

# European RTD Insight

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## News on EU Research Policy and Programmes

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## EU Policy

### Copenhagen climate conference makes some cautious steps forward

In early December 2009, the European Commission stressed the need for the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen to produce a global, ambitious and comprehensive agreement in order to avert dangerous climate change. Before the conference, the EC published a memo listing their key objectives. At Copenhagen, the EU is also held a series of side-events, including events on European-funded climate research.

However, the conference did not achieve as much as the EU hoped it would. An accord was reached, but this was not legally binding. The key points of the accord included: the objective to

keep the maximum temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius; commitment to list developed country emission reduction targets and mitigation action by developing countries for 2020; and USD 30 billion short-term funding for immediate action till 2012 and USD 100 billion annually by 2020 in long-term financing, as well as mechanisms to support technology transfer and forestry. The challenge now is to turn what is agreed into something that is legally binding in Mexico one year from now. EC President, José Barroso, said “this was a positive step but clearly below our ambition”. He also commented “I will not hide my disappointment regarding the ambition in terms of the binding nature or non-binding nature of the future agreement. On this particular point, the text agreed today falls far short of our expectations.”

#### **Further information**

UN Copenhagen conference website: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>  
EC Press Releases IP/09/1867 and MEMO/09/534 of 2 December 2009, SPEECH/09/570 of 3 December 2009, and SPEECH/09/588 of 21 December 2009 are all available at:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid>  
DG RTD News Alert, dated 7 December 2009, on EC research related events at the conference:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=press&lg=en>

### **What is the future of European research and research-based innovation?**

The Council has recently adopted conclusions on guidance on the future priorities for European research and research-based innovation. These draw on a number of key European Research Area (ERA) policies and provide a concise chronological summary of the main policy developments over the last year. The conclusions state that a limited set of ambitious targets should be considered in the context of the post-2010 EU strategy for competitiveness and growth and for the implementation of the ERA.

It goes on to suggest the activities that are required to meet the challenges of improving the governance of the ERA, which include: the further consolidation and development of collaborative tools for enhancing research for industry and SMEs; key emerging technologies; basic research; cross-border co-operation; easier access to finance; and the development of research infrastructures. The conclusions go on to recommend that, during 2010, the EC should conduct an interim evaluation of ERA-related instruments alongside the FP7 interim evaluation and undertake foresight activities to identify grand challenges and priorities for research and innovation in future.

#### **Further information**

The Council conclusions on guidance on future priorities for European research and research-based innovation are available at:  
[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111723.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111723.pdf)

### **Barroso sets out expectations of new EC**

The EC has published letters sent from the President, José Manuel Barroso to the newly nominated college of Commissioners, setting out their portfolio and related objectives. The letters are available online for all of the Commissioners designate including Maire Geoghegan-Quinn from Ireland, the new Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner.

The letter to Commissioner designate Geoghegan-Quinn tasks her with making a decisive step forward in building the European Research Area (ERA) and sets out five main objectives in relation to his: making the ‘Fifth Freedom’, the free movement of knowledge, a reality, through ensuring the free circulation of researchers, knowledge, ideas and technology across the EU; leading a cross-cutting approach to innovation; the co-ordination of EU and national research activities; the preparation of the future policy framework for EU research and development policy, in particular the future Framework Programme (FP8); and increasing the efficiency of EU support to scientific

research, by rationalising and simplifying existing financial mechanisms and adapting the current institutional and regulatory framework.

#### **Further information**

The mission letters to all Commissioners designate are available from:

<http://ec.europa.eu/commission designate 2009-2014/mission letters/index en.htm>

### **Consultation on EU 2020**

The EC has launched a public consultation on the development of a new strategy to make the EU a smarter, greener social market. The new EU 2020 strategy will build on and supersede the current Lisbon Strategy, which is due to end in 2010. This consultation is therefore relevant to anyone with an interest in EU programmes and policies. The consultation paper sets out a vision for how the 2020 Strategy will focus on recovery from the crisis and help to prevent a similar crisis in future. It focuses on three thematic objectives: creating value through knowledge (including research and development); empowering people in inclusive societies; and creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.

The responses received by the EC will be used to develop the formal proposal for the EU 2020 strategy, which is expected to be published early next year. Whilst the consultation covers all EU programmes and policies there is a significant number of references and scope to comment on issues relating to the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and education and innovation policies and programmes. The deadline for responding is 15 January 2010.

#### **Further information**

The EU 2020 consultation website is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/>

### **Clean Sky flies nest and opens new call**

The Clean Sky Joint Undertaking became fully autonomous on 19 November 2009. Clean Sky is one of five Joint Technologies Initiatives (JTIs) and covers the research fields of aeronautics and air transport. It is now fully autonomous from the EC in terms of administration and operation. Although it still receives funding from the EC via the Transport theme of FP7, it should now have more authority to commit its budget and implement its own work programme more rapidly than before it was fully autonomous.

At the same time, it has also announced its second call for proposals under which 24 topics have opened. The closing date is 23 February. The total contribution available from the EC and industry for the topics equates to around €8.3 million, which is a smaller amount than the first call where around seventy topics were called for. An information day was held in Brussels on 15 December, where details of the current calls were presented to applicants. The presentations are now available on the Clean Sky website.

