

European RTD Insight

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News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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EU Policy

Progress report for FP7

The EC has published a progress report covering the first two years of FP7. The report stressed that the FP7 structure and its new instruments help the EU to address its challenges. While priority areas such as environment, energy or nanotechnologies contribute to building a sustainable, low carbon economy, the European Research Council supports competition on scientific excellence among the best researchers. In its first two years, 5,500 proposals were selected to receive grants of around €10 billion in total. In terms of new instruments, the European Research Council attracted around 11,000 proposals for its first calls; five Public-Private Partnerships (JTIs) have been launched; and the new Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) has so far approved loans of €2 billion to support high risk R&D projects.

International co-operation has become increasingly important in FP7, with several new countries associating to FP7, bringing their total number to 12. There is a specific EU-Africa Partnership on Science, Information and Space; and the establishment of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) promoting international scientific collaboration. The Research Executive Agency (REA) and the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) have been established to ensure efficient implementation of EU research programmes. The EC has also adopted and published a Communication in response to the reports of the Expert Group Reports on

the Ex Post Evaluation of FP6, which along with the progress report will feed into the mid-term review of FP7.

Further information

EC Press Releases IP/09/655 and MEMO/09/209 of 29 April 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

European Economic Congress

European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik attended the European Economic Congress in Katowice on 16 April 2009. His speech called for more investment for the rapidly changing European research ecosystem. As the world economy grows bigger it becomes more interrelated and competitive, with China and India catching up with the USA, Europe and Japan in terms of research outputs.

The Commissioner focused on climate change, recognizing that Katowice sits on top of some of the largest coal reserves in the world, and fears rising electricity costs as a result of the Emissions Trading System (ETS). He explained the importance of the EU Climate Change and Energy Package, which was adopted last December, stating that Europe needs to be 'both smart and quick in reducing greenhouse gas emissions'. The EU is implementing the SET-plan as a way to put EU industry ahead in the low carbon technology sector and the Commissioner announced plans to launch Carbon Capture and Storage, renewable and other low carbon energies, industrial scale demo projects with funding of €300 million from the ETS. He also explained the importance of research and development in these areas and we should increase funding targeted towards research and innovation.

Further information

EC Press Release SPEECH/09/180 of 16 April 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Universities' declaration on economic crisis

The European University Association (EUA) has published a Declaration outlining a series of proposals from universities to help combat the current economic and financial crisis. The Declaration emphasises the role of universities as a driving force for economic recovery in Europe. However, it stresses that for universities to play their full role in helping with the recovery of European economies, politicians must commit to major investment in higher education and research. The declaration states that real opportunities and incentives need to be created for young researchers, that lifelong learning needs to be supported across Europe to tap into unused potential, and that upgrades are required to universities' facilities and campus infrastructures.

The EUA outlined some key success factor for European universities including training and career aspects such as widening opportunities for participation in and the successful completion of higher education, improving researcher careers and providing relevant and innovative study programmes, and developing distinctive institutional research profiles. It was also considered important to promote internationalisation, increase and improve the quality of mobility, and develop strong partnerships.

Further information

Further information on the EUA including the declaration is available at: <http://www.eua.be>

The influence of Research Infrastructures on the regional dimension of ERA

For historical reasons, and because of their high cost, existing Research Infrastructures are disproportionately located in regions of the largest EU Member States. New facilities need to be

distributed throughout the EU so that the European Research Area (ERA) can reach its full potential. A Working Group for 'Regional Issues', set up by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) in 2007, noted several regional benefits from Research Infrastructures, such as returns to the contributing regions and institutions and the surrounding territory, direct financial and educational returns and returns obtained from knowledge production and from being part of international networks.

In addition to FP7, Structural and Cohesion Funds allocate about €50 billion to research, technological development, and innovation (RTDI) actions. Nearly €10 billion of this is allocated to 'R&D infrastructure and centres of competence in a specific technology', and of this €7.5 billion will be spent in the Convergence Regions. A key issue will therefore be how the Structural Funds in particular will be used in co-ordination with other Community instruments.

Further information

EC Press Release MEMO/09/134 of 25 March 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

ERC interim review

The European Research Council (ERC) is currently being reviewed. This independent interim review aims to scrutinise the ERC's structure and mechanisms, to take stock of its achievements and to give advice on the direction the ERC should take for the future. The ERC has recently added to its website a page about the ERC review which gives further details on the review methodology and three key issues: the analysis of the ERC's structures and mechanisms against criteria of scientific excellence, autonomy, efficiency and transparency, and with the full involvement of the Scientific Council; consideration of the process and criteria for the selection of the members of the Scientific Council; and consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of a structure based on an Executive Agency.

