



European
Commission



Projects in support of international research and innovation cooperation

International cooperation
activities of the FP7
Capacities programme

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Unit D3 — European Neighbourhood, Africa and Gulf

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION COOPERATION**

**International cooperation activities
of the FP7 Capacities programme**

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Introduction

The seventh framework programme (2007–13) (FP7) places great emphasis on international research cooperation and has been broadly opened to participation from third countries. Consequently, projects with an international component have been funded across all specific programmes of FP7. Theme-oriented international cooperation activities have developed under the FP7 'Cooperation' programme and international mobility under the FP7 'People' programme. The FP7 'Ideas' programme has supported excellence in frontier research and has provided individual top international researchers with opportunities to participate in European-led teams.

Furthermore, the FP7 'Capacities' programme has funded actions to support international science and technology (S&T) cooperation policies and reinforce scientific relations with third countries. Scientists from Europe and other regions of the world have been encouraged to build new partnerships benefiting from the support of FP7 and third-countries' programmes. A range of funding instruments has been introduced to cover the specific needs of the cooperation between the EU and other regions of the world.

This booklet presents all coordination and support action (CSA) projects of international cooperation which have been supported under the FP7 'Capacities' programme, organised

by country and regional chapters. The project descriptions cover a broad range of activities:

- bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation, including priority setting and the support of the S&T policy dialogue (INCO-NET projects);
- bilateral coordination of S&T policies with those countries that signed an S&T agreement with the European Union (BILAT projects);
- coordination of international research cooperation programmes and activities of the EU Member States and associated countries towards third countries (ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus projects);
- support of EU access to third-country research and innovation programmes (ACCESS4.EU projects);
- support of capacities of research centres based in the European neighbourhood policy's countries (ERA-WIDE projects);
- development and opening of European research facilities located in third countries (INCO-LAB projects); and, finally,
- support for transnational cooperation among FP7 national contact points (INCO-NCP networks).

Each project is identified by its objectives, its activity area and the expected results, and includes the list of all participating organisations and contact persons.

REINFORCEMENT OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

INCONTACT

The network of the INCO NCPs

Start date: 1.1.2008
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 486 783
 Project funding: EUR 369 821

Coordinator: Epaminondas Christofilopoulos
 (epaminondas@help-forward.gr)
 Foundation for Research and
 Technology-Hellas, Greece

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project was to establish a strong network of INCO national contact points as focal information points for all activities running in FP7 with regard to third-country participation — a network that acts as a facilitator by assembling all the relevant activities of stakeholders in the field of third-country and ICPC (international cooperation partner countries) participation in FP7.

Networking was the main task of INCONTACT, and its main challenge. Amongst all transnational NCP networks established, INCONTACT faced special circumstances since international cooperation in FP7 is a horizontal task by definition — that means that contact had to be established with the relevant activities within all 10 themes of FP7 — and the National Information Points (NIP) in third countries had to be involved in its activities.

Besides the contact with the INCO activities within the themes or 'Capacities' programme, the internal network was also strengthened. Exchange and communication between European and third-country NCPs improved as well as their knowledge of each other, leading to better participation within FP7 of research stakeholders from third countries.

DESCRIPTION

The INCONTACT project aimed at the development of a platform stimulating closer cooperation among INCO national contact points.

Within the framework of this closer cooperation, INCO NCPs worked together to achieve a substantial improvement in the overall quality of NCP services in the field of international cooperation. The positive effect of these efforts is not limited to the NCP network alone: the international research community ultimately benefits from the increased level of service offered by the network. Individual researchers benefit from the higher quality of NCP services and information, and the establishment of a more consistent level of NCP services across Europe contributes to greater transparency of the research funding for ICPC participants.

Activities including three awareness and training workshops in ICPC countries (Mexico, Russia, South Africa), exchange of experiences, good practices and training for inexperienced European NCPs, which strengthened the overall capacity of INCO NCPs and provided more coherence in the support activities offered. In addition, an online encyclopaedia on international cooperation compiling all relevant information on international cooperation activities in FP7 has been developed. The online encyclopaedia operates according to the principles of the Wikipedia online encyclopaedia allowing interaction and collection of best practices from all the INCO NCPs (<http://www.ncp-incontact.eu>).

INCONTACT

PARTNERS

1. Verket för innovationssystem, Sweden
2. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
3. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico
4. Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
5. State University Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation
6. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
7. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V, Germany

INCONTACT-one world

Transnational cooperation among NCPs for international cooperation

<http://www.ncp-incontact.eu>

Start date: 1.1.2010

Duration: 48 months

Project cost: EUR 2 330 000

Project funding: EUR 2 000 000

Coordinator: Epaminondas Christofilopoulos
(epaminondas@help-forward.gr)
Foundation for Research and
Technology-Hellas, Greece

OBJECTIVES

The milestone of INCONTACT-one world, building upon the experience acquired during the first phase of the INCONTACT project, was to establish a strong network of INCO NCPs as a focal information point for all activities under the FP7 with regard to third-country participation, and act as a facilitator for stakeholders and ICPC participants. Networking was, therefore, the main task and challenge of INCONTACT. Due to the horizontal nature of FP7 INCO activities, networking within all 10 FP7 themes and relaying third-country contacts to FP7 implies a very strong commitment. Apart from networking, the existing INCO network had to be strengthened. Exchange of information and communication between European and third-country contacts within FP7 had to be improved so that partners could acquire a more extensive knowledge of each other and better serve European and third-country research stakeholders.

INCONTACT-one world has two main objectives: to reinforce the network of the INCO NCPs and to increase regional FP7 awareness.

DESCRIPTION

One of the objectives of the FP7 is to support European competitiveness by producing knowledge and scientific excellence through engaging the best scientists from third countries to work within the European research area. INCONTACT-one world incorporates practical tools to achieve its objectives and overcome the issues identified.

- Annual INCO NCP meetings give the opportunity for personal communication, training, discussion of global science policy issues and presentation of research capacities from ICPC countries.
- INCO-Wiki, following the structure of a wiki, was enriched in order to become a live tool for the transfer of knowledge and best practices on international cooperation. It also acts as a tool for publishing information and a discussion platform.
- Special training for the professional development of the NCPs was offered.
- A two-way communication channel with all the thematic NCPs was set up to facilitate the information flow on specific aspects of international cooperation (such as specific international cooperation actions — SICA calls).
- Free communication and networking tools were reviewed and presented to the INCO NCPs.
- A global dialogue on science policy was initiated which aimed to provide sound proposals to the EC. Several local FP7 information events were organised around the globe aimed at increasing awareness of FP opportunities.
- An NCP support mechanism was established to provide initial support to the new INCO NCPs.

It is also underlined that INCONTACT-one world aims to support the entire INCO NCP network and to encourage all INCO NCPs to

INCONTACT-one world

participate in the planned activities, meetings and discussions.

INCONTACT stimulated closer cooperation among INCO NCPs and encouraged them to work together to improve the overall quality of the NCP services in the field of international cooperation.

The positive effect of these efforts is not limited to the NCP network alone: the international research community will ultimately benefit from the increased level of service offered by the network. Individual researchers benefit from the higher quality of NCP services and information, and the establishment of a more consistent level of NCP services across Europe contributes to greater transparency of the research funding for ICPC participants.

PARTNERS

1. China Science and Technology Exchange Centre, China
2. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt
3. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
4. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany
5. Institut de recherche pour le développement, France
6. Verket För Innovationssystem, Sweden
7. Norges forskningsråd, Norway
8. Sihtasutus Archimedes, Estonia
9. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Mexico
10. Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
11. State University — Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation
12. National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PACIFIC

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

FEAST

Forum for European–Australian Science and Technology Cooperation

<http://www.feast.org>

Start date: 1.5.2008

Duration: 50 months

Project cost: EUR 1 016 412

Project funding: EUR 456 300

Coordinator: Rado Faletic

(director@feast.org)

The Australian National University,
Australia

OBJECTIVES

The Forum for European–Australian Science and Technology Cooperation (FEAST) is an established high-profile unit dedicated to facilitating effective research cooperation between Europe and Australia. FEAST is hosted by the Australian National University on behalf of the entire Australian research and innovation community. The unit plays an active role in facilitating European–Australian research and innovation cooperation via a two-pronged approach:

- informing the evolution of public policies and funding arrangements that impact upon international research and innovation cooperation;
- formulating effective strategies toward international research and innovation cooperation at the institutional level (universities, research agencies, businesses and non-government organisations) and advising on tactics at the individual group or team level.

The overall objectives of FEAST's activities are to:

- maximise the likelihood that opportunities for attractive and feasible research cooperation exploiting Australian capability of use to Europe are exploited effectively;
- maximise the likelihood that Australian researchers can exploit attractive and feasible cooperation opportunities within the far larger European research, development and demonstration effort.

DESCRIPTION

Since its launch in 2001, FEAST has defined and promoted a model for the international research cooperation facilitation unit that has been used on a wider scale by the European Union. As FEAST continues to evolve, it will continue to inform the evolution of this wider network of international research facilitation bodies.

The current project marks a significant new phase in this developmental process. It aims to define and demonstrate new, more strategic and policy-related approaches to fostering a truly international research and innovation system. A more integrated global research and innovation effort is critical to addressing major global challenges through enhanced economies of scale and scope together with reduced duplication in research efforts. This particular project is pioneering the application of a suite of methods and technical tools designed to lead to more effective decision-making. This includes carrying out analyses using quantitative indicators of research and innovation performance in order to map collaborative activity and to inform the policy community of the benefits arising from support for international research collaboration.

The underpinning rationale for the project is that research and innovation cooperation between Europe and Australia will be enhanced by providing evidence-based answers to the following questions.

FEAST

- Why collaborate?

Defining collaboration value propositions
Clarifying the nature and extent of the likely benefits to be obtained relative to the costs, including identifying the range of benefit-cost configurations helps to stimulate a vibrant collaborative community willing and able to collaborate because they are clear about the advantages and the associated costs and risks.

- What to collaborate in?

Defining thematic priorities for collaboration

The world faces major global challenges and emerging new opportunities, both of which require a scale and scope of research, development and demonstration (RD & D) activities that are beyond the resources of most individual nations. Better information on the distinctive research capabilities available in Australia relevant to these challenges and opportunities will facilitate efficient and effective international co-operation in these important areas.

- How to collaborate?

Assessing and recommending strategies and tactics

Conducting effective collaboration usually involves choices within a sequence of events. There are important issues to consider when deciding on collaboration with researchers in different European nations. Assisting researchers to make better decisions by collating and sharing information

on strategies and tactics helps to maximise the quantity and quality of European–Australian research collaboration.

- Who should collaborate?

Providing advice appropriate to different career stages

The international mobility of researchers is linked to collaborative behaviour. Different career stages involve different opportunities and constraints regarding mobility and collaboration. Consequently, it is important to tailor advice on why to collaborate, what to collaborate in and how to collaborate to the distinctive concerns found at different stages in a research career.

The work package structure for the project addresses each of the above questions.

Key aspects of the implementation of the project on a work package by work package basis are as follows.

- Defining thematic collaboration roadmaps:
 - providing key information on those aspects of major thematic areas in which the Australian RD & D capability is competitive at a global level;
 - enhancing levels of transparency and rigour when defining consensus priority areas for RD & D cooperation between Europe and third countries;
 - increasing the likelihood that competitive Australian capabilities are recognised in FP7 work programmes and planning by EU Member States.

FEAST

- Facilitating liaison:
 - managing FEAST's relationships by providing sufficient resources to enable effective outreach and a smooth circulation of information and knowledge.
- Promulgating best practice strategies and tactics:
 - maximising the benefits and minimising the risks associated with European–Australian RD & D cooperation through disseminating appropriate decision-support information for academia and industry.
- Developing a software-based impact monitoring system:
 - designing, developing and demonstrating a software-based method for tracking research engagement across the full life cycle from initial concept/opportunity through to collaboration outcomes;
 - providing an auditable means of demonstrating FEAST's additionality.
- Continuity in established activities:
 - further developing the FEAST website by providing timely information and enhancing its utility;
 - continuing to extend the scope and coverage of the online database of collaborative projects;
 - continuing to provide helpdesk support;
 - planning and delivering collaboration agenda-setting workshops in response to emerging opportunities.

The expected impacts of the project are:

- improved S & T cooperation between Europe and Australia by providing information and by identifying priorities and best partners for collaboration;
- a measurable increase in the number of effective collaborations;
- improvements in mutual understanding of the research systems in Europe and Australia, and in the reciprocal benefits to be obtained from cooperation.

PARTNER

1. The Australian National University, Australia

ACCESS4EU:NZ

Supporting EU access to New Zealand research programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/newzealand/index.php>

Start date: 1.1.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 553 646
 Project funding: EUR 498 513

Contact person: Martin Holland
 (martin.holland@canterbury.ac.nz)
 University of Canterbury — National
 Centre for Research on Europe
 (NCRE), New Zealand

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to increase collaboration with European researchers in the research and innovation system of New Zealand (NZ). It also informs EU–NZ policy dialogue in jointly defined areas of strategic EU–NZ research importance.

It is planned to establish a support network to increase the awareness and dissemination, within Europe, of opportunities for European researchers and research organisations to participate in NZ's publicly funded research and innovation programmes. This platform aims to reduce or remove impediments to European researchers seeking to participate in NZ's research and innovation programmes, through improving the provision of information on the opportunities available to Europe within NZ's schemes and the identification of prospective NZ partners for collaboration.

DESCRIPTION

There has been a long history of cooperation between researchers from Europe and New Zealand. With the signing of the Science and Technology Cooperation (STC) Agreement between the European Community and the government of New Zealand in July 2008, and the establishment of formal bilateral planning activities through the JSTCC (Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee) meetings, there has been a renewed impetus for closer EU–NZ cooperation, led by the EC and MSI (Ministry of Science and Innovation) with initiatives such as the FRENZ project to facilitate greater collaborations between Europe and New Zealand in the FP7. It is clear, though, that to

date, the main focus of NZ government-supported joint S&T activities has been on the participation of NZ researchers in European activities, namely the EC's FP7.

The ACCESS4EU:NZ project seeks to improve understanding and, if necessary, redress the balance in this relationship, by facilitating access and highlighting opportunities for European researchers to NZ's research and innovation programmes.

The project work plan involves the implementation of four integrated work packages (WP) that encompass the mapping, dissemination, monitoring and feedback project structure components, reflected in the FP7-INCO-2009-5 call, as well as a fifth work package to ensure the project is managed effectively.

- WP1 provides an overview of NZ funding schemes that can be accessed by researchers from Europe's Member States, as well as identifying prospective NZ partners.
- WP2 disseminates this information to the broadest possible European audience through a website and development of training materials for information multipliers.
- WP3 builds EU–NZ researcher connections through workshops and networking events.
- In WP4, surveys of numbers of collaborations and the process/policy environment within which these collaborations were developed are carried out to ensure the project informs policy dialogue between NZ and the European Commission.

ACCESS4EU:NZ

The expected impact of the ACCESS4EU:NZ activities focuses around increasing S & T cooperation between Europe and New Zealand by identifying opportunities for European researchers to participate in NZ-based research initiatives. The focus for the project is on building opportunities for researchers to increase their collaboration through a series of meetings, developing research synergies and participation within existing funding initiatives. Additionally, base line and review research is combined with policy recommendations and is made available to policymakers in the hope that it offers support for increased funding programmes. In order to identify opportunities for access of European researchers, the ACCESS4EU:NZ project:

- outlines the scope of NZ's funded research and innovation programmes, and the rules for European participation, with a view to making information on these programmes more accessible to a European audience;
- develops a picture of NZ's capability landscape, with a view to helping European researchers identify synergistic opportunities for EU–NZ collaboration in NZ's schemes;
- provides a Europe-focused web interface to allow researchers to allow researchers to have free and simple access to the information on programmes and opportunities in NZ;
- presents NZ's programmes, and opportunities for collaboration, to a wide audience of European researchers through various forums, including through the preparation of standard training materials for presentation

to — and by — information multipliers and other relevant, interested parties.

To ensure an increase in effective collaborations, European researchers must strengthen their connections with the NZ research community (in four main specific areas of mutual interest and benefit: ICT, environment, food, agriculture and biotechnology (FAB), and health). To facilitate the development of researcher–researcher connections that are both 'deep' and 'wide', this ACCESS4EU:NZ project brings European and NZ researchers together, through workshops and networking events, in order that the personal relationships that underpin successful collaborations can be fostered. Through sustained contact, the workshop relationships should be deep. Furthermore, through the exposure of over 100 European researchers to each NZ researcher, connections should also be wide.

PARTNERS

1. Royal Society of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand
2. International Bureau of the German Ministry of Education and Research, Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR), Germany
3. Sigma Orionis, Sophia Antipolis, France

FRENZ

Facilitating research cooperation between Europe and New Zealand

<http://www.frenz.org.nz>

Start date: 1.1.2009
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 734 472
Project funding: EUR 472 577

Coordinator: Martin Holland
(martin.holland@canterbury.ac.nz)
University of Canterbury,
New Zealand

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of FRENZ was to enhance the quality, quantity, impact and profile of research cooperation between New Zealand (NZ) and the European Union (EU).

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- increase EU–NZ researcher links;
- better identify and demonstrate EU–NZ cooperation;
- improve the process of providing information on S & T systems, programmes and funding to promote EU–NZ cooperation;
- exchange best practices and exploring prospects for future cooperation.

DESCRIPTION

The FRENZ (facilitating research cooperation between Europe and New Zealand) project established a platform to support the engagement of New Zealand researchers in the framework programme and provided an implementing mechanism for the EU–NZ S & T partnerships.

The project built on a pilot action, cofounded by the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations (RELEX) from 2006 to 2008, consolidating the pilot services to offer a more comprehensive and integrated suite of activities to assist in the delivery of key bilateral EU–NZ partnerships as defined in the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and the

joint statements of the EC–NZ Joint Science and Technology Cooperation (JSTC) meetings.

Frenz sought to facilitate international cooperation between the EU and NZ through a three-pronged strategy to:

- improve provision of information on programmes and funding designed to promote cooperation between Europe and New Zealand;
- better identify and demonstrate mutual interest and benefit in S & T cooperation between the EU and New Zealand;
- share best practices via joint forums such as workshops, presenting the state of the art and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.

Firstly, through the provision of information and assistance, NZ stakeholders became more familiar with the objectives of the FP7, their potential role in delivering these goals and the benefits to them from such cooperation. It was expected that more informed NZ researchers would become more proactive in approaching European peers with a view to mutually beneficial collaboration.

Secondly, FRENZ sought to further the EU–NZ policy dialogue in research areas of mutual benefit by providing an evidence base to NZ agencies, illustrating the benefits of (or impediments to) collaborative EU–NZ research and researcher mobility. Furthermore, an analysis of the EU–NZ scientific diasporas aimed to identify conditions for researcher mobility, offering possibilities for

FRENZ

accelerated 'brain exchange' in areas of strategic importance.

Thirdly, FRENZ sought to identify new prospects for EU–NZ collaboration in fields identified in the EU–NZ Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and associated JSTC meetings. One mechanism that was used to develop highly innovative collaborations, as well as strategic research agendas and implementation plans, was a series of intense 'sandpit' thematic workshops. By linking key researchers with funding agencies at the project conception, it was hoped that opportunities for collaboration funding from NZ, EC or synchronised sources might also be identified. Efforts were also made to identify proactive engagement strategies for NZ organisations, identifying specific new European collaborative partners and showcasing NZ research.

FRENZ aimed to support the EU–NZ S&T partnership with initiatives to highlight existing EU–NZ S&T cooperation and to improve cooperation by enhancing the quality, quantity, visibility and effectiveness of future actions. By broadening the pilot activity, this platform aimed to deliver information and assistance to researchers and facilitate EU–NZ policy dialogue in jointly defined areas of strategic research importance. A suite of highly integrated work packages (WPs) aimed to remove impediments to the integration of the NZ research community in FP7 activities of mutual interest and achieve the specific objectives.

Deliverables from each work package impacted on the other packages in a circular process whereby tools and forums determined the basis for policy dialogue: policy dialogue influenced those fields of common interest and fields of common interest required tools and forums to facilitate cooperation.

Thus the work packages delivered:

- a comprehensive web portal on EU–NZ S&T cooperation;
- a helpdesk facility, underpinned by activities on site in key research organisations;
- a series of 'sandpits', allowing stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to issues of mutual EU–NZ interest;
- a database of EU–NZ collaborations and mobility, plus a toolkit for successful collaboration;
- a gateway for Europe into the NZ research sector, to facilitate new bi- and multilateral engagement.

The project was expected to have a noticeable and long-term impact. The FRENZ website is a portal for all activities concerning EU–NZ linkages and allows:

- NZ researchers to gain incisive information about FP7, EU–NZ cooperation and support available from FRENZ;
- FRENZ to use the successes of NZ organisations as motivation for greater participation;
- European researchers to have a better understanding of — and access to — the scientific excellence available in NZ;

FRENZ

- researchers to identify potential contacts in NZ or Europe through the diaspora database;
- policymakers to identify where bilateral links should, perhaps, be strengthened;
- the general public to gain an appreciation picture of 'research in action' through regular reports on FRENZ activities.

The FRENZ helpdesk (WP2) was focused on offering specific knowledge and assistance to researchers and policymakers, with the potential for a large audience in the NZ research community. The NZ information and support work package (WP3) developed links with research organisations, policymakers and research funders in NZ, allowing the identification of best practices for NZ engagement with Europe. Visits to key research and policy organisations as part of the EU-based liaison and facilitation (WP4) allowed FRENZ to share knowledge of NZ research excellence with European contacts.

The diaspora and indicators work package (WP5) saw the development of databases of

EU researchers in Europe and EU researchers in NZ. Hosted on the FRENZ website, this service allowed the identification of contacts in both regions and allowed policymakers to ensure that news of research developments and opportunities reach these expatriated researchers. In addition, the survey of barriers to collaboration and mobility was used to inform policy dialogue. The FRENZ sandpit thematic workshops (WP6) allowed research stakeholders from Europe and NZ to develop strategic research agendas, implementation plans and novel solutions to global challenges.

PARTNER

1. Caroline Glynn-European Consultant, New Zealand

AUS-ACCESS4EU

Supporting EU access to Australian research programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/australia/index.php>

Start date: 1.1.2009

Duration: 24 months

Project cost: EUR 597 132

Project funding: EUR 499 955

Coordinator: Gertrud Strahl

(Gertrud.Strahl@dlr.de)

Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und
Raumfahrt, Germany

OBJECTIVES

The work plan of AUS-ACCESS4EU supports the objective of the FP7 'Capacities' work programme supporting EU access to third countries' programmes (FP-INCO-2009-5) to help develop the reciprocity aspects of the S&T agreement by identifying programmes open to EU researchers and promote their participation. The overall objective of the AUS-ACCESS4EU project was to increase S&T cooperation between the EU and Australia by identifying access opportunities for European researchers in Australian research capabilities and programmes and by widely disseminating this information to the European research community.

DESCRIPTION

The main contribution from AUS-ACCESS4EU was the promotion and strengthening of EU–Australian research cooperation in S&T addressing common interests and mutual benefit (and building on shared understanding and trust). In AUS-ACCESS4EU, the significance of the EU–Australian partnership was emphasised and enhanced momentum given to EU–Australian S&T cooperation. In general terms, AUS-ACCESS4EU promulgated a better understanding of the Australian research system in Europe. By supporting EU access to programmes managed by Australia, the project contributed to the development of the reciprocity aspects of the S&T agreements between the EU and Australia. It enhanced permeability of S&T cooperation

programmes in both directions and facilitated a dialogue between European Member States/ associate countries at the same level.

The activities were grouped into four work packages (WP).

- WP1, Inventory and monitoring, which aimed to map the opportunities for European researchers and research institutes to access Australian programmes.
- The objectives of WP2, Awareness-raising and profile building, were to raise awareness of Australian institutions and programme owners and to promote the principle of reciprocity of research programmes.
- WP3, Information dissemination and outreach, aimed to increase the European research community's awareness of opportunities to access Australian support and capability in order to stimulate, encourage and support the participation of European organisations in Australian programmes.
- WP4, Project coordination and management, was to ensure that the project was managed effectively.

PARTNERS

1. The Australian National University, Australia
2. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia
3. The British Council, United Kingdom

PACE-NET

Pacific-Europe Network for Science and Technology

<http://www.pacenet.eu>

Start date: 1.5.2010
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 1 800 000
Project funding: EUR 1 400 000

Coordinator: Claude Payri
(claud.payri@ird.fr)
Institut de recherche pour le
développement, France

OBJECTIVES

The Pacific-Europe Network for Science and Technology established a bi-regional dialogue platform on S&T between the EU, the 15 ACP countries and the overseas countries and territories (OCTs) of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. PACE-NET pursues the following objectives:

- to reinforce the existing S&T dialogues/ networks and promote regional integration for those networks (cooperation between the research organisations and universities);
- to identify S&T international cooperation activities and programmes geared towards the Pacific region — PACE-NET set up dialogue to bring together the relevant S&T experts and stakeholders to establish the priority areas for FP7, including specific international cooperation actions (SICAs);
- to strengthen the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities and programmes carried out by other European instruments — PACE-NET examines possible synergies or complementarities with EU activities, especially with respect to challenges faced by developing countries.

The expected impact of the project can be considered at two different levels. At the European level, PACE-Net:

- increases the opportunities for S&T co-operation with the Pacific region;

- shares the European research area with new actors and partnerships from the Pacific region;
- establishes a European international strategy for the ACP countries in the Pacific region;
- sets up the basis for a real coordination of EU Member States' activities;
- provides a critical mass of key EU and Pacific region actors and more integration between national programmes and the FP.

At the national level, it:

- establishes a structured and long-lasting framework of cooperation between EU Member States and the targeted countries;
- brings transferable lessons to improve the effectiveness of S&T programmes in the region and the use of S&T for the national purposes of the targeted countries;
- ensures the reinforcement of research-building capacities by creating links between European OCTs and PICTs (Pacific island countries and territories).

PARTNERS

1. University of Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea
2. University of the South Pacific, Fiji
3. Euro Research Support Limited, New Zealand
4. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, New Caledonia

PACE-NET

5. Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, New Zealand
6. The Australian National University, Australia
7. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
8. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany
9. Malta Council for Science and Technology, Malta

CHINA, INDIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

ChinaAccess4EU

Supporting EU access to Chinese research and innovation programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/China/index.php>

Start date: 1.1.2010

Duration: 30 months

Project cost: EUR 550 753

Project funding: EUR 498 650

Coordinator: Augusto Eduardo Medina
(augustomedina@spi.pt)
Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação,
Consultoria Empresarial e Fomento
da Inovação, S.A., Portugal

OBJECTIVES

ChinaAccess4EU aims at increasing the awareness and dissemination in the EU Member States and associated countries of opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in Chinese national research and/or innovation programmes. The overriding purpose of the proposed project is to help develop the reciprocity aspect of the EU–China Science and Technology Agreement by identifying the Chinese programmes open to EU researchers and promoting their participation, and to provide outputs useful in the context of the Joint Committee meetings of the EU–China S&T Agreement. The project has the following objectives:

- to increase the awareness and dissemination in the EU of opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in Chinese national research and innovation programmes;
- to increase S&T cooperation between Europe and China, in particular effective collaborations between European researchers and research organisations in Chinese national research and innovation programmes;
- to develop the reciprocity aspect of EU–China S&T agreements and improve the EU's understanding of the respective research systems in China.

DESCRIPTION

Having succeeded in recent decades in establishing itself as 'the world's factory' and one of

the biggest recipients of foreign direct investment, China is now becoming a world-leading high-tech country and is increasing its research and development (R & D) power. In the past few years, China has gone from having a very low level of R & D expenditure to becoming, in 2006, the country with the second highest R & D expenditure in the world, after the United States. The S&T agreement signed in 1998 has resulted in the Chinese research community becoming increasingly involved in EU framework programme activities. In turn, China opened its national high technology research and development programme (the '863' programme) and the national basic research programme (the '973' programme) to its EU counterparts. However, the participation of EU researchers in Chinese research funding programmes is still low. The European Commission's 2006 communication 'EU–China: closer partners, growing responsibilities' pointed out the need to increase EU participation in Chinese programmes. The Joint Declaration from the Science and Technology Forum in May 2005 set the context for taking cooperation forward, based on mutual benefit and reciprocal access and participation. The 10th China–EU Summit held in Beijing on 28 November 2007 expressed the willingness to continue to strengthen S&T cooperation and to encourage programmes assisting the mobility of researchers, in particular facilitating the participation of European researchers in Chinese-funded programmes.

ChinaAccess4EU

The project focuses on mapping access to opportunities in China, dissemination of the results to European research organisations and multipliers, monitoring the participation of researchers from the EU in Chinese programmes and providing feedback and recommendations to the EC. Data are collected from Chinese national agencies and programmes on research and innovation that are open to EU researchers. The mapping process is ongoing throughout the project, as the project team set up and constantly update the project website (functioning as the access platform), where the information on Chinese funding programmes and latest calls is available in a searchable format. Project results are also disseminated through the project brochures, targeted mailing, multiplier events, existing European S&T networks and projects, as well as project workshops in the EU and China with the participation of key stakeholders to help establish interests and contribute to the development of EU–China research partnerships.

The project team monitors the participation of EU researchers in Chinese programmes by gathering statistics from the Chinese national research and innovation programmes, conducting a biannual survey of European researchers and research organisations and publishing the results in the form of biannual newsletters about the latest projects approved in China with EU researchers' participation.

The project team conducts a survey of the bilateral cooperation agreements and programmes between the EU and China and a quantitative

and qualitative assessment of the effectiveness of these programmes, in particular their reciprocity conditions. Based on the survey findings, the project team provides feedback for use by the Commission in the context of joint committee meetings of the S&T agreements and makes appropriate recommendations to ensure matching reciprocity from China.

PARTNERS

1. Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
2. Torch High-Tech Industry Development Centre, China
3. Coway International TechTrans Co., Ltd (International Technology Transfer Centre, Tsinghua University), China
4. EU Project Incubation Centre (Chengdu), China
5. European Business and Innovation Centre Network, Belgium
6. Zhejiang University, China
7. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hong Kong
8. Steinbeis Innovation GmbH, Germany
9. Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble 1, France
10. The University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

Immunocan

Toward enhancing activities of European institutions in the FDUSCC-IM Cancer Research Joint Institute in China

Start date: 1.1.2012

Duration: 48 months

Project cost: EUR 2 072 437

Project funding: EUR 1 992 214

Coordinator: Romain Micol

(micol@transgene.fr)

Transgene SA, France

OBJECTIVES

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide: according to the World Health Organisation, it accounted for 7.9 million deaths in 2007 with lung, gastric, liver, colorectal and breast cancers being the most frequent. In a context where novel diagnosis and care strategies are strongly needed, immunotherapy is a promising tool to treat cancer patients in addition to radiochemotherapy.

The joint institute FuDan University Shanghai Cancer Centre (Institut Mérieux laboratory — FDUSCC-IM), created in May 2010, is conducting ambitious research projects in oncology in China. This joint laboratory was created to promote interactions with hospital physicians and place public health, as well as medicine, at the heart of research activities. A dedicated research laboratory is currently running at the FuDan University Shanghai Cancer Centre to develop new biomarkers for early diagnosis and management of colorectal, lung and breast cancer. The joint institute's founding partners, the Chinese FuDan University Shanghai Cancer Centre (FDUSCC) (providing the public funds) and the French company Institut Mérieux (providing, through its affiliate Transgene, the private funds) wish to increase their translational medical research cooperation with European countries. Durable collaborations in research are necessarily fostered by conducting joint research activities.

In that perspective, the Immunocan programme has been built to jointly promote the

investigation results obtained through mutual research projects and activities. This strategy simultaneously allows:

- existing partnerships within Immunocan to be strengthened;
- new European collaborators to be prepared and motivated to enter into the FDUSCC-IM joint institute;
- state-of-the-art research work to be conducted and promising results to be obtained in order to be recognised worldwide.

As a first step, collaboration between Transgene and FDUSCC will increase to an active partnership with Italian (Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori), Danish (Kobenhavns Universitet) and German (Medizinische Hochschule Hannover) research teams, with the following objectives.

- To increase knowledge exchange between Europe and China in the field of cancer prognosis by organising summer schools, seminars and an international conference in China, as well as hosting PhD students and postdoctoral research fellows in the joint institute.
- To enhance the research capacity and the competence transfer to the joint institute by providing adequate human resources and equipment to conduct state-of-the-art oncology research.
- To identify novel biomarkers enabling prediction of response to standard-of-care treatment in cancer patients. These prognosis studies will help in guiding clinical

Immunocan

decision-making by facilitating the selection of appropriate treatment options.

- To promote a leading Euro–Asian research centre on cancer prognosis by spreading knowledge and raising awareness in China and the European Union.

DESCRIPTION

In order to accomplish the project's objectives, leading European scientists in the field of cancer research from Italy, Germany and Denmark have agreed to join the joint institute for the duration of the Immunocan programme.

Research activities are carried out in Shanghai with the collaboration of the new European partners in order to enhance the current research activities of the joint institute and create durable links between the Chinese and European teams. Ongoing research is focused on immune phenotypes as personalised medical biomarkers for prognoses in Chinese cancer patients, and will be extended to new types of cancer and biomarkers.

The optimal set-up of the joint institute at the heart of a renowned university and hospital in Shanghai gives access to infrastructures adapted to all dimensions of this project.

Ultimately, this FP7 INCO-LAB call for projects is an opportunity to build a Euro–Asian leading centre for medical and scientific research on cancer and extend the already existing co-operation between the FDUSCC-IM laboratory

and Europe by furthering the access of the joint institute to additional European members.

In order to address all the above objectives, the Immunocan programme has been divided into five work packages (WP) addressing the need for:

- the enhancement of existing collaborations and encouragement of the emergence of new partnerships;
- enhancement of the research capacity of the FDUSCC-IM laboratory to conduct ambitious research activities;
- the necessary management of the project.

WP1 aims at increasing knowledge exchange between Europe and China in the field of cancer prognosis by:

- hosting European PhD students and post-doctoral research fellows in the joint institute;
- holding summer schools and seminars in Shanghai.

WP2 plans to create optimal conditions to host young researchers and research fellows, enhancing the research capacity of and competence transfer to the joint institute by providing adequate and gender-balanced human resources as well as equipment to conduct state-of-the-art oncology research.

WP3 focuses on the scientific activities resulting in an increased European involvement in the joint institute. In order to strengthen and expand the joint institute as a Euro–Chinese leading laboratory in cancer prognosis, current research directions are pursued and new

Immunocan

investigations are jointly developed leaning on European partners' expertise. Research activities are organised around six topics, each being addressed by various partners of the programme according to their field of expertise.

WP4 intends to promote the joint institute as a leading Euro–Asian centre on Chinese cancer prognosis by:

- promoting the joint institute and raising awareness of cancer prognosis research in both China and Europe;
- organising, in Shanghai, a final international conference on personalised markers for cancer prognosis.

WP5 covers the coordination, management and administration of the Immunocan programme — essential tasks in an international collaborative project.

The outcomes of Immunocan are expected to be the establishment of a durable collaboration between the FDUSCC-IM joint institute and

European research institutions and the obtaining of a better understanding of immunology mechanisms in cancer.

The collaboration should be made concrete by the entry of new European members to the joint institute, whereas significant progress in cancer prognosis will hopefully lead to the development of new prognostic methods and new care trials, allowing an improvement in the management of cancer patients.

PARTNERS

1. FuDan University Shanghai Cancer Centre, China
2. Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Italy
3. Kobenhavns Universitet, Denmark
4. Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Germany

SEA-EU-NET

Facilitating the bi-regional EU–ASEAN science and technology dialogue

<http://www.sea-eu.net/>

Start date: 1.1.2008
Duration: 60 months
Project cost: EUR 4 730 000
Project funding: EUR 4 100 000

Coordinator: Christoph Elineau
(christoph.elineau@dlr.de)
|Project Management Agency of the
Federal Ministry of Education and
Research at the German Aerospace
Centre (PT-DLR), Germany

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are:

- to strengthen bi-regional and bilateral dialogues in scientific cooperation and to assist in the joint identification of topics for collaboration under FP7 thematic programmes;
- to report to the European Commission and the EU presidencies in order to incorporate recent political developments and to generally highlight EU–ASEAN initiatives within the political decision-making process;
- to network the various stakeholders (such as universities, industry, government, civil society and donors) in order to strengthen research capacity;
- to facilitate the development and implementation of a coherent European-level approach towards international S & T cooperation.

All activities are underpinned by a focus on sustainability and designed to deliver impact beyond the lifespan of the four-year project in order to develop a long-lasting partnership.

DESCRIPTION

The SEA-EU-NET project has been set up to expand scientific collaboration between Europe and south-east Asia in a more strategic and coherent manner.

The project will increase the quality, quantity, profile and impact of bi-regional S & T cooperation between the 10 member countries of

the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Member States and associated countries of the EU. There is untapped potential in strengthening the participation of south-east Asian (SEA) countries in FP7 and for increased European involvement in SEA S & T. Constraining factors include insufficient awareness of opportunities, inadequate connections amongst researchers, the 'distance' hurdle to building the trust and confidence necessary for partnerships, the complexity of S & T programmes on both sides, lack of assistance when navigating such programmes, and the asynchronous research funding systems between the two regions.

Despite these constraints, there is a significant opportunity to augment the cooperation and raise leverage on regional networks, policies and initiatives developed, for example, through the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) in south-east Asia. Increasing SEA–EU cooperation requires targeted measures that integrate and strengthen the S & T dialogue in a coherent and sustainable way.

The SEA-EU-NET project, presently supported by 25 key S & T institutions (17 participants and eight additional members of the steering board), delivers a wide range of measures to increase SEA–EU cooperation amongst academic, industrial and government stakeholders. In addition to current partner institutions, it also encourages additional SEA partners to join the consortium in the future.

One of the main objectives of the project is to raise awareness of the untapped potential

SEA-EU-NET

of S & T in the SEA region. The project informs stakeholders from science, industries and policymaking areas about the opportunities that exist for enhanced S & T cooperation and the respective framework.

Dissemination services raise the awareness of S & T potential in the SEA region and inform interested stakeholders from science, industry and policymaking about opportunities for enhanced S & T cooperation, and implement a proactive dissemination strategy. Moreover, a number of horizontal events aimed at raising awareness and disseminating information are implemented.

Although a variety of information websites already exist, none have been explicitly devoted to cooperation with the SEA region. Therefore, SEA-EU-NET has created a new EU–SEA Internet portal that also functions as a metaportal, future single access point. This portal utilises existing websites and electronic information, which is provided by previous and ongoing projects inside and outside the framework programmes, as well as the project's own analytical work. This portal caters to the diverse needs of the users by presenting a range of information levels. The annual project meetings provide a platform for exchange and policy recommendations.

Furthermore, the project fosters active networking among the science communities and R & D-oriented, innovative industries in the Member States, associated states and the SEA partner countries using various dissemination

strategy-based synergies with existing tools, platforms and services (e.g. NCPnetwork, ASEAN-COST, CORDIS-Website).

A series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences will be established to address various groups of stakeholders from the science community, industries and policymaking. The following events are planned:

- national and regional information days in the SEA countries in FP7, in close cooperation with the respective national stakeholders (e.g. governments, science organisations and info points);
- specific information sessions at EU conferences informing about the S & T potential of south-east Asia;
- regional conferences in specific research areas in the SEA countries addressing future cooperation with the EU;
- selected, targeted political events to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of closer bi-regional cooperation between the EU and SEA countries, addressed to political stakeholders at national, regional and Community level.

One major aim of the project is to provide scientific evidence to the bi-regional policy dialogue platforms and to spur cooperation mechanisms between the EU and the concerned countries at the technical expert level. Ongoing cooperation activities in S & T will be identified, screened, systematised and reviewed.

SEA-EU-NET

PARTNERS

1. Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
2. British High Commission Singapore, Singapore
3. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, France
4. Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
5. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
6. Collegium Budapest, Hungary
7. Department of Science and Technology, Philippines
8. Euresearch, Switzerland
9. German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Germany
10. International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
11. Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
12. Ministry of State for Research and Technology, Indonesia
13. Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore
14. National Agency for Science and Technology Information, Vietnam
15. National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information, Vietnam
16. National Metrology Laboratory SIRIM Berhad, Malaysia
17. National Science and Technology and Innovation Policy Office, Thailand
18. National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand
19. Polska Akademia Nauk, Poland
20. Science and Technology Research Institute, National Authority for Science and Technology, Laos
21. The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Netherlands
22. The Royal Society, United Kingdom
23. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey
24. Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

BILAT SILK

Bilateral support for the international linkage with China

<http://www.ceco.org.cn/bilat.aspx>

Start date: 1.12.2008

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 612 583

Project funding: EUR 496 379

Coordinator: Gunnar Sandberg

(vinnova@vinnova.se)

Svenska Verket foer

Innovationsystem; Sweden

OBJECTIVES

Economic growth in China has resulted in a wide range of social and economic reforms. The key objective of the EU policy towards China is to support this continued reform and transition process. The BILAT SILK project followed this policy.

The principle objectives of actions were to display and demonstrate the importance of China–Europe S&T cooperation, as well as to raise Chinese and European scientific profiles on both sides. In addition, the project encouraged China and Europe to open their research programmes to greater collaboration. The main focus was on Europe’s new research framework programme (FP7) for funding scientific research and China’s 11th ‘five-year plan’ stressing a scientific approach to development. Along with focusing on policy in relation to R & D, initiatives on both sides were highlighted to showcase infrastructures, research institutions, universities and enterprises involved in research and development.

DESCRIPTION

The relationship between China and the European Union has been growing progressively for more than a decade now and has matured into a veritable partnership. Both sides have identified scientific research and development as a key driver of economic success and sustainability. The BILAT SILK project was developed in the context of this deepening partnership as a way to foster closer research collaboration.

The project helped ensure that European and Chinese scientists have easy access to the latest information, thus contributing to the realisation of a higher degree of collaboration.

Six mutual research areas of interest between Europe and China were identified, with the ultimate aim of better strengthening — and benefiting from — S&T cooperation. Planned activities aimed to elaborate a detailed mapping of joint research themes between Europe and China and to enhance S&T cooperation in specific areas of research. In order to strengthen S&T cooperation in the six selected research themes, workshops and international forums were organised in Europe and China. These events were aimed at main actors in Europe and China in the field of research, in particular Chinese and European researchers/research organisations and politicians, including delegates of the European Commission (EC). The ultimate aim of this effort was the identification of joint research topics to be submitted to the EC for future work programmes. Partner search activities were further enhanced in order to streamline scientific cooperation in the selected themes and topics of interests.

The BILAT SILK project delivered a well-developed Chinese NCP and RCP (regional contact point) system, identified mutual research areas and strengthened S&T cooperation between Europe and China. The project showed a detailed mapping of joint research themes between Europe and China. The collaboration in the project evaluated the state of the art in

BILAT SILK

methodologies and practices used in current European and Chinese technology assessment (TA). To identify common themes and practices, a comprehensive list of TA organisations in regions with similar activities and potential for collaboration was set up.

