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News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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EU Policy

Second FP7 monitoring report published

The EC has published its second FP7 monitoring report. This report provides a comprehensive statistical analysis of the implementation of FP7 during 2008, including information on participation patterns, the redress procedure, ethics, dissemination activities, negotiation, and simplification measures. As well as indicating the levels of funding received by participating countries, the report provides other interesting statistics. Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) represent 15.5 per cent of all participants in signed grant agreements during the first two years of implementation of FP7. Twenty one per cent of project contact persons for scientific aspects are women and for the Marie Curie Actions this increases to 35 per cent.

A total of 136 countries are currently actively involved in FP7 activities. In terms of third country participation in 2008, the largest proportion of funding went to the Russian Federation, Brazil, India, China, and the USA. In terms of the evaluation process, a survey carried out found that almost 98 per cent of the evaluators found the quality of the FP7 proposal evaluation they attended was ‘satisfactory to excellent’ and 96 per cent judged it to be ‘similar or better’ than their national proposal evaluation exercises.

Further information

The second FP7 monitoring report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/reports/2009/pdf/second_fp7_monitoring_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

European Research Area Board publishes first annual report

The European Research Area Board (ERAB) has published its first annual report. ERAB was set up by the EC in 2008 as the successor to the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB). Its mandate is to provide independent advice to the EC on European research and science policy and more specifically on how the EU might realise a European Research Area. As such, its first annual report highlights what the European Research Area (ERA) will look like in the future if it achieves its aims.

The report sets out six milestones for measuring progress in the coming years, and will form the basis of discussions and further ERAB communications over the coming months. It stresses that action is required on the following six themes: a united ERA to permit ideas and people to move freely across a dynamic and open society; an ERA driven by societal needs to address 'Grand Challenges' such as climate change and ageing societies; an ERA based on a shared responsibility between science, policy and society; an ERA of open innovation between all public and private stakeholders so as to strengthen the research base and economy; an ERA to deliver excellence where risk-taking in research will be the guiding principle; and an ERA of cohesion across the continent to allow all European research actors to take part in the knowledge-based society.

Further information

The ERAB annual report is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/erab/pdf/erab-first-annual-report-06102009_en.pdf

The ERAB website is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/erab/publications_en.html

EIT appoints a director

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Governing Board has appointed Gérard de Nazelle as the first EIT Director. He will be accountable to the EIT Governing Board, and will lead the EIT's headquarters in Budapest during the next four years with his first responsibility being to establish the Budapest office. The Governing Board will continue to take strategic decisions regarding the EIT objectives and actions. The Director will be responsible for implementing these and for the day-to-day management of the EIT. Gérard de Nazelle is a French citizen who holds an engineering degree from ENSIC (France) and a PhD in physics from Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands). He is currently Global Manager Innovation & Research at Shell and is responsible for the development of new technology options and clean energy futures.

The EIT has also confirmed that 20 proposals were submitted to the first Knowledge and Innovation Community (KICs) call. The evaluation process is underway, and it is anticipated that two or three KICs will be selected by the end of 2009. The timeline for the process is: 15-16 October for step 1 panels (where a maximum of 15 proposals will pass to step 2); 10 November for step 2 panels (from where a maximum of nine proposals pass to the final panel); 26 November for the final panel meeting and recommendations to the Governing Board (where a maximum of six proposers will be invited to hearings); and on the 16-17 December the Governing Board will hold hearings with short-listed proposers and then select the KICs.

Further information

EC press release IP/09/1337 of 18 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

EIT website is available at: <http://eit.europa.eu/home.html>

First European Innovation Summit held in Brussels

The first European Innovation Summit (EIS) was held recently from 13-14 October 2009 in the EP. The summit itself was the first of its kind: it allowed organisations to demonstrate and explain how they contribute to positioning Europe as a global innovation leader. Held in conjunction with the

European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009, it included an exhibition with 33 exhibitors, conference sessions, networking events, a plenary session on 'Europe's Future Nobel Prize Winners' and included speeches from José Manuel Barroso and Jerzy Buzek, the President of EP. Over 800 delegates saw presentations and sessions on topical issues such as intellectual property rights, promoting science and technology careers to Europe's youth, existing EU and Member State innovation policies and information for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The EIS was organised by Knowledge 4 Innovation (K4I)/ Lisbon Forum, which is a platform launched in 2008 to help policy makers and the business and science communities introduce their respective agendas and address the most pressing issues concerning Europe's knowledge based economy and society.

