

# European RTD Insight

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## News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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## EU Policy

### Council agrees President and 'Foreign Minister'

The European Council has agreed its first ever President and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The position of President has gone to Herman Van Rompuy who is the current Prime Minister of Belgium. Baroness Ashton, who is currently the UK's EU Commissioner, responsible for Trade, will be the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. These two new posts have been provided for by the Lisbon Treaty, which comes into force on 1 December 2009.

The new post of President of Council will have responsibility for preparing and chairing the European Council's meetings. The role will take over a lot of the responsibilities that currently sit with the EU Member State holding the rotating Presidency of the EU. Van Rompuy has a mandate for two and a half years, renewable once. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be responsible for chairing the meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council. This post also combines the role of Vice-President of the European Commission. The Council has produced two factsheets on both posts, which give further details of the roles and responsibilities of each.

### **Further information**

The European Council website is available at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?lang=EN&id=1>

Baroness Ashton's current DG Trade website is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/ashton/](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/ashton/)

The factsheet on role of the President is available at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/related.aspx?bid=76&grp=15921&lang=EN&cmsId=339>

The factsheet on role of High Representative is available at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/related.aspx?bid=76&grp=15922&lang=EN&cmsId=339>

## **Barroso announces new EC portfolios**

José Manuel Barroso has announced the portfolio allocations for the new College of Commissioners, who will serve until 31 October 2014. The College includes a new Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn of Ireland, who currently serves on the Court of Auditors. The former Research Commissioner, Janez Potočnik of Slovenia, moves to take responsibility for the Environment portfolio. A total of seven Vice-Presidents will work under Barroso, including the UK representative Baroness Catherine Ashton, who will act as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

New Portfolios within the EC include 'Climate Action', which will be the responsibility of Connie Hedegaard of Denmark, and 'Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship', which will be headed by Viviane Reding of Luxembourg, currently Commissioner for Information Society and Media. The most significant change to the configuration of the research portfolio is the move of the Marie Curie Programme Units from the Directorate-General for Research to the Directorate-General for Education and Culture. The new College must gain approval from the European Parliament, which will take a vote of consent on 26 January 2010. On the basis of this vote, the new EC will then be appointed by the European Council.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1837 of 27 November 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

## **Potočnik emphasises need for joint efforts towards a low carbon future**

In a recent speech at the European Energy Technology Summit in Stockholm, Janez Potočnik, the current Commissioner for Science and Research, highlighted the need for increased speed and collaboration in the development of new energy technologies. His speech focussed on the European Industrial Initiatives, a specific strand of the SET-Plan, the overarching technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate change policy which sets out a vision of Europe as a world leader in development and market take-up of low carbon technologies.

The European Industrial Initiatives would, he said, focus efforts on key challenges and bottlenecks and propose concrete actions for the period 2010-2020. Potočnik identified the most effective way of implementing these actions as public-private collaboration. He went on to say that crucial within this must be an increased coherence of effort on the public side of the equation, while on the private side, industry must recognise that meeting public policy goals requires an acceleration of technology development, with greater technological and market risks taken to get new technologies to market in record time. He estimated that in order to achieve this, research investment will need to go up by fifty billion euros over the next ten years.

### **Further Information**

EC press release SPEECH/09/487 of 21 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

## **Launch of Private Public Partnership on Future Internet**

In a recently published strategy to support future technological developments of the 'Future Internet' and trends towards smart infrastructures (energy grids, intelligent transport systems, healthcare systems etc), the EC has announced its intention to launch a Private Public Partnership (PPP) between industry, the research community and Member State governments.

The EC intends to allocate €300 million to kick start the PPP during 2011-2013, which will be earmarked from the ICT Work Programme budget. The first calls for proposals are foreseen for 2010. Industry is expected to set out its proposals for a PPP by mid-2010 based on the dual objective of advancing Europe's industrial know-how in Future Internet technologies and systems and supporting the emergence of Future Internet-enhanced applications of public relevance. The EC has also announced that, once a current review of the legal and governance structures of Joint Technology Initiatives has been completed, it is possible that a JTI in the area of Future Internet may be set up. Within the strategy, the EC also states that a minimum of €200 million will be allocated per year in the FP7 Work Programme covering the period 2011-2013 to support medium to long term research issues of the 'Future Internet'.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1596 of 28 October is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

European Future Internet Portal: <http://www.future-internet.eu/home.html>

## **New European Technology Platform on nuclear waste launched**

November saw the launch of a new European Technology Platform (ETP) for Implementing Geological Disposal (IGD-TP) of nuclear waste, the result of a process initiated with a feasibility study carried out by the FP6-funded Euratom project 'CARD'. Founding members include waste organisations from Belgium, Finland, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK, along with the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology.

The general objective of European Technology Platforms is to provide a framework for R&D stakeholders, led by industry or end-users, to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans. To this end, the new ETP presented a Vision Document at the launch outlining its mission, objectives, benefits and organisation, along with a summary of the technical steps needed over the next 10-15 years to implement geological disposal of nuclear waste in those Member States with an advanced nuclear programme. IGD-TP will then define a strategic research agenda with the aim of co-ordinating efforts towards the disposal of nuclear waste with high levels of safety and environmental protection, while enhancing public confidence in geological disposal processes.