The ERC review panel will analyse existing evidence such as the relevant legal texts, statistical data, reports and administrative documents related to the structures and methods put in place for the implementation of the Ideas specific programme. It will recommend any adjustment or refinement that may be necessary to ensure a stable and permanent structure for the ERC which is equal to its tasks. The Panel will meet as often as necessary and prepare a report by July 2009, in which it will provide recommendations and conclusions to the EC.

Further information

Further information is available at:

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=158>

Update on Public-Private Partnerships

Further to the European Economic Recovery Plan adopted in November 2008, Commissioner Potocnik and high level representatives from industry have issued a joint statement on the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), having met recently to discuss implementation of the research elements of the three PPPs included in the Plan: 'Factories of the Future', 'Energy Efficient Buildings' and 'Green Cars'.

The statement announces that the EC foresees making a 50 per cent contribution to the total research and development budget of the PPPs from the budget of the 7th Framework Programme, with matching investment coming from the private sector. To allow research on these priority topics to start as early as possible, first calls for research projects will be published in July 2009, with deadlines at the end of the year. It is hoped that this will allow the first projects under the PPPs to start in the spring of 2009. Experience gained through these first actions will feed into the development of a longer-term strategy and instruments for co-operation between public and private

partners, with industry hoping that the PPPs may lead to future Joint Technology Initiatives in these areas.

Further information

The full statement is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&lg=en&year=2009&na=ppp-310309>

Intelligent Energy – Europe programme 2009

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) has launched a call for proposals for the Intelligent Energy - Europe programme (IEE). The objective of IEE is to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing four actions: fostering energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources; promoting new and renewable energy sources and supporting energy diversification; promoting energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport. IEE will also help increase the level of investment in new and best performing technologies and bridge the gap between the successful demonstration of innovative technologies and their effective introduction to the market to achieve mass deployment.

The 2009 call, with a deadline on 25 June 2009, covers the following 4 priorities: SAVE, ALTENEER, STEER and Integrated initiatives. SAVE relates to proposals for energy efficiency and rational use of resources, including energy-efficient buildings. ALTENEER covers new and renewable energy sources and includes amongst other projects relating to electricity from renewable energy sources. STEER covers energy in transport and relates to all modes of transport except aviation and long-distance maritime transport. Integrated initiatives cover proposals relating to European networking for local action, energy services and intelligent energy education (for higher education teachers only).

Further information

Information on the modalities of the call and guidance to proposers on how to submit projects is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm

EU Commissioner Janez Potočnik speaks at global economic governance conference

European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, gave a speech about the role of Europe in the current financial crisis at the 'Global Economic Governance: Systemic Challenges, Institutional Responses, and the Role of the New Actors'. The conference was organised by the collaborative project 'Politics, Economics, and Global Governance: The European Dimension' (PEGGED, an FP7 Social Science and Humanities Co-operation project), in conjunction with DG Research and the EC Bureau of European Policy Advisors. The meeting considered the implications of the current financial crisis for global institutions and for global governance, and examined the role for emerging market economies in developing the appropriate global governance responses.

During his opening speech Commissioner Potočnik spoke about the importance of sustainability in future financial systems. He also pointed out that attention on the crisis should not draw focus away from existing measures dealing with climate change. He made the point that as private funding for research drops away as companies restructure and protect themselves from the financial crisis, European funding is more important than ever as a driver of research. He also emphasised that the EU needs to deal with the immediate problems of the crisis, and also establish measures that ensure it cannot happen again. He said that Europe has the potential to lead the world in policy areas dealing with the economic crisis and drew attention to the EC Economic Recovery plan, launched at the end of last year.

Further information

Further information on the PEGGED project is available at: <http://pegged.cepr.org/>

European Institute of Innovation and Technology launches call for KICs

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) opened its first call for proposals on 2 April 2009. The aim of the call is to select and designate the first two or three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The call has three priority areas: climate change mitigation and adaptation; sustainable energy; and future information and communication society. A KIC must address at least one of these areas, but can span across two or three of them if appropriate.

The total contribution from the EC budget to the EIT is expected to be around €270 million in the period 2010-13, to be distributed according to the following schedule: €26 million in 2010; €455 million in 2011; €72 million in 2012; and €119 million in 2013. The Governing Board of the EIT will hold an Entrepreneurship Seminar on 6 and 7 May 2009, followed by a KIC Information Day on 8 May 2009. Both of these events will be held in Wrocław.

Further information

For further information on the EIT and this first call go to: <http://eit.europa.eu/>

Europe aims to become a global leader in high-risk IT research

The EC has recently launched a new European plan to boost visionary research. With more investment and co-operation in high-risk research on future information technologies, Europe's innovative research ideas can be turned into future technologies. On 21 April 2009, the EC proposed to boost Europe's high-risk research into future technologies by doubling research investment at national and EU level in this area by 2015. The EC will lead by example, increasing the current funding of €100 million per year by 70 per cent by 2013. Europe's investment in information and communication technologies (ICT) research is lagging behind other regions. In order to catch up with the US, China and Japan, member states are asked to double, by 2015, their investment in high-risk research in ICT, by joining research efforts between national and European programmes and by new flagship research initiatives that can drive large and sustained effort of several hundred millions of Euros.