Further information

EC Press Releases SPEECH/09/465 of 12 October and IP/09/1504 and SPEECH/09/478 of 13 October is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The K4I website is available at: www.knowledge4innovation.eu

The official website of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation is available at: <http://www.create2009.europa.eu>

EU Court of Auditors' report on FP6 Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects

The European Court of Auditors has published a special report entitled 'Networks of excellence and Integrated projects in Community Research policy: did they achieve their objectives?' The report provides an assessment of the Networks of Excellence (NoEs) and Integrated Projects (IPs) funded under FP6. At the back of the report it also includes the EC's response to all of the recommendations made by the Court of Auditors.

Despite finding that overall NoEs and IPs were successful in promoting research collaboration, the report sets out a series of recommendations. It finds that the EC should have developed SMART objectives for better measuring the success of the schemes when they were designed. It also suggests that the EC should have assessed the performance of new instruments compared to traditional research collaboration. The Court of Auditors report is also critical that the NoEs and IPs were not that successful in leveraging funding from other sources compared to instruments in previous Framework Programmes. The report also criticises the EC for not providing adequate guidance and project management for those managing and working on NoEs and IPs.

Further information

The European Court of Auditors special report on 'Networks of excellence and Integrated projects in Community Research policy: did they achieve their objectives?' is available at: <http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/3074294.PDF>

The European Court of Auditors' website is available at: http://eca.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eca_main_pages/splash_page

European companies commit to increasing women in tech industry

The EC recently announced a growing commitment from Europe's technology companies to attract more women into the ICT industry, with the number of signatories to its Code of Best Practices for Women in ICT increasing from five at its launch in March 2009 to 28 in October. The Code aims to encourage young women to study and follow careers in the ICT sector, focussing on issues such as education and employment, mentoring programmes, and flexible working hours. Viviane Reding, the European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, applauded the 'increased commitment shown by the ICT industry'.

This news was accompanied by the launch of a new initiative, the European Directory for Women in ICT, a new online tool that will bring together all information on activities and jobs in the EU related to women and ICT. This will cover three different areas: technology, community building and business. It will gather in one place all activities, job offers, legislation and statistics relating to women in ICT, giving an overview of what is happening in the field across Europe and establishing networks and collaborations between the different actors. Around a thousand stakeholders have been invited to join the directory.

Further information

EC press release IP/09/1489 of 8 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The European Commission website on women and ICT is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/itgirls/index_en.htm

Low carbon technology map

The EC has called on public authorities, businesses, and researchers to join efforts in order to develop by 2020 the necessary technologies to address climate change, secure EU energy supply and ensure the competitiveness of our economies. In a proposal entitled 'Investing in the development of low-carbon energy technologies', the EC estimates that an additional investment of €50 billion in energy technology research will be needed over the next ten years. This means almost tripling the annual investment in the European Union, from €3 billion to €8 billion. The EC, together with industry and the research community, has drawn up technology 'roadmaps', which identify key low carbon technologies with strong potential at EU level in six areas (which were identified in the SET Plan): wind; solar; electricity grids; bioenergy; carbon capture and storage (CCS); and sustainable nuclear fission.

The EC thinks that different sources of funding, from public and private sectors, at national and EU level, should be used in a co-ordinated way to push forward a fast growing industrial sector and to create jobs. The EC also launched an online system called SETIS (the Strategic Energy Technologies Information System), which provides the latest research results on the status, forecasts and research and development (R&D) investment figures for low-carbon technologies.

Further information

EC press releases IP/09/1431, IP/09/1430 and SPEECH09/448 of 7 October 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Global leaders assess viability of Carbon Capture and Storage

At a recent ministerial conference of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) in London, the EC and over twenty other world leaders looked at ways to best accelerate the take-up of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Carbon capture and storage technologies can reduce fossil fuel emissions by capturing CO₂ from large emitters such as coal and gas power plants and store it underground. For the technologies to be rolled out on a large enough scale to make a difference it is important that the costs are brought down further.

The EU has already made a series of steps to increase the take up of CCS technologies. The EC has agreed to finance a series of CCS projects to the tune of over €1 billion through its European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP). Further funding for demonstration projects will come from allowances through the European Emission Trading System. A network bringing together the European early-movers involved in large-scale CCS demonstration projects will be set up too. In addition to this, much work has been done on improving the legal framework for developing the conditions, giving more legal certainty to operators.

Further information

EC Press release IP/09/1506 of 13 October is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Integrated maritime policy

The EC recently presented a progress report outlining the achievements of the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) over the past two years, and looking at its future. The EC has also tabled concrete proposals on two major IMP issues: the integration across sectors and countries of maritime surveillance and the international dimension of Europe's maritime policy. It is claimed that these three documents provide evidence of how the IMP can unlock the economic potential of Europe's vast maritime and coastal areas, while making its seas safer and more secure through better governance and by exploiting synergies across the full range of sea-related policies.