### **Further information**

Further details are available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&lg=en&year=2009&na=na-121109-2>

## **EC response to review of European Research Council**

The EC recently published its response to the 'Review of the European Research Council (ERC) Structures and Mechanisms'. The independent review found that, in order to assure the ERC's sustainability, maximize its efficiency and develop it into a world-class frontier research organisation, the scientific governance must be unified and adjustments made in operating methods and procedures.

In its response to these recommendations, the EC has set out a roadmap for the next stage of the ERC's development and identified a number of actions to be taken over the short- to medium-term. These include the streamlining and simplification of administrative procedures and the recruitment of a Director for the ERC Executive Agency, who will be expected to have the profile of a distinguished scientist alongside a strong administrative and managerial background. In the medium-term, the EC undertakes to engage the EP and Council on a broader reflection of the financial and administrative rules for supporting research and innovation, with a view to finding an appropriate balance between an acceptance of the inherent risks involved in cutting-edge research and accountability in the use of public funds.

#### **Further Information**

EC press release IP/09/1570 of 22 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **A 'Manifesto for Creativity and Innovation' produced**

The year 2009 is officially the 'European Year of Creativity and Innovation'. This is an initiative that aims to stress and highlight the importance of creativity and innovation to the EU. As the year begins to draw to a close, the EC has published the 'Manifesto for Creativity and Innovation in Europe', which is one of the key outcomes of the year. The manifesto has been put together by the 'Ambassadors of the Year', who are leading European personalities from the fields of culture, science, business, education and design.

Based around 'Seven Commandments', the Manifesto will help shape the EU's strategy for promoting creativity and innovation for the coming decade. These 'Seven Commandments' are as follows: Nurture creativity in a lifelong learning process where theory and practice go hand in hand; Make schools and universities places where students and teachers engage in creative thinking and learning by doing; Transform workplaces into learning sites; Promote a strong, independent and diverse cultural sector that can sustain intercultural dialogue; Promote scientific research to understand the world, improve people's lives and stimulate innovation; Promote design processes, thinking and tools, understanding the needs, emotions, aspirations and abilities of users; and Support business innovation that contributes to prosperity and sustainability.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Releases IP/09/1702, MEMO/09/498 and SPEECH/09/527 of 12 November 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

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

The Manifesto is available directly at: <http://www.create2009.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/Manifesto/manifesto.en.pdf>

### **2008 report on EU's research and technological development activities**

Each year, the EC produces an annual report providing an overview of the EU's research and technological development activities. The 2008 version of the report includes information on policy developments relating to the European Research Area (ERA), the implementation of Framework Programmes and trends in public and private research investment.

The document reports that in 2008, the second year of the Seventh Framework programme, over 14,000 proposals were received in response to 55 calls for proposals, of which approximately 2,500 were retained for funding. The year also saw the establishment of two new executive agencies. Policy activity included the launch of the second cycle of the revised Lisbon strategy in the spring, which re-affirmed research and knowledge as one of four key priorities, while as part of the Ljubjana process, five ERA initiatives were also launched in 2008: these focus the on mobility of researchers,

the exploitation of research, joint programming, a new legal framework for research infrastructures and a new strategic framework for international S&T co-operation. The report ends with an analysis of trends in research policies, finding that increasing the quality and efficiency of the public research base continues to be a key aspect of R&D policy reform in many Member States.

#### **Further information**

The full report is available at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0558:FIN:EN:PDF>

### **Additional grants funded in 2009 ERC starting grants**

The European Research Council recently announced details of an additional nineteen Starting Grants under the 2009 call, bringing the total number of grants funded so far to 238. This announcement follows on from the initial results of the call published in August, when the ERC stated that it hoped to fund 240 in all and published details of the first 219 of the proposals selected to be funded.

Of the additional 19 proposals to be funded, five are in the Life Sciences Domain, nine are in the Physical Sciences and Engineering Domain and five are in the Social Sciences Domain. Two of these grants will be hosted in the UK, one at the University of Nottingham and one at the London Business School. The total budget for the call is €325 million. It is expected that further grants will be announced over the coming months.

#### **Further Information**

ERC Press Release of 29 October 2009 is available from:

[http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/NewsRelease\\_StG-2\\_Result\\_2nd\\_announcement.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/NewsRelease_StG-2_Result_2nd_announcement.pdf)

### **New FP7 EURATOM call for proposals**

The EC has launched a new call for proposals in the fission area of the FP7 EURATOM programme (for Nuclear Research and Training Activities). The topics open under this call include: geological disposal; partitioning and transmutation; safety and competitiveness of existing and future nuclear installations; advanced nuclear systems for increased sustainability; cross-cutting aspects for nuclear systems; advanced systems for non-electrical uses of nuclear energy; quantification of risks for low and protracted exposures; and training and mobility of research workers. In addition, three topics are open under the activity area 'Co-operation with Third Countries'. Co-operation with China is an eligibility criterion within these three topics. The call will close on 8 April 2010.