In addition to its increase in spending on research for future information technologies, the EC aims to launch at least two flagship research initiatives by 2013 that combine efforts across borders and scientific disciplines to achieve research breakthroughs – the development of bio-computers, for example. The EC's proposed actions will also help talented young researchers engage in high-risk research and support research intensive high-tech Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that can turn early research results into new business opportunities.

Further information

EC Press Release IP/09/608 of 21 April 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Co-operation on animal testing alternatives

An agreement has been reached by several international bodies tasked with validating alternative methods for animal testing. The co-operation agreement has been signed by the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), part of the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), as well as the Interagency Co-ordination Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) in the US, the Japanese Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods (VACVAM), and Canada's Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau. It is hoped that as a result of the agreement the testing methods that undergo validation will be more credible and more rapidly applied by the community.

The Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, commented on the positive effects of scientific international co-operation: 'Reducing animal testing, both out of concern for animal welfare

and ethical issues, and protecting consumer safety are two major objectives of this international agreement. I expect that European, American, Japanese, and Canadian scientists working together will more rapidly identify scientifically sound alternative testing methods'. The agreement establishes enhanced international co-operation and co-ordination on the scientific validation and evaluation of *in-vitro* toxicity testing methods.

Further information

EC Press Releases IP/09/43 and MEMO/09/200 of 27 April 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

EC communication on EU aquaculture strategy

Following a wide-ranging consultation process with stakeholders and an assessment of the first European aquaculture strategy (adopted in 2002), the EC has presented a Communication to give new impetus to the sustainable development of aquaculture. The strategy identifies three main objectives and the actions necessary to achieve them: promoting the competitiveness of the sector; encouraging sustainability, notably from an environmental point of view, but also in socio-economic terms; and improving governance and the image of a sector which apparently remains relatively unknown to investors and citizens in general.

Under FP6, €98 million have been allocated to research projects for aquaculture, among which €32 million for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The proposed strategy supports the continuation of this funding. The strategy highlights that industry leaders have recently launched an initiative aimed at establishing a European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP), as an open forum which will develop a strategic vision and research priorities. The new strategy should help the sector meet the challenges it faces in a sustainable way, so that it can fully benefit from the opportunities the increased demands for healthy and protein-rich fish and seafood present, not only in Europe but worldwide.

Further information

Further information on the EC Strategy for aquaculture is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/aquaculture_processing/aquaculture/strategy_en.htm

Details on Aquaculture research are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/research_en.htm

More information on the Technology Platform on Aquaculture is available at:

<http://www.eatpnet.eu/about.php>

EC White Paper outlines how it will adapt to climate change

On 1 April, the EC presented a White Paper outlining actions needed to strengthen Europe's resilience in coping with climate change, as well as three related discussion papers on water, coasts and marine, agricultural and health issues. Recent research indicates that the impacts of climate change will be both quicker and more severe than previously expected. Therefore it is important that Europe prepares for this, as this will happen despite the EU's efforts to take swift action to reduce its greenhouse emissions. The impact of climate change will have varying regional implications meaning that most adaptation measures will need to be taken nationally and regionally.

The EC paper puts forward a framework and two-phase strategic approach to adapting to the impacts of climate change. It also suggests that EU complements actions taken by Member States through an integrated and co-ordinated approach particularly in cross-border issues and policies which are highly integrated at EU level. The framework consists of four key pillars: building a stronger knowledge base; taking climate change impacts into consideration in key EU policies; financing – combining different policy measures to best effect; and supporting wider international efforts on mitigation. The Commission will also set up an Impact and Adaptation Steering Group (IASG).

Further Information

EC Press Releases IP/09/519 and MEMO/09/145 of 1 April 2009 are available at:

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

EC webpage on climate change adaptation, which includes the UK national adaptation strategy:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm

EC webpage on agriculture and climate change is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/climate_change/index_en.htm

European Environment Agency Report No 4/2008: Impacts of Europe's changing climate – 2008 indicator-based assessment is available at:

http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea_report_2008_4

EU Forum for University-Business Dialogue

The EC recently presented a set of proposals to strengthen co-operation between universities and businesses and in turn help modernise higher education systems. The plan is to use the 'University-Business Forum', which brings together higher education institutions, industry, industry associations and public authorities, as a platform for further dialogue. The University-Business Forum has already met in 2008 and 2009. The new platform will allow for more meetings and seminars and it will also have its own website to share best practice and exchange information. The platform will also be open to involvement from organisations outside the EU.

