

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UPDATE

September 2013

Issue 37

INFORMATION FLASH ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORATE

POLICY

EU-Russia Joint S&T Cooperation Committee Meets in Brussels

The yearly meeting of the EU-Russia Joint S&T Cooperation Committee took place in Brussels on 28 June 2013. It was co-chaired by Laurent Bochereau, Acting Director, International Cooperation Directorate, DG RTD, and Evgeny Ugrinovich, Director, International Cooperation Department, Russian Ministry of Education and Science.

This was a very constructive meeting with a key strategic partner – the main third country participant in FP7, both in terms of funding and number of participations. On this occasion, both sides exchanged information on recent developments and perspectives of their S&T policies. They reviewed the main achievements in joint S&T cooperation, notably the recent mission by EU experts, organised by DG RTD, to assess cooperation potential with the 6 Russia “Megascience” projects. They also discussed the state of play on the implementation of their respective funding mechanisms for S&T, Horizon 2020 and the Russian Federal Targeted Programmes for research.

Both sides agreed to reinforce cooperation in three jointly identified “flagship” priorities of mutual interest, aeronautics research, ICT and Research Infrastructures, as well as in the field of researchers’ mobility. They took stock of the excellent report, soon to be published, by a joint team of independent EU and Russian experts who assessed the workings of the EU-Russia S&T Cooperation Agreement due for renewal in February 2014, and discussed the follow-up actions to be taken by both sides toward the renewal of that important Agreement.

A key point of the agenda was the preparation of the EU-Russia Year of Science (*vide infra*), and in particular of the preparation of the launch event in Moscow on 25 November 2013 with Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn and Russian Education and Science Minister Livanov.



Vladimir Chizhov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the EU; Evgeny Ugrinovich, Director for International Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Science; Director-General Robert-Jan Smits, Prof. Mickhaïl Ugrumov, Head of Multilateral Cooperation, Russian Academy of Science

During the meeting, and on the occasion of the follow-up lunch offered by Director General Robert-Jan Smits, in the presence of V. A. Chizhov, Russian Ambassador to the EU, the Russian side proposed to raise the profile of this launch event, by inviting all Research Ministers from EU Member States, as well as Heads of EU and Russian Science Academies and Research Councils.

*For further information, please contact
Patrick Vittet-Philippe, Russia Desk, DG RTD, Directorate D
Richard Burger, EU Delegation in Moscow*

EU-Russia Year of Science 2014: Count-down to Launch on 25 November 2013 in Moscow

At the 30th EU-Russia Summit on 21 December 2012 in Brussels, EU and Russian leaders agreed to make 2014 the “EU-Russia Year of Science”. In the words of European Commission President José Manuel Barroso “*this year, to be jointly organised across the EU and Russia, will celebrate the vibrant and multifaceted science and technology cooperation between the EU, our Member States and the Russian Federation. Involving scientists, research organisations, innovators and the*

wider public, the EU-Russia Year of Science will directly build on Russia's strong involvement in the current EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development."

Under the subtitle "A year-long series of events and initiatives to promote EU-Russia cooperation in research, higher education and innovation", the EU-Russia Year of Science will celebrate the long-standing cooperation and joint achievements in research and innovation between Russia, the EU and EU Member States. About 200 events are planned in both Russia and EU Member States. Some will be dedicated events, others will include a strong focus and /or special sessions on EU-Russia S&T cooperation. Key events already on the programme include

- 25-27 November 2013: three-day kick-off event (Moscow) including the launch ceremony on 25 November, a high-level scientific conference on 26 November, and the launch of the ERA.Net RUS Plus project on 27 November
- February 2014: EU-Russia Technology Platforms Conference (Moscow)
- 14 March 2014: 2nd European Innovation Convention (Brussels)
- 21-22 June 2014: Annual Conference of the European Science Events Association, EUSCEA (Copenhagen)
- 21-26 June 2014: ESOF - Euroscience Open Forum 2014 "Science Building Bridges" (Copenhagen)
- June 2014: ITER Council Meeting (St Petersburg)
- July 2014: Triple Helix XII International Conference (Tomsk)
- July 2014: EU-Russia Creative Industries Forum (Moscow/Brussels)
- September 2014: EU-Russia Researchers' Mobility Forum (Brussels)
- September 2014: EU-Russia Foresight Conference (Moscow)
- October 2014: All Russia Science Festival (Moscow, Kursk, Rostov-on-don, Vladivostok)
- October 2014: 360° International Science Film Festival (Moscow and other cities)

Scientific and science communication organisations from the EU and Russia, as well as research projects, are invited to submit proposals for events to be included in the Year of Science 2014 programme by using the Year's bilingual web site, which will go live early September. Ideas for original events to engage the scientific community and the wider public are warmly welcome, and will receive high visibility.