The BILAT SILK project organised broad dissemination activities and campaigns such as info days, publications and electronic newsletters in order to raise awareness of the seventh framework programme and related programmes in Europe and China. The goal was to clearly highlight the value of research collaboration with European teams and to demonstrate the financial incentives. Special focus was put on research areas that are high on the EU–China strategic agenda, such as biodiversity and climate change. Focus was also put on connecting

strong research regions in China and Europe. Optimal use of the project results was ensured through promotion and dissemination and supporting of the process of other objectives.

PARTNERS

1. China Science and Technology Exchange Centre, China
2. University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom
3. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece
4. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy

INDIA GATE

Increasing the dialogue between India and Europe by improving EU awareness and access to Indian research and innovation technology programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/india/>

Start date: 1.1.2010

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 628 990

Project funding: EUR 499 817

Coordination: Diassina Di Maggio

(dimaggio@apre.it)

Agenzia per la Promozione della

Ricerca Europea, Italy

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the INDIA GATE project is to increase S&T cooperation between India and the EU by creating a 'one-stop shop' for funding opportunities that are available in India for European organisations. The S&T agreement between India and the EU recognises the mutual benefit of access to respective funding programmes and, while several initiatives exist to support Indian organisations' participation in the seventh framework programme, INDIA GATE aims to play a similar role for European organisations who want to benefit from research and technological development (RTD) funding sources in India. The INDIA GATE project identifies Indian research and innovation funding programmes and the obstacles that inhibit EU researchers and organisations from taking part in the identified opportunities. The project then makes the information available in a user-friendly manner to stimulate, encourage and facilitate participation.

The intention to create synergies between S&T initiatives is reflected in the government of India's eleventh five-year plan (2007–12) as well as in the FP7. There are also many other funding programmes in India open to European organisations, most of which are within the framework of bilateral agreements between individual EU Member States and India. The INDIA GATE project is expected to play an important role in providing information on the current situation and feedback with suggestions on how to improve the current status.

The strategic objectives of INDIA GATE are to:

- map and identify funding opportunities open to European organisations in India with a focus on their reciprocity conditions, rules of participation and funding rates;
- analyse the obstacles for participation with a focus on their reciprocity conditions;
- review the bilateral agreements between EU Member States and India;
- improve the flow of information on programmes and funding opportunities (e.g. initiatives of the government of India, bilateral programmes) designed to support scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and India;
- enhance know-how on cultural differences in business conduct and working style via user friendly e-training;
- identify and demonstrate mutual understanding, interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and India;
- monitor the participation rate of European organisations in Indian-funded programmes;
- develop feedback and recommendations for decision-makers and provide expert input to the Joint Committee meetings;
- increase the mutual understanding of respective research systems.

INDIA GATE

DESCRIPTION

The INDIA GATE project started with a review of the available funding opportunities and an analysis of the obstacles facing European organisations wanting to take part in Indian-funded projects. The information supports the development of effective dissemination tools used in the dissemination strategy. A dynamic web page has been developed and serves as a 'one-stop shop' for information on Indian programmes open to European organisations with all relevant information available in web format, e-training format and as downloadable material.

Dissemination activities raise awareness among European stakeholders about the project's aims and objectives, update stakeholders with pertinent news and opportunities, enhance the information flow and facilitate multilevel information exchange. The work also aims to spread information to raise awareness in the EU about Indian S&T programmes, to encourage the participation of EU researchers in Indian programmes and to create synergies with other ACCESS4.EU projects.

INDIA GATE was closely structured around the objectives of the call in order to maximise the impacts expected by the programme. As the main objective, INDIA GATE intends to increase S&T cooperation between India and the EU by improving access to information on funding opportunities available in India for European organisations. It identifies Indian research and innovation funding programmes and the

obstacles to participation and makes the information available in a user-friendly way to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European researchers in those programmes. It also monitors the participation rate of European organisations to provide relevant information to decision-makers on the actual, current situation. The expected impacts are to have an increased number of projects implemented by consortia composed of both EU and Indian partners, an increased mutual understanding, interest and benefits in S&T cooperation between the EU and India, enhanced information flow between the two regions, improved know-how in both regions on cooperation opportunities and enhanced capacity in both regions related to project development and implementation.

PARTNERS

1. Európa Media Szolgáltató Kht, Hungary
2. Agence Bruxelloise pour l'Entreprise, Belgium
3. EIRC Consulting Pvt. Ltd., India
4. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), India
5. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India
6. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece

EUINEC

European Union and India enhanced cooperation framework for improved bilateral dialogue in the fields of science and technology

Start date: 1.1.2008
Duration: 39 months
Project cost: EUR 597 496
Project funding: EUR 500 000

Coordinator: Gabor Kitley
(gabor.kitley@europamedia.hu)
Europa Media Szolgáltató, Hungary

OBJECTIVES

EUINEC's specific objectives were to:

- increase awareness among Indian stakeholders about the EU, research priorities, cooperation and funding opportunities;
- increase awareness among European stakeholders about India and its cooperation opportunities;
- improve the flow of information on programmes and funding opportunities designed to support scientific and technological cooperation between Europe and India;
- identify and demonstrate mutual understanding, interest and benefit of S & T cooperation between Europe and India and share best practices through joint exchanges of information and experiences;
- facilitate cooperation through an integrated partner search facility;
- enhance know-how at each stage in the project life cycle, from project development to project closure;
- identify new cooperation areas and formulate policy recommendations.

DESCRIPTION

The EUINEC project aimed to improve S&T cooperation between India and the European Union (EU) by increasing awareness among Indian and European stakeholders about respective research priorities and cooperation opportunities. The S&T agreement between India and the EU, signed in 2001, was renewed in 2007 allowing new joint

cooperation initiatives to be launched. Indian organisations participated in approximately 80 projects under the sixth framework programme (FP6); this number was expected to increase in FP7 given all the new funding opportunities to be launched. In order to realise increased cooperation, universities, industry, government and civil society had to be empowered with the relevant knowledge and provided with the appropriate cooperation tools in order to enable increased participation in FP7 and contribute to enhanced cooperation between India and the EU.

The project strategy was based on three pillars: information and cooperation platforms, capacity-building and awareness-raising actions. Since participation in FP7-funded projects requires information regarding the overall requirements and rules, proposal development, project management rules and the way to find appropriate partners, the EUINEC project established the EU–India Research Coop to provide practical information to stakeholders. The coop was based on a multifunctional portal allowing for information exchange and partner searches, providing a practical and user-oriented training package and a framework for policy development and the identification of areas of cooperation. The EUINEC project created a scientific and technological cooperation community that further enhanced European–India cooperation by bringing together key players in an environment that built stronger relations and stimulated the identification of new areas of cooperation.

EUINEC

The capacity-building activities were implemented via a twofold approach.

- E-training, which was available free to everyone at the platform (and addresses both theoretical and practical issues of FP7 participation in an efficient way), allowed the project to reach a critical mass in a cost-efficient way.
- Practical workshops were held throughout India offering umbrella organisations and interest groups the skills and tools to transfer to potential applicants in India (i.e. a 'train-the-trainers' approach). The awareness-raising activities were mainly carried out under the wings of the EU–India Research Coop via diverse information activities such as info days, held in conjunction with the 'train-the-trainers' workshops, a simultaneous EU–India Info Day (Coop Day) and a final EU–India Coop symposium in Brussels.

As for awareness-raising, the EU–India Research Coop's activities involved the organisation of workshops and conferences that informed stakeholders of various opportunities and also acted as a networking opportunity. Regional info days informed stakeholders about the research coop, e-training, platform and other services offered through the portal. The Coop Day, held simultaneously in India (Mumbai and New Delhi) and in Europe (Budapest and Rome) for the benefit of stakeholders, provided opportunities to 'meet and greet' and make presentations.

The organisation of a symposium in Brussels brought together key players in European–Indian cooperation.

The concrete results of EUINEC were expected to be:

- increased numbers of projects implemented by consortia composed of both European and Indian partners;
- identification of areas for cooperation;
- formulation of policy recommendations;
- creation of a favourable environment for interaction and networking between Indian and European stakeholders;
- increased mutual understanding;
- interest in the benefits of S&T cooperation between Europe and India;
- enhanced information flow between the two regions;
- improved know-how in both regions on cooperation opportunities;
- enhanced capacity in both regions related to project development and implementation.

PARTNERS

1. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
2. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, India
3. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India

New INDIGO

Initiative for the development and integration of Indian and European research
<http://www.newindigo.eu/>

Start date: 1.1.2009
 Duration: 48 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 940 000
 Project funding: EUR 2 490 000

Coordinators: Gilles Sentise
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 Arun Chakraborty
 (chakraborty@csir.res.in)
 Centre national de la recherche
 scientifique (CNRS), France

OBJECTIVES

New INDIGO was a follow-up to the project AOUA, which aimed at mapping and analysing existing bilateral S & T cooperation programmes between EU Member States and India. New INDIGO presented itself as an initiative for the development and integration of Indian and European research, thus building an extended web of partnership to ultimately launch European programmes with India.

This allowed New INDIGO to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- structuring the international dimension of the European research area (ERA), through the exchange of information, expertise and best practices and the design of common databases;
- positioning a strategic partnership with India;
- implementing a networking pilot programme (NPP);
- follow-up on the NPP;
- paving the way for long-term scientific cooperation between Europe and India.

DESCRIPTION

India has become a prominent country in Asia not only from the economic and political point of view but also from the scientific point of view. Since the signature of the Europe–India Science and Technology Agreement in November 2001, a joint action plan has been drawn up and EU–India S & T summits are held in order to promote this cooperation. The India–EU joint

statement of 30 November 2007 indicates that the effort should aim to create a joint infrastructure for advanced research and funding systems for the promotion of S & T collaboration. It was also stated that leaders would welcome strengthened partnership initiatives such as joint projects with co-investment of resources in selected fields of mutual priority.

On the other hand, long-standing scientific cooperation between India and certain European countries, especially Germany, France and the United Kingdom, is active and fruitful. However, relationships with India in research and development (R & D) have not been harmonised so far at a European level and there is no dedicated programme of cooperation between these two big scientific poles.

The aim of New INDIGO is to help fill these gaps and, ultimately, provide the most relevant framework to allow the scientific community and institutions of India to access the ERA, and enable Euro–Indian S & T cooperation to fully benefit from the new networking tools which have been set up, notably the seventh framework programme (FP7) for research. By favouring the coordination of bilateral programmes and by promoting joint research projects at the European level, New INDIGO reinforces the quality and effectiveness of the ERA and, at the same time, the mutual understanding between the research communities of the two research areas.

Nine partners and eight observers contribute actively to the implementation of New INDIGO

New INDIGO

project. All partners fulfil their tasks in order to reach the challenging objectives of the new network:

- building up an efficient model for the NPP;
- setting up that programme at the core of New INDIGO, defining its management structure and also gathering financial allocations from EU Member States and associate countries as well as India in order to fund common projects;
- identifying relevant fields of S&T eligible for the NPP;
- launching joint calls for proposals and evaluation of proposals submitted and monitoring of NPP selected projects;
- conducting a policy foresight study by means of implementing a scenario-based Delphi process with policy and programme-makers in order to assess potential future paths for S&T relations and cluster-building processes between the EU and India.

All partners strove to raise awareness of potential S&T cooperation between Europe and India. To this end, it was important to carry out a careful follow-up with regard to the relevance and usefulness of the information produced by the different partners.

One of the main strategic objectives is to create the appropriate support for the dissemination of sufficient material to foster robust networking of research players in Europe and India.

A specific action towards thematic ERA-NETs has been launched in order to help integrate

India into the ERA networks. Such an exchange of information involves seminars and workshops where justified.

Events promoted by New INDIGO itself for the purpose of raising awareness of opportunities and disseminating the results of the project have taken place both in Europe and India. In order to allow for maximum dissemination efficiency, a carefully planned dissemination action plan has been developed and constantly updated throughout the implementation of New INDIGO.

New INDIGO significantly contributes to the development of high-quality research activities between India and the European Union through:

- the identification of research priorities of mutual interest and benefit between the participating EU Member States and India;
- the management of a joint call, which will help structure high-quality collaborative research by not only supporting research projects but also providing the mechanism for future extended programmes and actions;
- the strengthening of national and international standards of S&T programming and programme management.

These three processes enhance Europe–India research collaboration. The project provides new means to identify and enhance coordination of high-quality research.

New INDIGO

PARTNERS

1. Nemzeti Kutatási és Technológiai Hivatal, Hungary
2. Ministère des affaires étrangères et européennes, France
3. Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Portugal
4. Euskal Herriko Elektronika eta Informazio, Spain
5. Ministry of Science and Technology, India
6. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
7. Zentrum für Soziale Innovation, Austria
8. Deutsche Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V, Germany
9. Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany
10. Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, France
11. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India
12. Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung, Austria
13. Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, Netherlands

India SI House

EU–India Joint House for Science and Innovation

Start date: 1.2.2012
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 519 789
 Project funding: EUR 479 116

Coordinator: Sylvie Inizan
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 Observatoire des changements
 environnementaux (OCE), France

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to provide the European Commission with an ambitious feasibility study to help create an EU–India house, essential for strengthening science, technology and innovation (ST & I) collaboration in a sustainable way. By exploring the three dimensions (political, legal and scientific), this study will deliver the appropriate dissemination tools and guidelines to the Member States' and associated countries' ambitions to establish a dynamic ST & I cooperation with India.

In order to support the development of joint ST & I activities between the EU and India and to provide the full picture of the possibilities and barriers to open up the institutional agreements, the specific objectives are to:

- explore the political and scientific commitment to establish the EU–India ST & I House;
- explore the legal constraints and requirements to establish the EU–India ST & I House;
- organise conferences and workshops to validate the concepts and to receive input from key stakeholders;
- draw up guidelines looking forward to the opportunity of opening the EU–India ST & I House;
- draw up a comprehensive dissemination plan to spread the results.

In particular, the project explores ways to cooperate with INCO-LAB-funded projects, based in India, in order to enhance the impact of

coordination efforts. Representatives from the INCO-LAB-funded projects in India will be invited to take part in the External Advisory Board when scientific scope is discussed. Close cooperation and the exchange of ideas and results will be very important for the development of coordinated activities between the EU and India especially taking into account the complementary nature of the INCO-LAB and INCO-HOUSE projects. Especially, an Indo–French joint laboratory, established in Bangalore between the Indian Institute for Science (IISc, <http://www.iisc.ernet.in>) and the French l'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD, <http://www.ird.fr>), is currently submitting a proposal.

This feasibility study, funded by the European Commission, will provide guidelines to be directly used in future explorations of the strategic roadmap building a joint policy for high-level ST & I cooperation. Based on these results, it will be easy to take the work further and launch a second step, the actual implementation of such an EU–Indian ST & I House, as recommended in the guidelines. Consequently, the EC is invited to anticipate the strong need that such a study will be undertaken.

DESCRIPTION

The overall strategy of the work plan is to:

- explore the different possibilities of establishing an EU–India ST & I House; and
- identify the barriers that could hinder its future implementation.

India SI House

These potential barriers will have to be described thoroughly to:

- reach a good coordination level that is expected by the EU;
- draw up recommendations and scenarios for actions clearly ensuring an improvement in the existing situation (i.e. overcoming the fragmentation of bilateral collaborations between the EU Member States and associated countries and India).

In this way, the appropriate links with the different EU–India initiatives funded by the EC and others have to be made so as to provide feedback to this EU–India ST & I House project on the experiences and schemes of action which still exist and have been proved to work. As an example, mapping the mobility of students and scientists between the EU and India will give the EU–India ST & I House an indication of the best prepared topics, areas and countries (European Member States or associated countries). Hence, the opening of the benchmarking studies to ‘non-project partners’ deserves to be carried out as much as possible. Similarly, interviewing outsider countries (Russia, USA, etc.) and inviting them to some of the workshops will add value to such a project. The dissemination plan is an important part of this project. Information on the ongoing project is available to the stakeholders (scientific

communities and policymakers of India and the EU and associated countries) to encourage them to join in and participate actively.

It is important to investigate how to include SMEs, industries, foundations, etc. in this study. Firstly, to answer societal needs, technology and cultural transfer play key roles, and to ensure a large and successful impact of the EU–India ST & I House project, a task is dedicated to this analysis. Secondly, R & D must be considered while studying the feasibility of an EU–India ST & I House. This INCO-HOUSE must not only fund private organisations, but also must be open to funding coming from these organisations. The exploration of these aspects is essential for the sustainability of the EU–India ST & I House. The participation of the Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), an institution with extensive experience in R & D and technology transfer, will strongly benefit this specific analysis, as well as the work of the consortium as a whole. The main activity of the proposal is to undertake a feasibility study in order to provide the EC with information on the political, scientific and legal possibilities, and barriers, regarding the establishment of a joint EU–India House for ST & I activities.

India SI House

PARTNERS

1. Indo–French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, India
2. Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes, France
3. The Centre for Contemporary India Research and Studies, Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw, Poland
4. Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek, Belgium
5. Agency for the Promotion of European Research, Italy
6. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India
7. Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne, Switzerland
8. Europa Media Non-Profit Limited, Hungary

LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

CLIM-AMAZON

Joint Brazilian–European research facility for climate and geodynamic research on the Amazon River basin sediments

Start date: 1.1.2012
 Duration: 48 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 657 461
 Project funding: EUR 1 999 990

Coordinators: Franck Poitrasson
 (europe@ird.fr)
 Farid Chemale Jr. (fchemale@unb.br)
 Institut de recherche pour le
 développement (IRD), France/
 University of Brasilia, Brazil

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this proposal is to extend the research capacities in geological and environmental sciences in Brazil and to maximise scientific partnerships through exchange visits of students and scientists from the European Union. This will be made possible by building on the existing capacities of the Brazilian–French joint laboratory, Observatoire des changements environnementaux (OCE), based on field work and analytical facilities at the University of Brasilia laboratories.

Four specific objectives have been defined in order to meet the scientific and political stakes:

- open the activities of the OCE joint laboratory to researchers from different EU Member States' and associated countries' research institutions with physical participation of researchers in Brazil;
- enhance the research capacity of the joint institute with a view to further opening it to new participating researchers (through equipment resources, consumables and support staff);
- increase scientific cooperation between researchers from the EU Member States and associated countries and Brazil through the preparation and implementation of new joint projects via the organisation of joint workshops, training seminars and an international conference;
- explore the possibilities for opening the institutional arrangement of the Brazilian–French OCE laboratory to additional EU

Member States' and associated countries' research organisations, using a specific feasibility study.

DESCRIPTION

The overall strategy of CLIM-AMAZON is built on five interconnected work packages (WP).

- WP1 comprises the coordination of project activities and meetings and handling of the financial and administrative issues — the management team in Brazil will deal with management and organisational issues.
- WP2 includes three tasks and is the main node point for interaction between the joint laboratory and EU scientific institutions through workshops, involving EU-funded PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and Brazilian and EU scientists.
- WP3 refers to the human and material needs of CLIM-AMAZON — this work package encompasses three tasks that include complementary laboratory and field equipment, support to hire personnel to work in the laboratory, consumables and maintenance services.
- WP4 includes promotion, workshops and training seminars to be held in Brasilia. Promotion refers to presentation and discussion with the authorities and community from the five main cities of the Amazon region (Manaus, Porto Velho, Macapa, Boa Vista and Belém). Workshops and training seminars will allow the project

CLIM-AMAZON

to be opened up to a wider international community. The CLIM-AMAZON project will close with a large international symposium in Manaus.

- WP5 aims to integrate CLIM-AMAZON with other research institutions by identifying potential partners. This integration and search for potential partners will be provided by the WP4 workshops, which will include both project members and invited people from the scientific community.

Because of its infrastructure, CLIM-AMAZON will provide a scientific environment allowing strong interactions with other research institutions requiring a centre focused on climate, hydrology, erosion and sedimentary transport and deposition in tropical regions (CHEESED).

PARTNER

1. Fundação Universidade de Brasília, Brazil

CHIEP II

Strengthening Chilean–European science and technology partnerships

<http://www.chiep.cl/index.php/en/about-us/chiep-ii-project>

Start date: 1.7.2009

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 761 324

Project funding: EUR 499 519

Coordinator: María Mesonero

(mmesonero@conicyt.cl)

Comision Nacional de Investigacion

Científica y Tecnológica, Chile

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are to:

- improve information facilities and services in order to develop greater assistance in identifying suitable research partners both in Chile and in EU Member States, and disseminate information useful to new partners and create new partnerships for joint research projects;
- enhance the policymaking and networking capabilities of the Chilean–European S & T promotion liaison office, in order to contribute to the elaboration of new collaboration schemes of mutual interest and focused strategies in articulation with national priorities on S & T development;
- promote policy dialogues in specific national priority fields of mutual interest, relevant to the Joint Committee of the S & T Agreement, in order to share experiences and best practices, develop a common vision and elaborate strategic collaboration schemes and new activities;
- increase the participation of the Chilean S & T community in FP7, establishing balanced partnerships based on mutual interest and benefit criteria on specific thematic areas and increase the links between European and Chilean scientists through the organisation of S & T-oriented missions and specialised workshops.

DESCRIPTION

The EU–Chile Association Agreement of 2002 and the Scientific and Technological (S & T) Cooperation Agreement, signed by the European Community and the Republic of Chile during 2002, represent a concrete step to support collaborative activities and to stimulate new S & T bilateral cooperation activities. Since then, this cooperation has witnessed major steps forward, mainly due to the implementation of the first CHIEP project funded under the sixth framework programme (FP6) and the creation of the S & T promotion liaison office at the National Commission of Scientific and Technological Research (Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica — CONICYT). As a natural step forward, the overall aim of the CHIEP II project is to strengthen Chilean–European S & T partnerships based on bilateral policy dialogues and the coordination of policy initiatives, in order to improve existing collaboration schemes and identify new activities. For this purpose, the project develops new information facilities and services to better identify and help form research partnerships.

CHIEP II contributes to the elaboration of strategic collaboration schemes strongly interrelated with the new Chilean innovation strategy at national level; the Europe–Latin America platform EULARINET, an INCO-NET project funded by FP7 within the international cooperation programme at regional level and with S & T cooperation policies at Member State level. In addition, CHIEP II expects to improve

CHIEP II

Chilean participation in FP7 and other related EU programmes.

CHIEP II reinforces the FP7 participation of the Chilean S&T community improving the process of providing information through more focused and permanent assistance regarding participation modalities, programmes and research partnerships. At national level, CHIEP II improves and enhances awareness of new targeted groups such as enterprises, public bodies and stakeholders. It also contributes to the new international dimension of the Chilean innovation strategy proposed by the Chilean government for RS & TI.

At European level, the project aims to enhance awareness of existing and potential new European partners having cooperation potential with Chile, developing a better articulation with bilateral S&T cooperation schemes defined with EU Member States. CONICYT is fully involved together with the other S&T promotion liaison offices in Latin America in the INCO-NET project

for the Latin American region funded under FP7 (EULARINET).

The CHIEP II project will result in wider and stronger cooperation between Chile and the European Union at scientific level and is expected to generate additional Chilean–European S&T partnerships, new collaboration schemes and new activities that will be reflected in:

- a greater Chilean participation in FP7 initiatives and other related EU programmes according to jointly defined priority areas;
- an increase in bilateral S&T cooperation with the EU Member States — the development of the international dimension of the new Chilean innovation strategy for productivity and competitiveness;
- a reinforced S&T promotion liaison office as the main instrument for the development of S&T partnerships, identifying new activities and articulating collaboration schemes.

BB.Bice

New Brazilian Bureau for Enhancing the International Cooperation with the European Union

<http://bbice.ibict.br/index/index/lan/en>

Start date: 1.10.2008

Duration: 39 months

Project cost: EUR 747 364

Project funding: EUR 499 800

Coordinator: Paulo Cesar Gonçalves Egler
(pegler@unb.br)

Fundação Universidade de Brasília,
Brazil

OBJECTIVES

The Brazilian Bureau for Enhancing the International Cooperation with the European Union (B.Bice), the project funded by the sixth framework programme (FP6), initiated its activities in October 2005. It aimed to promote and improve the cooperation in science, technology and innovation (ST & I) between Brazil and the EU Member States. It also aimed at improving Brazilian participation in the sixth and seventh framework programmes for research and development, through the dissemination of information related to their cooperation opportunities. The B.Bice project was also responsible for helping Brazilian research institutions and enterprises to prepare and negotiate project proposals to be submitted to the European Commission.

The BB.Bice project, which was approved in December 2007 as a result of the BILAT call, allowed for the continuity of the activities initiated by B.Bice, such as maintaining a web page, disseminating information through other media, searching for European partners to set up research projects with Brazilian institutions and developing an institutional database of Brazil's scientific, technological and innovative competences.

Taking into account the advances made by the B.Bice project during its two years of functioning (October 2005–September 2007), the intention of this project was to keep the Bureau active for an additional period of three years, in order to consolidate the participation of the Brazilian research institutions and technology-based

enterprises in the international cooperation activities with the European Union.

DESCRIPTION

During the development of the FP6 B.Bice project, two aspects were identified as relevant for enhancing the collaboration between Brazilian research institutions and European ones. The first aspect was a clear definition of the research areas and/or topics relevant for international cooperation. Beyond the mere identification of the research area, progress is needed in the specification of the research topics for cooperation and appropriate instruments should be then identified. This exercise was carried out under the BB.Bice project in coordination with the EULARINET project. Another relevant aspect for advancing international cooperation in ST & I between Brazil and Europe that was carefully taken into account in the BB.Bice project was a well-structured exchange of knowledge between both scientific communities. Although the existence of the Internet and other electronic forms of communication contributed to enhancing the knowledge between researchers from different countries and continents, nothing can substitute direct contact.

In order to better disseminate information concerning the opportunities offered by FP7, the BB.Bice project optimised the updating of its web page, distributed its monthly electronic newsletter (in English, Portuguese and Spanish) and improved its institutional database to

BB.Bice

better facilitate partner searching (Brazil search technological information (TI)).

The BB.Bice project, on its own initiative, developed an analytical function regarding actions at the programme and policy levels. Examples of these studies were an analysis of current scientific and technological cooperation between Brazil and Europe in all 10 thematic areas of the seventh framework programme (FP7). The analysis included a report on the most recent developments, a list of research priorities and a survey of the existing research infrastructures, including the human resources available.

This activity will also involve the preparation of a short analysis about the participation of Brazilian institutions in FP7; the realisation of relevant events, such as workshops, seminars or meetings; and the preparation of short studies/reports about specific thematic issues such as biofuels, new materials, nanotechnology, etc.

An activity that was very relevant to the BB.Bice project was the improvement of the participation of Brazilian technology-based enterprises in FP7. The way these enterprises work and their perception of research and technological development is quite different from that of the public research institutions. Furthermore, issues such as intellectual property rights, technology platforms and joint technology initiatives were considered.

Taking into account the results of the previous coordination action between the four Latin American information platforms (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico), the BB.Bice project

included an activity aimed at keeping an active flow of information between BB.Bice and other information platforms. Besides those of Latin America, links with other information platforms had to be considered, in particular with those in Australia and South Africa, which have developed relevant work.

The BB.Bice project also developed workshops and meetings involving representatives of the scientific and technological communities of both Brazil and Europe in order to promote a better knowledge of mutual research interests, and identify research themes and topics that should be considered for cooperation activities.

PARTNERS

1. University of Brasilia, Centre of Advanced Studies of Government and Public Administration (CEAG/UnB), Brazil
2. Centre to Support the Technological Development (CDT/UnB), Brazil

EULARINET

European Union–Latin American research and innovation networks

<http://www.eularinet.eu>

Start date: 1.3.2008
Duration: 54 months
Project cost: EUR 3 060 000
Project funding: EUR 3 000 000

Coordinators: María Angeles Macías García
(angeles.macias@micinn.es)
Marta Bolós Jurado
(marta.bolos@micinn.es)
Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación,
Spain)

OBJECTIVES

EULARINET's goal was to strengthen bi-regional dialogue on S & T between EU Member States and associated countries and Latin American partner countries (LAPC) at policy, programme and institutional (research and industry entities) levels, thus contributing to a threefold objective:

- promoting the joint identification, establishment, implementation and monitoring of priorities of mutual interest and benefit in future work programmes across the specific programmes of FP7;
- jointly supporting the definition of S & T cooperation policies;
- supporting and stimulating the participation of the LAPC in FP7.

DESCRIPTION

The EULARINET project stemmed from the agreed common vision for S & T cooperation between Latin America and the EU that evolved during the summits in Rio de Janeiro (June 1999), Madrid (May 2002) and Guadalajara (May 2004), and that ended with the Guadalajara Declaration on the creation of an EU–Latin America knowledge area. The project built on existing structures and was reinforced and extended to the appropriate areas in order to cover all countries and strategic concerns of mutual interest and benefit.

EULARINET established a network between European and Latin American stakeholders (research groups, universities, industry,

policy-makers, programme managers and civil society) to identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit for both regions. Bilateral sub-regional dialogues were organised annually in the three subregions of Mexico and Central America, Andean countries and the Mercosur (southern common market) countries, involving stakeholders from policy-making, science and industry communities. A co-leadership between LAPC and EU partners ensured balanced responsibility and participation in the activities.

High-level bi-regional meetings were planned during the entire duration of the project. The meetings were open to all EU and Latin American countries; the EULARINET consortium actively addressed and invited other Member States and associated countries and LAPCs that, at that time, were not members of the EULARINET consortium, to participate and contribute, thus increasing the impact of the dialogues. These high-level meetings highlighted and reflected the results from the subregional meetings on the identification of common topics for FP7 thematic areas.

Overall, EULARINET:

- structured the communication channels by offering ad hoc forums for bi-regional dialogue on S & T policy between Latin America and the EU, for the exchange of views and information on national and bilateral S & T policies relevant for bi-regional S & T cooperation and for a more comprehensive and structured exchange with the LAPC regarding the research

EULARINET

activities of the European Commission (EC);

- promoted regional integration as an asset, both for good neighbourhood relationships in Latin America and for heightening the attractiveness of S&T cooperation through regional networking;
- addressed global issues of common interest and benefit, and developed scenarios and concrete recommendations for actions on these matters, with emphasis on S&T activities that address topics related to the EU framework programme (e.g. specific international cooperation actions — SICAs).

Links with broader EU S&T policies contribute to social and economic development and stimulate an environment for transnational scientific cooperation of both individual scientists and institutions. EULARINET ensured a coherent approach, developed synergies with other relevant EU programmes and policies and maintained a constant information flow to policy dialogues.

A proactive dissemination strategy was implemented in order to raise awareness of the potential of S&T in Latin America, inform interested stakeholders from science, industries and policymaking about opportunities for enhanced S&T cooperation within FP7 and foster active networking. That networking addressed the science communities and innovative industries in the EU Member States and associated countries and the LAPC. Here, synergies with existing programmes from the EC were widely explored.

Specific workshops, training sessions, etc. were carried out, and a number of horizontal events aimed at awareness-raising and information dissemination were implemented through a series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences, as well as seminars and workshops on S&T cooperation opportunities. Depending on the respective objective, the events addressed various groups of stakeholders from the scientific, industrial and policymaking communities.

The following events were organised:

- national and regional FP7 information days in Latin America, in close cooperation with the respective stakeholders (governments, science organisations, and national contact points and FP7 contact points);
- specific information sessions at EU conferences informing on the S&T potential of Latin America;
- subregional conferences in Latin America (e.g. Central America and Mexico) addressing future cooperation with the EU.

Selected political events, addressed to political stakeholders at the national, regional and EU level, were targeted so as to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of a closer bi-regional cooperation between the EU and Latin America.

The following outcomes were expected:

- a dedicated website with advanced functionalities to support collaborative dialogues among the partners;

EULARINET

- a new EU–Latin America Internet portal, as a single point of access building on existing websites and electronic information provided by previous and ongoing projects on EU–Latin America S & T cooperation;
- a series of publications to disseminate the major EULARINET activities, findings and events to external stakeholders including industry, society and the research community.

Monitoring was focused on past and ongoing cooperation activities, and provided a complete view of the modalities and intensity of the bi-regional cooperation through continuous monitoring in each of the participating Latin America countries.

The main activities involved:

- developing questionnaires, interview schemes, S & T indicators and benchmarking criteria;
- working jointly and taking into account the results and working methods of ongoing initiatives (CYTED, EULANEST, LAC-ACCESS);
- mapping the activities through an online database for the results and statistical data of all tasks as a 'work-in-progress' S & T observatory;
- developing specific criteria for assessing EU–LAC FP6/FP7 cooperation activities.

EULARINET

PARTNERS

1. Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, Argentina
2. National Council of Science and Technology, Brazil
3. National Commission of Scientific and Technologic Research, Chile
4. Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology, Colombia
5. National Council of Research and Technology, Mexico
6. Ministry of Education and Culture-CUBIST, Uruguay
7. Nicaraguan Council for Science and Technology, Nicaragua
8. Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain
9. Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
10. Academy of Finland, Finland
11. Centre of International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for the Development, France
12. Institute of Research for the Development, France
13. Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
14. International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
15. The Research Council of Norway, Norway
16. Agency of Innovation, Portugal
17. Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal
18. Technical University of Madrid, Spain
19. Spanish Council for Scientific Research, Spain

APORTA

Supporting EU access to Brazilian national research programmes — Acesso por ciência e tecnologia no Brasil

<http://www.access4.eu/brazil>

Start date: 1.10.2009

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 692 627

Project funding: EUR 499 476

Coordinators: Anna Schwachula
(Anna.Schwachula@dlr.de)
Matthias Frattini
(Matthias.Frattini@dlr.de)
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und
Raumfahrt, Germany

DESCRIPTION

APORTA, the ACCESS4.EU project directed at Brazil, meets the challenge of raising awareness among EU researchers about opportunities offered by Brazilian research and innovation programmes. APORTA strives to enhance the participation, and hence the active cooperation, of EU Member States' research institutions in the national research and innovation programmes managed by Brazil.

In order to reach its overall goals, APORTA is divided into four work packages (WP). WP1 is aimed at inventory and monitoring and can be considered the analytical cornerstone that will be used for the development of the dissemination and information instruments in further work packages. A mapping and inventory of Brazilian national research programmes is carried out. The rules of participation and funding of European organisations and researchers, as well as the potential obstacles to their participation, are analysed. Additionally, the participation of EU researchers and institutes in Brazilian national research programmes will be monitored.

WP2 targets the dialogue with the EC and Brazilian programme owners. The EC and Brazilian programme owners, who are responsible for setting the rules and regulations of access conditions, will be involved from the beginning in a close dialogue through a series of conferences, workshops and continuous exchange through other means of communication.

WP3 focuses on information dissemination and outreach. In order to achieve a maximum outreach of the project and effective impact in EU research institutions, APORTA follows the common dissemination strategy for all ACCESS4.EU projects — above all through taking part in an overall ACCESS4.EU web portal, joint information days, contributing to a newsletter, etc. On the ACCESS4.EU web portal, as well as on a specific APORTA website, a database will be made available including all national calls open for European researchers.

WP4 is dedicated to project coordination and management, thus ensuring a successful implementation and outcome for APORTA.

APORTA provides feedback to the European Commission in the context of the Joint Committee meetings of the S & T agreement between Brazil and the EU. By making recommendations regarding current possibilities and obstacles, APORTA intends to enhance the reciprocity laid down in the S & T cooperation agreement and increase the mutual benefits for both sides. The expected impact of APORTA will thus be the increased participation of EU scientists in Brazilian research and innovation programmes and closer interaction and cooperation.

The results of APORTA are publicly available on a common ACCESS4.EU web portal, and presented during information days and relevant events in Europe. The expected impact of the project will be the reinforcement of the current bilateral S & T agreement between Brazil and the EU, the increased participation of EU

APORTA

scientists in Brazilian research and innovation programmes and a better understanding of the reciprocity of such programmes on both sides.

OBJECTIVES

In short, APORTA aims at enhancing the access opportunities for, and hence the active cooperation of, EU Member States' researchers in the national research and innovation programmes facilitated by Brazil. APORTA focuses on collecting information regarding national research and innovation capacities and programmes within Brazil. A further objective is to widely disseminate this information to researchers and other stakeholders in the European research area, aiming at the creation of effective collaboration

activities between the EU and the Brazilian research community.

In addition, the project contributes to the work of the Brazilian–European Steering Committee by identifying how stronger synergies can be achieved between FP7 and Brazilian national and innovation programmes.

PARTNERS

1. Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, Brasil
2. Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France
3. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece

ABEST II

Argentinean Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the European Community in the Science, Technology and Innovation Area, Phase II

<http://www.abest.mincyt.gov.ar/>

Start date: 1.10.2009

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 663 210

Project funding: EUR 490 985

Coordinator: Mónica Silenzi
(msilenzi@mincyt.gov.ar)

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e
Innovación Productiva, Buenos Aires
– Argentina

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the project is to promote the participation of Argentinean scientists and institutions in activities proposed by the seventh framework (FP7) programme jointly with EU peers.

ABEST II also works on some specific objectives such as the better identification and demonstration of mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the European Community and Argentina and sharing best practices via joint forums such as workshops and presenting the state of the art and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.

DESCRIPTION

The ABEST II project was conceived as a natural continuation of the activities developed during the successful ABEST/A-EU project financed within the sixth framework programme (FP6). The project will foster awareness and information of the framework programme, targeting in particular the enhancement of participation in some specific themes of FP7 and in programmes such as 'People'.

ABEST II contributes to increasing mutual understanding between researchers and policymakers from Argentina and the EU by improving access to information, identifying priorities of mutual interest and supporting the process of finding partners for Argentinean and European Union groups and scientists. It is expected that ABEST II will contribute to enhancing the quality of the bilateral dialogue. This will facilitate

the negotiation of mutual interest initiatives that will give political momentum to the bilateral relationship, thereby generating a fertile environment for scientists to participate in joint initiatives.

After completion of the project, a permanent self-sustained office within the Directorate for International Relations of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina and a network of research and development institutions from Argentina and the European Union will continue the promotion and support of the bilateral cooperation activities.

The project's activities were organised around five work packages executed by a team of institutions from Argentina, France, Italy and South Africa. Another four institutions from Belgium, Austria and Spain, with a long tradition of cooperation with Latin America, participated as members of the steering committee providing guidance, advice and experience to the project. Furthermore, a special activity was provided for promoting the participation of Argentinean SMEs in FP7 activities.

PARTNERS

1. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
2. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, France
3. Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

Access2MexCyT

Promoting high-quality research opportunities for European researchers in Mexico
<http://www.access2mexcyt.eu/>

Start date: 1.11.2009
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 593 371
 Project funding: EUR 499 917

Coordinator: Diassina Di Maggio
 (dimaggio@apre.it)
 Paola Materia (materia@apre.it)
 Agenzia per la Promozione della
 Ricerca Europea, Italy

OBJECTIVES

The project objectives are to:

- produce information useful for the international dimension of the European research area;
- monitor the European participation in Mexican projects, scholarships and their access modalities;
- generate a 'link' between selected high-level European institutions which provide the best possibilities in science, technology and innovation for Mexico;
- articulate with other European projects comparative access processes with regard to third countries;
- increase the reciprocity stressed in the EU–Mexican bilateral agreement of 2004;
- provide feedback to the EU–Mexico Joint Steering Committee (JSC).

Access2MexCyT provides the EU with relevant information about the possibilities and opportunities in the Mexican research area. Therefore, it increases the quantity and quality of European participation in Mexico by improving the existing relation or by developing a fruitful relationship not only between researchers, research centres and universities, but also with regard to SMEs.

PARTNERS

1. Österreichische Lateinamerika-Institut, Austria
2. Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France
3. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece
4. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología — CONACYT, Mexico

DESCRIPTION

This project aims at increasing the knowledge, participation and articulation of the actors of different EU research institutions (universities, public and private research centres, individual researchers, etc.) in Mexico in the field of science, technology and innovation. The results are expected to improve the development of the Euro–Mexican research area and, in particular, to identify access opportunities for European researchers in research programmes managed by Mexico.

ENLACE

Enhancing scientific cooperation between the European Union and Central America

<http://www.enlace-project.eu/>

Start date: 1.11.2009

Duration: 48 months

Project cost: EUR 1 900 000

Project funding: EUR 1 600 000

Coordinator: Monique Bossi
(bossi@apre.it)

Agenzia per la Promozione della
Ricerca Europea, Italy

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the project contributed to the broad INCO-NET project goals: establishing bi-regional dialogues, as stated in the work programme for the international cooperation activities. The match between the INCO-NET goals and ENLACE activities can be described as follows.

- Promoting a bi-regional approach by:
 - supporting and facilitating a bi-regional EU–Central American research and technological development (RTD) policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policymaking, the scientific community and industry — as a prerequisite, a solid knowledge base of the scientific landscape in Central America and opportunities and obstacles of cooperation had to be built; the S&T policy dialogue platform developed in a framework where information and data were constantly exchanged and disseminated (in Europe and Central America) in order to ensure the greatest visibility and sustainability;
 - enhancing ongoing S&T dialogues and networks — in fact, consolidated relationships in S&T existed before, but they usually ran at country level. ENLACE intended to reshape that one-to-one relationship into a comprehensive EU–Central American dialogue through support for a policy dialogue platform;
 - strengthening the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities carried out by means of other Community and Member State policy instruments.
- Facilitating the uptake and use of common identified research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of international S&T cooperation across the specific programmes of FP7 by:
 - bringing together scientific priorities identified at policy level (top-down approach) and at scientific level (bottom-up approach) in Central America: this led to the identification and the prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit and the uptake and use of common identified research areas;
 - monitoring the performance and impact of international S&T cooperation across the specific programmes of FP7.
- Promoting and structuring the participation of Central American countries in the activities of FP7 by:
 - strengthening and structuring the participation of Central American countries in FP7. These efforts covered all specific programmes (capacities, cooperation, ideas and people) and involved supporting

ENLACE

- participation through general information dissemination;
- enhancing capacity in Central American countries through the setting up of trained national contact points for FP7 thus increasing the awareness and dissemination of FP7 activities.

DESCRIPTION

The ENLACE project aimed at supporting the bi-regional dialogue between the EU and the Central American countries on S&T issues, identifying common interests in research areas and setting up S&T priorities, supporting capacity-building activities and enhancing the dialogue within the region. The activities were policy dialogue meetings between EU and Central American stakeholders to identify research priorities of mutual interest, training activities to set up the network of FP7 national contact points in Central America and the appointment of an Enterprise Europe Network correspondent. In addition, the project foresaw a series of activities to enhance networking among EU and Central American countries' researchers and to raise awareness of FP7 in Central American countries. Dissemination events on one hand and travel allowances for researchers on the other hand

provided concrete tools to boost the participation of Central American countries in FP7.

