

# European RTD Insight

British Council online bulletin

AUGUST 2007

## News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

### Table of contents

<b>EU Policy</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Public consultation on nanosciences and nanotechnologies research .....	2
EP ITRE committee backs creation of EIT .....	3
New FP7 work programme for development of research policies.....	3
FP7 call for proposals under Research Infrastructures.....	4
ERC publishes 'rules for submission' and final list of panel members .....	4
Draft FP7 negotiation guidance notes published .....	4
Nanometrology consultation open .....	5
New call for proposals: eContentplus and safer internet plus programmes .....	5
EURAB calls for even better societal engagement of researchers .....	6
European ethics group gives opinion on review of FP7 stem cell research .....	6
EC to present report on progress of nanotechnology plan .....	7
New consultation: nanomaterials in cosmetic products .....	7
<b>Research News</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Astronomers to use new technique to detect exoplanets .....	7
ITER: Barcelona hosts European 'Fusion for Energy' body.....	8
The future of agricultural research.....	8
'Plants for the Future' Technology Platform publishes research agenda .....	9
European research identifies genes that cause blindness and deafness .....	9
EC takes steps to promote science communication .....	10
Support for high-risk research across Europe mapped .....	10
New robot joins astronaut in taking a dip.....	10
Intellectuals advise EC on multilingualism and intercultural dialogue .....	11
<b>Education, Training and Culture</b> .....	<b>11</b>
New plans for Erasmus Mundus.....	11
EC launches consultation on schools.....	12
<b>External Collaboration</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Switzerland signs association agreement to FP7 .....	12
COST: co-operation with Australia and New Zealand .....	13

EC consultation to refine EU strategy for international co-operation on ICT .....	13
Arctic research: Commissioner Potočník visits northern Norway .....	13
EU and US strengthen co-operation on cosmetics and medical devices .....	14
<b>Events and Awards.....</b>	<b>14</b>
EURITRACK event.....	14
Security information and partnering forum 2007.....	15
European conference on complex systems.....	15
EURO-TRANS conference .....	15
European Respiratory Society annual conference.....	16
European Food Information Resource Network (EuroFIR) congress.....	16
<b>New Publications and Online Resources.....</b>	<b>16</b>
The EU on YouTube .....	16
AthenaWeb, the European science film portal, relaunched .....	17
New CIP web portal for the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme .....	17
Techweb website for SMEs.....	18
Health-EU portal to issue multilingual newsletter.....	18
New worldwide scientific portal goes online .....	18
UK Science Insight.....	19
CORDIS .....	19
IGLO Project Search .....	19
EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L) .....	19
EUROPA.....	19
RAPID .....	19
<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>20</b>

## EU Policy

### Public consultation on nanosciences and nanotechnologies research

The EC has launched a public consultation on responsible nanosciences and nanotechnologies research. This consultation aims to provide input to the drafting of a Code of Conduct in this area. The EC invites contributions from a broad cross-section of European society, including the scientific community, industry, civil society, policy-makers, media and the general public.

It is anticipated that a European Code of Conduct for responsible nanosciences and nanotechnologies research would help to promote information exchange on nanotechnology and to stimulate an open dialogue involving the broadest possible range of interested parties. This Code of Conduct will express basic principles on which to base future developments within nanotechnology research and would invite member states and interested parties to take concrete action for the safe development and use of nanotechnologies. The consultation will remain open until 21 September and the EC is planning to adopt a Code of Conduct by the end of 2007. As a follow-up to the adoption of this Code of Conduct, a broad dialogue will be launched involving all European stakeholders to enable mutual learning and exchange of best practices on responsible nanotechnology research.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/1140 of 19 July 2007 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Consultation paper is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/list\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/list_en.html)

Internet site of the consultation:

<http://europa.eu/sinapse/directaccess/science-and-society/public-debates/nano-recommendation>

## **EP ITRE committee backs creation of EIT**

On 9 July 2007 the EP's Industry Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) met to discuss the proposal for a European Institute of Technology (EIT). Although the Council of Ministers has already voiced its support, the EP has yet to adopt the EIT proposal. ITRE supported the EC proposal but had some reservations regarding funding issues and details of the planned Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC). Within an overall planned budget of €2.6 billion for the first six years of the EIT, ITRE and the EC agreed that €308.7 million should be drawn from the European Community budget. However, it is still unclear exactly where the EU funds should come from.

With regard to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), ITRE stressed that the KICs or partner organisations should not have privileged access to FP7 funds. Furthermore, ITRE asked for KICs to be 'legally autonomous' from the EIT and emphasised the importance of some basic minimum requirements for KIC composition. Initially, two or three KICs could be supported in a 'pilot phase'. A long-term Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) would then identify activities and future KICs in key areas of economic and societal interest where the greatest added value to innovation efforts could be seen. The SIA, which is to be drafted by the end of 2011, would need to be revised every seven years.

### **Further information**

Further details of the ITRE meeting are available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

## **New FP7 work programme for development of research policies**

On 14 June 2007 the EC published the 2007-08 work programme for 'support for the coherent development of research policies'. This area of FP7 targets policy-makers at national and regional level. It aims to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of national and European Community research policies and their coherence with other policies, thereby improving the impact of public research and its links with industry. It also aims to strengthen public support and its leverage effect on investment by private actors. The first call is due to be published on 20 September 2007 with a deadline of 6 March 2008.

This area of FP7 aims to support evidence-based policy-making by gathering and analysing both qualitative and quantitative policy information. Activities in this FP7 area will be implemented through expert groups, studies and a number of grants to named beneficiaries, including the EC's Joint Research Centres (JRC). In addition, there will be an emphasis on the further development of an information and intelligence service (ERAWATCH), with the long-term goal of developing a strategic service to support evidence-based policy-making in research and accelerate the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA). During 2007 and 2008 this is already supported as an FP6 project.

### **Further information**

The Work Programme is available at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/wp\\_en.html#capacities](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/wp_en.html#capacities)

Commission registry of expert groups is available at:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm>

## **FP7 call for proposals under Research Infrastructures**

The EC has launched the second call for proposals under Research Infrastructures under the FP7 Capacities Specific Programme. The FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-2 call was published on 19 June 2007 with a deadline of 20 September 2007. The indicative budget is €64 million and will be allocated to several activity areas.

