

# European RTD Insight

British Council online bulletin

OCTOBER 2009

## News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

### Table of contents

<b>EU Policy</b> .....	<b>2</b>
EP gives green light to second Barroso term.....	2
Commissioner presents political guidelines for next EC.....	3
Response to report on ERC structures and mechanisms .....	3
STI statistics released.....	3
Study finds that ERA-NET projects in FP6 were success .....	4
ERC publishes call data.....	4
EC reviews innovation policy .....	5
Topics for Innovative Medicines Initiative call agreed .....	5
Knowledge triangle conference.....	5
Independent observers report on FP7 Co-operation health theme.....	6
Public Health Programme assessment .....	6
The Global Health Security Initiative .....	7
Publication on Women in Science.....	7
EC call on alternative solutions to animal testing.....	7
Space survey for schools kids.....	8
Green Paper on mobility of young people .....	8
Europe's Digital Library: consultation to address challenges .....	9
<b>Research News</b> .....	<b>9</b>
New eCall system to improve survival on Europe's roads.....	9
R&D helps reduce beer bottles sorting and recycling costs .....	10
An EU-funded project boosts EU competitiveness in textile industry.....	10
Research Uses Salmonellae to Destroy Tumours .....	10
<b>Education, Training and Culture</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Quality assurance of HEIs .....	11
European master's in translation.....	11
Umeå and Riga to be the European Capitals of Culture in 2014 .....	12
Youth in Action Programme – call for partnerships.....	12
<b>External Collaboration</b> .....	<b>13</b>

EC advice for international participants .....	13
China fellowship programme.....	13
EU co-operation with the US and Canada.....	14
EC research commissioner visits Africa .....	14
<b>Events and Awards .....</b>	<b>15</b>
European Union Contest for Young Scientists.....	15
European food science event.....	15
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology brokerage event 2010.....	15
TRACE project final food conference .....	16
<b>New Publications and Online Resources.....</b>	<b>16</b>
2009 Health brochure .....	16
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology: European Technology Platform brochure .....	17
Transport research knowledge centre publishes new brochures.....	17
CORDIS.....	18
IGLO Project Search.....	18
EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L) .....	18
EUROPA.....	18
RAPID .....	18
cubed... from the British Council.....	18
Talking Science.....	19
<b>GLOSSARY.....</b>	<b>19</b>

## EU Policy

### EP gives green light to second Barroso term

The EP recently held a vote on whether to agree to José Manuel Barroso serving a second term as President of the EC. The result of the vote was a 'yes' in favour of giving him a second term. MEPs voted 382 to 219 in favour with 117 abstentions. Barroso had already been unanimously endorsed by the European Council. In the same EP session its new President, Jerzy Buzek, outlined what he saw as the main challenges currently facing the EP and the world, notably the current economic crisis. Buzek also spoke of the need for Europe to develop a coordinated energy policy and the need for Parliament and MEPs to be more open and dynamic. He also stressed that other major challenges included energy and the environment, foreign policy and human rights and its system of values.

The current Commissioner for Research, Janez Potočnik, has been nominated by the Slovenian Government to serve another term as one of the European Commissioners. However, it is yet to be decided if he will keep the science and research portfolio.

#### Further information

Further details of the vote on Barroso are available at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus\\_page/008-60252-257-09-38-901-20090904FCS60249-14-09-2009-2009/default\\_p001c003\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-60252-257-09-38-901-20090904FCS60249-14-09-2009-2009/default_p001c003_en.htm)

Full details of Jerzy Buzek's speech are available at:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus\\_page/008-60252-257-09-38-901-20090904FCS60249-14-09-2009-2009/default\\_p001c002\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-60252-257-09-38-901-20090904FCS60249-14-09-2009-2009/default_p001c002_en.htm)

Commissioner Potočník's website is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/potocnik/indexfl\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/potocnik/indexfl_en.htm)

## Commissioner presents political guidelines for next EC

President of the EC, José Manuel Barroso, has outlined his political guidelines for the next EC. The guidelines cover all of the policy areas within the remit of the EC and include details of his plans for the research and innovation agenda. It states that the next EC must take EU research policy to a new level and make it one of the motors of sustainable development.

In the guidelines Barroso states that more needs to be done to reduce fragmentation and achieve a true European Research Area. The new agenda is likely to focus on key areas in order to ensure: world excellence in basic research in the EU, which would be achieved in part through the European Research Council; more industry-driven applied R&D to bring leading edge products and clean technologies to markets and to boost the competitiveness of EU industry; new opportunities for researchers, extending current exchange programmes like Marie Curie; and a bigger focus on spreading R&D capacities to the regions.

### Further information

President Barroso's political guidelines for the next EC are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/pdf/press\\_20090903\\_EN.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/press_20090903_EN.pdf)

## Response to report on ERC structures and mechanisms

Following the report entitled 'Towards a world class frontier research organisation - review of the European Research Council's structures and mechanisms', written by an independent panel the Scientific Council (ScC) of the ERC has now published their response. It gives comments on all the recommendations given by the panel, while the response from the EC is expected in October 2009. The ScC will report on the implementation of steps suggested in the report in one year.