PARTNERS

1. University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica
2. Federación de Cámaras y Asociaciones Industriales Centroamericanas, Guatemala
3. Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano, Guatemala
4. El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Mexico
5. Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí, Panama
6. Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán, Honduras
7. Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala
8. Österreichische Lateinamerika-Institut, Austria
9. Consejo Nicaragüense de Ciencia y Tecnología, Nicaragua
10. HELP-FORWARD — Hellenic Project for Wider Application of R&D, Greece
11. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
12. Tudományos es Technologiai Alapítvány, Hungary
13. Réseau MENON E.E.I.G., Belgium

EUCARINET

Fostering EU-Caribbean research and innovation networks

<http://www.eucarinet.eu/>

Start date: 1.4.2010

Duration: 48 months

Project cost: EUR 1 760 000

Project funding: EUR 1 530 000

Coordinators: Diassina Di Maggio
(dimaggio@apre.it)

Keji Adunmo (adunmo@apre.it)

Caterina Buonocore

(buonocore@apre.it)

Agenzia per la Promozione della
Ricerca Europea, Italy

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the project is to promote and support a long-lasting sustainable multi-stakeholder bi-regional policy dialogue on S&T between EU Member States and associated countries and the Caribbean region, including the Caribbean ACP countries, overseas departments and collectivities and overseas countries and territories (OCTs) at policy, programme and institutional (research entities) level, thus contributing to a threefold objective:

- create the conditions for sustainable multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on S&T between the European Union, its Member States and associated countries and the Caribbean region, leading to a joint definition of S&T cooperation policies;
- foster inter-regional (EU–Caribbean) and intra-regional cooperation leading to the identification and prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit;
- stimulate and support the participation of Caribbean research stakeholders in FP7 programmes, with a first emphasis on the ‘People’ programme.

DESCRIPTION

The EUCARINET project promotes and supports the setting up of a permanent and sustainable multi-stakeholder coordination and dialogue, bringing together the key EU and Caribbean policymakers and programme managers,

representatives of universities, research institutions, the private sector — with a special emphasis on SMEs — as well as other representatives of civil society. Dialogue forums at both inter-regional and intra-regional level were established, leading to the identification of S&T priorities and policies and defining specific activities, in order to strengthen S&T co-operation between the EU, its Member States and associated countries and the Caribbean region as identified before, and to stimulate and support the participation of Caribbean researchers in FP7.

Moreover, in order to coordinate and mutually reinforce S&T cooperation at bi-regional and multilateral level, EUCARINET coordinates with:

- Community external policies, in particular with activities carried out by means of the European Development Fund (EDF) as well as by means of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) targeting the overseas departments;
- the ProInvest programme, the competitiveness and innovation framework programme (CIP) and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) aimed to promote and support enterprise creation and competitiveness, as well as investments, innovation and technology transfer (ProInvest is a programme of the ACP Group of States and the European Commission for the promotion of investment and technology transfers in ACP countries);

EUCARINET

- the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI);
- all the specific programmes described in the regional policy paper 'An EU–Caribbean partnership for growth, stability and development';
- the EULARINET project and the ENLACE INCO-NET (funded under FP7-INCO-2009-1.3);
- the other EU–LAC dialogue and collaboration platforms such as ABEST, B.Bice, UEMEXCYT, Vit@lis, LAC-ACCESS;
- the national contact points' networks of different themes and programmes within FP7;
- the Informal Group of Liaison Offices (IGLO) network in Brussels;
- the INCONTACT-one world project and also with other INCO-NET projects, among others the east European INCO-NETs, but also those from Asia and the Mediterranean;
- the multilateral programme CYTED with two Member States (Spain and Portugal) and Latin American and Caribbean countries, involving, for all Latin American countries, more than 15 000 researchers in research actions (thematic networks and projects);
- the 'WINDS Caribe' project led by MENON;
- other bilateral Caribbean and EU Member States' and associated countries' programmes.

The main expected impact of the project is 'to strengthen bi-regional sustainable policy

dialogue on S&T between the European Union and the Caribbean region' in terms of quantity, quality and viability, targeted on three issues.

1. Sustainable networking, dialogue and communication flow

Since the mapping of research organisations and on the state and advancement of scientific and technological cooperation between Europe and the Caribbean, as well as the policy dialogue and concrete cooperative activities, should continue beyond the duration of the present project, the following activities have the objective of guaranteeing this permanent characteristic.

- The CARICOM Secretariat, supported by other Caribbean key partners, provides a suitable political and logistical instrument to guarantee the sustainability of the whole project.
- NCPs within scientific and technological institutions and the capacity-building of EU–Caribbean cooperation promoters will transfer knowledge from the project to the target beneficiaries.
- Centralising the available information on cooperation and exchange programmes and monitoring their progress on the basis of agreed indicators between the consortium's partners.
- Identifying any obstacles to furthering and strengthening this relationship and looking for legal, administrative and financial

EUCARINET

solutions to these problems, based on a better knowledge of the scientific and technological systems on both sides, as well as a closer dialogue between European and Caribbean policymakers.

- Working so that the EUCARINET web portal described in the proposal may remain and become a part of the structure of one of the partners' websites (such as an appropriate section of the CARICOM website which is already equipped with the necessary instruments to guarantee follow-up and updating of data collected and organised throughout the project).

2. Identifying priorities

The project supports the bi-regional S&T policy dialogue in providing a general overview of the strengths and needs of the existing cooperation between the European Union and the Caribbean, therefore orienting the horizontal issues that must be taken into account at the level of each sector and/or priority topic.

3. Identifying and training the best potential research and technological development (RTD) promoters and project partners

Since human capital is the basis for any action, the identification, selection and training of the best promoters and partners (especially future NCPs and research officers) will be a direct result of the project.

PARTNERS

1. Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie, Netherlands
2. Caribbean Community, Guyana
3. Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, Cuba
4. Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, French Guiana
5. University of the Netherlands Antilles, Netherlands Antilles
6. The University of the West Indies, Jamaica
7. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
8. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, France
9. Universidad Iberoamericana, Dominican Republic
10. RESEAU MENON E.E.I.G., Belgium

UEMEXCYT II

Bureau for EU–Mexican Science and Technology Cooperation, Phase II

<http://www.pcti.gob.mx/es-es/OCMEXUE/UEMEXCYT/>

Start date: 1.10.2008
Duration: 42 months
Project cost: EUR 996 176
Project funding: EUR 498 843

Coordination: Hector Samano
(hsamano@conacyt.mx)
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y
Tecnología, Mexico

OBJECTIVES

The project UEMEXCYT II focused on the following main issues:

- setting up a consolidated dialogue between the major stakeholders responsible for EU–Mexican S&T cooperation (CONACYT, Mexican thematic FP7 contacts, Member States' ministries and national contact points (NCP), Commission services, coordination and support actions such as the INCO-NET with Latin America, the ERANET for Latin America, LAC-ACCESS, etc.);
- evaluating past, present and future collaborations between Mexico and Europe in the S&T sector and proposing ways of optimising the rules and instruments;
- raising awareness, links and training on specific issues;
- generating partnership opportunities between scientific and technological communities from both sides;
- improving the visibility of existing results and potential collaborations between Europe and Mexico in the S&T sector;
- assuming the role of a key Latin American partner for Europe in coordination with the other Latin America bureaus for the promotion of European S&T cooperation.

DESCRIPTION

Mexico's major cooperation efforts in S&T are oriented towards Europe. This is because of the history and strong tradition of cooperation, close links and exchanges with the Member States as well as the Cooperation Agreement with the European Community and its country strategy paper (CSP) 2002–06 through which CONACYT co-financed a 'Cooperation' programme (FONCICYT) in the area of S&T. Therefore, cooperation with Europe stands out as being most strategic for the internationalisation of Mexican research and technological development activities and interest is placed on evaluating, consolidating and better coordinating existing potential, under the umbrella of the S&T Cooperation Agreement, the foremost instrument of political dialogue between both parties.

The main purpose of the S&T agreement is to 'encourage, develop and facilitate cooperative research and develop activities of common interest in almost all fields of S&T between Europe and Mexico', on the basis of mutual benefit. One of the first actions implemented to support the improvement and facilitation of S&T cooperation between Europe and Mexico was the launch, in 2006, of the Bureau for European and Mexican Science and Technology Cooperation, UEMEXCYT, which forms part of CONACYT, and co-financed by the European

UEMEXCYT II

Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Technological Development and CONACYT for a two-year period.

The UEMEXCYT II project proposed to support the bilateral political dialogue initiated by the S&T agreement's joint steering committee, providing follow-up and continuity to the efforts carried out by the UEMEXCYT Office as well as improving the channels of communication and partnership between Mexico and the EU Member States. In this context, it was considered important to open the project to a larger consortium composed not only of CONACYT, its coordinator, but also institutions from six EU Member States, notably Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Austria, with which Mexico enjoys important bilateral cooperation programmes in S&T.

The activities of UEMEXCYT II included:

- raising awareness and links between Europe and Mexico;
- achieving the S&T agreement's objectives on horizontal issues;
- definition of future thematic priorities by Europe–Mexican thematic working groups;
- fact-finding missions in priority areas and organisation of action plans;
- management and coordination of the consortium.

The main impact of the project was to 'improve S&T cooperation between Europe and Mexico' in terms of quantity, quality and viability, and the project therefore focuses on three issues.

- Provision of access to information on co-operation programmes and on the state and advancement of scientific and technological collaboration between Europe and Mexico.
- Identifying priorities through strengths and needs analysis and through the trend studies produced by the thematic working groups, which would suggest to the S&T Joint Steering Committee goals and precise actions to be developed, based on the principle of mutual benefit; in addition, the fact-finding missions helped to identify medium- and long-term projects in strategic areas of cooperation through technological supply/demand forums as well as through thematic workshops.
- Identifying the most competitive partnerships: this is a key point to further the quality and quantity of cooperation, since human capital is the basis of any action.

These results have a positive impact on the relationship between Europe and Mexico, especially as a result of the identification of the most relevant partners and the availability of relevant information to enhance further cooperation between the two sides.

UEMEXCYT II

PARTNERS

1. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
2. Research and Innovation Management Services (BVBA), Belgium
3. Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France
4. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
5. Zentrum für Soziale Innovation, Austria
6. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

SAccess

Supporting EU access to South Africa's research and innovation programmes

<http://www.saccess-project.eu>

Start date: 1.9.2009

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 629 575

Project funding: EUR 498 747

Coordinator: Constantine Vaitsas

(vaitsas@help-forward.gr)

Foundation for Research and

Technology-Hellas, Greece

OBJECTIVES

The Agreement on S & T Cooperation concluded between the European Community and South Africa (SA) in 1996, amongst other benefits, afforded South African researchers the opportunity to fully participate in the EU's framework programmes, thus contributing to enhancement of the international knowledge base and human resource development while promoting overall sustainable development.

The SAccess project complements and further enhances this successful research partnership by increasing the awareness and dissemination in the EU Member States and associated countries of access opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in national research and innovation programmes facilitated by South Africa.

The project offers information relevant to the national research and innovation structures, capacities and programmes of South Africa. Information is disseminated to all relevant stakeholders in Europe, thus complementing the effective research collaborations between the EU and the South African R & D communities. By identifying greater synergies between FP7 and South Africa's national research and innovation programmes, the project will also contribute to improved implementation of the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC).

SAccess is thus targeted towards two main objectives:

- to increase the participation of European stakeholders in South Africa's research and innovation programmes;
- to improve the prospects of research activities which have an international dimension and are of mutual interest to Europe and South Africa.

DESCRIPTION

The planned activities of SAccess are implemented through four work packages. Implementation relies heavily on available information related to South Africa's R & D facilities and structures as well as on the events for communication and dissemination of information. A set of high-visibility tools was developed and utilised in an effort to make the generated information available to as many stakeholders as possible in Europe.

SAccess serves the wider European research community that can participate in South Africa's programmes.

Furthermore, the SAccess project provides valuable feedback and will positively contribute to the policy dialogue within the context of the South African-European Union Joint Science and Technology Committee. A major input to the policy dialogue is the identification of conditions that will encourage, enhance and realise

SAccess

the participation of European researchers in South Africa's programmes and, consequently, facilitate reciprocity between Europe and South Africa.

SAccess seeks to leverage dissemination and awareness creation synergies with other ACCESS4.EU projects, with the aim of maximising the visibility of information provision through joint activities. In addition, the ESAS-TAP portal for the overall S & T cooperation activities between the EU and South Africa, the NCP networks (in the EU and South Africa) and the CAAST-NET INCO-NET for SSA (sub-Saharan Africa) will ensure the broadest possible dissemination of the project outcomes.

It is expected that the SAccess project will further promote the mutually beneficial EU–South Africa research partnership by identifying and enhancing access opportunities for the participation of EU research entities, and their scientists, in the national research and innovation programmes facilitated by South Africa.

These access opportunities are evaluated and disseminated through a dynamic and multidisciplinary approach to reach all relevant stakeholders within Europe and South Africa, thus increasing the options for S & T cooperation between EU and South African stakeholders.

The overall process provides new and additional inputs to the S & T policy dialogue carried out by the European Union–South African Joint Science and Technology Committee, addresses the issue of reciprocity and contributes to the overall enhancement of S & T cooperation between Europe and South Africa.

PARTNERS

1. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
2. Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France
3. Verket För Innovationssystem, Sweden
4. Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

ESASTAP2

Strengthening the European-South African science and technology advancement programme

Start date: 1.9.2008
 Duration: 42 months
 Project cost: EUR 1 300 000
 Project funding: EUR 500 000

Coordinator: Mamohlodig Tlhagale
 (Mamohlodig.Tlhagale@dst.gov.za)
 Department of Science and
 Technology, South Africa

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of ESASTAP2 were:

- promoting South African and European S & T excellence and competitiveness through enhancing participation of South African scientists and institutions in FP7;
- advancing S & T by developing, improving and supporting S & T networks and partnerships between European and South African scientists and institutions;
- promoting and enhancing mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral S & T cooperation between South Africa and the European Union at Community and Member State levels.

DESCRIPTION

ESASTAP2 (strengthening the European–South African science and technology advancement programme) was based on the S & T agreement signed between South Africa and the European Union (EU).

The agreement was based on strengthening and expanding the ESASTAP platform already established under FP6. ESASTAP2's objectives focus on improving S & T cooperation between Europe and South Africa by engaging the two actors in key themes of the internationalisation of research: cooperation and competitiveness. ESASTAP2 was coordinated by South Africa's Department of Science and Technology (DST). Through the project, the DST sought to continue and deepen this partnership with Europe.

The project reinforced and intensified existing relationships and initiatives and undertook new interventions to broaden and deepen cooperation.

ESASTAP2's activities included:

- promoting greater South African participation in FP7, specifically through targeting identified areas of mutual interest and mutual benefit;
- fostering the development of S & T networks and partnerships through targeted interventions showcasing the excellence and innovation of South African science and, reciprocally, the S & T activities of EU Member States;
- creating and maintaining mechanisms promoting increased awareness and utilisation by South Africa and European countries of existing and future S & T cooperative initiatives;
- developing targeted initiatives that facilitate South Africa and Europe jointly identifying S & T priorities for enhancing cooperation.

The DST co-invested in support activities which include the maintenance of the ESASTAP website, mobility and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) portals and cooperative agreement, funding and partnering databases; updating South African success stories and case studies; sending regular e-communicés throughout the ESASTAP community; producing marketing materials; hosting general information and thematic sessions; promoting South

ESASTAP2

African participation in evaluation panels for FP7 proposal submissions; supporting the South African national contact points (NCP) network; participating at South African conferences and workshops; and contributing to the DST policy dialogue and interactions with the European Community.

The promotion and development of South African–European networks and partnerships and the implementation of the various cooperation agreements that exist to further S&T relations, and the promotion of South African S&T excellence in Europe so as to advance and facilitate South Africa’s participation in FP7, were essential to the operation of ESASTAP2. To convey information, diverse platforms and delivery platforms were used. ESASTAP2 hosted one-to-one meetings, seminars, workshops, roadshows, expert group meetings, fact-finding and monitoring excursions and conferences. Seminars, workshops and promotional events were also held in South Africa and in Europe. These various instruments were intended to disseminate information to the S&T community and government representatives and also provided for participation from the non-governmental sector, the media, the private sector and society as a whole. Therefore, the envisaged instruments had the potential to impact the South African–EU environment and beyond, including other African countries.

ESASTAP2 had the following impacts.

- It increased in FP7 participation by the general South African research community as well as South African research community groupings.
- It increased South African participation across FP7 thematic areas and instruments, especially in areas where South Africa has a poor participation record.
- It enhanced South Africa’s success in applications for mobility fellowships.
- It increased networking and partnering in the S&T community, measured by the extent of FP7 consortium arrangements and the range and number of partner organisations with which South Africa collaborates.
- It strengthened cooperative relationships between South Africa and the European Community and the individual Member States through joint identification of needs and priorities for collaboration.
- It provided support for strengthening the South Africa–EU strategic partnership and implementation of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement.
- It complemented South African–European development cooperation activities such as the sector budget support programme for the DST.
- It contributed to advancing and deepening Europe’s cooperation with Africa’s continental and regional S&T programmes, including achieving optimal support for the AU/NEPAD (African Union/New Partnership for Africa’s Development) S&T consolidated plan of action; this was done,

ESASTAP2

for example, by providing support and resources to instruments such as CAAST-Net (Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa–EU Science and Technology Cooperation), and the INCONTACT NCP Network and ST-EAP (Science and Technology Europe–Africa Project) — ESASTAP2 will also support the development of, for example, the ACP–EU (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group

of States and the European Union) and SADC–EU (Southern African Development Community and the European Union) S&T partnerships.

- It decisively contributed to the internationalisation of the European research area (ERA).

ERAfrica

Developing African–European joint collaboration for science and technology

<http://www.erafrica.eu>

Start date: 1.12.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 290 000
 Project funding: EUR 1 990 000

Coordinator: Yves Savidan
 (yves.savidan@ird.fr)
 Institut de recherche pour le
 développement (IRD), France

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are to:

- establish a long-term framework for communication, collaboration and coordination of programme owners/managers related to S&T cooperation from Europe and Africa;
- reinforce EU–Africa S&T collaboration by promoting joint learning by African and European research programme owners and managers and identifying relevant instruments to address more effectively the global challenges of sustainable development;
- develop joint funding schemes and procedures between European and African programme owners aiming at supporting joint activities;
- strengthen African research capacities and improve the impact of research for development in Africa — strengthening the impact and the influence of S&T research implies enhancing the transfer of new knowledge for the benefit of society and the achievement of greater coherence between research outputs and policies and funding instruments in areas other than research.

DESCRIPTION

ERAfrica aims to reduce the fragmentation of the European research area with regard to cooperation with the African continent by increasing the coordination between national research programmes across EU Member States

and associated countries, in close coordination with national research programmes in Africa. The project consortium unites key S&T funding agencies and ministries from Europe and Africa in setting up a collaborative framework for the creation and funding of joint activities in the fields of research, development and innovation, to be carried out by researchers from both continents working together.

In deciding on topics for a concentrated funding strategy with regard to its joint activities, ERAfrica considers a broad range of research for development concerns, including not only the classic subjects related to poverty alleviation and the millennium development goals (MDGs), but also those related to sustainable development.

Structurally, the setting-up stage of ERAfrica consists of five work packages, each led by a different consortium member and each aimed at moving the collaborative effort from its theoretical inception through the stages of conceptualisation and policy formulation to practical implementation. In terms of the latter objective, ERAfrica has already attracted interest from a number of additional European and African governments, ensuring that those activities which are ultimately selected for funding have a broad impact on both continents. In this way, everyone has the chance to be part of a project which seeks not only to advance the cause of research and development in Africa and Europe, but ultimately to serve as a model for future cooperative ventures between the two continents.

ERAfrica

PARTNERS

1. OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst) (Commission for Development studies), Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, Austria
2. Conseil Interuniversitaire de la Communauté Française de Belgique/University Committee for Development, Belgium
3. Schweizerische Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Switzerland
4. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt
5. Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Portugal
6. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
7. Internationale Büro des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung beim Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany
8. Työ- ja elinkeinoministeriö, Finland
9. Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany
10. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Spain
11. Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Kenya
12. Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

CAAST-Net

Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa–EU Science and Technology Cooperation

<http://www.caast-net.org>

Start date: 1.1.2008
Duration: 60 months
Project cost: EUR 4 920 000
Project funding: EUR 4 200 000

Coordinator: Andrew Cherry
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Association of Commonwealth
Universities, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

There is an emerging global consensus that capacity in S&T is essential for economic competitiveness, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Therefore, a growing number of governments in Africa are prioritising S&T as a key sector of their national and regional development programmes and putting an emphasis on S&T in Europe–Africa cooperation programmes.

The goal of the CAAST-Net interventions is to promote and facilitate EU–Africa S&T cooperation, focusing on greater use of the EU's framework programme and recognising the potential of the European and African national programmes offering support to international cooperation in S&T. CAAST-Net facilitates EU–Africa stakeholders' dialogue on S&T and supports research partnerships through identifying and prioritising researchable topics of mutual interest and through networking and linking outputs to users. CAAST-Net harnesses cooperation to address specific local and regional problems in Africa and common problems of a global nature. Additionally, CAAST-Net's actions to foster EU–Africa cooperation and dialogue offer a strategic dimension to regions' capacity for implementation of priority continental S&T programmes. It monitors the trends of EU–Africa cooperation under the framework programme and seeks to strengthen the participation of African countries through raising awareness, brokering partnerships and offering training.

DESCRIPTION

An important objective of CAAST-Net is to support and add value to S&T cooperation policy dialogue between Africa and Europe. The activities include bi-regional senior stakeholder conferences on S&T cooperation, informal bi-regional discussion forums and facilitated dialogues between Africa's regional economic communities (REC) and interested EU parties.

These activities may also be used for a new senior Africa–EU platform when needed. In such activities, CAAST-Net partners seek the agreement and participation of mandated continental authorities to ensure maximum synergy with official processes.

CAAST-Net also promotes EU–Africa S&T research cooperation partnerships through collaboration with other INCO-NET projects. By bringing together African and European experts from specific thematic domains, CAAST-Net partners draw up proposals recommended for consideration within the context of future FP work programmes. In line with CAAST-Net's strategic focus on support to RECs, future expert workshops will give attention to regionalised priorities drawn from Africa's continental action plans. Since CAAST-Net activities place emphasis on enhancing EU–Africa cooperation under the EU framework programme, a fruitful cooperation between CAAST-Net and the new ERANET for Africa (ERAfrica) is much anticipated. CAAST-Net's partners offer support and information to enhance Africa's FP participation. A group of experienced partners (e.g. VINNOVA in

CAAST-Net

Sweden and TUBITAK in Turkey) has been established and is involved in a package of awareness-raising activities planned and executed as collaborative events with existing EC platforms such as the INCONTACT-one world network of INCO-NCPs.

Implementation of CAAST-Net's primary activities relies on dialogue-based events for communication and dissemination. Therefore, CAAST-Net's web-based community knowledge management platform was created, acting as the hub of dissemination, communication and awareness-raising activities.

CAAST-Net conducts analyses that examine the themes and instruments of S&T cooperation and check whether they have accomplished their goals. A part of the analysis is also the identification of the most relevant barriers to the participation of African countries in European research programmes.

Analyses of the thematic diversity of European–African collaboration contributed to the formulation of new research priorities and examined reasons for possible disconnections between Africa's articulated priority S&T issues and European–African S&T collaboration and policy dialogue.

PARTNERS

1. International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (PT-DLR), Germany
2. Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France
3. Research Africa, South Africa
4. Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MoHEST), Kenya
5. Ugandan National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), Uganda
6. Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway
7. University of Jyväskylä/UniPID JyU, Finland
8. Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), Sweden
9. Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), France
10. Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research (DR-MENRS), Madagascar
11. Ministry of Education, Sport and Science (MinESS), Ghana
12. Direcção Geral de Ensino Superior e Ciência (DGESC), Cape Verde
13. Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI), Cameroon
14. Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique (MRS), Senegal
15. Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT), Portugal
16. Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa

CAAST-Net

17. Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-STEPRI), Ghana
18. Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Turkey
19. National Office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Nigeria
20. Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN), Spain
21. Department of Research, Science and Technology (DRST), Botswana
22. Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), Rwanda
23. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR), Egypt

RUSSIA, CENTRAL ASIA

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

EuRuCAS

European–Russian centre for cooperation in the Arctic and sub-Arctic environmental and climate research

Start date: 1.5.2012
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 124 020
 Project funding: EUR 1 994 891

Coordinator: Leonid Bobylev
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 Scientific foundation Nansen
 International Environmental and
 Remote Sensing Centre, Russia

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the project is to use the Nansen International Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre (NIERSC) in Saint Petersburg, Russia as the joint research facility to extend, consolidate and strengthen scientific cooperation between researchers from the EU Member States and associated countries with those from Russia.

NIERSC research facilities, enhanced and expanded in the framework of the project, will be opened to researchers from other Member States increasing and extending scientific cooperation with Russian researchers.

The following are the specific objectives of the project.

- To open the NIERSC activities to researchers from Austria, Finland, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom and, additionally, to researchers from Germany, Norway and Russia, affiliated to the founding institutions of NIERSC. Furthermore, to increase, extend and coordinate scientific cooperation between researchers from the above-mentioned countries in the area of environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, including socioeconomic issues, through the physical participation of researchers from listed countries in the NIERSC's ongoing research activities as well as in joint workshops and seminars.
- To enhance the research infrastructure of NIERSC with the aim of:
 - providing resources to additional researchers from institutions participating in the project;
 - implementing of activities associated with future joint projects;
 - opening NIERSC's institutional arrangements to additional partners from EU Member States and associated countries.
- To further enhance coordinated scientific cooperation and to establish a network of researchers from EU Member States and associated countries and Russia in the area of environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, including socioeconomic issues, through preparation of new joint projects.
- To organise joint workshops devoted to the preparation of new joint European–Russian projects in the proposed research area and organise and hold the summer school at NIERSC as a multidisciplinary scientific/educational event devoted to modern trends in environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic.
- To facilitate the involvement of the younger generation of researchers (from project partner institutions and beyond) in European–Russian scientific cooperation and networking.
- To perform preparatory actions, from a scientific viewpoint, for NIERSC's institutional arrangements for additional partners to maintain long-term research cooperation

EuRuCAS

between European institutions and NIERSC far beyond the project's duration.

- To perform the preparatory actions, from a legal point of view, necessary for the drafting of the relevant legal documents for institutional arrangements for additional partners.
- To start practical actions towards accepting additional partners from EU Member States and associated countries to NIERSC institutional arrangements.

DESCRIPTION

In the framework of the project, cooperation is organised through the involvement of additional researchers in ongoing NIERSC projects and the preparation of new joint scientific projects in the area of environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic. NIERSC activities will be open to researchers from project participants/consortium members, including PhD students and postdoctoral scientists. They will physically participate in the ongoing research activities of NIERSC during their approximately one-year stay in Saint Petersburg. This will strengthen and extend cooperation in the proposed research areas between researchers from EU countries and Russia, as project partners, and increase coordination. Currently, NIERSC has moderate research capacities which are generally sufficient for the implementation of ongoing research projects. However, to achieve the ambitious goals of the

EuRuCAS project, these capacities will be substantially enhanced, particularly with regard to IT hardware and software.

To ensure further enhancement and coordination of scientific cooperation between the EU and Russia in the area of environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, including socioeconomic issues, proposals on new joint projects will be prepared and submitted to funding agencies, mainly the FP7 and Horizon 2020 programmes. The ideas and outlines of such proposals will be set out during three workshops at NIERSC, gathering researchers from both European and Russian research organisations. Special seminars organised at NIERSC simultaneously with EuRuCAS project meetings will also serve for the drawing up of new projects. Planned workshops, in addition to the preparation of new joint projects, will allow the consortium to establish a broad network of European and Russian research organisations and researchers for further extension and intensification of the coordinated cooperation in the proposed research area far beyond the completion of EuRuCAS.

In order to promote effective scientific communication between worldwide acknowledged scholars, leading experts and promising young scientists from various research domains, an international summer school will be organised and held at NIERSC.

The summer school will be devoted to modern trends in environmental and climate research in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, including

EuRuCAS

socioeconomic issues. It will be held as a multidisciplinary scientific/educational event bringing together the experienced and younger generations of researchers from a broad spectrum of relevant research topics in both earth sciences and socioeconomics. Leading experts from NIERSC and European project partners will be invited as plenary session lecturers. It is planned that the majority of attendees will be PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from the EuRuCAS project's partner institutions. Other attendees will be selected on a competitive basis from the best applicants to the planned open call for applications, with preference given to young researchers from the EU and Russia. The research topics, covered in the plenary lectures and workshops, will correlate strongly with the aim of strengthening the European–Russian scientific cooperation in Arctic and sub-Arctic studies. Special emphasis will be put on the relevant socioeconomic issues and state-of-the-art modelling tools of environmental economics and the economics of climate change, notably including integrated assessment models.

Dissemination of project information, work progress and results to the scientific community and general public will be organised through the project website, e-newsletters, brochures and reports.

PARTNERS

1. Scientific foundation Nansen International Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre (NIERSC), Russian Federation
2. Stiftelsen Nansen Senter for Fjernmaaling, Norway
3. Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V., Germany
4. Global Climate Forum e.V., Germany
5. Stockholms Universitet, Sweden
6. Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany
7. Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, France
8. Collecte Localisation Satellites SA, France
9. JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, Austria
10. University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
11. Ilmatieteen laitos, Finland
12. Helsingin Yliopisto, Finland

NAPEP

Nanotechnology platform for electronics and photonics

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 558 866
 Project funding: EUR 498 322

Coordination: Mustafa Muradov
 (mbmuradov@gmail.com)
 Baku State University, Azerbaijan

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this project is to create a nanotechnology research platform in the area of nanocomposites for electronics and photonics through the collaboration of organisations from EU Member States and Azerbaijan. In order to develop such an environment, the project will create a permanent professional knowledge network (the platform) where EU research centres experienced in EU framework programmes and research groups from the Baku State University will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, transfer knowledge and be exposed to new technologies, research results and best practices. The platform will also help to identify the collaboration projects and will contribute to the policy development.

The specific goals of the NAPEP project are to:

- increase the number of highly qualified Azerbaijani scientists (by training research groups);
- strengthen the complex research and development infrastructure comprised of universities, technology centres, research networks, laboratories and libraries;
- coordinate the actions of nanotechnology research groups, the scientific community and the private sector in Azerbaijan.

The primary output of the project will be the development of the strategy to integrate the well-established research group 'Nanocentre of the Baku State University' into the European research area (ERA) and the participation of this group in future FP7 projects.

DESCRIPTION

Most of the scientists and technologists in the world today believe that nanotechnology is leading to a new industrial revolution, and it is projected to profoundly impact all aspects of fundamental sciences, industry and manufacturing. The main goal of nanoscience and nanotechnology is the creation of useful/functional materials, devices and systems through the control of matter at the nanometer scale and the exploitation of novel phenomena and properties (physical, chemical and biological) at that scale. Examples of the practical application of nanocomposites include nanoelectronics, sensorics and photonics, all of which have a huge development potential and require the cooperation of all players in the innovation chain from university researchers to commercial manufacturers and end-users. Therefore, they can serve as a driving force and catalyst to transform the Azerbaijani economy from a raw material (oil)-based into a knowledge-based modern structure that will establish the country as a regional leader of innovation in the Caucasus region.

It is on this basis that the current project is launched with the direct aim of strengthening the integration of the Nanocentre of Baku State University (a leading nanotechnology research centre in Azerbaijan) into the ERA and supporting the participation of this particular group in the seventh framework programme FP7. In a broader context, the NAPEP project helps the development of nanotechnology research in Azerbaijan in general by creating links between

NAPEP

researchers, businessmen and decision-makers in Azerbaijan and Europe. Finally, the training offered in the NAPEP project educates future leaders (young researchers and university students) on contemporary nanotechnology practices, project management and result exploitation.

Six work packages (WP) related to the project's objectives are as follows.

- WP1, Management and coordination activities, guarantees that the project objectives are met within the allocated budget and timescale.
- WP2, Research groups assessment, provides qualitative and quantitative information on past initiatives undertaken in the participants' countries, as well as on national priority settings for nanoscience development. The information is collected via desk research by the project's contact persons, individual and group interviews with researchers and persons active in the research and technological development (RTD) systems of the countries through the completion of a structured questionnaire specifically designed for the purpose.
- WP3, Networking, aims at the development of a website that serves as a 'virtual nanomaterial market place' (i.e. a cooperation platform focusing on nanoresearch that will bring together researchers from the partner countries). The researchers are members of the scientific community, universities and other public bodies, civil society and private companies and various other stakeholders. The platform will allow these researchers to meet and build networks, identify common areas of research, provide access to new sources of information and allow the top researchers in the participating countries to have access to more publicity outside of their respective countries. Concerning joint experiment plans and the research strategies of groups, WP3 identifies the common research interests of partners and defines a plan for the joint future and strategy of groups for participation in FP7 projects. The subjects selected for the joint experiment plans include the research interests of all partners.
- WP4, Brokerage events, will organise five brokerage events during the course of the project. They will help to: link institutions and actors from European research centres and the BSU Nanocentre active in the area of nanotechnology; facilitate the transfer of European countries' experience on nanotechnology policy and nanomaterials market transformation; network between partner universities in the areas of nanoscience and nanotechnology; facilitate cross-border cooperation on nanotechnology by partner countries; and attract the attention of the general public to nanotechnology development.
- WP5, Training, provides training for partner countries' researchers, with a focus

NAPEP

on young (early stage) researchers and female professionals in EU nanotechnology research trends, nanotechnology best practices, nanoscience policy developments, funding schemes available internationally, project development and project management issues. The participants learn about the main priorities of nanotechnology policies, regional and national cooperation possibilities in nanotechnology research and methods for identifying the financial resources available to partner countries. Training is also offered in nanoscience cooperative research projects (i.e. how to develop a successful nanotechnology

project, how to manage it and how to exploit the results).

- WP6, Dissemination and promotion, aims at the dissemination of information about NAPEP among partners and other interested parties; support for the participation of SMEs; investigation of market needs for the NAPEP system and information on NAPEP outcomes.

PARTNERS

1. Szegedi Tudományegyetem, Hungary
2. Oulun yliopisto, Finland

BS-ERA.NET

Networking on science and technology in the Black Sea region

<http://bs-era.net/main/index.php>

Start date: 1.1.2009
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 610 000
 Project funding: EUR 2 190 000

Coordinator: Serban Panaitescu
 (panaitescu@cnpmp.ro)
 Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea
 Invatamantului Superior a Cercetarii
 Stiintifice Dezvoltarii si Inovarii,
 Romania

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the BS-ERA.NET project were to:

- reduce the fragmentation of the European research area (ERA) by improving the coherence and coordination of national and regional research programmes;
- develop and strengthen the coordination of public research programmes conducted at national and regional level, which target a group of countries from the extended Black Sea region;
- sustain communication in order to develop better reciprocal knowledge and promote trust building among programme owners and/or managers through a mutual learning process and a systemic exchange of information and good practice;
- enhance the complementarities and synergy between the framework programme and activities carried out in the framework of governmental structures such as COST, EUREKA, NEP, Unesco-BRESCE and EIROforum;
- promote a network of mutually open national and regional research programmes which would lead to concrete cooperation in the framework of the Black Sea research programme (BSRP) and to the development and implementation of joint programmes and activities in the region.

DESCRIPTION

To successfully improve the welfare, prosperity and quality of life in the Black Sea region, the definition of a sustainable development concept needs to be tailored to the specific realities of this region. The BS-ERA.NET project addressed such sustainable development issues according to the agreed principles of the triangle of knowledge consisting of education, research and innovation. The BSR high profile on scientific research follows the outcome of the EC-funded project 'Research potential of the Black Sea countries' (BS-ResPot) supported under the EU's sixth framework programme (FP6). The initiation of the BS-ERA.NET exploited the momentum, within the European-Black Sea dialogue, created by the completion of several FP6 projects targeting the Black Sea region, such as BS-ResPot or SCOPE-EAST (scenarios for a coordinated approach to sustainable S&T cooperation with the eastern neighbours of the EU), and the launch, in January 2008, of the INCO-NET EECA (S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries).

BS-ERA.NET enhanced synergies and reinforced the impact of the bilateral S&T cooperation between EU Member States and the countries in the Black Sea region. It also enhanced complementarities between EC and Member States' programmes towards the region and broadened institutional cooperation.

BS-ERA.NET aimed to reduce the fragmentation of the ERA by improving the coherence and coordination of national and regional research

BS-ERA.NET

programmes targeting the Black Sea across the EU Member States and associated countries.

The activities under BS-ERA.NET resulted in concrete cooperation between research programmes such as networking, mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint programmes and activities.

The project started with a systematic information exchange on national and multilateral initiatives in the Black Sea region which aimed at collecting information on the existing national and regional research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) programmes. This work resulted in the preparation of a synthesis report on the existing national and regional RTDI programmes and in the development of policy recommendations on future RTDI cooperation in Black Sea region. In addition, a series of short-term exchanges of programme managers between the various organisations were carried out in order to facilitate the exchange of information.

Secondly, the project included the definition and preparation of common strategic activities between coordinated RTDI programmes in the Black Sea region. The aim was to use the results of the information exchange so as to prepare the foundation of the future Black Sea region RTDI programme.

The third main task consisted of defining the BSRP in order to set up the basis for the Black Sea joint call for proposals that was organised. Amongst other things, this task included activities such as designing a joint evaluation and

administration system for the Black Sea joint call, drawing up the rules for participation, and identifying financial sources. One of the main deliverables of the BS-ERA.NET project was the preparation and launching of the first joint call under the BSRP for the year 2011 (including designing the management structure of the call, selecting the evaluators on the basis of a commonly agreed set of criteria, preparing specific evaluation guidelines, defining the funding scheme and launching the regional joint call). Finally, the consortium strove to communicate and disseminate the results of this work through the use of a website, a network of contact points in the countries concerned and a quarterly electronic newsletter.

The expected impact of BS-ERA.NET was that it would:

- lead to a critical strategic corridor between east and west;
- develop opportunities for programme makers and programme managers from the European Union to interact with the Black Sea region;
- provide, for the first time in the region, an integrated instrument for joint actions (the BSRP);
- develop the first European activities to support the coordination between national and regional RTDI programmes in the region since the EU became an effective part of the Black Sea (1 January 2007);

BS-ERA.NET

- complement policies at the regional level by facilitating cooperation between the EU and the region through the BSRP.

PARTNERS

1. Autoritatea Nationala pentru Cercetare Stiintifica, Romania
2. Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, Bulgaria
3. Georgia National Science Foundation, Georgia
4. Geniki Grammatea Erevnas kai Technologies, Ypourgeio Paideias, Dia Viou Mathisis & Thriskevmaton, Greece
5. Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile, Italy
6. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
7. State Committee of Science of Republic of Armenia, Armenia
8. Academia de Stiinte a Moldovei, Moldova
9. National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Armenia
10. Kyiv State Centre for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, Ukraine
11. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany
12. Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, France
13. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
14. Presidium of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan
15. International Centre for Black Sea Studies, Greece
16. Malta Council for Science and Technology, Malta

INARMERA

Integrating Armenia into the European research area

Start date: 1.1.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 544 120
 Project funding: EUR 499 710

Coordinator: Tamara Sarkisian
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 Centre of Medical Genetics and
 Primary Healthcare, Armenia

OBJECTIVES

Integration of the South Caucasus countries into the European research area (ERA) is one of the priorities of the EU's European neighbourhood policy. This is the objective of the ERA-WIDE initiative aimed at reinforcing the cooperation capacity of a prominent R&D centre in these countries by providing opportunities to improve its research activities in the thematic priority areas of FP7. The government of the Republic of Armenia recommended as such a centre the Centre of Medical Genetics and Primary Healthcare (CMG), due to its high reputation, broad international contacts, participation in FP7 and the importance of the top-level research in medical genetics for the general population.

DESCRIPTION

CMG, founded in 1998, is the only healthcare centre in Armenia and the South Caucasus with high-profile clinical and genetic departments, including molecular genetics, biochemistry, cytogenetics, immunohistochemistry and genetic counselling. The CMG also provides a broad range of services for children and adults in its outpatient clinic facility. The staff have many years of experience and fruitful scientific collaborations with well-known international institutions and research programmes that are directly relevant to the medical genetic problems of Armenia. The CMG permanently supports the creation of innovative projects in molecular diagnostics, mental retardation,

women's health, cancer genetics and genetic epidemiology.

The INARMERA project consortium, consisting of the CMG, the Institute of Cancer Biology of the Danish Cancer Society and the European Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer (Belgium), carries out research assessments for CMG and organises training in FP7 for CMG scientists and their research training in medical genetics. For networking and dissemination purposes, workshops and summer schools are organised in Armenia while Armenian scientists attend events in Europe. Meanwhile, from the start of INARMERA, four pilot projects in medical genetics have been organised between CMG scientists and their colleagues not only in Europe but also in Georgia, highlighting the regional aspect of INARMERA. The pilot trials help participants to identify bottlenecks of cooperation and propose improvements.

The Strategy Experts Group developed the strategy for CMG aimed at the establishment of CMG as a visible centre of medical genetics studies in the Caucasus and at turning it into a reliable partner for European institutions in framework programmes. Project results and achievements will be analysed and recommendations will be submitted to the authorities on strengthening EU-Armenia R&D cooperation leading to the successful start of the integration of Armenia into the ERA.

Implementation of INARMERA is expected to turn CMG into reliable and capable partner for Europe, jointly participating in FP projects and

INARMERA

developing new ways of diagnosing and treating genetic disorders. INARMERA creates favourable conditions for participation in new FP7 calls for proposals. These opportunities will encourage the emergence of new centres of excellence — new potential partners for the EU — and increase the regional coverage of the research and technological performance of the CMG.

High-level European scientists, enhancing their collaboration with Armenia due to INARMERA, offer young talented Armenians support to undertake research projects in Europe and the possibility of future collaborative links with Europe. INARMERA helps to link Armenia's S & T sector institutions with EU partners and defines the beneficial areas of collaboration. Recommendations, developed by INARMERA, highlight the priorities and prospects for Armenia's R & D organisations and assist in the commercialisation of applications through linking Armenian institutes and universities to EU technology centres and businesses. The implementation of the INARMERA work programme facilitates

the formulation of common priorities for EU–Armenia collaborative R & D.

INARMERA can visibly contribute to research and technological development (RTD) capacity-building in Armenia via enhancing and enforcing CMG's ability 'to tap into the growing stock of global knowledge and create new responses to local needs'. Being a European project, and promoting participation in joint EU projects, INARMERA, nevertheless, creates conditions and helps set up projects covered by bilateral agreements between EU Member States and associated countries with Armenia.

