

European RTD Insight

British Council online bulletin

MARCH 2009

News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

Table of contents

EU Policy	2
Major EC report published into R&D and implementation of ERA	2
European research policy priorities for 2010	3
Report on diversified funding streams for university research	3
Europe urged to take lead in water issues	4
ERAWATCH support for research policy makers	4
Clustering for growth report	4
Climate change communications to be prioritised	5
Towards a low carbon economy	5
Closer co-operation between EC and ESA in Galileo project	6
ICT-PSP: 2009 call for proposals	6
SNE-TP strategic research agenda	6
Highlights of the year 2008	7
EU-funded research supports the greening of road transport research	7
Review of JRC activities in FP6	8
Transport Advisory Group publishes its report	8
Intelligent Manufacturing Systems 2020 Roadmapping Project	8
Marco Polo II: 2009 calls open	9
New GMES agreement signed	9
2009 European University-Business Forum	10
Lyon Declaration for road transport	10
New International Renewable Energy Agency established	10
Consultation on European energy network	11
Consultation on reducing health inequalities in Europe	11
Research News	12
Inauguration of ITER test platform	12
Supercomputers to simulate fusion	12
FP7 HiPER project investigates clean power from laser driven fusion	13
European project develops targeted drug delivery	13

Nut-cracking habits of the early humans	13
Chimp study on emotional care in childhood.....	14
Education, Training and Culture.....	14
Erasmus Mundus II launched	14
External Collaboration	15
Review of EC-China S&T co-operation	15
Turkey and the EU: A Promising Partnership in Research	15
Events and Awards	16
Creativity and Innovation 2009 conference	16
EC names its 'RegioStars'	16
Most innovative sustainable energy projects rewarded.....	16
Fourth international 'genomics in business' conference.....	17
International workshop on imaging the pancreatic beta cell.....	17
2009 ICT brokerage event	18
New Publications and Online Resources	18
New Marie Curie website.....	18
FP7 SSH- new publication on databases and indicators for researchers	19
ESA launches new GMES web portal	19
CORDIS	19
IGLO Project Search.....	20
EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L)	20
EUROPA.....	20
RAPID	20
cubed... from the British Council	20
Talking Science.....	20
GLOSSARY	21

EU Policy

Major EC report published into R&D and implementation of ERA

DG Research has recently published the Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures report 2008/2009, which is entitled 'A more research-intensive and integrated European Research Area (ERA)'. The report is divided into two parts; the first part sets out some of the trends in European R&D investment, the second part of the report looks at the levels of integration that have so far taken place within the European Research Area (ERA).

On the first point, between 2000 and 2006, R&D investment grew by 14.8 per cent in real terms within the EU-27, compared to 10.1 per cent in the US. However, as a proportion of GDP, the level of R&D intensity in the EU has actually fallen from 1.86 per cent in 2000 to 1.84 per cent in 2006, whilst in China, South Korea and Japan it has increased considerably. The level of R&D intensity in the private sector is still a concern for the EU, as is the fact that more is being outsourced to other world regions. EU companies, for example, spend more on R&D outside the EU than non-EU companies spend on it inside the EU.

In terms of implementing ERA, however, the report finds that clear progress is being made. Universities are increasingly working in transnational networks and more funding is being made available for transnational collaborative research. There has been a steady increase in the transnational mobility of researchers within ERA. The report also finds that ERA is beginning to open up to the world: around 13 per cent of doctoral candidates in the EU now come from non-EU countries.

Further information

The report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/key-figures-report2008-2009_en.pdf

European research policy priorities for 2010

The EC has published its Annual Policy Strategy for 2010, which is designed to start the institutional dialogued on the next year's priorities. Four policy objectives have been selected: economic and social recovery, climate change and sustainable Europe, putting the citizen first, and Europe as a world partner. It provides an overview of the priorities within these objectives; the proposed priorities will be discussed among the European institutions before being confirmed by the new Commission in autumn 2009.

2010 will prove to be an important year, it will include the mid-term review of the current EU spending programmes, including FP7, and the EC will be looking ahead to the next multi-annual financial framework. The Annual Policy Strategy 2010 explains that the implementation of the European Economic Recovery Plan will be a matter of high priority. It also sets out the basis for the discussions on the 2010 draft budget, setting out proposed changes under each heading of the 2007-2013 Multi-annual Financial Framework. In line with EC financial programming, the proposed 2010 budget will see an increase of nine percent for the budget Heading 1a which includes FP7, LLP, CIP, Trans-European Networks (TENs), Galileo and the EIT.

Further information

EC press release IP/09/277 of 18 February 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Report on diversified funding streams for university research

Following the Green Paper consultation on the European Research Area in 2007 the EC set up several expert groups including one on diversified funding streams for university-based research. The report has been released and provides a broad overview of the impact of external funding on universities across Europe. The expert group concentrated on the research activities of universities (education and training are not covered), external project based research at universities, and research universities (not the entire higher education sector). There were two fundamental principles which influenced the groups work, namely that excellence in research and research management go hand in hand, and that the financial sustainability of universities is essential.

The main recommendations were that universities across Europe need to adopt full costing methodologies appropriate to their national legal requirements. The Member States, along with the EC need to draw up good practice guidelines for external funding in consultation with the universities. The EC, and Member States should assess the ability of universities to identify true costs of their research and the national support mechanisms available to assist them in doing so. There should also be the promotion and sharing of best practice whilst taking into account national, legal and structural constraints.