The EU Commissioner for Education, Ján Figel, said of the move, 'Closer co-operation between universities and business is a cornerstone of higher education reforms. Progress in this field is absolutely necessary. The EU Forum for University-Business Dialogue provides very concrete support to the universities and companies by encouraging them to learn from each other and by inspiring reforms on national, regional and institutional levels'.

Further information

EC Press Release IP/09/529 of 2 April 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The University-Business Cooperation website, which includes the full text of the Communication and the accompanying Staff Working Paper is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1261_en.htm

The website of the Second University-Business Forum, which took place on 5-6 February 2009, is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/business/forum09_en.html

Eco-Innovation call opens

The 2009 Eco-Innovation call for first application and market replication projects opened on 20 April 2009, with a budget of €30 million. The Eco-Innovation scheme forms one strand of the EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) which runs from 2007-13. It supports innovative products, services and technologies that can make better use of natural resources and reduce Europe's ecological footprint, and has an overall budget of around €200 million for its duration. Projects to be funded should aim to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation, to remove obstacles to the wider application of eco-innovations and to create and enlarge markets.

The call includes four defined priorities: materials and recycling; buildings; the food and drink sector; and greening business and smart purchasing. At a recent EC Information Day on the call, statistics were released giving the outcomes of the 2008 round. Of 134 proposals received, 42 were funded, with a total EU contribution of €28 million. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the core target of the initiative, accounted for 75 per cent of the applicant. Of the priority themes, recycling accounted for around two thirds of the funded projects, with the rest split between buildings, green business and food and drink.

Further information

Further information on the call can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/index_en.htm

Report on national GM strategies

A new report by the EC presents national strategies to ensure co-existence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming. The development of a co-existence legislative framework in Member States has gone hand in hand with a moderate expansion of the cultivation of GM crops. Right now there is no indication of the need to deviate from the subsidiarity-based approach on co-existence.

Fifteen Member States have adopted legislation on co-existence, 11 more than in 2006 when the first coexistence report was published. Another 3 Member States have notified draft legislation to the EC. The European Co-existence Bureau (ECoB), created by the EC, is developing, in collaboration with the Member States, crop specific Best Practice Documents. The EC will strengthen its efforts to facilitate co-operation among Member States, to promote a science-based and practical approach on segregation measures. In 2011, the EC will report on the progress made, including an update on the development and implementation of national co-existence measures.

Further Information

Commission press release, reference IP/09/532, is available at:

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

For further information, please see: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/coexistence/index_en.htm

FP7 SSH METRIS expert group publishes first report

The METRIS (Monitoring European Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities) project has published the first report from its expert group. The METRIS project is funded through the FP7 Co-operation Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH) theme. The project aims at monitoring trends in SSH and mapping the current and future state of the discipline. The METRIS report identifies key and emerging trends within SSH. These findings are organised across the key activity areas of the SSH Theme, such as growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge-based society, or combining economic, social and environmental objectives. As well as these key activity areas, the report also addresses cross cutting themes such as migration and tries to identify examples of cutting edge research that are not currently addressed by these activity areas.

The report also identifies that national research in SSH remains very different from country to country in Europe and that there should be an attempt to understand how these national areas of research might be brought together. It recommends the creation of a database to monitor public and private funding within SSH. This report will be of interest to researchers and policy makers in the social sciences, and will be particularly useful to anyone planning a future bid for funding under the FP7 co-operation SSH theme.

Further information

The METRIS report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/metriss-report_en.pdf

Urban waste water treatment

The EC Directorate-General for the Environment has published a call for support to the implementation on urban waste water treatment. With this call, the EC intends to establish a new contract to support Unit D2 of Environment DG in carrying out the tasks stemming from the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) such as dealing with infringement procedures, assessing information, carrying out investigations/surveys, providing support on the routine reporting processes and organisation of meetings.

The implementation of the UWWTD represents one of the basic measures that are required when implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This directive (2000/60/EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy seeks to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

Further information

Additional information on the EC directive and call for tenders is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/calls_en.htm

Europe's research contribution to combating cancer

The EC participated in the race 'Relais pour la Vie' on 28-29 March. Organised by the Luxembourgish Foundation against Cancer, it attracted 313 teams. The race aims to show solidarity with those affected by cancer and to provide information about the disease. So far in FP7, €265 million has been dedicated to cancer research. This has provided support for 65 projects involving over 700 research groups. Large projects addressing complex issues received about one third of the funding, these projects aim to integrate and structure the EU's research community. The remaining funding has been dedicated towards smaller research projects as well as networking and supporting activities. Between 2002-06, under FP6, the EU's 'Combating Cancer initiative received about € 480 million and supported 108 projects.

EU funded research investigates the causes and mechanisms of cancer, while FP6 and FP7 have also funded projects that focused on cancer development and progression, and on molecular mechanisms relevant to pre-clinical discovery. Early detection and diagnosis are vital and FP7 has so far allocated over €70 million to research into cancer biomarkers and novel diagnostic tools, and on imaging devices and technologies. EU funded research also supports cancer treatment and palliative care, as well as research into the cancer prevention.