Under the FP7 Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection priority theme, the overall objective is to establish a sound scientific and technical basis in order to accelerate practical developments for the safer management of long-lived radioactive waste, to enhance the safety performance, resource efficiency and cost-effectiveness of nuclear energy and to ensure a robust and socially acceptable system of protection of man and the environment against the effects of ionising radiation.

#### **Further information**

The Call Fiche for this call as well as the 2010 EURATOM Work Programme (published on 30 July 2009) are available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls/>

### **EFSA call for scientific experts**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is an EU independent agency providing scientific advice and support that contribute towards EU policies and legislation. The areas covered include food safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection. In 2008, EFSA set up a

database of external scientific experts with the aim of pooling scientific excellence across Europe in order to reinforce EFSA's capacity to provide high-quality and timely scientific advice within its areas of activity. EFSA has launched a new call for applications from scientists interested to register as experts.

Experts on the database can be contacted, on an ad-hoc basis, to provide support to the activities carried out by EFSA's Scientific Committees and Panels, as well as by its networks and working groups. EU Member States, via their representatives on EFSA's Advisory Forum and National Focal Points, can also use the database for their own scientific activities. The necessary time to be spent on an assignment can vary, and an estimate will be provided when the expert is first contacted for a specific task.

#### **Further information**

More information on applying for inclusion on the EFSA database of external scientific experts is available at: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/PartnersNetworks/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1178712806106.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/PartnersNetworks/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712806106.htm)

### **MEPs hold hearing on FP7 and red tape**

The ITRE committee within the EP held a public hearing recently on FP7 and red tape. The ITRE committee is responsible for looking at legislation relating to research, industry and energy as it goes through the decision-making process in Parliament. The hearing included presentations from stakeholders representing universities, industry and research performing organisations on what can be done to reduce the red tape surrounding FP funding. These presentations are now available on the EP website.

The title of the hearing was 'Implementing the Research Framework programme – How to reduce red-tape and bureaucracy?' It started off with a short presentation from the experts and then opened into a general discussion where MEPs could air their views. The four speakers were: Christopher Hull, the Secretary General of EARTO; Lars Pallesen, President of the Technical University of Denmark; and Jan van den Biesen, representing Business Europe. Eric Dautriat, the new Executive Director of Clean Sky also gave a short case study. The speakers were asked to offer their thoughts on the main problems at present and then offer some suggestions for improvements. The general consensus amongst the speakers was that although FP7 was still of interest to their stakeholders, there were major issues at present, such as the fact that the 'simplification' promised at the beginning of FP7 simply hadn't materialised for most participants.

#### **Further information**

The website containing the presentations given at the event is available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/hearingsCom.do?language=EN&body=ITRE>

### **ERA conference on working together to strengthen research in Europe**

The EC's European Research Area (ERA) conference, entitled 'Working together to strengthen research in Europe' recently took place in Brussels. It was designed to initiate pan-European debate over the realisation of the ERA and to take stock of the progress made following the Green Paper consultation on the ERA in 2007. The conference findings and on-going debate will be used to inform an EC report on ERA planned for 2010. The event brought together a large group of stakeholders comprising mainly policy makers and members of various EC Expert Groups, along with some researchers and representatives from industry.

The conference discussions raised a number of fundamental, recurring questions, including: what type of legal framework is needed to better fund European research, and how can we move to a more trust based sustainable funding system while maintaining accountability? What is the role of the

European Research Council? What is the role of the EC in the Joint Programming process? European Research infrastructures are fundamental to the success of EU research but what developments are needed? How can the current EU funding landscape be simplified to be more efficient for the future? There is a lot of diversity across Europe so how can programmes be better developed to address the needs of the whole of Europe?

#### **Further information**

Further information is available from the conference website and conference blog at: <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/ERAconference09/>

## **EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard shows EU companies leading US and Japan**

On 16 November, the EC published its annual EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard for 2009, which provides an up-to-date statistical overview of corporate R&D investment in the EU and worldwide during 2008. Despite the recession, the scoreboard recorded an 8.1 per cent increase in R&D investment in the EU, compared with 5.7 per cent in the USA and 4.4 per cent in Japan. The worldwide figure was 6.9 per cent, down from nine per cent in 2007. Two EU companies, Volkswagen and Nokia, featured in the global top ten corporate R&D investors.

