

# European RTD Insight

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## News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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## EU Policy

### EC releases first FP7 monitoring report

The EC has just published the first FP7 monitoring report, which covers 2007, the first year of the current Framework Programme for Research. This report is the first in a series of annual monitoring reports. The report starts off by giving more details on the new monitoring system. It then gives a detailed factual analysis of the main elements of the overall FP7 implementation process. It then describes the new elements and specific fields of FP7, provides an update on the simplification process and finishes by assessing the impacts and achievements in the first year.

The monitoring report presents several interesting statistics on participation in calls in the first year. Twenty three thousand proposals were submitted to calls in the first year; of these, 2,800 were retained for funding. These successful proposals included over nineteen thousand applicants and requested a contribution from the EC of €5.7 billion. Approximately 19 per cent of the co-ordinators are women. Ten per cent of the successful proposals were from the new Member States. In terms of participation from 'third countries', the Russian Federation, India, China and the US benefited the most from FP7. A total of 96 per cent of the evaluators found that the quality of the FP7 proposal evaluation they attended was "satisfactory" to "excellent", and 91 per cent judged it to be "similar" or "better" than any national proposal evaluation exercises they attended. The time it took

from the deadline of a call to the signature of the grant was still in the overall range of between ten to 12 months.

#### **Further information**

The first FP7 monitoring report is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/reports/2009/pdf/first\\_fp7\\_monitoring\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/reports/2009/pdf/first_fp7_monitoring_en.pdf)

### **ERC review panel announced**

The European Research Council (ERC) Interim Review Panel was formally confirmed recently. The names of the chair and five members of the panel were also made public. The aim of the interim review is to examine the ERC's structure and mechanisms, to provide guidance on future directions and policy and to assess the achievements of the organisation to date. The panel members chosen all have a strong background in research policy and management at national, European and international level. The panel will be chaired by Professor Vaira Vike-Freiberga, the former President of Latvia, and Professor of Psychology at the University of Montreal. Professor Vike-Freiberga is also the Vice-president of the Reflection Group on the long-term future of the European Union.

The five remaining panel members will be: Lord David Sainsbury (Vice-Chair), a former Science Minister in the UK government; Yves Mény (Rapporteur), President of the European University Institute; Fiorella Kostoris Padoa Schioppa, Professor of Economics at La Sapienza, Rome; Lars-Hendrik Röller, President of European School of Management and Technology, Berlin and Professor of Economics at Humboldt University; and Elias Zerhouni, a former Director of the National Institute of Health in the US. The panel will continue to meet up until July and will then prepare an initial report for the EC in the summer. The EC's response to this is expected to be published in the autumn.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/307 of 24 February 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Expert group report on FP6 evaluation**

The EC has recently published a report by an expert group tasked with conducting an ex-post evaluation of FP6. The report notes that a paradox of European RTD policy is that in successfully building connections between researchers in different European countries and developing infrastructures across national boundaries, it has to an extent fallen victim to the very disease it seeks to treat, i.e. a lack of global orientation. Some aspects of that policy now seem inwardly focused and defensive in the face of challenges posed by the globalisation of research and innovation. A main message from the report has therefore been for the European system to open up and seek greater co-operation and competition with the rest of the world.

The analysis by the experts strongly supports the view that investments in research and innovation to build global competitiveness must be central to Europe's response to the current financial crisis and that the European Framework Programmes must be key components of this response. There are ten recommendations for future programmes and during the interim evaluation of FP7, particular attention should be given to progress achieved in respect of simplification, the gender issue, and the issues of knowledge infrastructure and the inadequate level of industrial participation.

#### **Further information**

The full report is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/reports/2009/pdf/fp6\\_evaluation\\_final\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/reports/2009/pdf/fp6_evaluation_final_report_en.pdf)

## Second calls for ARTEMIS and ENIAC JTIs

The ARTEMIS and ENIAC Joint Technology Initiatives have both recently issued their second calls for proposals. The objective of the ARTEMIS JTI is to reinforce European industry's leading position in Embedded Intelligence and Systems technology. It aims to do this through the development of Centres of Excellence with the capacity to rapidly convert research achievements in the field into innovative products, processes and services for the global market, while also promoting embedded systems as a respected curriculum within higher education.

The ENIAC JTI focuses on nanoelectronics, with the aim of facilitating co-operation and interaction in the field across Europe by bringing together the leading players in the field. Targeted organisations include European research centres, major producers of semiconductors, materials, equipment and applications, high technology SMEs, national and regional authorities, universities and financial institutions. Both calls will have a two-stage submission process, with initial closing dates for outline proposals falling in April for ARTEMIS and May for ENIAC.