PARTNERS

1. European Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer, Belgium
2. Kræftens Bekæmpelse, Denmark

BIOPARTNERS

Reinforcing Georgian international cooperation capacities in the field of food and biotechnologies

Start date: 1.1.2012
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 598 812
 Project funding: EUR 500 000

Coordinator: Giorgi Kvesitadze
 (kvesitadze@hotmail.com)
 Georgian State Agrarian University,
 Durmishidze Institute of Biochemistry
 and Biotechnology, Georgia
 (DIBBAUG)

OBJECTIVES

BIOPARTNERS is a support action project aimed at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Georgia in the thematic priority 'Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology', and at integrating Georgia into the European research area, in order to:

- support the European leading position and European competitiveness in biosciences through strategic partnerships with Georgia by engaging the best Georgian bioscientists to work in and with Europe;
- enhance the pursuit of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with Georgia, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
- address specific problems that Georgia faces or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

In order to stimulate the cooperation, the BIOPARTNERS project mission has four objectives:

- to map and assess the strengths, weaknesses and collaboration potential of the project coordinator DIBBAUG, one of the leading Georgian institutes, and prepare it for the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs;

- to set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between DIBBAUG and its long-term European partner, the University of Murcia (Spain), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, providing better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing DIBBAUG for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development;
- to develop DIBBAUG's cooperation capacities, significantly increasing its visibility at the European level and its participation in the seventh and future framework programmes and setting the basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project;
- to organise international events as well as information, training, networking and brokerage and dissemination workshops and sessions, thus developing DIBBAUG's FP7 skills and raising awareness about collaboration on bio-thematic opportunities in order to promote the research capacities of DIBBAUG and to enlarge its network.

DESCRIPTION

The project aims to achieve its overall objective via four groups of activities:

- the preparation of DIBBAUG for the next step in its strategic development;

BIOPARTNERS

- the setting up and implementation of an ambitious twinning programme between DIBBAUG and its long-term European partner, the University of Murcia (Spain);
- the reinforcement of the international cooperation capacities of DIBBAUG and integration of DIBBAUG into the international networks and research consortia;
- the organisation of events (e.g. conferences, summer schools, networking and

brokerage sessions, information sessions, FP7 training) to strengthen the FP7 skills of DIBBAUG and to raise awareness about collaboration opportunities with DIBBAUG.

PARTNERS

1. Universidad de Murcia, Spain
2. INNO TSD SA, France

EcoArm2ERA

EU cooperation capacity-building of the Centre for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia: towards Armenia's integration into the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 560 700
Project funding: EUR 499 957

Coordinator: Shushanik Asmaryan
(ashuk@list.ru)
Centre for Ecological-Noosphere
Studies of National Academy of
Sciences of RA, Armenia

OBJECTIVES

The central goal of the project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of Armenia's leading research institute in the field of environmental research and ecology — the Centre for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (CENS). This overall goal will be achieved through the following specific objectives:

- to define and promote a sustainable development strategy for the CENS focusing on the overall improvement of the institution's capacities, visibility and competitiveness;
- to develop a strategic partnership between CENS and the Earth Sciences Institute, University College Dublin (UCD), and the Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva (UNIGE), and to build CENS' capacity to acquire and carry out international collaborative research partnerships;
- to build the competencies needed by Armenian researchers and staff members in order to participate in the FP7/FP8 programmes.

DESCRIPTION

EcoArm2ERA consists of five work packages (WP) that contribute to the building of CENS' capacities and to its integration into the European research area.

- WP1, Strategy, comprises the organisation of a strategy working group, the performance

of a SWOT analysis and the creation of the corresponding strategic development agenda for CENS. Apart from the valuable input from the European twinning partners UCD and UNIGE, additional advice will be sought externally from appropriate bodies.

- WP2, Twinning, comprises the development and implementation of a plan for joint research. This includes, in particular, the development and implementation of at least two joint research projects and the initiation of joint publications and joint research proposals, as well as the setting up of a virtual research laboratory between CENS and its European twinning partners UCD and UNIGE. Mutual study visits and the conducting of the EcoArm2ERA scientific workshop and EcoArm2ERA summer school are integral parts of the twinning efforts and will enable sustainable integration of CENS into the European research area.
- WP3, Training, comprises two different training measures: (i) the preparation and conducting of two FP7/FP8 training workshops; and (ii) the implementation of a coaching scheme which will enable ongoing practical and guided training in FP7/FP8 project management and acquisition of CENS staff. Thus, rather than just theoretical education, CENS staff will receive hands-on training on the job.
- WP4, Project coordination/dissemination, supports the activities in all work packages.

EcoArm2ERA

The targeted project coordination and quality control mechanisms will lay the basis for the achievement of top-quality results and timely delivery within the given budgetary constraints. Moreover, adequate risk identification and handling procedures are in place. The fact that CENS is directly supported by the experienced partner GIRAF contributes to the general effectiveness of the project management activities and procedures. The project's dissemination strategy will be developed in order to deliver the planned impacts.

- WP5, Project management.

PARTNERS

1. University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Ireland
2. University of Geneva, Institute for Environmental Sciences, Switzerland
3. GIRAF PM Services GmbH, Germany

MOLD-ERA

Preparation for Moldova's integration into the European research area and into the Community R & D framework programmes on the basis of scientific excellence
<http://mold-era.eu/>

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 559 501
 Project funding: EUR 498 888

Coordinator: Ion Tighineanu
 (tiginyanu@asm.md)
 Institutul de Inginerie Electronica și
 Nanotehnologii, Moldova

OBJECTIVES

The objective of MOLD-ERA is to assist the Institute of Electronic Engineering and Nanotechnologies (IEEN) to develop and implement a research strategy, expanding its activities and increasing its level of excellence so that it can compete and collaborate with leading research institutions in Europe.

This will be achieved by the creation of a technological infrastructure, training courses in nanobiotechnology and the preparation of projects for FP7, the implementation of a high-tech culture and integration into the European research area by developing close collaboration and networking with excellent European research centres and industrial companies.

The project focuses on a new research and training programme for young researchers building capacities at the intersection of fields related to nanotechnologies and biomedical engineering. MOLD-ERA training activities will be opened up and integrated with activities in other relevant research institutions in Moldova to increase the project impact.

DESCRIPTION

The MOLD-ERA activities include the following:

- Theoretical and practical courses organised in the fields of biocompatibility of electronic and photonic materials; transformation of bio-signals into electrical signals and vice-versa; extra and intracellular bio-electric signalling; bio-toxicity and related

disciplines. Online courses and two summer schools are also organised.

- Further development of the nanotechnology infrastructure in the IEEN by the acquisition of a plasma etching system and a multi-gas incubator bio-station to extend the research area towards nano-bio related fields.
- Researchers and staff from IEEN, ASM, TUM and other research institutions in Moldova receiving training in FP7 including FP7 rules and regulations, joining consortia, writing proposals, etc.
- Increasing MOLD-ERA's network of regional, national and European contacts, based on activities of mutual interest and new collaborative links.

MOLD-ERA consolidates the role of IEEN in Moldova as the linking unit between universities, research institutions, technology parks and small and medium-sized enterprises in the area of nanobiotechnology. It is expected to have a great deal of influence with regard to educating Moldovan society about nanobiotechnology, improving technology transfer to industry and transferring scientific results related to nano-bioengineering into economic benefits.

MOLD-ERA improves the quality of training and equipment in nanotechnologies. This will result in increased job opportunities in Moldova for young scientists as well as better career opportunities, better work conditions and improved access to research infrastructures.

MOLD-ERA

The successful realisation of the MOLD-ERA project will increase the number of high-quality graduates, collaboration and business opportunities and, thereby, increase the generation of wealth in Moldova. Stronger links will be created between scientific communities in the EU and Moldova, including educational institutions and networks, contributing to the development of business matchmaking in the context of trade support.

PARTNERS

1. EFP Consulting Ltd, Israel
2. Universitatea Tehnică a Moldovei (TUM), Moldova
3. Medizinische Hochschule Hannover (ASM), Germany
4. Academia de Științe a Moldovei, Moldova
5. University of Bristol, United Kingdom

GEO-RECAP

Recreation and building of capacities in Georgian ICT research institutes

<http://georecap.eu>

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 520 454
 Project funding: EUR 397 719
 Coordinator: George Giorgobani
 (bachanabc@yahoo.com)

Niko Muskhelishvili Institute of
 Computational Mathematics (GTU-
 MICM) and Vladimer Chavchanidze
 Institute of Cybernetics (GTU-IC),
 Georgian Technical University (GTU),
 Georgia

OBJECTIVES

Since the introduction of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in 2007, there has been a considerable increase in the number of EU-funded cooperation activities/projects between Georgia and the EU/ERA members, mainly through INTAS and Tacis, but also through different bilateral joint activities. Within FP6, a total of 15 projects were funded that included Georgian participants. As part of the continuing reform of Georgia's research system, Georgia tries not only to improve the number and profile of its scientific research institutions but also to develop new funding models, in particular with regard to international programmes and projects. The area of information and communication technologies (ICT) is considered the national priority area. GEO-RECAP systematically supports Georgia in this venture to significantly enhance the cooperation capacities of its leading ICT research centres (namely, MICM and IC). The project's central goal is to initiate and significantly increase scientific cooperation between the European research area (ERA) and both MICM and IC.

This goal comprises the following specific objectives:

- to conduct a series of networking events between members of the Georgian research institutes and key partners of the ERA;
- to provide comprehensive training to members of the Georgian research institutes to develop/enhance their skills and

competences with regard to acquiring and participating in FP7 projects;

- to develop a sustainable strategy for increasing the research centre's regional coverage and to improve its response to the existing socioeconomic conditions.

DESCRIPTION

GEO-RECAP implements a set of focused activities — networking, training and coaching, strategy development — in order to build and maximise the cooperation capacities of the Georgian research centres. GEO-RECAP was designed as practical 'on-the-job training' and supported 'learning-by-doing' action that empowers the Georgian research centres and allows them not only to learn but also put into practice everything that is relevant to sustaining themselves and actively integrating themselves into the international research community.

In order to ensure optimal suitability, all capacity-building measures are not only developed in direct collaboration and consultation with the Georgian research centres, but also with the relevant Georgian instances at policy level, namely ICARTI, the Georgian national contact point (NCP) for FP7 ICT and the 'People' programme, which is also a part of the GEO-RECAP consortium and acts in close coordination with the Georgian Ministry of Science and Education. In addition, for specific tasks, in particular with regard to strategy development, external experts (e.g. the Georgian National Science Foundation (GNSF)) are also invited to support

GEO-RECAP

and advise the GEO-RECAP consortium. For any actions proposed within GEO-RECAP, it is ensured that they correspond to regional and national policy as well as usefully complement the research and innovation activities described in the national indicative programmes (NIP) and covered by the ENPI.

GEO-RECAP consists of five work packages describing activities to be carried out during the project.

- WP1, Networking, comprises the preparation and coordination of the two networking events that will bring about specific opportunities for research collaborations and joint projects between Georgia and the EU and the direct improvement of both MICM and IC's networking capacities and capabilities.
- WP2, Training and coaching, comprises two different training measures: the preparation and conducting of two training workshops (one at MICM, one at IC) and the implementation of a coaching scheme which will enable the actual inclusion of Georgian researchers in European research groups to prepare joint projects and receive hands-on, on-the-job training.
- WP3, Mobility, provides the basis for the mobility of researchers — both the invitation of European and other experts to the networking events and the secondment of Georgian researchers to European partners as part of the coaching scheme.

- WP4, Strategy development, comprises the organisation of a strategy working group, the performance of a SWOT analysis and the creation of the corresponding development strategy for MICM and IC.
- WP5, Project management and dissemination, lays down the basis for the achievement of top-quality results and timely delivery within the given budgetary constraints. Furthermore, the basis for dissemination of GEO-RECAP's results (e.g. the creation of the project's website, design and development of required promotional materials for events), and thus the promotion of the project results at the levels of policymaking, research community and general public, is provided.

PARTNERS

1. ICARTI, International Centre for Advancement of Research, Technology and Innovation, Georgia
2. DFKI, Deutsche Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz GmbH, Germany
3. GEIE ERCIM, European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics, France
4. GIRAF PM Services GmbH, Germany

MOLD-NANONET

Enhancing the capacities of the ELIRI Research Institute in applied research to enable the integration of Moldova into the European research area on the basis of scientific excellence

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 532 710
 Project funding: EUR 474 999

Coordinator: Ioisher Anatolii
 (amyosher@gmail.com)
 Institutul de Cercetări Științifice
 ELIRI, Moldova

OBJECTIVES

The objective of MOLD-NANONET is to assist the Institutul de Cercetări Științifice (ELIRI) to develop and implement a research strategy that will expand its activities and increase its level of excellence in the areas of micro-nano-electronics related to the development of intelligent systems, nano-multicomponent systems, microsensors, microactuators, nano structures for fuel cell and energy storage applications, etc. so that it can compete and collaborate with leading research institutions in Europe. MOLD-NANONET is expected to increase the number of high-quality graduates, employment opportunities, collaboration and business opportunities and, thereby, increase the generation of wealth in the region. Emphasis is put on a training programme for young researchers that will result in the creation of a leading European infrastructure at ELIRI in the field of micro-nanoelectronics related to the development of intelligent systems. Another important element is training on technology transfer and intellectual property, which will stimulate the creation of a bridge between applied research and innovative business.

A further objective of MOLD-NANONET is to strengthen the cooperative links between the R & D institutions in the capital city of Chisinau and those from the city of Balti (BELTI), the so-called north capital of Moldova, and to create a unified interdisciplinary infrastructure in Moldova combining nanotechnology,

nanoelectronics and fine micromechanical and intelligent systems.

MOLD-NANONET facilitates:

- further consolidation of human potential and technological infrastructure;
- promotion of the link connecting nanotechnology and nanoelectronics to fine mechanics, and their integration into new product design;
- creation and consolidation of bridges between the Moldovan national nano-network and EU partners;
- creation of capacities for broader participation in the future of Moldovan research groups in the FP7 and FP8 programmes.

DESCRIPTION

ELIRI is one of the leading institutions in the field of manufacturing microwires from metals, alloys, semimetals, semiconductors, sensing elements and devices, as well as technological equipment for manufacturing microwires and devices on their basis. However, there is a lack of high-performance characterisation equipment for the investigation of nanostructures.

Successful realisation of the MOLD-NANONET project will stimulate the creation of a bridge between applied research and innovative business, re-establish the high-tech traditions in Moldova, implement a new technological culture, attract new investment and create new jobs.

MOLD-NANONET

MOLD-NANONET will consolidate the role of ELIRI in Moldova as a key institution in the network of research institutions, universities, technology parks and small and medium-sized enterprises, and will integrate the Alecu Russo State University of Balti (BELTI) into this research and production network. The integration of BELTI in this network is very important from the point of view of strengthening research and development links between the central and northern areas of Moldova. This will significantly enhance the capability of Moldovan institutions to join the framework programme activities. It will have a great deal of influence with regard to educating Moldovan society about nanoscale science, nanoelectronics and fine mechanics, translating crossover of these sciences into economic benefits and improving technology transfer to industry as the basis for end-products such as intelligent systems, nano-multicomponent systems, micro-sensors, micro-actuators, nanostructures for fuel cell and energy storage applications, etc.

MOLD-NANONET will improve competitiveness, innovation and collaborative opportunities for Moldovan research institutions and it will increase the number of high-quality graduates, employment opportunities and collaboration and business opportunities.

MOLD-NANONET activities include the following.

- Theoretical courses for PhD and master's students in the fields of nanotechnology, nanoelectronics, fine mechanics, micro- and

nano-electromechanical systems (MEMS and NEMS), algorithm of inventive problem solving (AIPS), intellectual property (IP) protection in the field of applied sciences and technology transfer. Training courses will be given by experts from the partner organisations, including ELIRI, BELTI and IMT (Romania), as well as from other relevant institutions in Moldova, for instance the Technical University of Moldova and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova.

- Practical training for young researchers from ELIRI and BELTI at IMT, CAU (Germany) and UAVR (Portugal) in areas including microwires, nanowires and filiform structures, micro- and nano-electromechanical systems, fine mechanics, product design, etc.
- In addition to the training of young researchers, the exchange of researchers is promoted within the consortium (visiting scientists from ELIRI receive training at IMT and CAU. The main focus will be on providing training in nanotechnologies, nanoelectronics and technology transfer, and improving the training courses for students in IP protection in the field of applied sciences and technology transfer.
- Expert staff visits to ELIRI and BELTI from IMT, CAU and UAVR. BELTI assists in preparing coursework and presenting courses, training in new techniques and methodologies and reviewing and assessing

MOLD-NANONET

coursework produced in the project. The involvement of BELTI in the project enhances the benefits of MOLD-NANONET to the whole of Moldova, emphasising the regional coverage requested by the call text.

- Specific courses related to magnetic, thermo-electrical, optical and photonic properties of nanostructures, design of micromechanical, integrated optoelectronic, photonic and intelligent systems, as well as intellectual property protection and technology transfer, will be given by professors and researchers from IMT, CAU and UAVR during a summer school organised in Chisinau. A major scientific focus on nanotechnologies, nanoelectronics and micro-electromechanical systems at a regional level has been organised and linked to this summer's school. In addition to the above courses, online courses are also organised as part of the researcher training programme.
- Activities to support collaboration with leading European research institutions, including the dissemination of scientific information, and identifying potential partners for collaboration and setting up joint experiments.
- Activities to encourage participation in FP project proposals, including training in writing proposals and FP rules and regulations.
- Purchasing new equipment considered essential to provide the level of research

and training required at a leading excellent European research institution working in the field of micro-nanotechnology.

- Close cooperation of the activities of ELIRI with the Technological Park in Nanotechnologies and Microelectronics.

PARTNERS

1. EFP Consulting Ltd EFPC, Israel
2. Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany
3. Institutul National De Cercetare-Dezvoltare Pentru Microtehnologie IMT, Romania
4. Universitatea de Stat 'Alecu Russo' din Balti, Moldova
5. Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal

SENS-ERA

Strengthening sensor research links between the Georgian Technical University and the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 522 540
 Project funding: EUR 466 907

Coordinator: Paata Kervalishvili
 (kerval@global-erty.net)
 Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi,
 Georgia

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the SENS-ERA project is to strengthen sensor research links between the Georgian Technical University (GTU) and the European research area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its three strongest sensor research topics:

- semiconductor-based materials for optical sensors;
- radiation sensor elements based on A4, A3B5 and rare earth semiconductors;
- novel smart sensory systems for environmental monitoring.

In order for GTU to achieve its overall aim of being integrated into the ERA, the SENS-ERA project is divided into four objectives implemented through work packages (WP) to:

- develop GTU's research partnerships;
- increase GTU's scientific visibility amongst European research organisations;
- increase GTU's human potential;
- increase GTU's medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

DESCRIPTION

The project activities are divided into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, describes how SENS-ERA is managed by the project coordinator and individual work package leaders to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to

ensure optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.

- WP2, Twinning, describes the twinning activities with European research centres in order to exchange scientific information, identify partners and set up joint experiments. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, via twinning with Cranfield with respect to research topic A: semiconductor-based materials for optical sensors. Secondly, via twinning with Cranfield and TEIPIR with respect to research topic B: radiation sensor elements based on A4, A3B5 and rare earth semiconductors. Thirdly, via twinning with TEIPIR with respect to research topic C: novel smart sensor systems for environmental monitoring. Fourthly, via networking with other European research centres with respect to FP7 ICT, NMP, security and environment research priorities with the support of Intelligentsia.
- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, describes the tasks to increase the visibility of GTU. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, by designing and implementing a SENS-ERA website and regularly updating it with relevant R & D news, events and newsletters. Secondly, by designing and producing promotional material for GTU. Thirdly, by promoting GTU, SENS-ERA and FP7 during local workshops and an international conference on

SENS-ERA

novel materials for sensor applications. Fourthly, by means of related technology-based science and engineering.

- WP4, Training development, describes the training development needed to build competency in research topics A, B and C and facilitate the participation of GTU in FP7 ICT, NMP, security and environment. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, training development will be organised between GTU and Cranfield relevant to research topic A. Secondly, training development will be organised between GTU and Cranfield and TEIPIR relevant to research topic B. Thirdly, training development will be organised between GTU and TEIPIR relevant to research topic C. Fourthly, training development will be organised between GTU and Intelligentsia relevant to FP7 ICT, NMP, security and environment.
- WP5, Strategy development, describes how a strategy will be developed for GTU in order to augment its research excellence, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs. Firstly, a set of evaluation performance indicators will be defined for GTU and then a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by a team of international

experts documented in a SENS-ERA evaluation report. Secondly, the SENS-ERA evaluation report will be presented during a workshop with representatives from the Georgian government and industry. It is also planned that an international conference on nanosensors and quantum nanosensory systems will be organised. Based on the discussions, GTU will create a SENS-ERA strategy report with defined goals for the next 5+ years including preparation of European research projects dedicated to highly innovative directions of novel sensory materials, systems and networks. Thirdly, the performance of GTU will be monitored during the project with respect to the evaluation performance indicators and the goals defined in the SENS-ERA strategy report.

PARTNERS

1. Cranfield University, United Kingdom
2. Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus, Greece
3. Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia), United Kingdom

BILAT-RUS

Enhancing the bilateral S&T partnership between the Russian Federation and the EU Member States, candidate countries and other associated countries

<http://www.bilat-rus.eu/>

Start date: 1.9.2008

Duration: 48 months

Project cost: EUR 597 076

Project funding: EUR 492 888

Coordinator: Jörn Sonnenburg

(joern.sonnenburg@dlr.de)

Project Management Agency of the

Federal Ministry of Education and

Research at the German Aerospace

Centre (PT-DLR), Germany

DESCRIPTION

The BILAT-RUS project is designed around joint EU–Russia interest and aims at mutual benefit. It is based on other bilateral or regional initiatives; firstly, EC-funded projects, both FP6 SSA (sub-Saharan Africa) such as SCOPE-EAST, NIS-NET, BRUIT, BS-ResPot, RUSERA-EXE, CREATION and other support activities under the thematic priorities of FP6, and FP7 projects such as IncoNet EECA, targeting east European and central Asian countries. Then bilateral initiatives between EU Member States and Russia within the framework of an S&T agreement or cross-border cooperation will also be built on.

The BILAT-RUS project enhances information collection and dissemination as regards S&T between Russia and the EU, analyses the existing legal and organisational framework, identifies room for improvement in cooperation instruments, demonstrates best practices for S&T cooperation, provides a knowledge base for new cooperation themes and priority areas and offers support to existing and upcoming structures of EU–Russian cooperation in S&T.

The project consists of four work packages (WP).

- WP1 facilitates coherent information gathering and dissemination on S&T in Russia on relevant S&T cooperation programmes to foster cooperation between the EU and Russia (with emphasis on FP7) and on ongoing S&T projects. Its final objective is to promote Russian S&T partners, their activities and opportunities

for enhanced cooperation and good cooperation practice through delivering and spreading concise, up-to-date and relevant information and, where needed, targeted advice to Russian national contact points (NCP).

- WP2 focuses on the analysis of existing instruments and — if appropriate — the development of proposals for an optimisation of instruments for enhanced future EU–Russian cooperation across all S&T-related themes. The main objective is to ensure a smooth future cooperation process in S&T research between the EU and Russia in all respects, building on Community, Member State and Russian instruments. Following the EU 2020 strategy and the EU innovation Union flagship initiative, BILAT-RUS also aims to enhance cooperation between Russia and the European Union in the field of innovation (i.e. with special focus on cooperation between industry and universities).
- WP3 aims at addressing the short- and medium-term needs of the existing joint thematic EU–Russian working groups. The main objective is to support EU–Russian cooperation in practical terms by offering custom-made assistance to the joint thematic EU–Russian working groups.
- The objectives of WP4 are to organise and coordinate project activities to ensure effective information flow, provide a smooth interface between the individual

BILAT-RUS

work packages and ensure the proper implementation of the work packages and corresponding tasks. Further objectives are to execute the overall legal, financial and administrative management, to provide the optimum implementation of the contract and to enhance cooperation with other relevant ongoing coordination and support activities addressing EU–Russia S & T cooperation.

In order to disseminate the project results to the wider public, information on the project's activities and results is spread through different tools and events. These include a website with information on the project, an EU–Russian S & T web portal including an Internet guide and a database on Russian S & T, a leaflet with brief information on the project distributed at events and to relevant stakeholders, press releases and e-newsletters with information about the main project events, intermediate and final results and other relevant news on EU–Russian S & T cooperation, information days and several analytical reports.

OBJECTIVES

The following are the major objectives of BILAT-RUS.

- To facilitate coherent information dissemination and awareness-raising: this refers to effective and sustainable information gathering and dissemination on S & T in Russia, on EU and Russian S & T

programmes, on ongoing cooperation programmes and activities. A database on S & T research institutes in Russia will be set up for this purpose and examples of particularly good cooperation practice (case studies) will be collected and analysed. Moreover, the establishment of a web portal with information on EU–Russian cooperation in S & T is envisaged to ensure a high level of information dissemination and awareness-raising. The capacities of the Russian NCPs will be further increased to provide targeted advice for Russian applicants.

- To contribute to the optimisation of the framework and the instruments for enhanced future EU–Russian cooperation across all S & T themes: existing instruments, rules, regulations and agreements at bilateral (Member States and Russia) and Community level (the EU and Russia) will be identified and compiled in an inventory. Examples of good practice and major barriers to successful cooperation will also be collected and analysed. Furthermore, options for optimising the common legal and organisational framework based on efficient instruments will be gathered for future discussion by policy stakeholders from EU Member States, the European Commission and Russia. Finally, suggestions for practical and efficient joint funding mechanisms will be collected in cooperation with Russian funding institutions.

BILAT-RUS

- To create a knowledge base for emerging horizontal issues of sustainable cooperation: the focus will be on mobility. Information will be gathered and analysed and options for joint EU–Russian action explored (e.g. the setting up of new joint thematic EU–Russian working groups);
- To meet the short- and medium-term needs of existing and upcoming joint thematic EU–Russian working groups on S&T cooperation: this includes the identification and analysis of rules, procedures and support mechanisms for the working groups based on good practice and the existing terms of reference. In a dialogue process with EU and Russian stakeholders of the working groups, the work is organised in order to respond to the concrete needs of each working group: to provide a knowledge base to support the effective decision-making of working groups; to define relevant S&T sub-topics of particular mutual benefit; and to disseminate information on the activities, results and

recommendations of the respective working groups.

PARTNERS

1. State University Higher School of Economics, Russia
2. Russian Research Centre, Kurchatov Institute, Russia
3. State Technological University, Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys, Russia
4. Centre for Study of International S&T and Educational Programmes, Russia
5. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
6. Austrian Research Promotion Agency, Austria
7. Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
8. Zenit Centre for Innovation and Technology in NRW, Germany

PRIMA-ERA

Promoting and improving Azerbaijani research collaboration with the European research area

Start date: 1.1.2012
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 567 488
Project funding: EUR 498 621

Coordinator: Eldar Mammadov
(emammadov@physics.ab.az)
The Institute of Physics of National
Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan,
Azerbaijan

OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of this project is to reinforce cooperation between Azerbaijani and European researchers and to provide successful integration of the Institute of Physics at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IPA) into the European research area (ERA). PRIMA-ERA project activities are performed in accordance with the general objectives which are described below:

- develop strategic research partnerships with European research institutions for IPA's integration into the ERA;
- improve IPA's regional scope and its responses to socioeconomic needs;
- improve IPA's human potential;
- increase job opportunities for young scientists in the country;
- increase IPA's scientific visibility;
- improve IPA's cooperation capacities.

DESCRIPTION

The collaboration between the consortium participants within the PRIMA-ERA project is concentrated on increasing the cooperation capacity and establishment of a collaboration platform in specific research topics for future participation in FP7 projects. The research topics are of mutual interest and are covered by the energy, nanosciences and nanotechnologies, materials and production of new technologies (NMP) areas.

The action plan of the PRIMA-ERA project includes the following activities.

- For the successful implementation of the project, effective project management and decision-making mechanisms are used through the organisation of managerial meetings, coordination of activities and events in accordance with the detailed work plan developed for the project activities.
- Twinning between the IPA and the project participants provides mutual benefits such as exchange of experiences and knowledge through direct communication, implementation of best practices in research organisation, complementarity in research projects, opportunities to keep abreast of research frontiers and identify scientific challenges, the establishment of long-term and structural working relationships, professional networking, training and improving professional capacity. This provides excellent possibilities for interaction between the participants and for the coordination of their research collaboration. Study tours, including discussions, will be organised at both institutions.
- Developing joint research plans and setting up joint experiments to establish a platform for future participation in FP7 programmes as complementary consortium members. Doctoral students and young researchers from both IPA and CNRS-IRDEP are mostly involved in these activities.

PRIMA-ERA

- Improving professional capacities to provide opportunities for researchers and students to acquire up-to-date knowledge and information on research topics of interest. These activities include the organisation of a workshop and a summer school at the IPA.
- Disseminating scientific knowledge and increasing visibility of the IPA's research and research capabilities to increase its potential for integration into the European research area. Production and dissemination of printed, as well as the design and update of web-based, information.
- Developing training modules and organising training to deepen the knowledge of Azerbaijani scientists and managers on FP7 programmes. The training events are open to any audience concerned. In addition, IPA's young researchers and students benefit from on-site professional training at the participants' laboratories.
- Promoting innovation in research and developing targeted research strategies to

increase the scope of the IPA in the country and in the region of the Caucasus and Caspian Sea and to provide effective scientific support for industries. Seminars on innovations in research and entrepreneurship for scientists and engineers are organised at the IPA, which are also open to audiences from other countries of the region. External experts are involved in the event as well as in peer-reviewing the IPA's strategy. The strategy will be developed based on the evaluation of the adequacy of the research activities of the IPA with regard to the current socioeconomic needs of the country and foresight analysis in the long-term outlook.

PARTNERS

1. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey

IPERA

Integrating the Institute for Physical Research of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia into the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 497 523
 Project funding: EUR 497 523

Coordinator: Aram Papoyan
 (aram.papoyan@gmail.com)
 Institute for Physical Research of
 National Academy of Sciences of
 Armenia, Armenia

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the IPERA project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of the Institute for Physical Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (IPR-NAS) in the research fields of quantum information, atomic and matter wave physics and scintillating materials, which are relevant to the FP7 work programmes ICT and NMP. This will enable IPR-NAS to become more closely integrated into the European research area (ERA). The specific objectives of the project are to:

- develop IPR-NAS' research partnerships;
- increase IPR-NAS' scientific visibility;
- increase IPR-NAS' human potential;
- increase IPR-NAS' medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

DESCRIPTION

IPR-NAS is a leading physics institute in Armenia for research into atomic physics, laser spectroscopy, photonics, quantum information and matter wave physics. Its researchers have published over 150 papers in international peer-reviewed journals during the past five years. IPR-NAS has collaborations with leading research organisations in over 20 countries around the world.

The IPERA project involves expanding IPR-NAS' capacities and scientific expertise through strategic collaboration with the following excellent research and innovation organisations: Centre national de la recherche scientifique

(CNRS) (represented by Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Carnot de Bourgogne, UMR 5209, and Laboratoire de Physico-Chimie des Matériaux Luminescents, UMR 5620) and Intelligentsia — plus three subcontracted experts from the Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, the University of Latvia and CERN.

By making a major contribution towards cooperation capacity-building in quantum information (research topic A), atomic and matter wave physics (research topic B) and scintillating materials (research topic C), the IPERA project will enable IPR-NAS to participate in and contribute to several FP7 thematic priorities.

In order for IPR-NAS to achieve its overall aim of being integrated into the ERA, the IPERA project is divided into five work packages.

- WP1, Project management, describes how IPERA is managed to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to ensure optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.
- WP2, Twinning, describes the twinning activities with European research centres in order to exchange scientific information, identify partners, set up joint experiments and prepare at least three project proposals for future FP7 calls for proposals. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, via twinning with CNRS-1 with respect to research topic A: quantum information. Secondly, via twinning

IPERA

with CNRS-1 with respect to research topic B: atomic and matter wave physics. Thirdly, via twinning with CNRS-2 with respect to research topic C: scintillating materials. Fourthly, via networking with other European research centres and submission of three project proposals for future FP7 calls for proposals with respect to FP7 research priorities with the support of Intelligentsia.

- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, describes the tasks to increase the visibility of IPR-NAS, by designing and implementing an IPERA website and regularly updating it with relevant R&D news, events and three newsletters. Promotional material will be designed and produced for IPR-NAS. It is also planned to organise a scientific conference in Armenia in the final stages of the project focusing on relevant FP7 ICT and NMP thematic priorities.
- WP4, Training development, describes the training development needed to build competency in quantum information, atomic and matter wave physics and scintillating materials and facilitate the participation of IPR-NAS in FP7 ICT, NMP and research for SMEs. This will be achieved through five tasks. Firstly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and CNRS-1 relevant to research topic A: quantum information. Secondly, training development

will be organised between IPR-NAS and CNRS-1 relevant to research topic B: atomic and matter wave physics. Thirdly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and CNRS-2 relevant to research topic C: scintillating materials. Fourthly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and Intelligentsia relevant to FP7 ICT, NMP and research for SMEs. Finally, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and Intelligentsia relevant to knowledge and technology transfer.

- WP5, Strategy development, describes how a strategy will be developed for IPR-NAS in order to augment its research excellence, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs. Firstly, a set of evaluation performance indicators will be defined for IPR-NAS and then a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by a team of international experts documented in an IPERA evaluation report. Secondly, the IPERA evaluation report will be presented during a workshop with representatives from the Armenian government and industry. Based on the discussions, IPR-NAS will create an IPERA strategy report with defined goals for the next 5+ years. Thirdly, the performance of IPR-NAS will be monitored during the project with respect to the evaluation performance indicators and

IPERA

towards the goals defined in the IPERA strategy report.

PARTNERS

1. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia), United Kingdom

ACCESSRU

Strengthening EU–Russia science and technology cooperation and EU access to Russian national funding programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/russia/>

Start date: 1.11.2009

Duration: 30 months

Project cost: EUR 558 522

Project funding: EUR 438 204

Coordinator: Svetlana Klessova

(s.klessova@inno-group.com)

Inno AG, Germany

OBJECTIVES

The overall project aim of upgrading strategic S&T cooperation between the EU and Russia will be achieved by implementing support actions on three levels: analytical, research and policy, each corresponding to a specific project objective.

The objectives are to:

- assess the opportunities in Russia for EU organisations by screening the Russian S&T landscape and identifying common challenges, needs and opportunities in S&T in Europe and Russia;
- raise awareness on opportunities in Russia amongst European research organisations and stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European organisations in the programmes managed by Russia;
- enhance S&T policy dialogue and to formulate strategic recommendations on scientific collaboration between Europe and Russia, ensuring reciprocity issues.

DESCRIPTION

The overall aim of the ACCESSRU project is to stimulate S&T cooperation between Europe and Russia by providing better access for European researchers to Russian research and innovation programmes. Firstly, the project mapped and analysed research and innovation programmes and initiatives managed by the Russian Federation to identify opportunities for

researchers from EU Member States and associated countries.

Once the current situation of the EU-Russian S&T collaboration opportunities was drawn up, the Green Paper on EU–Russian collaboration was prepared as a consultative document, and an opportunities report for European organisations prepared, to support European organisations willing to understand how to access Russian research and innovation programmes. To produce a concrete effect, and to develop concrete mechanisms for access to Russian funding, the project helps European organisations to access Russian research programmes.

The project implements two interrelated dissemination and awareness-raising campaigns: to promote access to Russian programmes inside the European research community and to inform Russian research organisations that the involvement of European partners in Russian programmes is possible and welcome. A two-way communication approach (Europe-to-Russia/Russia-to-Europe) and two interrelated dissemination and awareness-raising campaigns are considered crucial for the success of the project.

The impact of the Russian research and innovation programmes' screening and identification of opportunities for EU scientists will be maximised by the implementation of the visibility actions and policy dialogue support. All EU Member States are addressed by the project information and awareness campaign aiming beyond the promotion of the collaboration

ACCESSRU

opportunities with Russia to increase the reciprocity between two research systems. In essence, the ACCESSRU project brings forward the internalisation of the European research area via a concrete initiative to be embedded in a policy framework for both the Community and Member States to foster international S&T collaboration.

PARTNERS

1. Innova Europe SARL* Luxembourg
2. Russian Academy of Sciences, A. N. Bach Institute of Biochemistry, Russian Federation
3. Tomsk Polytechnic University, Russian Federation
4. Russian Technology Transfer Network, Russian Federation
5. International Centre for Innovations in Science, Technology and Education, Russian Federation
6. Fondation Européenne de la Science, France

ERA.Net RUS

Linking Russia to the European research area: coordination of Member States and associated countries' S & T programmes towards and with Russia

<http://www.eranet-rus.eu/>

Start date: 1.2.2009
Duration: 48 months
Project cost: EUR 3 078 000
Project funding: EUR 2 597 000

Coordinator: Andreas Kahle
(andreas.kahle@dlr.de)
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und
Raumfahrt e.V., Germany

OBJECTIVES

Russia, as the EU's largest immediate neighbouring country and as a global player on the political and economic stage, is, in many respects, considered as one of the main strategic international partners of many EU Member States as well as the European Commission. Although there are tight links between the EU and Russian science communities on various levels, the development of joint funding schemes between programme owners in EU Member States and associated countries lags far behind the opportunities and the full potential of S & T cooperation between the respective research communities needs to be reached. The ERA.Net RUS project will address this issue through increasing the cooperation and coordination of research programmes carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and associated countries towards and with Russia.

To this end, the ERA.Net RUS project aims to:

- raise knowledge on bilateral and national S & T programmes with or towards Russia and on relevant activities of other programme owners;
- identify common ground across bilateral S & T programmes of Member States and associated countries with Russia and provide a basis for a joint programmatic approach;
- learn lessons from ongoing (thematic) ERANET projects involving Russian programme owners and identify good practices;

- develop an appropriate instrumental setting for joint funding activities;
- implement a pilot joint call and draw lessons from it;
- develop and promote a sustainable joint S & T programme with Russia.

DESCRIPTION

The ERA.Net RUS project contributes to the success of the European research area (ERA) by improving the coherence and coordination across Europe of international S & T cooperation programmes with Russia. The project focus is on exploring options for linking bilateral S & T programmes in a variable geometry:

- identification of options for joint funding activities of particular benefit for programme owners in the Member States and associated countries and the design of implementation scenarios;
- implementation of a pilot joint call of interested programme owners in Member States and associated countries and Russia and the assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the joint funding scheme;
- development of a sustainable S & T programme to be agreed on by interested programme owners from the Member States and associated countries and Russia.

The project consortium will strive to actively involve Russian programme owners in the various steps, in particular the planning, implementation

ERA.Net RUS

and assessment of a pilot joint call and the planning of a sustainable S&T programme.

Project activities are split up into six work packages (WP):

- WP1, Preparing the analytical ground for coordinating the participating Member States and associated countries' S&T and innovation programmes towards Russia or with Russian programme owners;
- WP2, Developing and disseminating a concept for the coordination of S&T activities and innovation programme owners in the participating Member States and associated countries and Russia;
- WP3, Preparing, implementing and assessing a pilot joint call;
- WP4, Developing, disseminating and promoting a sustainable programme;
- WP5, Information dissemination, communication and links;
- WP6, Project coordination and management.

In order to ensure a wide outreach of the project activities, the means of dissemination include:

- the development of a knowledge management plan, describing the internal and external information management, the dissemination strategy and its tools and instruments;
- a dynamic web-based 'communication and information management system' allowing both restricted and open access to complementary tools for proactive external communication and public relations;

- conferences addressing both governmental and non-governmental programme owners and science and innovation communities.

The project also takes advantage of the ERA.Net learning platform and the NETWATCH information platform under the ERAWATCH scheme for mutual learning and the exchange of good practices between different ERA-NET projects and the International Learning Network, which provide a forum for methodical learning between FP7 INCO-NET, BILAT, ERANET projects.

Focusing on Russia, the ERA.Net RUS project targets the largest neighbouring country of the EU and one of its main strategic partners. It further emphasises the significance of the EU–Russian partnership and will help to reach a new level in EU–Russian S&T cooperation by improving the coherence and coordination of European scientific cooperation with Russia and the complementarities between the participating Member States and associated countries and the EC activities. In addition, fragmentation of activities aimed at S&T cooperation between the Member States and associated countries and Russia, within the bilateral S&T programmes of individual Member States and associated countries and those of various other governmental and non-governmental programme owners, is expected to be reduced. Thus ERA.Net RUS essentially contributes to strengthening the international dimension of the ERA. It helps to widen the ERA's transnational approach to S&T cooperation, with benefits for European and Russian S&T communities, policymakers, economies and societies.

ERA.Net RUS

PARTNERS

1. Nemzeti Innovációs Hivatal, Hungary
2. Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, France
3. Institution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, A.N. Bach Institute of Biochemistry of RAS, Russian Federation
4. Russian Research Centre Kurchatov Institute, Russian Federation
5. Geniki Grammateia Erevnas Kai Technologias, Ypourgio Paidias, Dia Viou Mathisis & Thriskevmaton, Greece
6. European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Belgium
7. International Centre for Innovations in Science, Technology and Education, Russian Federation
8. Suomen Akatemia, Finland
9. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
10. Zentrum für Soziale Innovation, Austria
11. Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany
12. Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche, France
13. Norges Forskningsrad, Norway
14. Estonian Research Council, Estonia
15. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
16. State University Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation

IncoNet CA/SC

International Cooperation Network for Central Asian and South Caucasus countries
<http://www.inco-casc.net/>

Start date: 1.4.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 1 860 000
 Project funding: EUR 1 599 860

Coordinator: George Bonas
 (gbonas@eie.gr)
 International Centre for Black Sea
 Studies, Greece

OBJECTIVES

The countries of central Asia and South Caucasus (CA/SC) display a significant potential in terms of research and innovation. As a consequence, a strong bi-regional EU–CA/SC interest in enhancing S&T cooperation has been developing with the aim of sharing strengths and resources in order to prepare the ground for a joint transfer of academic results to national, regional and worldwide markets.

With the objectives of supporting and facilitating bi-regional EU–CA/SC S&T policy dialogue, addressing coordination with other EU instruments and strengthening participation in FP7, the IncoNet CA/SC project targets all the central Asian and South Caucasus countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, plus Moldova.

The project aims to complement and deepen, in the two subregions, the activities of the ongoing IncoNet EECA ⁽¹⁾ project, with particular emphasis on Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, which have been partially addressed so far. At the same time, by avoiding duplication and by extending the synergies between the two projects (which are geographically overlapping), their impact will be maximised.

⁽¹⁾ S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian countries (<http://www.inco-eeca.net>).

DESCRIPTION

The following are the main activities of the project.

- Policy dialogue: organisation of missions in every targeted country in order to contact policymakers and other stakeholders, to identify mutual interests and to pave the way for enhanced participation in the European research area and FP7 as well as the organisation of two stakeholders' conferences to formulate proposals for enhanced cooperation, to promote mutual learning among policymakers, to identify barriers, etc. In parallel, specific attention will be given to other EU policies such as the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and the Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI), for their better coordination with the S&T policy.
- Support for information multipliers: for example, training sessions for NCP/NIP structures and the scientific community; info days in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan; grants for the participation of scientists in brokerage events in the EU.
- Studies on innovation policies and structures in CA/SC: successful participations in FP6 and FP7 will be considered in order to identify critical factors, as well as the extension of studies implemented under the IncoNet EECA, which include, inter alia, mapping of key institutes, monitoring and review of cooperation patterns, S&T indicators and ways to improve them, etc. The

IncoNet CA/SC

aim of these studies is to feed the policy dialogue.