EC President José Manuel Barroso commented: 'The first ever launch of an ambitious integrated maritime policy is a key achievement of the present Commission. It is also a challenge for the next Commission. Maritime policy is an indispensable element of sustainable climate and energy policy. I believe that we can build on our work so far and take the next steps with vigour and confidence. For example, I want the Motorways of the Sea to become a reality. For the sake of a responsible and useful development of the oceans and the sea, we must develop maritime spatial planning; integrate maritime surveillance across borders and across countries; and build a marine observation and data network.'

Further information

EC press release IP/09/11530 of 15 October and SPEECH/09/477 of 16 October are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Space Conference on 'the ambitions of Europe'

On 15 October 2009, EC President Barroso opened the Conference on European Space Policy, entitled 'The ambitions of Europe in Space'. Barroso began his speech by outlining some of the fundamental challenges that Europe is facing today, including the economic crisis; ensuring the well being of citizens; tackling climate change; and the creation of a true knowledge society. The EC President underlined that a European space policy is not a symbolic great project for the future. Instead, it is about developing very concrete applications in order to address these challenges.

Since 2007 the Council has made space a priority on the political agenda. Four priority areas were identified: climate change, security, innovation and exploration. The EP has endorsed the European Space Policy and asked the Council and the EC to make concrete proposals in these four priority areas. The successful implementation of the Galileo and GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) initiatives is essential for achieving the objectives of the European Space Policy. Close collaboration with the European Space Agency in order to address challenges related to climate change is another priority. Finally, Barroso stressed there is a need for more security in space and from space. The challenge in this context is to develop an independent capacity to monitor satellites and debris orbiting the Earth and the space environment, and tackle possible hazards.

Further information

EC Press Release SPEECH/ 09/476 of 15 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

New push for industrial technologies

The EC has proposed to develop and implement a European vision for the industrial deployment of key enabling technologies in the EU. These key enabling technologies include nanotechnology, micro- and nanoelectronics, semiconductors, advanced materials, biotechnology and photonics. They are all at the forefront of managing the shift to a low carbon, knowledge-based economy. The EC

plans to develop short and longer term competitiveness strategies for key enabling technologies. To this end it will set up a high-level expert group tasked with developing a shared longer term strategy and well co-ordinated concrete actions at European level, according to the specific maturity level of each technology. The EC will report back to the Council on the results by the end of 2010.

The EU Commissioner for Enterprise, Günter Verheugen, said, 'The EU needs a strong innovative drive to equip itself with the means needed to secure our future competitiveness and address the major societal challenges of this century. Mastering nanotechnology, micro- and nanoelectronics, biotechnology, new materials and photonics means being at the cutting edge – in the benefit of citizens.'

Further information

EC Press Releases IP/09/1394 of 30 September 2009 and SPEECH/09/460 of 9 October 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

ERC Executive Agency launch event

The European Research Council (ERC) was launched 2007 in order to implement the FP7 Ideas Specific Programme and its implementation was so far done by a directorate within DG Research, with the aim of progressively transferring this role to a purpose-built Executive Agency. Now the implementation and administration of the ERC has moved to the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA), which gained autonomy on 15 July 2009. This was followed by an inaugural event on 24 September 2009, which was a high level event which also celebrated the fact that the ERCEA now has its own office space in the 'Covent Garden' building in Brussels. One of the speeches from the event, given by the European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, is now available.

The ERCEA is the administrative body of the ERC; the Scientific Council will continue to set the policies. The ERCEA has responsibility for: Implementing and applying the ERC Scientific Council strategies and methodologies; operational management of the ERC funding activities; the execution of the annual work programme as established by the Scientific Council; the implementation of calls for proposals; organising peer review evaluation in accordance with methodologies designed by the Scientific Council; establishing and managing grant agreements; and providing information and support to applicants and grant holders.

Further information

For more information on the ERCEA, please go to: <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm>

EC press release SPEECH/09/409 of 24 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Survey of participants satisfaction in Health programme

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) carried out a survey of participants' satisfaction for the 2008 Health Call for Proposals. The results of this have now been published. The main objective of the survey was to assess the user-friendliness of the call documentation. All who had submitted proposals to the 2008 Call were invited to respond to the survey; the eventual response rate was thirty per cent as 76 replies were received out of 255.

According to the survey results 55 per cent of the applicants experienced problems in technical aspects of the forms, 36 per cent experience difficulties in financial aspects, and 19 per cent found problems with administrative difficulties. The EAHC now plans to make revisions to the forms in order to improve the application process. The forms will be easier to read and understand and the inclusion of a pre-filled in 'Declaration of Honour' will help to ease the administrative burden on applicants. The EAHC plans to hold a similar survey next year too.