The first topic for proposals is "support to existing infrastructures" and consists of ICT based infrastructures INFRA2007 and eScience grid infrastructures. The funding scheme is a combination of collaborative projects and co-ordination and support actions with a total budget of €50 million. The second topic for proposals is "support to policy development and programme implementation" and consists of studies, conferences and co-ordination actions supporting policy development, including international co-operation, for eInfrastructures. The funding scheme is based on co-ordination and support actions with a total budget of €14 million.

### **Further information**

Further details are available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc>

## **ERC publishes 'rules for submission' and final list of panel members**

The ERC has published the 'rules for the submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures relevant to the Ideas Specific Programme'. Anyone who has or will be submitting an application to the ERC is advised to read this document. It starts with a definition of terms and a general introduction, including its main principles. It goes on to cover the submission of proposals, the peer review evaluation process, the award decision, and the preparation of the grant agreements. The document also has several annexes, including a copy of the appointment letter for ERC experts in peer review evaluations and notes on the ethical review procedures.

The ERC also recently published the final list of the panel members who took part in the recent starting grant evaluations. This final list contains changes from an earlier version published in April 2007. The document itself, however, does not state which panel the evaluators sat on and there are no plans to release these details.

### **Further information**

The 'rules for the submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures relevant to the Ideas Specific Programme' are available from the ERC website at: [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc-evrules\\_en.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc-evrules_en.pdf)

The updated final list of ERC Starting Grant panel members is available from: [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/stg-panel-members-26042007\\_en.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/stg-panel-members-26042007_en.pdf)

## **Draft FP7 negotiation guidance notes published**

The EC has recently published guidance notes on the negotiation of FP7 projects. The guide relates to all types of projects (with the exception of ERA-NETs) within the Co-operation and Capacities Specific Programmes. All projects go through a negotiation stage before the contract is signed with the EC. The negotiation stage itself involves discussing technical, financial and legal aspects. The new guide usefully lists what documents partners will need at this stage. It also

outlines the procedure for the negotiation of projects, from the first letter of invitation to the final contract being signed.

A list of frequently asked questions is included in the guide for reference. It covers: costs; the guarantee fund; withdrawing applicants; conflicts within the consortium; changes to work plans; and changes of partners and co-ordinators. Details are also provided on the 'description of work' that partners will need to complete. Guidance is provided in the annexes to the negotiation guide on issues such as ethical reviews, the treatment of classified information, subcontracting and other third party issues and gender aspects. It also includes a negotiation checklist template.

#### **Further information**

The draft negotiation guidelines are available from the 'guidance documents' section of CORDIS at: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html)

### **Nanometrology consultation open**

The FP6-funded project, Nanostrand, has launched an international web-based survey on nanometrology. The survey will run until August 2007. It aims to identify the new measurement tools, technologies and standards required to support nanotechnology development and exploitation. Participants will be able to obtain a pre-publication copy of the results and will also be able to take part in project workshops in Prague on 26 September and Paris on 10 October 2007. The results of the consultation will be used to influence and define the way forward for nanometrology and standards development in Europe.

The aims of the Nanostrand project are to identify: the barriers to the development and exploitation of nanotechnology; the need for new measurement tools, technologies and standards that will support nanotechnology development and exploitation; the priorities for nanometrology developments; and the priorities for pre-normative/standards research. The project is made up of partners from the UK, France, Germany and the Czech Republic.

#### **Further information**

The Nanostrand website is available at: <http://www.nanostrand.net>

The consultation is available directly at: <http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=715876>

### **New call for proposals: eContentplus and safer internet plus programmes**

The EC has recently launched the call for proposals for 2007 for the eContentplus and safer internet plus programmes. The eContentplus call is open for proposals for indirect actions addressing the following areas: best practice networks for geographic information from within the 'geographic information' activity; best practice networks for educational content and targeted projects for educational content from within the 'educational content' activity; best practice networks for digital libraries, targeted projects for digital libraries and targeted projects for scientific/scholarly content from within 'digital libraries'; and, from within the 'reinforcing co-operation between digital content stakeholders' area, a call for a thematic network on language resources.

The call for proposals for the safer internet plus programme closes on 22 October 2007. The call is open for proposals addressing topics within the following three actions: 'fighting against illegal content', which includes a topic for a targeted project on enhancing law enforcement agencies' analysis of illegal material; 'promoting a safer environment', which consists of a topic on child protection on the internet; and 'awareness raising', which will include a topic to develop helplines for children to raise their concerns about dangerous online content. There will be no call for topics under the 'tackling unwanted and harmful content' action line in 2007.

### **Further information**

The full text of the call for proposals and the application forms for the eContentplus programme are available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/econtentplus>

The same information for the safer internet plus programme is available on the following website: <http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>

## **EURAB calls for even better societal engagement of researchers**

The European Research Advisory Board (EURAB) has recently produced a report indicating that researchers need to enter into more meaningful exchanges with society and should treat public concerns more seriously. Recent years have seen greater efforts in this area with science weeks, festivals and wider stakeholder consultations. However, the success of these initiatives is seen as limited and in some cases, efforts have increased the risk perceived by the public.

The report goes as far as looking at disparities in the priorities and value systems of researchers and citizens. Merely communicating science's contribution may not help matters as citizens may find alternative ways of gaining knowledge. EURAB makes several recommendations such as introducing non-scientific perspectives into science education at universities, which should help encourage dialogue and more open interaction. A shift in perception is also required in the long-term to enhance the value of engagement. Society needs to become more involved in the research process, empowering stakeholder groups and ensuring that they are involved in the research process.

### **Further information**

The EURAB report is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab>

## **European ethics group gives opinion on review of FP7 stem cell research**

The European Group on Ethics (EGE) has presented its opinion to the EC on issues relating to the ethical reviews of FP7 research projects using human embryonic stem cells (hESC). In the report, the EGE recognises the need to promote responsible research that is transparent and serves the public interest while respecting the autonomy of EU member states and maintaining public trust. Research should also promote international co-operation and requires ethics to be embedded within research practice.