Further information

Further information and the expert group report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index_en.htm

Europe urged to take lead in water issues

The independent think tank, Friends of Europe, has produced a report on their recent European Policy Summit entitled 'Saving Europe's Water – Its Place in the EU's Green Strategy'. Discussion at the event highlighted the importance of water issues to Europe, with an appreciation of the variety of these issues, from floods in the UK to water scarcity in Cyprus. It was noted that problems of water supply are strongly linked to climate change and affect all countries in Europe. However, action on mitigation of future water problems has so far not been as strong as actions focussed on climate change.

The report remarked that with several European countries, such as the Netherlands, having many years of experience in managing water issues, the EU needs to become a more active participant in the global debate. Actions identified include: improving water efficiency, using competitive water pricing to force consumers to recognise its value and scarcity, and working to endure inter-sector co-operation so that European legislation in one area does not inadvertently lead to water management issues for other sectors.

Further information

Further information including the summit report is available at: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org>

ERAWATCH support for research policy makers

ERAWATCH is jointly managed by DG Research, and the JRC, in collaboration with CORDIS. It is designed to provide a public service to support evidence-based policy-making across Europe, covering the development of research systems and policies, primarily across the 27 EU Member States, and countries associated to FP7. The ERAWATCH services are free of charge. The ERAWATCH information is collected with the support of the ERAWATCH Network of national experts.

There are two main services, the first being ERAWATCH Research Inventory. This contains information on the research policy across Europe at national levels, including: country research profiles; research policy documents; support measures; role and impact of programme evaluation; organisations; and sources of data and indicators. It also provides comparative information on Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan Korea, New Zealand and the USA. Users can search the information keywords, by country and by type of information. A new archive has been introduced where users can download full 2008 country profiles. The second main service is the ERAWATCH Intelligence service which aims to provide regular and ongoing analyses of issues relevant to research policy-making.

Further information

Further information is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm>

Clustering for growth report

A new report entitled 'Clustering for Growth: How to build dynamic innovation clusters in Europe' puts forward a number of suggestions and recommendations for policymakers. Alongside the European Commission's Cluster Policy, this report aims to set out coherent areas for action by governments to make clusters more effective. The publication features a series of profiles of leading clusters with responses to the question 'what makes for a successful cluster?' This report also synthesises the views of the experts at meetings held in Brussels, and sets out the Science|Business Charter of policy measures.

One particular proposal is being discussed in more detail - the setting up of two or three privileged areas referred to as 'Special Innovation Zones for Europe' (SIZE) - that, whilst situated in one place,

are in effect supranational. The SIZE would be deregulated areas that provide the best that Europe has to offer in terms of environment, infrastructure and lifestyle, to attract the best people and the best companies from all over the continent and beyond.

Further information

The report is available at: <http://www.sciencebusiness.net/documents/clusterbooklet.pdf>

Climate change communications to be prioritised

A special report by the EC's public opinion analysis sector, Euro-barometer, entitled 'Europeans' attitude towards climate change' has found that 62 per cent of European citizens state that climate change is 'the most important problem of our times'. Furthermore, the EC, EP, and European Council have identified climate change as one of their three inter-institutional communication priorities for 2009. In light of these developments the EC has decided that communications on climate change are no longer to be the responsibility of a few Directorate Generals, such as Environment.

The EC's climate change communication plan will inform citizens about the EU's efforts in fighting climate change and will also aim to win their support. As the main consequences of climate will impact on the lifestyles of young people, they will be a particular focus of the plan. There will also be information on the advantages of a low carbon society and training session for journalists to give them the background information on climate change. Many high visibility events are in the pipeline making full use of the EC's wide range of communication services.

Further information

Further information is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/networks/doc/newsflash/newsflash67.pdf>

Towards a low carbon economy

Mr Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Environment, spoke at the launch event of the McKinsey Report on 26 January 2009. In his speech, Mr Dimas emphasised that the recently agreed climate action and renewable energy package has put Europe firmly on the path towards transforming itself into a low-carbon economy – and to seizing the huge business opportunities that this new industrial revolution promises. It is now of vital importance to get the rest of the world on the same track through the new international climate agreement to be concluded in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Mr Dimas believes the Copenhagen Agreement will have to be global, requiring all countries except the very poorest to lessen their greenhouse gas emissions. The major requirement that the Copenhagen Agreement must underline, is that the new agreement must limit the global average temperature rise to less than 2°C above the pre-industrial level. Further, Mr Dimas believes that the climate package will 'give Europe a first-mover advantage in developing thriving new low-carbon technology sectors with the scale and technological leadership to supply world markets'. So far, the EU is the only region in the world that, through the binding legislation in the climate and energy package, is willing to cut its greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below their 1990 levels. Mr Dimas stressed that, if other developed countries commit to comparable reductions, the EU is committed to increasing its emissions cut from 20% to up to 30% - and to revising the package accordingly.

Further information

EC Press Release SPEECH/09/21 of 26 January 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Closer co-operation between EC and ESA in Galileo project

On 10 February 2009, the Commission Vice-President responsible for transport, Antonio Tajani, and Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), met in order to give official support to their continued cooperation in the Galileo programme. The meeting marks further progress in the co-ordination of Galileo. On 19 December 2008, the EC and ESA signed a delegation agreement covering Galileo's deployment phase by the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA). While the EC is responsible for the management of the Egnos and Galileo programmes, ESA, as the guardian of European technical space know-how, acts as project manager for the two programmes. The ESA-EC Agreement establishes a framework to optimise co-operation between the Commission and the European Space Agency.