Variants for ml-07a

For additional information on the above events and on other events under preparation, to submit ideas and proposals, and to learn more on EU-Russia S&T Cooperation, please visit

<http://eu-russia-yearofscience.eu/>
<http://godnauki-rossiya-ec.ru>

*For further information, please contact
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Statement by the European Union following the first round of talks on Israel's association to Horizon 2020

The first round of negotiations between the European Union and Israel on Israel's participation in Horizon 2020 –the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) took place in Israel on 14 August 2013.

Israel has already been associated to the 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), FP7. The Horizon 2020 Programme which will provide European Union funding for research and innovation activities in the years 2014-2020 will be open to association of third countries which were associated to FP7. Terms and conditions of such association, which include the financial contribution of a third country to Horizon 2020, need to be agreed between the Union and Israel. To that end the Union and Israel are engaging in negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding

The first round of negotiations was limited to exploratory talks on technical and financial aspects of the Horizon 2020. Discussions on the territorial scope of the future Memorandum and the application of the Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards to Horizon 2020 will start during the second session of negotiations which should take place in Brussels in September.

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

6th Joint Steering Committee Meeting on Science and Technology and Innovation Cooperation between the European Union and Brazil

The Sixth EU-Brazil Joint Steering Committee meeting took place in Brussels on 26 and 27 June 2013. At the last Brazil-EU Summit in January 2013 the leaders of Brazil and the European Union had called for the Joint Steering Committee meeting to *upgrade and more strategically focus bilateral cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation*. At the meeting, the Committee took the decision to step up cooperation and establish specific working groups in marine research; food security, sustainable agriculture and bio-economy; and energy.

These working groups received as a mandate to engage in a stock taking exercise, identify joint actions and timelines for implementation, as well as to monitor and report on implementation. Cooperation will also be stepped up in nanotechnologies and innovation.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share information on the many ongoing successful cooperative activities and to exchange ideas on possible future developments. In concluding the meeting, both sides reaffirmed the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation in addressing shared economic, environmental and societal challenges within the context of the overall EU-Brazil relations.

For further information, please visit the [website](#) or contact Sigi Gruber DG RTD, Directorate D

EU-Member States-India GSO Thematic Groups Launched

In the perspectives of the EU/MS-India meeting of the Group of Senior Officials (GSO) scheduled for 8 October 2013, joint thematic groups were set up under the leadership several Member States: Denmark for Health, the Netherlands for Environment/Water, and France for Energy. The thematic groups are working on the definition of a shared research and innovation agenda which will be the basis for launching EU/MS-India flagship initiatives in the areas concerned. A physical meeting of the health thematic group is planned on 10-11 September in Copenhagen co-chaired by Mogens Hoerder on behalf of the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education and by W. Selvamurthy, President, Amity Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation (ASTIF), Amity Univ., Noida.

For further information, please contact Philippe de Taxis du Poët or Diego Sammaritano, DG RTD, Directorate D

Boosting JRC Cooperation with US partners

The visit to the US by Dominique Ristori, Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in July 2013, gave a new impetus for strengthening the scientific cooperation with key US partners.

The JRC and the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) signed on 17 July in Washington an Implementing Arrangement, aimed at expanding their scientific cooperation on standards and measurements to ten different areas, such as energy, transport, climate and healthcare.



Photo credit: K. Delak/NIST

Ch. Fattah, US Congressman, P. Gallagher, Director of NIST, D. Ristori, JRC Director-General, Ms E. Herczog, MEP, at the signing of the JRC-NIST Implementing Arrangement (Washington, US Congress 17 July 2013)

In the framework of the JRC cooperation with the US Department of Energy (DoE), an Interoperability Centre (IOC) for electric vehicles and smart grids was launched on 18 July at the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), in Chicago.



Photo Credit: Mark Lopez.

G. DeSanti, Director, JRC-IET, D. Ristori, JRC Director-General, Ph. Yoshida, DoE Deputy Assistant Secretary, E. Isaacs, ANL Director

A second IOC will be launched at JRC in Ispra (Italy) in 2014. Converging standards and interoperability between smart grids and electric vehicles should allow for increased use of renewable energies in electricity systems, thus helping open the way to a low-carbon economy.

For further information, please contact Monika Nauduzaitė, JRC, Joint Research Centre

EU-China Innovation Co-operation Dialogue

A joint EU-China expert meeting took place in Brussels on 24-25 June 2013 with a view to prepare the first meeting of the High-Level Innovation Cooperation. The meeting, co-organised by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and DG RTD was attended by colleagues from several relevant EC services. It marked an important step in the shaping up of the High-Level Innovation Cooperation Dialogue to be held back to back with the EU-China Summit on 20 November 2013. The meeting was a success and resulted in a series of recommendations to promote EU-China cooperation in the area of Innovation Policy and Strategy, in particular on key issues such as mutual access to funding, Intellectual Property Right (IPR) and standardization.