- Communication and dissemination activities: in addition to the creation of a website and a communication platform (<http://www.inco-casc.net>), particular effort will be devoted to the strengthening of the coverage of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan through the already established Central Information Office and its network of regional and local correspondents in order to further increase the volume and quality of the information on the incrEAST web portal (<http://www.increast.eu>).

The activities included in the IncoNet CA/SC project have a direct positive impact on cooperation with the targeted countries, at both policymaking and operational/implementation levels. More specifically, at the policymaking level, the IncoNet CA/SC is expected to:

- increase knowledge of the S & T landscape and the S & T policies in the target regions and Moldova;
- raise awareness and support for the bi-regional policy dialogue process in the targeted countries;
- have a significant impact on the development of synergies among different EU policies.

At the operational/implementation level, IncoNet CA/SC is expected to increase participation in FP7 through specific horizontal (e.g. training of NCPs) and thematic activities (e.g. information days) that will enhance information

dissemination and assistance and create awareness of the opportunities for enhanced cooperation among researchers.

PARTNERS

1. International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Germany
2. Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan
3. Archimedes Foundation, Estonia
4. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey
5. Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, Georgia
6. Indo-Uzbek Centre for Promotion S & T Cooperation, Uzbekistan
7. Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
8. Centre of Ideas and Technologies, Armenia
9. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Help Forward Network, Greece
10. National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan
11. Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Moldova
12. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
13. National Centre of Complex Processing of Mineral Raw Materials of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan
14. Central Scientific Library of the Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan

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15. National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan
16. Research Institute of Water and Hydro-energy Problems of the Kyrgyz Republic Academy of Sciences, Kyrgyzstan
17. Public Foundation EnConsult, Kyrgyzstan
18. Society for Development of Scientific Cooperation, Tajikistan
19. Institute of Material Sciences of Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan
20. National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Armenia
21. Institute of Geology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan
22. Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan Republic, Scientific Research Institute for Geotechnological Problems of Oil, Gas and Chemistry, Azerbaijan
23. Caucasus School of Business, Georgia
24. General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Greece
25. Georgian Research and Development Foundation, Georgia
26. Scientific Consulting Centre 'Altyn Umyt', Turkmenistan

INARMERA-ICT

Integrating Armenia into the European research area: information and communication technologies

Start date: 1.2.2012
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 497 978
 Project funding: EUR 497 978

Coordinator: Yuri Shoukourian
 (yu.shoukourian@sci.am)
 Institute for Informatics and
 Automation Problems of the National
 Academy of Sciences of the Republic
 of Armenia, Armenia

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of INARMERA-ICT is to reinforce the cooperation capacity of the Institute for Informatics and Automation Problems (IIAP) of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan by creating opportunities to improve its research activities in the areas of FP7 thematic priorities. Successful implementation of the INARMERA-ICT work programme will have a profound and long-lasting impact on EU–Armenia R & D cooperation.

The goal of INARMERA-ICT is the realisation of the following improvements in EU–Armenia cooperation in framework programmes:

- enhanced quality of cooperation — more frequent contact and meetings, different levels of cooperation;
- enlarged scope of cooperation — more EU Member States involved, more research centres and businesses involved, more topics of mutual interest covered;
- deepened content — more joint articles in leading research journals, patent applications, joint leadership of PhD students, etc.;
- increased number of FP7 project proposals with Armenian participation;
- strengthened links between policy-makers in the EU and Armenia in S & T.

DESCRIPTION

The problem that INARMERA-ICT addresses is the missed opportunity of strong S & T cooperation between Europe and Armenia in the mutually important field of S & T, and the benefits it can bring to both sides. In practical terms, it means new jobs, better career opportunities and better prospects for the development of new products and services. It helps with issues of standardisation and interoperability, providing an environment of effective cross-border cooperation.

INARMERA-ICT addresses this problem by proposing dedicated activities aimed at improving the cooperation capacity of Armenia. These activities complement the research and innovation activities described in the Armenian national indicative programme and covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The planned activities will eventually result in the promotion of closer scientific cooperation between the EU and Armenia and will be a step forward in the direction of preparation for Armenia's future association with the framework programmes. This is in line with the EC communication on the strategic framework for international S & T cooperation, an important part of which is the call for the reinforcement of cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the European research area (ERA). The IIAP is the leading ICT research and technology development institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

INARMERA-ICT

The INARMERA-ICT project aims at reinforcing the cooperation capacity of the IIAP by providing opportunities to improve its research activities in the areas of thematic priorities of the framework programme. Participation of the IIAP in the ERA-WIDE call was endorsed by the Armenian government due to the important role it assigned to the institute in the transition of the country to an innovative knowledge-based economy, due to active participation in FP5, FP6 and FP7 projects, and the responsibility the institute bears in the development of ICT in Armenia and in the region.

The project consortium consisting of the IIAP and three partners from Belgium, France and Hungary will carry out a research assessment of the IIAP, organise training in FP7 and FP8 and research training in the latest methods in information technology, cybernetics, etc. for IIAP scientists. For networking and dissemination purposes, workshops and summer schools are organised in Armenia, while Armenian scientists are able to attend events in Europe. Meanwhile, from the start of INARMERA-ICT, four pilot projects will be organised between IIAP scientists and their colleagues in Europe and also in Georgia, highlighting the regional aspect of the project. The pilot projects help participants to identify bottlenecks of cooperation and find remedies:

they will lay the ground for larger FP project proposals.

The Strategy Experts Group develops strategy for the IIAP aiming at confirming its reputation as the leading regional ICT centre and turning it into a committed partner for European institutions in framework programmes. Project results and achievements are analysed and recommendations will be drawn up to present to the authorities on strengthening EU–Armenia R & I cooperation leading to the successful integration of Armenia into the ERA.

PARTNERS

1. Universite Paul Sabatier, Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse (Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse), France
2. Magyar Tudomanyos Akademia Szamitastechnikai es Automatizalasi Kutatointezet, Hungary
3. European Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer, Belgium

EASTERN EUROPE

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

BELERA

Reinforcing carbon nanotubes and photonics research cooperation between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the European research area

Start date: 1.1.2012

Duration: 24 months

Project cost: EUR 559 556

Project funding: EUR 499 696

Coordinator: Vladimir Labunov (labunov@bsuir.by)

Belarusian State University of
Informatics and Radio-Electronics

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the BELERA project is to integrate the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) into the European research area by reinforcing BSUIR's research cooperation capacities and twinning with European research and innovation organisations in the following carbon nanotube-(CNT) and photonics-related research topics:

- magnetic properties of CNT;
- emission properties of CNT-based cold cathodes;
- nanostructured materials for novel photonic devices.

These are research topics highly relevant to the FP7 NMP and FP7 ICT.

DESCRIPTION

The BSUIR is the leading academic institution in Belarus for research in micro- and nanoelectronics, new perspective materials, beam technologies and technics and radio engineering devices and systems. Its researchers have published numerous research papers in international, peer-reviewed journals during the past five years (e.g. *Journal of Applied Physics*).

The BELERA project will build upon BSUIR's existing strengths as a high-quality research institution via twinning and capacity-building activities with the following four excellent European research and innovation organisations: Institut d'Électronique du Solide et des Systèmes Strasbourg (CNRS-InESS), Bergische

Universität Wuppertal (BUW), Universidad Politécnica de Valencia — Nanophotonics Technology Centre (UPVLC) and Innoveo Consulting. BSUIR's researchers will make biannual visits to the research centres of the consortium partners CNRS-InESS, BUW and UPVLC. Meanwhile, CNRS-InESS, BUW and UPVLC's researchers will make reciprocal annual visits to the BSUIR. These meetings enable the following to be carried out.

- Consortium partner introductions: research area and achievements, objectives and capabilities.
- Definition of mutually interesting research areas amongst the research topics: (a) magnetic properties of carbon nanotubes; (b) emission properties of carbon nanotube-based cold cathodes; and (c) nanostructured materials for novel photonic devices.
- Organisation of efficient long-term information exchange in identified mutually interesting research areas: research achievements dissemination, joint publications, organisation of thematic workshops with the involvement of external experts.
- Setting up of joint experiments: objectives and definition of initial conditions, monitoring of the development and implementation of the research plan, discussion of results received and possible definition of the application field.
- Training module development and implementation.

BELERA

- Production of competitive ideas that correspond to the European industry priorities for further development into beneficial project proposals.
- Joint proposal preparation for participation in European R & D programmes.
- Further development of the collaboration basis (after the BELERA project has ended).

The capacity-building activities involve knowledge-exchange, setting up joint experiments, and training development for BSUIR's researchers focused on the three research topics and the FP7 programme.

Moreover, they involve mapping and promotion of nanoelectronics and nanophotonics organisations across Belarus. Promotional activities include the development of the BELERA website, production of printed materials and the organisation of workshops and major international

scientific conferences at the BSUIR on various aspects of carbon nanotubes and photonics.

In order to augment the research excellence of the BSUIR, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to socioeconomic needs, a strategy has been developed.

Furthermore, a feasibility study for the Belarusian nanoelectronics and nanophotonics technology platform will be prepared.

PARTNERS

1. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany
3. Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain
4. Innoveo Consulting, Luxembourg

KhAI-ERA

Integrating the National Aerospace University 'KhAI' into the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 551 265
 Project funding: EUR 499 438

Coordinator: Igor Rybalchenko (iar@khai.edu)
 National Aerospace University —
 Kharkiv Aviation Institute, Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the KhAI-ERA project is to integrate the National Aerospace University (KhAI) into the European research area (ERA) by developing cooperation, setting up joint pilot research and, finally, twinning with European research and innovation organisations in its three strongest aerospace and IT research topics:

- composite materials;
- advanced manufacturing for aircraft assembly;
- dependable embedded systems.

These are also research topics highly relevant to the FP7 transport, space, ICT and research for SMEs work programmes.

DESCRIPTION

KhAI is the only university in Ukraine providing the full cycle of higher education in aerospace science. It has over 1 146 researchers, 700 teachers and 12 000 students. Its researchers regularly publish international papers and present at international conferences in these research topics. KhAI is a major research centre with huge potential for integration into the ERA as demonstrated by its participation in many national and international projects.

The KhAI-ERA project will build upon KhAI's existing strengths as a high-quality research institution via twinning and capacity-building activities with four excellent European research and innovation organisations: Institute of

Aerospace Engineering, Brno University of Technology (IAE-BUT); Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation (Fraunhofer-IFF); Centre for Integrated Electronic Systems and Biomedical Engineering, Tallinn University of Technology (CEBE-TUT); and Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia).

The capacity-building activities involve knowledge-exchange, setting up joint experiments and training development for KhAI researchers focused on composite materials, advanced manufacturing for aircraft assembly, dependable embedded systems and the FP7 programme. It also involves dissemination and strategy development to support the KhAI organisation. In order to promote the KhAI-ERA project, KhAI and FP7 within Ukraine, workshops and a major scientific conference will be organised. This task will raise awareness of the KhAI-ERA project and its benefits amongst Ukrainian scientists, researchers and engineers working and studying in public or private organisations based outside of KhAI.

PARTNERS

1. Vysoke uceni technicke v Brne, Czech Republic
2. Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V., Germany
3. Tallinna Tehnikaülikool, Estonia
4. Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia), United Kingdom

Nanotwinning

Increasing opportunities for strategic collaboration in the field of nanotechnology via twinning of the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine with institutions of the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 28 months
 Project cost: EUR 554 211
 Project funding: EUR 498 696

Coordinator: Olena Fesenko (fesenko@iop.kiev.ua)
 Institute of Physics of the National
 Academy of Science of Ukraine,
 Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to increase opportunities for collaboration in the field of nanotechnology via twinning of the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (IOP) with institutions of the European research area.

This will help the IOP to:

- adopt the good practices of the leading European R & D centres to improve the strategic management system of the IOP based on the new sustainability policy five-year action plan (5Y-AP);
- adopt European practice on creation, expertise and transfer of nanotechnology for Ukraine;
- stimulate development of nanotechnologies as a priority development area for ensuring the IOP's regional leadership while Ukraine is moving towards the development of an intelligence-based economy;
- maintain a flexible and adequate portfolio of R & D activities;
- improve scientific staff competences in the preparation of and application for grants under FP7;
- enhance significantly the level of cooperation with industry and businesses in the area of intellectual property commercialisation;
- establish strategic alliances with R & D institutes and universities at the national and international level to increase the IOP's scientific capacity;

- involve young scientists in the priority areas of science from both the IOP and the partner institutions;
- disseminate information and share experience gained in the course of the Nanotwinning project with Ukrainian institutes.

DESCRIPTION

The project is structured into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Coordination, includes preparing the documentation and reporting on the project, preparing and post-processing EC reviews from the consortium including support in the implementation of recommendations from the EC and setting up of meetings of the Advisory Group and the Steering Group, liaison with other partners on a day-to-day basis, formulating the overall work programmes and plans for IOP, their integration with the work to be performed by the remaining partners and supervising the remaining WPs of the IOP.
- WP2, Science cooperation, aims to enhance cooperation with European institutes and universities and to identify new opportunities and directions in the field of nanotechnology.
- WP3, Young scientist, aims to involve young people in contributing to the future direction of nanoscience, help to develop independent careers and make the

Nanotwinning

transition from working under a supervisor to being independent researchers in their own right.

- WP4, Innovation and technology cooperation, will help to move the IOP to delineate areas where research and development are needed to provide new technologies and innovative practices. The existing worldwide partnerships with the research community could be extended to identify potential breakthrough areas.
- WP5, Five-year action plan, aims to improve the the IOP strategic management system based on the new

sustainability policy (5Y-AP) and the experience and knowledge obtained during this project.

PARTNERS

1. University of Tartu, Estonia
2. European Profiles S.A., Greece
3. Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy
4. Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris VI, France

INCRIS

Improving international cooperation and R & D road infrastructure strategy for Ukraine

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 702 262
 Project funding: EUR 498 957

Coordinator: Valeriy Vyrozhemsky
 (vv@dorndi.org.ua)
 Shulgin State Road Research
 Institute, Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the INCRIS coordinating action is to ensure that the cooperation capacities of Shulgin State Road Research Institute (DNDI) are reinforced in order for it to foster its integration into the European research area (ERA). The main objectives of the project are to:

- build a research strategy for DNDI in order to increase its scope and regional coverage in Ukraine as well as to improve its responses to the socioeconomic needs of Ukraine;
- establish strategic partnerships between research centres;
- strengthen the ability of Ukrainian researchers to take part in future FP7 research projects;
- facilitate the sharing, dissemination and exploitation of knowledge between DNDI and research institutes in Member States.

DESCRIPTION

While the objectives of road research activities are similar around the world, the lack of cooperation between research institutes leads to ineffective use of R & D capacities and also their duplication. The integration of DNDI, the most important road research organisation in Ukraine, into the ERA would lead to a more optimal use of research capacities on a European scale and strengthen the research competencies and competitiveness of Europe while promoting knowledge transfer between

the parties and, thus, helping the dissemination and utilisation of European research results in Ukraine.

In order to strengthen the institute's capacities and capabilities to take part in major European research projects and better respond to changing socioeconomic and transport circumstances, a long-term strategy of how research activities should be developed and how the scope and regional coverage of DNDI could be expanded should be created.

To this end, an overview of the current research and development strategy of DNDI and comparison with the strategies of other European institutes will be carried out. Furthermore, a new strategy based on Ukrainian national and EU objectives considering the socioeconomic situation in Ukraine to accelerate implementation of modern materials and technologies of construction and repair of roads and bridges, as well as to alleviate the shortcomings of the national road network, will be drafted. A short-term action plan has also been devised to enable the swift implementation of the strategy starting with the most important steps.

Experts from the partner institutes, internally well-established independent researchers, external peer-reviewers and stakeholders (Road Administration, Ministry of Transport, NGOs, road construction industry) are all involved in forming the strategy. Peer reviewers with experience in strategy building will be invited from KTI Institute for Transport Sciences Non-profit Ltd. (KTI), Road and Bridge Research

INCRIS

Institute (IBDiM) and Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI).

The strategy will address how the problems of Ukrainian road network development, construction and maintenance can be alleviated through research and development.

The aim is to improve the efficiency, security and safety of transport operations and to develop intermodality. The expansion of the regional scope of DNDI will be based on its regional departments in the Poltava and Dnepropetrovsk regions, and its regional scientific and technical centre in Lvov. Researchers from these departments are also involved in the project.

To help facilitate the sharing of knowledge and joint participation in EU research programmes, cooperation among DNDI and EU research centres needs to be established.

The project will help DNDI to identify and develop partnerships as well as to set up joint experiments and research programmes both within and outside FEHRL (Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories) through networking events such as workshops, conferences and study visits. Existing examples of such partnerships are the Joint Transport Research Centre of the OECD and the ITF (International Transport Forum), of which DNDI is a member.

In order to facilitate the participation of DNDI in future FP7 projects, the competencies of researchers at DNDI must be improved: an overview of FP7 programmes needs to be given to researchers potentially participating in these

projects and an introduction to project management is necessary for aspiring leaders of collaborative projects on how to prepare and manage EU projects. To this end, four training sessions will be organised. Course materials will be prepared and experienced project managers from FEHRL and other research and industrial organisations will be invited to train the participants. The training will be complemented by secondment of DNDI staff to the Brussels office of FEHRL to gain hands-on experience of European project management.

The sharing of knowledge accumulated at DNDI and the other partner institutes is a major objective in creating effective cooperation between the institutes. Very often, the dissemination of research results is hindered due to a lack of communication channels and proficiency in English. To overcome these barriers, translations of scientific and research results at DNDI will be made from Ukrainian into English, and information about these results will be published on the project website, in project newsletters, on local websites of the project partners and in national professional periodicals.

The results of this project, as well as scientific information, will be disseminated via a dedicated website in English and Ukrainian. Furthermore, a project brochure will be designed and produced along with other dissemination and publicity materials. This will serve to raise awareness of the importance and relevance of the project. The sharing of research results will be supported by presentations given by DNDI

INCRIS

researchers at workshops and conferences organised by the partner institutions.

PARTNERS

1. Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories, Belgium
2. Instytut Badawczy Drog i Mostow, Poland
3. Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute, Sweden
4. KTI Institute for Transport Sciences Non-profit Ltd., Hungary
5. The Israel National Roads Company, Israel

BILAT-UKR

Enhancing the bilateral S&T partnership in Ukraine

<http://www.bilat-ukr.eu>

Start date: 1.9.2008
 Duration: 42 months
 Project cost: EUR 598 120
 Project funding: EUR 496 555

Coordinator: Gilles Sentise
 (Gilles.Sentise@cnrs-dir.fr)
 Centre national de la recherche
 scientifique (CNRS), France

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this project was to provide a smooth and flexible framework to foster cooperation in S&T between the EU and one of its largest and closest eastern neighbours, Ukraine. Ukraine's association with the framework programme could enhance Ukrainian involvement in EU research and promote the necessary structural changes in the Ukrainian science and innovation sectors. Preparing the ground for the possible association of Ukraine with FP7 was one of the major issues to be addressed in the framework of the BILAT-UKR project.

The first major objective was to strengthen S&T cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, in particular through the stronger participation of Ukraine in FP7 and other programmes and initiatives and through a better link between activities in Member States and at EU level.

The second major objective was to further improve the framework for enhanced future and sustainable S&T cooperation between the EU and Ukraine and contribute to develop optimum instruments.

The third major objective was to provide support for the working groups set up in Ukraine with the aim of preparing a thorough thematic and high-level policy dialogue between the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the European Commission.

These objectives were based on:

- information gathering and dissemination on S&T in Ukraine, EU and Ukraine S&T programmes, ongoing cooperation

programmes and activities building on existing information tools in Member States and associated countries, at Community and Ukrainian level;

- setting up an EU–Ukraine web portal building on existing web-based tools at Community and Member State level and in Ukraine;
- raising the capacities of the consultancy services in Ukraine (national contact points — NCPs) and providing targeted advice through networking with experienced NCPs in Member States;
- supporting partner searching by building an inventory of existing web-based tools for EU–Ukraine S&T partner searching, identifying good practice and providing an optimised tool;
- an inventory of existing instruments, regulations, obstacles and best practices, at both bilateral (Member States and Ukraine) and Community level, with a particular emphasis on the need for a legal framework;
- involving policy stakeholders from EU Member States, the European Commission and Ukraine to come up with proposed solutions for a common framework, benefiting from and suggesting recommendations for the implementation of the ENP action plan;
- providing a knowledge base and developing an agenda in three areas: mobility, S&T infrastructure and innovation, in view of

BILAT-UKR

possible links in the international dimension of the specific programmes 'People' and 'Capacities' to the respective Ukrainian instruments, facilities and strategies.

DESCRIPTION

The BILAT-UKR project aimed to contribute to the Commission's objective of fuller integration of Ukraine into the broader European research area (ERA). Furthermore, it constituted part of the implementation of the EU-Ukrainian action plan, the main guiding tool of the European neighbourhood policy with the Ukraine, whose general objective is to share EU stability, security and prosperity with Ukraine. Regarding FP7, Ukraine shows excellent potential but its potential has not been fully realised. Therefore, the project ensured coherence and coordination of the various thematic activities under the umbrella of the EU-Ukrainian S&T Agreement and contributed to a stronger coordination of bilateral activities with Ukraine.

The project was embedded in a variety of other related EU-Ukraine joint activities and made optimum use of synergies with ongoing activities, particularly with IncoNet EECA. Furthermore, a series of important dissemination activities provided the necessary visibility to the project for both the scientific community and the policymakers and stakeholders.

The BILAT-UKR project was designed in the joint EU-Ukraine interest and aimed at mutual benefit. It rested on other bilateral or regional

initiatives: EU projects first, both FP6 SSA (sub-Saharan Africa) such as SCOPE-EAST, NIS-NET, BRUIT, BS-ResPot, IDEALIST or other support activities under the thematic priorities of FP6, and FP7 projects such as IncoNet EECA targeting east European and central Asian countries. Then, bilateral initiatives between Member States and Ukraine within the framework of S&T agreement or cross-border cooperation were built on. In addition, a proactive dialogue was conducted with the STCU (Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine) in order to develop coherent actions.

The overall strategy of BILAT-UKR put the main issues of the 'Capacities' programme into practice. It enhanced information collection and dissemination as regards S&T between Ukraine and the EU, analysed the existing legal and organisational framework, identified room for improvement in cooperation instruments, demonstrated best practices in S&T cooperation, provided a knowledge base for new cooperation themes and priority areas and offered support to existing and upcoming structures of EU-Ukraine cooperation in S&T.

The BILAT-UKR project was expected to provide new momentum to improve the participation of Ukrainian scientists in the framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration. This was achieved by building partnerships between Ukrainian FP7 contact points and experienced EU contact points, so that Ukrainian national and regional contact points are now able to better inform

BILAT-UKR

Ukrainian scientists and innovative SMEs on the EU's seventh framework programme. Another important achievement was the creation a web-based partner search tool for brokerage of joint S&T projects and to foster inward and outward mobility of researchers.

BILAT-UKR also intended to contribute to the current action plan of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Working Group on Cooperation in Science and Technology by evaluating its priority objectives, the target domains for research, as well as tools in order to find further instruments to identify synergies and enhance participation in international cooperation activities of mutual interest.

Furthermore, BILAT-UKR provided a knowledge base for emerging horizontal issues of sustainable cooperation primarily aimed at European and Ukrainian policymakers and decision-makers in implementing institutions. Three important areas for the improvement of the EU–Ukraine S&T cooperation were addressed:

mobility, S&T infrastructure and innovation, with a particular emphasis on the latter.

PARTNERS

1. Autoritatea Nationala pentru Cercetare Stiintifica, Romania
2. Centre of Practical Informatics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine
3. SC IPA S.A., Romania
4. Camera de Comert Industrie si Agricultura Timisoara, Romania
5. Zenit — Zentrum für Innovation und Technik, Germany
6. Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
7. Kyiv State Centre for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, Ukraine
8. Zentrum für Soziale Innovation, Austria
9. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany

BY-NANOERA

Institutional development of applied nanoelectromagnetics: Belarus in European research area widening

Start date: 1.1.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 422 454
 Project funding: EUR 380 811

Coordinator: Sergey Maksimenko
 (maksim@bsu.by)
 Belarusian State University, Institute
 for Nuclear Problems, Belarus

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is reinforcement of the cooperation capacities of the Institute for Nuclear Problems of the Belarusian State University (INP BSU) in the European research area (ERA) through the institutional development of the new research discipline 'applied nanoelectromagnetics'.

To achieve this, a set of related coupled tasks must be solved:

- prove the necessity and promising capability of nanoelectromagnetics in the core objective of FP7 theme 4, nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP), and develop a concept of nanoelectromagnetics (NEM) as a prospective direction in NMP;
- develop the strategy of INP BSU as a focus institution for the evolution of applied nanoelectromagnetics at the national and European level;
- establish a network with research centres in Member States or associated countries in the field of applied nanoelectromagnetics aiming to progress in solving concrete scientific problems and the submission of joint research projects;
- develop training modules to build competency and facilitate the participation in FP7 of INP BSU;
- organise a set of workshops and seminars on nanoelectromagnetics;

- propose the reinforcement scheme developed for INP BSU as a model for the Belarus teams' incorporation into the ERA.

DESCRIPTION

The main activities can be summarised as follows.

- Framing and supporting INP BSU's research activities and institutional development in NEM — in the framework of this activity, the prospective areas of NEM implementation in the ERA and a prognosis of the NEM are developed.
- Facilitating INP BSU's research potential, information exchange and identifying partners — under this heading, a staff visiting programme has been organised as a supporting action aimed at progress in key scientific problems of NEM, as well as a number of international scientific conferences and seminars. Furthermore, training of young researchers in the area of NEM is planned to ensure the high quality and sustainability of INP BSU's personnel.
- Training in INP BSU's competence building and facilitating its participation in FP7 — the main objective of this activity is to enhance the participation of INP BSU in FP7 via special staff training. The project seeks to build INP BSU staff competence in the different aspects of FP7 and increase the number of researchers involved in international R&D collaboration.

BY-NANOERA

- The management of the project is expected to optimise the allocation and integrate the inputs necessary to meet predefined project objectives.

PARTNERS

1. Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support for the Scientific and Technical Sphere, Belarus
2. Belarusian National Technical University, Belarus
3. Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
4. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences/Central Laboratory of Physico-Chemical Mechanics, Bulgaria
5. Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Italy
6. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece

COMBIOM

Strengthening cooperation in molecular biomedicine between EU and Ukraine

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 510 840
 Project funding: EUR 455 499

Coordinator: Yanina Mishchuk (mishchuk@imbg.org.ua)
 Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are to:

- enhance the involvement of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics (IMBG) researchers in the European research area (ERA) in a framework of EU–Ukraine mutual interests, especially in biomedical research, and create a core consortium for future FP7 collaborative projects;
- increase the cooperation capacities of the IMBG as a promising partner in EU research programmes;
- prove the achievements and high potential of Ukrainian biomedical research to the ERA and accommodate it in European research priorities.

DESCRIPTION

Ukraine is one of the largest and closest of the EU's neighbours, with high potential for scientific and technological development. This project is devoted to the development of the operational network of EU and Ukrainian scientists based on the different approaches to solving the problem of deciphering the molecular mechanisms of cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, with special emphasis on the possible links between these two pathologies. The Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics (IMBG) is one of the leading research institutions in molecular biomedicine, oncogenomics and gene technologies in Ukraine. It can carry out even higher quality investigations aimed at searching

for effective diagnostics and therapies for oncological and neurodegenerative diseases, which could be implemented for all European citizens. There are two EU partners in the consortium, which are scientifically well recognised in their countries as well as in Europe, and which are experienced in running projects of the fifth, sixth and seventh framework programmes (FP5, FP6 and FP7). The French partner, IGR, consists of groups focused on molecular and cellular aspects of lymphomas, namely mantle cell lymphoma and Burkitt lymphoma and neuromuscular disorders such as facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD). The Polish partner, IIMCB, similarly to the Ukrainian partner, consists of groups working on several aspects of molecular biomedicine including neurodegeneration and oncology. Neither IGR nor IIMCB is a new partner for IMBG. There have been many years of scientific relations, exchange visits, joint conferences, workshops and collaborative projects, which are now described in detail.

To extend and upgrade the existing links, several mutual visits between the EU–Ukrainian research groups are planned in order to learn more about the partners' scientific expertise, strengths and research models. Specific projects are planned in the activities of the first work package (WP1) in years 1–3 of the COMBIOM project. The IMBG group leaders will be in charge of ensuring the most fruitful scientific exchange as described in WP1, and of reflecting the results in the reports. By involving EU and Ukrainian partners' groups in the development

COMBIOM

of a common biomedical research strategy, we can address the scientific aims of the project in setting up joint experiments using different methodologies and approaches.

In WP2, the EU partners will develop special training programmes, which will help the coordinators to build their competency in applying and running the project. For this purpose, the experienced members of the International Collaboration Unit of the Polish partner will provide IMBG staff with training on FP7 participation rules and conditions as well as successful proposal writing. Furthermore, complementary courses will be organised for IMBG scientists and administrators focusing on intellectual property, technology exchange, ethical issues, etc.

WP3 describes the development stages of the IMBG research strategy in the molecular biomedicine area. These stages should lead to a close correlation with ERA research priorities and increased research capacities due to the intensification of international cooperation and, as a result, to enhanced participation in EC 'Cooperation' research programmes. Strengthening IMBG competitiveness in corresponding

research areas will be an example to Ukrainian stakeholders of successful involvement in the ERA and improving IMBG responses to the socioeconomic needs of Ukraine.

WP4 is devoted to the dissemination of the project results and sharing of scientific knowledge. Several actions aimed at increasing IMBG visibility are planned — such as the creation of a project website, updating the institute's website, printing project booklets and leaflets, popularisation of the research results by lectures and two round-tables with the mass media.

WP5 concentrates on project management matters with the accent on the leading role of IMBG in COMBIOM's successful implementation.

PARTNERS

1. Gustave Roussy Institute of Oncology, France
2. International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Poland

SUCCESS

Strengthening Ukraine and EU research cooperation in the field of material sciences

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 600 701
 Project funding: EUR 498 872

Coordinator: Alexander Gektin
 (gektin@isc.kharkov.com)
 Institute for Scintillation Materials,
 National Academy of Sciences
 of Ukraine, Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

The SUCCESS project aims at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Ukraine in the thematic priority 'Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP)', in particular in the field of material sciences. The project also aims to integrate Ukraine into the European research area, in order to:

- support the European leading position and competitiveness in material sciences through strategic partnerships with Ukraine by engaging the best Ukrainian scientists to work in and with Europe;
- enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts within Ukraine, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
- address specific, relevant problems that Ukraine faces or which have a global character on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Consequently, the project aims to develop cooperation capacities between Ukraine and the European Union in the field of NMP and — through twinning, capacity-building and networking — to support joint Ukrainian–European research activities relevant to the priorities identified in the FP7 work programme NMP 2010, in particular in the field of material sciences.

In order to stimulate the cooperation, the SUCCESS project mission is threefold.

- To map and assess the strengths, weaknesses and collaboration potential of one of the leading Ukrainian Institutes, ISMA, and prepare ISMA for the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs.
- To set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between ISMA and its European partner, the University of Lyon UCBL (France), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, providing better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing ISMA for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development. A part of this work is to analyse the feasibility of setting up a joint laboratory which will allow the implementation of joint research and produce great research progress in the field of material sciences, ensuring the basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project.
- To develop ISMA's networking at the larger European level, significantly increasing its international cooperation capacities and participation in international workshops and strengthening ISMA's FP7 skills to increase participation in the seventh (and future) framework programmes.

SUCCESS

DESCRIPTION

The SUCCESS project is based on a twinning approach between one of the leading Ukrainian scientific and educational organisations, the Institute for Scintillation Materials of the Academy of Science of Ukraine (ISMA), and their long-term partner, the University Claude Bernard of Lyon (UCBL). The project gives Ukraine the opportunity to improve the research activities of the highest quality in the FP7 thematic priority 'Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP)', in particular in the field of material sciences.

The two twinning partners, ISMA and UCBL, the main scientific and R & D centres and world leaders in this field, have long-term collaboration experience. Maximum synergy from mutual studies and R & D could be obtained on the basis of regular and planned activities, for the benefit of both organisations. Merging both centres' facilities, which might become possible under the SUCCESS project, could create a large experimental platform for joint R & D and set up positions to upscale and extend existing cooperation.

The project acts as a catalyst for gaining access to knowledge and for capacity-building at ISMA. The creation of synergies between the two twinning partners will allow for sustainability of the collaboration and, thus, provide a durable impact on ISMA development. The creation of a long-term base will open access for ISMA scientists to large EC scientific facilities. In-depth research collaboration with both USBL

and other European organisations will accelerate the pace of new technology developments. The complementarity of two organisations is the principal advantage of the twinning programme and the creation of a joint virtual laboratory is the best way to improve both scientific results and the ability to transfer the main results to the industrial partners and the market.

A series of exchange visits, mutual workshops and conferences is organised to finalise the topics, equipment and other resources that should be transferred for mutual use, which allow for a practical exchange of data and knowledge-sharing between researchers. The twinning programme allows for extra scientific exchange of personnel (in the frame of complementary studies and mutual projects) and will create an opportunity for researchers and PhD students to integrate with the twinning university for short-term scientific secondments as well as to conduct joint experiments in different EU locations.

In order to increase ISMA visibility and competitiveness and to strengthen ISMA cooperation links with Europe, SUCCESS undertakes several groups of activities:

- organisation of several international scientific events in NMP fields;
- organisation of a series of FP7 awareness-raising training courses and workshops;
- introduction of ISMA to economic transformation programmes and European professional networks.

SUCCESS

SUCCESS serves as a bridge between European and Ukrainian research and is an opportunity to increase European competitiveness in the NMP field, which represents strategic importance for Europe:

- the project beneficiaries (NMP teams) contribute to knowledge cross-fertilising; the European NMP research community will benefit from the scientific and technological potential of Ukraine;
- the project has an impact on strengthening business cooperation and extension of the EU commercial opportunities in NMP fields;
- the possibility to deliver, via the SUCCESS project, some NMP solutions and systems with new functionality or improved quality in domains such as industry, the environment, nuclear science and space instrumentation and security applications;
- the project contributes to increasing the FP7 international collaboration project rate;
- the creation of a joint virtual laboratory is a concrete step towards the convergence of the NMP priorities between Europe and Ukraine.

For ISMA, the twinning and 'merger' with the UCBL team gives access to unique European facilities. For UCBL, this is a chance to use the advances and experience of ISMA's background and unique technologies in crystal growth, forging, new material search methodology, etc. For other Ukrainian research organisations, it helps to increase their limited contact with foreign scientific centres, companies and markets — and so create positive technological and socio-economic impacts.

PARTNERS

1. Kharkov Technology Business Incubator, Ukraine
2. INNO TSD SA, France
3. Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France

START

Boosting EU–Ukraine cooperation in the field of superhard materials

Start date: 1.11.2011

Duration: 30 months

Project cost: EUR 554 370

Project funding: EUR 499 945

Coordinators: Mykola Novikov
(novikov@ism.kiev.ua)

Volodymyr Turkevych

(vturk@ism.kiev.ua)

V.N. Bakul Institute of Superhard

Materials of the National Academy of

Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

To meet its vision, START set up the following objectives.

- To analyse the research competencies of the V.N. Bakul Institute for Superhard Materials of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (ISM), review the scientific and technological developments and examine the EU–Ukraine’s collaboration framework in order to develop ISM’s long-term research strategy and position the institute in the international research arena.
- To set up a consultation, assessment and validation mechanism in a collaborative perspective with EU research actors to monitor the implementation of ISM’s research strategy.
- To organise a variety of training activities adjusted to the institute’s support needs, building on ISM’s competencies towards its participation in future FP7 collaborative research activities.
- To deploy a set of diversified twinning activities, to significantly increase ISM’s networking level and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices and, thus, prepare the ground for setting out joint research plans with leading EU research centres.
- To initiate the implementation of joint research activities between ISM and leading EU research centres in the field of superhard materials (e.g. experiments, lectures and courses, FP7 proposals, etc.).

- To facilitate the exchange of research staff between ISM and EU research centres, enabling them to carry out joint experiments and, thus, laying the foundations for long-term collaboration.

DESCRIPTION

START is an ambitious support project aiming to reinforce the cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the field of superhard materials and its application areas in the various thematic priorities of FP7. Thus, the START project vision is to strengthen the collaboration capacity of Ukraine’s leading research institute in the field of superhard materials, namely ISM, with leading EU research centres, advancing its participation in collaborative research activities under FP7 and facilitating the initiation of joint experiments.

Overall, START deploys a wide range of diversified activities in order to transform ISM into a ‘flagship institute’ in international cooperation for Ukraine as well as for the broader region of eastern Europe and South Caucasus (EESC), so it: (a) generates both fundamental knowledge of relevance to many industries and applied knowledge that is directly and immediately relevant to local industries; (b) transfers and applies knowledge generated elsewhere, nationally or internationally, and develops it further to meet specific local needs; and (c) transmits knowledge at national and regional level through education and training.

START

To achieve the objectives of the START project, a wide range of activities have been implemented, namely:

- development of the institute's medium- to long-term research strategy (including a concrete action plan for the next 2–3 years) by assessing the research competencies and networking level of ISM (its research strengths and weaknesses), as well as the existing international collaboration framework between the EU and Ukraine (emerging opportunities and threats);
- design and organisation of a number of well-focused FP7 training activities in order to advance the institute's competitiveness towards its participation in EU-funded research activities under FP7 and, eventually, under FP8 (expected to be launched during the project's lifetime);
- implementation of twinning with EU research centres' activities (networking, exchange of knowledge, best practices and scientific staff) to increase the ISM's visibility among EU-leading research actors, agree and set up joint experiments with EU actors and facilitate discussion on scientific developments and industrial application areas in the field of superhard materials — the overall objective is to boost the production of scientific knowledge and have a positive influence on the global S&T agenda, while addressing the emerging socioeconomic needs and challenges

of Ukraine, eastern Europe and the South Caucasus region.

A 30-month work plan has been designed based on five closely interrelated work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, has the objectives of ensuring the efficient implementation of the support action within the time and budget constraints, guaranteeing optimised results from the involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as effective collaboration across the consortium and creating synergies with similar initiatives maximising the impact of the project activities.
- WP2, Formulation of the ISM research strategy, has the objective of designing the institute's research strategy with a time frame of eight years, while describing concrete, short-term courses of action to address emerging opportunities and contribute to ISM's transformation as a 'flagship institute' for international cooperation and, thus, contribute to Ukraine's integration into the European research area. To do so, the institute's strengths and weaknesses will be highlighted; the emerging opportunities and potential threats, as well as Ukraine's international collaboration framework and development needs that influence the Institute's scientific operation, will be examined. Finally, a consultation, assessment and validation mechanism will be set up, in a collaborative perspective with EU research actors, to monitor

START

and identify emerging scientific and socio-economic developments and trends at national, regional (eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus region) and EU level in the area of superhard materials that could be addressed through collaboration with EU R&D actors.

- WP3, Activities to build ISM competencies towards its participation in FP7 collaborative research activities, has the objective of enhancing ISM's collaboration capacity towards its participation in FP7 research activities. A number of training activities have been implemented, namely FP7 training workshops and intensive FP7 training courses in Ukraine as well as on-the-job FP7 training at the premises of the EU research partners (i.e. CNRS-PPRIME and UNIPRESS).
- WP4, Establish collaborations, initiate joint research activities and scientific training, has the objective of increasing ISM's visibility to the EU research community and enhancing its networking capacity towards establishing close collaboration with leading EU research actors while facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge. This will be achieved through: promoting ISM's research competencies, organising 'delegation tours' in the EU and Ukraine (facilitating direct discussions among researchers from ISM and leading EU actors in the form of round-tables and demonstrations); organising scientific knowledge-transfer

activities in the form of 'research internships' in France, Poland and Ukraine (allowing researchers from ISM, CNRS-PRIME and UNIPRESS to carry out joint experiments); and 'scientific seminars' in Ukraine to enable discussions on methodologies, tools, developments, etc.

- WP5, Dissemination and exploitation, has the objective of maximising the visibility of the project activities and outcomes as well as EU-Ukraine collaboration potential, a carefully designed publicity campaign, the organisation of awareness-raising events in Ukraine and the EU and the organisation of a major dissemination conference in Ukraine. Finally, a 'post-project exploitation plan' focusing on how the project findings may be exploited beyond the project lifetime will be produced and implemented.

PARTNERS

1. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. Institute of High Pressure Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
3. International Environment and Quality Services North Greece Ltd, Greece

ERAIHM

Advancing research and cooperation capacities of IHM NASU towards the European research area

Start date: 1.11.2010
Duration: 28 months
Project cost: EUR 478 706
Project funding: EUR 385 763

Coordinator: Eugene Nikiforovich
(eugenen@kth.se)
Institute of Hydromechanics of
National Academy of Sciences of
Ukraine, Ukraine

OBJECTIVES

The overall project objectives are to:

- develop a strategy for the Institute of Hydromechanics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IHM NASU) aimed at ensuring the coherence of its research and technological development (RTD) activities with the socioeconomic needs of Ukraine, enhancing its cooperation with European research centres and participation in European framework programmes;
- develop and implement training modules at IHM NASU to build capacity in participation in FP7 and to facilitate the involvement of stakeholders in the innovation process;
- develop a communication and dissemination toolkit to improve IHM NASU visibility for Ukrainian and European research centres and stakeholders, networking, dissemination and exchange of scientific information and design of joint research and technological development (RTD) activities.

in modern fluid mechanics. IHM NASU has a developed an infrastructure of experimental tools, which is recognised as Ukrainian national heritage. Based on the results of basic research, IHM NASU performs a wide range of applied investigations in areas included in such thematic priorities of FP7 as energy, environment, transport and biotechnology.

The EU partners are assisting IHM NASU in capacity-building activities and the application of tools and methods for assessment of its innovation potential and competitive advantage. They also support networking with research centres in the EU for scientific exchanges and joint project formulation as well as building competence in the application of interactive back-casting for stakeholders' involvement in the innovation process in Ukraine.

PARTNERS

1. Kungliga Tekniska Hoegskolan, Sweden
2. Technische Universiteit Delft, Netherlands

DESCRIPTION

The ERAIHM project is designed to reinforce the cooperation capacities of one of the leading research centres of Ukraine, the IHM NASU, and enhance its participation in European framework programmes. IHM NASU was founded in 1926 and is currently the largest centre for research into a wide range of problems

IncoNet EECA

S&T International Cooperation Network for eastern European and Central Asian countries

<http://www.inco-eeeca.net/>

Start date: 1.1.2008

Duration: 54 months

Project cost: EUR 4 021 000

Project funding: EUR 3 550 000

Coordinator: George Bonas (gbonas@eie.gr)
International Centre for Black Sea
Studies, Greece

OBJECTIVES

The countries of eastern Europe and central Asia (EECA) are of utmost importance for the political, economic and social development of the European Union, since, among other assets, they possess significant potential both in terms of the strong academic community and of worldwide leading S&T institutes in a variety of scientific disciplines. In order to make optimum use of each other's scientific strengths, there is a strong bi-regional interest in enhancing S&T cooperation. In this context, and in order to achieve this goal, the IncoNet EECA project aims at the following.