The overall programme objective for Galileo is the deployment, by 2013, of a European navigation system generating signals that provide a total of five main services, namely the Open Service, the Safety of Life Service, the Commercial Service, the Public Regulated Service, and the Search and Rescue Service. For the Galileo programme, the implementation of the deployment phase consists of six main work packages to be put out to public tender (system support, ground mission segment, ground control segment, space segment, launch services and operations).

Further information

EC Press Release IP/09/235 of 10 February 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

ICT-PSP: 2009 call for proposals

The EC has launched the third call for proposals under the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Policy Support Programme (PSP) which is part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) 2007-13. With an indicative budget of €99.5 million, the call will close on 2 June 2009. ICT PSP aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. The 2009 call focuses on eight themes: (i) ICT for health, ageing and inclusion; (ii) digital Libraries; (iii) ICT for government and governance; (iv) ICT for energy efficiency and environment; (v) multilingual web; (vi) public sector information; (vii) internet evolution and security (including RFID); (viii) open innovation, user experience and living labs.

Four types of instruments have been identified to support these themes: (i) Pilot (Type A) - building on initiatives in Member States or associated countries; (ii) Pilot (Type B) - stimulating the uptake of innovative ICT based services and products; (iii) Thematic Network (TN) - providing a forum for stakeholders for experience sharing and consensus building; and (iv) Best Practice Network (BPN) - exclusively for the theme on 'digital libraries' to support sharing of good practices in this field.

Further information

For further information relating to this programme, please refer to the CIP ICT Policy Support Programme website at: http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp

SNE-TP strategic research agenda

The Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNE-TP), which was launched in September 2007, has now finalised its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). The SRA is the result of nearly 200 contributions from scientists and engineers at the 67 member organisations of the SNE-TP. There is also a public consultation on the SRA which is to close on 8 March 2009, after which a final version will be produced. The SRA, together with its executive summary and the technical annexes, is available on the SNE-TP website.

A key aim of the technology platform is to play a major role in co-ordinating and facilitating fission research at the European level. Through its R&D programmes SNE-TP aims to support the role of nuclear energy in Europe's energy mix, its contribution to the security and competitiveness of energy supply, as well as the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. At the EU level nuclear fission is increasingly recognised as a key low carbon technology, and this was recognised by the EC in its Strategic Energy Technology (SET) plan.

Further information

Further information is available for the SNE-TP website at: <http://www.snetp.eu>

Highlights of the year 2008

The EC have published a report of the activities and funded projects in 2008 for the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Science in Society (SiS). More than 570 SSH and SiS proposals were evaluated in 2008, with 124 projects being selected for funding. The total expected EC contribution to these projects is €129 million. In 2008 SSH and SiS built on progress made in 2007 by laying the foundations for the future years of FP7. Several high level conferences were held on such diverse issues as the social sciences response to climate change, and the role of science education in Europe.

The SSH thematic area is part of the Co-operation Specific Programme and funds research projects in areas such as sustainable development, Europe in the world, and EU citizenship. The SiS activity is part of the Capacities Specific Programme and covers the following issues: governance, ethics, gender and science education, and promoting two-way communication channels between the public and scientific community.

Further information

Further information on SSH including the report is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh>

Further information on SiS including the report is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society>

EU-funded research supports the greening of road transport research

On 26 January 2009, the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC) outlined the scenarios for Europe's road transport system of the future. At the ERTRAC conference in January, Commissioner Janez Potočnik pointed out the ways in which EU research policy contributes to the overall EU's objective to fight climate change by supporting transport research.

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the EU's main programme for research and development, allocates €4.16 billion over seven years to the Transport research theme. The FP7 Transport theme aims to create a 'greener', 'safer' and 'smarter' pan-European transport system, while the EU's new Technology Platforms (ETP's) bring together partners from industry, the scientific community and the Commission to define research priorities and action plans in specific fields. FP7 also encourages the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), key players that provide necessary dynamism and innovation. The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) is another important initiative in green transport research. It is a public private partnership with joint funding from the Community and from industry, with industry in the lead. Fuel cells, as an efficient conversion technology, and hydrogen, as a clean energy carrier, have a great potential to contribute to addressing energy challenges facing Europe.

Further information

EC Press Release MEMO/09/26 of 26 January 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Review of JRC activities in FP6

An ex-post evaluation of the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) actions in FP6 has been undertaken and the report published. The former Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government, Sir David King, led a panel of 14 international experts. Several successes of the JRC were identified including: the continued provision of scientific and technical services to the EC; focussing the seven research institutes competencies and facilities on thematic priorities; and enhanced researcher training and networking activities and assistance provided to candidate countries about to accede to the EU.

The JRC is a research based policy support organisation and an integral part of the EC. The JRC provides scientific advice and technical know-how into a wide range of EU policies. There are seven JRC institutes: Reference Materials and Measurements (Geel, Belgium); Transuranium Elements (Karlsruhe, Germany); Energy (Petten, The Netherlands); Protection and the Security of the Citizen (Ispra, Italy); Environment and Sustainability (Ispra, Italy); Health and Consumer Protection (Ispra, Italy); and Prospective Technological Studies (Seville, Spain).

Further information

A copy of the report is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=2550>

The JRC website is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm>

Transport Advisory Group publishes its report

The Transport Advisory Group (TAG), which acts as the expert group providing advice to the EC on the FP7 Transport thematic area, has recently published its second report. The report is likely to be of interest to policy-makers and researchers in the field of transport research. It contains details of the membership of TAG: the names and organisations of members are available in Annex I. It also explains some background information on the way in which TAG operates and how it communicates with the EC.