Among the main issues responded to were the agreement of the Scientific Council with the review team that the financial and staff regulations should be adapted to the ERC, and also agreement with the suggestion made in the report that there should be a permanent committee of the ScC looking at conflict of interest issues. The ScC support the suggestion that the posts of Secretary-General of the ERC and Director of the ERCEA be merged to create a post they call 'ERC Director'. They agree that this should be a 'distinguished scientist with robust administrative experience' and suggest the post should be created once the current ERC Secretary-General and ERCEA Director complete their terms and step down. The ScC also supports the review panel's recommendation that funding be based on lump sums, whilst recognising the need for a proper mix of accountability and flexibility.

### Further information

Further information on the review is available at:  
<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=158>

## STI statistics released

The Statistical Office of the European Communities, EUROSTAT, has published the 2009 edition of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Europe. The statistics include R&D expenditure and personnel, patents, innovation, and other indicators related to the knowledge intensive sectors of the economy. In 2007 the EU countries spent a total of €229 billion on R&D, which equalled 1.85 per cent as a proportion of GDP. The biggest spenders were Germany, (€62 billion), France (€39 billion), and the UK (€37 billion). The intensity of R&D, expenditure as a proportion of GDP, was highest in Sweden (3.6 per cent) and lowest in Romania (0.53 per cent).

Researchers accounted for 0.9 per cent of the EU workforce in 2007 which varied from 0.3 per cent for Romania (2005 figures) to 2.1 per cent in Finland. There were almost 40 per cent of EU enterprises involved in innovation activities. The highest proportion was in Germany (63 per cent of enterprises), followed by Belgium (52 per cent), with the lowest in Latvia (16 per cent).

#### **Further information**

EC press release STAT/09/127 of 8 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Study finds that ERA-NET projects in FP6 were success**

The EC has published a new study entitled 'Summary of the Impact Assessment Study of the ERA-NET scheme under the Sixth Framework Programme'. ERA-NETs were a new type of instrument when they were introduced at the beginning of FP6 and they are still used now in FP7. They allow national funding agencies to work together in a more co-ordinated manner so as to avoid duplication and fragmentation. Many ERA-NET projects lead to joint calls being organised between the participating funding agencies.

The ERA-NET review was carried out for the EC by Matrix Insight and was conducted based on the evidence of the 71 ERA-NET projects that were funded in FP6. The report finds that overall the ERA-NET scheme was a success. It finds that the scheme leveraged in a substantial amount of funding for projects and programmes from Member States: As of the end of 2008, national funding bodies committed more than €1.1 billion in funding contributions, which exceeded the EC contribution by a factor of five. Out of the 71 ERA-NETs in FP6, a total of 115 joint calls worth €773 million, 15 joint programmes worth €376 million and 22 pilot calls worth more than €14 million all took place.

#### **Further information**

A copy of the report is available at: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/library\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/library_en.html)

The EC website on the co-ordination of research activities is available at: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/home_en.html)

### **ERC publishes call data**

The European Research Council (ERC) has issued a press release stating that it expects to fund around 240 proposals from the 2009 Starting Grants (ERC-2009-StG) call, out of a total of 2503 submitted proposals, giving a success rate of 10 per cent. This is an improvement on the first Starting Grant call which had a success rate of only 3.3 per cent (it funded 299 proposals out of 9167 submitted proposals). The ERC has also published lists of the proposals which have already been invited for funding (currently 219 proposals), with the remaining proposals (up to around 240) expected to be invited to prepare grant agreements soon; these will be added to the lists on the ERC website gradually.

The ERC also gave some indicative statistics on the top 237 proposals, out of which 43 are based in host institutions in the UK (giving the UK the highest number of grants followed by Germany with 31, France with 28, and Spain with 18). Looking at the mobility of grantees, of the 43 to be based in the UK, 15 are staying nationals, 19 are staying Europeans, 6 are staying non-Europeans and 6 are moving to the UK to take up the grant. There are only 3 UK nationals doing an ERC grant outside of the UK. The UK, Switzerland and Austria stand out as the countries that have a large proportion of 'staying Europeans' which means that they have already attracted good researchers who are keen to stay.

### **Further information**

The ERC publication on statistics and results from the Starting Grant call is available at: [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/statistics\\_STG-2\\_outcome.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/statistics_STG-2_outcome.pdf)

General information on the ERC can be found at: <http://erc.europa.eu/>

### **EC reviews innovation policy**

The EC has recently published a new Communication entitled 'Reviewing Community innovation policy in a changing world'. This will provide the basis for the EC's new innovation plan, which is being prepared at the moment by DG Enterprise. The Communication assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the current actions and efforts in the field of innovation support. It takes stock of the progress achieved to date before addressing some of the lessons to be learnt and challenges to be mastered, including overcoming the public's reluctance to embrace new technologies or ensuring public authorities are better equipped to support innovation.

At the same time, a consultation on the orientations for the new innovation plan has recently opened. Stakeholders will have until 16 November to submit a response. The consultation is based around twelve questions including whether or not respondents agree with the achievements and shortcomings of current EU innovation policy and where the focus of future policies should be.