### Further information

Further information on the ARTEMIS call is available at: [http://artemis-ju.eu/call\\_2009](http://artemis-ju.eu/call_2009).

Further information on the ENIAC call can be found at: <http://eniac.eu>

## EIT: KIC selection criteria and seminars

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Governing Board (GB) has published the selection criteria for the Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs). There will be an initial go/no-go assessment followed by an eligibility check. In step one there will be an evaluation of the quantity of the proposed work programme and business plan. The proposals will be evaluated against the seven criteria provided and marked out of 100 points; proposals must obtain at least 50 points to pass to the next stage and at least thirty per cent of the maximum points for each criteria. In step two there will be an evaluation of the commitment and capability and combined strength of the partners involved.

The EIT GB has now held the first two seminars on shaping the KICs in the areas of 'future information and communication society' and 'sustainable energy'. The seminars are designed to bring together representatives from all potential stakeholders and information multipliers for business, entrepreneurship, research and higher education that have an interest in actively contributing to the shaping of the KICs.

### Further information

Further details on the selection criteria are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/eit/doc/kicselectioncriteria\\_20090302.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eit/doc/kicselectioncriteria_20090302.pdf)

## More support for ICT research

The EC recently proposed a new strategy for the support of European research in ICT. The overarching aim is to make Europe the world leader in ICT by reducing fragmentation of efforts in both research and the European ICT market, which despite representing six per cent of EU GDP and 12 million jobs, attracts less than half of the level of investment than that in the US and five times less venture capital. The EC aims to remedy this through three interlinked paths of action: doubling European investments in ICT research and innovation; establishing more world class 'poles of excellence' in ICT; and creating the right conditions for market developments and new public private partnerships.

Alongside this, the EC has called on industry and Member States to use information and communications technologies to improve energy efficiency. It is believed, for example, that ICT-

enabled systems could reduce carbon emission in transport logistics by up to 27 per cent, while the use of smart meters, which provide information about energy consumption and cost, could lower energy use by up to ten per cent. A public consultation on the issue is to be launched to determine concrete measures to help meet the EU's 2020 climate change goals.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Releases IP/09/397 of 13 March 2009 and IP/09/393 of 12 March are available at:

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

### **EUROCORES 2009 themes call**

The European Science Foundation (ESF) aims to contribute to the European Research Area (ERA) through its European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) scheme, which supports multinational, interdisciplinary collaborative research programmes across Europe and beyond. The 2009 call for themes is now open and about five themes will be selected. The second phase after selection of the themes is to select the projects followed by the actual research, networking and dissemination. ESF invites new and challenging ideas to the programme from the scientific community. There is then agreement with interested funding organisations on the actual scientific scope of the themes.

The selection of the themes is therefore for bottom-up proposals for the creation of new collaborative research programmes dealing with broad and complex topics that are best addressed through multinational cooperation. Through its annual call for theme proposals, ESF solicits new ideas with a view to creating large scale European Collaborative Research programmes in and across all scientific domains. Theme proposals are not themselves research funding proposals, but rather the first step in the creation of large-scale thematic research programmes. The deadline for submissions is 29 May 2009.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available from the ESF website at:

<http://www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/calls.html>

### **Strengthening the EU chemicals industry**

A group established to analyse the challenges faced by the European chemicals industry, which employs around 1.2 million people, recently reported its findings and recommendations. The report of High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry named three key challenges faced by the industry. The first challenge identified is the increasingly difficult energy and feedstock situation and the high impact of this on costs. The second focuses on climate change, and global environmental challenges more generally, while the third highlights strong competition from industry in emerging countries and barriers to market access in these countries.

The group, which included representatives from industry, academia, NGOs and consumer organisations, issued some forty recommendations to meet these challenges, with the overarching aim of fostering the competitiveness of the European chemicals industry while contributing to sustainable development. It also highlighted three key factors for the continuing success of the industry: more innovation and research, with strengthened networks and clusters; responsible use of natural resources and a level playing field for sourcing energy and feedstock; and open world markets with fair competition.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/294 of 19 February 2009 is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/rapid/>

The conclusions and final report of the High Level Group are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/chemicals/hlg/hlg2/hlg\\_index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/chemicals/hlg/hlg2/hlg_index.htm)

## Sustainable Energy Europe awards

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. They also seek to inspire the development of Europe's newest energy initiatives. These awards can recognise EU projects but also include international participants and beneficiaries.