An interesting section is included on the observations and advice of TAG on how the FP7 Transport theme should be implemented from 2010 onwards. It includes several suggestions as to how to make the Work Programme and overall theme more user-friendly. Looking to the future, it also outlines possible research activities after 2010 and outlines the benefits of international co-operation. Finally, the report gives details on the expected activities of the Transport Advisory Group throughout 2009.

Further information

The TAG Report is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/advisory-groups/transport-2008-report.pdf#pagemode=none>

The website listing all of the Advisory Groups for FP7 is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=eag

Intelligent Manufacturing Systems 2020 Roadmapping Project

The Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) has recently launched a roadmapping project as a vision for the future of IMS in 2020. IMS is an initiative which is funded under the Co-ordination Actions of the Seventh Framework Programme Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP) Thematic Area, as well as the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Thematic Area. IMS2020 has an overall budget of €2million and will last for an initial period of 24 months.

IMS2020 aims to strengthen international co-operation within Intelligent Manufacturing Systems by synergising research at an international level through newly established inter-regional manufacturing communities. The action has strategic significance to IMS and for the Commission as a whole. It is

expected to provide a coherent roadmap for future manufacturing research in Europe and beyond. It will also enhance inter-regional co-operation and attempt to identify new schemes and frameworks which can help in funding of IMS research, and to identify opportunities to increase involvement of Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SME's). IMS 2020 will build and consolidate international communities in IMS research areas and improve awareness of the importance of IMS throughout industry, and particularly in SME's.

Further information

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

The roadmapping project is available at: www.ims2020.net

Marco Polo II: 2009 calls open

The EC and the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) have opened the 2009 calls for proposals under the Marco Polo II programme. The programme, which runs from 2007 to 2013, aims at achieving a substantial reduction in congestion, an improvement in the environmental performance of the transport system and an enhancement of intermodal transport. A total of €62 million has been made available for the calls. The programme is open to all commercial entities from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and potentially also Croatia. The deadline for submission is 8 May 2009.

The current calls will support projects under the following five fields: 'modal shift', which focusses on shifting as much freight as economically meaningful under current market conditions from road to short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways; 'catalyst', which looks at overcoming some of the structural barriers that exist; 'motorways of the sea'; 'traffic avoidance', which aims to integrate transport into production logistics so as to reduce freight transport demand by road, with a direct impact on emissions; and 'common learning actions', which enhance knowledge in the freight logistics sector and foster advanced methods of co-operation in the freight market.

Further information

Information on the call and guidance to proposers is available at the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/calls/2009_en.htm

The helpdesk of the Marco Polo Programme can be reached via e-mail eaci-marco-polo-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu and fax (32-2) 297 95 06.

New GMES agreement signed

The European Space Agency (ESA) and the EC have signed an amendment to the agreement on the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative. GMES is the European programme that implements an Earth observation service system with satellites, sensors on the ground, floating in the water or flying through the air to monitor the environment and to support the security of citizens.

The new agreement was signed by Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director General of ESA, and Heinz Zourek, Director General of the DG Enterprise and Industry. The original agreement was signed in February 2008, and it allocated technical development of the GMES Space Component Programme to ESA, while ensuring the EC remains responsible for dealing with managerial issues. This new amendment ensures the development of the second units of the Sentinel 1, 2, 3 satellites, as well as the atmospheric chemistry missions Sentinel-4 and -5 precursor.

Further information

Further information is available at: http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM27RWPXPF_index_0.html

For more information please contact:

Josef Aschbacher
Head, GMES Space Office
ESA ESRIN, Frascati/Italy
josef.aschbacher@esa.int

2009 European University-Business Forum

A meeting was recently held in Brussels, drawing together the worlds of business and universities to promote better collaboration between the two sectors. The event was attended by high level representatives from business, higher educations and politics. The Forum was designed to provide an opportunity for these groups to network, showcase successful partnerships and to discuss potential new forms of co-operation between higher education and businesses around Europe. Better collaboration between the two sectors is seen as an essential component in meeting the challenges of globalisation.

The first University-Business Forum was held in February 2008 and was followed by a series of thematic events throughout 2008. At the recent 2009 event, participants discussed issues such as 'how to modernise governance within Universities' and 'how to structure curricula to better stimulate entrepreneurship in students'. One particular aim of this forum is to stimulate knowledge transfer in both directions to help develop both sectors. The European Commission will incorporate the results of this Forum into a Communication on University-Business co-operation, which will be published in April 2009.

Further information

Further information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/business/index_en.html

Lyon Declaration for road transport

The major stakeholders in the road transport sector recently signed up to the Lyon Declaration. This declaration sets out their vision for sustainable transport in the context of the 2020 vision for the European Research Area. The EC also confirmed, during the signing of this declaration, that the three priorities of the next FP7 Transport Work Programme would be: major reductions in emissions; boosting European competitiveness through eco-innovation; and the deepening of ERA.

The declaration was signed during a meeting in Lyon organised by the French National Institute for Transport and Safety Research (INRETS). The declaration states that it considers surface transport-related research and expertise to be of crucial relevance to tackling the grand challenges of energy, climate change, globalisation, ICT and the ageing population. It goes on to list a series of points related to the 2020 vision, ERA governance, education and training, research infrastructures, evaluation and joint programming and international co-operation.