### **Further information**

The Communication is available directly at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/com\(2009\)442final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/com(2009)442final_en.pdf)

The EC website for innovation policy is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/index_en.htm)

The consultation webpage is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/future-policy/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/future-policy/consultation_en.htm)

### **Topics for Innovative Medicines Initiative call agreed**

The topics to be included in the second call for proposals for the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) have been announced following approval by the Governing Board. The actual launch of the second calls is foreseen for the 30 October 2009 with the deadline expected to be in January 2010. A total of nine topics are to be called for. They all fit within one of the following two pillars of IMI: 'Predictivity of Efficacy Evaluation' and 'Knowledge management'

IMI recently held a media briefing in Brussels to promote these new topics. At the session, the newly appointed Executive Director of IMI, Michel Goldman was introduced. He officially took up his post on 16 September. The EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, reaffirmed the EC commitment to the initiative, 'IMI is our response to the need of improving Europe's attractiveness for pharmaceutical R&D and to ensure that results from fundamental research can be rapidly translated into new innovative treatments. We should see results from this exciting new research mechanism very soon and hereby that new innovative medicines should reach European patients faster.'

### **Further information**

The IMI webpage listing the 2009 topics is available at: [http://imi.europa.eu/calls-02\\_en.html](http://imi.europa.eu/calls-02_en.html)

EP press release IP/09/1310 of 14 September 2009 is also available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Knowledge triangle conference**

The Swedish Presidency conference on 'The Knowledge Triangle Shaping the Future of Europe' took place in Gothenburg, 31 August to 2 September. The conference focussed specifically on the role of

education within the 'Knowledge Triangle' in relation to innovation and research. It brought together almost 300 delegates, including policy makers from the EC, national governments and related educational organisations, academics and university and business representatives.

The Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, explained how he felt that universities needed to organise, modernise and collaborate better at European level. He highlighted the publication of the innovation Communication, and the Expert Group Report on University Ranking which will be expected in the coming weeks. Ranking and choice of metrics and weightings were discussed extensively during the conference; the Presidency will draw conclusions from these discussions in their formal conference conclusions. Looking to the future, Janez Potočnik explained that universities could be more strategic if common guidelines for 'responsible external research funding' were developed.

#### **Further information**

EC press release SPEECH/09/355 of 1 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information is available at:

[http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings\\_news/2009/8/31/the\\_knowledge\\_triangle\\_shaping\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_europe](http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/8/31/the_knowledge_triangle_shaping_the_future_of_europe)

### **Independent observers report on FP7 Co-operation health theme**

The EC has published an Independent Observers' Report from the third call for proposals under the FP7 Co-operation Health theme. Overall, the report gives a generally positive review of the evaluation procedures, while making a number of concrete recommendations for further improvements to the process. The report covers the evaluations that took place between January and March 2009 for the FP7-Health-2009-single-stage and FP7-Health-2009-two-stage (stage one only).

The report praises the evaluation process stating that the current system should be retained for the next phases of FP7. The report notes that the first stage of the two-stage procedure was well received by evaluators. The report also includes a number of concrete recommendations for improvements to the evaluation procedures: the funding limit should be included in each topic to prevent ineligible proposals; raising the science and technology criterion to four for all Health calls; and improving aspects of the Consensus meetings.

#### **Further information**

The report is available at: [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/health-2009-3C-observers-report\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/health-2009-3C-observers-report_en.pdf)

### **Public Health Programme assessment**

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) has published the assessment report of the Public Health Programme 2008 Calls for Proposals. These calls related to projects, conferences, operating grants and joint actions. The report presents the results of the evaluation, looking at the overall statistics as well as providing a more detailed analysis of the evaluation results of the calls for proposals for projects, conferences, operating grants and joint actions. It also includes the results of an analysis of the evaluation criteria that were used. The document provides information such as how many proposals were awarded in different programme strands and priority areas, which countries the applicants and the successful awardees came from, or which types of organisations.

Following the 2008 calls for proposals, a total of 225 applications were received. The highest number of proposals (154) was received for the call related to projects rather than conferences, grants and joint actions. Of the 225 proposals that were submitted, four were excluded during the screening phase due to incompleteness or ineligibility of the submission and five did not pass the selection

criteria for operational capacity and financial viability of the applicants. Therefore a total of 216 proposals have been evaluated and 65 proposals have been selected for funding.

#### **Further information**

Further information and the report are available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/>

### **The Global Health Security Initiative**

The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) was launched in November 2001 by Canada, the EC, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. The World Health Organisation serves as an expert advisor to the GHSI. GHSI is an informal, international partnership among these countries to strengthen health preparedness and the global response to threats of biological, chemical, radio-nuclear terrorism (CBRN) and pandemic influenza. The key objective is to develop ways for a concerted global action to strengthen public health preparedness and response to the threat of international biological, chemical and radio-nuclear terrorism. GHSI partners have agreed to forge a partnership to address issues of protecting public health and security globally, and to work together in the areas of e.g. procuring vaccines and antibiotics; supporting the World Health Organisation's disease surveillance network; and international collaboration on risk assessment.

