

News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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EU POLICY

EP Adopts FP6

The EP has adopted 34 agreed compromise amendments to FP6. This means that the Council will be able to formally adopt the Programme in either June or July, allowing it to come into force on 1 January 2003.

The amendments proposed by the EP mainly concern budget distribution, the instruments, and health research. The final vote went against proposals by some MEPs to reintroduce an amendment on bio-ethics which went beyond that agreed by the Council in December. However, the EP's concerns over ethics mean that the Commission will be appending a declaration undertaking not to fund research involving genetic manipulation, human cloning, or the creation of embryos for research purposes, and will lay down strict guidelines on ethical issues.

There is still work to be done on the Rules of Participation, the Specific Programmes and the instruments, but the programme is on schedule to begin later this year.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A summary and details of the voting can be found at:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_en.htm

Commission Proposes Overhaul of EU Structure

The EC has presented its first official communication for the 'Convention on the Future of the Union'. The EC's proposals aim to strengthen its position and introduce more 'community method' in the fields of economic policy co-ordination, justice and home affairs (especially immigration), and the Common Foreign and Security policy.

Some of the proposals of the EC are:

- more qualified majority decisions for the common policies;
- co-decision to apply to all legislative work;
- decentralisation of the implementation of common policies;
- EC to be able to make proposals (not just recommendations) concerning the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and opinions on the Stability programmes;
- creation of a special EcoFin Council for the Euro-zone and one single Euro-zone voice;
- EC should be able to make proposals on justice and home affairs issues;
- merger of the functions of High Representative for CFSP and the Commissioner for External Relations;
- foreign policy to be given the necessary resources;
- introduction of an 'ex ante' subsidiarity and proportionality check before legislation is adopted by Council and EP;
- the Convention to prepare a constitutional text based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- the three 'pillar' structure to be abolished.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/futurum/documents/offtext/com220502_en.pdf

Ethics and Patenting of Human Stem Cells

The EU's European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) has issued a new opinion on ethical questions related to patenting of inventions involving human stem cells. Overall, the group suggests that a ban on patenting stem cells or stem cell lines, would result in a major slow-down of this field of research, and believes that this would be contrary to public (and especially patients') interests.

The Group, however, has argued that it is crucial to define the limits on patenting of human stem cells in relation to ethical considerations and the relevant processes securing ethical evaluation. This involves issues of content of patents, sources of the stem cells, methods used to derive stem cells, and protection of the donor, as well as the possible socio-economic consequences and philosophical implications of the patent system as applied to stem cells.

It is the opinion of the EGE that only stem cell lines which have been modified by in vitro treatments or genetically modified so that they have acquired characteristics for specific industrial application, fulfil the legal requirements for patentability. The Group also considers, with the dissent of one of its members, that patenting of inventions allowing the transformation of unmodified stem cells from human embryonic origin into genetically modified stem cell lines or specific differentiated stem cell lines for specific therapeutic or other uses, is ethically acceptable. Finally, the Group calls for the creation of a publicly-accessible EU Registry of unmodified human stem cell lines, including information on both ES (embryonic stem) and EG (embryonic germ) cell lines

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The full text of the opinion is available from:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/european_group_ethics/docs/avis16_en.pdf

or from the EGE Secretariat

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Public Health Action Programme

The EP and European Council have reached agreement on the next Community public health action programme. The programme will enter into force on 1 January 2003 and aims to contribute towards the achievement of a high level of health protection by directing action towards improving public health, preventing human illness and obviating sources of danger to health.

There had been some disagreement over funding, with the EP delegation arguing that the €280 million originally proposed by the Council was insufficient, in particular in the light of the costs of enlargement and the need for precautionary measures against the risk of bioterrorism in the aftermath of 11 September 2001. MEPs were prepared, however, to accept the final Council proposal of €312 million, an increase of more than 11%. To meet the EP's concerns EC has agreed to draw up a declaration stating that the financial framework of the programme will be reviewed at a later date. The EC will then, if appropriate, make new proposals on funding.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

None available

Outline of Life Science Agenda

The European Group on Life Sciences (EGLS), a high level advisory group reporting to Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin, met in early May to prepare a work programme of the main target areas of research. This work programme highlights the areas that should be addressed in the next year in order that Europe might best translate European life science research into solutions to improve human health. The key research areas identified include sustainable agriculture and development; life science communication in the media; and the interaction between new biological knowledge and culture. The Group also took the opportunity to advise Commissioner Busquin of issues, such as the contribution of transgenic animals to further progress in research, that are likely to affect his policy agenda in the future.