Further information

The Lyon Declaration is available via the INRETS conference website: <http://eufp-event.inrets.fr/>

New International Renewable Energy Agency established

Andris Piebalgs, the European Commissioner for Energy, recently attended the opening of the new International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). IRENA was launched in January and it has been given a mandate by governments across the world to become the main driving force in promoting a rapid transition towards the wide-spread and sustainable use of renewable energy. It will provide practical advice and support for both industrialised and developing countries, help them improve their

regulatory frameworks and build capacity. The agency also hopes to facilitate access to relevant information including reliable data on the potential of renewable energy, best practices, effective financial mechanisms and state-of-the-art technological expertise.

Commissioner Piebalgs said that the EU is in the process of signing up to IRENA and is likely to join in the near future. He went on to add, 'I am working to ensure that the Council considers a Commission request for a mandate very soon. My hope is to be able to represent the European Community, alongside the Member States themselves, in IRENA in the near future. I will be asking my European colleagues to support me in this endeavour so that together with all of you, we can participate from the start in building IRENA into the Agency we need.'

Further information

EC Press Release SPEECH/09/20 of 26 January 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>
Further information about the IREA is available at: <http://www.irena.org>

Consultation on European energy network

The EC recently released a major Green Paper entitled 'towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European energy network'. A consultation process is currently ongoing as the EC wants to know stakeholders' opinions on what the EU should do to stimulate the investments that are required, and also how to advance projects which can help Europe secure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supplies for the future. Suggestions are specifically being sought on how to revise the Trans European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) programme to make it more effective.

The basis for the Green Paper is that there is a need across the EU for massive investments in new energy networks. Energy supplies depend on complex and often costly infrastructure projects. These projects are needed for a wide range of reasons such as: maintaining current networks; new networks to transport alternative forms of energy; to link up different parts of the EU so that resources can be shared and pooled; to make it possible for local communities to contribute to the grid; and to improve the import and transmission of networks for oil and gas. The consultation closes on 31 March 2009.

Further information

More details on the consultation, including the Green Paper, are available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/consultations/2009_03_31_gp_energy_en.htm

Information on TEN-E is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/tent_e/ten_e_en.htm

Consultation on reducing health inequalities in Europe

The EC has launched a consultation to collect views on how the EU can contribute to reducing health inequalities both within and between Member States. This consultation will feed into the development of an EC Communication on 'Solidarity in Health' during 2009, as part of the ECs 2009 Work Programme.

It follows on from a number of high level decisions and Communications. The EC White Paper 'Together for Health, a strategic approach for the EU 2008-2013' highlights the importance of the need to reduce inequities in health between and within Member States and announced policy action proposals aimed at reducing health inequities. Last summer the European Council stressed importance of closing the gap in health and in life expectancy between and within Member States; this was followed by the EC's Communication on Renewed Social Agenda which announced the EC Communication on health inequalities for 2009. The consultation asks interested stakeholders to respond to a number of key questions on: the scope of level of EU action/subsidiary; and actions and

impacts, including how this should/could be tackled given the current economic situation. Individuals and organisations wishing to respond should do so by 1 April 2009.

Further information

Further information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/socio_economics/cons_inequalities_en.htm

Research News

Inauguration of ITER test platform

A test platform for a remote handling system essential to the future functioning of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) was officially inaugurated in Finland during January. The test platform, entitled the ITER Divertor Test Platform Facility (DTP2), has been developed under the management of the EC's Euratom programme and the fusion centres involved in the Euratom Fusion Development Agreement. The test platform is considered a significant step forward, both for the international ITER project and for nuclear research in general.

The purpose of DTP2 is to support the development of a remote handling system to change divertor cassettes. These cassettes are essential components of the ITER reactor as they are the only components allowed to touch the hot plasma, extracting the fusion 'helium ash' and keeping the plasma clean. The helium ash is a by-product of fusion reactions in deuterium-titrium plasma. The reaction produces energetic alpha particles (helium nuclei), which heat the plasma. The helium nuclei subsequently become helium ash, which needs to be removed from the plasma in order to prevent dilution.

Further information

Further information is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=30411

Supercomputers to simulate fusion

Scientists working on the ITER project in France, a global undertaking to demonstrate the potential of fusion power as a sustainable energy source for the future, have been granted access to Europe's distributed high-performance computing service DEISA. DEISA is a network of the most powerful national supercomputers in Europe and is due to receive €26 million in funding from the European Commission between 2004 and 2011.

The access will allow the researchers to perform large-scale simulations of a fusion reactor's operation, which they believe are essential to the advancement of the study of fusion. The project aims to demonstrate that fusion power is a safe, clean and sustainable source of power, with one gram of fuel providing as much energy as 11 tons of coal. Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media said of the collaboration: 'The long relationship of trust between the most renowned national supercomputing centres and the Commission is now paying off in key areas of European research. Advancing the study of fusion power could bring us closer to a potential answer to Europe's energy needs.'

Further information

EC Press Release IP/09/117 of 23 January 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

FP7 HiPER project investigates clean power from laser driven fusion

The FP7 funded HiPER (High power laser for energy research) project is dedicated to demonstrating the feasibility of laser driven fusion as a future energy source and is one of the infrastructures that was identified on the 2006 'European Roadmap for Research Infrastructure' that was produced by ESFRI (the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures). Fusion energy would be an attractive, environmentally clean power source which would use water as its main fuel, producing no greenhouse gases or long-lived radioactive waste. There are two main ways that fusion reactors might be achieved, either through 'magnetic confinement' (as will be used in the demonstrator International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor known as ITER) or through 'inertial confinement' using lasers. The Preparatory phase of HiPER is expected to last until 2011, and construction should be completed by 2020.