During the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 the GHSI members have shared information rapidly and effectively through a senior health officials network called the Global Health Security Action Group (GHSAG). The role of this network is to develop and implement concrete actions to improve global health security. It also serves as a network of rapid communication/reaction in the event of a crisis. Several working groups have been established to work on specific issues. On 11 September 2009 GHSI Health ministers concluded a Special Ministerial Meeting on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Brussels, where they re-affirmed to continue to co-ordinate their efforts in the interest of global health security.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release MEMO/09/388 of 11 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Publication on Women in Science**

The EC has issued a new publication on 'Women in Science'. The publication tells the stories of female scientists in Europe, both famous and less well-known, with the aim of highlighting the crucial contributions of women in the history of science. The publication falls on the tenth anniversary of European activities concerning women in science, and aims to help celebrate the progress made since the first EC Communication on the issue in 1999.

The featured women come from historic periods ranging from Hellenic times up to the present, with the idea that readers can trace progress from the middle ages, when scientific pursuits were almost exclusively the preserve of men, to the major inroads made by women in the nineteenth century. The profiles cover scientists from across the whole of Europe and from a range of domains, from astronomy to nuclear physics.

#### **Further information**

Please see the EC's Science in Society web portal for the publication:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm>

### **EC call on alternative solutions to animal testing**

In July, the EC launched a €25 million call for proposals in alternative solutions to animal testing and the European Cosmetics Association (Colipa), committed to match the funds. As a result, up to €50

million will be allocated to research projects laying the scientific foundation for future safety testing methods with a higher predictive value, and that will be faster and cheaper than animal tests.

The call focuses on 'repeated dose systemic toxicity'. It is about predicting the toxicity of the repeated use of substances over a long period of time, including those that are mainly used in cosmetic products. Despite the significant progress made on non-animal test methods, there are still gaps in scientific knowledge that need to be filled in order to further reduce the use of animals in safety tests, while continuing to guarantee the safety of cosmetic products. Topics addressed by the call include: development of organ-simulating devices; use of human-based target cells; definition of new toxicological endpoints and intermediate markers; computational modelling techniques; exploitation of approaches developed in systems biology; and integrated data analysis and scientific services. Only proposals not involving tests on living animals are eligible for funding.

#### **Further information**

Details of the call and application documents are available here:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=280](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=280)

### **Space survey for schools kids**

Gunther Verheugen, the Vice President of the EC in Brussels, whose responsibilities include Space Research and Industry has opened a consultation online for schoolkids about space. Humankind space adventure started more than fifty years ago, in October 1957, with the Sputnik satellite. The first moon landing took place in July 1969. Today, in 2009, thousands of satellites, a space station and a big telescope orbit our planet. Americans and Russians have been pioneers of space exploration, while Europeans have done a lot less well. The survey asks children 'should we do more?'

The survey asks among other things: Do you think Europeans should keep exploring the Universe? When you hear or read about space, what comes first to mind? Which of these things that we may use in our daily life you think work with satellites? Have you heard about the International Space Station before?

#### **Further information**

To access the survey, see: <http://surveys.publications.europa.eu/formserver/space.htm>

### **Green Paper on mobility of young people**

The EC is undertaking a consultation involving all stakeholders, from governments to individuals, to support its efforts to make youth mobility the rule rather than the exception. The consultation is based on a Green Paper entitled 'Promoting the learning mobility of young people'. The EC defines learning mobility as transnational mobility for the purpose of acquiring new skills and it is one of the fundamental ways in which individuals, particularly young people (categorised as those aged 16-35), can strengthen their future employability as well as their personal development. Studies confirm that learning mobility adds to human capital, as students access new knowledge and develop new linguistic skills and intercultural competences.

The Green Paper is structured around three core issues, Section One deals with preparation of a mobility period such as information, motivation, and linguistic preparation. Section Two deals with the actual period spent abroad (including housing and mentoring issues) and examines the follow-up to a mobility period, such as validation and recognition of the experience, and Section Three presents proposals for a new partnership on youth mobility. The consultation is currently open and closed on the 15 December 2009, the contributions can be sent through the DG Education and Culture (EAC) website, and they are welcome from individuals and organisations.

### **Further information**

Further information including the Green Paper and consultation is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/consult/mobility\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/mobility_en.html)

## **Europe's Digital Library: consultation to address challenges**

Europeana, Europe's multilingual digital library, currently provides access to 4.6 million digitised objects including books, newspapers, film clips, maps, photographs and documents, more than double the 2 million items available only nine months ago. Despite this, there is still some way to go to meet the EC's target of ten million digitised objects by 2010, and the EC has, as a result, asked Member States to step up their efforts with regard to the provision of access to content.

The period since the launch of Europeana in November 2008 has also revealed significant challenges in digitising material, particularly concerning the fragmentation of the European legislation relating to the licensing of copyright-protected material. To address these issues, the EC has launched a public consultation inviting suggestions as to how some of the current problems can be surmounted and also asks for opinions on the general future direction and governance of Europeana. The closing date for responses is 15 November 2009.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1257 of 28 August 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The Europeana portal is at: <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

The Europeana consultation document is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm)

# Research News

## **New eCall system to improve survival on Europe's roads**

The European mobile phone industry has responded to a call from the EC to do more to put the automatic emergency call-out system eCall on the road by giving it their full backing. Representatives of the industry's GSM Association, which unites nearly 800 of the world's mobile operators, have committed to the technology by signing an EU Memorandum of Understanding to implement eCall across Europe at a ceremony headed by Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media.