#### **Further information**

The Clean Sky website, which gives further details on the move to autonomy and the current call, is available at: [http://www.cleansky.eu/index.php?arbo\\_id=50&set\\_language=en](http://www.cleansky.eu/index.php?arbo_id=50&set_language=en)

### **ECOFIN Council's conclusions on the future Lisbon Strategy**

The European Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN) ministers recently agreed on a number of conclusions regarding the 'EU Strategy for Growth and Employment', which is to replace the current Lisbon Strategy. ECOFIN underlined a number of priority areas to increase the EU's growth potential,

upon which the new strategy should be based. These included the need to increase employment through fostering entrepreneurship, promoting human capital formation, innovation and open markets. Climate change and social affairs should be integrated as cross cutting themes in the new strategy. ECOFIN also suggested that the priorities of the EU budget and the lending of the European Investment Bank could be aligned more with the new strategy.

The ECOFIN conclusions were based on a report published by the Economic Policy Committee (EPC), which provides advice to the EC and Council on co-ordinating economic policies across the EU. The EC will develop the new strategy to replace Lisbon early next year, and it will work with the EPC on issues such as subsidiarity and public awareness.

#### **Further information**

The EC website on the Lisbon Strategy is available at:

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

The website of the EPC Lisbon Working Group is available at:

[http://europa.eu/epc/working\\_groups/methodology\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/epc/working_groups/methodology_en.htm)

The ECOFIN Council conclusions on Lisbon Strategy Post 2010 are available at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/111701.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/111701.pdf)

### **EU innovation policy as an exit strategy from the economic crisis**

The EC recently held a conference in Brussels on innovation policy. The aim was to bring together high-level speakers from universities, business and international organisations to discuss and highlight ways in which innovation policies can contribute towards a recovery from the current economic crisis. Presentations were given by speakers from the EC, academia and industry. The EC emphasised that better use of the EU's existing financial instruments was necessary in order to more effectively incorporate innovation into all EU policies. This included more effective use of EU Structural Funds, the need for a stronger partnership with the European Investment Bank and to increase industry's involvement in FP7. The importance of innovation clusters to EU innovation policy was also mentioned, as was the need for more coherent and favourable framework conditions in the EU.

It was underlined that the EU's performance in R&D investment has been improving, despite the economic crisis, and that the overall gap with the US and Japan is narrowing. However, in order to build on this, it was also emphasised repeatedly that the results of innovation need to be made available to companies in the EU more easily.

#### **Further information**

The conference website which includes details of all of the presentations given is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/events/event16077\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/events/event16077_en.htm)

### **Step forward taken in the development of a Community Patent**

The Competitiveness Council recently reached agreement on a general approach for the Community Patent Regulation. This is a big step forward in the development of a Community Patent. The Council also agreed conclusions on the main features of the new European and EU Patents Court and of the EU Patent itself. The Council recommends that the European and EU Patents Court (EEUPC) should have exclusive jurisdiction in respect to civil litigation related to the infringement and validity of EU patents and European patents. The EEUPC should comprise a Court of First Instance, a Court of Appeal and a Registry.

Council concluded that the EU Patent Regulation, when it comes, should be accompanied by a separate regulation on the translation arrangements for it. On the issue of application and renewal fees, fifty per cent of the fee would be retained by the EPO, whilst the remainder would be distributed amongst Member States. A Select Committee of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation would fix the exact level of the fee and determine the distribution of these fees to Member States. The Council also called for an 'enhanced partnership' between the EPO and central patent offices in order to enhance efficiency and drive innovation. By working together more closely, particularly on the issue of patent searches, Council feels that there could be a reduction in the time it takes to grant patents. The enhanced partnership should be based on a European Standard for Searches (ESS) containing certain criteria in order to ensure consistent quality.

#### **Further information**

The Council Conclusions on the Community Patent are available at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111744.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111744.pdf)

Further information is also available on the website of the European Patent Office:

<http://www.epo.org/topics/news/2009/20091208.html>

### **Council recommendations for research into antibiotics**

At a recent meeting of Ministers in Brussels, the Council of the EU adopted conclusions on innovative incentives for effective antibiotics. These conclusions include recommendations that there should be more research and development of new antibiotics as well as support for sharing of research infrastructures, recruitment of researchers and research results in this area.

The Council conclusions highlight the need for additional research and development to be undertaken in the area of antibiotics. In terms of research policy, the Council also stresses the importance of sharing of research infrastructures, the recruitment of researchers and the sharing of research results. The Council also calls upon the EC to develop a comprehensive action plan, with concrete proposals to develop effective antibiotics.

#### **Further information**

The Council conclusions on innovative incentives for effective antibiotics are available at:

[www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/NewsWord/en/lsa/111608.doc](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/NewsWord/en/lsa/111608.doc)

### **Joint Programming moves forward**

The Competitiveness Council recently adopted conclusions on the research Joint Programming initiative on combating neurodegenerative diseases (or Alzheimer's). Joint Programming is one of the initiatives that developed out of the European Research Area (ERA) policies. The idea is that national funding agencies work together more closely to co-ordinate joint research programmes. In the conclusions the Council invites the EC and Member States to develop a common vision on how co-operation and co-ordination of research in this field can be taken forward. It asks for a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) to be developed to this effect.

A list of six possible future Joint Programmes had been drawn up by the high-level advisory group for the Joint Programming initiative. From the original list of six, the following three Joint Programmes were welcomed by Council: one on 'agriculture, food security and climate change; one on 'cultural heritage' (which would encompass tourism); and one on 'health, food and the prevention of diet-related diseases'. Further Joint Programmes are likely to be proposed under the Spanish Presidency of the EU, which starts on 1 January 2009

### **Further information**

The Council conclusions on research Joint Programming are available at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111721.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111721.pdf)

## **Parliament support for Joint Programming Pilot on Alzheimer's**

The EP has also issued a resolution in support of the pilot Joint Programming initiative in the area of research to combat neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's disease, and has encouraged all Member States to engage with the development of a common research agenda. The resolution encourages the Council to build on existing structures when setting up the pilot, instead of creating new bureaucratic structures, and has also requested updates on progress. The Commission is also asked to consider using Article 182 (5) as a legal basis for all future proposals for joint programming of research activities.