*For further information, please contact
Jean-Claude Thivolle or Diego Sammaritano,
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EVENTS

4th INCO Conference in Marseille, France

The 4th INCO Conference, "Strengthening international cooperation in Research & Innovation Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mediterranean Partner Countries" and the annual meeting of the National Contact Points for international cooperation (INCO NCPs) took place in Marseille, France on 17 – 19 June 2013. It focused on the future of international cooperation in Research and Innovation in Horizon 2020.

The event brought together a diverse range of experts working in the field of International research co-operation from all over the world. It was attended by 150 participants from 68 countries.



Presentations and workshops underlined the state of art of international cooperation in FP7 and pointed out the perspectives and expectations for international cooperation in Horizon 2020 and other initiatives. The event focused on two geographical areas: Latin-American and the Caribbean, and Mediterranean Partner Countries.

The third day of the conference on 19 June, was devoted to the annual INCO NCP meeting. It included a training

session for NCPs focusing primarily on communication strategies.

These activities are part of the project INCONTACT-One World financed by the 7th EU Research Framework programme.

For further information, please visit the [INCO WIKI website](#) or contact the [INCO conference organizer](#)

EU-Korea Conference on Science & Technology (EKC 2013)

The EKC 2013, held in Brighton on 26 July 2013, was the 6th edition of the EU-Korea Conference on Science and Technology with a special focus on "Science and Technology closer to Humanity – Open Innovation?" This reflected the recent Korean emphasis on fostering a "creative economy", a concept aimed at promoting Korean imagination and creativity based on the convergence of ICT with many other S&T disciplines.

EKC 2013 brought together 800 participants, mainly Korean scientists working in Europe, building on well-developed associations of Korean Scientists and engineers working in the UK, Germany, France and Austria. The EU R&D policy forum was an opportunity to present and discuss recent R&I policy and programme developments. The presentations were followed by lively discussions with the audience on issues such as: comparison between EU-ROK and EU-Japan cooperation; modalities for increasing Korean participation in H2020; rationale and modalities for EU nuclear research; and ways to further develop the NCP system in Korea.

Korean officials briefed participants on the forthcoming establishment of a EU-Korean Research and Innovation Center in Brussels. The next EKC editions will take place in Vienna in 2014, and probably in Brussels in 2015.

*For further information, please contact
Laurent Bochereau, DG RTD, Directorate D*

7th Meeting of the Bilateral Euratom-Russia Fusion Cooperation Agreement

DG RTD hosted the Euratom-Russia fusion Coordinating Committee meeting in Brussels on 27 June 2013. Deputy Director General Rudolf Strohmeier led the Euratom Delegation which included representatives from six EU Member States, JET and Fusion for Energy, whereas Dr. Patarakin from Rosatom led the Russian Delegation.

The high quality and added value of the cooperation between Euratom and Russia as major fusion partners was recognized. The Committee endorsed the update of the bilateral Fusion Work Programme, made up of three main pillars: potential Russian partnership in the JET programme; potential Russian involvement in Broader Approach activities, in particular IFMIF-EVEDA and the mapping of 65 on-going collaborative activities between 19 European and 20 Russian institutions.

The meeting provided an opportunity for an exchange of information on fusion strategic programmes and on-going bilateral collaborative activities. Proposals for new collaborations were made by both sides, including by the six Member States present at the meeting. It was also agreed to link Russian initiatives in education and training with the European Fusion Education Network (FuseNet).

The success of the ITER project was recognized as crucial by both sides, ITER representing about 75% of the Russian fusion programme. The Russian delegation acknowledged the positive impact on ITER savings derived from the JET experimental programme and the up-date of Broader Approach (BA) activities with the recently adopted 'Guidelines on participation of other ITER Parties in BA activities at the level of Research Institutes'.

For further information, please contact Alejandro Zurita, DG RTD, Directorate K

Research and Innovation Counsellors' Meeting

The Counsellors from our Delegations around the world came to Brussels on 1 and 2 July for the bi-annual meeting which affords the opportunity to update them on recent EU R&I policy developments as well as sharing information about their experience and activities. In addition to providing an update on the political agreement on H2020 and on the implementation of the International Cooperation strategy, Director-General Robert-Jan Smits outlined his vision for future International cooperation activities. These will focus on improving the global framework conditions for international cooperation; on developing strategic intelligence; on policy dialogues with our international partners; and on increasing international participation in European projects.



The meeting was also the first opportunity for the Counsellors to meet with the new Director for International Cooperation Maria-Cristina Russo, who assumed her function on 1st July.