Further information

The results of the survey are available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/documents/surveyreport.pdf>

The home page for public Health Programme is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/pgm2008_2013_en.htm

EU funded projects on childhood obesity

The EC has launched a new healthy eating campaign for children. This campaign is part of the EC activities aimed at addressing the growing problem of overweight children in Europe. The campaign will give children across Europe a chance to take part in on-the-spot activities and interactive games promoting a more balanced diet and healthier eating habits.

A number of projects on children nutrition have been funded through the Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology part of FP7. These include projects on fruit and vegetable consumption and the impact of food contaminants in perinatal nutrition on obesity development. Several projects on children's obesity are also funded under the Health Programme. An estimated 22 million children in the EU are overweight, with than 5 million of these are obese and this figure is expected to rise by 400,000 every year. Since 2007, already more than €17.6 million have been specifically dedicated to this issue.

Further information

EC press release MEMO/09/421 of 28 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Oh, what a night!

The 25 September 2009 saw the fifth edition of the EC's Researchers' Night, in which 200 cities all over Europe held their own celebrations of science and its achievements. This annual event gives Europeans the chance to meet with professional researchers, participate in scientific experiments and to handle sophisticated scientific equipment, with the aim of promoting outstanding European scientific research projects and giving Europeans the opportunity to find out about science careers. The Researchers' Night event is funded through the EC's FP7 People Programme and in 2009 had a total budget of €3 million. The event has steadily increased in size over the years, with the 20,000 participants in 2005 escalating to 320,000 participants in 2008.

Events across Europe were extremely varied in nature, with many countries demonstrating particularly creative approaches to the event. In Belgium, rally stars challenged local scientists to sports competitions, while in Italy children, students, researchers and musicians collaborated in researching musical sounds. Hamburg Planetarium in Germany put on a show on climate change and in the UK, the University of Durham worked with a local radio station to broadcast a programme encouraging listeners to participate in a kitchen science experiment.

Further information

EC press release IP/09/1356 of 25 September 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The full agenda for the 2009 Researchers' Night is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersineurope/events/researchersnight09/index_en.htm

FP7 information days on space, transport and environment

The EC held a number of information days on the Space, Transport and Environment FP7 themes. The presentation slides and notes for these are available. For the Space theme, the UK Space National Contact Point has made available the presentation slides from two FP7 Space Information Days held in September 2009. They covered the space call topics, GMES, strengthening space foundations as well as the role of the Research Executive Agency.

In September 2009, the EC also held Transport Information Days in Brussels to provide applicants with details on the current FP7 Transport Calls for Proposals. The first day of the event covered Sustainable Surface Transport (SST). The second day covered the aeronautics and air transport (AAT) calls. The EC information day on the fourth Environment (including climate change) call provided information on the aim of the call, which is to continue supporting the main environmental policy and S&T drivers in the area of climate and environmental change and the link to other sectors such as energy, transport and agriculture.

Further information

The Presentations and video recordings from the Transport Information days are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/transport/events/presentations2009_sst_en.html and http://ec.europa.eu/research/transport/events/presentations2009_aat_en.html

The presentations for the Space events are available from the FP7UK website at: <http://www.fp7uk.dti.gov.uk/site/News/default.cfm>

The slides from the environment information days are available for download at: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/rtd/rtdenv2010call/library?l=/plenary_session&vm=detailed&sb=Title

EC Security information day and FP7 security research conference

The fourth FP7 Security Research Conference (SRC09) was held on 29-30 September in Stockholm and was organised by the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation systems under the Swedish Presidency of the EU. Mr Günter Verheugen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, opened the conference and emphasised the need for adopting a global approach to security, looking at future demands in co-operation with the research community. During the first day, parallel sessions focused on: citizens security versus citizens integrity; instruments and initiatives for innovation in security R&D; and user involvement and user requirements in security R&D. The overall conclusion was that the EU needs to establish common security standards, as the European Security market is currently too fragmented.

On the second day, parallel sessions focused on: large-scale demonstrators, the flagships of EU research; promising projects from FP7/ongoing projects; and security R&D from the perspective of the knowledge triangle. For those interested in the FP7 Security theme, the Research Executive Agency has also published the slides presented during the FP7 Security Information Day, which took place on 16 September 2009 in Brussels. This event aimed at disseminating information on the new Call launched under that theme.

Further information

The conclusions from these and other SRC09 sessions will soon be available on the SRC09 website: <http://www.src09.se/default.aspx?id=3>

The presentation slides from the FP7 Security Information Day are available at: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/security/infoday-2009_en.html

Consultation on the review of the EU financial regulation

The EC has launched a consultation on the 'Review of the EU Financial Regulation and its Implementing Rules'. As the EU Financial Regulations provide the legal basis for the administration of all EU funding, the consultation is likely to be of interest to all stakeholders who are concerned with the simplification of FP7. Responses can be submitted by individuals, organisations or public authorities. The consultation asks for opinions on issues such as interest earned on pre-financing, the level of paper work needed to maintain control of funding and the use of lump-sum and flat-rate financing.