In relation to the Joint Programming process, the EC has been invited to adopt a recommendation inviting Member States to inform the public about lifestyle changes that can delay and prevent the onset of neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, and to promote 'brain-healthy lifestyles'. The EP suggests that the Council and the EC might launch a European Year of the Brain in order to raise awareness of age-related neurodegenerative diseases and measures to prevent them.

### **Further information**

The European Parliament resolution is available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2009-0065+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

## **EC outlines views on Public Private Partnerships**

The EC has published a new communication on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). This sets out a framework for the use of PPPs in the future, both at Member State and EU level. It lists a set of actions that the EC will carry out in relation to PPPs. The EC has also produced a frequently asked questions document to accompany the communication. Towards the end of the communication, there is an additional section on Joint Technology Initiatives where it outlines some of the problems with them at present, most notably industrial partners feel that the operational procedures and legal and administrative rules should be simplified and better suited to their needs. The EC states that it intends to explore other models that could be used for future PPPs, which would provide a more streamlined process for establishing and running them.

The communication ends by outlining what the EC sees as the way forward and by highlighting the steps that need to be taken. The EC proposes setting up a new PPP group and a series of concrete actions will be developed around each of the following five themes: Improve access to finance for PPPs; Facilitate the setting up of PPPs through public procurement; Ensure proper debt and deficit treatment of PPPs; Improve information and disseminate relevant expertise and know-how; and Address the specific challenges of the JTIs and financing for innovation.

### **Further information**

The EC's communication on PPPs is available at:

<http://www.eib.org/epec/infocentre/documents/Commission%20Communication%20on%20PPP-en.pdf>

EC Press Release MEMO/09/509 of 19 November 2009 is available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

## Preview of ICT Policy Support Programme topics

The EC has published a draft 2010 work programme for the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP). The programme, which is one strand of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), is one of the main instruments of the i2010 strategy and seeks to contribute to competitiveness, growth and job creation in Europe through stimulating the wider adoption and more efficient take-up of ICT. In particular, it supports operational demonstrations of technological and organisational solutions addressing interoperability, identity management and security challenges.

The themes which will be included in the call are: 'ICT for a Low Carbon Economy and Smart Mobility'; 'Digital Libraries'; 'ICT for Health and Inclusion'; 'Open Innovation for Future Internet-Enabled Services in 'Smart' Cities'; 'ICT for Improved Public Services for Citizens and Businesses'; and 'Multilingual Web'. These themes are selected on the basis of clear criteria, including relevance to EU policy priorities, likelihood of improving the innovation capacity of the EU, the need for financial intervention at EU level and a readiness of stakeholders to mobilise appropriate resources. The call is due to be officially published in January with a deadline in June 2010. An information day relating to the call will take place on 14 January 2010 in Brussels.

### Further information

The draft work programme and details of the information day are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm)

## Gender equality in science still unsatisfactory

The European Commission recently published the latest edition of "She Figures", a survey on 'Statistics and Indicators on Gender and Equality in Science' published at three-yearly intervals. The overall findings indicate that there is still a serious under-representation of women in scientific careers within Europe, with the report finding that despite an overall increase of female researchers in almost all areas of science, women still only represent thirty per cent of European researchers and eighteen per cent of full professors.

High increases in the numbers of women working in research are shown in the humanities, the medical sciences, engineering and technology and social sciences. Career progression trends, however, demonstrate that the majority of female researchers are to be found in lower hierarchical positions, with only thirteen per cent of research institutions in EU Member States headed by women, highlighting the ongoing need for long-lasting and far-reaching structural change in universities and research institutions in order to promote a gender mix in all study fields and at all levels of science careers.

### Further information

The full 'She Figures' 2009 report is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=126>

## New report on university autonomy

A recent report from the European University Association (EUA) presents an exploratory study on university autonomy in Europe, which is to form the basis for a new two-year project to develop a benchmarking scorecard with the aim of providing policymakers with feedback on reforms from an institutional perspective and giving universities a wide view of European trends in a globalised HE market. The study brings together complex data collected from 34 higher education systems across Europe and analyses thirty different indicators in four key areas of autonomy – organisational, academic, financial and staffing.

In terms of organisational autonomy, the report finds that CEO-style leadership is more prevalent in north-western Europe, while there is a general trend towards the development of dual governance structures. The financial indicators reveal an east/west divide regarding autonomy in setting tuition fees and freedom in the use of public funding, while also demonstrating a limited capacity to borrow and raise money and the obstacles created by heavy reporting procedures. The study highlights increased flexibility in issues relating to staffing and academic profile, but this is counter-balanced by a limited ability to determine staff salaries and the complexity attached to opening academic programmes more widely.

#### **Further information**

The full report is available from: <http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/governance-autonomy-and-funding/projects/university-autonomy-in-europe/>

### **Competitiveness Council conclusions on future of ICT**

The Competitiveness Council of the EU, which deals with Internal Markets, Industry and Research, recently held a meeting to discuss the future of ICT research, innovation and infrastructures. The Council noted that Europe has strong attributes relating to ICT, and welcomed the by the EC's recent communications on a 'Strategy for ICT R&D and Innovation in Europe: raising the game', 'ICT infrastructures for e-Science' and 'Moving the ICT frontiers - a strategy for research on future and emerging technologies in Europe'. Alongside this, however, the Council identified the fragmentation of ICT across Europe as a continuing obstacle to full exploitation of strengths in this area and made a number of recommendations aimed at addressing this.