The eCall system automatically dials Europe's single emergency number, 112, when a car is involved in a serious accident and sends its location to the nearest emergency service, even when passengers cannot indicate this for themselves. It is estimated that the technology could save up to 2,500 lives in the EU each year when fully implemented, and reduce the overall severity of injuries by 10 to 15 per cent. To deploy eCall across Europe, all EU countries must ensure that their emergency services are equipped to handle eCalls. The UK is one of only six Member States still not in a position to guarantee this.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1290 of 9 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

## R&D helps reduce beer bottles sorting and recycling costs

Grolsch's brewery, in The Netherlands, sought to create new bottles for their brand, but they needed to estimate the costs of sorting the new bottles from the old ones in the recycling process. In collaboration with the German R&D company Syscona, Grolsch launched a newly designed bottle that would minimise the sorting costs but also improves the recycling process. The Dutch company decided to cooperate with Syscona which would also develop a technical solution that would measure how many Grolsch bottles were in each pallet. This would help keep the sorting costs to a minimum. The project was supported by the Eureka network.

Following a study that showed that the Dutch generally didn't mix up their various brands of empty bottles, the researchers concluded that the development of a new sorting line at the brewery, which would cost up to EUR 8 million, would be money wasted. The pallets that had a small number of 'rogue' bottles could be sent to Grolsch's regular production line that wouldn't fill them up with Grolsch beer, they added. Therefore, Syscona developed a complete new generation of inspection systems capable of identifying bottles in crates on the top layer of a pallet. The team said that even if the brewery's new and old bottles could be identified, along with unwanted bottles from other brands, the machine could be programmed to send pallets with few or even none of the rogue bottles straight onto the production line, and to send the bottles that needed sorting to another area for manual removal.

### Further information:

For more information on Grolsch, please go to: <http://www.royalgrolsch.com>

Information on Syscona is available at: <http://www.syscona.de/>

## An EU-funded project boosts EU competitiveness in textile industry

AsIsKnown, which stands for 'A semantic-based knowledge flow system for the European home textiles industry', is an EU-funded project that aims to bridge the gap between textile producers, trade facilities and consumers. The project is funded through FP6 and has a contribution from the EC of €2.38 million. The idea of the project is to create an integrated knowledge and content flow system that can encourage knowledge exchange and use across different multimedia applications. This will analyse sales and design data from European home textile producers, distributors and retailers, thus assisting future product development.

The new tool will allow businesses to analyse trends and place new orders quicker, meaning faster delivery times and higher stock levels. For customers, they can use a feature that allows them to plan and visualise rooms in their own home online. They can add products, like carpets, to see what they will look like. Customers can search the system for products in the following languages: Bulgarian, English, French, German, Hungarian and Italian.

### Further information

Further details of the AsIsKnown project are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article\\_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article\\_09\\_08\\_19\\_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=12573](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_09_08_19_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=12573)

## Research Uses Salmonellae to Destroy Tumours

Research funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) is using Salmonellae bacteria, which may be found in chicken and eggs to destroy solid tumours. The 'European network for the advancement of clinical gene transfer and therapy' CLINIGENE will run until 2011, this project received €12 million funding from FP6. Similar research was also carried out in a Marie Curie Host Fellowships - early stage research training network called 'Molecular interactions during infection' MIDITRAIN, this project ended in 2008 and received €2 million under the FP6 Mobility.

The latest research carried out at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) has shown that the Salmonellae bacteria can enter and destroy malignant tissue thanks to a messenger substance called 'tumour necrosis factor alpha' (TNF-alpha). Blood vessels in the diseased area become permeable so that blood can flow from the vessels into the malignant tissue, which allows the TNF-alpha can locate the cancerous tissue and kill the tumour. TNF-alpha is generated by immune cells when Salmonella is recognised and kick-starts the other immune cells. This research was carried out on mice. Before it can be carried out on humans researchers will need to modify Salmonella bacteria so that it does not cause the Salmonellae infection. Once modified it is hoped that it might be able to be used as a Cancer therapy which will be able to access cancers in parts of the body that difficult for traditional chemotherapeutics to reach.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available at: <http://www.clinigene.eu/>; <http://www.ist-world.org/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectId=add244f203d344a19d606b30c0ea6f36>; and <http://www.plosone.org/home.action>

## Education, Training and Culture

### **Quality assurance of HEIs**

The European Universities Association (EUA) has published a report entitled 'Improving quality, enhancing creativity: change processes in European higher education institutions'. The report is based on a two-year EC-funded project that EUA has carried out with partners ACQUIN (the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute, Germany), the Higher Education Academy (UK) and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. There were 29 higher education institutions and Quality Assurance (QA) Agencies from 18 different countries that took part in the project 'Quality Assurance for the Higher Education Change Agenda' (QAHECA). The project explored what kind of quality assurance processes in teaching and learning (external and internal) support creativity and innovation. It also addressed concerns expressed that QA may inhibit creativity within higher education.

The report made several recommendations for universities and agencies, which included: QA must allow space for risk taking and failure, but also identify and rectify it when it occurs; account should be taken of different disciplines, cultures and national contexts; QA should be inclusive; sharing QA 'experiences' is essential; agencies and institutions need to ensure engagement of all key actors in QA processes.