The consultation is based around a series of key questions on grants; the handing of the EU financial files; and monitoring and control of EU tax payers' money. These cover a wide variety of issues from the management of pre-financing, including the issue over whether beneficiaries should pay back interest earned on pre-financing, to the level of paper work needed to maintain control of the funding and the need for co-financing for grants and scope for using performance based grants and the use of lump sum and flat rate financing.

Further information

The consultation website is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/consultations/FRconsult2009_en.htm

Research News

EU project develops animal welfare measures

An FP6 funded project called WELFARE QUALITY ('Integration of animal welfare in the food quality chain: from public concern to improved welfare and transparent quality') has developed a new set of animal welfare measures. The project has released a new set of publications, which set out protocols designed to accurately assess the welfare of farm animals and provide feedback and support to producers. In addition, the animal welfare ratings provide useful information to retailers and consumers regarding the welfare status of the animals that end up on our plates. The three publications cover cattle, pigs and poultry.

The researchers focused on creating practical strategies for improving animal welfare. On the basis of discussions with consumers, farmers, policymakers and other stakeholders, four principles for good animal welfare were derived: good housing, good feeding, good health, and appropriate behaviour. These principles were then used to establish a set of 12 criteria for animal welfare standards in 7 livestock types (dairy cattle, beef cattle, veal calves, sows, fattening pigs, laying hens and broilers). The information obtained from the assessment will be used to assess current levels of animal welfare throughout the EU and will also provide useful information for EU citizens on the provenance of the meat products they buy and the welfare of the animals.

Further information

Further information about the WELFARE QUALITY project is available at:

<http://www.welfarequality.net/>

New ERC-funded project to investigate evolution of species' diversity

A team of Portuguese researchers has been awarded a €1.8 million grant from the European Research Council (ERC) in order to look into the genetic basis of evolution. The team, headed by Dr. Henrique Teotónio of the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência in Lisbon, will spend five years investigating the ways in which organisms evolve and adapt to new environments. The starting point of the project is the fact that around 2 million species worldwide have been classified, but that many more remain to be discovered. A surprisingly large part of this diversity results from species evolving and adapting to new environments.

To study this in detail, the researchers will be working with around 90 different species of worms, breeding them in different environments and looking at their phenotypes. In relating this to the genetic structures and changes that result from adaptation to new environments, the project's findings are expected to be an important contribution to the field of evolutionary biology. The ERC Starting Grant,

targeted at researchers in the early stages of their careers, saw some 9,000 applications in the first round. The second round, with a total budget of €325 million, received 2,500 applications and the Instituto Gulbenkian's proposals were one of just 240 selected for funding.

Further information

The CORDIS news article is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=31387

Details of the projects selected for funding under the second ERC Starting Grant are available at:

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

UK scientists identify link between parasite and mosquito infection prevention

A group of UK scientists has discovered that infecting mosquitoes with a bacterial parasite could help prevent infections, like malaria, caused by these insects. The overall project received around €1 million in funding under the FP7 'Health' theme. The project groups together scientists based in the UK, Greece, the Netherlands, Burkina Faso and Australia, and it looks particularly at lymphatic filariasis. This disease, affecting some 120 million people in the developing world, is caused by infection with the parasitic filarial nematode, which is spread by mosquitoes.

Previous studies have shown that mosquitoes infected by a strain of the bacterial parasite Wolbachia, known as wMelPop, typically die much earlier. Therefore, because parasites carried by mosquitoes need an incubation period between ingestion and transmission, only older mosquitoes are able to cause infection. The UK scientists, led by Dr. Steven Sinkins of Oxford University, advanced this research by investigating the genomes of genetically identical mosquitoes and infecting some with wMelPop. The team found that infection directly inhibits transmission of the filarial nematode, by inducing the mosquito's immune system to attack the parasite, and reduces the mosquito's capacity to infect by reducing its lifetime. As many mosquitoes have developed resistance to insecticides, this method could prove to be a valuable new approach towards tackling mosquito-borne diseases worldwide.

Further information

The CORDIS news article is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=31383

More information on the ANOPOPAGE project is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/poverty-diseases/projects/166_en.htm

Secrets of proteins in mitochondria uncovered

A team of Belgian and German scientists has for the first time successfully mapped the full inventory of proteins in yeast mitochondria. The research that has now been published in the journal Cell represents important progress in the understanding of the fundamental workings of proteins. Part of the financial support for this study came out of the INTERACTION PROTEOME ('Functional proteomics: towards defining the interaction proteome') project, funded under the 'Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health' Theme of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6).