As well as studying fusion energy, HiPER is also being designed to enable a broad array of new science to be studied including extreme material studies, astrophysics in the laboratory, miniaturised particle accelerators and a wide range of fundamental physics research. It will enable investigation of some of the most extreme conditions found in the universe such as conditions in the centre of the sun, or in an exploding supernova.

Related information

For more information on the HiPER project, please go to: <http://www.hiper-laser.org>

European project develops targeted drug delivery

A project financed by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is working on the development of microscopic image-guided capsules which can deliver drugs directly to diseased sites of the body and release a controlled dose on demand. It is hoped that this process will enable the more effective medication of diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, two of the most common causes of death in the EU, while also avoiding the problematic and undesirable side-effects which come with the dosing of the whole body.

The SonoDrugs project brings together 15 academic and industrial partners from throughout Europe, and has received €10.9 million from FP7. The capsules themselves are designed to be small enough to be conveyed through the body's smallest blood vessels, directly to the source of the disease. Real-time magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) will be used to detect the arrival of the capsules at the diseased site and allow the forced release of their dose. Henk van Houten, Senior Vice President of Philips Research, which is a leading partner on the project said that: 'New therapeutic options, such as externally triggered local drug release at the specific site of the disease, hold the promise to significantly improve patient care.'

Further information

Further information is available from:

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=30421

Nut-cracking habits of the early humans

Recent EU funded research has shed new light on the possible diets of early humans. Research funded by EVAN (European Virtual Anthropology Network), which is funded through the Marie Curie actions of the Sixth Framework Programme, has made detailed studies of the skulls of *Australopithecus africanus* (*A. africanus*). This ancestor of modern humans lived two million years ago in southern Africa. The EU funded research made detailed scans of available skulls and fossils of

A. africanus and was able to reconstruct some of the mechanical properties of the jaw and teeth in order to draw conclusions about possible diet.

The research revealed that the skull, jaw and teeth of A. africanus had the mechanical strength to deal with hard shelled nuts and seeds, which may well have been of significant evolutionary advantage at the time. Nuts and seeds often contain valuable nutrients and would have provided an important source of nutrition to A. africanus in times of low food supply. The climate of the time was one of general cooling and drying but with high variability in the short term, so food supplies would not always have been easy to come by. An ability to fall back on less optimal foods such as nuts and seeds may have helped A. africanus get an evolutionary edge on its competitors.

Further information

Further information on the EVAN project is available at: <http://www.evan.at>

Chimp study on emotional care in childhood

Orphaned chimpanzees given special care by humans are happier and smarter than chimps raised in a more institutional setting where their physical needs are taken care of but their emotional development is largely ignored. The EU-funded research, which is published in the journal *Developmental Psychobiology*, has implications for the way human orphans are raised.

EU support for the study came from the FEELIX GROWING ('Feel, interact, express: a global approach to development with interdisciplinary grounding') project, that is financed through the FP6 information society technologies (IST) theme. The study is the first to investigate how different styles of care impact on the emotional and cognitive development of chimpanzees. The researchers followed 46 chimpanzees raised in the Great Ape Nursery at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center in Atlanta, US.

Further information

For further details on the project, visit: <http://www.feelix-growing.org/>. The published article is available at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/29287/home>

Education, Training and Culture

Erasmus Mundus II launched

The second phase of the Erasmus Mundus programme has been officially launched. The co-operation and mobility programme supports excellence in academia and the attractiveness of European higher education around the world. It also fosters cooperation with non-EU countries. The first phase was between 2004 and 2008 and concentrated on the masters' level. For the second phase, 2009 to 2013, there is an increased budget of €950 million and an extended scope to the doctoral level as well as more financial support to European students so they can study at participating institutions outside the EU.

The programme is a joint undertaking between the EC Directorate Generals of Education, Training, Culture and Youth, and External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy. The Commissioner for the latter, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, said: 'Erasmus Mundus enables the brightest students inside and outside the EU to fulfil their potential and maximise their opportunities in life. With this programme the EU promotes knowledge transfer and multiculturalism in action; key factors of progress for us all'. The launch conference was held in Brussels on 17 February, with an information event on the following day.

Further information

EC press release IP/09/268 of 16 February 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

External Collaboration

Review of EC-China S&T co-operation

The EC have published the 'Review of the Science and Technology (S&T) Co-operation between the European Community and the Government of the People's Republic of China'. The review comes at a time when the European Community S&T agreement with China is due to be renewed for a further five years, an action supported by the review. The review is also important in the context of the EC communication on a European framework for international co-operation in S&T. Figures demonstrate that the involvement of Chinese partners in EU projects increased from 154 participations in FP5 to 392 in FP6. After the first year of FP7 there were already more than 100 Chinese participations.

A number of recommendations were made by the reviewers including the need to broaden the visibility of the S&T agreement with China. Special efforts should also be made to increase the mobility of European researchers to China where there is an imbalance compared with the number of Chinese researchers coming to Europe. There is also limited visibility of European S&T activities in China and therefore more joint initiatives by the Member States and the EC would be beneficial as well as making adequate resources available to the EC S&T counsellor in China.

Further information

Further information on co-operation with China including the report is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=china>

Turkey and the EU: A Promising Partnership in Research

Commissioner Potocnik gave a speech at an event on Turkish research held in the European Parliament. Turkey and the EU have been working together in research for more than a decade, and since 1 January 2007, Turkey has participated in FP7 as an Associated Country, making the relationship stronger. Turkey is successfully participating in all the FP7 thematic areas, has been very successful in obtaining Marie Curie grants and is firmly entrenched in international co-operation instruments - such as Inco.net - on research co-ordination with the Western Balkan Countries, etc.