#### **Further information**

The report is available in the 'Publications' section of the EUA website <http://www.eua.be>

### **European master's in translation**

The EC has published a list of university courses that have been selected to participate in the European Master's in Translation (EMT) network, which is intended to become a quality label for higher education translator training. The call for proposals led to 93 master's courses submitting from 24 EU Member States and three non-EU countries. Of those that submitted 34 were selected to the network for an initial period of four years with a further call to be launched in 2010. The network will

help promote the exchange of best practice between participants so as to enhance teaching standards.

The EC Commissioner for Multilingualism, Leonard Orban, said: 'Europe needs high-quality university training for translators in all languages to secure a supply of skilled professionals. Multilingual communication, in a broader sense, needs them to blossom. The EMT network will contribute to raising the standards of translator training in the EU and fostering cooperation and exchanges between universities offering translation courses'. So as to foster the exchange of teaching methods and experiences, all those who participated in the call, whether successful or not, are to be invited to a first meeting of the EMT network in Brussels sometime in December 2009. This event will constitute the inaugural meeting of the network.

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP/09/1315 of 15 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Umeå and Riga to be the European Capitals of Culture in 2014**

On 8 September 2009 the panel responsible for selecting the European Capital of Culture for 2014 recommended that the title be awarded to Umeå. The other Swedish city in contention was Lund. On 14 September 2009 the same panel recommended that the title for the other European Capital in 2014 be awarded to Riga. The other Latvian cities still in contention were Cesis and Liepaja. The formal nominations of Umeå and Riga by the EU Council of Ministers will probably be in May 2010. The European Capitals of Culture are chosen in two phases: a pre-selection phase, resulting in a shortlist of cities, followed by a final selection nine months later. The two cities chosen are then officially nominated by the Council of Ministers of the EU.

The cities applying for the title have to prepare a cultural programme meeting fairly strict criteria relating to the European dimension of the event and the participation of its citizens. The European dimension is illustrated via the subjects chosen and the cooperation between artists and those operating in the cultural field in various countries, working together for the event. The programme must also have a lasting impact and contribute to the long-term cultural, economic and social development of the city.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Releases IP/09/1289 and IP/09/1324 of 8 and 15 September 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Youth in Action Programme – call for partnerships**

The EC has launched a call for proposals for partnerships under the Youth in Action programme. The Programme is part of the European Union's ongoing commitment to youth and consolidates the priorities of European political cooperation, namely: young people's active citizenship; the European Youth Pact; and the mainstreaming of youth in other Community policies. It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

The call for partnerships, which closes on 1 December 2009, aims to pool resources and practices with a view to maximise the impact of the 'Youth in Action' programme; provide inspiration and capacity-building to those bodies and organisations which aim to increase their investment in youth through non-formal learning activities and the development of skills and competences; encourage synergies and cooperation between the public sector and non-governmental organisations working in the field of youth; encourage the raising of overall skills levels among young people; and foster the recognition of youth work and the validation of non-formal learning activities in the European Union.

### **Further information**

Detailed guidelines for applicants and application forms can be found on the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) at:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2009/call\\_action\\_4\\_6\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2009/call_action_4_6_en.php)

## **External Collaboration**

### **EC advice for international participants**

The EC has produced a document advising on international co-operation in collaborative FP7 projects at the proposal submission and negotiation stages. The guide explains what the EU refers to as 'third countries' are; that is all those participants who are established in a non-EU country, which is not associated to FP7. Third countries consist of two groups: International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPCs) and high-income countries. The latter include in particular the United States of America, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao are also considered as high-income territories, as well as the Vatican, San Marino, Monaco and Andorra. Different provisions for participation apply to these two categories as explained in the guide.

Also, explanations on participation issues are provided, such as the use of the Unique Registration Facility (URF). All participating organisations need to be registered via the Unique Registration Facility, including the third country participants. The EC, therefore, strongly recommends any potential applicants to read the new guidance documents.

### **Further information**

The document is available at: [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/guideline-third-country-participants\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/guideline-third-country-participants_en.pdf)

### **China fellowship programme**

The Science and Technology Fellowship Programme in China is a pilot for an EC activity in China which aims to build bridges between the EU and China in research and development. The fellowship programme will promote mobility of EU researchers into Chinese research and development. It is hoped this will lead to a better understanding of the Chinese language and research culture so as to develop meaningful and long lasting relationships.

The China Fellowship Programme consists of two intakes of 30 EU researchers in host Chinese institutions. There is currently a call for proposals for the second intake onto the programme. This intake is planned to last 24 months with a two-day pre-departure meeting in Brussels, a six-month Chinese language and research culture training course in Beijing, and an 18-month research period in a Chinese host organisation. Overall responsibility for the programme is with the EC Delegation to China and Mongolia. The deadline for submission of proposals is 29 October 2009 at 16:00 Beijing Time.

### **Further information**

Further information is available at: <http://www.euchinastf.eu>

In case you have questions about the application, then please send an e-mail directly to:

[DELEGATION-CHINA-CALL-TENDER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DELEGATION-CHINA-CALL-TENDER@ec.europa.eu)

## EU co-operation with the US and Canada

The EC is launching 33 new projects involving universities and training institutions on both sides of the Atlantic. Each project is jointly funded and supervised by the EC and the governments of the partner countries. Their objective is to promote mutual understanding, transparency and quality in higher education and training and provide students from both Europe and North America with the experience of studying abroad at bachelor's and master's degree levels.