The Group suggested that, among others, the following considerations have to apply to hESC research funded by the EU: FP7 hESC lines must result from non-implanted IVF embryos; hESC lines banked in the European registry should be used where possible; if alternatives to hESC with the same scientific potential as embryo-derived stem cells are found in the future, their use should be maximised; donors' rights (in terms of health, informed consent, data protection and free donation) must be protected and safeguarded; actions to stimulate public debate on this research area are needed at EU level. The EC is currently analysing these recommendations to see how they can be implemented, and participants should be aware that no changes have been made to the current ethical review of FP7 projects.

### **Further information**

The EGE's opinion can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/european\\_group\\_ethics](http://ec.europa.eu/european_group_ethics)

## EC to present report on progress of nanotechnology plan

On 5 September 2007 the EC will publish a First Implementation Report (2005-07) entitled: 'Nanosciences and nanotechnologies: An action plan for Europe 2005-09'. In the original action plan that the EC adopted in 2004, the following areas for consideration were identified: building momentum in R&D; improving infrastructure; investing in human resources; fostering industrial innovation; integrating society's views; public health; and international co-operation.

On the day the report is released there will be a technical briefing in Brussels, with experts from DG Research and DG Joint Research Centre. Information will be presented on the steps taken so far by the EC and the EU in general, including the public consultation on responsible governance in nanoscience and nanotechnology research.

### Further information

EC Press Release AGENDA/07/27 of 13 July 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## New consultation: nanomaterials in cosmetic products

The EC and the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) have jointly launched a public consultation on the safety of nanomaterials in cosmetic products. The SCCP has recently produced an opinion on the subject. It believes that new methods to assess the potential risk of nanomaterials in cosmetics might be necessary given that traditional methods like hazard identification, hazard characterisation and exposure assessment may not be suitable for nanomaterials in cosmetics. The SCCP believes that the risk assessment of nanoparticles in cosmetics should be carried out on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific physical, chemical and surface area characteristics of nanomaterials.

The opinion was published on 19 June 2007. Respondents are invited to feed their comments on the SCCP opinion into an online questionnaire. The consultation will close on 6 September 2007. A guidance document has been produced to help respondents. It includes further information on the objectives of the consultation, the terms and conditions of participation and the follow up to submissions.

### Further information

The consultation website, which includes a guidance document, is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_sccp/sccp\\_cons\\_04\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/sccp_cons_04_en.htm)

The SCCP's preliminary opinion is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_sccp/docs/sccp\\_o\\_099.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/docs/sccp_o_099.pdf)

# Research News

## Astronomers to use new technique to detect exoplanets

For the first time, an international team of astronomers from the UK, Germany and the US will use a new data analysis technique that could enable them to find exoplanets – planets outside our solar system – in the future. Astronomers have discovered that they can observe exoplanets in special circumstances, for example at the point in an exoplanet's orbit when it is behind a parent star. Looking for planets in close proximity to a star is difficult due to the diffraction limit – the limitation on the spatial resolution of an optical telescope. The problem of diffraction causes the appearance of light and dark concentric rings – Airy rings – around high resolution images of stars and other objects.

The group of astronomers has used these Airy rings to distinguish the spectrum of companion objects such as exoplanets from the glare of the parent star. The new technique aims to establish how the Airy rings grow as images are captured at increasing wavelengths. When subtracting the part of the image containing the spreading rings, an image of the companion object is left behind. The development of extreme adaptive optics instruments is required in order to enable the discovery of exoplanets. It is estimated that the next generation of instruments will be used with existing ground-based telescopes to increase image contrast and allow astronomers to observe distant objects.

#### **Further information**

Physics Web news article from 22 June is available at:

<http://physicsweb.org/articles/news>

### **ITER: Barcelona hosts European 'Fusion for Energy' body**

On 28 June 2007 the new "European Joint Undertaking for ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) and the development of fusion energy", known as 'Fusion for Energy', was inaugurated in Barcelona, Spain. The project aims to develop fusion, a future limitless source of safe and environmentally friendly energy, by recreating the fusion reactions that power the sun and stars. There are seven ITER partners: the EU, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, India and the United States. These partners have agreed to co-ordinate the project jointly, each of the partners using their own industry and research organisations to develop and construct the various component parts needed for the reactor.

As ITER will be constructed in Cadarache, France, and Fusion for Energy has its headquarters in Barcelona, Spain, the EU will contribute around half of the components. Fusion for Energy will organise these components and its budget will be around €4 billion for the first ten years. The main objectives of Fusion for Energy include supplying European contributions to the ITER project built in Cadarache; strengthening co-operation with Japan on a number of projects fostering the development of fusion energy; and organising and co-ordinating a programme of activities to prepare for the first demonstration fusion reactors that can generate electricity.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/964 of 28 June 2007 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

ITER website is available at:

<http://www.iter.org>

ITER website on the Cadarache site is available at:

<http://www.itercad.org>

DG Research website is available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fusion-for-energy.html>

### **The future of agricultural research**

The EC held a major conference in Brussels recently on the future of European agriculture and its consequences for research. Janez Potočnik, the Commissioner for Research, spoke at the conference. The aims of the event were to debate research needs and develop a coherent European research agenda in order to enable agriculture to cope with the current challenges it faces. These include globalisation, energy shortages and climate change. The discussions arose from the results of the SCAR (Standing Committee on Agricultural Research) foresight analysis, which had looked at the possible scenarios for European agriculture up to 20 years in the future.

The conference looked at a series of challenging questions such as what the farm of the future will look like; whether Europeans will be eating more fish and fish-based products in the future; and

how climate change will affect different regions of the EU. A report will be produced on the conclusions reached over the two days of discussions. The EC will also be preparing a communication on the co-ordination of agricultural research in Europe to be presented in the first half of 2008. It will also establish an early warning system (EWS) based on the results of the foresight process. SCAR will be involved in co-ordinating the EWS and will develop mechanisms to do so with input from the relevant ERA-NETs, European Technology Platforms and relevant EC working groups.