Further information

EC Press release MEMO/09/136 of 27 March 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Public consultation on ICT for a Low-Carbon Society

The EC has opened a public consultation to gather information and opinions on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for a Low Carbon Society. The consultation builds on an EC Communication adopted on 12 March 2009 on mobilising ICT to facilitate the transition to an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy. It includes the announcement of the planned adoption of an EC Recommendation setting out specific actions to make the best use of ICT in improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions, such as: the provision of reliable data on energy consumption; the introduction of 'smart meters'; and the reduction of energy use in buildings and transport, which account for 70 per cent of energy demand in Europe.

The results of the consultation will inform the development of this Recommendation. The consultation takes the form of an online questionnaire, which should take around 30 minutes to complete. Responses should be submitted by 14 June 2009 at midnight Brussels time.

Further information

The consultation questionnaire can be accessed at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=ICT4EE3>

The Communication on ICT for a Low-Carbon Society is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sustainable_growth/energy_efficiency/index_en.htm

Research News

Health benefits of tobacco plant properties

A group of scientists from Europe have successfully used genetically modified tobacco plants to generate medicines for a number of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. The study was part of the Pharma-Planta project, funded under the EU's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) to the tune of €12 million. The study's results were recently published in the open access journal BMC Biotechnology. This study paves the way to performing feeding studies in mouse models of autoimmune diseases, which will allow the evaluation of the immunomodulatory properties and effectiveness of the viral IL-10 in inducing oral tolerance compared to the murine protein.

Collaborating with the University of Verona were the Institute for Molecular Biotechnology (Germany), Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology (Germany), Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (Germany), the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Austria) and the University of Perugia (Italy).

Further Information

The Pharma-Planta project website is available here: <http://www.pharma-planta.org/>

ESA gives students the opportunity to 'fly their thesis'

The European Space Agency (ESA) has recently launched an exciting opportunity to enable university students to fly their experiments in parabolic flights on an Airbus A300 Zero-G aircraft. Teams of students can design an experiment to be performed in micro-gravity as part of their Master's or PhD thesis, or research programme. Outline proposals to the ESA's 2010 call 'Fly your Thesis! – An Astronaut Experience' should be submitted by 22 June 2009. A review board will then select up to 20 teams to submit a detailed scientific proposal working and present their projects during a special ESA workshop. Then, up to four teams will be selected to finalise and perform their experiment on flights scheduled to take place in Bordeaux, France, during autumn 2010.

The selected students will not only to get the opportunity work with renowned European scientists, but will also be able to accompany their experiments on board for three flights of 30 parabolas, experiencing about 20 seconds of microgravity during each parabola. ESA will offer financial support to cover part of the cost of the experiments, necessary travel and accommodation, and possible participation in a conference. Later this year, the ESA's Education Office intends to launch a complementary call for opportunities on other gravity research platforms, such as drop towers and centrifuges.

Further Information

Further information is available at: http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM9FTEH1TF_index_0.html

EU funded project helps make sure your bread is nice and fresh

The EU FP6 funded 'EU-Freshbake' project brings together researchers from around Europe to make sure your bread is fresh. Over 30 million tonnes of bread are consumed in Europe each year. An increasing amount of this is prepared using Bake Off Technology (BOT) where bread is industrially prebaked first, and is then later baked again in a shop or someone's home to finish it off. The BOT technology has mainly been used to produce plain white bread which is of low nutritional value. The process also unfortunately uses a lot of energy.

The EU-Freshbake project, which is due to finish in October 2009, hopes to improve the BOT technology so that consumers will be able to get fresh bread with enhanced nutritional and textural quality. Researchers are looking at improving the industrial practice, energy consumption and refrigeration. The project studies a range of breads, including gluten-free bread and organic bread. The researchers have designed prototype equipment and technologies to dramatically reduce the amount of energy needed by these processes. The new methods also improve the quality of the final product, for example the quality of the crust – important since 62 per cent of consumers favour freshly-baked bread with a crunchy crust.

Further Information

The EU-Freshbake project website is at: <http://eu-freshbake.eu/eufreshbake>

Laser research helps nanofilms align

Researchers from Denmark, Germany, Israel, and the US, funded under an FP6 Marie Curie Action, have discovered how to align molecules on the surface of water into nanofilms; this makes the molecules much easier to study. Nanofilms can be created by dissolving a target material in a volatile substance; when the nanofilm is splashed onto water it will float on the surface of the water forming a thin layer. Normally the molecules are all mixed up and do not align, meaning that the random orientation of the molecules dictate the properties of the film and therefore make it problematic to study and to use in technological applications.

