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INFORMATION FLASH ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORATE

POLICY

EU and China Agree to Enhance their Cooperation on Innovation

A [joint declaration](#) on a new European Union-China High level Innovation Cooperation Dialogue was signed on the occasion of the 15th EU-China Summit.



Signature of the Joint Declaration by EC Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Maire Geoghegan Quinn and China Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Wan Gang

Through this new mechanism, both sides intend to exchange best practices and ideas on innovation strategies, and jointly encourage and support cooperation on research and innovation activities. On the EU side, the dialogue will be led by Maire Geoghegan Quinn Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science and will involve all EU relevant services. On the Chinese side, it will be led by the Ministry of Science and Technology and will be composed of representatives of concerned governmental bodies.

This dialogue will fully involve industry, universities and research institutions in order to complement mutual strengths and deliver 'win-win' partnership results in key areas such as human resources, skills, technology, research infrastructures, the financing of innovation, exploitation of research findings and entrepreneurship.

Particular attention will be paid to framework conditions, including IPR, standards, symmetrical opening of R&D programmes, etc. with the view to promoting mutual trust and benefit.

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Communication on EU International Strategy for Research and Innovation Adopted

On 14 September 2012 the Commission adopted a Communication on *'Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: a strategic approach'* (COM(2012) 497).



This Communication sets out a [new strategy](#) for international cooperation in research and innovation, in the perspective of implementing Horizon 2020. The Communication is accompanied by a Staff Working Document providing further background information and analysis.

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Accession Negotiations with Montenegro on the R&I Chapter: First Steps Completed

During a two day session in Brussels, all of Montenegro's laws, policy actions and measures were screened to assess whether the country is in a position to take up the EU *acquis* on Research and Innovation.

The Commission presented the actions and measures taken under the EU Research Programmes and the European Research Area (ERA and Innovation Union-IU). The Montenegro side explained how they are matching these actions in order to strengthen their R&I capacity to facilitate integration in the ERA and contribute to the IU.

This exercise revealed that Montenegro is already well informed on EU policy, and has made substantial efforts to implement measures inspired by EU policy actions, in particular in the area of human capital and research infrastructures. Further efforts are needed on research investment, particularly by the private sector.

The screening report will be drawn up with DG ELARG. The EU Council will then decide by unanimity on the next steps for accession negotiations on R&I, as well as on other chapters. Timing and deadline for Montenegro's accession to the EU have not yet been set.

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Sixth EU-Moroccan Joint S&T Committee Meeting

The sixth EU-Moroccan Joint S&T Committee meeting took place in Brussels on 12 September. It was co-chaired by the Commission and by Zayer El Majid, Director for Technologies, Ministry for Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Training for Executives.

The two sides exchanged information on recent developments in R&I policy and programmes. The Commission stressed the new opportunities for cooperation under Horizon 2020. Morocco presented its National Strategy for Development 2025 and its new Action Plan for RTDI 2013-2016, which focuses on how best to use research in response to socio-economic needs and challenges. Both sides restated the principles of their partnership (co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefits). They discussed current projects as well as possible future areas of bilateral, regional and bi-regional cooperation.

Morocco is the second most active FP7 partner in the Mediterranean region. It is involved in a total of 69 projects, including Food, agriculture and biotechnologies (18) and Environment (14). So far, 25 Moroccan institutions have participated in Marie Curie Actions (2007-2012), receiving a budget of €1.3 million. Fifteen Moroccan researchers have been funded in Marie Curie Actions (2007-2012).

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EVENTS

EU Delegation to Russia regional outreach campaign on research cooperation

Between June and September 2012, the S&T section of the EU Delegation to Russia, in cooperation with Russian universities, organised information seminars in 10 Russian cities (Arkhangelsk, Chelyabinsk, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad, Moscow, Perm, Rostov-on-Don, Saransk, St. Petersburg and Voronezh), to raise awareness among Russian scientists on funding opportunities under FP7



Information seminar at the Perm State National Research University

The meetings provided an overview of FP7, providing information on the recent calls, and practical advice on how to participate in FP7, to the researchers and university departments in these Russian regions.