#### **Further information**

The conference homepage, where the conference report will be available, is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/events\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/events_en.htm)

The conference agenda and presentations are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2007/scar/programme\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2007/scar/programme_en.htm)

The SCAR foresight pages are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2007/scar/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2007/scar/index_en.htm)

### **'Plants for the Future' Technology Platform publishes research agenda**

The 'Plants for the Future' European Technology Platform has published its Strategic Research Agenda setting out its key research priorities up to 2025. It sets out how the research community could contribute to meeting the following five key global challenges: healthy, safe and sufficient food and feed; plant-based products - chemicals and energy; sustainable agriculture, forestry and landscape; vibrant and competitive basic research; and consumer choice and governance. Short, medium and long-term priorities have been identified for each of these challenges.

The Strategic Research Agenda was developed on the basis of two years of consultations with a broad range of stakeholders from academia, industry, agriculture, forestry, consumer groups and environmental organisations amongst others. A significant proportion of the budget for the FP7 knowledge-based bio-economy (KBBE) theme is set to go to plant-based projects. The Technology Platform stakeholders will also be looking at other sources of EU funding, including the proposed European Institute of Technology (EIT).

#### **Further information**

The Strategic Research Agenda is available from the Plants for the Future website at:

<http://www.epsoweb.org/Catalog/TP>

### **European research identifies genes that cause blindness and deafness**

Under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), the EC funded research that focused on exploiting the full potential of decoding the human genome. As part of this, the EC funded two large-scale multidisciplinary research projects: EUROHEAR and EVI-GENORET. EVI-GENORET links 24 academic and industrial partners from five research areas: phenotyping (identifying the characteristics of genes); development; genetics; therapy; and functional genomics, aimed at developing our understanding of how the retina works and how it is affected by genetic mutation, environmental factors and age. EUROHEAR involves 25 research teams across Europe who are sharing and developing knowledge of hearing processes. EUROHEAR's objectives are: to identify the genes behind hearing loss; to understand the biological mechanisms of full and impaired hearing; and to develop treatments to prevent and cure hearing impairment.

So far both projects have identified several new genes and the mutations that lead to blindness and deafness and will use this knowledge to investigate possible future therapies. The EC is aware that more needs to be done before validated therapies are available and will continue to support research into deafness and blindness under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/1002 of 3 July 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## **EC takes steps to promote science communication**

In FP6 the EC provided funding for communicating the results of projects and now in FP7 it has gone a step further by introducing a clause in all grant agreements to make dissemination a firm requirement. The EC is also keen to explore a variety of methods for science communication as demonstrated by the relaunch of its science film portal, Athenaweb, and a recent event to showcase an EC-funded communication project called APPEAR.

The APPEAR project led to a broadcast of its medical research films on 22 European TV channels in 15 countries throughout 2007. The project aimed to boost public perception by producing concrete results. It brought together communication consultancies, professional film producers and distributors. The films looked at research issues from diabetes to heart disease and deafness.

### **Further information**

Details of the FP6 APPEAR project are available at:

<http://www.appear-project.org/en/1030/77/?sess=9875466b4acc01210939b8b542237825>

## **Support for high-risk research across Europe mapped**

A recent survey has for the first time looked across Europe at where high-risk high-gain, highly innovative novel research is funded. The survey found that a considerable number of national funding agencies (over 40) claim to support this type of leading research. However, high-risk research was normally a fringe activity for these funding bodies, which sat alongside their core task of funding "normal science".

Since the people who want to do highly speculative research might not be the ones that have a long track record in terms of published research, some schemes used innovative peer review processes and criteria. For example, the 'Ideas Factory' programme run by the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is open to all disciplines on 'focused topics that need a new dimension in thinking - not just the overlap between disciplines'. The project selection and review process for this scheme are truly groundbreaking: a topic is defined and then, for each topic, an intense interactive five-day workshop called a 'sandpit' is held. Following a call for participants, a total of 20 to 30 researchers are selected to take part, as well as a group of stakeholders and international experts, who act as impartial referees in the real-time peer review process. The outcomes of sandpits range from a single large research project to several smaller projects, feasibility studies, networking activities and overseas visits.

### **Further information**

Details of the survey are available at:

<http://www.nest-promise.net>

Information on the Ideas Factory programme is available in the EPSRC alphabetical list of their funding opportunities at:

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/ResearchFunding/Opportunities>

## **New robot joins astronaut in taking a dip**

In scenes reminiscent of science fiction movies, the vision of intelligent robot servants working alongside their masters is fast becoming a reality. European engineers have been working to

develop ever more sophisticated machines that can be used in space, such as the Eurobot machine which has been under development by the European Space Agency (ESA) since 2003. Eurobot is a multi-jointed, three-armed assistant that will eventually do some of the more routine tasks currently done by astronauts, saving them a great deal of time and effort. For example, Eurobot could help astronauts inspect the International Space Station (ISS) or could help during extravehicular activity (known as spacewalks). The robot could even be an indispensable helper during human expeditions to the Moon or Mars.

Eurobot has recently completed trials in the giant pool at the European Astronaut Centre. During these tests of its ability to move and manipulate objects, the project team gained hands-on experience of the robot's capabilities, trying out multi-arm control and co-ordination, along with visual recognition of obscured targets. Eurobot was joined in the pool by ESA astronaut Jean-François Clervoy to demonstrate the interaction between astronaut and robot. Philippe Schoonejans, ESA's Eurobot Project Manager said that the tests went really well and explained that 'it is becoming clear that Eurobot can really help the astronauts'.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available at:

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

### **Intellectuals advise EC on multilingualism and intercultural dialogue**

A group of experts on multilingualism recently held their first meeting in Brussels, chaired by Commissioner Leonard Orban. The purpose of the group is to advise the EC, through proposals and recommendations, on how languages can foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. The group is composed of ten independent experts with a multicultural and/or literary background, or with academic work in a multilingual or multicultural context. The group includes the former Director General of the British Council, David Green.

The group is required to contribute to the forthcoming 'European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008'. The group's mandate is to discuss how knowledge of other languages can provide access to other cultures and aid a more inclusive society; to identify ways of fostering intercultural dialogue in Europe; and to propose strategies to communicate the benefits of language learning.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/972 of 29 June 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## **Education, Training and Culture**

### **New plans for Erasmus Mundus**

The EC has recently adopted a proposal to launch the next generation of the Erasmus Mundus programme. The new programme, which will run from 2009 to 2013, will build on the current one by aiming to become the main reference point for co-operation with third country higher education. The budget of the new programme will be just over €950 million.