However, this team of researchers has found a way to make the molecules align, by bombarding the film with nanosecond-long laser beam pulses. An electric field created by the laser makes the molecules rotate and line up. This work represents significant progress towards achieving stable, self-aligned nanofilms. Once perfected, this technique will help with the study of biological tissues and membranes as well assisting research in the area of molecular electronics, ultra-thin materials and possibly emerging solar cell technologies.

Further information

Further information is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=30685

EU project helps find genetic risk factor for infantile eczema

Scientists from several EU countries including the Czech Republic, Germany, France and Poland have identified a genetic variant that is associated with an increased risk of atopic dermatitis. It is hoped that this breakthrough could lead to the discovery of new drugs to treat the condition. The research was supported in part by a Marie Curie grant from FP6. Atopic dermatitis, or infantile

eczema, is a common allergy: it affects around 15 per cent of young people in industrialised countries. Certain creams can help to alleviate the symptoms but an effective cure is really needed.

Yet no one is sure exactly what causes a flare-up of atopic dermatitis: environmental factors or even certain skincare products are likely to play a role. However, epidemiological studies suggest that an individual's risk of developing the condition may be strongly influenced by genetic factors. It was with this in mind that researchers attempted to find the genetic variant that appears to be linked to an increased risk of condition. The researchers found that 13 per cent of Europeans carry two copies of the genetic variant, and that these people are 1.47 times more likely to develop the condition than those who don't carry the variant. Further research is likely to reveal further genetic variants associated with the condition. It is hoped that this will help lead to the development of new drugs to treat the condition.

Further information

Further information is available from the website of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) at: http://www.mdc-berlin.de/en/news/2009/20090406-new_risk_variant_for_atopic_dermatitis_ide/index.html

New Research Identifies Genes Connected to Learning Disabilities

EU funded scientists have identified nine new genes on the X chromosome that play an important role in the development of learning disabilities. The team was supported by funding from the Health theme of FP7 Co-operation. They sequenced 720 out of the 800 known genes on the X chromosome in more than 200 families affected by learning disabilities in the UK, the US, South Africa, Australia and Europe. The research discovered that the inactivation of these genes leads to disabilities relating to significant intellectual, conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills handicaps.

These types of mental handicap are more common in males than females and have long been suspected to be linked to the X chromosome. As males only have one X chromosome, it was thought that a genetic deficiency on this chromosome would be more likely to affect males, who do not have a second X chromosome to compensate for a mutation. The results of this research supported these observations using complex gene sequencing. The work will allow doctors to improve the diagnostics of learning disabilities and help future parents to make more informed family planning decisions.

Further Information

The research was conducted by the FP7 supported project, Gen2phen, whose website is available here: www.gen2phen.org

Education, Training and Culture

Eurobarometer survey reveals students' views on higher education in Europe

In February 2009 the Eurobarometer survey asked students from 31 European countries for their opinions on higher education in Europe. The survey shows that students want wider access to higher education: 88 per cent agreed that all qualified students should have the right to study in the higher education system. In terms of costs of higher education, almost two-thirds of students currently in the higher education system felt that higher education should be free of charge, while one third of respondents felt that student fees were acceptable when grants and loans were available. The vast majority of students, 97 per cent, believed it was important to provide students with the knowledge

and skills they needed to be successful in the labour market, while most students also believed that education should contribute to the enhancement of personal development.

With regards to the quality and transparency of higher education institutions, 83 per cent of students agreed that independent reports on the quality of universities and programmes would help students to decide where to study. A majority of the students supported the idea that all study programmes should include a possibility for a study period abroad. Finally, a large majority, 87 per cent, agreed that it is important for higher education institutions to foster innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset among students and staff, and that there should be the possibility to undertake work placements in private enterprises as part of a study programme.

Further information

EC Press Releases IP/09/618 and MEMO/09/171 of 21 and 22 April 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Latest developments and future of the Bologna Process

Two new reports have recently been published on the Bologna Process, providing interested parties with an overview of the European-wide developments so far. The first report, 'Higher Education in Europe 2009: Developments in the Bologna Process', has been produced by Eurydice for the European Commission. It is intended to provide a partial assessment for the development of the emerging European Higher Education Area (EHEA), giving a historical account of developments to date. The report includes detailed sections on: the Bachelor-Master's structure; the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS); the Diploma Supplement; National Qualifications Frameworks; and Mobility and Portability of Financial Support.

At the end of April, the 46 states participating in the Bologna Process met in Leuven in Belgium to discuss the future of the objectives beyond 2010 to 2020. Over the course of the first decade of the Bologna Process, the new harmonised three cycle structure of education has been implemented or extensively introduced in all countries. This structure is based on a bachelors/masters/doctorate system of higher education, and has helped to co-ordinate higher education across Europe. There is still work to be done in unifying the different systems of educational credits, although much progress has been made. In other areas of harmonisation of European education models, great progress has been made from 1999-2009, but there is still room for improvement and development as the process is extended to 2020.