- Supporting and facilitating a bi-regional EU–EECA S&T policy dialogue involving policymakers, as well as representatives from the science and industry communities. The dialogue addresses S&T potential in the EU and EECA, as well as policy goals and demands, in order to define common priorities and to develop respective joint scenarios and implementation strategies.
- Carrying out several activities aiming at the increased participation of researchers from EECA countries in FP7, particularly in the 'Cooperation', 'People' and 'Capacities' specific programmes.
- Implementing a series of analyses to feed the policy dialogue and to increase its efficiency, monitoring the project's activities and implementing coherent dissemination activities in order to increase the visibility and impact of the project.

DESCRIPTION

Since the beginning of the IncoNet EECA project, a number of activities have been implemented in order to achieve its objectives.

- To support the bi-regional policy dialogue, the organisation of a series of policy stakeholders' conferences (PSCs): in Athens (June 2009), 'EU–EECA S&T cooperation: The way forward', with particular emphasis on science, technological development and innovation policy, the EU–EECA policy dialogue formats, the barriers and obstacles that exist in cooperation, the instruments and good practices and their optimum use; in Moscow (April 2010), 'Best practices in science, technology and innovation policies', to identify and highlight challenges in science, technology and innovation (ST&I) policy, to present and discuss the contribution of the scientific communities of the EU, associated countries and EECA countries to the development of ST&I policy and to analyse the EU–EECA S&T cooperation framework and to outline the way forward; in Warsaw (November 2011), 'EU–EECA cooperation in research and Innovation: the way towards 2020', in the framework of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union; and in Kiev (Spring 2012). Furthermore, and as a follow-up to a policy stakeholders' conferences that took place in Astana, 'Evaluation approaches in S&T policymaking: sharing good practices', in the framework of the IncoNet CAS, and

IncoNet EECA

due to the strong interest in implementing such activities, the possibility of organising, in the EECA countries, a pilot policy mix review exercise of the national ST&I systems, as well as a pilot benchmarking exercise of research institutions, is currently under discussion among the project partners and the European Commission.

- In order to increase the participation of researchers from EECA countries in FP7, extensive support was given to NCP/NIP structures in these countries. More specifically, training visits were made to the countries in the region by experienced EU NCPs while, at the same time, continuous advice was provided and networking developed. Five information days and four brokerage events were also organised across the EECA countries on different themes of FP7 and a series of six thematic workshops was completed aimed at the identification of pertinent research topics for EU–EECA cooperation, for example specific international cooperation activities (SICAs) in the FP7 themes. Furthermore, a study to identify barriers to the mobility of incoming and outgoing researchers was completed.
- In order to feed the bi-regional policy dialogue, a number of analyses have been implemented that address key factors influencing scientific cooperation between EU and EECA countries. These include analyses on S&T indicators in the EECA countries, S&T cooperation patterns, mapping

of outstanding research institutes and a review of national policies towards global challenges.

- In order to increase the visibility of the project and to provide pertinent and updated information on EU–EECA S&T cooperation, a Central Information Office (CIO) was set up with regional correspondents in all the EECA countries and a dedicated website (<http://www.inco-eeca.net>) and web portal (<http://www.inceast.eu>). The CIO collects, processes and presents information on the project and on the S&T cooperation between the EU and EECA as a single entry point. In parallel, ‘EECA sessions’ at major conferences within the EU have been organised by the project in order to present the latest developments in EU–EECA S&T cooperation to a broader audience.
- In order to monitor the project activities and ensure their continuation beyond the limits of the project, a mid-term sustainability monitoring report has been prepared. The exercise will be repeated towards the end of the project.
- In order to monitor the quality of the overall process as well as the quality of key deliverables, an internal quality control process has been established.
- In order to establish links with other projects addressing the EECA region, a database including more than 140 projects has been set up and two meetings involving several coordinators have already been

IncoNet EECA

organised in the context of the IncoNet EECA project.

PARTNERS

1. International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Germany
2. State University, Higher School of Economics (HSE), Russia
3. Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Austria
4. The National Information Centre for Ukraine-EU S&T Cooperation, Ukraine
5. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Turkey
6. Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan (InExCB-Kz), Kazakhstan
7. Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), Sweden
8. Indo-Uzbek Centre for Promotion S&T Cooperation (IUCP-T), Uzbekistan
9. Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
10. Centre of Ideas and Technologies (CIT), Armenia
11. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Help-Forward Network, Greece
12. Presidium of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS), Azerbaijan
13. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), Bulgaria
14. Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM), Moldova
15. The Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway
16. Archimedes Foundation (ARCHIMEDES), Estonia
17. Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere (Belisa), Belarus
18. National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSPA), Romania
19. Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSF), Georgia
20. Instytut Podstawowych Problemów Techniki Polskiej Akademii Nauk (IPPT-PAN), Poland
21. Academy of Finland (AKA), Finland

USA, CANADA

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

Link2US

European Union-United States research cooperation network: link to the United States
<http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/link2us>

Start date: 1.10.2009
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 526 625
 Project funding: EUR 376 693

Coordinating organisation:
 American Association for the
 Advancement of Science, United
 States
 Coordinator: Colleen Struss (cstruss@aaas.org)

OBJECTIVE:

The overall objective of this project is to improve the awareness of European scientists and research organisations of US collaborative funding schemes and their success in participating in the schemes, to enhance cooperative research with American counterparts and, therefore, take fuller advantage of the bilateral S & T agreements.

DESCRIPTION

The project seeks to enhance the awareness of European scientists and research organisations of, and participation in, US national collaborative funding schemes in order to help strengthen cooperative research with American counterparts under bilateral S & T agreements. Because the US federal research funding structure is highly decentralised, with many different US government scientific entities involved depending on the field of interest, accessing potential opportunities requires a clear understanding of the various funding schemes available. This project proposes to accomplish its objective in three major thrusts.

- Elucidating the US national funding programmes by mapping opportunities of collaborative funding schemes, surveying bilateral agreements between the United States and the EU and Member States and analysing their reciprocity conditions, analysing barriers to cooperation through surveys of European and US participants

and monitoring the participation of European researchers in US funding schemes. The analyses and information generated will be used to provide recommendations to the EC to support joint committee meetings on S & T agreements.

- Raising awareness and providing assistance to European researchers on the US cooperative funding programmes and the intricacies of these programmes through online resource networks, including a website and electronic communication, and physical dissemination. These mechanisms will serve as a single source of information about US funding schemes in the United States that facilitate EU–US cooperation.
- Coordinating and maintaining strong relationships with US national authorities and the EC as well as stakeholders in the S & T agreements, including other European networks and the scientific communities in both regions. Meetings, workshops and events will be employed to reach out to these communities and networks.

Measuring the achievement of the objectives can be performed by monitoring and reporting the number of new collaborative activities and the participation levels of European scientists and institutions in US collaborative programmes, and measuring the traffic on the website.

This project is developed in a complementary way to the BILAT-USA project submitted in parallel by the FFG. While the Link2US project aims

Link2US

to enhance the awareness and participation of European researchers and research organisations in national research programmes managed by third countries (in this case, the United States), the BILAT-USA project, on the other hand, aims for the converse. BILAT-USA aims to enhance the bilateral S&T relationship under the S&T cooperation agreement between the EU and the United States, including increasing the participation of US researchers in the framework programme. With the two complementary projects, BILAT-USA and Link2US, a systematic, comprehensive and cost-effective approach (e.g. sharing information dissemination platforms such as the website) will be ensured to cover the research communities in the United States as well as the EU with the prospect of fostering cooperation in national US programmes as well as the framework programme.

Synergies between the BILAT-USA and Link2US have been designed particularly with respect to the following areas:

- information gathering and dissemination;
- a comprehensive information centre providing all the necessary information on EU and US S&T and cooperation opportunities;
- the websites can share a single web portal with specific sections, and background databases, for each project, thereby minimising web development costs — some types of information to be presented are relevant to both projects (e.g. news and the history of EU–US collaboration; contact

information on EU–US taskforces; EU–US events) and can, therefore, be presented in the main portal;

- the relationship and communication with national authorities and other stakeholders will be strengthened as the two projects together reinforce the role of the project partners in enhancing the EU–US relationship;
- in analysing barriers to cooperation, the surveys to be conducted can take advantage of US and European researchers who have experience in both the framework programme and US national funding programmes.

Link2US will improve the process of providing easy access to precise and relevant information on cooperation schemes through its catalogue, website and e-newsletters, virtual helpdesk and designated activities such as training workshops. The project monitors European participation in US collaborative funding schemes, providing both a baseline and trend for the project duration. Additionally, usage statistics for the virtual helpdesk and the growing reach of the e-newsletter will provide a quantitative assessment of interest in issues surrounding EU–US cooperation, and that may correlate with participation in collaborative research.

The project's workshop and survey on barriers to participation and analysis of the S&T agreements is expected to provide the EC and European governments at the policy level with a better understanding of how to take advantage

Link2US

of reciprocity conditions and, at the level of European researchers and organisations, the challenges they face when operating within the US research system and demystifying the funding schemes with an eye toward future improvement.

2. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
3. Tudományos és Technológiai Alapítvány, Hungary

PARTNERS

1. Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG), Austria

ERA-Can II

The European research area and Canada Information and Support Service

<http://www.era-can.ca/en/>

Start date: 1.9.2010
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 597 726
Project funding: EUR 495 314

Coordinator: Manon Harvey
(manon.harvey@innovation.ca)
Canada Foundation for Innovation
(CFI), Canada

OBJECTIVES

Canadian and European cooperation in S & T is important to our mutual prosperity in the knowledge economy and our mutual well-being in a rapidly changing world.

Over the past three years, the BILAT project ERA-Can I aimed to improve the bases for sCanada and the European research area (ERA).

ERA-Can II aims to increase the quality, quantity, profile and impact of S & T cooperation between Canada and the ERA by:

- improving the mutual awareness of opportunities for research collaboration and researcher mobility between Europe and Canada;
- increasing contact between Canadian and European researchers, research managers and administrators as well as funding organisations at individual, institutional and government levels;
- improving the provision of information regarding S & T policies and programmes;
- facilitating the exchange of best practices with respect to the planning and implementation of policies and practices that support research and innovation;
- identifying, demonstrating and raising the profile of S & T collaboration between Canada and Europe to encourage the translation of new knowledge into technological applications or policy advances.

ACTIVITIES

To promote S & T cooperation between Canada and the ERA, ERA-Can II employs a two-tier strategy. It seeks to build awareness of the advantages and potential for international collaboration and assist Canadian and European researchers in developing professional networks abroad through information services (information sessions, newsletters, web seminars, etc.) and the Canada–Europe S & T Network.

Furthermore, ERA-Can II actively encourages research collaborations in strategic areas for Canada and the European Union through coordination with Canada's national contact points and its engagement in strategic international workshops.

PARTNERS

1. Public Knowledge Canada/Savoir Public Canada, Canada
2. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
3. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany

ACCESS2Canada

Supporting EU Access to Canadian research and innovation programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/canada/index.php>

Start date: 1.9.2009

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 590 336

Project funding: EUR 499 714

Coordinator: Claudia Zurlo (Zurlo@AprE.it)

Agenzia per la Promozione della

Ricerca Europea, Italy

DESCRIPTION

This project focuses on Canada and the opportunities for EU researchers to access Canadian research and innovation programmes. In 1976, the EU established the first S&T relationship with Canada by signing the EC–Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. However, it was only after the EC adopted its multiannual framework programmes in 1984 that the two sides could more concretely begin to identify S&T cooperation opportunities. S&T cooperation between the EU and Canada has evolved ever since and, in 1995, a formal agreement for scientific and technological cooperation was signed. This agreement between Canada and the European Union is administered by the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC). The JSTCC meets on an annual basis, with meetings being held alternately in the EU and Canada. Despite an important increase in S&T cooperation since 1996, there remains a lack of awareness and active participation of researchers in each other's research and innovation programmes — most particularly, EU researchers in Canadian programmes.

The quality of ACCESS2Canada project lies in a strong and balanced partnership that will carry out the planned activities. The effectiveness of the project is ensured by the long experience of the partners in working in the field of international cooperation and their wide networks both at governmental level and in the European and Canadian research communities. The

Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) fully supports the proposed activities.

The dissemination activities are focused on the opportunities for and obstacles to EU researchers' participation in Canadian research and innovation programmes. The activities are coordinated with other ACCESS4.EU projects, in order to provide the European researcher with the best possible overview of access opportunities to research and innovation programmes in third countries.

A key impact of the project is an increased awareness in the EU research community about access opportunities in Canadian research and innovation programmes. At the same time, the Canadian research community — especially through the Canadian research and innovation programme holders — are better informed about opportunities for cooperation. Moreover, Canadian research and innovation programme holders are thus be more involved in enhancing this cooperation. In addition, the project activities automatically contribute to more reciprocity between research and innovation programmes on either side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Due to the synergies that are sought with other ACCESS4.EU projects, and with other relevant S&T projects in Europe, the impact of project activities will be significantly enlarged. Another important impact is the enrichment of the JSTCC strategy with feedback from Canadian research and innovation programme holders, Canadian research organisations (with bilateral

ACCESS2Canada

agreements), EU embassies in Canada as well as Canadian embassies in the EU, EU multipliers and the EU research community. In the longer term, it is expected that an increased awareness in Canada and the EU will lead to a higher level of participation of EU researchers in Canadian research and innovation programmes.

OBJECTIVES

The ACCESS2Canada project is based on the need to solve the lack of awareness among EU researchers about the opportunities for and obstacles to EU researchers being able to access Canadian research and innovation programmes. The objective of this project is, therefore, to strengthen and increase EU–Canada S & T cooperation by supporting access to these programmes for EU researchers.

In order to achieve this main objective, the project intends to reach the following four goals:

- map Canadian research and innovation programmes and EU–Canada S & T agreements, and identify opportunities and obstacles for the EU research community to access Canadian research and innovation programmes;
- raise awareness amongst EU researchers about Canadian research and innovation programmes and encourage EU researchers to participate;

- assess European researcher participation in Canadian research and innovation programmes;
- provide feedback to the EC and JSTCC about the opportunities and obstacles for EU researchers and present suggestions to improve S & T cooperation.

PARTNERS

1. Public Knowledge Canada/Savoir Public Canada.
2. International Commerce Associates, Canada
3. Telligence Group, Canada
4. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt, Germany
5. Institut Pasteur, France

BILAT-USA

Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T partnerships between the European Union and the United States of America

<http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/bilatusa>

Start date: 1.10.2009

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 713 063

Project funding: EUR 499 903

Coordinator: Ralf König (ralf.koenig@ffg.at)

Österreichische

Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft,

Austria

OBJECTIVES

The BILAT-USA objectives can be summarised as follows:

- to reinforce the implementation of the EU–US S&T Agreement by increasing transatlantic dialogue;
- to strengthen the participation of US research organisations in the seventh framework programme (FP7);
- to provide easy access to information by setting up effective dissemination channels;
- to identify and promote best practices and raise awareness on cooperation opportunities;
- to create synergies with other existing projects and initiatives.

DESCRIPTION

International cooperation plays an increasingly important role in tackling major European and global challenges. FP7 strongly emphasises international cooperation, increasing international collaboration by targeting third countries and fostering strategic S&T cooperation with key third countries such as the United States.

The BILAT-USA project supports a sustainable, knowledge-based, bilateral dialogue between S&T key players, as well as stakeholders from the EU Member States and FP7-associated countries, on the one hand, and from the United States, on the other. The project strengthens S&T policies based on common interest and aims at mutual benefit in order to strengthen

the cooperation between the EU and the United States.

The project particularly focuses on contributing to the implementation of the EU framework programme objectives by increasing the participation of US researchers in the FP through a comprehensive approach in awareness-raising, sharing good practice and effective dissemination activities. At the same time, it establishes synergies with other ongoing projects and initiatives in order to identify complementary opportunities and to contribute to the further development of S&T cooperation between the EU and the United States.

The BILAT-USA project was set up to implement the objectives as a:

- supporter of the transatlantic dialogue, addressing global issues by bringing together all relevant stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic;
- driving force for providing and disseminating information on S&T cooperation between the EU and the United States, and for facilitating the establishment of new partnerships towards the FP through various activities;
- promoter of excellence in research, through the organisation of science meetings at the policy level symposia on cross-cutting multidisciplinary issues at the horizontal level, and workshops and linked brokerage events at the thematic level;

BILAT-USA

- facilitator of networking, through the creation of synergies with other existing projects and initiatives;
- network of five partners — four European and one US — who are among the key actors in the fields of research and technology.

Having been identified as a major hurdle, communication and dissemination activities play an important role in the implementation of the project. Thus, the BILAT-USA project established and maintains a comprehensive website and common tools for sharing information on FP7, including calls for research proposals, S&T news from the EU and the United States, project-related information, a contact database and a virtual helpdesk.

In strategic terms, the main impact of the BILAT-USA project is the strengthening of the S&T dialogue and cooperation between the EU and US research communities, thus contributing to the effective implementation of the European Commission international S&T strategy and, ultimately, of the European research area. Most importantly, BILAT-USA contributes to developing the mutual trust, understanding and visibility of the S&T systems in the EU and the United States, thereby supporting the S&T-driven development of their respective economy and society.

With respect to the scientific communities, BILAT-USA aims to establish a platform, a reference and information point, providing easy access to EU–US cooperation opportunities and key players in the various thematic fields. The project deepens

the mutual knowledge in priority themes of common interest and provides new momentum to bilateral EU–US cooperation by identifying the key players and stakeholders and by fostering tangible collaborations and new partnerships. Such an extensive platform on EU–US S&T cooperation has been established for the first time through BILAT-USA.

Finally, the BILAT-USA project creates synergies with other relevant programmes and initiatives in order to benefit from each other's experiences and to increase the impact. In particular, BILAT-USA cooperates very closely with the ACCESS4. EU project Link2US, which concentrates on the identification of US programmes open to European scientists or research organisations. BILAT-USA acknowledges the efforts of other groups, networks, initiatives and organisations working with similar objectives, and strives to collect their experiences and know-how and provide them with the opportunity to extend their collaborations through BILAT-USA for the benefit of the S&T cooperation between the European Union and the United States.

PARTNERS

1. INTRASOFT International S.A., Luxembourg
2. American Association for the Advancement of Science, United States
3. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy
4. Tudományos és Technológiai Alapítvány, Hungary

SWAN

Sustainable water action: building research links between the EU and the United States

Start date: 1.3.2012
 Duration: 48 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 356 551
 Project funding: EUR 1 999 202

Coordinator: Graciela Schneier-Madanes
 (schneier@email.arizona.edu)
 Centre national de la recherche
 scientifique (CNRS), France

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are to:

- open the activities of the Unité Mixte Internationale/Joint International Unit (UMI 3157) to researchers from at least three different Member States and associated countries in addition to France;
- involve additional researchers in ongoing UMI 3157 research activities by preparing new joint projects via the organisation of joint seminars, summer schools and similar activities, strengthening EU research capacity in the United States by expanding the activities of the CNRS UMI 3157 and increasing scientific cooperation and preparing the way for a major new institutional arrangement;
- prepare the way for opening the institutional arrangement of UMI 3157 to additional Member States and associated countries through a feasibility study;
- further develop truly interdisciplinary research activities (physical, natural and social science) and an integrated approach to water (from resources to discharge in nature) within the framework of sustainability;
- establish synergistic partnerships with convergence, complementarily and effective integration of the competencies — including climate change, water demand, governance, decision-making systems and sociological and educational aspects of water management and planning;

- efficiently manage the four-year work plan by implementing innovative management structures engaging stakeholders and promoting their participation and provide effective dissemination of project results, and also with the objective of encouraging further international collaboration.

DESCRIPTION

UMI 3157 was created in 2008 at the University of Arizona to promote research partnerships between the University of Arizona and the French Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) and expand research funding opportunities, comparing water resources management and governance in the Americas, the European Union, France, south-west United States and elsewhere.

The rationale for opening UMI 3157 to European partners is the urgent and increasing demand for high-quality interdisciplinary and multiregional collaborations that can serve as models for research and development in diverse domains of water sustainability.

Opening to European partners, with the participation of their scholars and students, permits the inclusion of scientists working at the edge of contemporary knowledge in order to share experiences, discuss theoretical issues and build projects. This will allow UMI 3157 to expand its current binational focus, extending its actual research field and function. Starting within the existing joint centre (UMI 3157) framework, a

SWAN

more ambitious scientific and organisational project will then be established.

The SWAN work plan has been organised in three phases:

- opening of activities;
- increasing scientific cooperation;
- preparing for the institutional arrangement.

Firstly, European partners — scholars, students, stakeholders — will develop joint research activities within four work packages (WP) and achieve deliverables (reports, publications, international conferences) on resources, governance, demand and urban water in a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective and within the framework of sustainability. They regularly meet for progress meetings.

Secondly, three major activities — workshops, SWAN central seminars and stakeholder meetings — contribute to integrating the partners and fostering joint research activities.

Thirdly, partners will contribute to the feasibility study led by UMI 3157 and will together write the project for the EU–USA Sustainable Water Centre (SWC). This will enhance the current activity in the United States and disseminate the project in Europe, looking for potential new

members to expand the activity during the four years of the project.

Major scientific transverse themes (climate change and uncertainty, risks and vulnerabilities, participation) structure the work plan; most of them are currently present in the UMI thematic fields, others have been identified by the partners as major areas to be studied in the work packages in order to organise joint activities. The organisation of SWAN into specific work packages linked transversely by the three themes guarantees the cross-disciplinary and multi-regional intentions of the work.

PARTNERS

1. Arizona Board of Regents, United States
2. University of the West of England, United Kingdom
3. Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
4. National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria
5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Institute for Water Education, Netherlands

JAPAN, KOREA

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

KORANET

Korean scientific cooperation network with the European research area

<http://www.koranet.eu>

Start date: 1.1.2009

Duration: 48 months

Project cost: EUR 2 930 000

Project funding: EUR 2 400 000

Coordinator: Gerold Heinrichs
(gerold.heinrichs@dlr.de)
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und
Raumfahrt e.V., Germany

OBJECTIVES

KORANET aims at enhancing the existing research partnership between European countries and South Korea, at building a sustainable and coordinated European research area (ERA), at enhancing the cooperation of Korean and European researchers and at increasing South Korean participation in the seventh framework programme (FP7) for research.

The more detailed objectives of KORANET are:

- improving information exchange and cooperation between South Korean and European research communities;
- exchanging best practices as regards the planning and implementation of S&T policies and international S&T cooperation;
- coordinating bilateral approaches of the participating EU Member States and associated countries and South Korea;
- specifying areas of cooperation in priority research fields;
- establishing an appropriate framework for strategic cooperation;
- developing a one-stop agency for South Korean S&T interests;
- learning from ongoing ERA-NETs;
- developing and implementing a concept for a sustainable joint funding programme (based on a pilot joint call).

Altogether, KORANET consists of 11 consortium partners from nine European countries and South Korea, a steering committee with five members advising the consortium and seven organisations acting as observers to the project.

DESCRIPTION

The European Community and South Korea signed two cooperation agreements in November 2006, one regarding S&T cooperation and another relating to fusion energy research. These agreements provide the legal basis for European–Korean research cooperation.

The project contributes to increasing the quality, quantity, profile and impact of S&T cooperation activities between South Korea and the ERA. This will be achieved through several analytical exercises, the establishment of a pilot joint call and a joint funding programme as well as different kinds of events targeting researchers and political stakeholders. In addition, a regular newsletter, a project website and data-banks on bilateral cooperation programmes, research organisations and programmes targeting young researchers were set up.

The KORANET project is structured along five work packages.

- WP1, Analyses, monitoring, review: mapping of regional approaches including the preparation of analyses, reports, inventories and studies on S&T cooperation as well as on cooperation instruments and policies.
- WP2, Strategy and foresight: leading strategic discussions, identifying cooperation areas of common interest, setting framework objectives for future cooperation.
- WP3, Joint funding: development and implementation of a pilot joint call and, based on its evaluation, a sustainable joint funding programme.

KORANET

- WP4, Joint activities: organisation of annual conferences dedicated to different topics, workshops and brokerage and information events.
- WP5, Organisation and management: general coordination of the project including information dissemination.

All five work packages run throughout the whole four-year duration of the project. The main advantages of this approach are that all KORANET partners are involved in the project implementation process from the very beginning to the end. This leads to a higher interdependency of the results, the creation of synergies between work packages and the securing of the commitment of all partners throughout the whole duration of the project.

The partners of KORANET disseminate the project's outcomes to a broad audience to ensure the optimal spread and use of the gathered information. The various dissemination activities raise the awareness of the S&T potential in South Korea and inform interested stakeholders from science, industry and policy about the opportunities for an enhanced S&T cooperation. The dissemination activities include:

- the establishment of a KORANET project website on which the project results (reports, databases, inventories) will be made publicly available;
- tools for proactive external communication such as a project leaflet, flyers, posters, press releases and regular project newsletters;
- the targeted distribution of project outcomes to relevant stakeholders (e.g. to national ministries and research institutions, universities, science counsellors, other projects or institutions dealing with South Korea, etc.);
- a continuous scientific and policy dialogue including the organisation of annual conferences, workshops, brokerage events and other networking activities;
- participation in the NETWATCH information system (a central platform for ERA-NETs) and the ERA-NET learning platform;
- cooperation with other projects and initiatives with a South Korean focus (e.g. KORRIDOR, KESTCAP).

KORANET's activities help make the ERA a success by improving the coherence of the international S&T cooperation approaches of the individual European countries. Furthermore, KORANET supports the cooperation and coordination of research programmes carried out at the national level between the EU Member States and associated countries and South Korea. In this respect, KORANET conceptualised and implemented a pilot joint call on lifelong health (ageing society) in 2010 and funded 14 multilateral projects with partners from Austria, France, Germany, South Korea and Turkey. A second joint call on green technologies/renewable energies will be launched in 2012. Overall, the KORANET project has successfully fostered international S&T cooperation between South Korea and Europe since its start

KORANET

in 2009. Its strategic analyses and exchanges of cooperation experiences provide political stakeholders with a better understanding of future S&T activities with South Korea. Thus, the project contributes to better science, coherent policies, mutual scientific and economic gain through innovation and an increased impact of science on key global issues.

In 2011, the intermediate publication *Korea and Europe — Meeting through science* was published by the KORANET consortium. The publication is available on the KORANET website and gives a good overview of the status quo of European–Korean S&T collaboration and highlights the main results of the KORANET project.

PARTNERS

1. National Research Foundation of Korea, South Korea
2. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
3. Hungarian–Korean Technical Cooperation Centre Foundation, Hungary
4. Zentrum für Soziale Innovation, Austria
5. Polska Akademia Nauk, Poland
6. Veneto Innovazione Spa, Italy
7. Valtion teknillinen tutkimuskeskus, Finland
8. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
9. The British Council, United Kingdom
10. VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH, Germany

KORRIDOR

Stimulating and facilitating the participation of European researchers in Korean R & D programmes

<http://www.access4.eu/southkorea/index.php>

Start date: 1.12.2009
Duration: 24 months
Project cost: EUR 766 292
Project funding: EUR 499 422

Coordinator: Sangwon Kim
(sangwon.kim@kist-europe.de)
Korea Institute of Science
and Technology Europe
Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
(KIST Europe)

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project was to widen and strengthen the scientific cooperation between South Korea and the EU in common research areas of interest by opening up access opportunities for European research groups in South Korean national research and/or innovation programmes, facilitating joint research initiatives supported by the South Korean side and contributing thereby to the improvement of the cooperative climate between Europe and South Korea.

DESCRIPTION

The Republic of South Korea is one of the priority partners of the European Union (EU) in the global economy. The impressive economic and technological progress South Korea has been demonstrating for last several decades has brought the country to the forefront of the world's powerhouses. This progress is firmly rooted in the principles of the 'knowledge-based economy' that South Korea is consistently pursuing. The South Korean economy is now the 12th largest in the world, and a key trade and investment partner for Europe. South Korean research and technological development (RTD) expenditures are above 4 % of the country's GDP, well above the European and OECD averages. South Korea is among the world's most technologically advanced and digitally connected countries and a recognised market leader in electronics, mobile communication and the automotive sector. South Korea is one

of the most important RTD partners of the EU with well-established legal frameworks for cooperation.

The project set up an expert working group comprising leading representatives from South Korean S & T policy implementation agencies and European experts. This group mapped all existing thematic and organisational options open to European participation. It studied the participation regime and existing problems and developed recommendations. The findings obtained by the working group were presented in a policy paper, participation guidelines, FAQ document, etc.

The South Korean RTD programmes' helpdesk service was set up in Europe to provide fast and free consulting and advice to services on access opportunities, legal, organisational, financial and cultural issues and available supporting mechanisms. Additionally, this helpdesk monitored the participation of European researchers in South Korean RTD programmes and distributed this information to all stakeholders. The aim was to equip existing multipliers (European INCO NCPs, all South Korean FP7 NCPs) with the project findings, facilitate partner searches and consortia building and provide consultations and advice in both Europe and South Korea.

A range of dissemination and liaison-building mechanisms was used:

- South Korean RTD workshops/stands/booths collocated with selected European flagship RTD events in order to promote access opportunities;

KORRIDOR

- a conference, 'EU–South Korea S & T cooperation: mutual opportunities and benefits', to promote bilateral cooperation and raise awareness on access opportunities to South Korean RTD programmes;
- a project web page in a common web portal of the ACCESS4.EU projects was set up;
- project findings were reported to the members of the Joint Committee on the EU–South Korea S & T Agreement on the occasion of their annual meeting;
- newsletters, publications and promotional materials were issued and circulated.

PARTNERS

1. Project Management Agency of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre (PT-DLR), Germany
2. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
3. Korea Institute for the Advancement of Technology, South Korea
4. National Research Foundation of Korea, South Korea

KESTCAP

Korea–EU science and technology cooperation advancement programme

Start date: 15.7.2008
 Duration: 42 months
 Project cost: EUR 1 020 000
 Project funding: EUR 465 000

Coordinator: Tae Hee Kim (thkim@nrf.go.kr)
 National Research Foundation of
 Korea

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- develop sustainable cooperation strategies;
- disseminate information and promote cooperation;
- organise and support cooperative events between South Korea and Europe.

DESCRIPTION

KESTCAP, the Korea–EU science and technology cooperation advancement programme, is based on the S & T agreement signed between South Korea and the EU in November 2006 and seeks to:

- provide a platform to strengthen the S & T agreement between South Korea and the EU;
- improve this cooperation by identifying S & T fields of common interests of South Korea and the EU;
- set up a website and information help-desks to respond to specific inquiries on existing opportunities and available funding instruments;
- contribute to the South Korea–EU policy dialogue on science, technology and innovation.

The implementation strategy employs three key instruments: study, website and forums. The instruments interact and complement each other and are the main driving forces behind achieving effective cooperation.

Analysis and assessment of the current co-operation status are carried out in order to derive

optimum strategies to promote cooperation between South Korea and Europe. This study also aims to introduce new opportunities for mutual funding between Korea and Europe. Furthermore, case study reports on best practices from previous cooperative work are shared with South Korean and European researchers to encourage them to participate in joint efforts more vigorously. Measures to raise South Korean participation in FP7 are investigated by analysing the successful participation of other countries in the framework programme.

The studies and research are posted on the website. In turn, the website informs researchers of cooperative events and publicises calls for applications for forums. These events further facilitate networking amongst researchers and are the main vehicle for future cooperation between South Korea and Europe.

The KESTCAP website plays a pivotal role in disseminating information and promoting South Korean–European S & T cooperation. On top of information sharing through the KESTCAP website, services such as a partners and institutions database, e-newsletter, e-mail alerts for calls for grant applications and online polls/surveys will also be provided.

The project is expected to increase understanding of each other's S & T strategy, S & T cooperation programmes and increased funding opportunities. The networking capacity of research partners and institutions will be enhanced.

The creation of long-term business relationships based on scientific and technology cooperation

KESTCAP

is supported and a technology transfer is reinforced through mobility and exchange programmes and mutual access to research infrastructures.

PARTNERS

1. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Korea
2. KIST Europe — Korea Institute of Science and Technology Europe Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, Germany

EUJO-LIMMS

Europe–Japan opening of LIMMS

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 48 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 350 840
 Project funding: EUR 1 999 982

Coordinator: Dominique Collard
 (collard@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp)
 Centre national de la recherche
 scientifique (CNRS), France

OBJECTIVES

EUJO-LIMMS aims to strengthen European research in Japan by tackling new challenges in micro- and nanotechnologies. The strategy consists in opening the activity of an established international laboratory, the Laboratory for Integrated Micro Mechatronic Systems (LIMMS/CNRS&UT-IIS), located in Tokyo, to European partners. The LIMMS is a research unit of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) and the Institute of Industrial Sciences of the University of Tokyo (UT-IIS) that has 16 years' experience of scientific collaboration. In order to foster the efforts of research, it is a good time for LIMMS to connect with the outstanding materials efforts within the European Union through an extensive research programme based on scientific excellence. Such a connection is very beneficial for LIMMS, as it allows the expansion of research efforts towards a wider innovative application field. It also allows European partners to create a collaborative framework with the laboratory in Japan and, finally, increases partnership between the EU and Japan to go further towards the frontiers of knowledge in micro- and nanotechnologies. Such activities could be increasingly designed and operated from an international perspective on the world scene. As a result, Europe can take the leading role that it could have, notably to respond to major challenges in this field.

For this purpose, LIMMS is aiming at opening its main activities to three different institutes

located in EU Member States which could facilitate a people exchange between Europe and the community in Japan.

DESCRIPTION

To tackle the INCO-LAB objectives, the following actions are planned within the EUJO-LIMMS project:

- open LIMMS/CNRS-IIS activities to three European partners — École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (IMTEK) and Teknologian tutkimuskeskus (VTT);
- increase scientific cooperation with Japan by hosting researchers from these three partners and extend the collaboration to a fourth country through joint seminars and workshops;
- prepare the way for opening the institutional arrangement of LIMMS to additional Member States or associated countries' governments/ministries and research organisations.

The work plan of the EUJO-LIMMS project is organised into seven work packages (WP).

- WP1 ensures the required quality level of project management. This work package describes how EUJO-LIMMS is managed to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to ensure optimised outcomes from the involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium. Project management includes managing the

EUJO-LIMMS

smooth information and communication flow and ongoing coordination, preparing cost statements and progress reports and management of intellectual property issues.

- The hosting activities in UT-IIS are organised in WP2. This covers the selection of the researcher with European institutions, the official hosting and accommodation in Japan and guidance and training actions on UT-IIS rules and equipment use.
- The scientific activities are carried out in WP3, WP4 and WP5 for the collaborative research between LIMMS and EPFL, IMTEK and VTT, respectively. Each work package is coordinated by the European partners, in close cooperation with UT-IIS representatives. This work package management guarantees a shared interest in positioning the scientific activity at the frontiers of micro- and nanotechnology and a willingness to develop it further.
- The dissemination activities are organised in WP6. This work package describes the tasks to increase the visibility of EUJO-LIMMS. Firstly, by designing and implementing a EUJO-LIMMS website and regularly updating it with relevant R&D news, events, newsletters and a description of the call for the future partner. It is also planned to promote the publication of articles in all kinds of social communication media. It includes the organisation of

promotion events in each partner institute that attract candidates for EUJO-LIMMS and increase networking.

- WP7 is dedicated to opening institutional arrangements. The objective of this work package is to provide an overview of the scientific needs of the joint laboratory in order to ascertain in which ways its capacities and visibility should be improved and enlarged. In order to reach this aim, a survey of elements of existing infrastructures is planned.

As a summary of all the work conducted as part of this INCO-LAB project, an integrative feasibility study including possible scenarios for the enlargement of the joint laboratory will be presented as the final deliverable of this work package. A detailed financial plan has been developed that outlines the calculation of the estimated costs and plans for the future development of the facilities. Each part of the study is executed by professional experts in the organisations taking part in the project.

PARTNERS

1. University of Tokyo, Japan
2. École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
3. Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany
4. Teknologian tutkimuskeskus, Finland

CONCERT-Japan

Connecting and coordinating European research and technology development with Japan
<http://www.concertjapan.eu>

Start date: 1.1.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 578 272
 Project funding: EUR 2 072 494

Coordinator: Okan Kara
 (concertjapan@tubitak.gov.tr)
 Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik
 Araştırma Kurumu (TÜBİTAK), Turkey

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of CONCERT-Japan are to:

- enhance the understanding of European organisations of the Japanese S&T support system with a particular focus on international cooperation programmes to better communicate and better define targets in their S&T cooperation with Japan;
- share, spread and promote the application of good practices, to harness synergies, strengths and opportunities while reducing duplications and addressing weaknesses and threats with regard to the bilateral S&T cooperation of EU Member States and associated countries with Japan;
- determine common future preferences, priorities and areas of mutual interest in EU Member States and associated countries' S&T cooperation with Japan;
- develop a sound joint S&T cooperation strategy with Japan at EU level based on identified common elements;
- perform a coordinated pilot joint call for joint funding between EU Member States and associated countries and Japan based on the strategy developed;
- use commonly developed IPR arrangements in the pilot joint call;
- learn lessons from the implemented pilot joint call and to establish a common fully fledged programmatic ground for a mid-term cooperation strategy;
- promote ownership among the programme owners/managers of the joint strategy in

order to ensure the durability of the programmatic ground.

DESCRIPTION

As an international cooperation ERA-NET project, CONCERT-Japan is designed to coordinate, structure and, eventually, enhance S&T cooperation between European countries and Japan. The project promotes an effective and coordinated S&T cooperation between European countries and Japan with a view to further expanding and harmonising the cooperation already existing between them.

The main axis of the project revolves around exchange of information, mutual learning, joint strategy building and performing joint activities at the programme level. In order to achieve its mission, the path of the project follows a strategic four-step approach. The first is the identification of commonalities in the objectives, instruments, preferences, priorities and interests of European countries in their S&T cooperation with Japan through exchange of information and data gathering. The second step is the development of a joint strategy for future joint activities. The third step is implementing and gaining experience from a pilot joint call for joint scientific activities, mobility and networking. Finally, the fourth step is learning lessons from these joint activities and looking to the future by enabling the durability of the joint strategy.

CONCERT-Japan

PARTNERS

1. Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan
2. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan
3. Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan
4. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
5. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (PT-DLR), Germany
6. Zentrum für Innovation und Technik (ZENIT), Germany
7. Bay Zoltán Alkalmazott Kutatási Közalapítvány, Hungary
8. Centro per lo Sviluppo Tecnologico, l'Energia e la Competitività delle Piccole e Medie Imprese Lombarde (CESTEC), Italy
9. Regione Lombardia (RL), Italy
10. Norges forskningsråd (RCN), Norway
11. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MICINN), Spain
12. Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Switzerland

J-BILAT

BILAT in Japan

Start date: 1.1.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 612 090
 Project funding: EUR 500 000

Coordinator: Fabrizio Mura
 (fabrizio.mura@eu-japan.gr.jp)
 EU–Japan Centre for Industrial
 Cooperation, Japan

OBJECTIVES

The project aims at:

- facilitating EU–Japan cooperation in research and innovation by raising awareness among the S&T research community in Japan about the various tools available in the seventh framework programme (FP7);
- making it easier and faster for the S&T research community in Japan to join FP7 research projects by establishing FP7 information services in Japan and offering a one-stop-shop to the Japanese research community to find opportunities to collaborate with the EU research community — as a result of concise information in Japanese and English;
- promoting participation of EU–Japan collaborative R&D projects in FP7 by organising awareness-raising activities in Japan to share best practices and address the issues affecting the participation of Japanese organisations in FP7.

DESCRIPTION

S&T are key elements for enhancing economic competitiveness. Both the EU and Japan put strong emphasis on policies to promote and support science, technology and innovation. There is great potential for the EU and Japan to lead world-class R&D and build competitiveness by enhancing cooperation. They will benefit from the synergies of collaborative R&D, particularly where large investments are required for

the long term in areas of common interest such as climate change and environmental protection, energy security and efficiency. Furthermore, the EU–Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement calls for intensifying EU–Japan cooperation in scientific/technological research and innovation.

The J-BILAT project is based on the creation and development of information support mechanisms for the research community in Japan through:

- a web page in Japanese and English to facilitate quick understanding of key information about S&T in the EU, funding schemes, guidelines, information sources, success stories, existing EU–Japan collaboration in R&D and other information on the thematic areas supported by the FP7 ‘Cooperation’ specific programme;
- e-newsletters and targeted e-mail alerts with useful topical information for the research community in Japan;
- an inquiry helpdesk with specialised staff able to answer queries, in Japanese, from Japanese researchers about FP7, collaborative R&D projects, etc.;
- a ‘frequently asked questions’ database available online.

A series of important awareness events and promotion activities will provide the necessary visibility to the project for the scientific community, the policymakers and stakeholders.

Among these activities are:

- EU policy and FP7 information seminars on the thematic areas addressed by the

J-BILAT

FP7 and on funding possibilities to facilitate the EU–Japan cooperation of in FP7;

- EU–Japan best practice-sharing workshops to identify and promote best practices, address issues affecting the participation of Japanese organisations in FP7, identify S & T priorities of mutual interest and set up contacts for partnerships — seminars and workshops will provide wide geographic dissemination coverage across areas with the largest concentrations of S & T communities in Japan (around Tokyo, Kyoto/Osaka/Kobe; around Sendai, Fukuoka/Kita Kyushu; and around Nagoya);
- the development of media reports and press releases to highlight past and present success stories of EU–Japan collaboration in R&D — the aim is to convey the message that FP7 ‘is possible’ and represents a unique opportunity for a laboratory/group of laboratories to open up to European cooperation projects.

The project essentially contributes to setting up new partnerships between EU and Japanese research communities, exploiting FP7 opportunities for developing collaborative R & D projects. With respect to its operational objectives, the project should result in:

- a stronger visibility of FP7 in Japan;
- an increased awareness among the S & T research community in Japan about the various tools available in FP7 which support the development of research partnerships between EU and Japanese research organisations;
- an improved understanding of the most effective strategies to further enhance EU–Japan cooperation in science, technology and innovation;
- an increased awareness among Japanese policymakers of the potential positive impact of S & T cooperation with the EU and of respective policy needs.

MIDDLE EAST, MEDITERRANEAN

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

FORCE

Fisheries and aquaculture-oriented research capacity in Egypt

Start date: 1.11.2011
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 589 982
 Project funding: EUR 499 557

Coordinator: Suzan Kholeif
 (suzankholeif@gmail.com)
 National Institute of Oceanography
 and Fisheries, Egypt

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this project are to:

- reinforce the cooperation capacities of the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF), one of the highest-quality research centres in the field of aquaculture and fisheries located in Egypt, by improving its research abilities;
- enhance the NIOF's capacity to participate in the European framework programmes by providing it with specific training and experience in the seventh framework programme and a network of European research centres in the area.