The main activities of the new programme will be: the support of joint programmes of outstanding academic quality at Master's and doctoral level, including a scholarship scheme for high-calibre EU and third country students and academics; the promotion of partnerships between European and third country universities in specific world regions as a basis for structured co-operation, transfer of know-how, exchange and mobility at all levels of higher education; and the support of measures to enhance the worldwide appeal of Europe as an educational destination. Some new elements will

be the extension of the programme to doctoral studies and stronger financial support for European students through more attractive scholarships.

Erasmus Mundus started in 2004 to promote European higher education as a centre of excellence to the world. Between 2004 and 2006, more than 2,300 students participated in the programme and over 1,800 have recently been selected to start their studies in Europe in September this year.

#### **Further information**

Further details on Erasmus Mundus can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus>

EC Press Releases IP/07/1081, MEMO/07/293 and MEMO/07/292 of 12 July 2007 are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **EC launches consultation on schools**

The EC has adopted a document to launch a public consultation on how schools should be modernised in the member states. It is hoped that there will be input from teachers, parents, and pupils. The areas covered by the EC consultation include: the modernisation of the school curriculum; the promotion of life-long learning; and the role of teachers in a rapidly changing teaching environment.

The Education Commissioner, Jan Figel, stated: 'Further efforts are needed if our schools are to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In particular, they must be able to equip individuals with all the competencies they need to function in an increasingly competitive, knowledge-based, society.' The role of the EC will, however, be limited to supporting national education development efforts and best practice, as education and training are competencies of the member states. The consultation is open until 15 October 2007.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available from Europa at: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/index\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/index_en)

## **External Collaboration**

### **Switzerland signs association agreement to FP7**

The EU and Switzerland signed an agreement enabling Switzerland to join the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) at the Competitiveness Council in Luxembourg on 25 June 2007. This agreement is effective retroactively from 1 January 2007. According to the agreement, Swiss research institutions, universities and private entities will be able to take part in all aspects of FP7 on exactly the same terms as their counterparts in the EU member states. This agreement constitutes a follow-up to the one signed in 2004 regarding the FP6. The FP6 agreement led to the participation of more than 1,800 Swiss organisations in European research projects. Switzerland's higher education institutes were particularly strong participants in FP6, making up 59 per cent of all Swiss participants, ahead of industry with 29 per cent. Swiss research entities participated in all activities under FP6 and were strongest in Information Society Technologies (IST).

Switzerland's participation will bring approximately €1.4 billion of additional funding to the FP7 budget of about €54 billion.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research>

### **COST: co-operation with Australia and New Zealand**

A new pilot scheme between COST (European Co-operation in Science and Technology) and Australia and New Zealand has been given the green light. The scheme will provide around 20 travel grants worth €2,500 to support the travel and subsistence costs of scientists travelling from the EU to Australia or New Zealand and vice versa. The COST programme aims to boost co-operation between nationally funded research activities. This pilot scheme hopes to address the lack of funding for travel, which is one of the major practical barriers to global research.

It will focus on five main areas: medical and health research; agriculture, biotechnology and food; nanotechnology; information and communications technology; and environment and climate change. The New Zealand scheme will also focus on forestry. Further details of the implementation will be arranged by the COST Office with the dedicated partner institutions. The scheme will cover a test phase from July 2007 to July 2009. Following this, a report will be presented for evaluation and further decisions.

#### **Further information**

Further information on the decision to create the pilot scheme is available from the noticeboard section of the COST website at: <http://www.cost.esf.org>

### **EC consultation to refine EU strategy for international co-operation on ICT**

The EC has recently launched a public consultation examining international co-operation in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The results of the consultation will help the EC and the member states to better define the aims and objectives of an EU external strategy for the Information Society and its contribution to existing external policies. All stakeholders, including industry, the research community and consumer organisations, are encouraged to take part by completing a questionnaire.

The questionnaire is structured around the three broad areas of the EC's activities that are included in the 2010 Annual Information Society Report of 2007. These are: overall rules (regulatory framework for electronic communications); challenges in the area of research and innovation; and social aspects (here under the chapter 'global issues'). A final section also seeks input on the possible tools the EC may use to achieve global competitiveness. In particular, the innovation and research in ICT section asks which areas of ICT research and ICT research infrastructures should be prioritised for international co-operation and addresses participation issues. The public consultation will close on 17 September 2007. In November 2007 the EC will hold a workshop to evaluate the results of the consultation. It is expected that the EC will communicate the new EU Strategy for International Co-operation on ICT during 2008.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/07/988 of 2 July 2007 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Arctic research: Commissioner Potočnik visits northern Norway**

Science Commissioner Janez Potočnik visited Svalbard in northern Norway as part of International Polar Year to meet with the Norwegian Research Minister and students taking part in EU projects. He also visited an EU-funded research vessel, a radar facility studying the interaction between the Earth and the Sun, and the European Centre for Arctic Environmental Research.

The Svalbard archipelago is the best equipped Arctic research platform in the world. Its favourable geographical location facilitates research within the upper atmosphere and space, physics, biology,

geology and geophysics, and in particular environmental research into areas such as climate change, long-range transportation of pollutants, ecology, and ocean-atmosphere interactions. Ny-Ålesund, the northernmost settlement, hosts a research platform involving 12 research institutions representing nine different countries: Norway, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, France, Japan, South Korea, China, the Netherlands and Sweden. Four of the stations are manned all year round. The platform is run as a comprehensive base for a large spectrum of polar research with many long-term projects, notably in atmospheric sciences.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release MEMO/07/272 of 4 July 2007 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/search>

## **EU and US strengthen co-operation on cosmetics and medical devices**

The EC and the US government will from now on be able to exchange confidential information about the safety of cosmetics and medical devices. The EC and US Food and Drug Administration agreed confidentiality arrangements at a bilateral meeting in Brussels in early July, enabling better health protection and easier trade between the EU and the US. The bilateral trade volume in medical devices is balanced, with each trading partner exporting around €6.5 billion to the other on an annual basis.