Further Information

EC Press Releases IP/09/615, MEMO/09/172 and MEMO/09/170 of 22 April 2009 are available www.europa.eu/rapid/

The Bologna Process website is available at: www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/

Erasmus helps to shape higher education landscape

A recent study has demonstrated that the EU's Erasmus scheme, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme, has been a strong driving force in shaping the landscape of higher education in Europe. The programme has contributed to improving, opening up and modernising both higher education institutions and education policies. For the vast majority of institutions, 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 co-operation as well as institutional management. The study focused on the impact of Erasmus since its inception in 1987. It is based on a survey which had responses from around 750 institutions' top management and more than 1,800 Erasmus co-ordinators both at international offices and faculties.

The success of the higher education scheme is perhaps recognised by the fact that there is to be an Erasmus scheme for young entrepreneurs. The aim is to help new EU entrepreneurs enrich their experiences, learning and networking by spending periods in enterprises run by experienced entrepreneurs in other EU Member States. It is hoped that this action will enhance the entrepreneurship, internationalisation and competitiveness of potential start-up entrepreneurs and newly established micro and small enterprises in the EU.

Further information

The report on the Erasmus scheme is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus/doc922_en.htm

Further information on the new entrepreneurship Erasmus scheme is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/erasmus

External Collaboration

EU S&T agreements renewal adopted with Russia and the US

The EU Council adopted a decision approving the renewal of the EU-Russia and the EU-US co-operation agreements on science and technology (S&T agreements) for an additional period of five years. The content of the renewed EU-Russia agreement is identical to the content of the previous agreement which expired on 20 February 2009. The content of the US bilateral agreement will be amended in order to include the research in the area of security and space to the list of sectors for co-operative activities, in line with the EU's FP7 for 2007-2013.

S&T agreements provide a political, legal and administrative framework for co-ordinating and facilitating cooperative S&T activities between European legal entities and international partners. The agreements should be concluded to promote European RTD policy as defined in Article 163 of the EC Treaty. They offer a forum in which to identify common interests, priorities, policy dialogue, and the necessary tools for S&T collaboration. They also aim to strengthen the international dimension of the European Research Area. They do not include specific provisions regarding the funding of co-operative research activities (which remains subject to the respective applicable laws, regulations, policies and programmes of the two Parties to the agreement). They do, however, set the principles regarding the management and sharing of the intellectual property created or used in the context of co-operative research activities.

Further information

More information on the EU International co-operation and S&T agreements is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=countries>

Better Training for Safer Food in Africa

EU Health Commissioner, Androulla Vassiliou, launched a new initiative – 'Better Training for Safer Food in Africa – BTSF-Africa'. The initiative was launched during a high-level conference in Ethiopia. Through BTSF-Africa, over the next two years, €10 million will be used to fund capacity building activities. Established in 2005, the programme BTSF has provided training to both European and third country officials who are responsible for checking that EU rules related to food and feed animal health and welfare and plant health are properly applied.

Under 'BTSF-Africa', the EC and the AUC will jointly co-ordinate the implementation, from 2009 to 2010, of seven capacity building activities worth around €10 million. The activities target the public and private sectors at national, regional and continental levels. The objective is to support food safety

mainly by the transfer of technical expertise and policy advice in areas of food safety and quality across Africa. At the December 2007 Lisbon Summit a Joint Africa-EU Strategy was adopted, identifying eight partnerships in which specific strategies will be put in place. The third relates to Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure, and includes an SPS (Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary) component. The Strategy will be implemented through successive short-term joint action plans and enhanced political dialogue at all levels.

Further Information

More on BSTF in Africa is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

Events and Awards

UKRO annual conference 2009 – registration now open

Registration is now open for the 2009 UKRO annual conference, which will take place at City Hall and the National Museum, Cardiff, on 2-3 July. The two-day event will contain a combination of policy-related plenary sessions and more practical parallel sessions. Planned sessions include an update on the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Economic Recovery Plan; EU International S&T collaboration; and FP6 Ex-Post Evaluation and preparations for the FP7 mid-term review. There will also be sessions focussed more on particular parts of the Framework Programme, such as FP finance and reporting and EU Space research including GMES.

A drinks reception and the conference dinner are taking place in the National Museum on the evening of 2 July. There will be other networking opportunities over refreshments and lunch throughout the event. Up to two hundred administrators and research managers mainly from the UK, but also other European countries, will be attending. Registration is also open to non-subscribers and UKRO encourages people to register early as places are limited.