Firstly, the Council invited Members States to increase their support for ICT research and innovation, through measures such as extended use of public procurement, the building of ICT research and innovation clusters and the fostering of trans-national co-ordination of e-infrastructures. Meanwhile, the EC is invited to examine further opportunities for public-private partnerships, to propose European scale ICT-based service infrastructures and to consider initiatives in FET and the encouragement of young people into ICT careers. Finally, the Council noted that combined efforts are required in the improvement of co-ordination of efforts in high-performance computing and the development of innovation-friendly markets.

#### **Further information:**

The Council conclusions are available at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111719.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/111719.pdf)

### **Changes to governance of ERA**

The Competitiveness Council recently adopted a resolution on the enhanced governance of the European Research Area. The resolution emphasises the need for a more systematic consultation of stakeholders in ERA and the need to better communicate the aims of the ERA to the public. It invites future Presidencies to consider convening well-prepared and focussed ERA Ministerial conferences, suggesting that these might take the form of broader informal meetings of Ministers.

The resolution also acknowledges the role that CREST, the Scientific and Technical Research Committee that assists the Council and EC, has played in advising the Council. It does suggest, however, that in order to further develop the ERA, CREST will need to play a more pro-active role as an ERA policy committee. It goes on to invite the EC and Member States to initiate a review of ERA-related groups before the end of 2010, before finishing with a further invitation to both to work in conjunction on the development of an effective ERA information system that could act as a support tool for policy makers.

### **Further information**

The full Council resolution is available at:

<http://www.eumonitor.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=141381>

### **Brochure highlighting ten years of Marie Curie actions**

The EC has recently published a brochure highlighting the contribution made by the Marie Curie actions over the last ten years towards the development of a genuinely European labour market for researchers. The Marie Curie brand was first introduced in 1996 under FP4, and has been continued and reinforced through subsequent programmes. The publication demonstrates how the level of investment in mobility actions has increased from €792 million in FP7 to €4.7 billion in FP7, and examines the actions in turn to demonstrate the impact of each, through the provision of statistics broken down by both country and subject area.

The brochure concludes by summarising the achievements of the actions, which have in total benefitted more than 25,000 researchers of more than a hundred different nationalities. Looking to the future, a substantial financial increase means that the Marie Curie programme in FP7 should allow an equivalent number of researchers as in the three preceding framework programmes to benefit from mobility support, in turn helping Europe to “achieve its ambition of creating a single labour market for researchers” and ensuring that mobility “becomes a standard feature of a successful research career.”

### **Further information**

The brochure is available from the EU Bookshop at:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/eubookshop/publicationDetails.action?pubuid=10536765&offset=0>

### **Court of Auditors report on management of 2008 budget**

The EU’s Court of Auditors recently published a report analysing implementation of the whole EU budget during 2008, which highlighted a number of key messages in relation to the management of FP6 and FP7. Among the most common errors highlighted relate to the incorrect reimbursement of ineligible personnel and direct costs where the beneficiaries regularly fail to comply with the regulatory requirement – the EC’s response to this noted that such errors can only be identified at ex-post audit. On a more positive note, the report highlights the introduction of ex-ante certification in FP7 for the Certificate of Methodology and Certificate of Methodology for Average Personnel Costs as a better control for auditing, and praises the Commission for reducing the number of late payments to beneficiaries.

One of the key conclusions of the report is the need for further simplification of the financial rules, and the Court of Auditors welcomed the planned revisions to the Financial Regulations. The EC agrees that further simplification would be desired for FP8 and work towards this will continue, along with work on the cost-effectiveness of control systems and tolerable risks of error for research.

### **Further information**

The Court of Auditors Report for 2008 is available at:

[http://eca.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eca\\_main\\_pages/home](http://eca.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eca_main_pages/home)

### **Court of Auditors report positively on executive agencies**

The European Court of Auditors has recently published a special report on the executive agencies, entitled ‘Delegating implementing tasks to Executive Agencies: A successful option?’ It provides an analysis of the six research executive agencies that have been created since 2003, including the

European Research Council Executive Agency and the Research Executive Agency. The analysis focuses largely on the tasks carried out, rather than examining the results produced.

Overall, the report's findings are positive, offering praise in terms of service delivery, stating that, "the agencies provide better service delivery in terms of reduced time for contracting, more rapid approval procedures for technical and financial reports and lower payment delays", also citing the simplification of processes and increased external communication and dissemination of results as positive outcomes. Alongside this, however, the report does identify challenges inherent in the establishment of the agencies and difficulties encountered in recruiting staff. The main recommendations of the report include: the identification of success factors which have led to enhanced results at the executive agencies and the extension of these to programmes which are still managed in-house; and the enhanced supervision of agencies through results-oriented and targeted objectives.

#### **Further information**

The full report is available from the Court of Auditor's website at:

<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/3336297.PDF>

### **Innovative Medicines Initiative launches second call**

The EC has set up various Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) as part of FP7. These JTIs are European level public-private partnerships in the field of industrial research. One of these JTIs, the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), is a partnership between the EC and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and aims to foster Europe as the most attractive place for pharmaceutical research and development.

The IMI has recently launched its second call for proposals and held an information day. The aim of the call is to speed up the discovery and development of new medicines for diseases such as cancer and inflammatory and infectious diseases. IMI will also fund projects to improve data exchange between industry and the scientific community. The EC's contribution to this call is €76.8 million, which is expected to be at least matched by in-kind contributions from EFPIA. In the UK, the Medical Research Council (MRC) has a scheme to provide some support from proposal preparation costs. In November 2009, IMI also officially became autonomous. It gained financial and operational independence, and will be led by the new executive director Michel Goldman, who will run the Brussels-based IMI Executive Office and will be responsible for the awards of grants under IMI's second call.