Awards were presented in five categories of projects: co-operation programmes; demonstration and dissemination; market transformation; promotional, communication and educational actions; and sustainable energy communities. This year, over 250 projects entered the competition and 6 projects have been awarded prizes: RENDEV (France), HyFLEET:CUTE (Germany, but including the UK), Sonae Sierra (Portugal) , Connect (Belgium and including a UK partner), Consorzio Produttori Agricoli Acque Minerali Umbre (Italy), and the British Thurrock Energy Partnership (UK)

### Further information

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

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

## European Inventor of the Year 2009: and the nominees are...

On 18 March 2009, the EC and the European Patent Office (EPO) announced the twelve nominees for the European Inventor of the Year awards ceremony. Two of the nominees are from the United Kingdom: John Daugman for his 'Iris recognition' project and Fiona Fairhurst for the 'fastskin' swimsuit, which is inspired by shark skin. The inventions nominated aim at addressing many of today's toughest challenges in the areas of energy, environment and health. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Prague on 28 April, which will be held at the same time as the European Patent Forum and PATINNOVA 2009 conference.

This annual award is a joint initiative of the EC and the EPO which was launched in 2006. It aims at honouring inventors who have made a significant contribution to innovation in Europe in the following four categories: industry; SME/research; non-European countries; and lifetime achievement. Up to 2008, examiners at the European and other patent offices were asked to propose outstanding inventors for the award. This year, for the first time ever, the public has also been invited to submit proposals for the award.

### Further information

More information on the European Inventor of the Year awards and the list of nominees are available at: <http://www.epo.org/topics/innovation-and-economy/european-inventor.html>

Details on the European Patent Forum and PATINNOVA 2009 conference can be found at: <http://www.epo.org/about-us/events/epf2009.html>

## Future of transport conference

Policy makers and top managers of the most important transport operators, manufacturers and logistic companies gathered at a conference convened by European Commission Vice President Tajani to discuss the future challenges for the transport sector and kick-off the preparation of the 2010 White Paper on the Future of Transport Policy in March.

Stakeholders and policy-makers, academics and representatives of Member States, European Institutions and NGOs all contributed their vision of the sector. Four workshops focused on urban, freight and passenger transport and on the challenges of sustainable mobility. The free movement

of persons and goods, which is at the heart of the construction of Europe, would not be possible without an efficient transport system. The discussions will help the Commission draft a Communication on the Future on Transport, to be adopted in June 2009, preparing the ground for the 2010 White Paper, which will include a set of ambitious policy measures to tackle the long term challenges of transport policy.

#### **Further Information**

For more information, please visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009\\_future\\_of\\_transport\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009_future_of_transport_en.htm)

### **Budapest wins 2008 European mobility week award**

Budapest won the 2008 European Mobility Week Award (EMW). About 2,102 towns and cities around Europe and beyond took part in EMW 2008, whose theme was 'Clean air for all.' 66 local authorities applied for the award and ten were shortlisted by the panel of experts. Almada in Portugal and Zagreb in Croatia were runners-up. Budapest developed a whole range of events and activities to promote sustainable urban transport. These included two consecutive car-free days, a 'Clever Commuting Race' for VIPs to demonstrate the efficiency of public transport and an open-air exhibition of clean and energy-efficient vehicles. The city introduced and promoted several permanent measures such as expanding the downtown pedestrian area, improving metro and tram infrastructure and services, and introducing new bicycle lanes and 'park and ride' facilities. Budapest also closed its ring road, reducing transit traffic in the city by around one-quarter.

The EMW award rewards the local authority that is deemed to have done most in raising public awareness of sustainable mobility issues and implementing projects to achieve a shift towards sustainable urban transport. EMW 2009 will be held from 16 - 22 September and will focus on urban transport's contribution to climate change.

#### **Further information**

Details of the EMW award and the 2009 edition is available at: <http://www.mobilityweek.eu/>

### **Evaluating the external costs of energy production**

The European Economic and Social Committee recently held a conference to discuss the external costs of different methods of energy production. At the conference, the research project 'New Energy Externalities Development for Sustainability' (NEEDS), which was funded under FP6, presented its findings on the comparative external costs of different energy supply technologies. Delegates at the conference acknowledged that there are always uncertainties when attempting to quantify societal and environmental costs. However, if policy makers are to know the true costs of energy supply, it is important to try and resolve these uncertainties as much as possible, as societal and environmental costs of energy supply should be as important as financial costs to decision makers.

The relative costs of different energy supply options were ranked according to their total costs. From an initial discussion, coal, biomass and gas have very high external costs, while nuclear, wind and tidal energy have much lower total costs. Delegates at the conference discussed this assessment at length, as the initial positive assessment of nuclear energy raised many questions about the societal and environmental costs of dealing with nuclear waste and risk of accidents. The debate was concluded with an acknowledgment that any discussion of the true costs of energy supply was a step in the right direction for energy policy, and that existing policies should now be reviewed in this light.