EU companies in the top fifty also had a higher average R&D intensity (R&D investment as a percentage of sales) than non-EU companies, and led the way in sectors such as electronic communications and chemicals. The pharmaceuticals and biotechnologies sector was, again, the top R&D investor both in the EU and worldwide. The scoreboard uses data taken from the top 1000 EU and the top 1000 non-EU companies investing in R&D, and it also records other indicators such as company operating profits. These saw a 30.5 per cent drop in the EU, compared with 19.5 per cent in the USA. Finally, the scoreboard also assesses R&D growth in emerging economies, with China (forty per cent) and India (27 per cent) both recording notable increases in R&D investment.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1716 and MEMO/09/503 of 16 November 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard is available at: [http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/research/scoreboard\\_2009.htm](http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/research/scoreboard_2009.htm)

## **GMES Communication on space component**

The EC recently adopted a Communication on the achievements to date and next steps needed to bring the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative to a fully operational stage in the most cost efficient way. The main objective of the GMES initiative is to monitor and better understand the environment and to contribute to the security of citizens. It aims to do this by providing decision-makers with the necessary data for them to make informed decisions. The recent Communication covers the space component of GMES, which is the main determinant in whether or not the EU will be able to deliver its ambitions for the programme, as this dictates the range of services that can be delivered and accounts for a significant proportion of the overall cost of it.

According to the communication, the next steps in the development of the space component are to: Support the implementation of a free licensing and open access data policy for the Sentinels (satellites); Ensure a continuous data flow towards the users; Continue international cooperation which has always been intertwined with GMES as the European earth observation capacity; and to reflect about the future ownership of the Sentinel infrastructure.

### **Further information**

The GMES Communication is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/gmes/pdf/communication\\_589\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/gmes/pdf/communication_589_en.pdf)

The GMES website is available at: <http://www.gmes.info/>

## **€100 million proposed for new Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme**

On 29 October, the EC adopted a proposal to strengthen and better coordinate environmental research between the eight EU Member States bordering the Baltic Sea (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden). To do this, the EC has proposed a maximum €50 million in funding from FP7, with the participating countries providing the rest, in order to integrate the eight national research programmes into a single joint programme. The programme will be known as BONUS-169. It will be implemented in two phases: initially a two-year strategic phase followed by a five-year implementation phase, during which at least three joint calls are scheduled to be launched.

The Baltic Sea is facing increasing environmental challenges; for example acidification, decreasing biodiversity and overexploitation. It is therefore hoped that BONUS 169 will provide a critical mass of funding, research expertise and resources in order to address these challenges via more effective environmental research. Areas such as tourism, aquaculture, food safety and maritime transport in the Baltic Sea will also figure strongly in the programme of research. The programme will also be fully aligned with the EU's Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research, Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as well as the revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs.

### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1648 and MEMO 09/487 of 2009 of 29 October are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

The BONUS 169 programme website is available at: [www.bonusportal.org](http://www.bonusportal.org)

## **Post-2010 Lisbon strategy**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) debated the state of play of the Lisbon Strategy at its November plenary session. The discussion singled out priorities for the post-2010 agenda and several key opinions were debated and adopted. A new, comprehensive post-2010 global strategy at European level is required in order to tackle the current challenges, including the economic and financial crisis and the resulting social problems, energy policy and climate change, education, innovation and development. During the debate the EESC adopted a key opinion on 'The Lisbon Strategy after 2010,' drafted by rapporteur Wolfgang Greif (Employees' Group, Austria). This was prepared in response to a request from the upcoming Spanish Council Presidency and endorses concrete policy recommendations on the current economic and financial crisis, growth and jobs, gender equality, and the importance of safeguarding social rights. This opinion will be submitted to the March 2010 European Council.

The opinion covers several issues. It calls for a new strategy to be implemented that encompasses the Recovery Strategy, the Lisbon Strategy, sustainable development, climate change, linking them in a coherent way. The opinion also calls for renewed emphasis on the knowledge triangle, and a requirement for well educated workers in scientific and technical areas.

### **Further information**

EC press release CES/09/145 of 5 November 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

Opinion number 1722, the Lisbon Strategy after 2010, is available at: <https://toad.eesc.europa.eu/opinions/EESCOpinions.aspx>

## Assessing the risk of nanotechnologies

The EC held a hearing recently on the risk assessment of nanotechnologies. The slides presented at the event are now available on the EC's website. The EC has carried out a lot of work in terms of studies and reviews into the risk assessment of nanotechnologies recently. The hearing is a continuation of that process. The main objectives of the hearing in Brussels were to assess the possible scientific topics that have not so far been covered in the opinions from the relevant EU Risk Assessment Committees and bodies, and secondly to look at the major, potential risks that could emerge from the use of nanomaterials in the future.

The hearing included presentations from DG SANCO (which covers health and consumer affairs) on the role of the 'EU Scientific Committee for the Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies' and results of the recent consultation held on the subject.

### Further information

The website set up for the hearing, which includes links to all of the presentations, is available here: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/nanohearing\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nanohearing_en.htm)

## Further development in alternative approaches to animal testing

The European Partnership on Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) was launched in November 2005 by European Commission Vice President, Günter Verheugen, and Science & Research Commissioner, Janez Potočnik, together with the European industry. At a conference in Brussels on 6 November 2009, industry and the EC expressed the need to strengthen their collaboration to reduce animal testing as much as possible to avoid unnecessary suffering for animals (the '3Rs approach') wherever possible.