In response, Commissioner Busquin stated that he felt that the Group, formed in April 2000, was "in a good position to participate in the scientific debate across Europe...[and]...put forward new initiatives at EU level..." to meet the objectives set in the Communication on 'Life Sciences and Biotechnology' and the 'Science and Society' Action Plan.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Information on the European Group on Life Sciences is available from:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/life-sciences/eqls/index_en.html

New eEurope Action Plan

According to Erkki Liikanen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, the new eEurope 2005 action plan will have fewer and more focused priorities than its predecessor, the eEurope 2002 action plan.

Speaking at a meeting of the Observatory for new technologies in Madrid, Mr Liikanen said that the new priorities will reflect the many achievements of the recent past and will move on to ensure progress in key areas. The EC's proposals for eEurope 2005 will be presented at the Seville European Council later this month.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further information on eEurope:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/index_en.htm

Steps Toward a European Community Patent

At a recent meeting of the Internal Market, Consumer Affairs and Tourism Council, Ministers adopted agreed to use the 'common political approach' drawn up by the Spanish Presidency as 'the basis for continued work'.

Internal Market Commissioner Frits Bolkestein indicated that "the Commission continues to regard EU-wide patent protection at reasonable cost as an essential element in the Lisbon agenda to make Europe the most competitive economy in the world by 2010". He added that whilst progress had been on the language regime, it had resulted in an increased cost to the applicant, and so further discussions would be necessary.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

European Commission Memo number MEMO/02/99 of 22/05/2002, available from <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

Enlargement of European Environment Agency

The European Environment Agency (EEA) held a special event to mark its enlargement to include 13 candidate countries. The EEA is the first EU body to expand to include the countries that have applied for EU membership. The agency is the main provider of environmental information at European level.

11 of the 13 countries have already joined the EEA (Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic). Of the remaining two, it is anticipated that Turkey will be a member by the end of May, with Poland following in a matter of weeks.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.eea.eu.itn>

RESEARCH NEWS

Large-scale Projects in Endocrine Disrupter Research

64 different European research groups, bringing a wide range of expertise and disciplines, are to collaborate in a project that will examine the effects that endocrine-disrupting chemicals can have in the environment and their role in disease in humans. Endocrine disrupters cause changes in the endocrine system of humans and wildlife by interfering with the production, secretion or action of natural hormones in the body, leading in some cases to sterility or sex changes in animals.

The EC, which has provided funding of €20 million for the project's activities, has indicated that the EDEN cluster, as the project is known, is an example of the kind of large-scale integrated projects envisaged under FP6. Other ongoing and future projects on endocrine disrupters will also be informally associated with the project through workshops and other means, with the aim of further enhancing European research capability in the area.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CORDIS Press Release No 18406 of 16/05/2002, available from <http://dbs.cordis.lu/news/en/home.html>

Increase in EU CO₂ Emissions

A study by the European Environment Agency (EEA) has shown that EU CO₂ emissions increased between 1999 and 2000. Despite this recent trend, over the past decade emissions have actually decreased in half of the Member States. The EU is responsible for around 24% of the industrial world's emissions of the six greenhouse gases. Of these, approximately 80% are CO₂ emissions. Under the Kyoto Protocol the EU has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gases by 8% from 1990 levels.