#### **Further information**

More information on the NEEDS project is available here: [www.needs-project.org](http://www.needs-project.org)

More information on the European Economic and Social Committee is available at [www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)

## Does IPR hinder climate change mitigation?

The EC's Directorate General for Trade (DG Trade) recently published a report on the relationship between Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and climate change. The report attempted to assess whether IPR is barrier to the transfer of climate change technology. This is a claim that is often repeated by countries, particularly developing nations, which argue that the innovative technologies in this domain have become increasingly patented and this constitutes a major barrier to their greenhouse gas abatement efforts.

The study, which was carried out by Copenhagen Economics and The IPR Company on behalf of DG Trade, found that carbon emissions can be reduced by means of a variety of technologies. Some of these reduce emissions at a low-cost, and others imply a high cost of emission reduction. The report, however, found that IPR covered technologies are not necessarily more expensive than those not covered by IPR. The high cost of some of the carbon abatement technologies is more due to the immaturity of the technologies rather than to patent rights. It also found that, to an extent, developing countries are still able to use technologies that are not covered by IPR to reach their policy objectives.

### Further information

The full report is available at: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/142371.htm>

## European maritime day

The EC is organising the second ever European Maritime Day on 20 May 2009. The week around the European Maritime Day will be an opportunity to hold events and activities that raise awareness of the value of the sea and the various maritime sectors for the lives of Europe's citizens. It will also help draw attention to the wide array of activities relating to the sea, as set out in the Declaration on Maritime Day signed by the Presidents of the EC, EP and Council of the EU on 20 May 2008. The EC invites all interested parties to showcase their maritime activities and to bring a wide variety of maritime issues to the public's attention. The EC can help publicise these events.

In addition, the EC, in partnership with the Italian Government, will host a stakeholder conference in Rome from 19 - 20 May 2009. The conference aims to facilitate networking and discuss future developments of the Integrated Maritime Policy for Europe, with a focus, *inter alia*, on regional strategies for an integrated approach to maritime affairs, sustainable economic development of coastal regions and the maritime sectors, maritime clusters, as well as the vision for the Integrated Maritime Policy beyond 2009.

### Further information

For further information visit the European Maritime Day website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeday>

If you have any questions, please send an email to: [Mare-European-Maritime-Day@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Mare-European-Maritime-Day@ec.europa.eu)

## Findings on 'smart manufacturing'

A consultation group established to examine 'smart manufacturing' has issued its recommendations in the publication "ICT and Energy Efficiency. The Case for Manufacturing". The Smart Manufacturing group comprised representatives from the process industries, discrete manufacturing and semi-conductor manufacturing industries, ICT providers and academic

institutions. The aim of the consultation was to identify opportunities for ICT to reduce the carbon footprint of Europe's manufacturing industry.

The final report offers an analysis of the significance of manufacturing for Europe's economy, wealth and jobs and its contribution to Europe's overall energy consumption and estimates the savings potentials in industry. It also includes a list of recommendations for ICT deployment activities over the period 2009-2015, and a summary of R&D needs for new ICT for the benefit of manufacturing in the longer term (2015-2020). It is hoped that the measures suggested will help manufacturing to move away from the paradigm "maximum gain with minimum capital investment" towards a more sustainable economic model of "maximum added value from a minimum of resources."

#### **Further information**

The full report is available at: [http://ftpcordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/micro-nanosystems/smart-manufacturing\\_en.pdf](http://ftpcordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/micro-nanosystems/smart-manufacturing_en.pdf)

### **Why museums contribute to the European knowledge society**

The European Network of Science Centres and Museums (ECSITE) recently held an event on the role of science communicators in advancing the European knowledge society. At the event, the European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, spoke about the role of science communicators in engaging public support in science. He feels that it is important that the wider public is engaged more with the scientific world and that their views on research and the impact of research on society are heard and expressed. The EC has placed increasing emphasis on public participation and engagement with research. When the public is actively engaged with science, not only is public support for science funding improved, but also the work of scientists can be improved by consulting with stakeholders from the wider public.

The Commissioner noted the essential, active role of science centres and science museums in science communication. He spoke about EC's support to bring more people into research careers, including over €12 million being committed to support European use of 'inquiry based' science education in primary and secondary education. He explained that the EC is working towards a critical mass of European activity in support of science education and that science centres and museums have a vital role to fulfill in achieving this goal.