Co-operation with Turkey also takes place over a wide range of subjects, often in areas which could help Turkey's further integration into the European Research Area (ERA), including food safety, the effect of GMOs on human health or support for the training and career development of food scientists. However, Turkey's success rate is lower than the EU average. The Action Plan which was agreed for the Turkey's Association included areas of global concern for research: energy and the environment, areas in which the EU and Turkey need to engage more to find common solutions. Turkey initiated its own Turkish Research Area (TARAL) and has a national strategy plan to increase investment in research and increase their human resources capacity. Turkey has also used national support measures to increase their participation under FP7.

Further information

Further details are available from the Commission press release, SPEECH/09/28 of 29 January 2009 at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Events and Awards

Creativity and Innovation 2009 conference

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) will host a conference on 21-22 April 2009 showcasing innovative ideas and best practices from Europe's vibrant regions and cities and highlighting the role of creativity and innovation for resilient economic development. This is being organised under the banner of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. The conference will be held in parallel with the Committee of the Regions (CoR) plenary session.

It is intended to create a platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices among regions, cities and experts for promoting creativity and innovation and to exhibit examples in various sectors. Additionally, CoR and the EC will invite 100 young creative talents from all over Europe to come to Brussels. These will be young entrepreneurs, artists, architects, designers, film directors or other creative talents and they will come together and share ideas and visions, which it is hoped, will lead to new and creative collaborations across cultures and borders.

Further information

Further details of the conference are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/events_web/public/events_specific.cfm?event_id=652&status_flag=1

Any enquiries about the conference can be sent to: conferencescdr@cor.europa.eu

The CoR website is available at: www.cor.europa.eu

EC names its 'RegioStars'

A selection of the most innovative projects supported by the European Cohesion Policy were recently presented with 2009 RegioStars awards at a ceremony at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels (Bozar). The awards were made in three categories: Research, Technological Development and Innovation; Adaptation to or Mitigation of Climate Change; and Audiovisual Spot or Programme Highlighting the contribution of Cohesion Policy. Among the winners was a project based in Wales, DIPLE Printing Technologies, which is investigating industrial uses of innovative printing methods.

The awards were presented by the Job Cohen, Mayor of Amsterdam and President of the RegioStars jury, and by Danuta Hubner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy. Commissioner Hubner said of the winners: 'Stimulating Europe's competitiveness and employment, particularly in this difficult economic climate, calls for new ideas and progressive thinking. The innovative projects under the spotlight today provide a clear demonstration of how Cohesion Policy can make a difference and provide inspiration to other European regions.'

Further information

Information on all the winning projects and the eligibility criteria can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/info/region/innovation/regiostars_en.htm

Most innovative sustainable energy projects rewarded

As part of the EU's recent Sustainable Energy Week and wider Sustainable Energy Europe campaign, the 2009 Sustainable Energy Europe Awards ceremony was recently held. The awards aim to highlight examples of the most outstanding, ambitious and innovative initiatives in sustainable energy, as well as inspiring the development of further energy initiatives.

Six winners were selected from over 250 entries. Prizes went to: RENDEV, a French project enabling rural communities in Bangladesh and Indonesia to gain access to micro-financing schemes for solar electricity systems (co-operation programme prize); HyFLEET:CUTE, lead by Germany but including the UK, for the world's largest hydrogen-powered bus demonstration - this research and dissemination project runs 47 buses in 10 cities on three continents, involving 31 partners from industry, government, universities and consultancies (demonstration and dissemination projects prize); Sonae Sierra, Portugal, for their work as civil architecture specialists on energy efficiency in buildings (market transformation including voluntary commitments prize); Connect, which included a UK partner, promoted a game which inspires schoolchildren and parents to travel in a safe and environmentally-friendly way (promotional communication and educational actions); an Italian project which encourages farmers to use sustainable energy and the British Thurrock Energy Partnership, whose project promotes energy efficiency (both sustainable energy communities actions).

Further information

EC Press Release IP/09/237 of 10 February 2009, is available at: <http://rapid.europa.eu/>

The EU Sustainable Energy Week website is at: <http://www.eusew.eu>

The Sustainable Energy Europe campaign website is at: <http://www.sustenergy.org>

Fourth international 'genomics in business' conference

The fourth international 'Genomics in Business' conference will take place on 19-21 April 2009 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The conference will showcase the latest innovations and commercial applications of Genomics in the Agro - Food sector and provide an opportunity to discuss international partnerships, commercial applications, viable business ventures and best industry practices. This event aims to be a meeting place for high profile management, successful entrepreneurs, leading scientists and key investors.

Speakers at the 'Genomics in Business' conference are renowned industry leaders, visionaries and scientists, executives of cutting-edge companies and business analysts. The programme comprises plenary sessions and eight workshops. Key topics to be addressed at the meeting include: new high throughput technologies - sequencing and screening; food quality and safety; business models in the agro food industry; plant-based economy and biofuels; DNA diagnostics and biomarkers; enabling technologies that drive the Industry; plant-breeding traits for the future; and health products.