The results of the EEA study suggest that despite the decrease in the decade prior to 1999, if the 0.5% increase seen in 1999-2000 remains constant the EU will have no chance of reaching 8% reduction it has committed to in the Kyoto Protocol. More than half of the EU countries are emitting more than their share of CO₂ emissions. The worst performance has been recorded by Spain with a 33.7% increase (double the agreed target). The most successful so far is Germany, with a 19.1% reduction.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/newsreleases/greenhouse_gas_emission

Space Funding for SMEs

The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a second and expanded round of funding for innovative R&D initiatives in satellite communications from small and medium-sized enterprises. The first round of funding, following calls issued last year, resulted in support for projects in fields including transportation management, tracking systems, integration of satellite IP networks and interactive satellite advertising.

Recognising the resource issues faced by small companies, ESA has created a fast-track application process allowing applicants to submit tentative ideas for initial feedback, before producing a full proposal. Initial ideas will be accepted over a four-week period from 21 May 2002.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.telecom.esa.int>

Life-like Perception Systems Research

The Commission has announced the results of the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) call for proposals for life-like perception systems (LPS). 10 out of the 40 proposals submitted were retained, with a total EU contribution of nearly €15 Million.

The selected projects deal with coding and representation schemes of perceptual information; perception and locomotion in wet and slippery areas; the mechanoreceptor hairs of a cricket; bio-inspired echolocation; neuroprostheses; biomimetic learning in robots, among other things. These projects will also be organised in a collaborative cluster in order better to fulfil the objectives of the LPS initiative.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/fetni-sy.htm>

e-Business W@tch

A new EC watchdog, e-Business W@tch, will monitor the rate and pattern of take-up of e-business tools and practices across Europe, particularly by SMEs.

e-Business W@tch will systematically collect, collate and compare sector-specific information from a variety of sources. Regular reports on each sector's 'e-readiness' will be prepared, with the help of a pan-European expert network. e-Business W@tch will provide a forum for exchanging views on e-business related indicators, analysis,

projections and market trends. Results and specific impact indicators will be used to benchmark progress and identify new policy initiatives that could be taken up at European level. These results will be validated in an annual workshop. Quarterly e-business sector reports and newsletters should be available from July 2002. A first synopsis of the various reports and survey results is scheduled to be published at the end of 2002.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.ebusiness-watch.org/marketwatch/>

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE

eLearning Industry Group

A new eLearning Industry Group has recently been launched. The Group has been founded by 15 leading companies with the aim of assisting Europe in achieving its goal of becoming the most competitive knowledge-based society in the world. The Group will work with the EC as well as national governments and academia in order to promote eLearning deployment across Europe.

The Group will work closely with public institutions such as governments, schools and training institutions to implement the EC's key objectives of:

- connecting everyone and everything from everywhere;
- encouraging the adoption of, and participation in, the development of open standards for e-learning;
- creating the conditions to sustain a commercial market for e-learning content; and
- increasing investment in continuous professional development of teachers and trainers, enhancing their status and helping them develop and understand the principles for e-learning.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Commission Press Release IP/02/623 of 15/04/2002,
available from <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

Success of European Training Pathways

The EC has adopted a report on its 'European training pathways' initiative, which came into operation at the beginning of 2000. Designed to promote the mobility of those in training, to improve employment prospects for young people, and to raise the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training, these pathways allow people undergoing work-linked training, including apprenticeships, to undertake a period of training in another Member State.

The report highlights how a training period in another EU country is increasingly considered to be an asset on the labour market. However, many young people experience difficulties when it comes to putting these periods of study or training to advantage. With 'Europass Training', the EU offers an instrument that helps people in work-linked training to present their European training pathway effectively. In order to ensure the quality of the European training pathways, a partnership is concluded between sending and host organisations, setting out the content of the training, its duration and its methods. A mentor is responsible for the person undergoing training in the host organisation. These conditions must be met for a Community 'Europass Training' document to be issued at the end of the training pathway.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/europass/index_en.html

The Challenge of Cultural Heritage

Following the declaration by the United Nations of 2002 as the year of cultural heritage., and with Europe focussing on enlargement, 'European cultural heritage' has become symbolic of our common cultural identity, and forms a central tenet for the new European society.