Thanks to a new technique developed at the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) and Ghent University, both in Belgium, the researchers not only managed to identify the largest part of the protein mix in the energy-producing mitochondria, they also discovered a previously unknown enzyme. Dubbed Icp55, the enzyme is responsible for stabilising the proteins in the mitochondria, pruning the ends of certain unstable forms of proteins. The process had been a mystery to scientists

until now. 'It's the first time that such a precise protein determination of the mitochondria has been achieved' said Dr Kris Gevaert of VIB/Ghent University 'We're now able to detect protein forms that were simply overlooked before. So we're receiving requests for scientific collaborations from all over the world.'

Further information

Further information is available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=31370

e-Science projects support European businesses

Two e-science projects, BEINGRID and EGEE-III ('Enabling Grids for e-Science') joined forces at a recent workshop to highlight how European businesses can benefit from the use of Grids, and the transfer of smart technologies. EGEE-III is funded under the 'e-Infrastructures' Activity of FP7, and is an extension of the EGEE and EGEE-II projects, which enabled researchers across regions to cooperate and advance European IT science. EGEE-III's two main objectives are to expand, optimise and simplify the use of Europe's largest production grid, as well as making preparations for the migration of the existing grid from a project-based model to a sustainable infrastructure that is based on national grid initiatives. BEINGRID is funded under the 'Information Society Technologies' thematic area of FP6. The 95-member pan European consortium is running 25 business experiments designed to implement and deploy grid solutions in industrial sectors.

These projects aim to develop secure, reliable and robust grid infrastructure, the supply of a computing service for a number of scientific disciplines, and the support for various users from science and industry. As part of the technical and training support the researchers involved in the projects are aiming to help businesses harness the open source grid technologies.

Further information

Further information on both projects is available from the respective project websites: <http://www.eu-egee.org/> and <http://www.beingrid.eu/>

Education, Training and Culture

First triennial report on Quality assurance in European higher education

The EC published the first triennial report on quality assurance in higher education in Europe. The report looks at developments at national, European and international levels, and suggests a number of areas for further discussion including the need to make the infrastructure of quality assurance more efficient for users. In its first progress report the EC points to significant developments towards more transparency and credibility over the past few years. Progress has not only been made in the way universities and other institutions deal internally with this, but also on external evaluation of institutions and programmes.

At national level many new quality assurance agencies have been created. There are now agencies in almost all of the 46 countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). At the same time there is an increased awareness of the European Standards and Guidelines on Quality Assurance, which gives quality assurance a more solid foundation at the European level. The EC also set up the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) in 2008, which is open to agencies operating both in the European Higher Education Area and worldwide who can demonstrate their compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines.

Further information

The EC Report on progress in quality assurance in higher education is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc/report09_en.pdf

Education funding opportunities

The Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) has published several calls. The annual general call for the Lifelong Learning Programme is the major one. This call includes the Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, and Gruntvig schemes for school, higher, vocational, and adult education respectively. There is also the Transversal Programme which includes projects related to policy development, languages, and information and communication technology (ICT). The activities of this programme are delivered either through centralised action administered by (EACEA) such as multi-lateral projects, or through the national agencies for actions such as the mobility schemes. The British Council acts as the UK's national agency for some parts of the programme. There are various deadlines but the majority are in February and March 2010.

The EACEA has also published separate calls for other parts of the Lifelong Learning Programme, most notably the Jean Monnet Programme and Comenius. The purpose of the Jean Monnet call for proposals is to support the activities of European associations in the field of education and training or which pursue an objective that is part of an EU policy. The deadline is 10 December 2009. The Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility action allows secondary school pupils to spend between three and ten months in a host school and a host family abroad. The mobility of pupils is organised between schools involved in the same Comenius School Partnership. The deadline is 1 December 2009.

Further information

Detail and deadlines for the Lifelong Learning Programme, including the Comenius mobility call, are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm

Information on the Jean Monnet call is available at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2010/call_jm_ka3_structural_support_2010.htm

Two millionth Erasmus student

Since its launch in 1987, the Erasmus programme has helped two million students carry out a part of their studies or a work placement in another European country. To celebrate this landmark 31 students (one per country participating in Erasmus), have now been chosen to symbolically represent the two millionth student. They were honoured at a conference that took place 5-6 October in Lund, Sweden. During this conference, delegates discussed the way forward for the Erasmus programme and more broadly debated the issue of opening up opportunities to all young people to go abroad for learning purposes.

Presenting the awards, the new European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Maroš Šefčovič, said: 'Erasmus is a European success story and I am delighted to celebrate the milestone of the 2 millionth Erasmus student. The Commission strongly supports the view that going abroad to learn should become the rule rather than the exception for young Europeans. The conference in Lund is helping to make this objective a reality'. The stories of the 31 selected students are highlighted in a publication accompanying the conference.