The EC and the US Department of Education are funding 25 new co-operation projects under the Atlantis programme. Atlantis now focuses on innovative courses and degree structures, such as transatlantic joint or double degrees. Eight new projects have been launched under the EU-Canada agreement in the fields of higher education, training and youth (2006-2013). They will involve a total of 38 universities and training institutions in Canada and Europe. The funding will support joint projects on curriculum development and joint study or training programmes, allowing for the mobility of 384 students over the course of three years. These exchanges will be supported by the necessary mutual recognition of credits, linguistic and cultural preparation and a range of essential services and infrastructure. These eight projects are from a variety of disciplines including neuroscience, sustainable development, environmental and earth sciences, cooperative education, and computer intelligence.

### Further information

More information for the EU-Atlantis programme is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index_en.html) and for the EU-Canada programme at: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-canada/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-canada/index_en.html)

## EC research commissioner visits Africa

EU Research Commissioner, Janez Potočnik visited the African Union and Kenya, in the framework of the Science & Technology Partnership established between the African Union (AU) and the EU. This unique partnership aims to strengthen African research capacity in the area of science and technology, enabling Africa to produce and to use its own scientific knowledge to address its development challenges and emerge on the global scientific scene. The EC and the African Union Commission (AUC) adopted the Strategic Partnership during the EU/AU Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. 8 thematic partnerships were identified, the 8th of these being the partnership for Science, Information Society, and Space. In the framework of this 8th Partnership, 19 priority 'lighthouse' project areas have already been identified and developed by the African Union.

The Commissioner promoted the Africa call for proposals where €63 million will be provided to EU and African scientific teams to improve health conditions, water and food security in Africa. The launched call for proposals on Africa is one step in the EU commitment. Under FP7 (2007-2013), 368 project participants from 37 African countries have been selected to receive €53 million.

### Further information

Information on the FP7 African call is available at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=268](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=268)

The more information on the EU-Africa Partnership is available at: <http://africa-eu-partnership.org>

And the Scientific and technological Cooperation between Africa and the EU can be downloaded at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/eu-africa.pdf>

# Events and Awards

## European Union Contest for Young Scientists

The EU Contest for Young Scientists is funded under the FP7 Science in Society programme. It is designed to act as a tool to encourage young people to embark on scientific careers. The EC organised the award ceremony in collaboration with the 'Sciences à l'Ecole' and the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the event took place at the 'Palais de la découverte' in Paris.

The contestants, aged between 14 and 20, came from 38 countries across Europe – as well as Canada, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the USA. Eighty seven winning projects from national competitions were presented, which cover a wide range of scientific disciplines from engineering to biology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, medicine, computer and social sciences. The projects were evaluated by a distinguished pan-European 17-member scientific jury. Fifteen winners were rewarded for their scientific projects and received a share of the €51,500 in prizes. The three first prizes of €7,000 each were awarded to Liam McCarthy and John D. O'Callaghan from Ireland for 'The Development of a Convenient Test Method for Somatic Cell Count and its Importance in Milk Production', Fabian Gafner from Switzerland for 'Dikranos - the airplane with reverse gear' and Aleksander Kubica and Wiktor Pilewski from Poland for 'Spiral Zone Plates'. The prize for International Co-operation, was won by Peter Massey and Shaunak Bakshi from the United States for 'Lipoic Acid: Towards a Novel Neuroprotective Treatment for Alzheimer's-Associated Cognitive Dysfunction in a Drosophila Model'.

### Further information

EC press release IP/09/1325 of 16 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## European food science event

A European Food Science Day will be held on November 18th 2009 at the Hotel Renaissance, Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels, Belgium. Policy makers and the food industry are currently faced with a range of complex food related issues. With the dioxin scandal, the melamine case and alarms on child obesity, confidence and trust in safe food has decreased among food consumers. While EU-funded research addresses these issues, food and health scientists lack a forum from which they can reach out to Europe's policy makers, consumers and the food industry. Such a platform is considered necessary to provide European citizens, via authorities and the media, with reliable food advice.

At European Food Science Day leading scientists will present their latest results in the field of food quality, food safety and nutrition. The programme includes a welcome note by Antonio Di Giulio, Head of Unit, in DG Research at the EC. The breakout session will be centred around the broad topics of food safety, including traceability, health including nutrition, and risk with topics such as genetics. There will also be webcasted questions and answers with policy makers at the EP.

### Further information

Further information and registration available at: <http://www.commnet.eu>

## Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology brokerage event 2010

BIO-NET, a Network of BIO NCPs, and the Enterprise Europe Network in Portugal are organising a brokerage event entitled 'FP7 KBBE Brokerage Event 2010' on 20th October 2009 in Lisbon,

Portugal as a satellite event to the European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology . The main aim of this event is to bring together all stakeholders in the KBBE theme and build networks. In accordance with this aim, the event will provide an opportunity for participants to meet potential international/local partners and foster R&D collaboration under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology Call 2010. Another aim is to assist enterprises, universities and research institutions in finding partners for product development, manufacturing, licensing agreements, joint ventures or other types of partnership.