In addition, at a recent European Commission Research Conference on Cultural Heritage, in Krakow (Poland), three EU-funded projects were offered as an illustration of the role that research can to meet the goal of protecting Europe's cultural heritage. The projects covered diverse topics including the conservation of fake Baroque marble imitations in churches; the preservation of photographs and paper against the attack of light; and the development of the first centre of excellence to establish a pan-European network on cultural heritage issues

FURTHER INFORMATION:

European Commission press release, number IP/02/716 of 15/05/2002, available from <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

Europeans and Culture

A recent study of European participation in cultural activities confirms the mass phenomena common to all Europeans (importance of television and cinema), but also reveals major differences in cultural habits (reading of newspapers, use of the new information and communication technologies). The study involved 16,000 EU citizens, aged 15 and over.

The main findings of this study were that:

- Northern Europeans read more books than southern Europeans.
- Nearly half of the European population read newspapers every day.
- Over 60% of Europeans read magazines at least once a month.
- The cinema is the most popular European cultural activity.
- Taking photographs and dancing are the most popular artistic activities.
- Over half of Europeans do not use a computer.
- One European in three surfs the Internet.
- Almost all Europeans watch television.
- Europeans listen mainly to rock and pop music.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=culture-EN&mode=download>

Discussions on Culture 2000 Programme

The EC has suggested that the Culture 2000 programme be extended by up to two years (until 2006). This additional time is intended to enable a review of what future European cultural activities should be undertaken through this programme.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
<http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm>

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Signing of 'Madrid Commitment'

EU, Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State and Government have declared a commitment to co-operate in terms of science, technology and education. This follows from a series recent ministerial-level meetings on these areas.

The declaration particularly covers issues such as dealing with natural disasters, HIV/AIDS, and the information society. It also includes a recommendation to develop an action plan for creating a common area of higher education within the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
<http://www.ue2002.es>

EU-Mexico Agreements

Delegates at the recent session of the EU-Mexico joint council in Brussels reviewed progress on the conclusion of a science and technology agreement and were informed of a new Euro-Mexican business dialogue. The science and technology agreement will enable Mexican researchers to participate in all areas of FP6. At the meeting, the EC revealed that it is applying to the Council for formal authorisation to negotiate such an agreement, and that once this mandate is obtained, negotiations will get underway with a view to concluding an agreement in the second half of 2002.

Both parties also agreed to initiate discussions in the near future on a Mexican proposal for an education agreement between itself and the EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
<http://ue.eu.int/pressData/en/er/70458.pdf>

EU-India Co-operation Agreement

The EP has approved a research and technical co-operation agreement with India, which will allow Indian scientists to take part in EU research programmes and vice-versa.

The new agreement will enable Indian scientists to participate in EU research activities and will give European scientists access to similar Indian programmes. The agreement provides for co-operation in the following fields:

- participation of research institutions, other research entities and persons to RTD projects of each entity;
- pooling of RTD projects already implemented;

- visits and exchanges of scientists and technical experts;
- joint organisation of conferences and seminars;
- concerted actions for dissemination of results and exchange of experience;
- exchange and sharing of equipment, material and research facilities;
- exchange of information on practices, laws and regulations.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

None available.

EVENTS and AWARDS

UKRO Annual Conference 2002

UKRO's Annual Conference 2002 will be held at the Manchester Conference Centre, UMIST, on 27 – 28 June 2002. This year's conference aims to be an 'unofficial' launch of FP6 and the programme will be delivered entirely by EC speakers.

The event should be quite timely since the FP6 Expressions of Interest will have been through an initial review (and the speakers should have a clear idea of Specific Programme content). Also, if the other administrative arrangements are completed by mid-June, as anticipated, the Conference will be the first UK opportunity for the EC to showcase rules for implementing the new instruments, the main features of FP6 contracts and the streamlined IPR provisions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Full programme details and on-line registration are available at:

<http://www.ukro.ac.uk/public/conf2002/main2002.htm>

EMBO Award for Communication in Life Sciences

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) has announced that it is to award a prize for communication in the life sciences. The €5,000 award, to be presented during European Science and Technology Week (November 2002), offers recognition of outstanding services to the public awareness of science.