Further information

Further information and registration are available at: www.Genomicsinbusiness2009.com

International workshop on imaging the pancreatic beta cell

'Imaging the Pancreatic Beta Cell, Fourth Workshop' aims at encouraging interaction between research projects funded by the EC's Framework Programmes, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and National Institutes of Health (NIH). The purpose of the workshop to be held on 6 and 7 April 2009 (Washington DC, United States) is to explore the considerable progress and foster collaborative research in the field of imaging the pancreatic islet cell mass, function, or inflammation in health and disease. The overall intended goal of the field is to develop clinically useful imaging approaches for monitoring the mass, function and inflammation of endogenous and transplanted islets and beta cells in type 1 and type 2 diabetic patients and those at risk for these diseases, in order to understand the natural history of disease and monitor therapy.

A panel discussion with members from the FDA, industry, NIH programme and review staff and the EC will explore regulatory, public funding, and private-public partnership issues of interest to those working to image the beta cell. The workshop will showcase in vivo and in vitro imaging studies and technological approaches aimed at visualising the mass, inflammation and function of endogenous or transplanted pancreatic islets and/or beta cells in vivo, as well as imaging studies in isolated cells and

tissues. They would welcome projects that describe aspects of the beta cell, islet or pancreas useful for imaging.

Further information

Further information on the event and a list projects that would be appropriate for presentation at the workshop can be found at: <http://www3.niddk.nih.gov/fund/other/imageislet/>

2009 ICT brokerage event

The Czech Presidency of the EU will hold an ICT Brokerage and Information Day in Brno (Czech Republic) on 29-30 April 2009. The brokerage event, part of the conference 'Research Connection 2009', will offer the opportunity for potential participants in the FP7 Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) programme to build partnerships and networks. It will be accompanied by an Information Day on the following challenges of the ICT Work Programme 2009: pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructure; cognitive systems, interaction and robotics; components, systems and engineering; digital libraries and content; towards sustainable and personalised healthcare; ICT for mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.

The EC's Research Connection conference and exhibition will take place in Prague from 7 - 8 May 2009. The event will present three major ongoing research initiatives: the 'Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) 2007-2013'; the 'Structural Funds 2007-2013'; and the 'Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), 2007-2013'.

Further information

To register for the event, go to: <http://www.ict-brokerage.cz/en/>

More information on the Research Connection conference is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/rtd-2009/index_en.cfm

New Publications and Online Resources

New Marie Curie website

The EC have launched a new website for the Marie Curie actions of the People specific programme of FP7. This new website has not replaced existing pages but is intended to act as a single entry point for all the key information. The 'Funding' section of the new site provides access to all web-pages relating to applications. There are sections on the different funding schemes, the application process, timings of the calls, evaluation results, and project management. These links lead to previously established pages on Europa and Cordis.

The 'Careers' section advertises Marie Curie vacancies and allows users to post new vacancies. There is also a section offering advice to existing fellows on developing their career through the scheme. The 'Policies' section links to the EURAXESS site which, as well as advertising job opportunities, has links to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct. Another section is 'Are you Marie Curious?' which is aimed at the wider public, particularly a younger audience. It aims to promote research careers and to provide accessible information on the Marie Curie Actions.

Further information

The new website is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions>

FP7 SSH- new publication on databases and indicators for researchers

The EC produced a new publication collecting details on databases, indicators and tools relevant to researchers working in the area of Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH) entitled: 'New Databases, Indicators and Tools 2008'. The publication lists current and new databases and is thus of good use for both active researchers and those planning future projects in SSH. This publication highlights several major European research initiatives aimed at developing new, complete and co-ordinated economic and social databases and indicators in the fields of the knowledge economy, welfare, demography, sustainable development and impact assessment. The development of European economic and social databases, such as those collected in this publication, are tangible and accessible resources produced by work funded through the FP6 and FP7 SSH theme.

The publication contains sections focused on economics; social databases and labour market indicators; demographic and migration databases; and impact assessment, modelling and sustainable development. Developing and maintaining databases remains a key part of information gathering and analysis in SSH, and therefore is very important to this FP7 theme. These tools provide an essential resource as a background to ongoing and future areas of research in SSH.

Further information

The publication is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/new-databases-indicators-and-tools_en.pdf

More information on the FP7 SSH theme is available at: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh/home_en.html

ESA launches new GMES web portal

The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a new website through which data for GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) services can be obtained. . The main aim of the web portal is to provide access to data from ESA satellites and ESA third party mission, and to advertise those datasets currently available and those that are planned for the GMES service projects. The amount of data made available through the portal will increase over the next few months, drawing on information from more than 25 other European and non-European satellites contributing to GMES. The launch of the web portal event marks the start of pre-operations for the GMES Space Component.

GMES will be the European programme implementing an Earth observation service system with satellites, sensors on the ground, floating in the water or flying through the air to monitor our planet's environment and to support the security of citizens. The pre-operational phase of GMES services was launched in 2008 and is expected to form the basis for the future operation of GMES. Part of GMES is funded through FP7, although it is also funded through the ESA and ESA member states.

Further information

The ESA web portal is available at: <http://gmesdata.esa.int/web/gsc/home>

For further information about GMES go to: <http://www.gmes.info>

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>

cubed... from the British Council

cubed, the monthly webzine from the British Council discusses the science that's shaping our society and bringing a new dimension to everyday life. It brings the latest innovations in fashion and music, design and digital, film and life, and the products and ideas that will change our world. Visit: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/science-cubed.htm>

Talking Science

Created by the British Council, the Talking Science website provides up-to-date information and links to the latest ideas in science communication in the UK: www.britishcouncil.org/talkingscience

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

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

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

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

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

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/lip/index_en.htm

MEDIA

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

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

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

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

URL: <http://www.ukro.ac.uk>