Further information

EC press release IP/09/1421 of 5 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Report highlights state of arts education in EU schools

The EC recently presented a study, based on the work of the Eurydice network, giving a detailed picture of arts education provision in 30 European countries. It includes an examination of the aims and objectives of arts education, its organisation, the provision of extra-curricular activities and initiatives for the development of arts education at school, as well as information on pupil assessment and teacher education in the arts. The findings of the study are intended to contribute to the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

The study, entitled 'Arts and Cultural Education at School in Europe', reports that the minimum teaching time devoted to arts education is low, despite visual arts and music being compulsory parts of the curriculum in all countries surveyed. The report also states that although in the majority of countries primary school teachers receive training in more than one arts subjects, in some they have not received appropriate training to teach arts subjects included in the curriculum. On a positive note, the survey reports on a number of ad hoc initiatives that aim to encourage arts education, with national organisations and networks established in several countries and government subsidies for extra-curricular activities offered in others.

Further information

EC press releases IP/09/1517 and MEMO/09/448 of 14 October 2009 are available at:

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

The report is available in full at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/113EN.pdf

Debate: Cultural diversity as a basis for creativity and innovation?

On 15 October, the EC together with the European Policy Centre (EPC) organised a debate on the role of cultural diversity as a basis for creativity and innovation in the framework of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009. The debate entitled "Cultural diversity: spicing up Creativity?" aimed at analysing the complex relation between cultural diversity, creativity and innovation: is cultural diversity an essential element of creativity or only a nice-to-have ingredient? These issues were debated by a panel of experts, followed by an open discussion.

The Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 aims to raise awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development; to disseminate good practices; to stimulate education and research, and to promote policy debate on related issues. During this Year a series of seven debates have been jointly organised by the EC and the EPC in Brussels. The last debate will take place on Thursday, 19 November on the topic of 'Cultural and other creative industries'. The debates provide a platform for reflection and exchange of ideas which can contribute to policy discussion on Creativity and Innovation.

Further information

For more information on the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, please go to:

<http://www.create2009.europa.eu>

External Collaboration

EU and Australia revise partnership agreement

On 8 October a ministerial meeting between the EU and Australia took place in Stockholm. The EU was represented by Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carl Bildt, and Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner. Stephen Smith, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, represented Australia. The meeting addressed relations between the EU and Australia, and the partnership agreement that was negotiated last year was revised. Since the establishment of the partnership agreement in Paris last autumn, an agreement on wine trade between the EU and Australia has been signed and negotiations on a new air transport agreement between the EU and Australia have begun.

In the revised partnership agreement, co-operation between the EU and Australia is extended through improved coordination of development assistance, the development of clean energy technology and increased cooperation within the areas of technology and research. Australia already has close co-operation with the EU on issues concerning research; indeed Australia is already a successful participant in FP7, the EU's main instrument for funding trans-national research. Regional and global issues were also discussed at the meeting. These included the G20, preparations for the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and discussions on the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The outcome of the meeting of the international organisation the Pacific Islands Forum in August was also discussed.

Further information

Further information about the revised partnership agreement is available at:

http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/10/8/eu_and_australia_move_closer_to_one_another

FP7 Africa call - information day notes now available

The EC held an information day on the Africa Call to provide guidance on the focus of the call and advice to participants on the application procedures. The event opened with high-level speeches from the EU Commissioner for Research, Janez Potočnik and Vera Brenda Ngosi from the African Union Commission. They explained that this call was launched on the basis of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership in which research is the eighth element. The call is implemented jointly by the following FP7 themes: 'Health', 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology' and 'Environment (including climate change)'. The call is structured around two major areas: water and food security; and better health for Africa.

Unlike the rest of FP7, this call is special because the priorities have been chosen by Africa and endorsed at a high-level by the African Union, by NEPAD (which is the New Partnership for Africa's Development), and the Council on Science and Technology. This call is also the first one that works on a continent to continent basis. The participation of local stakeholders was highlighted as a very important aspect of the projects to be funded, as well as the inclusion of training activities for local staff. Research activities are intended to strengthen local capacities. The evaluators for the call will be made up of Europeans and Africans and researchers based in Africa are encouraged to sign up to the expert evaluator database if they are interested.

Further information

Additional details on the Information day and presentations are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=events

Events and Awards

'SME go health' information and training workshops

The EC funded project, 'SMEs go Health' will hold its fifth Information and Training Workshop in Stockholm on 25 November 2009. This half-day workshop addresses companies, research institutes, universities, hospitals and other fields of health, life sciences, genomics and biotechnology. The workshop will form part of the BioTech Forum and will provide information on successful proposal preparation, a panel discussion with proposal evaluators, and present the services offered by SMEs go Health.