Eligibility for the award is open to all practising life science researchers working in Europe and Israel.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Full details are available at:

<http://www.embo.org/projects/scisoc/index.html>

European Research 2002

From 11 – 13 November 2002 the EC is holding a major conference in Brussels to mark the launch of FP6. The event – 'European Research 2002: The European Research Area and the Framework Programme' – is intended to provide a forum for presenting the objectives, priorities and rules for participation of FP6; it is also intended to create opportunities for debate and exchange of best practice.

The conference will include sessions on all main thematic priorities, and issues such as mobility, patenting, and intellectual property. It will also include symposia, workshops and poster sessions organised by researchers and others involved in RTD activities, as well as project presentations, an exhibition, and press briefings. Registration for the event is currently open.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html

or

Information and Communication Unit

DG Research

European Commission

Tel: + 32 2 295 9971

Fax: + 32 2 295 82 20

Email: rtd-conference2002@cec.eu.int

European Science and Technology Week 2002

The plans for the 2002 Science and Technology Week have been announced. Nine different activities are being organised across Europe to inform, enlighten and entertain the general public. This year there will be an unprecedented aim to create dialogue between science and the arts. In parallel events across Europe – linked together through a common theme, interactive web site and a series of web casts – a pan-European audience will be encouraged to examine scientific concepts through the use of a variety of media. The five events planned are:

- drama production in London;
- science-art symposium in Lisbon;
- musical performance at CERN;
- fashion show in Rome;
- video installation at ESTEC (the Netherlands).

Through the collaboration of artists and scientists, 'Shadows of the Infinite' will aim to break down the boundaries between the sciences and arts whilst also reach out to the public.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For a complete listing of all activities please access the following web site:

<http://www.cordis.lu/scienceweek/home.htm>

Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Conference

A new project, initiated by Euroscience, intends to provide an open dialogue science forum for Europe in a similar manner to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in the US.

It is hoped that the event, scheduled to take place in 2004, will foster debate on science and society as well as enhancing scientific awareness of humanities and technology research. Participants will include academics, policy makers, politicians and representatives from the media and science based industries.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.euroscience.org/>

NEW PUBLICATIONS and ON-LINE RESOURCES

IST Discussion Forum

An on-line discussion forum is available, to facilitate networking in preparation for participating in the IST (Information Society Technologies) programme in FP6.

The initiative aims to bring together academia and industry, particularly SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) to generate ideas and exchange information in relation to Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence, the two main, new instruments for FP6. It also aims to ensure sharing of information on specialist IST centres, relevant policies, and future technological needs. Researchers can subscribe to the group by sending an email to: fp6_PLTFRM-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.e-global.es>

or

Comercio Electronico Global

Research and Development

Spanish Centre of Excellence in Information Society Technologies

Tel: + 34 9 76212169

Fax: + 34 9 76212169

Email: info@e-global.es

Nanotechnology Information Leaflet

The EC has published an updated version of its information leaflet on nanotechnology in the ERA.

The leaflet outlines the opportunities available in the nanotechnology field and provides information on how nanotechnology will fit into FP6. Within FP6, some €1.3 billion will be allocated to the priority thematic area of research on nanotechnology and nanoscience, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices. Nanotechnology will, however, also fit into other activities within the programme. The leaflet also contains information on EU co-operation with the USA, China and Russia, as well as relevant contact details and web addresses.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/nanotechnology/docs/nano_leaflet_052002_en.pdf

International Scientific Co-operation Policy Web Page

The EC has launched a new web page containing news and details on scientific co-operation agreements and events between the EU and other regions of the world. The EC will be developing these pages over the next few months.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index_en.html

Extension of AlphaGalileo

Alphagalileo Europe, an established Internet news service arising from a seven-nation collaboration across Europe, has extended its coverage to include arts and humanities news as well as the technology and medical developments for which it has become well-known.