#### **Further information**

The IMI websites are available at: <http://www.imi-europe.org> and <http://imi.europa.eu>

The presentations from the recent IMI information day are available at:

[http://imi.europa.eu/events03\\_en.html](http://imi.europa.eu/events03_en.html)

### **Fifth ITER council: development of achievable timetable**

A recent meeting of the ITER Council in Cardache (France) concluded that although progress has been made towards the construction of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, further discussions on the schedule for construction, and in particular on the terms of mitigation of the risks, are needed.

EC representatives and other members of the international fusion project, namely China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States, agreed that an updated schedule should be prepared by the end of February which will determine an 'early date' for first plasma and set out a realistic planning of activities. It will also identify a late-finish date considering all risks that each structure system or components have, following consultation with the domestic agencies (e.g the 'Fusion for

Energy' Joint Technology Initiative) and their industries. The project progresses with the identification of additional meaningful milestones, such as the completion of major elements of the buildings or technical items for which the construction is shared among several members.

#### **Further information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1773 of 19 November 2009 is available from: <http://europa.eu/rapid>

### **Biodiversity report for policymakers published**

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative has published a major study designed to draw policymakers' attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity and maintaining ecosystems, as well as to highlight biodiversity loss. The study was launched following a proposal at the G8+5 Environment Ministers meeting in Potsdam in 2007, and brings together experts from scientific and economic disciplines. It aims to provide practical recommendations for policymakers on the economics of biodiversity loss, and to show how biodiversity is a vital element in economic and social policies.

The first key recommendation is that valuing ecosystems produces economic benefits. Better monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystems in order to manage natural capital is also highlighted, as is investment in natural capital to support a range of economic sectors. Addressing social and environmental concerns through successful distribution of natural capital is also recommended, along with considering biodiversity as a natural asset in strategies for economic growth. The report proposes a range of solutions to implement these recommendations, including greater investment in ecological infrastructure and payments for ecosystem services.

#### **Further Information**

EC Press Release IP/09/1710 and MEMO/09/501 of 13 November 2009 are available at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid>

Further information on the TEEB initiative, including the report, is available at:

<http://www.teebweb.org>

## **Research News**

### **EU project to preserve and protect minority languages in Europe**

An EU-funded team of researchers is targeting the development of a vitality barometer for European languages. The ELDIA ('European language diversity for all') project has received €2.7 million in EU support. The researchers from eight universities in six EU Member States will soon start the investigations of 14 Finno-Ugric languages. These languages cover the entire spectrum of the different minority languages, starting with autochthonous languages such as Meänkieli in Sweden to the language of new migrant workers such as Estonians in Germany. Project co-ordinator Professor Sarhimaa explained that the project's results will be used to generate a universally bound European language vitality barometer. All minority languages would be able to use this barometer.

The research team will conduct several field tests and evaluate text documents in the 14 minority languages and relevant majority languages. This team consists of linguists, sociologists and legal experts, who all fulfil essential roles in the project. Linguists will examine the language of the Seto people in eastern Estonia and the language spoken by the Hungarian population living in Slovenia. Sociologists will evaluate how the public perceives the ethnic groups and statisticians will develop the methodological structure for the collection and evaluation of the material. The role of the legal experts involved in the study will be to assess the legal position of the minorities as regards EU legislation.

One of the objectives of the ELDIA project is to preserve and protect the heritage of the different minority languages spoken by 46 million people in Europe.

#### **Further information**

Further information about the ELDIA project is available at: <http://www.univie.ac.at/eldia-project/>

### **Study finds varnish gives Stradivarius violins a better finish**

A study coordinated by the Cité de la Musique in Paris has revealed how Stradivarius violins contain two layers of varnish in order to achieve their famous qualities of tone and texture. The study, which received funding from an FP6 project called IA-SFS, was conducted using infrared microscopy at the SOLEIL synchrotron facility in France. Similar facilities at the CNRS (the French national research agency) and in Dortmund were also used. This enabled researchers to determine the composition of the varnish layers on five original Stradivarius instruments taken from the collections of the Musée de la Musique in Paris.

The study showed how a layer of oil was firstly applied to the wood, and then a mixture of oil and pine resin was added. Various pigments were then also mixed in. This technique of applying two thin layers of varnish seems to have been inspired by painters of the time. Minute varnished fragments of the violins were analysed using the synchrotron facilities, revealing these methods in an unprecedented level of detail. The findings were published in the journal 'Angewandte Chemie International Edition' on 4 December 2009.

#### **Further information**

The EC's news article on the study is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/stradivarius\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/stradivarius_en.html)

More information on the IA-SFS project is available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/ia\\_sfs.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/ia_sfs.pdf)

### **Biosensor to fight cancer**

A project funded under the 'Information Society Technologies' (IST) Thematic area of FP6 has developed a biosensor that can identify immune system cells that suppress tumour growth, helping patients use their immune system to fight cancer. The Cell-on-chip biosensor for detection of cell-to-cell interactions (COCHISE) project received €1.74 million. Existing cancer treatments can trigger a reaction in patients. It has been speculated that selecting, amplifying and re-injecting 'active cells' into the body would be a more effective approach, making for a win-win situation with no risk of rejection or side effects. There is currently a problem of a lack of a simple, cheap, and reliable method, to identify the active cells.