DESCRIPTION

FORCE is designed to enhance the capacity of the NIOF to carry out research activities aimed at supporting the implementation of sound and science-based policies for the sustainable development of fishery and aquaculture in Egypt, as well as in the whole Mediterranean north African region.

The primary objectives of the project will be met by a series of work packages (WP). Each work package has a specific set of objectives which will lead to the fulfilment of the primary objectives of the FORCE project.

- WP1 ensures the efficient and integrated management of the consortium. This work package is led by NIOF, allowing this institution to 'learn by doing' how the administrative part of a European project has

to be carried out (i.e. documentation to provide to the EC, financial management, deliverables, etc.) and how a coordinator has to interact with the consortium to achieve a successful project.

- WP2 supports NIOF in testing indicators of the impact of finfish cage culture in coastal areas and enhancing NIOF research capacities on sustainable aquaculture by the training of NIOF researchers in using and developing simulation models. This knowledge transfer from the University of Ca'Foscari to NIOF will reinforce the research capacities of this institution in the field of aquaculture, facilitating its participation as a partner in EU research projects.
- WP3 promotes coordination and stimulates synergies between Egypt and EU Member States aiming at strengthening the capacity for developing the sustainable management of fisheries through training and the exchange of expertise, and transferring expertise on fishing technology based on the requirements of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, in order to describe new fishing methods and strategies that mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- WP4 enhances capacity-building for a comprehensive strategy to improve women's capacity to contribute effectively to a real improvement in the socioeconomic conditions of the fishery community, to

FORCE

encourage female scientists and postgraduate students to participate in EU research programmes and to improve their ability to write competitive research proposals for European framework programmes.

- WP5 ensures effective external dissemination, communication and optimal outreach of the project and its results to relevant European research centres in the area and strengthens the NIOF network in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

PARTNERS

1. University of Ca'Foscari, Italy
2. The Fishing Technology Unit, National Research Council, Institute of Marine Sciences, (CNRS-ISMAR), Italy
3. AquaTT UETP Limited, Ireland

MAP2ERA

Strengthening EU cooperation capacity of the National Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Morocco: towards Morocco's integration into the European research area

<http://map2era.com/en/>

Start date: 1.12.2010

Duration: 24 months

Project cost: EUR 496 380

Project funding: EUR 442 605

Coordinator: Abdessalam El Khanchoufi

(elkhanchoufi@yahoo.fr)

Université Sidi Mohamed Ben

Abdellah, Morocco

OBJECTIVES

The central goal of MAP2ERA is to reinforce the international research cooperation between Morocco's leading institute in medicinal and aromatic plants research, NIMAP, and the European research area (ERA) in the critically important areas (specifically, FP7 themes such as food, agriculture and fisheries, biotechnology, environment and health). This goal will be attained through pursuit of the following specific objectives to:

- widen and reinforce direct links between leading research teams at NIMAP and the most relevant European research organisations by conducting a series of networking and partnering events, and facilitating direct mobility of scientists aimed at initiating new joint projects (including joint research programmes) and the exchange of ideas;
- build the cooperation capacity at NIMAP by providing comprehensive training to members of the Moroccan research institute to develop/enhance their skills and competences with regard to building international research partnerships (including acquiring and participating in FP7 projects), as well as other important complementary research competences;
- guarantee the sustainability and long-lasting positive effect of the project by developing a comprehensive development strategy at NIMAP aiming at significantly strengthening the role the institute plays in

meeting the national socioeconomic challenges as well as in regional and international research activities.

MAP2ERA brings together the best partners from the ERA and Morocco: NIMAP (the leading MAP research institute in Morocco) is directly supported through its European twinning partner, ICSN, Europe's best research institution in natural products, chemistry and biology with research interests and capacities ideally matching NIMAP's. The Universidad de Alicante (with long-standing expertise in international project management and its vast network of partners) and GIRAF (a specialist training provider, with project management experts with expertise in institutional development and organisation) usefully complement the consortium.

DESCRIPTION

MAP2ERA consists of six work packages (WP).

- WP1, Networking, comprises the preparation and conducting of the two networking events, as well as the development of the NIMAP-ICSN joint research programme. As indicated earlier, it is a fundamental trait of the networking events that they not only allow for networking, but that they also bring about specific opportunities for research collaborations and joint projects between Morocco (first of all, NIMAP) and the EU.
- WP2, Training and coaching, comprises the following measures: the preparation and conducting of two training workshops

MAP2ERA

and the implementation of a coaching scheme, which will enable the actual inclusion of NIMAP's researchers in European research groups to prepare joint projects and receive hands-on training on the job, as well as training capacity-building (training of trainers) in natural products' chemistry applications.

- WP3, Mobility, directly supports the effective conduct of the activities in WP1 and WP2. It provides the basis for the mobility of researchers — both the invitation of European and other experts to the networking events and the secondment of Moroccan researchers to European partners as part of the coaching scheme.
- WP4, Strategy development, comprises the organisation of a strategy working group, the conduct of a SWOT analysis and the creation of the corresponding development strategy for NIMAP.
- WP5, Project management and administration, supports the activities in all work packages. It integrates activities described as management activities by the FP7 financial guide (management of the grant agreement, management of pre-financing, other formalities).
- WP6, Coordination and dissemination, supports the activities in all work packages. The targeted project coordination and control mechanisms laid the basis for the achievement of top-quality results and timely delivery within the given budgetary constraints. Moreover, adequate risk identification and handling procedures are in place. The fact that NIMAP is directly supported by the experienced and capable GIRAF contributes to the general effectiveness of the project management activities and procedures in the institute. WP6 also provides the basis for dissemination of the MAP2ERA results (e.g. creation of the project website, design and development of required promotional materials for events) and contributes to the promotion of the project results at the policymaking, research community and general public levels.

PARTNERS

1. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. GIRAF PM Services GmbH, Germany
3. Universidad de Alicante, Spain

BioProtech

Improvement of research capacities of the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax in bio-processes for biotech applications, tying up with the European research area
<http://bioprotech.org/>

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 622 052
 Project funding: EUR 498 759

Coordinator: Hammadi Ayadi
 (hammadi.ayadi@cbs.mrt.tn)
 Centre de Biotechnologie de Sfax,
 Tunisia

OBJECTIVES

On the way to a more knowledge-based economy and in accordance with scientific and technological agreements with the European Union, Tunisia launched the necessary policies and measures to set up and improve the efficiency of research centres such as the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax (CBS). As a key element of the Tunisian biotechnology plan, the CBS focuses on applied research particularly in terms of the use, development, transfer and application of bioprocesses. BioProtech aims to support the CBS in the improvement of its capacities in the development of bioprocesses such as fermentation and microarray technologies as well as all related fields such as technology transfer mechanisms, know-how about the seventh framework programme (FP7) and better integration of biosafety competencies to the European research area (ERA).

DESCRIPTION

The support is organised in six work packages (WP) covering the technological aspects of bioprocesses (fermentation, microarray and biosafety), the incubation and transfer of bioprocesses, particularly to local industry, training and coaching in FP7, dissemination of scientific results, strategy and evaluation regarding the focus of CBS and further integration into the ERA and project management. The results will support local economic development through the creation or support of high-tech companies

and more scientific collaboration with the EU. In the field of bioprocesses, this means identifying promising results and supporting their path through cooperation, licensing or start-up creation. Comparison and matching between what exists in Tunisia and in the EU will help to update and adjust local competencies and shape the research agenda and priorities for the following years.

BioProtech contributes to the orientation of fermentation technology in the CBS to educational, research and industrial needs. It strengthens the capacities of the CBS to decide which array platforms comply with the CBS's scientific and financial requirements, to design and perform microarray studies and to retrieve as much exploitable significant information as possible from the huge data sets of microarray experiments. The platform is open to external users locally including private laboratories of medical analysis. The expertise of the BioProtech European partners is of great importance in order to acquire autonomy for all genomic research applied in the health and nutrition domains.

BioProtech's European partners help the CBS to implement the best practices and initiate specific training for safe handling, monitoring and conformity to national and international regulations. In addition, with their support, the CBS has implemented a structure for GMO design practices and research protocols. BioProtech, via the experience of clusters, science parks and incubators, demonstrates that it is necessary to create a positive environment in which

BioProtech

to support the growth of an innovative sector and suitable interfaces between pure science structures and the industrial environment. BioProtech integrates FP7 purposes and objectives with the challenges of the CBS to improve research capacities in order to achieve European excellence in the abovementioned biotechnology applications. In addition, skills are built up on familiarity with the research programmes and how to handle/manage a European collaboration. The main fields of biotech application in BioProtech are main priority areas in FP7 (health; food, agriculture and biotechnology; and environment) and related programmes, networks or bodies (ERA-NETs, CIP, EIT, ERC). BioProtech enables the CBS to catch up with organisations from the premium league of bioprocesses in biotechnology in the ERA and bring the CBS to an eye-level position with renowned European scientists. In the CBS, biotechnology needs to be improved in fields such as environment, food and health.

The BioProtech project specifically promotes further investigation and collaboration in the following fields of bioprocesses on biotechnologies: biosafety, microarrays and their high throughput analysis and fermentation technologies plus complementary know-how in biotech commercialisation, EU research framework programmes and development of a sustainable CBS strategy.

PARTNERS

1. Bioindustry Park Silvano Fumero S.p.A., Italy
2. International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Italy
3. Institut national des sciences appliquées de Toulouse, France
4. Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France
5. Steinbeis Forschungs- und Entwicklungszentren GmbH, Germany

NaS-ERA

Reinforcing nanostructured material research cooperation between the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium (UDTS) and the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 716 955
 Project funding: EUR 498 394

Coordinator: Nouredine Gabouze
 (gabouzenouredine@udts.dz)
 Unité de Développement de la
 Technologie du Silicium, Algeria

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the NaS-ERA project is to integrate the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium (UDTS) into the European research area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its three strongest research areas:

- production of functional nanostructures (A);
- development of new detection methods (B);
- design and development of new sensors (C).

In order for UDTS to achieve its overall aim of being integrated into the ERA, the NaS-ERA project is divided into four sub-objectives implemented through work packages:

- develop UDTS's research partnerships;
- increase UDTS's scientific visibility;
- increase UDTS's human potential;
- increase UDTS's medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

DESCRIPTION

The work plan designed has been divided into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, describes how NaS-ERA will be managed to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to ensure optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.

- WP2, Twinning, describes the twinning activities with European research centres in order to exchange scientific information, identify partners and set up joint experiments. This will be achieved via twinning with project partners and other European research centres with respect to FP7 ICT and NMP research priorities with the support of Intelligentsia.
- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, describes the tasks to increase the visibility of UDTS. This will be achieved in four ways. Firstly, by designing and implementing a NaS-ERA website and regularly updating it with relevant R & D news, events and newsletters. Secondly, by designing and producing promotional material for UDTS. Thirdly, by promoting UDTS, NaS-ERA and FP7 during local workshops. Lastly, by an international conference on nanostructured material science and engineering.
- WP4, Training development, describes the training development needed to build competency in research topics A, B and C and facilitate the participation of UDTS in FP7 ICT and NMP programmes.
- WP5, Strategy development, describes how a strategy will be developed for UDTS in order to augment its research excellence, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs. Firstly, a set of evaluation performance indicators will be defined for

NaS-ERA

UDTS and then a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by a team of international experts and documented in a NaS-ERA evaluation report. Secondly, the NaS-ERA evaluation report will be presented during a workshop with representatives from the Algerian government and industry. Based on the discussions, UDTS will create a NaS-ERA strategy report with defined goals for the next 5+ years. Thirdly, the performance of UDTS will be monitored during the project with respect to the evaluation performance indicators

and the goals defined in the NaS-ERA strategy report.

PARTNERS

1. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca Metrologica, Italy
3. Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials, Germany
4. Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia), United Kingdom

INCOMMET

Improving national capacities in observation and management of marine environment in Tunisia

Start date: 1.1.2012

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 813 918

Project funding: EUR 499 962

Coordinator: Malika Bel Hassen (belhassen.

malika@instm.rnrt.tn)

Institut National des Sciences et

Technologies de la Mer, Tunisie

OBJECTIVES

The implementation of the INCOMMET project will contribute to reinforcing the capacity of National Institut des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM) to become a research centre of excellence in Tunisia and in the Mediterranean region.

The INCOMMET project:

- increases the research excellence of INSTM in the important field of the marine environment;
- strengthens the partnership between Tunisian and EU research institutions beyond the consortium and fosters its participation in the European research area (ERA);
- supports regional dialogue and sustainable development in the region;
- addresses specific environmental problems (environmental protection, global climate change, combating biodiversity loss).

This will be achieved through reaching the following specific objectives:

- to analyse the current situation and knowledge of the marine environment in Tunisia/ in the region and to make a thorough analysis of the current situation and existing knowledge regarding observation and marine research in Tunisia, in particular related to the Gulf of Gabes;
- to make a thorough assessment of INSTM's strengths and needs, allowing it to redefine its strategy and its structural functioning (notably regarding governance and scientific supervision), and to improve its role

and capacity to address the sustainable development of Tunisia's marine environment and the management of its natural resources;

- to lead to a better definition of INSTM's scientific strategy to increase its international visibility;
- to strengthen the internal INSTM structure (in particular regarding human resources, acquisition of new equipment and technologies allowing reinforcement of their excellence, etc.), notably through twinning and transfer of knowledge activities — training courses, workshops, short-term visits of INSTM researchers to the project's partners;
- to increase INSTM's capacity to participate in FPs through the training and education of its staff and the setting up of an INSTM European Research Grant Unit;
- to build common research projects with INSTM and its EU partners in the framework of EU calls;
- to reinforce INSTM's visibility, role and interactions with EU and regional actors, notably through structuring INSTM's external relations, particularly with institutional representatives (concerned ministries in Tunisia, European countries and the EU), research centres in the Mediterranean partner countries and in Europe and existing theme-related networks;
- to conduct dissemination and communication actions on the INCOMMET project's outputs and results.

INCOMMET

DESCRIPTION

The INCOMMET work plan is composed of six work packages (WP) linked together in a coherent way.

INCOMMET starts with a scientific literature review of Mediterranean areas in the vicinity of Tunisia to analyse the current situation and knowledge on the marine environment around Tunisia. Then, INCOMMET will proceed to a SWOT analysis of INSTM to define scientific, technical and administrative points to be improved or reinforced and to derive internal recommendations. All of this is included in WP2. Based on WP2 findings and results, two other work packages (WP3 and WP4) are dedicated to organising activities to strengthening the scientific and technical knowledge of INSTM staff: WP3 focuses on the scientific content of the proposal, and WP4 on supporting INSTM in its European deployment.

In the framework of WP3, the INCOMMET consortium will organise short training courses, workshops and visits for Tunisian researchers, PhDs and young and talented master's students to improve their capacities in scientific and technical matters and expose them to emergent technologies and methodologies in the field of oceanography and the marine environment. WP4, which aims at enhancing INSTM–EU cooperation, is structured around training, twinning activities with the UNIVMED European Research Grant Unit and developing appropriate

networks and collaboration-targeted networking. To enhance EU–INSTM cooperation and visibility, notably by increasing INSTM's participation in EU framework programmes or related EU programmes, specific training is provided by the UNIVMED European Research Grant Unit for INSTM administrative staff and researchers.

Based on the need for INSTM to attain better regional and international visibility as identified in WP2, on the competences and new technologies needed to acquire that (WP3) and the objective to increase its participation in EU FP (WP4), INSTM will formulate strategies in each of these domains and start internal restructuring to achieve its chosen goals (WP5). These strategies concern INSTM's structure, scientific and technological development, design of an international mixed laboratory encompassing the consortium, formulation of a common research project that could be EU-funded (ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea) and local and regional lobbying.

Finally, the international scientific recognition of INSTM will be reinforced by strengthening communication and dissemination through a public website, leaflets, local conferences targeting socioeconomic partners and stakeholders and a final international conference (WP6).

PARTNERS

1. Université de la Méditerranée, France
2. Stazione Zoologica A. Dohrn, Italy

AdM-ERA

Reinforcing additive manufacturing research cooperation between the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute and the European research area

Start date: 1.10.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 555 645
 Project funding: EUR 496 364

Coordinator: Khalid Abdelghany
 (kghany@rpcmrdi.org)
 Central Metallurgical Research and
 Development Institute, Egypt

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the AdM-ERA project is to integrate the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI) into the European research area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its two strongest material research topics: (a) additive manufacturing of Ti and CoCr alloy-based prostheses; and (b) additive manufacturing of biocompatible ceramic materials, HA, PEEK and TCP.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- develop CMRDI's research partnerships;
- increase CMRDI's scientific visibility;
- increase CMRDI's human potential;
- increase CMRDI's medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

DESCRIPTION

The AdM-ERA project focuses on capacity-building activities in the following research topics.

- Research topic A: additive manufacturing of Ti and CoCr alloy-based prostheses.
 - A1: design of prostheses based on medical computer tomography images;
 - A2: manufacturing of Ti alloy prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques;
 - A3: manufacturing of CoCr alloy prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques;

- A4: evaluating the mechanical and metallurgical properties of Ti and CoCr prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.
- Research topic B: Additive manufacturing of biocompatible ceramic materials: HA, PEEK and TCP.
 - B1: preparation of biocompatible ceramics for prosthesis works;
 - B2: manufacturing of bio-ceramic prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques;
 - B3: evaluating the mechanical and metallurgical properties of TCP, HA and PEEK alloys using additive manufacturing techniques.

The project activities have been subdivided into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, describes how AdM-ERA is managed to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to ensure optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.
- WP2, Twinning, encompasses the twinning activities with European research centres in order to exchange scientific information, identify partners and set up joint experiments.
- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, includes actions increasing the visibility of CMRDI by designing and implementing an AdM-ERA website and regularly updating

AdM-ERA

it with relevant R & D news, events and newsletters, by designing and producing promotional material for CMRDI as well as by promoting CMRDI, AdM-ERA and FP7 during local workshops and an international conference on additive manufacturing science and engineering.

- WP4, Training development, describes the training development needed to build competency in research topics A and B and facilitate the participation of CMRDI in the seventh framework programme (FP7).
- WP5, Strategy development, describes how a strategy will be developed for CMRDI to augment its research excellence, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs. Firstly, a set of evaluation performance indicators will be defined for CMRDI and a comprehensive evaluation conducted by a team of international

experts documented in an AdM-ERA evaluation report. Secondly, the AdM-ERA evaluation report will be presented during a workshop with representatives from the Egyptian government and industry. Based on the discussions, CMRDI will create an AdM-ERA strategy report with defined goals for the next 5+ years. Furthermore, the performance of CMRDI will be monitored during the project with respect to the evaluation performance indicators and the goals defined in the AdM-ERA strategy report.

PARTNERS

1. Loughborough University, United Kingdom
2. Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania
3. Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia), United Kingdom

SUDSOE

Characterisation and sustainable use of Egyptian degraded soils

Start date: 1.12.2012

Duration: 24 months

Project cost: EUR 531 777

Project funding: EUR 499 195

Coordinator: Abd-Alla Gad (agad@narss.sci.eg)
National Authority for Remote
Sensing and Space Sciences, Egypt

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to reinforce the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS) in Cairo, Egypt, and to enhance its performance through capacity-building activities.

The overall SUDSOE objectives are as follows.

- To clearly identify existing economic potentials and needs to be addressed by NARSS and to develop the corresponding action plan.
- To strengthen and enlarge existing NARSS human resources and their capabilities for the implementation of soil regulations having as a reference the EU directive on the sustainable use of soils in close collaboration and with exchanges of know-how with three research institutions from the Czech Republic, Spain and Sweden, facing the problem of degraded soils.
- To hire experienced researchers to reinforce the human potential at NARSS. Through the enlargement of activities of particular private laboratories, NARSS is suffering more and more from the lack of human potential. Therefore, SUDSOE plans to hire senior research scientists specialised in the project topics to foster both research and service activities that will increase NARSS' resources to make such activities sustainable.
- To retain the best research professionals at NARSS (brain gain) and to attract experienced researchers from abroad for the purposes of reinforcing know-how and experience implementation.
- To gain first-hand knowledge of the state of the art in specific areas of solid waste and wastewater treatment technologies, research areas that are of interest to both the EU and the Mediterranean (MED). As a basis for this joint research and to establish a research agenda based on the pre-selected scientific topics of interest, and any others to be selected during the project, identify best practice amongst the partners in the selected research fields and define strategies to transfer this know-how to other interested laboratories.
- To strengthen existing and establish new collaborations between involved complementary research groups by transferring and sharing experience and expert knowledge with the aim of building an interdisciplinary SUDSOE network of excellence as a prerequisite for the formation of a research-driven cluster (i.e. the waste cluster initiative (WCI)), with similar projects in the region dealing with the environment. As a result of this cooperation, two research project proposals are planned to be submitted to FP7 (specific programmes 'Environment' and 'Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies').
- To foster the collaboration between NARSS and external partners from the public and private sectors at both national

SUDSOE

and international level, improving technology transfer activities by the appropriate support between NARSS and industrial partners. In this regard, the WCI will be a specific key tool to accomplish for this objective.

- To increase the technical capacity of the applicant for future research activities. This will include training on the monitoring of quality environmental indicators for both soil characterisation and sustainable use of degraded soils, and extending the research performance on improvement in environmental issues and achievement of leadership in the Mediterranean area concerning the sustainable use of degraded soils.
- To be a specific support for the sustainable use of Egyptian degraded soils related to the development of a directive for the sustainable use of soils by the monitoring of quality environmental indicators. This will contribute to national and regional sustainable socioeconomic development by generating new services concerning the potential sustainable use of degraded soils stakeholders.
- To disseminate the results of the SUDSOE project to regulatory authorities and end-users, stakeholders, managers and decision-makers, using the wide and diverse range of target instruments in the designed promotional kit. Such activities will increase the visibility of the applicant's excellence in S & T research in the

MED research area. The EU WCI will play a specific role in the visibility of SUDSOE activities.

DESCRIPTION

Through a multidisciplinary cooperation approach with three partnering research institutions from the Czech Republic, Spain and Sweden, SUDSOE pursues the reinforcement of NARSS in order to become a regional leader in advanced technology on the characterisation and sustainable use of degraded and polluted soils.

The reinforcement of NARSS' capacities in the characterisation and sustainable use of Egyptian degraded soils is implemented through the following actions.

- The identification of existing economic potential and needs where NARSS can contribute and implement the designed action plan in order to properly interact with the appropriate local and international stakeholders through the implementation of the first work package (WP1). WP1 also allows for the establishment of NARSS' strategy. Once identified, these socioeconomic needs will be addressed through the implementation of the designed action plan derived from the SWOT analysis, which includes a series of measures such as: (a) exchange of knowledge and good practices through short-term visits, exchange of staff and dissemination activities; (b) building competency and facilitating NARSS' participation in FP7 and FP8; (c) increasing NARSS'

SUDSOE

scope and visibility, improving its competitiveness and enhancing its response to Egyptian socioeconomic needs. All these measures are primarily focused toward strengthening NARSS' capacities for enhancing environmental research.

- The recruitment of senior scientists and specialised training and enhancement of specific knowledge to enable the learning of, and training in, new analytical skills, methodologies and the placement of several PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from NARSS in EU laboratories. Such activities are performed through transnational two-way secondments between NARSS and three well-established groups from the EU with the aim of improving knowledge, research potential and research management through the implementation of WP2. The chosen partnering organisations (POs) are: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain (UAB); Royal Institute of Technology, Kista, Sweden (KTH); Masaryk University (MU), Brno, Czech Republic.
- The organisation of workshops, seminars and open-day sessions to facilitate knowledge-transfer at different levels, as well as participation of NARSS' research staff at international conferences or short-term training events, to upgrade scientific knowledge, research capabilities and management skills and increase NARSS' visibility in WP3 and WP4. Such events will benefit from the prepared material

for the dissemination and promotion of all activities to spread knowledge built at national, regional and international levels, especially in the MED region, addressing the scientific audience, the general public, local authorities, policymakers and various stakeholders in order to increase the visibility of our activities in the region. A wide and diverse range of target instruments (websites, seminars, workshops, leaflets) will be used. The active participation and involvement of academic society, the public, local SMEs and NGOs, national parks and ministries is expected. Activities leading to the formation of a regional research-driven cluster on the sustainable use of degraded soils in the Mediterranean macro-region within the initiative 'Regions of knowledge' through contacts with potential partners from related projects within FP7 are also part of WP3 and WP4.

- WP5 is dedicated to the independent assessment of the growth of NARSS' research potential performed by experts appointed by the European Commission.
- WP6, with its planned steering and executive committees, is designed to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

PARTNERS

1. Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
2. KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
3. Masaryk University, Czech Republic

RECOCAPE

Reinforcing cooperation capacity of Egypt in embedded ubiquitous computing

Start date: 1.11.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 609 279
 Project funding: EUR 496 518

Coordinator: Hossam Osman
 (hosman@itida.gov.eg)
 Information Technology Industry
 Development Agency, Egypt

OBJECTIVES

The RECOCAPE objectives are the following.

- To develop SECC's strategic technology plan to improve SECC's technology management, by applying R&D management best practices through internalising the technology road mapping (TRM) methodology to develop a strategic technology plan for SECC. The plan targets increasing SECC's capacity, visibility and scope in alignment with its mandate as well as increasing SECC's linkage with the economic and social environments by focusing on several technologies that add value to products and impact user sectors. The plan, moreover, aims at enabling SECC's participation in FP7.
- To develop and deliver training modules to build competency in embedded ubiquitous computing. This objective develops and delivers the following four training tracks:
 - track 1: service-oriented architecture/enterprise service bus (SOA/ESB);
 - track 2: semantic web;
 - track 3: model-driven development (MDD);
 - track 4: ubiquitous computing.
- The underlying technologies are key building blocks of embedded ubiquitous computing. Training tracks are developed by the European participants, TECNALIA, VTT and UNIBO. The European participants also deliver training tracks to SECC to reinforce its cooperation capacity in the target technologies.
- The setting up of joint relevant experiments with TECNALIA, VTT and UNIBO. This objective sets up two joint experiments to demonstrate the usage and synergy of the underlying target technologies in real-world situations. In addition, the experimental project outcomes can be used in conjunction with the training tracks developed in WP3 to yield practical workshops that facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of embedded ubiquitous computing. The first experimental project develops a smart home ubiquitous system for the automatic control of the temperature of air conditioners. The second targets utilising mobile computing, semantic web technologies and SOA to build ubiquitous advertising systems.
- The exchange of SECC staff with TECNALIA to work on FP7 proposal preparation and on running FP7 and other European programme projects in target technologies. This objective focuses on exchanging staff between TECNALIA and SECC. TECNALIA has vast R&D experience in European programmes. It reinforces SECC's capacity in the following themes: European research programmes, FP7 proposal preparation and embedded ubiquitous computing. Capacity will be reinforced through collaborative working on three technology-related running

RECOCAPE

projects: ARTEMIS's SOFIA, ARTEMIS's SMARCOS and FP7's LIFEWEAR.

- To disseminate acquired knowledge through organising events to involve local ICT stakeholders and generate local and regional impact. This objective disseminates and exploits RECOCAPE's results taking into account the variety of communication means and the wide spectrum of beneficiary groups. This is done in alignment with SECC's role as a catalyst for the software and ICT industry in Egypt and in support of its vision as a leading regional organisation improving the global competitiveness of ICT industry players. The approach is to take advantage of SECC's wide communication network that links to ICT NGOs, academic institutes, policymakers, ICT businesses and reputable international organisations. Four events will be organised: three awareness events and one SPIN event as SECC is the coordinator of Egypt-SPIN (Software Process Improvement Network), published as a node within the worldwide SPIN by the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) of Carnegie Mellon University. This institution has organised, for the first time in Egypt, Africa and the Mediterranean countries, a software process improvement conference, EuroMed SPI 2012. EuroMed SPI is a software process improvement conference for southern and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean countries. At least one

conference session is dedicated to the underlying embedded ubiquitous computing technologies. Four research papers and two white papers are also planned to be published. Furthermore, one issue dedicated to research activities on embedded ubiquitous computing is planned.

- To exploit results through implementing cluster projects involving local ICT entities as per their needs to generate impact and receive early verification and validation of SECC's competency. This objective exploits the RECOCAPE results in fulfilling the needs of four key Egyptian ICT entities to be selected as beneficiaries. It also provides early verification and validation of SECC's competency to consolidate knowledge and take corrective actions if needed. The approach is to implement a cluster project targeting transferring knowledge, building capacity and fulfilling the needs of the four ICT locals through training and R&D pilots.

DESCRIPTION

RECOCAPE is based on six work packages (WP), and specific aspects of the overall work plan strategy are as follows.

- The work plan has two parallel paths for transferring knowledge from the European research centres to SECC: the first, implemented through WP3 and WP4, is through training development and delivery followed by the setting up of

RECOCAPE

two hands-on experiments, whereas the second is through staff exchange implemented through WP5. This shortens the duration of the RECOCAPE project and exposes different SECC staff to different knowledge-transfer approaches.

- WP3 and WP4 are designed to shorten the time needed to disseminate and exploit RECOCAPE results through WP6, where awareness events and an exploitation cluster project are to start as early as possible in alignment with SECC's mandate as regional leader to advance Egypt and the region into innovative technologies.

- Project management and quality assurance activities are included in WP5 and WP6 covers the dissemination and exploitation of RECOCAPE results.

PARTNERS

1. Fundación Tecnalia Research and Innovation, Spain
2. Technical Research Centre of Finland, Finland
3. University of Bologna, Italy

SIERA

Integrating Sina Institute into the European research area

Start date: 1.10.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 550 515
 Project funding: EUR 609 535

Coordinator: Mustafa Jarrar (mjarrar@birzeit.edu)
 Birzeit University, Occupied
 Palestinian Territories

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the project is to reinforce closer scientific cooperation between EU and Palestinian scientists in the field of multilingual and multicultural knowledge-sharing technologies. This objective is attained through integrating Birzeit University Sina Institute, the largest ICT research centre in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, into the European research area. BZU Sina institute will twin with four leading European research institutions that are pioneers in the area of multilingual knowledge-sharing and have an excellent profile in research cooperation at the European and international levels. This collective expertise and scientific excellence will be utilised to help BZU Sina Institute enhance its research cooperation capacity.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows.

- Widening the R&D strategy of BZU Sina Institute to account for the needs of the Arab and EU societies in knowledge-sharing technologies.
- Setting up joint research and cooperation and facilitating knowledge-exchange, and enhancing the cooperation capacity of BZU Sina.
- Facilitating co-supervision of PhD students, which is a concrete and sustainable venue of scientific cooperation between Birzeit University and the EU partner universities. This will also enhance the capacity of BZU professors in co-supervision

cooperation, especially with EU universities, as well as facilitate future joint diplomas.

- Organising joint summer courses to facilitate direct dissemination and exchange of knowledge. These courses will be attended by college students, PhD students, researchers, faculty members and industry practitioners and, additionally, serve as networking venues for participants.
- Building competency and facilitating the participation of BZU Sina Institute in FP7 (and future framework programmes). The concrete research cooperation between the EU partners and BZU Sina institute, set up in this project, will facilitate the institute's participation in the FP7. The addressed scientific challenges in this project are in line with the FP7 thematic priorities, and build on successful FP7 projects and culture. Workshops on writing FP7 proposals will be organised and two FP7 proposals prepared and submitted as a part of the deliverables of this project.
- Increasing the visibility and impact of BZU Sina Institute at the regional and international level — this goal will be achieved indirectly through all the activities of the project, and directly by organising industrial and academic conferences.

Furthermore, the project is designed to allow project associates to contribute to the project goals. This helps BZU Sina Institute cooperate

SIERA

and network with other knowledge providers and uptakers in the field. Project associates may provide certain know-how and realistic use cases, and disseminate and apply knowledge and tools developed at BZU Sina Institute.

DESCRIPTION

The rapid growth of cross-border markets and global concerns are creating a huge demand to facilitate knowledge-sharing between societies. Digitising information and enabling this information to be accessed and understood by other communities is of fundamental importance. The diversity of languages, cultures and standards are the main barriers to sharing and consuming knowledge.

Several European programmes (such as FP7, eContentPlus and eTen, among others) have prioritised joint research and development in this direction, particularly integrating and exploiting multilingual and multicultural content and digital libraries. In addition, the linked data trend has emerged in the previous few years within the international research community to link data elements across distributed and heterogeneous knowledge repositories. Since the Arab research community is busy primarily building repositories and tools to access and retrieve Arabic content, reinforcing sustainable cooperation between Arab and EU scientists is called for at this stage to integrate and extend Arab–EU research efforts in this regard.

Partners will set up joint activities that lead to sustainable scientific cooperation between the

Palestinian partner and EU research institutions. Activities include the organisation of joint summer schools, co-supervision of PhD research and the setting up of joint research cooperation, among other things.

The theme selected for increasing SINA's scientific cooperation capacities is multilingual knowledge-sharing. The specific goal is to enable Arabic language and content in the EU's knowledge repositories and tools; in this way, the collaboration will lead to facilitating Arabic resources in EU societies, and EU resources in Arab societies and markets. The partners will carry out preparatory activities which aim at setting up joint research and cooperation. This means that, in addition to knowledge-exchange and capacity-building activities, a concrete and long-term output of the project will be that the Arabic processing tools, data, lexical databases and ontologies developed by BZU Sina will be in tune with the resources and tools developed by the EU partners.

In the design phase of the project, two EU multilingual knowledge-sharing portals (developed in previous FP7 and eTen projects) have been selected as a concrete test bed for establishing scientific collaboration and integration. The first, MICHAEL, is a cultural heritage portal which provides a multilingual service to explore digital collections from museums, archives, libraries and other cultural institutions from across Europe. The second, KYOTO, is a wiki portal about the environment and ecology. The key idea is to use them to investigate how to enable

large-scale knowledge-sharing portals with Arabic language and content. Extending the portals to support Arabic content and semantic searches is a challenging task due to the complexity of the language and as the Arabic content needs to be semantically interlinked with the EU content.

Partners' cooperation to settle these issues will be an opportunity to tune and integrate their technologies as well as to build capacities and facilitate the exchange of knowledge.

Improved cooperation capacity of the institute will facilitate conducting future joint research experiments in multilingual knowledge-sharing domains that interest EU and Arab societies. This includes not only cultural heritage and ecology domains, but also politics and news, finance and economy, commerce, energy, education, etc.

The work plan of the project involves the implementation of five integrated work packages (WP).

- WP1, Research strategy: in this work package, the R&D strategy of BZU Sina Institute is revised and widened in view of the needs of the regional/EU societies in the area of Arabic language technologies.
- WP2, Networking and research set-up: this work package enables closer and sustainable scientific cooperation between EU and Palestinian scientists through several activities, including facilitating co-supervision of PhD students, setting up joint research and cooperation and

encouraging co-authoring of scientific articles.

- WP3, Capacity-building in FP7: this work package builds competency and facilitates the participation of Birzeit University, in particular BZU Sina Institute, in FP7 research projects.
- WP4, Dissemination and exchange of knowledge: this work package enables direct disseminate and exchange of knowledge among the project partners and other societies at regional and EU levels, and will encourage further networking between partners and beyond.
- WP5, Project management and quality control: in this work package, management and financial reports are prepared, project meetings organised and management structures ensured for smooth operation.

PARTNERS

1. New University of Lisbon, Portugal
2. Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Germany
3. University of Trento, Italy
4. University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

MolCT

Morocco research advance in ICT for water

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 552 910
 Project funding: EUR 494 566

Coordinator: Ahlam Begdouri
 (abegdouri@gmail.com)
 Université Sidi Mohamed Ben
 Abdellah, Morocco

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the MolCT project is building the cooperation and technical capacities of the Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdallah University (USMBA) in Morocco to reinforce ICT for water research and applications in the context of the European research area (ERA) and development of a research centre of excellence.

Specific objectives of the action have been formulated as follows:

- strategic strengthening of USMBA to become a regional centre of excellence;
- strengthening of USMBA's capacities for ICT research and application in the water sector;
- raising innovation capacities and the quality of research management;
- better integration into the ERA and enhanced EU–Morocco research cooperation in the ICT and water sectors;
- dissemination of research results and project information to wider EU and Mediterranean audiences;
- support to young researchers through a targeted mobility scheme;
- fostering a path to innovation through collaboration with industry stakeholders.

DESCRIPTION

The goal of MolCT is to strengthen USMBA's cooperation and technical capacities in Morocco, reinforce the ICT4Water research in the context of the ERA and develop a research centre of excellence to respond to Morocco's

socioeconomic needs. More specifically, MolCT aims to set up an innovation collaboration framework to enhance cooperation between the research and private sectors and provide better conditions for young researchers.

In order to achieve these objectives, a comprehensive work plan has been designed for the optimal performance encompassing six work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, is designed to provide sound overall scope and budget management and ensure the achievement of the project's objectives.
- WP2, Strategic intelligence and innovation, creates the base for the whole action through strategic intelligence initiatives for value-chain analysis and adequate positioning of USMBA in the competitive, challenging and innovative environment. The ICT for water research and innovation priorities and directions are defined through established innovation and cooperation platforms between Mediterranean research actors, policy-makers and technology-driven enterprises, in particular SMEs. Demands for women and young researchers are assessed and corresponding strategies incorporated in WP5 for strategic development of the centre. WP2 provides insight into factors supporting and hindering research, and presents concise input to further capacity-building activities (WP3 and WP4) and the strategic development of USMBA (WP5).

- WP3, Institutional strengthening, is designed to raise capacities in research and innovation management, FP7 project development and management skills with the ultimate aim of involving young researchers and increasing Morocco's participation in FP7, as well as to increase research partnerships between Morocco and its counterparts in the Mediterranean region and the EU. This work package also incorporates a specific young researcher support scheme to provide specific training and involve them in the international research environment.
- The main rationale of WP4, ICT4 water research capacities and mobility, is the twinning of USMBA with EU research centres for water (CTM) and wireless technologies (CUBIT) through the transfer of technological knowledge, training in research capacity strengthening, setting up a joint research programme and a mobility scheme for study trips to laboratories and short-term internships at REDINN for FP7 capacity practical training. This work package is developed to complement the institutional strengthening activities in WP3 and contribute to WP5 through practical research development support.
- WP5, Vision for a centre of excellence, is dedicated to the strategic centre's development and sustainability planning while incorporating value-chain analysis and recommendations to provide strategic direction for the further development of the research centre towards internationalisation and an efficient response to local socioeconomic needs with regard to water management, integration of women in research and provision of better opportunities for young researchers to reduce 'brain-drain' phenomena. The innovation component will be anchored through the inclusion of insights from industry representatives and incorporation of the further strategic foresight and sustainability planning.
- In parallel with the core project activities, WP6, Networking, synergies and dissemination, is focused on the creation of synergies with other Mediterranean, Moroccan and EU initiatives, networks, facilitation and dissemination of project information and cross-sector ICT/water research results. The corporate identity and communication strategy, together with the necessary instruments (dissemination plan, well-structured project website with communication platform and internal project management system, promotional materials) is developed in this work package. Networking activities are directed at enhancing the networking potential, development of research partnerships and creation of synergies with other initiatives in ICT for water and other environmental science disciplines, relevant projects, events, NCP networks and international partnership platforms.

MoICT

PARTNERS

1. Fundació CTM Centre Tecnològic, Spain
2. REDINN SRL, Italy
3. Consortium Ubiquitous Technologies S.c.a.r.l., Italy

GM_NCD_IN_CO

Reinforcing IPT capacities in genomic medicine, non-communicable diseases investigation and international cooperation

Start date: 1.12.2011
Duration: 30 months
Project cost: EUR 604 800
Project funding: EUR 499 690

Coordinator: Sonia Abdelhak
(sonia.abdelhak@pasteur.rns.tn)
Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the proposal is reinforcing the capacity of the Institut Pasteur de Tunis (IPT) in genomic medicine and its applications in non-communicable diseases' (NCD) investigation and in international cooperation activities. At the national level, the objectives are to increase the research activities in the field of non-communicable diseases and cooperation capacities and facilitate the participation of Tunisian researchers in relevant topics in the health thematic with the ultimate goal of integrating into the European research area (ERA).

The specific objectives of the project are as follows.

- To strengthen IPT's competencies in international cooperation and project-setting in order to enhance the participation of researchers in international FP projects — this will be achieved via specific training modules.
- To reinforce IPT's scientific research and technical capacities in the field of genomic medicine and new molecular tools for the investigation of the genetic basis of NCDs:
 - updating and upgrading the knowledge level of IPT personnel is a prerequisite for a successful action plan of capacity-building and strengthening — this specific objective will be achieved through professional training via advanced courses and workshops at IPT;

- short visits to European laboratories and two pilot projects, one on a preliminary investigation of the genetic landscape of the Tunisian population and one on gene identification using next-generation sequencing.
- To stimulate collaboration between Tunisian and EU researchers in topics of mutual interest in the field of non-communicable diseases with networking and dissemination activities.
- To build IPT's business plan and the associated strategy of valorisation and technology transfer activity in the framework of EU–Tunisian R&D cooperation.

The ultimate goal of this project is to integrate Tunisia, a Mediterranean partner country (MPC), into the ERA, which is one of the priorities of the EU's European neighbourhood policy (ENP).

DESCRIPTION

To achieve the aims of the project several actions are proposed.

Setting and implementing training modules: two training modules on international project-setting within the scope of the European framework programme and four advanced courses and theoretical and practical workshops on various aspects of structural and functional genomics, with a particular emphasis on NCD investigation, have been organised. To improve networking capacities, an exchange of visits between IPT, IP Paris and other EU laboratories working in the relevant field are also planned.

GM_NCD_IN_CO

Two pilot projects will be performed, one on disease gene identification using next-generation whole exome sequencing and one on a preliminary description of the genetic landscape of the Tunisian population.

The pilot projects will help stimulate cooperation, identify potential bottlenecks and propose improvements. GM_NCD_IN_CO targets the Institut Pasteur de Tunis, an independent government institution, under the tutorship of the Tunisian Ministry of Health. This institution, more than 100 years old, is considered a national and regional centre of excellence in the field of infectious diseases. To answer the new challenges of epidemiological transition and with the increasing prevalence of NCDs, IPT has developed activities related to the investigation of the genetic basis of monogenic and multifactorial diseases.

In the framework of this project, the aim is also to reinforce the activities of the health thematic

contact point in a synergistic way with other EU projects (European–Tunisian collaboration, ETC and MIRA projects) and in collaboration with other thematic areas contact points (i.e. environment, ICT and KBBE).

Dissemination and networking activities will be carried out via the project website, newsletters, meetings and brokerage events. A development plan will be constructed for IPT in order to increase its regional coverage and to improve its response to socioeconomic needs. The project results will be analysed and recommendations drawn to the attention of national authorities on how to increase the participation of Tunisian researchers in the ERA to tackle common regional challenges for health systems.