Research on alternative approaches is the key to implementing the 3Rs of replacement, reduction and refinement. Both the European Commission and industry devote significant resources to Research & Development (R&D) to align priorities and initiate projects that will lead to less and better use of animal testing. To promote the uptake of alternative methods in regulation, the EC and EPAA companies have developed protocols for co-operation, identified priorities for data communication and developed recommendations for speeding up regulatory uptake. Under its 2009 lead theme, dissemination of 3R information, the EPAA has carried out a market survey on information needs and ways to enhance dialogue between regulators and method developers.

### Further information:

EC Press Release IP/09/1679 of 6 November 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The European Partnership for Alternatives to Animal Testing:

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

## Nearly 200 environment projects launched

The EC has approved funding for 196 new projects under the second call for the LIFE+ programme (2007-2013), the European fund for the environment. The projects are from across the EU and cover actions in the fields of nature conservation, environmental policy, and information and communication. Overall, they represent a total investment of €431 million, of which the EU will provide €207.5 million. Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said: 'I am convinced that these projects will make a significant contribution to nature conservation and to improving the environment. They will also help raise awareness across the EU of the key environmental challenges facing us, notably climate change and the loss of biodiversity.'

More than 600 proposals were received for the call from public or private bodies from the 27 EU Member States. Of 196 select 80 were for Nature & Biodiversity 99 for Environment Policy & Governance, and 17 Information and Communication. LIFE+ is the European financial instrument for the environment and has a total budget of €2.143 billion for the period 2007-2013. During this period, the EC will launch one call for LIFE+ project proposals per year.

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP/09/1646 of 29 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

For all information on LIFE+ see: <http://ec.europa.eu/life>

### **First tranche of TEN-T funding invested by the EU**

The EC recently announced the beneficiaries of the first tranche of funding from the €500 million EU investment promised through the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) programme. The programme aims to help fund works which build missing transport links or remove bottlenecks to facilitate the circulation of people and goods between Member States. The total funding was originally to be spent over a period of several years, but has been accelerated as part of the Commission's response to the economic crisis, on the basis that improved transport infrastructures can catalyse increased economic activity. The investment is also required to cope with the increase in traffic between Member States, which is expected to double by 2020.

The funding was announced at the TEN-T conference held in Naples, 'The future of Trans-European Transport Networks: building bridges between Europe and its neighbours'. The initial batch of funding will go towards projects in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom. A second group of projects to benefit from TEN-T funding will be announced later in 2009. When announcing the awards, the European Commission Vice-President in charge of transport, Antonio Tajani, emphasised the crucial nature of the funding, stating that "the EU's capacity to grow depends on the quality of its transport infrastructure and the TEN-T programme plays an essential role in ensuring its progress"

#### **Further Information**

EC press release IP/09/1558 of 21 October 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **SME participation on the up**

The EC has published the 'SME Participation in FP7 Report', which includes information on the number of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) taking part in FP7. It also provides information on the level of SME participation from each Member State. The EC has a target of trying to increase the level of SME participation in EU funding programmes. For FP7, the EC aims to have over fifteen per cent participation from SMEs in FP7.

The report examines SME participation from the start of FP7 up until June 2009. It contains statistical information on the participation of SMEs across the different thematic areas of FP7. Overall, SMEs participate in over twenty five per cent of the contracts signed in FP7. It is also interesting to note that almost seventy per cent of those SMEs in signed project contracts were firms with less than fifty employees. The figures show that out of all countries, the UK, Germany and Italy have the highest number of SME participations.

#### **Further information**

The 'SME Participation in FP7 Report' is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/fp7\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/fp7_report.pdf)

# Research News

## Researchers carry out Trans-Atlantic coral ecosystem study

As part of a European-funded research programme, TRACES, British and Dutch coral experts are working together with their American colleagues to investigate the impact of carbon dioxide released by humans on the deep water corals throughout the Atlantic. Data and samples are being collected from reefs throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The team also use a submersible to get close up to the sea animals and study their behaviour. For the European scientists it is a chance to study reefs on the other side of the Atlantic and to investigate the connection between cold water corals on both sides of the Atlantic. The researchers have collected samples in the Gulf of Mexico that show that the skeletons of the corals are much thicker there compared to those on the European side. The scientists aim to investigate what causes such differences.

The Dutch team has been collecting data regarding water temperature, salinity and current speed. The scientists are looking for daily, seasonal or even annual changes. It may also be possible to find evidence for climate events. Enormous quantities of carbon dioxide released by humans are absorbed by the oceans. Because of the dynamics of the water, the carbon dioxide does not just stay on the ocean surface, it will eventually reach deeper waters. As the carbon dioxide dissolves, the water becomes acidic and the corals themselves begin to dissolve.

### Further information

Further information on the TRACES project is available at: <http://www.lophelia.org/traces/>

## Researchers develop search engine of the future

Through an EU funded FP6 project, MESH, European researchers have developed a working platform for a semantic internet search. Whilst normal search engines provide answers based on individual keywords introduced, MESH is unique in that it initially evaluates the query and then provides results for the actual meaning of the query.