COCHISE partners believe their biosensor will change all that thanks to its characteristic of being able to identify interactions between single cells. According to the team, the biosensor detects signals from biological activity. The biosensor has already attracted the attention of the medical sector and industry. "Several research institutes and hospitals [showed interest] in this platform for studying the mechanisms of the immune system with a single-cell resolution, and to see the potential applicability to gene-therapy applications," said Dr Massimo Bocchi, chief technology officer (CTO) at Italy's MindSeeds Laboratory, a COCHISE partner.

#### **Further Information**

Further details are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article\\_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article\\_09\\_12\\_04\\_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=14073](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_09_12_04_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=14073)

## EU project provides new insight into bacterial infections

Researchers from the project PathoGenoMics, funded under FP6, have published a study that brings important insights into the way bacterial interaction causes infection. PathoGenoMics is a €3 million funded ERA-NET project that aims to bring together research programmes in different countries to fund and coordinate genome-based research projects.

Infections caused by pathogenic microorganism can range from minor illnesses such as throat infections to major invasive ones such as toxic shock syndrome or rheumatic fever. An increase in these types of infections is linked to more resistance to anti-infective drugs, global tourism and migrations are among the reasons for an increase in infections caused by pathogenic microorganisms. The PathoGenoMics study identifies a new array of genes that may be responsible for infections such as Group A Streptococcus. The project's researchers hope that the study results will improve scientists understanding of how bacterial-host interactions cause streptococcal infections and in the long term lead to the development of innovative drugs to control the bacteria.

### Further information

Further information is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article\\_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article\\_09\\_12\\_02\\_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=14033](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_09_12_02_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=14033)

The PathoGenoMics project website is available at: <http://www.pathogenomics-era.net/index.php?index=6>

# Education, Training and Culture

## Council pushes the role of education in the knowledge triangle

The Council of the EU recently adopted conclusions on developing the role of education in a fully-functioning knowledge triangle. Ministers at the Education and Culture Council agreed that full co-operation and co-ordination between the strategies for the development of the European Higher Education Area, the European Research Area and other innovation initiatives is needed. Council identified several challenges that need to be met in order to better develop educational policies: Bridging the cultural gap between education and research and innovation in the commercial sphere; improving communication and mobility between teaching and research and the business sector; more innovative and entrepreneurial culture within the university sector; and reforming governance and financing to allow universities greater autonomy and accountability to facilitate the use of diversified funding streams.

In response to these challenges, the Council agreed the following seven priorities for action: Developing more coherence between policies in the field of education, research and innovation; accelerating pedagogical reform; partnership between universities and business and other relevant stakeholders; measures to develop and innovation culture in universities; creating incentives for universities to develop transferable knowledge; new approaches to quality assessment; and developing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) as a model for the future.

### Further information

The Education, Youth and Culture Council Conclusions are available at:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/111526.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/111526.pdf)

## **UK consultation on EU lifelong learning programme**

The UK National Agencies for the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) have launched a stakeholder consultation to gather the views of the UK's education and training community on the programme. The agencies responsible in the UK are the British Council and ECOTEC. The LLP consultation seeks the views of stakeholders and any other interested parties on the current implementation of the LLP and how the programme could be improved. The consultation will close on 14 December 2009.

The EU Lifelong Learning Programme aims to contribute, through lifelong learning, to the development of the EU as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. In particular, it aims to foster interchange, co-operation and mobility between education and training systems. The LLP provides funding for all stages of lifelong learning; for activities at school, at college, at university, in the workplace and in the community. The four principal sectoral programmes are Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, and Grundtvig.

### **Further information**

The online questionnaire, consultation paper, and an off-line questionnaire can be accessed from the joint British Council and ECOTEC Lifelong Learning Programme website at:

<http://www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk/consultation.asp>

Further information on the EU Lifelong Learning Programme is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index_en.html)

## **Launch of European Master's in Translation network**

On 8 and 9 December 2009 the 'European Master's in Translation' (EMT) network held its first meeting in Brussels. The main purpose of this meeting was to bring together the member universities providing translator training programmes to establish the network's governance structure and to plan which competences a professional translator of the future may need. 34 Master's level translation programmes from universities all over Europe were recently selected to be members of the EMT network for an initial period of four years. A further call will be launched at the end of 2010. The EMT network is meant to provide a quality label for translation programmes at Master's level so as to ensure high-quality education for translation students while nurturing competent workforce even for public institutions.

During the first meeting the participants set up the EMT network board and three working groups. The groups provide a forum for discussion and action in three broad fields related to translator training: the future of the translator's profession, translation tools and technology (applied research) as well as translation education and learning outcomes. In addition, the first meeting launched a forward thinking analysis on the competences a translator needs in the future and which should therefore be provided by the universities involved in the EMT programme. Students pursuing a degree at an EMT network member university are expected to develop skills in translation service provision as well as language and intercultural know-how.

### **Further information**

Further information on the EMT project is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/programmes/emt/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/programmes/emt/index_en.htm)

## **European Capital of Culture 2015: two Czech cities preselected**

Plzeň and Ostrava in the Czech Republic have recently been preselected for the 2015 title of European Capital of Culture. Following an open call for applications last year, submissions were made by the two cities, along with Hradec Králové. Plzeň and Ostrava were finally chosen by an

international panel comprising members appointed by the Czech Republic government and from the European institutions.

The two selected cities must now work up detailed applications before summer 2010, following which a final decision will be taken on which city will be joining Mons (Belgium) as European Capital of Culture 2015. As of the 2011 title, two cities in different Member States are twinned and they must organise a variety of activities and events reflecting a European character and involving the people who live there. European Capitals of Culture in 2010 will be Essen (Germany), Pécs (Hungary) and Istanbul (Turkey), which will receive funding from the EU's Culture Programme.