Over the years, Russia continues to be the most successful international cooperation partner in FP7 in terms of number of participations, of budget, and of the number of collaborative actions (joint and coordinated calls) launched. To date, 475 Russian scientists participate in 302 FP7 projects.

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'ERC Goes Global' in Russia

On 17-22 September, the European Research Council (ERC) visited Russia as part of its "ERC Goes Global" campaign. These meetings aimed at informing top Russian researchers about ERC funding opportunities, and at fostering relations with Russian organisations.

The delegation was headed by Professor Donald Dingwell, ERC Secretary General, who declared: *"Russia with its longstanding tradition in science remains one of the world's research hotspots. That is why the ERC is very pleased to visit Russia; we are here to forge closer ties, learn from each other and raise the levels of support for our very best researchers. We are keen to encourage excellent Russian scientists to perform some of their research in Europe, to contribute to global 'brain circulation' and to exchange of the best scientific ideas."*



ERC presentation at the Russian Academy of Sciences

The delegation visited the most prestigious universities and research institutes in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Novosibirsk (including the Ioffe Institute, St. Petersburg State University, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Foundation for Basic Research, Moscow State University, Higher School of Economics, Novosibirsk State University and institutes of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Akademgorodok).

Professor Dingwell was accompanied by ERC Vice-President Professor Pavel Exner and by Russian ERC grant holder Professor Sergej Zilitinkevich, who holds both an ERC Advanced Grant and a Russian Megagrant.

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Information Campaign Raises Awareness on EU Research across 31 Cities in India

Building on the successful 2011 campaign, the EU and its Member States organised together another series of information seminars throughout India on 10-28 September. The objective of these events was to raise awareness among the Indian research and innovation communities about the opportunities available to them in EU Research, including mobility schemes for Indian students and researchers, and partner search tools.



Philippe De Taxis Du Poët, Science Counsellor in Delhi, presents cooperation opportunities with Europe, together with Dr João Cravinho, EU Ambassador to India, Mr. Harald Sandberg, Swedish Ambassador to India, Mr Jaak Aaviksoo, Estonian Minister for Education & Research and Mrs S Relia, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Department of S&T, Government of India

This year's campaign included 36 half-day events in 31 cities. It provided information on EU and MS cooperation programmes, instruments and schemes with India – information also made available on the Delegation's web site and Facebook page.

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Director General Robert-Jan Smits Meets with Dr. Ramasami, Secretary of the Indian Department of Science and Technology

On 19 September, DG RTD Director General Robert-Jan Smits met with the Secretary of the Indian Department of Science and Technology Dr. Ramasami to exchange views on recent developments in Research and Innovation policies in India and the EU, and to prepare the forthcoming EU-India S&T Joint Committee Meeting scheduled to take place in Delhi on 11 October.

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FP7 Awareness Campaigns in South Asia

In addition to this nation-wide information campaign, the EU Delegation in India organised two additional awareness-building events in September, in Pakistan and Nepal.

In Pakistan, the Ministry of Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Pakistan Science Foundation and the EU Delegation, organised a one-day seminar on FP7 in Islamabad on 13 September. Over 250 delegates participated in the seminar, including Vice Chancellors of leading universities, Heads of R&D organisations, representatives of international organisations and UN agencies, NGOs, and Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The seminar provided key information on EU Research, project participation and funding opportunities

In Nepal, Alexander Spachis, Head of the EU Delegation to Nepal, presented FP7 funding opportunities for Nepalese research institutes at the Sixth National Conference on Science and Technology, organised on 25 September by the Nepalese Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Nepalese Ministers, and eminent scientists.

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Research for Sustainable Urbanisation – Turning Challenges into Opportunities

This event, organised by DG Research and Innovation, took place on 19 September in Brussels as part of the EU-China Mayors' Forum. The objective of this workshop was to discuss the challenges of sustainable urbanisation in Europe and in China, and to highlight the role of European Energy Research Alliance Joint Programme for Smart Cities, the Research Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe, and the FP7 URBACHINA project.