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

EU-Africa Science & Technology Week (Addis Ababa, 24-28 June 2013)

In the last week of June, the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation) and the EU Delegation to the African Union in Addis Ababa, coordinated a series of related events, all linked to EU-Africa cooperation in Science and Technology, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, which hosted most of the events.

These included both technical workshops and policy discussions, which were brought under the heading of the *EU-Africa Science & Technology Week*. The aim was to stimulate synergies and networking among the participants.

The technical workshops, on EU-Africa bi-regional research cooperation on climate change with impacts on water and food security and on Research Infrastructures, fed into the policy discussion, in order to help identify areas of common interest.

Several of the events were organised through CAAST-Net Plus, the FP7 funded network for "Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science and Technology Cooperation".



DG RTD, Directorate I, organised a workshop on "Waste as a Resource: Recycling & Recovery of Raw Materials" as part of the joint African-European Research & Innovation Agenda on Waste Management.

The Bureau meeting of the High Level Policy Dialogue was organised by the DG Research and Innovation which co-chaired the meeting together with Congo-Brazzaville, the current chair of AMCOST. This meeting is part of an on-going dialogue that will culminate with a senior officials meeting in Brussels at the end of November 2013.

The Joint Expert Group (JEG8) was organised by the co-chairs for Europe (Portugal) and acting co-chair for Africa (South Africa), with the support of the EC (DG DEVCO & DG RTD).

The Global Science Collaboration meeting was organised independently by Brussels-based consultancy firm ISC and hosted by the Irish Embassy.

For further information, please visit the [website](#) or contact Nienke Buisman, DG RTD, Directorate D, or Stéphane Hogan, EU Delegation to the African Union

PROJECTS

First Milestone of the Pilot Project "Recovering Critical Raw Materials through Recycling - an Opportunity for the European Union and African Union"

This pilot project, supported by the European Parliament and implemented by the European Commission, aims at setting the basis for Africa and Europe to work together on equal footing to establish a solid cooperation on the global challenge of Solid Waste Management (SWM).

The first milestone of the Pilot Project, a one and a half days workshop for a "Joint European and African Research and Innovation Agenda on Waste Management" took place on 24-25 June 2013 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. Directorate General for Research and Innovation welcomed relevant African and European stakeholders from policy, business and research /academia from 20 different countries to brainstorm and to identify potential cooperation actions in order to address the most urgent challenges in SWM. Presentations from Zambia, South Africa, Kenya, The Netherlands, EC and AU stimulated the exchange of experiences and best practices in intensive participatory sessions.

The second milestone of the Pilot Project will take place on the 25-26th November this year in Brussels.

*For further information, please contact
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CAESIE priming grants

The EU FP7 project "Connecting Australian-European Science and Innovation Excellence (CAESIE)" offers Priming Grants for strengthening SME-researcher collaborations between Australia and Europe. Stage One Priming Grants (approx. €4,000) support mobility for meetings towards forming a SME-researcher relationship. Proposals are accepted in CAESIE priority areas: sustainable cities, health technologies, and clean energy. SMEs should have identified a possible partner with a researcher/research organisation.

Assistance with finding a partner is available through the [website](#).

The Stage One Priming Grants Guidelines and Application Form are [available](#). Deadline for applications is Friday 11 October 2013.

Stage Two Priming Grants (approx. €4,000) may be available to successful Stage One applicants to formalise partnerships and/or assist with applying for major research and development funds in Australia and Europe.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (September-November 2013)***Joint Committee Meetings***

25 September	MEXICO	Brussels
Mid-September (tbc)	TUNISIA	Tunisia (tbd)
8-9 October	INDIA	Brussels
October (tbc)	ALGERIA	Algiers (tbc)
13 November	SOUTH AFRICA	Brussels

Regional Dialogues

September (tbd)	MOCO/Ufm	tbd
28-29 November	EU-Africa SOM	Brussels

Coordinating Committee Meetings (Euratom)

19 November	Euratom-Ukraine (fusion)	Brussels
25 November	Euratom-India (fusion)	Brussels

International Summits

	EU-Japan Summit	
8 November	EU-ROK Summit	Brussels
21-22 November	EU-China Summit	Beijing

International Events

6-7 September	Conference on immune biomarkers for personalised medicine in oncology	Shanghai
30 September- 1 October	Eastern Partnership Conference	Vilnius
10-11 October	EU-India Brokereeage Event	Paris
26-27 October	Carnegie Group Meeting	Washington DC
7-8 November	ILN	Budapest
12 November	SFIC plenary	Brussels
12-13 November	Enlargement Workshop	Brussels
25 November	EU-Russia Year of Science: Launch Event	Moscow

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