The new confidentiality arrangements will allow the exchange of information between the parties as part of their regulatory mandates in the field of cosmetics and medical devices. The types of information covered include: advance drafts of legislation and/or regulatory guidance documents; post-marketing data and information that could have an impact on the public health, such as vigilance data or information about impending regulatory actions; and information on ongoing and emerging regulatory issues of health and safety in the US or the EU.

#### **Further information**

Commission Press Release IP/07/1024 of 5 July 2007 is available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

# **Events and Awards**

## **EURITRACK event**

The EURITRACK project (European Illicit Trafficking Countermeasures Kit) comes to a close at the end of this year. Its final workshop will take place in Varese, Italy, on 11 and 12 September 2007. The EURITRACK project aims to develop and demonstrate a non-intrusive system for the detection of explosives and other dangerous goods in cargo containers using tagged neutron beams. The event will focus on the initial goals and expectations of the project, it will provide information on the development of components and system integration and it will present the outcomes of the final testing campaigns in the port of Rijeka, Croatia. Furthermore, participants will be provided with an overview of the security research thematic area of FP7 and of how the EURITRACK project results fit with those of ongoing initiatives and future collaborations.

The topics will be addressed in presentations by the consortium and invited speakers as well as in poster sessions. The registration deadline is Friday 24 August 2007.

#### **Further information**

More information and registration is available at: [http://nuclearsafeguards.jrc.it/Web\\_Euritrack](http://nuclearsafeguards.jrc.it/Web_Euritrack)

## Security information and partnering forum 2007

IT for Security – Security for IT, the second information and partnering forum will take place on 9 and 10 October 2007 in Potsdam, Germany. Within FP7, security research should develop the new technologies and knowledge needed to ensure the security of citizens from threats such as terrorism and organised crime, while respecting fundamental human rights. Help from information and communication technologies is required in order to achieve this. FP7 has therefore prioritised joint research on the subject of safety and security and IT.

In this context, the international conference on 'Safety and security systems in Europe', organised by the Innovation Relay Centre Northern Germany, focuses on technology-oriented enterprises and research institutions in the area of security and safety. The conference also includes a brokerage platform (pre-arranged meeting service) to initiate European research or co-operation projects among the participants. Sessions will address several topics including technical guidelines for new technologies in information security, security and geodata, and IT security and citizenship.

### Further information

Further information and registration is available at:

<http://www.safety-and-security.de/conference/programme>

## European conference on complex systems

The annual European conference on complex systems will take place in Dresden, Germany from 1 to 6 October 2007. The conference aims to reflect on recent progress in the field of complexity science and to significantly increase the actively involved community. A range of satellite conferences will also take place, including a showcase of European complexity science projects on 6 October, which will include a presentation of funding opportunities under FP7.

There will be presentations from high profile speakers including Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, the General Secretary of the European Research Council. Some of the sessions over the course of the conference will include: the mathematics of emergence and flocking; the complexity of computation; science, technology, and applications of swarm robotics; hybrid systems of brain tissue and microelectronics; multi-agents for modelling complex systems; the complexity of risk; and logistics networks. The event is organised by the Technical University of Dresden and the European Complex Systems Society with the support of other institutions including the EC.

### Further information

Further information on the conference is available at: <http://complexsystems.lri.fr/eccs07>

## EURO-TRANS conference

The FP6-funded EURO-TRANS (European Targeted Research Association Network for SMEs) project will hold its first 'EURO-TRANS Days' conference in Warsaw, Poland from 17 to 18 October 2007. The aim is to bring together SMEs, major RTD performers and industrial stakeholders from across Europe in the field of surface transport. Some of the sessions that will be covered at the event include: the topics and research areas of the second call for proposals under the 'Sustainable Surface Transport' (SST) area of FP7; the strategic research agendas of the European Technology Platforms, focusing on the needs for SMEs; and project management and co-ordination issues.

Delegates will hear presentations from EC speakers, National Contact Points and participants in FP6-funded projects. There will be parallel sessions on the second day of the conference on road, rail and waterborne transport, as well as an intermodal session for delegates to choose from. The afternoon of the second day will also see one-on-one and coaching sessions. Registration for the event is open until 17 September 2007.

### **Further information**

Further details, a copy of the programme and registration are available at:  
<http://www.euro-trans.info>

## **European Respiratory Society annual conference**

The European Respiratory Society annual conference will take place in Stockholm, Sweden from 15 to 19 September 2007. This year's conference will concentrate on the important role of primary care in respiratory health service provision. This is becoming an increasingly important topic given the demands being placed on EU healthcare systems due to demographic changes. The conference is therefore tailored to meet the needs of respiratory specialists and generalists in this field.

It will open with a keynote talk on how to push respiratory disease into the political limelight by Professor Ronald Dahl, the former president of the European Respiratory Society. Breakout sessions will take place covering fields such as: diagnosis, spirometry and other lung function tests; palliative care; inhaler devices; occupational asthma; and pulmonary rehabilitation. The day will end with a discussion on 'Delivering quality respiratory care in primary care: a multidisciplinary international perspective'. Delegates will also have the opportunity to access postgraduate workshops, which will be held on the same day.

### **Further information**

Full details are available at: <http://dev.ersnet.org/357-primary-care.htm>

## **European Food Information Resource Network (EuroFIR) congress**

The second international EuroFIR Congress will take place on 26 and 27 September 2007 in Granada, Spain. EuroFIR is a five year project funded by the EC's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). The main aim of the project is to provide a single, authoritative source of food composition data in Europe.

The event will bring together experts in the field of food composition data from around the world and members of the EuroFIR network. Its aim will be to describe how EuroFIR is contributing to important work in the field of food composition data and provide examples of how data are used in a variety of settings, including public health, research and the food industry.

### **Further information**

Further information and registration is available at: <http://eurofir.net/granada>

# **New Publications and Online Resources**

## **The EU on YouTube**

On 29 June 2007 the EC officially launched its new page on YouTube, called EUtube. The EC has a range of audiovisual material available on its websites, but is hoping that the new YouTube site will increase awareness of the European institutions, and the role the institutions play. The new EUtube site will predominantly include English-speaking videos, but will also contain some material in other languages.