The project has been carried out with a focus on accessing news information (film and audio files, in addition to text) and has been restricted to two domains: natural disasters, and civil unrest and street violence. The aims of the project were to establish: a web-based portal that could provide access to any news provider, including agencies, publishers, newsfeeds or even personal blogs; an online archive of established libraries providing cross linked news; a system that can recognise preferences whilst searching the web and automatically suggests useful information; unstructured search queries through being able to formulate a query in plain text and queries by relevance through searching for content similar to the one being viewed. More specifically, the project has resulted in the development of a manual annotation tool to create manageable annotations for all types of media and a dossier-developing tool that supports editors in linking to audio, video and text that are related to specific topics.

### Further information

Further information is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article\\_09\\_11\\_23\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_09_11_23_en.html)

The MESH project website is available at: <http://www.mesh-ip.eu/?Page=Project>

## Leading researchers 'join together' for welding project

A new EU-funded project is underway to overhaul the EU welding industry through the use of advanced technologies. The MINTWELD (Modelling of interface evolution in advanced welding) project has received €3.5 million from the EC through FP7. The aim is to develop new ways to make

welding safer and cheaper by applying the new technologies and techniques such as advanced computer modelling.

Eleven partners will take part in the four year project, which is co-ordinated by the University of Leicester in the UK. Professor Hong Dong, the project co-ordinator, believes it will have a real impact on the competitiveness of EU industry as more than half of all global domestic and engineering products contain joints that require welding. This impacts sectors of real importance to the EU such as the construction, automotive, aerospace and defence sectors. Dr Dong highlights some of the areas the project can assist with, "Failures in welded components such as deep-sea oil and gas transport systems, can result in lost production, valued in several billion euro while exposing the EU to increased petroleum prices and increasing EU dependency on oil and gas supplies from other regions."

#### **Further information**

Further information is available from:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article\\_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article\\_09\\_11\\_12\\_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=13693](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_09_11_12_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=13693)

## **Societal and scientific challenges of environmental change**

An initiative by European Science Foundation (ESF) and COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is looking to address the societal and scientific challenges that have arisen due to the consequences of changes to the Earth's system. While the systemic understanding of global environmental change has expanded markedly, the societal and policy-relevant drivers and consequences are still to be fully explored. In particular, the complex Earth system requires interdisciplinary studies at scales compatible to political and societal agendas. Stronger cooperation between natural, social and human sciences need to be established.

The initiative, 'Responses to Environmental and Societal Challenges for our Unstable Earth' (RESCUE), will help to stimulate an integrated response from natural, social and human sciences through the following key objectives: propose a strategic process for natural, social and human sciences to improve their interdisciplinary synergy, to respond efficiently to societal and policy-relevant needs; articulate new scientific issues related to global changes; explore new approaches towards interdisciplinary science, and to facilitate the 'revolution' in education and capacity building it requires. Through its analyses and recommendations, RESCUE will help enabling the scientific community, together with other actors and key stakeholders, to develop medium to long-term strategies for future research activities and applications.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available on the ESF website at: <http://www.esf.org/activities/forward-looks/all-current-and-completed-forward-looks.html>

# **Education, Training and Culture**

## **Education reform in the EU: still some distance to go**

Two new EC reports indicate that despite general improvements, the reform of education and training in the EU is too slow, with targets set for 2010 unlikely to be met. The first of these, the 'Commission progress report towards the Lisbon Objectives in Education and training', looks at

Member States' progress towards five key benchmarks. Of these, only one, on increasing the number of graduates in maths, science and technology was reached. The others, on adults' participation in lifelong learning, reduction of early school leavers, increasing completion of secondary education, and reading ability, will not be met.

The second document, the 'Draft 2010 joint progress report on the implementation of the Work Programme: Education and Training 2010', assesses overall progress, as well as setting out future priorities for co-operation. It finds that although good progress in adapting curricula has been made, there is still work to be done in other areas, such as support for teachers' competence development. Other challenges include implementing lifelong learning, and establishing partnerships between education and employers. It also found that to match spending on tertiary education in the US, EU Member States would need to invest on average an additional 10 000 more per student per year in higher education.

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP/09/1816 of 25 November 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

### **Importance of teacher training highlighted in new report**

The OECD and EC recently presented a new report on 'Teachers Professional Development: Europe in international comparison', based on the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), which was conducted in 23 countries. The survey is the first to focus on the learning environment and working conditions of teachers in schools, looking at the issues affecting teachers and their performance from their perspective.

The findings of the report suggest that although professional development is now an integral part of teachers' lives, making it an important instrument of educational improvement, feedback on performance is also crucial to their professional development and its perceived impact. School climate also has a crucial role, with teachers who feel good about their role and its place within the school more positive about their professional development. Launching the report, Maroš Šefčovič, the current European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, said that, 'If we want high quality education it is crucial that we give our teachers the best possible opportunities to develop their skills, not only at the beginning but throughout their careers. By stimulating them to engage in professional development we contribute to the status and attractiveness of the profession.'