Speakers and Chinese panellists

The workshop, which gathered 70 participants, presented new joint approaches from EU and China to address the challenges of urbanisation, both from a technological and from a socio-economic perspective.

It focused on systemic and integrative solutions, ranging from scientific foresight and evaluation, to new methodologies and implementation at the level of cities, in particular in the field of energy. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen EU-China research and policy collaboration on sustainable urbanisation, and to reinforce an effective science policy dialogue between key actors.

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EU Research Cooperation Opportunities Presented at the International Techmart in Vietnam

Techmart Technology Fairs, organized every year in Vietnam, aim at building bridges between research and innovation organisations, universities and the private sector. This year's International Techmart, which took place from 20 to 23 September in Hanoi, was the first of its kind explicitly open for international participation.

In the context of this Technology Fair, DG DEVCO, DG RTD and the National Agency for Science & Technology Information of Vietnam (NASATI) organised a scientific conference on green technology and food security, as well as a workshop for policy-makers on research to innovation ("R2I") measures. This event was attended by over 150 participants and was opened by Vietnam's Vice-Minister of Science & Technology, Nghiem Vu Khai and Andrea Rossi, Head of the Political, Press and Information Section of the EU's Delegation to Vietnam.

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EU-Russia Rail Research Workshop, 16–18 October 2012, Moscow

Rail research is an area of considerable interest for the EU and Russia, for both the research community and industry. In that context, the first EU-Russia Rail Research Workshop, will be organised on 16–18 October 2012 in Moscow. The main aim of the Workshop is to bring together experts in the field of rail research to present existing research, as well as to identify areas for future, collaboration to be undertaken under the next Framework Programme, Horizon 2020 (2014-2020).

The workshop is organised by DG RTD and DG MOVE, together with the Russian Rail Research Institute VNIIZhT. The event will include four parallel sessions in which EU and Russian experts will present relevant activities in their field, followed by a brainstorming session in which potential topics for future research will be explored.

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Swiss Science Briefing on "Reaching Out to the World"

On 26 September in Brussels, the Mission of Switzerland to the EU and SwissCore organised a Swiss Science Briefing on 'Reaching out to the world' through International Cooperation in Science and Technology

Roberto Balzaretti, Swiss Ambassador to the EU, welcomed 60 representatives from European institutions and national representations, and underlined the increasing importance of science and technology in diplomacy. Speakers included Mauro Moruzzi, Head International Affairs, Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research, Jean-Luc Barras, Head of Division International Co-operation, Swiss National Science Foundation, and Laurent Bochereau, Head of Unit, International Cooperation Directorate, DG Research and Innovation. The presenters underlined the key role of Swiss and European international cooperation in S&T, and outlined the new opportunities offered by the forthcoming Horizon 2020.

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Conference on Higher Education in Croatia

The European Commission will hold in November a conference on Higher Education in Croatia, under the auspices of the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training. At the first meeting of the Platform in March 2012, Ministers of Education from the region agreed that Higher Education modernisation was their top priority. As a follow up, the Commission will organise a large regional conference, inviting key stakeholders including senior government officials, heads of universities and research centres, representatives from industry, as well as student organisations, NGOs, and members of the civil society.

The conference will focus, *inter alia*, on the employability of graduates, including doctoral candidates. The link between higher education and research, and between education and the world of work, will be discussed. Participants will include Western Balkans representatives and alumni of doctoral-level research training funded by the FP7 Marie Curie Actions. These Initial Training Networks recruit early-stage researchers from anywhere in the world and provide them with international training experience. The programme exposes trainees to research excellence, as well as to experience outside academia - a very valuable asset particularly for researchers in the Western Balkans area.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012)

<i>Joint Committee Meetings</i>		
October/November (TBC)	Moldova	Brussels
11 October	India	New Delhi
15-16 October	Australia	Brussels
6 November	South Africa	South Africa
16 November	China	China
4 December	USA	Washington
17 December	Israel	Brussels
<i>Regional Dialogues</i>		
6-8 November	EU-AU JEG 8	Cape Town
19-20 November	MOCO/UfM	Malta
6 December	Western Balkan Countries	Belgrade

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