#### **Further information**

ECSITE website for the event: <http://www.ecsite-conference.net/european-parliament-event>

### **EC consults on innovation support services**

The EC's Directorate General for Enterprise has opened a consultation on the effectiveness of innovation support schemes in Europe. The main purpose of the consultation is to get insights on how to best improve the effectiveness of public innovation support mechanisms in the EU, against the background of constantly evolving innovation patterns in enterprises. This public consultation is split into two online questionnaires. The first questionnaire is aimed at companies that are themselves the beneficiaries of innovation support schemes and asks them to provide their views on the direction of future innovation support policies and instruments in the EU. The second questionnaire is for organisations that are active in the design, funding, implementation, and evaluation of innovation support measures at the regional, national and European level.

The results will be used to understand how better to focus innovation support measures, and the consultation should also give a better understanding of how innovation support is organised into

regional, national and European support. The consultation results will feed into a EC Staff Working Document to be published in June 2009, as well as the European Plan for Innovation, which likely to be published at the end of the year.

#### **Further Information**

The consultation web page is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=2490&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=2490&lang=en)

## Research News

### **Interconnection project connects South Caucasus countries to GEANT**

On 17 March the EC increased the internet capacity available across the Black Sea to researchers in the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) by switching on the region's largest computer network for research and education. The Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) network, funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, is an academic internet that links national research and education internet networks across the Southern Caucasus. In addition, the network connects the South Caucasus countries to the high bandwidth GEANT network. GEANT is the most advanced international network in the world and already serves 30 million researchers.

The BSI connection to GEANT will enable researchers and students to collaborate with their European peers in 40 countries, by sharing large amounts of data over the network. The connection will reach a previously unavailable high speed (from a minimum of 34 to 100 megabits per second, Mbps), which allows the use of advanced services across the Caucasus region. The high level speed connections will enable a far greater level of collaboration between researchers and scientists in the region. It will soon be possible to connect 377 universities and research institutes in the South Caucasus to the GEANT network.

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP/09/407 of 17 March 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **EU research helps fight against TB**

In the context of World Tuberculosis Day, which took place recently, the EC has shown how its research funding programmes have been supporting successful research into TB for many years. Just recently, for example, the EU-funded project, 'New Medicines for Tuberculosis', announced the discovery of a new drug candidate, which shows promising prospects for fighting both TB and the drug resistant form of the disease. The fact that a potential new drug has been developed is extremely promising given that no other anti-TB drugs have entered the market in 40 years.

This project brought together 34 research teams from the following 14 countries: Switzerland, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Slovakia, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, Denmark, Korea, the USA, the Russian Federation, South Africa and India. The project involves researchers from academia and industry, with both large pharmaceutical companies being involved as well as smaller SMEs. The project started in 2006 and will run until 2011. Of the total project cost of €13 million, the EC provided €11 million.

### **More information**

The New Medicines for Tuberculosis (NM4TB) website is available at: <http://www.nm4tb.org/>

A website on EU-funded TB research is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/poverty-diseases/tuberculosis\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/poverty-diseases/tuberculosis_en.html)

### **Towards a sustainable infrastructure for electric cars**

The goal of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport could be achieved by widespread adoption of electric cars. The problem is that the infrastructure to support these cars does not yet exist, so they are currently less practical than conventional petrol driven vehicles. The EDISON ('Electric vehicles in a distributed and integrated market using sustainable energy and open networks') project is attempting to address this by researching the practicalities of an electric car infrastructure based on renewable energy.

The research is being conducted through simulated adoption on the Danish island of Bornholm. Bornholm is the site of a large wind farm, and the EDISON project intends to demonstrate that the power for plug-in electric vehicles could be practically supplied from renewable energy sources. The goal of the project is to demonstrate that a vehicle infrastructure based on electric vehicles is possible and practical. It is hoped that this kind of demonstration will encourage the market, and therefore the public, to accept electric vehicles as a viable alternative to conventional cars. The consortium researching the issue is made up of several Danish energy utility organizations, as well as the Technological University of Denmark, Siemens of Germany and IBM in the United States.

### **Further information**

For more information see [http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article\\_09\\_03\\_09\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_09_03_09_en.html)

### **New CO<sub>2</sub> emissions testing lab opens**

Janez Potočnik, the European Commissioner for Science and Research, recently opened a new facility for testing fuel consumption and emissions of trucks and buses. The new installation, known as VELA 7 (Vehicle Emission Laboratories) is based at the EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy. The facility simulates wind drag, tyre and road friction and full drive cycles for large articulated lorries and long buses. A new facility for these types of vehicles is particularly important given that the implementation guidelines for new emission standards, notably the Euro VI regarding heavy duty vehicles, must be defined by 1 April 2010.

Potočnik said of the new lab, "The European Commission is fighting climate change with words and actions, thanks to "in-house" experts, on the political side as well as on the scientific side! The Commission's research centre provides us with the scientifically robust and independent data which underpin the standards in EU environmental regulations to fight air pollution and reduce the negative impact from road transport.... The new facility will make a great contribution to the Commission's priorities in these areas."