#### **Further information**

EC press release IP/09/1808 of 24 November 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu.rapid/>

## **External Collaboration**

### **Second EU-Japanese Co-operative Programme announced**

Following an initial scheme in December 2008, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) recently announced a second call to fund collaborative research exchange projects in several FP7 Co-operation themes. The focus of the call is on strengthening collaboration between Japan and the EU for environmental research, in order to enable the development of innovative new environmental technologies. In all, the call includes 13 topics within three different thematic areas: Environment; Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnologies; and Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies.

This second call was announced by the JST in consultation with the EC. Once the proposals have been submitted, the EC will inform the JST which Japanese participants are included in successful proposals under the relevant topics. The JST will then review these separately before deciding whether to award funding to the Japanese participants. The first 2008 call of this scheme saw no successful submissions, and as a result consortia have been advised to carefully read the individual topics concerned in the relevant FP7 Work Programmes and Call Fiches.

#### **Further information**

Details of the programme are available at: <http://www.jst.go.jp/inter/english/project/country/eu.html>

### **JRC signed strategic partnership with American Association for the Advancement of Science**

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has signed a strategic partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The official signing took place after the inaugural JRC Annual Lecture by Dr Alan Leshner CEO of AAAS. The occasion also marked the 50th Anniversary of the EC's first research site. In his speech, Dr Leshner's stressed that now is a crucial time for co-operation between Europe and the US. There are currently many major societal issues on which both parties can collaborate, such as environmentally sustainable development, the need for renewable energy sources to name a few. While the US and Europe remain the leaders in science, other countries, particularly China and India, are rapidly developing their capacity.

With the increase in the internationality of science, including the fact that research teams are becoming more international, there are problems and a need to better integrate the global community. Aligned to this is the need to develop global standards, deal with different national policies and better co-ordinate funding policies, and finally better streamline the diverse bureaucracies (it was noted that US researchers spend 42 per cent of their research time on administrative tasks).

#### **Further information**

The event agenda and slides are available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm?id=5550>

### **Funding awarded for British-Israeli research projects**

Fifteen joint research projects submitted as proposals to the Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange (BIRAX) programme have been selected to receive grants totalling £365,000. These are the first grants awarded under the scheme, which was launched in 2008 and is managed by the British Council and the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Pears Foundation also contributed to setting up the BIRAX programme, which will run initially for five years.

The fifteen projects were selected for funding due to their level of innovation, strong degree of partnership between UK and Israeli researchers and potential to benefit the academic community and society as a whole. There are projects in areas such as telomere biology, galaxy clusters, Aramaic texts from late antiquity, metrology in cold atoms and optical networks. The next call for proposals is scheduled for December 2009.

#### **Further information**

All the necessary information on the BIRAX programme is available at:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/israel-education-birax.htm>

## Annual Summits address climate change, energy and trade as major political issues

The first EU-US Summit with the new US Administration took place on 3 November in Washington D.C. At the Summit, the leaders discussed how the EU and the US can co-operate to tackle global challenges, like economic recovery and growth, climate change and effective assistance to developing countries. An important outcome of the Summit was the launch of the EU-US Energy Council which held its first meeting on 4 November. The EU-US Energy Council is a formal framework for deepening the transatlantic dialogue on strategic energy issues of mutual interest. It is also the platform for co-operation on energy policies and research collaboration on sustainable and clean energy technologies. The overall aim of the Council is for the US and EU to jointly tackle the growing challenges of global energy security, sustainability and climate change.

Another high-level meeting that addressed similar issues was the EU-India Summit, which took place on 6 November. This Summit dealt with major global concerns such as climate change, energy security and fight against terrorism, in addition to regional issues. The Summit underlined the joint commitment to achieve progress in the negotiations on a bilateral trade and investment agreement. Another highlight of the Summit was the establishment of a research agreement in the field of fusion energy, which was signed by Euratom and India.

### Further information:

EC Press Releases IP/09/1678 of 5 November 2009, IP/09/1664 of 3 November 2009, IP/09/1674 and MEMO/09/490 of 4 November 2009, are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

## Events and Awards

### Call for abstracts for 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 (E2C) which will be held on 19-23 April 2010 in Spain. E2C aims to promote co-operation and thereby stimulate communication and synergy in the fields of physics, chemistry and material sciences, to support technology and engineering in responding to the urgent requirement of secure, ecologically acceptable. The scientific committee welcomes original contributions on the following topics: primary energy sources; energy conversion and storage; end use of energy. Contributions on highly-relevant topics not covered by the conference sessions are also invited.

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. Although focused on energy research and technology, this 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.

### Further information

Detailed information on the topics of the call as well as registration is available at: <http://www.e2c-2010.org>

## Berlin workshop on Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)

The Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) project is to hold a workshop in Berlin on 14 and 15 December 2009. It marks the transition between the FP6 funded HERA project and the Joint Research Programme to follow, funded by the HERA consortium. The aim of the workshop – ‘Humanities: Impacts, Trends and Challenges’ - is to bring together the key European players in the field of humanities to raise awareness of humanities research across Europe and to highlight its contributions to the European research agenda.