**Further information:**

EC Press Release IP/09/1893 of 8 December 2009 is available from <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

## **Innovation and Creativity Camp**

The first European Innovation and Creativity Camp took place on 24 and 25 November and was a flagship event of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009. One hundred secondary school students from 25 countries were in Brussels to compete in a marathon 24-hour challenge. Teams of students of mixed nationalities from around Europe, worked together to solve a real-life problem and they had to quickly learn how to work together as they brainstormed possible solutions. The winning team developed the concept of 'FaceSchool' and 'YouSchool' to engage students in education via social networking sites. The group from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, UK and Norway presented their solution in front of an audience of business people, media and EC staff.

The event was hosted by Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, who said: "This is the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, so in judging the young, international teams for this marathon competition, we were especially keen to see innovative and creative solutions." He continued: " More attention needs to be paid to developing critical thinking and innovation at all levels of the education system, and programmes like this European Innovation and Creativity Camp are a great way to get students engaged in creative thinking and reasoning."

**Further information**

EC Press Releases IP/09/1809 of 24 November 2009 and IP/09/1827 of 26 November 2009 are available at: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

# **External Collaboration**

## **EC signs science and technology agreements with Japan and Jordan**

On 30 November 2009, the EC signed science and technology (S&T) co-operation agreements with Japan and Jordan. The agreements form the basis for co-operation in research and development and areas of common interest, such as energy, sustainable development and environment. The agreement with Japan means that in the future there could be arrangements made for reciprocal participation in research programmes, exchange of researchers, and co-ordinated calls for proposals. Enhanced scientific co-operation with the EC is the key focus of the Jordanian agreement. Jordan has become the fifth Mediterranean Partner Country to sign an S&T co-operation agreement with the EC. Jordan has identified energy, sustainable development, health and agriculture as priorities for international co-operation in research. Both agreements are expected to come into force in 2010, after the respective ratification procedures have been completed.

The agreements are part of the EC new strategy for international co-operation in S&T. Launched in 2008, this strategy identifies two key areas: strengthening the international dimension of the European Research Area (ERA) by closely involving Europe's neighbours with the ERA and fostering strategic co-operation with key third countries; and improving the framework conditions for international S&T co-operation by building global research infrastructures, increasing researcher mobility, opening research programmes, promoting intellectual property issues, and ensuring reciprocity, equitable treatment, and mutual benefits.

#### **Further information**

More details are available on the EC web pages on international science and technology co-operation at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm>

### **Brazil signs agreement on fusion energy research co-operation with EU**

The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the Brazilian Government have signed a co-operation agreement on fusion energy research which will lead to Brazil playing a stronger role in major EURATOM fusion experiments. Brazil can now become involved in the current biggest fusion experimental tokamak in the world, the Joint European Torus (JET) research infrastructure in Culham. This is also seen as the next step in the potential involvement of Brazil in the international fusion project ITER, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, which is currently under construction in Cadarache (France).

This is the third non-ITER participant, following Ukraine and Kazakhstan, with which EURATOM has concluded a bilateral agreement on fusion research. In Brazil, the area of fusion research is included as part of 'Advanced Nuclear Systems' in the Ministry of Science and Technology's Action Plan 2007-2010. Fusion research activities are co-ordinated by the 'National Network for Fusion Research', in which one hundred scientists and PhD students participate. A new National Fusion Laboratory is planned to be constructed by 2010 in Cachoeira Paulista (State of São Paulo).

#### **Further information**

Details on EURATOM are available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/euratom/euratom\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/euratom/euratom_en.htm)

### **FP7 NCP-Taiwan launches English e-newsletters**

The National Contact Point-Taiwan Office (NCP-Taiwan) which was set up recently has launched a new e-Newsletter in English. Interested researchers can subscribe to this new monthly e-Newsletter to receive the latest information about NCP-Taiwan office, including their events, seminars, Taiwan's latest science and technology related news and request for partner search from the Taiwanese researchers; the e-Newsletter also includes the FP7 latest calls for proposals.

NCP-Taiwan seeks to facilitate the engagement of Taiwanese industry, universities, research institutes and their researchers in FP7 and other related EU opportunities to promote and enhance mutual collaboration between the EU and Taiwan. The aim is to increase the quality, quantity, profile and impact of Taiwan-EU research co-operation under FP7 by developing and executing a series of activities such as info-days, seminars, exchange visits, technical assistance, workshops and other activities designed to increase the awareness of, and involvement in, new collaborative opportunities.

#### **Further information**

To subscribe, those interested should fill in their information and field(s) of expertise on the EU-FP7 NCP-Taiwan website at: <http://www.ncp-tw-eng.ntust.edu.tw>

## Montenegro signs association agreement for EU Culture Programme

The EU and Montenegro signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enable beneficiaries from Montenegro to participate from 2010 onwards in the Culture Programme 2007-2013. Montenegro becomes the third country from the Western Balkans to participate in the programme, Croatia joined in 2007 and Serbia joined in 2008.

The EU's Culture programme aims at enhancing Europe's shared cultural heritage through the development of cross-border co-operation between cultural operators and institutions, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship. The programme aims at three main objectives: promotion of the trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector; support for the trans-national circulation of cultural and artistic works and products; and promotion of inter-cultural dialogue.

### Further information

Details on the Culture 2007-2013 Programme are available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc411\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc411_en.htm)

The Memorandum of Understanding is available for download at: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/doc1209\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/doc1209_en.htm)

# Events and Awards

## ICT Policy Support Programme 2010 call information day

Registration is now open for the EC information day to be held on 14 and 15 January 2010 on the forthcoming ICT Policy Support Programme (PSP) 2010 call for proposals. The information day will provide an overview of the themes and objectives and sessions on how to write a proposal and partnerships. There will also be an opportunity to network with participants and to meet EC project officers.