The EUtube site will not contain new material, but instead existing material that can also be found

on the Europa website. Examples of EUtube videos include “Europe leads the fight against climate change”, “Europe and you in 2006”, “One day at the DG Communication” and “Fifty years of EU in the world”.

#### **Further information**

The new site can be accessed at: <http://youtube.com/EUtube>

### **AthenaWeb, the European science film portal, relaunched**

The EC has relaunched its award-winning science film portal, AthenaWeb, with the aim of boosting science film production and circulation in Europe. AthenaWeb will aim to be an all-in-one web workstation for science communicators to broadcast their films, build contacts, promote their businesses, swap news, blog ideas, publish findings, and work on their programmes and projects from anywhere in Europe, or the world. Contributors to and users of the revamped portal will include scientists and researchers, teachers and students, and the television and film industry.

The site includes a new 'pro-zone' (for science broadcasters and film producers) with a marketplace and intelligent web workstation for managing projects, as well as a host of new tools (blogs, syndicated links) for educators and scientists in need of a place to profile their research and develop their communication skills. The new look AthenaWeb is now a versatile video portal and online workspace aimed at European audiovisual communication professionals in the areas of science and scientific information. AthenaWeb has won a number of key international awards and the portal hosts a catalogue of some 750 digitised high quality scientific films, serving a subscriber base of over 8,000 professionals across Europe.

#### **Further information**

The AthenaWeb site is available at: <http://www.athenaweb.org>

### **New CIP web portal for the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme**

A new web portal for the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) has been launched by DG Enterprise. Much of the information included is the same as the old CIP website but it is presented in a newer format, has several new features, and is easier to navigate. The Work Programmes and all of the documentation needed to submit applications to each of the three programmes of CIP will eventually all be available online. At present, certain sections are still under development. These include the 'CIP user's guidance' part of the website and a frequently asked questions section for each of the three programmes. A general presentation on CIP is available from the website and this should give people a good overview of what the programme is about.

The portal has a section on third country participation, which sets out who can take part and what a third country should do if it wants to get involved in the programme. There are also links to the other DGs of the EC that are involved in CIP, including DG TREN (which is responsible for the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme), DG INFSO (which is responsible for the ICT Policy Support Programme) and DG Environment (which works with DG Enterprise on the eco-innovation aspect of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme).

#### **Further information**

The new CIP portal is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/cip>

## Techweb website for SMEs

Techweb, a new website for SMEs, is available via the CORDIS website. It provides information to research-performing and research-acquiring SMEs on the opportunities within FP7. The new Techweb site replaces the older SME TechWeb site on CORDIS. Several features have been added to the new version including an online test that organisations can take to see if they are classed as an SME according to the definition of the EC Recommendation of 6 May 2003. This online test has been developed and is provided by the Walloon region of Belgium.

It also includes information on the funding opportunities that are available for SMEs, such as the opportunities within FP7. Techweb includes links to other websites of possible interest to SMEs, like the SME portal, which provides information on EU policies and legislation, and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, which will provide substantial amounts of funding to Europe's small businesses. A publications section contains several useful publications for SMEs, including material highlighting the opportunities within the Research for the Benefit of SMEs area of FP7.

### Further information

The website is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb>

## Health-EU portal to issue multilingual newsletter

From September 2007 onwards, the Health-EU portal will issue a multilingual newsletter twice a month with the aim of better informing European citizens about what is going on in the field of health at European and international level. The newsletter will be published in 20 European languages and will host links to interactive features on public health. The newsletter will be designed to keep the research community, practitioners and the general public updated on health-related events and publications, conferences and campaigns. In each edition there will also be topics dedicated to specific European or international days of action in the field of health.

It is possible to register for the newsletter and view the preview edition on the Health-EU portal website.

### Further information

Further information is available at: <http://health.europa.eu>

## New worldwide scientific portal goes online

An international project between the British Library, the US Department of Energy, organisations in Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Brazil, Canada and Japan has led to the launch of a new scientific portal for researchers and the public. The portal has more than 200 million pages of international research information and provides a single entry point for searching several science portals at once.

The system relies on the publication of scientific resources by each participating country and permits free access to many sources unknown to traditional search engines. It is thought that the new portal will add considerable value to existing knowledge and to the current policies of several European countries such as Denmark, France and Germany to make research information more widely accessible to a variety of audiences.

### Further information

For more information, please visit: <http://www.worldwidescience.org>

## UK Science Insight

Science Insight is the British Council's monthly science news bulletin covering the latest developments and forthcoming events in science, engineering and technology in the UK.

URL: <http://www.britishcouncil.org>

## CORDIS

CORDIS is the official COmmunity Research and Development Information Service for science, research and innovation provided by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. The interactive website offers daily news and detailed information on the EU's research programmes.

URL: <http://cordis.europa.eu>

## IGLO Project Search

The IGLO Project Service offers a forum for publishing and disseminating details of proposed FP7 projects and/or research skills offered. The service enables researchers to find contacts and partners within the international research community as well as contributing to the mobilisation of a critical mass of researchers in a specific research area.

URL: <http://www.iglortd.org>

## EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L)

This website provides information on EU Law. It includes electronic copies of EU treaties and recent copies of the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ). The OJ, published daily in 23 languages, consists of two related series: the L series (Legislation) and the C series (Information, notices and preparatory EU legislation), a supplement and an annex. EUR-LEX provides free access to the C and L series of the Official Journal for a period of 45 days following publication. (The OJ issue with the Euro exchange rates (L 359, 31/12/1998) is permanently available in PDF format on EUR-LEX).

URL: EUR-LEX <http://www.europa.eu/eur-lex>

Official Journals C and L <http://www.europa.eu/eur-lex/en/oj>

Treaty of Amsterdam <http://www.europa.eu/eur-lex/en/treaties>

## EUROPA

EUROPA is the official EU server. It contains links to the EP, the European Council, the EC and other EU institutions and contains information on EU policies listed by subject area.

URL: <http://www.europa.eu>

## RAPID

RAPID is a database giving a daily view of the activities of the EU as presented by the institutions in their press releases.

