected outcome of the workshop is to reach consensus amongst potential funding parties (programme owners and managers) from Europe and Africa on the nature, topics and financial modalities of the joint activities to be scheduled by the ERAfrica project.

For more information, contact Gerasimos Apostolatos, DG RTD Directorate D

Regional R&I Dimension in the Western Balkans

The first meeting of a project to support the regional dimension of R&I policy in the Western Balkans Countries took place in Belgrade on 23-25 November. The project, which is funded through the EU Pre-Accession Instrument, will be implemented by the World Bank which has good experience of building R&I capacity in the region. Common areas of interest were identified, including the need for a training centre for research managers and actions to target the global diaspora of researchers from the region. The next meeting will take place in early 2012, in conjunction with DG Enlargement.

For further information, contact Tania Friederichs, DG RTD, Directorate D

EVENTS

Enhancing Europe-USA collaboration

The conference 'Science and Technology Landscape in a Changing World – Enhancing US Collaboration with the EU and its Member States' was held on 12 December in Washington DC under the auspices of the Polish Presidency and organised with the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC), the EU Delegation in Washington, science counsellors from EU Member States and in cooperation with the [AAAS](#). The conference provided the opportunity to review existing experiences and to explore perspectives to enhance transatlantic collaboration in R&I. Having common values, strong links and well established relations, Europe/US S&T cooperation is well placed to fully use the potential and creativity on both sides of the Atlantic. Synergies can be promoted by all partners developing common priorities and pooling their resources effectively and building on existing platforms e.g. in the area of energy or health. Member States, the EU and the US participants underlined the need of global partnership in order to tackling existing and future challenges.

For further information, contact Ludger Viehoff DG RTD, Directorate D or Astrid Koch, EU Delegation Washington

Europe-India Workshop

The SFIC India Group meeting and the Europe-India S&T Days took place in Vienna from 30 November to 2 December. The S&T Days workshop, which was organised by the three India FP7 International Cooperation projects: [ERA-Net 'New INDIGO'](#); [Access4EU 'India Gate'](#); and [Bilat 'EUINEC'](#); saw the participation of high quality speakers and a strong participation from India. The workshop also featured a series of successful face-to-face meetings between researchers and stakeholders from Europe and India. The S&T Days provided the first public occasion for presenting Europe's view on the EU/MS-India Strategic Agenda for R&I and was an effective forum for policy makers to meet with projects, researchers and innovators and to discuss how different actors and stakeholders can contribute to the common goal of reinforcing research and innovation links between Europe and India.

For further information, contact Diego Sammaritano, DG RTD Directorate D

European Researchers in China

A workshop on fostering the mobility of EU researchers to China took place at the EU Delegation in Beijing on 7 December. Participants shared their experiences and views about coming to China, adapting to the Chinese research environment and the

implications for their professional development. The panel speakers leading the discussions included researchers as well as funding programme managers from both Europe and China and from the public and private sector. The event marked the 2nd anniversary of EURAXESS Links China at which Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Beijing, Carmen Cano, launched a brochure on EU-China mobility schemes and a booklet for researchers on IPR issues in China.

For further information, contact Jessica Mitchell EU Delegation, Beijing

Korean National Commission on S&T

The Korean National Commission on S&T (NSTC) was created earlier this year. It aims to coordinate S&T policies among ministries, and promote budget prioritisation for research. Sun Wang Kim, the NSTC Standing Commissioner, paid his first visit to the EU on 5-6 December and met several high-level officials from DGs RTD and Enterprise and Industry, as well as the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and the European Parliament. The issues discussed ranged from areas of mutual interest for cooperation in basic research, pre-normative research and standardisation. The exchange of views underlined the need to increase cooperation with Korea. It was noted that Korea has set a target for an R&D expenditure of 5% of GDP by 2012.

For further information, contact, Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, DG RTD, Directorate D

Russian rocket lifts off from Europe's spaceport

On 17 December the Russian Soyuz rocket carrying six international satellites successfully took off from Europe's Kourou spaceport in French Guiana. This is the second launch of a Russian rocket from the European Spaceport carried out within the framework of EU-Russia cooperation on space launches. Going forward, it is expected that two to four similar launches will take place every year.

For further information, contact Manuel Hallen, EU Delegation Moscow

Russian rocket for ESA-NASA Mars mission

After a series of meetings with ESA and NASA representatives, the Russian Federal Space Agency

(Roscosmos) informed that it was prepared to provide a Proton rocket for launching the ExoMars (Exobiology on Mars) mission in 2016. In exchange Roscosmos has requested that Russian scientists participate in the project on an equal basis with researchers from ESA and NASA. Two working groups have been tasked with discussing the further details of Russia's participation in the project, and are scheduled to present the results of their work in February 2012.

For further information, contact Manuel Hallen, EU Delegation Moscow, Directorate D

EBO Visit to Brussels

Under the coordination of DG Enterprise and Industry, the [European Business Organisations \(EBO\)](#) visited DG RTD during their meeting in Brussels on 21-23 November to discuss potential opportunities under FP7. EBO is a global network created between representatives of EU business associations in non-EU countries. The delegation included representatives from Asia and South America and discussed joint interests on issues including renewable energy, energy efficiency, ICT integration and infrastructures, as well as the mobility of scientists and the development of highly-skilled workforces. The EBO members are key actors in their respective countries in promoting awareness on EU research projects and programmes.

For further information, contact, Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, DG RTD, Directorate D

STI Support Staff Training

On 28-29 November DG RTD organised a training session for support staff working on STI in EU Delegations. Nine colleagues attended from eight delegations for the first training of its kind. Subjects covered included the Horizon 2020 proposal, the Innovation Union, the ERA Framework; the CORDA database and the work of the JRC, DG Information Society and Media and the European Research Council.

For further information, contact Mary Kavanagh, DG RTD Directorate D

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS JANUARY – MARCH 2012

Joint Committee Meetings			Other Meetings		
6 Feb	Serbia	Belgrade	16-17 Jan (tbc)	EU-African Union JEG 8	Alexandria, Egypt
			20-21 March	EU-LAC SOM	Concepción, Chile