Further information

Information about the conference, including the provisional programme and a link to the registration form, is available at: http://www.ukro.ac.uk/annual_conference/2009/index.htm

Conference focussing on women scientists

The Annual Conference of the European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS) will be held in Brussels on 25-26 June 2009. The conference, entitled 'Scientific Culture, Communication, Gender – An Innovative Challenge for Women Scientists', is organised in collaboration with Belgian Women in Science (BeWiSe) and aims to inform about core issues of scientific culture and communication and equip participants with knowledge regarding the implementation and running of networks. Other goals include the encouragement of women scientists to join the male-dominated ranks of those active in the field of science communication and knowledge transfer and to actively communicate and promote their research results.

The Conference will include two training seminars, 'Management of Networks' and 'Access to Funding', along with a visit to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) which will include an introduction to the ways in which museums communicate science to the public, utilising concrete examples. Participants will also have the opportunity to present their work, both through contributing to sessions and through a poster exhibition highlighting work undertaken at EU level.

Further information

Further information is available at:

http://www.epws.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=413&Itemid=4545

Darwin Now Conference: Darwin's Living Legacy

The British Council and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt are organising a call for papers for the upcoming Darwin Now Conference: Darwin's Living Legacy. The Programme Committee invites papers from a broad range of disciplines including: science, history of science, philosophy of science, social sciences, education, the arts and media. The conference will be organised around three strands: cutting edge evolutionary science; applications of evolutionary Science; social and cultural impacts of Darwinism and evolution. The deadline for submitting a paper, session, or poster will be 1 June 2009.

The conference programme will include parallel themed sessions, plenary lectures, education and outreach activities, and a conference dinner. Bursaries will be available to cover travel costs and accommodation. There will be a separate application procedure for bursaries once abstracts have been accepted. Applicants should indicate when submitting their abstract if they will be applying for a bursary.

Further information

Enquiries concerning this conference should be directed to: BAconfDarwin@britishcouncil.org

Further information about the British Council Darwin Now project and conference is available at:

www.britishcouncil.org/darwin

Veterinary scientists collaborate with human scientists for conference on regenerative medicine

Top veterinary scientists have confirmed that they will be attending the World Conference on Regenerative Medicine in October 2009. There are many areas of medical science in which the fields of human medicine and veterinary medicine can share knowledge and work together and one of the most important areas of symbiosis between the disciplines is in the new and emerging field of regenerative medicine. Regenerative medicine is an emerging interdisciplinary field of research and clinical applications focused on the repair, replacement or regeneration of cells, tissues, or organs. It uses a combination of approaches including soluble molecules, gene therapy, stem cell transplantation, tissue engineering, and the reprogramming of cell and tissue types.

In order to co-ordinate research activity between human and veterinary science, the newly founded Veterinary Stem Cell Consortium will hold its first meeting at the World Conference on Regenerative Medicine. It is hoped that by bringing the top scientists in human and veterinary science together, it will be possible for delegates to get a broad overview of the current progress in the field of regenerative medicine. The conference will be held in Leipzig from 29 to the 30 of October 2009.

Further Information

Further information is available at:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm?fuseaction=article.Detail&rcn=19107>

Conference website is available at: <http://www.wcrm-leipzig.com/>

Sustainable development in policy assessment

The Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IOEW) and the Ecologic Institute for International and European Environmental Policy are organising a conference entitled "Sustainable Development in Policy Assessment - Methods, Challenges and Policy Impacts" in Brussels on 15 and 16 June

2009. The aim of this conference is to add to the understanding of sustainability evaluation and the topics to be addressed include: sustainability evaluation's contribution to policy development and implementation; sustainability evaluations designed to affect political decision-making; strengthening sustainability goals and impacts in policy evaluation and assessment; and improving the quality of sustainability evaluations.

Scientists from universities and research institutes as well as evaluation practitioners and commissioning agents will discuss together these topic in different working groups and panel discussions.

Further information

Further information on the conference including registration is available at:
<http://www.ecologic.eu/soef/epos/conference.html>

New Publications and Online Resources

Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities: new publication on supported projects

Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) is an increasingly important part of FP7. The SSH theme is more relevant than ever to the future of Europe, with challenges such as; the current financial crisis; problems and challenges of increasing citizen mobility and migration; an ageing European population; and many other issues bringing socio-economic science and the humanities the forefront of European Policy objectives. A recent publication from the European Commission catalogues the current projects funded under FP7, providing an excellent resource that gives an insight into the current state of the art in SSH research.

In an increasingly globalised world, challenges facing European society call for greater international collaboration in research. FP7 Co-operation projects of the type catalogued in this new publication are uniquely placed to deal with these issues on an international level. Following the 2007 and 2008 calls for proposals from the SSH theme, more than a hundred projects have been funded, totalling over €130 million of research investment in SSH. The outcomes of these projects may well go on to shape future European policy and affect the lives of citizens across the continent.

Further Information

The publication is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/synopses-fp7-ssh-projects-2007-2009_en.pdf

Further information on SSH research in FP7 can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences>

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/llp/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.

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