EC Press Releases are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

# GLOSSARY

## Capacities

Capacities is the fourth Specific Programme of FP7 and is worth over €4 billion from 2007 to 2013. It aims to enhance research capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use. It is made up of the following broad areas: Research Infrastructures; Research for the Benefit of SMEs; Regions of Knowledge; Research Potential for the Benefit of Convergence Regions; Science in Society; Support to Coherent Development of Research Policies; and International Co-operation.

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities>

## CIP

The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme will run from 2007 to 2013. With a budget of €3.6 billion, it is made up of three Specific Programmes: the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme; the ICT Policy Support Programme; and the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/cip>

## Co-operation

Co-operation is the first Specific Programme of FP7. Worth over €30 billion between 2007 and 2013, it is made up of ten thematic areas: Health; Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology; Information Communications Technology (ICT); Nanosciences, Nanomaterials, Materials and New Production Technologies; Energy; Environment; Transport; Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities; Space; and Security.

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation>

## COST

European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research is a framework for scientific and technical co-operation, allowing the co-ordination of national research on a European level.

<http://www.cost.esf.org>

## 'Council'

'Council' refers to the 'Council of Ministers', the principal 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://consilium.europa.eu/cms3\\_fo/showPage.ASP?lang=en](http://consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.ASP?lang=en)

## EC

The European Commission - made up of 27 commissioners nominated by the member states - both initiates proposals for EU legislation and executes EU policies and actions.

<http://ec.europa.eu>

## EP

The European Parliament 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.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm)

### **ERA**

European Research Area. On 18 January 2000 the EC issued a communication entitled 'Towards a European Research Area' that proposed ways in which research in Europe could be more effectively organised and co-ordinated.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/era>

### **ERC**

The European Research Council, which is the Ideas Specific Programme of FP7, is worth over €7 billion from 2007 to 2013. New to the Framework Programme, the ERC will fund investigator-led, frontier research. It consists of two grant schemes, the Starting Independent Researcher Grant and the Advanced Investigator Grant.

<http://erc.europa.eu>

### **ESA**

The European Space Agency is responsible for designing and developing the European space programme. The Agency's projects are designed to find out more about the Earth, its immediate space environment, the solar system and the universe, as well as to develop satellite-based technologies and services, and to promote European industries.

<http://www.esa.int>

### **ESC**

The 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.

<http://eesc.europa.eu>

### **ESF**

European Science Foundation

<http://www.esf.org>

### **ESF**

The European Social Fund, part of the EU's Structural Funds

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/esf2000/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf2000/index_en.html)

### **ETP**

European Technology Platforms are stakeholder groupings, led by industry, that help to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on a number of strategically important issues.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/nn/nn\\_rt/nn\\_rt\\_hlg/article\\_1262\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/nn/nn_rt/nn_rt_hlg/article_1262_en.htm)

### **Euratom**

The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) was set up in 1957 and is legally separate from the European Community. Euratom will have €2.7 billion from FP7 to fund nuclear research and training activities between 2007 and 2011.

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/euratom>

## **Eureka**

Eureka is a Europe-wide network for industrial research and development.

<http://www.eureka.be>

## **FP (FP5, FP6, FP7)**

The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was adopted in 1998 and ran until 2002, with FP6 then running from 2002 to 2006, and FP7 running from 2007 to 2013. The budget for FP7 is over €50 billion.

Further information on the thematic and horizontal programme composition of FP6 is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6>

Further information on FP7 can be found at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>

## **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.

## **ICPC**

An International Co-operation Partner Country is an economically less developed country, which is not an EU member state or associated state. ICPC partners can participate in FP7 projects and receive funding.

## **Ideas**

Ideas is the second Specific Programme of FP7 worth over €7 billion from 2007 to 2013. New to the Framework Programme, Ideas will fund investigator-led, frontier research. It is implemented through the European Research Council and consists of two grant schemes, the Starting Independent Researcher Grant and the Advanced Investigator Grant.

<http://erc.europa.eu>

## **ITRE**

The European Parliament Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (FP7)

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/itre\\_home\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/itre_home_en.htm)

## **JRC**

The EC's Joint Research Centre acts as a scientific and technological laboratory in support of EU policies, with a range of institutes and research activities.

<http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int>

## **LLP**

The Lifelong Learning Programme is made up of four pillars: the Comenius programme for pupils, teachers and schools; the Erasmus programme for students, scholars, professors and universities; the Leonardo da Vinci programme for apprentices, workers and employees; and the Grundtvig programme for adults and teachers and related organisations. There is also a transversal programme (for policy development, languages, information and communication technology) and the Jean Monet programme (dealing with issues relating to European integration, European institutions and associations in the fields of education and training).

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/llp/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/llp/index_en.htm)

### **Marie Curie Actions**

The Marie Curie Actions make up People, the third Specific Programme of FP7, which is worth over €4 billion during the period from 2007 to 2013. The Marie Curie Actions aim to improve the quality of human resources in European research through training and trans-national mobility of researchers.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html)

### **MEDIA**

The MEDIA Programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry.

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html)

### **NATO**

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

<http://www.nato.int>

### **People**

The third Specific Programme of FP7 is worth over €4 billion during the period from 2007 to 2013. Made up of the Marie Curie Actions, it aims to improve the quality of human resources in European research through training and trans-national mobility of researchers.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html)

### **RTD**

Research and Technological Development

### **SICA**

Specific International Co-operation Actions are FP7 call topics where a partner from an ICPC country has to be involved.

### **SME**

Small and medium sized enterprises

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/sme\\_definition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm)

### **Specific Programme**

FP7 is made up of seven Specific Programmes: Co-operation; Ideas (implemented through the European Research Council); People (the Marie Curie Actions); Capacities; the Joint Research Centre (JRC); Euratom and the JRC implementing Euratom.

### **SSH**

Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities is the eighth theme of the FP7 Co-operation Specific Programme.

### **Treaty of Amsterdam**

The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999.

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/treaties/index.htm>

**UUK**

Universities UK (formerly the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals)

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk>

**White Paper**

White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. They often follow a Green Paper.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Produced by the United Kingdom Research Office (UKRO)  
for the British Council.

**UKRO**

Rue du Commerce 45, BP3  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 230 5275 / 1535  
Fax: +32 2 230 4803  
E-mail: [ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk)  
URL: <http://www.ukro.ac.uk>