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/401 of 13 March 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The EC pages on VELA 7 at the Joint Research Centre are available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=5420>

### **NANOMED project carries out innovative nano-medical research**

The EU-funded NANOMED ('Nanomedicine ethical, regulatory, social and economic environment') project focuses on all aspects of nanomedicine. Nanomedicine is a key subfield of nanotechnology

tackling disease treatment, drug delivery and medical diagnostics. NANOMED aims to provide an objective answer to claims that this field will have a huge impact on the healthcare sector. The one year project is funded under the NMP theme (Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production) of FP7. The goal of the NANOMED project is to assess the various aspects of nanomedicine like economic, regulatory, ethics, communication and patient attitudes. The project's results are expected to help EU policy makers direct what has been identified as a significant area for strategic investment in FP7.

The NANOMED partners are established in various research organisations in Europe, including Darmstadt University of Technology in Germany, the French Atomic Energy Commission and Genetic Interest Group Ltd in the UK. The partners believe that NANOMED will contribute to sustaining the competitiveness of nanomedical research and development in Europe and in the European healthcare industry. To this end the partners will offer European stakeholders a set of recommendations to support decision-making as regards nanomedical innovations.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=3&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=01200c11bcea:1e59:50cbcf94&RCN=30562](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=3&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=01200c11bcea:1e59:50cbcf94&RCN=30562)

### **FP6 project system for detection of harmful environments for pipe organs**

The FP6 funded project 'Sensororgan' aims to develop sensors for real-time monitoring and detection of harmful environments for organs. The organ heritage faces a threat of indoor harmful environments. For example, organic acids, also in combination with condensation phenomena, create pipe corrosion causing serious damage to the organ pipes. In addition, harmful humidity conditions can create cracks in the wooden parts of the organ, making the instrument unplayable. The Sensororgan project consists of three different parts: (i) dosimeter to detect organic acids that are corrosive to metal (lead or lead/tin alloy) organ pipes; (ii) sensor to indicate risk of cracks in wooden parts of organs; and (iii), a sensor to detect dew or frost formation inside organ pipes.

Project partners carried out a field study on an important historical organ in the Minor Basilica of St. Andrew the Apostle in Olkusz, Poland, which dates from 1611. The results generated from this study have been analysed, microclimatic factors creating harmful environments have been studied, and conclusions will be drawn for publications, mitigation strategies, and to support the Committee for European Standardisation (CEN). The Sensorproject, which ran from 2006 until 2008, is expected to contribute to the development of improved organ restoration policies as well as to detecting harmful environments and assessing methods to hinder them. Finally, the project results will develop scientific grounds to assist the CEN in setting normative standards for conservation of cultural heritage, especially the microclimate inside churches.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available at: <http://www.goart.gu.se/sensororgan>

## **Education, Training and Culture**

## Best practice in EU higher education co-operation

A new website has been launched to showcase some of the best practices in EU co-operation with industrialised countries. The website is designed to inspire new applicants and exchange of best practice by providing details of eight joint projects on multilateral academic co-operation and mobility collaborations with the US, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It also provides practical hints and tips on applying for the EU co-operation programmes with industrialised countries, such as how to find the right partners and write a successful application.

Since 1995, the EU has set up a number of cooperation programmes or pilot actions in higher education and vocational training with other industrialised countries, particularly in North America and the Asia-Pacific regions. The programmes will help enhance the quality of higher education and vocational training, as well as promoting intercultural understanding. In 2006, the EC renewed the agreements to extend the cooperation programmes with the US and Canada until 2013 (calls are currently open). It also launched a new multi-country call for proposals with Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea in 2008.

### Further information

The website is available at: <http://bestpractices.ecorys.com>

## Erasmus: a driving force for universities

A recent study shows the EU's Erasmus programme for mobility and co-operation in higher education has been a strong driving force in shaping the landscape of higher education in Europe. The programme, popular for its student mobility activities, has contributed to improving, opening up and modernising both higher education institutions and education policies. For the vast majority of them, participation in Erasmus has led to innovation in core activity areas such as teaching and learning methods, recognition of study periods, support services for students, research activities, business cooperation as well as institutional management.

The study focused on the impact of Erasmus since its inception in 1987. It is based on a survey to which around 750 institutions' top management and more than 1,800 Erasmus co-ordinators both at international offices and faculties responded. Its main findings focus on the programme's impact on two levels: policies and institutions. In terms of policy, Erasmus was the driving force behind the Bologna Process. In the area of research, Erasmus has encouraged active participation in international projects, attendance at conferences and tendering for international projects, all of which has strengthened excellence and competition in the field. In addition, benchmarking and quality standards have become common practice.