In addition a specific constituency building workshop is being held on the second day (15 January 2010) in Brussels for Theme Four of the Work Programme 2010 which focuses on open innovation for future internet-enabled services in 'smart' cities. The workshop will include presentations on the new theme in the ICT PSP programme and related ongoing activities. Opportunities will then be provided for interested parties to present their pilot ideas and for potential pilot participants to present their competences.

### Further information

Registration is available from the EC ICT PSP Website at: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm)

## EC Galileo application days

The EC is organising 'Galileo Application Days' from 3 to 5 March 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. The aim of the event is to learn how to get involved in the European Satellite Navigation Competition 2010 (ESNC), which will kick off its seventh edition. The event will include live demonstrations of cutting-edge applications developed for global satellite navigation systems (GNSS) under the EU FP7, former ESNC competitions, the European Space Agency Technology Transfer Programme, national and regional initiatives and more in the 'Applications Village'.

The event is a good opportunity to get information from experts from around the globe, benefit from key sector market updates, SME training and much more. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet, network and form partnerships with other companies and organisations.

#### **Further information**

The programme can be downloaded at the event's dedicated website: <http://www.application-days.eu/index.php?kat=programm.html&anzeige=programm.html>

### **Spanish presidency conference on European regions**

As part of the Spanish EU Council Presidency programme, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the EC are jointly organising a Week of European regions in Europe (WIRE2010), to take place in Granada from 15 to 17 March 2010. The event is the convergence of three separate events outlined in the 2010 Work Programmes for Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential: a conference on the effective use of budgets earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and Innovation, including synergies with the Framework Programme and with the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme; a 'Research Potential' conference on the assessment of results and identification of best practices within this strand of FP7 Capacities; and a 'Regions of Knowledge', dealing with results and identification of best practice in this programme.

The event will focus on how to move from 'synergies of policies' to 'synergies of actions' for the optimal use of existing EU funding instruments, with the objective of making regions full participants in building a knowledge-based society. The second day of the conference will be dedicated to the Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge programmes. Attendance will be by invitation only; interested potential participants are requested to submit an expression of interest.

#### **Further information**

For further information and to register an expression of interest in attending, visit the WIRE2010 website: <http://wire.fecyt.es/publico/Inicio/index.aspx?idioma=en>

### **British Council workshop on development at the crossroads of systems biology**

The British Council in Spain in collaboration with the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) is organising a workshop entitled "Development: at the crossroads of Systems Biology", which will take place in Spain from 14 to 18 March 2010. This workshop will explore the links between biological and physical approaches to the understanding of developmental processes. Keynote speakers will give 30 minute talks and other participants will give 15 minute presentations of their work.

#### **Further information**

Further information is available from the British Council website at: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/spain-science.htm>

## **New Publications and Online Resources**

### **Dissemination and use of R&D project results: strategic guide**

A handbook has been developed as part of an FP7 project to help SMEs and research organisations improve the dissemination and exploitation of research results and to exchange best practices in this area. The 'Use and Diffuse' manual provides practical information on how SMEs can make better use

of the results of collaborative R&D projects so that they can be of benefit to their businesses by having a tangible impact on profits, competitiveness and company growth.

The easy to read guide was shaped from the experiences of 24 best practice R&D projects involving SMEs who were then asked how they used and disseminated their research results in order to identify the real benefits that companies can obtain from collaborative R&D projects. Although focussed on the health and ICT sectors, the information can be applied to other fields. The manual, which can be downloaded for free from the project's website, is also a valuable guide for research organisations currently working in a project with SMEs, or considering doing so in the future.

#### **Further information**

The Use and Diffuse project website is available at: <http://www.useanddiffuse.eu/>

### **COSMOS - new website on EU FP7 space**

COSMOS (Co-operation Of Space NCPs as a Means to Optimise Services) has launched a new website on FP7 Space. COSMOS, an EU funded network of Space NCPs, consists of National Contact Points (NCPs) from 31 countries who form a network of 33 NCPs for the Space theme under FP7. The objective of the project is to build a network of Space NCPs. The participating NCPs will identify and exchange good practice, elaborate and conduct training courses for the NCP staff, gather and provide up-to-date information on Space and neighbouring topics, improve project partner search and develop common concepts to raise awareness for Space in FP7 and the Space NCPs. Thus a more balanced high quality NCP service will be ensured for the benefit of new as well as experienced FP7 applicants.

The COSMOS project runs from 1 June 2008 until 31 May 2011 and its website provides the following information and support on the FP7 Space theme: up-to-date information on relevant space topics, newsletter helping interested participants not to miss important news on space and FP7, information on space-related events, an FP7-Space-Helpdesk for any questions related to Space in FP7, an FP7 Space glossary.

#### **Further information**

The COSMOS website is available at: <http://www.fp7-space.eu/home.phtm>

### **Bringing together UK science, research and development – online**

The UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS) – which aims to maximise the contribution of UK research to international development - has launched a new website for the development sciences community. Featuring funding opportunities, events, news and key publications, the website keeps researchers and policy makers up-to-date with current issues and trends. It's a comprehensive online resource highlighting how UK science is making a difference to developing countries.

And as the NCP for International Cooperation in FP7, UKCDS is a source of information on development sciences within the EU framework, as well as cooperation activities with countries outside the EU. A section of the website is dedicated to this topic. You can sign-up to receive a monthly newsletter with current issues, trends and funding opportunities. KCDS is a collaboration of 14 UK research councils and government departments working together to alleviate poverty through science.

#### **Further information**

Further information can be found at: [www.ukcds.org.uk](http://www.ukcds.org.uk)

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