The first day of the workshop will concentrate on policy issues, and will be by invitation only. It will consider the relevance and impact of humanities research, trends and future challenges, and the potential role of joint programming. The second day of the workshop is open to researchers, and looks at the Strategic Research Roadmap produced by the Social Sciences and Humanities Co-operation theme of FP7, projects funded so far under FP7, and the work of National Contact Points.

### Further information

Full details of the workshop and how to register can be found at: [www.heranet.info](http://www.heranet.info)

## Clean Sky information day

The Clean Sky Joint Undertaking is organising an information day in Brussels on 15 December. Information on the current Call for Proposal will be presented at the event. Leaders from the five technology domains of Clean Sky will present the Call topics, while Clean Sky staff will present the procedures to be followed by applicants. Registration is based on a first come first served basis and so interested parties are advised to register as early as possible. The current Call for Proposals, which is the second set to open so far, is worth €8.3 million and covers 24 new research topics. The deadline for submitting proposals is 23 February 2010.

### Further information

For further information on the new call for proposals and how to register for the info day are available at: [http://www.cleansky.eu/index.php?arbo\\_id=52&item\\_id=32](http://www.cleansky.eu/index.php?arbo_id=52&item_id=32)

The Clean Sky website is available at: [www.cleansky.eu](http://www.cleansky.eu)

## Fuel Cell and Hydrogen General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly of the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative (FCH JTI) took place in Brussels recently. The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking was established in 2008 as a public-private partnership between the EC, European industry and the research community to promote the commercialisation of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies. With a budget of approximately €1 billion spread over six years, it is the most important European initiative to date promoting research, technological development and demonstrations in this field.

The slides presented at the General Assembly are now available from the FCH JTI General Assembly website. The speech given by Janez Potočnik, the current European Commissioner for Science and Research, is also available to watch as a video clip. At the General Assembly, it was announced that the FCH JTI is expected to become autonomous on 15 March 2010, and that so far 20 members of staff have been recruited, including the Executive Director.

### Further information

The FCH General Assembly website, which contains all of the presentations delivered at the event, is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fch/index\\_en.cfm?pg=sga2009\\_presentations](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fch/index_en.cfm?pg=sga2009_presentations)

# New Publications and Online Resources

## **New website to serve nano community**

A new website has been launched for the FP7 theme of Nanotechnologies, Nanosciences, Materials and New Production (NMP). This includes a partner search facility, a forum and a latest news and events section. For the partner search facility, researchers can upload their own details onto the website and browse for details of other researchers who have uploaded their own details. It is hoped that this service will help to bring together research teams looking to apply to the NMP calls for proposals each year.

As well as offering a partner search facility, the new website also has a section on latest news and events. It also has a forum that the community can use to share information and experiences. The new website has been developed jointly by National Contact Points for the NMP theme in fifteen EU Member States. The funding for it actually comes out of the FP7 NMP theme.

### **Further information**

The new website is available at: <http://www.nmpteam.com/>

## **EC introduces new ethics in research helpdesk**

The EC has recently launched a helpdesk to deal specifically with queries relating to ethics in research. The helpdesk aims to provide researchers participating in or considering applying to FP7 with information relating ethical issues, and to offer advice and support on this aspect of research under FP7.

Scientists will be able to consult with staff from the Ethics Review Sector of DG Research and with experts in the relevant field of ethics, to ensure that their proposed work adheres to EU and international ethical standards. All queries will be considered confidential. This interactive, responsive service adds to information available from the EC's webpage on ethical issues in research.

### **Further information**

Additional information is available from the EC FP7 Ethics Helpdesk:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support\\_en.html#ethics](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html#ethics)

## **FP7 Africa call - partner search facility to find South African partners**

The European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) offers a partner search facility to provide assistance to European research and technology organisations looking to find South African partners for collaboration under the current FP7 Call for Africa (FP7-AFRICA-2010). Whether partner search requests are related to health, water or food security, or any other of the focus areas of the Call for Africa, the South African research community offers expertise and experience, as well as extensive pan-African research networks to prospective European partners.

Furthermore, the ESASTAP offers financial assistance through its FP7 seed funding instrument, to support the preparation of FP7 proposals involving South African partners (mainly through the funding of travel costs permitting South African and European partners to meet). Potential applicants interested in working with South African organisations in the FP7-AFRICA-2010 or any other FP7 calls are advised to contact ESASTAP.

### **Further information**

Further information about ESASTAP is available at: <http://www.esastap.org.za>

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

## **MEDIA**

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

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

## **NATO**

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

<http://www.nato.int>

## **People**

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

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

## **RTD**

Research and Technological Development

## **SICA**

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

## **SME**

Small and medium sized enterprises

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

## **Specific Programme**

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

## **SSH**

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

### **Treaty of Amsterdam**

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

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

### **UUK**

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

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

### **White Paper**

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

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