In the morning session, representatives of EC and European Technology Platforms will inform the attendees about funding opportunities under FP7. In addition, contents of the 2010 KBBE call will be explained, tips on writing a successful proposal and different experiences will be shared. In the afternoon session, participants will have an opportunity to share project ideas, exchange information in relation with the call and find potential partners for collaboration for different kind of business relationships /partnerships through bilateral meetings.

#### **Further information**

Information regarding the agenda, venue, hotels, registration form and the website for this event: <http://www.bioresurse.ro/english/activitateBioNC.php>

### **TRACE project final food conference**

The final TRACE conference will take place at Autoworld, Brussels on 2-3 December 2009. The conference will be dedicated mainly to the presenting the results of the TRACE project. This final conference aims to gather institutes and stakeholders working on traceability for the food sector in order to inform them about the project results. The following topics will be covered at the event: traceability systems; systems for verifying geographical origin of food; food verification systems; traceability and the consumer; and traceability and the future

The European Project, TRACE 'Tracing Food Commodities in Europe', is funded through the Food Quality and Safety Priority of the EU FP6 research programme and has the aim to offer a traceability infrastructure that can trace and confirm the origin of food. The project has a duration of 60 months from 1st January 2005.

#### **Further information**

Further information and registration are available at: <http://www.trace.eu.org>

## **New Publications and Online Resources**

### **2009 Health brochure**

The EC has published a brochure presenting the main areas of EU-funded health research to give a snapshot of the various activities taking place in Europe, it is entitled 'European Research: for a healthier future'. The brochure provides a general introduction on EU-funded health research as well as a brief overview of the objectives and the scope of EU-funded health research, showcasing achievements and referring to further sources of information.

This document contains specific chapters devoted to genomics and systems biology, medical research, infectious diseases and epidemics, public health and health biotechnology. It also includes information on the overarching issues applicable across the theme. This information could be of

interest to researchers and policy makers in the health sciences, and will be particularly useful to anyone planning to apply to the current open calls for proposals under the FP7 Cooperation health theme.

#### **Further information**

The European Research: for a healthier future brochure is available at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/library\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/library_en.html)

### **Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology: European Technology Platform brochure**

A new brochure showcases the European Technology Platforms (ETP) with close links to the Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology theme of FP7. ETPs provide a framework for stakeholders, led by industry, to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on a number of strategically important issues where achieving Europe's future growth, competitiveness and sustainability objectives is dependent upon major research and technological advances in the medium to long term.

The brochure provides details of the scope of the platforms, the main actors involved and the contact details of the ETP secretariat. This publication highlights the activities undertaken by the ETPs in the area of food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology. The platforms are: Global Animal Health; Forest-Based Sector; Sustainable Chemistry; Manufacture (Agricultural engineering and technologies); Biofuels; Sustainable Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction; Food for Life; Aquaculture; and Plants for the Future. These nine ETPs active in the Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) sector are joining forces in a support action funded by FP7. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the creation of a strong KBBE in Europe by addressing synergies and gaps between their Strategic Research Agendas.

#### **Further information**

The brochure is available for download at: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/kbbe/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/kbbe/home_en.html)

Further information on ETPs is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/>

Details on the FAFB ET project can be found at:

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

### **Transport research knowledge centre publishes new brochures**

The EC-funded Transport Research Knowledge Centre has published three new brochures on transport research. The first is a policy brochure on transport and its effects on the environment. Its aim is to inform transport policy makers and assist them in designing transport policies that take better account of the environmental impacts of transport. It draws a number of policy recommendations from the research it reviews, such as promoting the more rapid development of alternative fuels and vehicle designs.

The second publication is a research summary of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). ITS is concerned with combinations of communication, computer and control technology developed to improve system performance, transport safety, efficiency, productivity, energy consumption, and mobility. The final publication is a thematic research summary for rail transport. It provides a synthesis of the available results from completed European research projects related to rail transport.

#### **Further information**

The policy brochure on Transport and Environment, the Intelligent Transport Systems Thematic Research Summary and the Rail Transport Thematic Research Summary are all available for download in the 'Publications' section of the TRKC portal: [http://www.transport-research.info/web/publications/thematic.cfm?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing](http://www.transport-research.info/web/publications/thematic.cfm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Email%20marketing)

[%20software&utm\\_content=399720178&utm\\_campaign=TRKC+e-Bulletin+August+2009+ +kyudr&utm\\_term=Publications+section](#)

## **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/co-operation>

## 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 EP (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 EC - 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 European 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 EC on a specific policy area. Primarily, they are documents addressed to interested parties who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation.

### **ICPC**

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

### **Ideas**

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

<http://erc.europa.eu>

### **ITRE**

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

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

### **JRC**

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

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

## **LLP**

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

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

## **MEDIA**

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

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

## **NATO**

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

<http://www.nato.int>

## **People**

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

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

## **RTD**

Research and Technological Development

## **SICA**

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

## **SME**

Small and medium sized enterprises

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

## **Specific Programme**

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

## **SSH**

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

### **Treaty of Amsterdam**

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

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

### **UUK**

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

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

### **White Paper**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

### **UKRO**

Rue du Commerce 45, BP3

B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 230 5275 / 1535

Fax: +32 2 230 4803

E-mail: [ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:ukro@bbsrc.ac.uk)

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