### Further Information

The report is available to read and download here:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus/doc922\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus/doc922_en.htm)

# 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>

### **Online platform of EU-funded education projects**

The EC has launched EVE (Espace Virtuel d'Echange), a new online tool for easy access to the results and details of EU-funded projects in the fields of education, culture, youth and citizenship. The EVE platform is a promotional tool for project co-ordinators and DG Education and Culture. It offers a single access point to results with plenty of useful information about projects funded by all the different programmes. It provides multiple benefits for project promoters and their results: better visibility for projects; enhanced exploitation and improved dissemination of results; rich source of information; and a tool for improved networking.

EVE already contains hundreds of projects funded under the 2000-2006 Education and Culture Programmes: Leonardo da Vinci, Culture 2000, European Active Citizenship, Youth and Socrates (including Comenius, Grundtvig and Erasmus). Project co-ordinators benefit from EVE by creating and developing dedicated spaces on their projects and regularly update them with information on progress and results. Such project results include: learning materials, projects websites, personal testimonials from project participants; documents and guidelines; new forms of associations and European partnerships.

#### **Further information**

The EVE platform is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/eve/alfresco/faces/jsp/browse/browse.jsp](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/eve/alfresco/faces/jsp/browse/browse.jsp)

## **Events and Awards**

### **Major European conference on sustainable development**

The conference, entitled 'Sustainable development: a challenge for European research', is being organised by DG Research in co-operation with the current Czech Presidency of the EU. The conference is intended to discuss and celebrate the ways in which research conducted in Europe can contribute to sustainable development by improving global understanding of environmental and technological solutions to the issues. The conference is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers and industry. It is hoped that the outcomes of the conference will contribute to future European policy on sustainable development.

Sustainable development is an important goal for European society, and it is equally important that European citizens see science as an important part of achieving this. There are concerns that the relationship between science and society is changing, and that Europeans are now less attracted to science as a career choice, while also having less faith in the potential of science to offer solutions to society's problems. Another goal of this conference will be to provide tangible demonstration of the wider benefits of research activity to global sustainable development. The conference will run from the 26 - 28 of May and will be held in Brussels.

#### **Further information**

To for more information, and to register for the conference, visit [http://ec.europa.eu/research/sd/conference/2009/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sd/conference/2009/index_en.cfm)

### **New EU health prize for journalists launched**

The EC recently launched the first EU prize for journalism in health topics. This prestigious prize forms part of the Europe for Patients campaign, and serves as recognition of the important role that journalists have in communicating accurate information on health issues to the people of Europe. The prize is offered to journalists working in print or online, although it is envisioned that in the future years, the scope will be expanded to include television and radio journalism as well.

For the first year of the prize, articles published between 2 July 2008 and 15 July 2009 are eligible to be submitted for consideration by the panel. Journalists can submit their articles using an online entry form on the Europe for Patients website. The prize of €5,000 will be awarded at a prestigious award ceremony to be held in Brussels in autumn 2009. There will also be a second prize of €3,000 and a third prize of €2,000 for the runners-up. This new prize is seen as an annual event that will continue to stimulate debate and best practice in European health journalism.

#### **Further information**

To submit an article for the European health prize for journalists, you can visit this website: [http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/europe\\_for\\_patients/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/europe_for_patients/index_en.htm)

EC press release IP/09/272 and MEMO/09/69 of 17 February 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Ecsite conference 2009**

On 4-6 June, the European Network of Science Centres and Museums (Ecsite) Annual Conference will be hosted by the National Museum of Science and Technology, 'Leonardo da Vinci', Italy's largest science and technology museum. There is intended to be three full days of sessions, workshops and discussions for the participants. Alongside this there will also be a rich social programme, two days of pre-conference activities. This event is meant for a wide range of stakeholders, including those working in science centres or museums, in aquariums or natural history museums, in research institutes or universities.

There is also a lively Business Bistro which brings together the most inspiring new projects, exhibitions, techniques, products and services on the market for Ecsite institutions. At the bistro there will be 54 booths available within the museum, as well as an opportunity for installations on the exhibition floor. All the coffee breaks take place in the exhibition area, alongside the internet café, to ensure the maximum opportunities for business with delegates in this lively focal point of the conference.

#### **Further information**

Further details on the conference, including registration, are available at: <http://www.ecsite-conference.net>

## European fuel cell technology and applications conference

The Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment (ENEA) and the University of Perugia are organizing the European Fuel Cell technology & Applications “Piero Lunghi Conference” EFC09. The European Fuel Cell Technology and Applications Conference intends to put together fuel cell developers, scientists, academics, policy makers, as well as end users and industry representatives, giving particular emphasis to operational experiences and applications. The conference will address technical, scientific and market issues related to successfully bringing fuel cells to the marketplace.