The main objective of the 'SMEs go Health' project is to provide advice and support to SMEs and SME groupings and assist them in participating in EU-funded research projects in the Health thematic priority of FP7. Activities include the provision of training events, support for consortium building and matchmaking for SMEs and researchers who are preparing their projects in response to the annual calls for proposals under the FP7 health theme.

Further information

Full details on the event and the 'SMEs go Health' project are available from:

http://www.smesgohealth.org/common/events_details.asp?evid=284

European Energy Conference

The European Science Foundation, the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, the European Materials Research Society and the European Physical Society are organising a call for abstracts for the new European Energy Conference, which will be held on 19-23 April 2010 in Spain. This newly launched European Energy Conference series will promote, consolidate and communicate this vitally necessary synergy. Although focused on energy research and technology, the conference series fully recognises the political, economic, social and environmental aspects of energy supply and consumption. Sustainable development is ultimately a social and community imperative, which can only be accomplished within this larger context.

The conference will cover chemistry, physics and material sciences related to energy technologies. In addition to plenary keynote presentations on diverse energy themes, parallel sessions will deal with energy sources, storage and conversion of energy and end-use including energy conservation.

Further information

Information and registration is available at: <http://www.e2c-2010.org>

New Publications and Online Resources

EU bookshop's digital library now live

Over 110,000 EU publications are now available online and free of charge in the EU Bookshop's digital library. The collection in fact brings together all EU publications produced by the EU institutions, agencies and other bodies since 1952. New publications will continue to be added to the collection. It will provide a good source of information for citizens, journalists, education professionals,

students, librarians, publishers, and anybody interested in Europe. It includes publications from 50 languages including Russian and Chinese.

In total it contains more than 14 million pages of web-optimised PDFs, 12 million scanned pages of historic publications and about 2 million pages of recent publications. The EU Commissioner for multilingualism, Leonard Orban, said of the launch, 'The digital library frees the memory of the European Union tied to paper since its beginning. The millions of pages now accessible to everyone in the 23 official languages demonstrate the continued commitment of the European Union to preserve and encourage the history of the Union in its linguistic diversity.'

Further information

EC Press Release IP/09/1529 of 15 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The EU bookshop website, which includes all of the publications, is available at: http://www.bookshop.europa.eu/eubookshop/index.action?request_locale=EN

Illustrated guide to the 2008 DG Research activity report

The EC has published an illustrated guide to the official 2008 annual activity report of the Directorate General for Research. The online guide 'Science at the Service of Europe' provides an overview of the types of research funded under the FP7 formally managed by DG Research as well as information on wider DG Research Activities including research policy making and the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS).

It should be noted that the guide covers only the parts of FP7 that are managed by DG Research, so as such does not include information on the ICT theme, managed by DG Information Society, the Space and Security themes both of which are managed by DG Enterprise, or the aspects of FP7 managed by DG Transport and Energy.

Further information

The guide is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/sse/2008/index_en.cfm?pg=intro

New website for open access pilot initiative

Launched in August 2008, the Open Access Pilot requires certain FP7 beneficiaries to deposit peer-reviewed research articles or final manuscripts resulting from their projects in an online repository. The pilot covers the following themes under the FP7 Co-operation Programme: Energy; Environment; Health; ICT; and Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities. It also extends to the Science in Society and Research Infrastructures programmes under the Capacities. In budgetary terms the pilot covers around twenty per cent of the FP7 annual budget. Within the pilot, beneficiaries are required to make their best effort to ensure that this electronic copy becomes freely and electronically available to anyone within certain limits.

The EC has now published an updated version of its Open Access website, which contains copies of the Model Letters to request amendment to publishing agreement and copies of a model amendment to publishing agreement. The EC also operates a helpdesk dedicated to the open access pilot and this is linked from the new website. Anyone involved in the pilot initiative is encouraged to refer to the new website.

Further information

The EC's Open Access Pilot website is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1680>

Proposal self assessment

The EC has published a self-assessment form for the Initial Training Networks (ITN) call that is currently open and closes on 22 December 2009. The self-assessment form enables potential applicants to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their application prior to submission. It is based on the process which will be used by the assessors, but may not represent an exact replica of the forms they will use. All of those thinking of submitting an application should take advantage of this tool, either by performing a self-assessment or by asking a colleague to use the form to make an assessment of the proposal.

The ITN scheme allows consortia to create a network for a research project and training course at the PhD level. The participants in the network have to be from across Europe, but can also include those from further afield. The competition is usually very fierce and the self-assessment tool allows applicants to see how their proposal might fair in evaluation.

Further information

The self-assessment form is available under 'Additional documents' at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.PeopleDetailsCallPage&call_id=247

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/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>

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

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 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

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.ec.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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