The extension was funded by the European Science Foundation, the British Academy and the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Board. The service assists both academic and business researchers in communicating quickly and easily with their counterparts across Europe by enabling research bodies to post news releases, events details and book launches.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.alphagalileo.com>

Survey of European Networks

In order to assist with the ERA goal of establishing a coherent and optimised use of European research resources through networking and the development of synergies between EU and Member State activities, DG Research has decided to develop the state-of-the-art in research networks in the field of nanotechnology.

To this end, a survey was carried out, and a database of networks has been assembled. The collected information is publicly available. The database is aimed at being a useful tool for all interested parties (researchers, enterprises, public administrations, etc.)

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.cordis.lu/nanotechnology/src/networks.htm#survey>

GLOSSARY

COST	European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research is a framework for scientific and technical cooperation, allowing the coordination of national research on a European level. http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost/
'Council'	'Council' refers to the 'Council of Ministers', the principle decision-making body within the European Union. It has both executive and legislative powers, the latter in some cases exercised jointly with the European Parliament (co-decision procedure). The Council is composed of one representative at ministerial level from each Member State. Which Ministers attend each Council meeting varies according to the subject discussed, e.g. The Minister of Science in the UK attends the Research Council. http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm

Culture 2000	<p>First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which runs from 2000-2004 (inclusive).</p> <p>http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html</p>
EC	<p>The European Commission - made up of 20 Commissioners nominated by the Member States - both initiates proposals for EU legislation and executes EU policies and actions.</p> <p>http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm</p>
EESD	<p>Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (FP5)</p> <p>http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/</p>
eEurope	<p>eEurope</p> <p>A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the Information Society.</p> <p>http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/information_society/eeurope/documentation/index_en.htm</p>
EP	<p>The European Parliament - which is made up of elected representatives (MEPs) from all the Member States. It shares decision-making power with the Council in a number of areas including research and education.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.eu.int/sq/tree/en/default.htm</p>
ERA	<p>European Research Area. On 18 January 2000, the EC issued a Communication entitled "Towards a European Research Area" which proposed ways in which research in Europe could be more effectively organised and coordinated.</p> <p>http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html</p>
ESC	<p>European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body made up of representatives of Europe's employers' organisations, trade unions, farmers, consumer groups and professional associations.</p> <p>http://www.ces.eu.int/</p> <p>Press Releases:</p> <p>http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm</p>
ESF	<p>European Science Foundation.</p> <p>http://www.esf.org/</p>
ESF	<p>The European Social Fund</p> <p>http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm</p>
Eureka	<p>Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development.</p> <p>http://www3.eureka.be/Home/</p>
FP (FP5, FP6)	<p>The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was adopted in 1998 and will run until 2002, when the next framework programme (FP6) is expected to supersede it.</p> <p>FP5 is composed of four thematic programmes (see QoL, IST,</p>

	Growth, EESD) and three horizontal programmes (see INCO II, Innovation and SMEs, and IHP). http://www.cordis.lu/fp5
Green Paper	Green Papers are communications published by the European Commission on a specific policy area. Primarily they are documents addressed to interested parties who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation.
Growth	Competitive and Sustainable Growth Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
IHP	Improving Human Potential Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/improving/home.html
INCO II	Confirming the International Role of Community Research (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
ITRE	The European Parliament Committee on Industry, Trade, Research and Energy (FP5) http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm
INNOVATION and SME	Promoting of Innovation and Encouragement of SME Participation (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
INTAS	International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm
IST	Information Society Technologies Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/
MEDIA	The MEDIA Plus Programme (2001 - 2005) is to be introduced as a follow-up to the Media II programme which ends in December 2000. The programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry. Http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation http://www.nato.int/
PHARE	The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe. http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm
QoL	Quality of Life Programme (FP5) http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/

RTD	Research and Technological Development
TACIS	The Tacis Programme aims to forge closer economic and political links with the former republics of the Soviet Union and Mongolia (also known as New Independent States (NIS)) http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm
Treaty of Amsterdam	The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999. http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html
UUK	Universities UK (formerly the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals) http://universitiesuk.ac.uk
White Paper	White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. They often follow a Green Paper.

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