Authors and presenters are invited to participate in this event to intensify international cooperation, expand understanding and promote efforts and disciplines in the area of fuel cell, from powder preparation to system applications. Dissemination of knowledge through the presentation of research results, state-of-the-art, new developments and novel concepts in this area will be the key driver in the preparation of the conference program. A variety of sessions are available for presentations as it allows flexibility for the authors.

### Further information

More information about the details and opportunities for EFC09 is available at:

[www.asmeconferences.org/EFC09](http://www.asmeconferences.org/EFC09)

## New Publications and Online Resources

### Rare diseases: new publication on patients’ experiences

In March 2009, the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) launched a book entitled “*The Voice of 12,000 Patients*”, published following a survey it conducted among patients and other main stakeholders. This book provides a unique insight into the experience and expectations of patients suffering from rare diseases. Key conclusions highlighted that the lack of awareness and knowledge of rare diseases often resulted in delayed diagnosis or misdiagnosis; there is a need for integration of the healthcare and social services to provide better access and complete support to patients. It has also been recognised that the creation of European centres of expertise was beneficial to the patients and the coordination of these centres through European Reference Networks (ERNs) are key solutions in tackling rare disease. ERNs serve as research and knowledge reference points, updating and contributing to the latest scientific findings, and for the treatment of patients from other Member States.

At Community level, the EC adopted in 2008 a Communication on rare diseases, which sets out a European strategy aimed at pooling together the scarce resources available in this area. The strategy aims at: improving recognition and visibility of rare diseases; supporting national plans for rare diseases in the Member States; and strengthening co-operation and coordination for rare diseases at European level.

### Further information

The publication is available for download at: [http://www.eurordis.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1960](http://www.eurordis.org/article.php3?id_article=1960)

Information on the EC action in the field of rare diseases can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_threats/non\\_com/rare\\_diseases\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/rare_diseases_en.htm)

## ICT for governance and policy: new ePractice portal

A new portal to meet, share and learn in the “ICT for Governance and Policy modelling” field has been set-up with support from the European Commission. The community offers services and opportunities to: identify and contact other experts, through the ePractice profiles; meet virtually (by email, on the blog) and during face to face events that are advertised on the community pages; express ideas, participate in debates and ask for support, using the community blog; share knowledge, by publishing in the case or in the library sections contributions: description of services, studies, reports and articles; and propose events and workshops and ask for organisational support to the “ICT for Governance and Policy modelling” facilitators. The first step to getting involved is to register to become a member by creating your own profile.

### Further Information

The ePractice.eu portal homepage is: <http://www.epractice.eu/community/egovernance>  
To become a member of the ePractice portal and to create your own profile, see: <http://www.epractice.eu/register>

## Nanotechnology FAQs published

The EC has recently released a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on nanotechnologies. In addition to English, they are also available in French, German, Italian and Spanish. The FAQs will help to communicate basic information about nanotechnologies to the general public. It explains the role that the EC has in funding nanotechnology research. Another question looks at all of the European policies in place relating to nanotechnology. It also has questions on regulation and includes a section explaining about the EC’s Code of Conduct in nanotechnology research, which was published last year.

### Further information

The FAQ is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/nanotechnology/faq/faqs.cfm?lg=en>

The EC web pages on nanotechnologies are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/nanotechnology/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/nanotechnology/index_en.html)

## Creativity and innovation best practices projects catalogue

The EC has published a new catalogue entitled ‘Creativity and Innovation: Best practices from EU programmes’, produced as part of the EU’s Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 (EYCI). The publication features examples of best practice in promoting creativity and innovation. The projects were selected by a panel of independent experts drawn from the various programmes of the EC. The selected projects were funded by programmes managed by the following EC directorates general: DG Education and Culture, DG Regional Policy, DG Employment, DG Enterprise, DG Information Society and DG Research.

The EC has declared that 2009 is the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (EYCI). Creativity and innovation are considered to be vital not only for Europe’s economic prosperity, but also for social and individual well-being. EYCI thus aims at raising awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development; disseminating good practices; stimulating education and research, and promoting policy debate on related issues. SMEs will be a particular focus throughout the year. Another topic given much prominence will be how design can be used as a tool for innovation, environmental benefit and competitiveness. As part of EYCI, the ‘European Patent Forum and Patinnova’ conference will take place on 28-30 April.

### Further information

More information on the selected projects is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/valorisation/docs/bp-euprogrammes\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/valorisation/docs/bp-euprogrammes_en.pdf)

## **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](http://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](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/lp/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/lp/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](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.

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