PARTNERS

1. Institut Pasteur, France
2. Synbea, France

THEBERA

Theodor Bilharz into the European research area

<http://www.thebera.eg.net/>

Start date: 1.11.2010

Duration: 24 months

Project cost: EUR 561 486

Project funding: EUR 500 658

Coordinator: Sanaa Botros (sanaabotros@link.net)
Theodor Bilharz Research Institute,
Egypt

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of THEBERA project are:

- to reinforce the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute's (TBRI) cooperation capacities;
- to disseminate the results of liver-related research;
- internationalisation and coordination between research and business sectors;
- the enhancement of EU–Egypt S&T partnerships in liver research;
- capacity-building for cooperation;
- development of the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute's strategy.

DESCRIPTION

The THEBERA project aims at strengthening the capacities of the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute in Egypt and the development of an international excellence and reference centre for liver diseases and hepatic surgery by defining liver research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European liver research initiatives and inclusion in the Euro–Mediterranean Research and Innovation Area.

THEBERA activities are structured along six interconnected and mutually supportive work packages (WP) for the strengthening of cooperation capacities. Activities involve the establishment of a strategy to internationalise TBRI as a centre of excellence for the management of liver disease of mutual interest to the EU and neighbouring countries. This will be based on

a needs-tailored plan involving SWOT analysis and monitoring, reviewing and analysing the state of the art in liver disease research. Furthermore, the international cooperation capacity of TBRI will be built on by increasing participation in FP7 and related programmes, proper management of IPR and medical ethics, through training workshops, modules and individual assessment in one-to-one coaching sessions. Specific capacity-building in the field of liver disease will be enhanced through study visits to well-established liver disease management centres in the European Union. The THEBERA project is backed by a solid management organisation and communication infrastructure facilitating the dissemination of project activities via networking within the consortium and between regional and EU research centres with relevant scientific activities.

The THEBERA project can be briefly described in an overview of figures:

- three mentoring and training workshops executed;
- at least 20 TBRI researchers reached through mentoring and training workshops;
- at least 15 TBRI researchers coached for participation in international project proposals;
- at least 10 R&D partnership agreements mediated between EU and TBRI researchers;
- five strategic partnership agreements established with similar projects;

THEBERA

- thirty Egyptian research profiles, emerging as those having a higher potential for participation in FP activities, will be presented in a set of showcase brochures;
- at least 100 competitive TBRI actors available on the project website;
- on average, 500 unique visitors and/or 3 000 hits on the project website per month.

THEBERA will contribute to capacity-building and restructuring the processes of TBRI, as well as the promotion of existing EU–Egypt support in the domain of liver S&T cooperation in a threefold manner:

- by supporting the participation of Egypt in the FP7 in the liver disease research area;

- by combining all relevant support schemes;
- by facilitating both the uptake of common identified liver research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impact of this cooperation.

PARTNERS

1. Europe for Business Ltd, United Kingdom
2. Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), Egypt
3. Università di Pisa, Italy

OLITREVA

Capacity-building for sustainable treatment and valorisation of olive mill waste (OMW) in Palestine

Start date: 1.10.2011
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 636 986
 Project funding: EUR 495 635

Coordinator: Jad Isaac (jad@arij.org)
 Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem,
 Occupied Palestinian Territories

OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the OLITREVA project are to:

- assist the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ) in enhancing its competences and fundraising skills for a successful eventual participation in international joint activities;
- reinforce the scientific research cooperation between the Occupied Palestinian Territories' research institute and the European partners;
- introduce and familiarise the Palestinian partner with the seventh framework programme (FP7);
- promote innovations in olive mill waste (OMW) treatment by promoting cross-fertilisation of ideas;
- raise awareness of environmental threats engendered by the improper disposal of OMW and to encourage potential interest groups to support local researchers in the OMW treatment field.

The specific objectives are to:

- assess the existing S & T capacities of research institutions devoted to OMW;
- enhance the S & T and cooperation capacities of Palestinian research institutions;
- provide the necessary capacities to track and identify potential international research actions;
- develop a feasible research and cooperation strategy on a short and long-term basis;

- foster long-term partnerships among the project partners through the development of specific joint activities.

DESCRIPTION

The aim of OLITREVA is to reinforce the research and technological development (RTD) capacities of the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ) in the sustainable management of OMW in the West Bank, by increasing networking and cooperation with European centres of top-level research and scientific excellence working in the same field. Through this path, ARIJ will develop the necessary capacities to respond to the environmental challenges resulting from incorrect OMW disposal. Engaging one of the country's leading institutions in this field, ARIJ, is the first step toward the achievement of this goal, while widening the path for future collaborations between EU and Palestinian researchers and bringing current research activities in the field of OMW treatment and valorisation to new heights. The work plan conceived for the present action boosts human and organisational development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by means of exchanging and sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices between EU and Palestinian research organisations. In parallel, it promotes the establishment of research networks that will accelerate the creation of new knowledge in the field of OMW and provide more comprehensive scientific solutions to the common challenges.

OLITREVA

OLITREVA enhances the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge as well as the cross-fertilisation of ideas. The Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs) have developed diversified technologies and know-how specialising in certain fields dictated by peculiar local conditions. The definition of the future research road in OMW treatment and valorisation represents a step forward in the development of cost-effective technology for the special conditions of the Mediterranean region.

At European level, the participation of researchers from different countries will reinforce the pillars of the European research area, namely the creation of a European 'internal market' in research and development activities, where the transnational synergies and complementariness of the EU Member States are fully exploited. In parallel, the European researchers involved in OLITREVA will benefit from the expertise of developing country institutions acquired from the experience of dealing with a specific problem in a specific context.

OLITREVA is also about familiarising the Palestinian partner with the different EC frameworks and other cooperation instruments (particularly FP7).

The integrated approach of OLITREVA takes into consideration that different aspects influence OMW treatment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and so hinder the research opportunities in the field. This is why environment-based health concerns, as well as socioeconomic aspects such as olive mill farmers' incomes, cultural barriers, low synergies between relevant

stakeholders (such as olive oil associations, national donors, etc.) and the unstable political situation will be taken into consideration and addressed in the proposal.

OLITREVA will plan for future applicable solutions through the development of a research strategy that will help the Palestinian partner to increase its scope and visibility among regional and European research organisations devoted to OMW, and thus increase its participation in international cooperation activities.

The expected project outputs will:

- provide a deep assessment of the existing S&T capacities of local research institutions dealing with OMW treatment, a basis that will be used by Palestinian researchers to build on and search for most efficient techniques that suit their national conditions;
- facilitate the exchange of information and expertise between European and Palestinian researchers on OMW;
- train certain junior researchers in technical OMW treatment and valorisation processes and in European project's management-related issues;
- inform the scientific community, public authorities and society on the necessity of sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies for development of OMW treatment;
- show examples of good practices in demonstration activities of implemented OMW treatment technologies, and help the Palestinian research institute to

OLITREVA

chart the course of future research in the addressed field.

The first stage of the project covers the assessment of the actual state of RTD capacities in the field of OMW treatment and valorisation. Based on the assessment results, the partners will evaluate the challenges, opportunities and potential of this research area in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In turn, the second stage of the project will be devoted to strengthening the RTD and cooperation capacities of ARIJ by means of a tailor-made strategy for research and cooperation improvement and activities for capacity-building. Finally, the dissemination

activities seek to increase the international visibility of Palestinian researchers and research institutions, while fostering networking with peer organisations abroad in the frame of OLITREVA's international conference.

PARTNERS

1. Verein zur Förderung des Technologietransfers an der Hochschule Bremerhaven e.V., Germany
2. Institute on Membrane Technology, Italy
3. University of Extremadura, Spain

JoRIEW

Improving capacity of Jordanian research in integrated renewable energy and water supply
<http://www.joriw.eu>

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 602 479
 Project funding: EUR 499 233

Coordinator: Mousa S. Mohsen
 (msmohsen@hu.edu.jo)
 The Hashemite University, Jordan

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the JoRIEW project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of Jordanian research centres by promoting closer scientific collaboration with a number of research centres and universities located in the European research area. The JoRIEW project helps to structure and enhance S&T cooperation in areas of common interest, such as research system integration, integrated energy and water planning and development of water supply systems that can be powered by intermittent renewable energies, in particular flexible pumping techniques and reverse osmosis desalination technology, where joint research efforts could bring common solutions and mutual benefits.

DESCRIPTION

The JoRIEW project reinforces the cooperation capacities of the Hashemite University (HU) and enables researchers and scientists to improve their research activities in the thematic priorities of FP7. During and after the successful implementation of the JoRIEW project and as a result of its networking actions and training modules, Jordanian researchers will be able to propose and participate in projects with aims such as increasing overall energy conversion efficiency, cost efficiency, significantly driving down the cost of electricity production from indigenous renewable energy resources, enhancing process reliability and further reducing the environmental impact and eliminating existing obstacles.

The JoRIEW project's actions aim to enhance international cooperation with Jordan by including S&T capacity-building activities (human resources, research policy, networks of researchers and research institutes). The project facilitates the participation of Jordanian researchers in contributing to the solution of local, regional and global problems and to economic and social development. Enhanced research capacity also encourages researchers to compete internationally in terms of scientific excellence and increases their incentive to continue to base their research activities in Jordan.

The following activities have been developed to improve Jordanian capacities in research:

- networking of Jordanian and EU research centres with a view to disseminating scientific information, identifying partners and setting up joint research;
- developing training modules to build competency and facilitate Jordanian participation in FP7 regarding energy and water research;
- formulation of a Jordanian research strategy for sustainable and renewable energy and water desalination in order to increase its scope, in particular its regional coverage, and to improve its responses to the socioeconomic needs of Jordan and other countries in the region.

By supporting and developing the JoRIEW network of research centres and through the organisation of dissemination activities, European universities, research institutions and firms

are able to establish contacts with their partners in Jordan and the Middle East. The JoRIEW network encourages the coordination of national and regional policies and programmes in sustainable energy and water research with those of Member States and associated countries.

PARTNERS

1. University of Nis, Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Serbia
2. University of Western Macedonia, Greece
3. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Croatia
4. Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece
5. Aalborg University, Denmark
6. Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation, Hungary

BOT-ERA

Reinforcing cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2012
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 554 802
Project funding: EUR 497 570

Coordinator: Sobhia Saifan
(saifan_sabah@yahoo.com)
Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan,
Amman, Jordan

OBJECTIVES

Through the BOT-ERA project, the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan (RBG) aims to become more closely integrated with the European research area (ERA) through capacity-building and strategic collaboration with three excellent European research and innovation organisations. By improving specific research capabilities, identified from RBG's SWOT analysis, the BOT-ERA project supports the RBG and Jordan's participation in EU R & D programmes and its integration into the ERA. Equally, the project benefits the EU by supporting increased access to Jordan's precious crop, crop wild relatives and medicinal plant diversity.

The BOT-ERA project is also inspired by the desire to support the implementation of the European Community–Jordan S & T Cooperation Agreement, signed in November 2009, in which Jordan identified agriculture and sustainable development as priorities for international research cooperation. At the same time, the BOT-ERA project contributes to the implementation of several articles of the EU–Jordan Association Agreement such as the environment or agriculture.

DESCRIPTION

In order to achieve the overall aim, a 36-month work plan has been designed based on four complementary work packages.

- WP1, Project management, will ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and ensure optimised

outcomes from the partners involved in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.

- WP2, Twinning, describes the twinning activities with European research centres concerning training, scientific knowledge exchange and joint research studies. The twinning will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, via twinning with Kew Gardens and the University of Birmingham with respect to research topic A: plants and seed conservation. Secondly, via twinning with Kew Gardens and the University of Birmingham with respect to research topic B: genetic resource diversity and biotechnology. Thirdly, via twinning with Kew Gardens with respect to research topic C: utilisation and access benefit sharing. Fourthly, via FP7 training and networking with other European research centres with respect to FP7, ETP and other funding opportunities with the support of Innoveo Consulting.
- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, will increase the visibility of the RBG and Jordanian flora and endangered species. This will be achieved through the BOT-ERA website with relevant R & D news, events and newsletters, promotional material for RBG; next, by promoting the RBG and promotion during local workshops; and finally by publishing and disseminating a set of guides on the flora checklist, red list and conservation area list for Jordan.

BOT-ERA

- WP4, Strategy development, will develop a strategy for the RBG in order to increase its research excellence and its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs.

PARTNERS

1. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom
2. University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
3. Innoveo Consulting, Luxembourg

DEBPAL 2

Reinforcing capacity-building for defending biodiversity in the Palestinian Territories

Start date: 1.3.2012
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 499 237
 Project funding: EUR 499 587

Coordinator: Samira Barghouthi
 (sbarghouthi3@hotmail.com)
 Al-Quds University Faculty of Science
 and Technology, Biology Department,
 Occupied Palestinian Territories

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to increase the capacity-building of Al-Quds University in the strategic field of biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity), in the interlinked fields of conservation and restoration by a coherent plan foreseeing networking and joint research activities with the experienced Tuscia University; training in technology transfer to local SMEs; training in FP7 project appraisal; and the development of its own research strategy.

DESCRIPTION

The Occupied Palestinian Territories are an emblematic case of massive biodiversity loss (both natural and agricultural), determining a series of severe consequences in nature and on human life and the economy. Therefore, the competences, techniques and technologies that will be developed in Al-Quds University are focused at integrating biodiversity and cultural and social perspectives into a coherent sustainable landscape management.

This approach is strategic for the Occupied Palestinian Territories but also, in a larger dimension, for the whole of the Mediterranean region, where the erosion of biodiversity is a worsening and expanding problem due to climate change, human impact on the environment and the absence of consistent global politics to combat and control such impacts.

As the United Nations environment programme stated in 2003, biodiversity is one of the fundamental pillars of future sustainable

development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which presents all the escalating environmental threats of the Mediterranean region, worsened by the acute environmental degradation caused by conflicts. In recent years, the most critical conflict-related problem has been the extensive land clearing (with the connected soil degradation, land aridification and erosion of biodiversity in all its manifestations). The separation barrier of nearly 750 km long (Wall), has a significant repercussion on biodiversity by causing the fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats, and by cutting natural ecological corridors, on the one hand, and by cancelling traditional agriculture on a wide scale, on the other.

The Palestinian Territories, divided into four main environmental-biogeographical zones, form a 'hot spot of biodiversity': the Mediterranean basin. To qualify as a 'hotspot', a geographical region has to be characterised both by exceptional levels of plant endemism and serious levels of habitat loss. It must meet two criteria: it must contain at least 1 500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70 % of its original habitat. In other words, the 'hotspots' are the Earth's biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial 'ecoregions'. The Occupied Palestinian Territories are an emblematic case of this ecological degradation, and need to retain their potential through activities that address biodiversity protection.

DEBPAL 2

The DEBPAL2 work plan consists of different sets of activities:

- Networking and joint research activities in biodiversity conservation and restoration and related socioeconomic aspects, with an experienced Italian university that has developed many European projects in this field.
- Training in technology transfer from research to business with an Italian SME already involved in the demonstration of new technologies and new business systems in the Mediterranean area.
- Training in the approach, selection, preparation and submission of EU-funded environmental projects; the training will be developed by the Italian university for the environmental and biodiversity conservation matters, and by a Belgian non-profit association for the general FP7 part.
- Development of Al-Quds University's research/policy strategy, able to support the government in its environmental planning activities, according to the EU policy and objectives.
- Dissemination and project management activities.

The anticipated outcomes of the project include the following.

- Reorganisation of the biology laboratories of Al-Quds University and improvement of their staff. The mobilisation of Palestinian human resources already existing in biodiversity research, through strong

networking with an Italian university already working with Al-Quds University.

- Enhanced participation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories in FP7 and preparation for the Horizon 2020 (H2020) programme.
- Increased scope of Al-Quds University in biodiversity research, regional coverage for biodiversity recovery and conservation plans, training activities for participation in FP7 and H2020 and increasing its linkage with the local economic and social environment, also through the involvement of local SMEs.
- The contribution of Palestinian capacity-building in a strategic field (biodiversity and agro-biodiversity) for its future sustainable development policy is also targeted at the related socioeconomic aspects and technological transfer.
- Dissemination of scientific information, short-term visits, exchange of staff, meetings and seminars.
- Increased career opportunities for young scientists in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, also related to the planning, development and monitoring of the 'Palestinian biodiversity recovery plan' and its linkage with wider regional plans.

PARTNERS

1. Tuscia University, Italy
2. VELTHA IVZW, Belgium
3. Vivai Torsanlorenzo, Italy

JOCHERA

Jordan conservation of cultural heritage in the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 597 797
 Project funding: EUR 499 616

Coordinator: Abeer Al Bawab (drabeer@ju.edu.jo)
 University of Jordan, Jordan

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the JOCHERA project is the reinforcement of the University of Jordan's (UJ) cooperation capacities for cultural heritage research in the context of the European research area and development of the conservation centre of excellence to respond to Jordan's cultural and socioeconomic needs.

The specific objectives of the project have been formulated as follows:

- the reinforcement of UJ's cooperation capacities through targeted training for research management, IPR issues and FP7 project writing and management;
- environmental, material and cultural stakeholders' involvement in the future cultural heritage strategy formulation;
- strengthening UJ for internationalisation and improved coordination between research and business stakeholders;
- the enhancement of EU–Jordan S & T partnerships in cultural heritage research and dissemination of related research results to Jordanian and European audiences;
- support for young Jordanian researchers in the field of cultural heritage protection research.

DESCRIPTION

According to the 'Capacities' work programme addressing ERA-WIDE, the highest priority is given to strengthening and reinforcement of the cooperation capacities of research centres

located in the ENP countries, which are not associated with FP7. The strengthening includes, first of all, twinning with research centres in Member States and associated countries, training activities, capacity-building activities and also strategy activities of the research centre. The JOCHERA project will establish and implement a framework to reinforce the cooperation capacities and research activities in Jordan's cultural heritage protection sector by defining cultural heritage research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European cultural heritage research initiatives and the development of a strategy for research centres based on a thorough analysis of the current situation, cooperation patterns, relevant actors, needs and opportunities. In order to achieve these set goals, a coherent work plan consisting of five work-packages has been established.

- WP1, Project management, dedicated to administrative and financial project management, reporting procedures and quality assurance.
- WP2, Twinning and joint research plans, aims to perform an overall analysis and make an overview of Jordan's research and innovation priorities, needs and capacities in cultural heritage research. The main objective of WP2 is to create a mutually complementary collaboration between the UJ and the POLITO in the research topics of interest and establish an effective platform for future cooperation in FP7.

JOCHERA

- WP3, Training modules, development and upgrading infrastructures — the rationale of this work package is the organisation of training workshops related to the framework programme, including other work programmes besides 'Capacities' (i.e. 'Cooperation' and 'People'). The evaluation, administration and management procedures, as well as means and ways to communicate project ideas and research results, will also be a part of the programmed training.
- WP4, Strategic development of UJ and enhancing innovation, is dedicated to (a) development of the UJ strategy for internationalisation of the research centre, and (b) improving the research and development performance in Jordan's cultural heritage sector through the creation of a framework for the mobilisation of innovation resources and the engagement of

cultural stakeholders while fostering links between the research and private sectors, national incubators and business angels networks and Enterprise Europe Network at Jordan Enterprise.

- WP5, Network facilitation and dissemination, deals with two main aspects of the project work plan: (a) facilitating networking activities between Jordan and European researchers in cultural heritage protection; and (b) spreading the project's activities and results as wide as possible so as to reach the largest possible audience.

PARTNERS

1. Politecnico di Torino, Italy
2. Middle East Technical University, Turkey
3. Fundación Tecnalia Research and Innovation, Spain
4. REDINN SRL, Italy

LEB'IN

Lebanon–Europe 'on-boarding' to innovate and enhance research links in health

Start Date: 1.03.2012
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 612 178
 Project funding: EUR 510 082

Coordinator: André Mégarbané
 (megarbane@usj.edu.lb)
 Université Saint-Joseph, Lebanon

OBJECTIVES

LEB'IN is a support action project, aimed at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Lebanon in the thematic priority 'Health' and at integrating Lebanon into the European research area (ERA). The project aims to develop cooperation capacities between Lebanon and the European Union in the field of health through twinning, capacity-building and networking, and to support joint Lebanon–European research activities. In order to stimulate cooperation, the LEB'IN project mission has four objectives.

- Map and assess the strengths, weaknesses and collaboration potential of the project coordinator, one of the leading Lebanon institutes, Université Saint-Joseph (USJ), and prepare USJ for the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs.
- Set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between USJ and its long-term European partner, Mediterranean University of Aix-Marseille II (France), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, providing better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing USJ for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development.

- Develop USJ's cooperation capacities and raise awareness, significantly increasing its visibility at the European level and its participation in the seventh (and future) framework programmes and setting a basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project.
- Organising international events as well as information, training, networking and brokerage and dissemination workshops and sessions, thus developing USJ's FP7 skills and raising awareness about collaboration opportunities in the health thematic in order to promote the research capacities of USJ and to enlarge its network.

DESCRIPTION

The LEB'IN project is implemented on the basis of the twinning concept between USJ and the Université de la Méditerranée (UNIVMED). The twinning brings together organisations from two countries, which provide common skills, knowledge and data and establish joint research activities. The interest in implementing this kind of partnership is to achieve closer scientific collaboration with Lebanon and to ensure a sustainable improvement in the cooperation capacities of the French twinning partner UNIVMED, and especially of the Lebanese partner, USJ.

The twinning concept is based on mutual benefit and reciprocity. It can especially help the lesser-known organisations in Europe, such as USJ, to demonstrate in-house research

capacities and to gain new capacities. It can also contribute to improving relations between the partners through practical applications: the twinning approach allows the use of technologies, methods and strategies not available to one of the partners. Finally, putting together know-how and experience in a common field of research could contribute to fostering academic research achievement of significant scientific results in the area of health technology development for both parties. Twinning helps to create a sense of a common European identity, something that can never be imposed from above.

In order to make these results achievable, the twinning concept includes the implementation of different actions. It is about short-term exchanges of experts, the setting-up of common working groups, organisation of scientific workshops, joint PhD students and practical data sharing.

The project activities are organised into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, ensures the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and ensures optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.
- WP2, Preparatory activities and analysis, sets the basis for future project activities. It includes refining the methodology, SWOT analysis of USJ in the health thematic, socioeconomic analysis of USJ's

environment needs at Lebanese, Mediterranean and European level, preparation of a strategic development plan for USJ, selection and setting-up of a scientific reference team, consensus-building on the strategic development plan and peer review.

- WP3, Twinning activities USJ–UNIVMED, builds on the results of the previous work package. It includes formulation of the joint research plan and twinning plan preparation. It previews management visits, the formal twinning agreement between USJ and UNIVMED, implementation of the agreed twinning activities, exchanges of researchers and organisation of peer reviews (by the Scientific Reference Group members). A sustainability model will be developed.
- WP4, Reinforcement of the international capacities of USJ, is one of the main goals of the project, to increase the visibility of USJ and to strengthen its international cooperation capacities. This work package will include elaboration of a visibility strategy, ERA integration and dissemination campaign for USJ. It will also cover the USJ's training for FP7 participation and proposal preparation, support for the integration of USJ into European technology platforms, FP7 consortia and international teams/networks. Moreover, USJ will be supported to participate in international health conferences and brokerage

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sessions. A large-scale health conference will be organised in Lebanon. Finally, this work package will include the expansion of USJ health activities at the Mediterranean level.

- WP5, Setting up of joint activities, will be the result of the twinning implementation. It will allow the two twinning partners to organise workshops and scientific events, discussing their scientific research results as well as achievements, related to the common FP7 research priorities. In addition, research infrastructures will be supported and specific activities will

be implemented to reinforce the research capacities in the field of health. In addition, a summer school will be organised in Lebanon, in order to facilitate the further integration of young researchers into the European research area.

PARTNERS

1. Université de la Méditerranée (Aix Marseille II), France
2. INNO TSD SA, France
3. Berytech Foundation, Lebanon

SUWARESA

Capacity and knowledge-building on the sustainable use of water resources in Syrian agriculture

Start date: 1.1.2011

Duration: 36 months (project suspended)

Project cost: EUR 616 380

Project funding: EUR 499 904

Coordinator: Awadis Arslan

(abarslan@scs-net.org)

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria

OBJECTIVES

The SUWARESA project's main objective is to reinforce the scientific and research cooperation capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research, Natural Resources Research (MAAR-GCSAR-ANRR) in the sustainable management of water resources in Syrian agriculture and to increase its competency and fundraising skills for successful participation in the EU framework programme for research.

The specific objectives of SUWARESA are:

- setting up research/cooperation priorities between Syria and the EU in the field of agricultural water management;
- capacity-building and human resources development for scientific research and research cooperation in the Syrian agricultural water management sector;
- promoting networking, joint research themes and exchange of knowledge on specific topics of agricultural water management;
- setting up the ANRR research and cooperation strategy on a short and long-term basis;
- disseminating the results of activities using different tools.

The SUWARESA project will be carried out in close collaboration with two reputable regional partners (CIHEAM-IAMB and CSIC), and with the involvement of local stakeholders and recognised, external, international S&T policy experts from other (neighbouring) European neighbourhood policy (ENP) countries.

DESCRIPTION

The objectives of the project will be achieved through a whole set of concerted and complementary activities organised in work packages as follows.

- The assessment of research/cooperation opportunities at national (Syrian), regional and European level, and the setting of short-term and long-term priorities.
- Capacity-building and human resources development for research and cooperation including training courses, postgraduate research programmes and stages.
- Networking and knowledge-sharing — joint research programmes with relevant EC institutions, exchanges of researchers and preparation of joint publications.
- Development of short-term and long-term strategies for ANRR for research and cooperation development at national and regional level.
- Strong dissemination of knowledge, including the design and preparation of the project web page, preparation of training material, guidelines, field days and workshops.

The SUWARESA activities are structured in direct collaboration with the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms (MAAR) in order to reinforce local capacity-building for participation in the EU framework programme and to have a relevant impact on water management in Syrian agriculture. MAAR has recognised the relevance of the activities proposed within the SUWARESA project and asked for support from the Ministry of

SUWARESA

Higher Education. Indirectly, this will extend the impact of the project approach and ERA-WIDE programme to other higher education sectors.

The project strengthens the linkage of various stakeholder groups with different economic and social environments. In addition, the project foresees networking with other research centres, not only in Syria and neighbouring countries but also with relevant centres in EU Member States and international institutions (ICARDA, ACSAD and FAO). Certainly, this will mobilise the human and material resources existing in the field of agricultural water management and facilitate communication between centres having similar scientific interests. In turn, it will contribute to the sharing and exchange of knowledge, to dissemination of the project results and to receiving feedback from other actors outside the project consortium.

Three master of science programmes and a series of stages for young Syrian scientists in EU Member States will permit them to participate directly in the EU research programmes and to acquire the latest knowledge in the field of agricultural water management. The long-term impact of the project will be achieved through the development and implementation of the MAAR-GCSAR-ANRR strategic plan for the next five-year period and beyond.

The SUWARESA project will produce cooperation and support resulting in:

- streamlining of the capacity of MAAR-GCSAR-ANRR to coordinate its activities with European partners, and to actively participate in framework programme activities;

- fostering of the capacity of European partners to cooperate with Syrian research institutions.

Through a dedicated web page, developed on the MAAR website, the dissemination material and the projects' achievements are available to a large audience and research and cooperation communities regarding the agricultural water management sector not only in Syria but also in other countries of the region.

The agricultural water management network (AGWA-Net) involves researchers and water managers not only from the research centres in Syria and neighbouring countries but also from relevant centres in EU Member States and international institutions (ICARDA, ACSAD, FAO).

The SUWARESA project promotes capacity and knowledge-building in the field of sustainable management of water resources in the agricultural sector through a series of training courses and demonstration field days.

The SUWARESA project will close with an international workshop that will involve at least 50 participants from Syria, neighbouring countries and Europe. This event will further promote the initiatives carried out within the ERA-WIDE programme and support integration into the European research area.

PARTNERS

1. Centro Internazionale di Alti Studi Agronomici Mediterranei, Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari, Italy
2. Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain

JEWEL

Jordan Europe-wide enhanced research links in ICT

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 591 91
 Project funding: EUR 498 632

Coordinator: Abdoul Rauf Rjoub
 (abdoul@just.edu.jo)
 Jordan University of Science and
 Technology, Jordan

OBJECTIVES

JEWEL is a support action project aimed at stimulating cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Jordan in the thematic priority 'ICT' and at integrating Jordan into the European research area, in order to:

- support the European leading position and European competitiveness in ICT sciences through strategic partnerships with Jordan by engaging the best Jordanian ICT scientists to work in and with Europe;
- enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts within Jordan, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
- address specific problems that Jordan faces or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Consequently, the project aims to develop cooperation capacities between Jordan and the European Union in the field of ICT, and to support joint Jordanian–European research activities relevant to the priorities identified in the FP7 work programme 2010 through twinning, capacity-building and networking.

In order to stimulate cooperation, the JEWEL project mission has four objectives.

- Map and assess the strengths, weaknesses and collaboration potential of

the project coordinator, one of the leading Jordanian institutes, JUST, and prepare JUST for the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs.

- Set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between JUST and its long-term European partner, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (AUTH), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, providing better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing JUST for FP7 opportunities and larger network development.
- Develop JUST's cooperation capacities and raise awareness, significantly increasing its visibility at the European level and its participation in the seventh (and future) framework programmes and setting the basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project.
- Organise joint training sessions and ensure improvements in skills by developing a concept of joint training modules and implementing them to build a stronger bridge between young researchers from different backgrounds.

JEWEL

DESCRIPTION

The project will achieve its overall objective via four groups of activities:

- preparing JUST's future strategic development;
- setting up and implementing an ambitious twinning programme between JUST and its long-term European partner AUTH;
- reinforcing the international cooperation capacities of JUST and integrating JUST into international networks and research consortia;
- organising events (e.g. conferences, summer schools, networking, brokerage and information sessions, FP7 training) to strengthen the FP7 skills of JUST and to raise awareness about collaboration opportunities with JUST.

The impact of the JEWEL project will be substantial in the short to medium term on the policy, technological and socioeconomic levels, since it will provide a solid framework for ICT

research cooperation and strengthen the cooperation capacities not only of JUST, but also of Jordan and the surrounding Mediterranean region.

JEWEL will carefully appraise JUST and its twinning partner AUTH's research collaboration capacities with the research priorities specified in the FP7 ICT work programme 2010 and the most relevant ETP strategic research agendas. Meanwhile, the project combines different kinds of scientific events, allowing networking, training and, consequently, facilitating the establishment of fruitful partnerships. The new ICT projects, which JUST will have the opportunity to undertake, will impact more on Europe's S&T research and excellence in the ICT sector.

PARTNERS

1. INNO TSD SA, France
2. Aristotelio Panepistimio, Thessaloniki, Greece

PERA

Palestine for the European research area

Start date: 1.4.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 508 754
 Project funding: EUR 454 614

Coordinator: Hilmi S. Salem
 (hilmisalem@yahoo.com)
 Palestine Technical University,
 Kadoorie, Occupied Palestinian
 Territories

OBJECTIVES

The PERA project is aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Palestine Technical University (Kadoorie), Applied Sciences and Engineering Research Centres (PTUK) and to promote it as an international centre of excellence for energy and water use and treatment in the Mediterranean area.

The project reinforces the cooperation capacities and research activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories' energy and water sectors by defining research priorities responding to the country's socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European energy and water research initiatives and allowing entry to the Euro–Mediterranean research and innovation area.

The major objectives of the PERA project are to:

- foster better coordination with the research sector while establishing PTUK as a reference point for collaboration, in order to boost energy and water research not only in the Occupied Palestinian Territories but also in neighbouring countries and, in general, in the Mediterranean area;
- improve and increase Palestinian researchers' participation in EU programmes and similar initiatives;
- set up an environment NCP in PTUK, acting as the main point of access for institutions and individuals who have an interest in collaborative research

activities and are looking for information and advice on FP7;

- enhance European–Palestinian S & T partnership towards bilateral S & T agreements within the EU for energy and water research;
- improve PTUK's research capacity to address specific and global problems in the energy and water sectors;
- increase PTUK's regional coverage and improve its response to socioeconomic needs.

DESCRIPTION

ERA-WIDE gives the highest priority to strengthening and reinforcing the cooperation capacities of research centres located in the ENP countries not associated with FP7. The PERA project addresses this priority through the analysis and review of environmental research in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, training and capacity-building activities and also strategy activities at the research centre. The PERA project establishes and implements a framework to reinforce the cooperation capacities and research activities in the Territories' environment sector with a focus on green energy and water management. The project will be carried out by defining research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in the European research area and the development of a strategy for the research

PERA

unit based on a thorough analysis of the current situation, cooperation patterns, relevant actors, needs and opportunities.

The project work plan consists of six interconnected and mutually supportive work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, is dedicated to administrative and financial project management, reporting procedures and quality assurance.
- WP2, Analysis, review in environmental technologies, looks at the current situation of policies and programmes, funding needs and offers, current cooperation patterns and relevant actors in energy and water research. The analysis will provide insight into supporting and hindering factors in environmental research collaboration between the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the EU, cooperation opportunities and concise input to policymakers and other relevant bodies as a basis for decision-making with regard to the EU–Occupied Palestinian Territories environmental research action plan.
- WP3, Training and partnership, will transfer knowledge and prepare PTUK to be established as the environmental NCP in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and also strengthen S & T cooperation between PTUK and EU research centres. The training also supports PTUK staff by forming future project consortia to

address relevant research challenges of importance in the next calls for proposals.

- WP4, Capacity-building, aims at improving the energy and water research capacities in the country while installing experimental energy production systems and experimental stations for water capture. Local energy and water research actors will receive training and capacities for international cooperation will be strengthened by study visits to respected research centres within the EU.
- WP5, Developing PTUK strategy, is dedicated to increasing the scope of the centre's research activities and improving its responses to the socioeconomic needs of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- WP6, Network facilitation and dissemination, deals, on the one hand, with the need to facilitate contacts and relationships between the Palestinian Technical University and other European counterparts and, on the other hand, with the need to disseminate information about project activities and results to the widest possible audience, so as to maximise impact. Networking activities are directed at enhancing the networking potential of the target organisations through contacts with other projects, events and support organisations such as NCPs operating in other countries and with any partner search platform or mechanism operating to identify partnerships and form

PERA

consortia. In parallel, WP6 develops the corporate identity and communication policy of the project, together with the necessary instruments (dissemination plan, a well-structured website providing information about the project activities, competitive environmental research actors' database and general information

about environmental research in the Mediterranean area).

PARTNERS

1. Europe for Business Ltd, United Kingdom
2. Fundació CTM Centre Tecnològic, Spain
3. Politecnico di Torino, Italy

INCAM

Improving national assessment and monitoring capacities for integrated environmental and coastal ecosystem management

Start date: 1.1.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 560 640
 Project funding: EUR 499 904

Coordinator: Mouin Hamze (hamze@tnrs.edu.lb)
 National Council for Scientific
 Research, Lebanon

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the proposal is to improve assessment and monitoring capacities in environmental protection and coastal zone management in Lebanon by strengthening and enforcing the role of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) through capacity- or institution-building and the training and education of its staff.

The specific objectives are to:

- critically analyse the present status of natural resources in Lebanon;
- improve integrated resource management with a major focus on coastal marine ecosystems;
- strengthen the performance capacity of CNRS and transform it into a centre of excellence;
- develop a prototype system for institutional analyses and performance to be replicated in other ENP countries of the region;
- develop frameworks and common indicators for assessment and monitoring;
- enhance EU–regional networking, training and cooperation;
- improve the governance structure of CNRS and Lebanese institutions;
- design and implement an efficient environmental information technology and Earth observation (IT/EO) monitoring platform;
- develop an integrated framework for the analysis of relationships between production, natural resources, urban and rural development and environmental protection

in a Mediterranean context, in order to support national decision-making following EU standards.

DESCRIPTION

As a bottom-up proposal, INCAM starts with data collection on a national scale through a thorough investigation of existing information on the present status of natural resources and with special emphasis on coastal areas. On this basis, a national natural resources database will be created comprising several information layers and sources including coastal and marine ecosystems, soil and water resources, biodiversity and waste management, in addition to socioeconomic and legislative analyses. The CNRS will collect and analyse published and available literature on coastal and marine ecosystems, while the partners of the project, Centro Internazionale di Alti Studi Agronomici Mediterranei — Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM-BARI) and Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), will contribute to the design of the methodology assessment of the state of the art on coastal and marine ecosystems, the establishment of risk indicators on drought, a vegetation health index and geodatabase structures which will be built at the CNRS.

Based on the findings, the CNRS will define national and institutional scientific and logistic gaps, the overcoming of which would set the priorities and strengthen the existing environmental assessment and monitoring capacities at the

INCAM

institutional and national levels, thus developing an action plan for improving and enhancing the institutional capacities of CNRS as a centre of excellence in Lebanon and beyond.

Following the main activities planned by the ERA-WIDE programme, the project pays particular attention to the collaboration of the EU–ENP countries. Short training courses for Lebanese researchers in the EU Member States or associated countries will be organised drawing on the long tradition of CIHEAM-IAMB in training, education and cooperation.

Given that the FP7 programme still remains difficult to access for Lebanese researchers, the project will bring insights on this through the development of training programmes on FP7. Moreover, it will help Lebanese institutions to actively participate in research projects by providing them with access to the existing database of coordinators and various working consortia so that they are better prepared to respond to future EC calls.

The project takes a long-term policy approach and, through its own results, will try to demonstrate that the sustainable use and management of natural resources can only be ensured if all the components of the equation are given equal importance in a holistic and integrated manner. Through this, the project will:

- bring new insights into the causes of environmental degradation in Lebanon;
- provide better measures of the effectiveness and side effects of current mitigation options;

- provide new methods to monitor sustainability in a participatory, holistic, context-specific and policy-relevant approach;
- improve the criteria to assess diverse policies such as the causes and remedies of degradation;
- offer a methodological platform and road map for institutional strengthening;
- enhance the scientific skills of CNRS staff;
- promote regional collaboration;
- build an EU–Lebanese knowledge-sharing information system;
- contribute to EU commitments to meet the UN millennium development goals;
- enhance Euro–Mediterranean collaboration;
- increase capacity-building in ENP countries;
- increase awareness of FP7 and promote participation in the programme;
- provide positive impacts on institutions in the European Union as well, by providing them with opportunities to collaborate with Lebanese scientific institutions;
- develop results deriving from policy impact assessment;
- develop explicit recommendations for formulating environmental guidelines.

The results of the project will be made available to local, national and regional institutions. The consortium includes partners with extensive experience in cooperation, research and training, which will reinforce the capacities of CNRS to face its challenges. Both CIHEAM-IAMB and IRD have invested more than half a century in Mediterranean research and this

INCAM

valuable experience will be made available not only to Lebanese institutions but also to other regional organisations since the INCAM project will reach many regional stakeholders through active participation in meetings and conferences and via the Internet.

PARTNERS

1. Centro Internazionale di Alti Studi Agronomici Mediterranei — Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM-BARI), Italy
2. Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France

EU-JordanNet

Enhancement of Jordan-European S & T partnerships

Start date: 1.12.2009
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 559 680
 Project funding: EUR 499 048

Coordinator: Hisham Bader (hisham@hcst.gov.jo)
 The Higher Council for Science and
 Technology (HCST), Jordan

OBJECTIVES

EU-JordanNet, which is coordinated by the Jordanian NCP, aims at enhancing and developing the S & T partnership — in close cooperation with the Support to Research & Technological Development & Innovation Initiatives and Strategies in Jordan (SRTD) project — through the following objectives.

- Capacity-building and support to the Jordanian NCP and the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres by enhancing the understanding of the structure and the procedures of the FP7 'Cooperation' and 'People' programmes, and through training in the management of international contracts in the research area.
- S & T awareness, cooperation and improvement of S & T cooperation between Jordan and Europe by creating awareness about the thematic areas of FP7 among Jordanian researchers and private industry through specialised thematic workshops, training Jordanians on how to write FP7 proposals and promoting policy dialogue with the relevant policymakers in Jordan.
- Development of information facilities to provide a wide range of services to the Jordanian research community, as well as to the research administrators of the information points.
- Promotion of the 'People' programme in Jordan to increase the exchange of Jordanian researchers with their European

counterparts through awareness meetings in Jordan addressing the research community and training of administrative staff on the specific procedures of the Marie Curie actions.

- Creation of the S & T Observatory on Jordanian Research and Technology Cooperation, based on a set of indicators aiming at comparing the changing profiles and positions of R & D actors.
- Development of synergies and complementarities with the SRTD project and support for the process of implementing the S & T Agreement between Jordan and the EU.

DESCRIPTION

EU-JordanNet aims at increasing research cooperation between Jordan and Europe. Although Jordan has been quite active in the EU framework programmes over the past few years, awareness of these programmes in Jordan and of the Jordanian research community in Europe still needs to be improved. In concrete terms, the EU-JordanNet project is a capacity-building programme to support the Jordanian NCP and the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres to enhance their understanding of the structure and the procedures of the FP7 'Cooperation' and 'People' programmes.

EU-JordanNet is involved in a major S & T awareness and cooperation campaign on FP7 in Jordan addressing Jordanian researchers and the private sector. It focuses on three thematic

EU-JordanNet

areas: health, ICT and the environment. Since the 'People' programme has received limited attention in Jordan in the past, a specific awareness activity focuses on the new Marie Curie actions, aimed at increasing the mobility of researchers between Jordan and Europe.

The EU-JordanNet project trains Jordanians on how to write FP7 proposals and helps them in creating partnerships with EU researchers. Furthermore, it identifies the priority areas for S&T cooperation between Jordan and the EU and promotes a policy dialogue with relevant policymakers in Jordan to enable a targeted national research strategy. A number of activities support these two main aims: an information and partner service with a directory of Jordanian and European researchers that will serve as a partner-search facility and an inventory of existing Jordan–EU cooperation.

The project has also developed an S&T Observatory on Jordanian Research and Technology Cooperation with Europe, enabling the research institution in Jordan to grasp, in quantitative and qualitative terms, its position in Jordanian and world scientific and technological production.

An expected impact of the project is improved S&T cooperation between Europe and Jordan by providing access to information and by identifying priorities and the best partners for research. A measurable increase in effective collaborations is also expected, as well as improvement in the mutual understanding of

the respective research systems in Europe and Jordan.

EU-JordanNet will achieve this by:

- strengthening cooperation between Europe and Jordan through a significant increase in S&T cooperation;
- improving the mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and Jordan through increasing researchers' mobility in the Marie Curie action of the 'People' programme;
- clear identification of the research priorities for Jordan in the fields of health, ICT and the environment, to help the Jordanian government formulate and implement national research strategies;
- supporting the network of information focal points in the universities and research centres by providing specialised training on different aspects of FP7.

MIRA

Mediterranean innovation and research coordination action

<http://www.miraproject.eu/>

Start date: 1.1.2008

Duration: 60 months

Project cost: EUR 4 920 000

Project funding: EUR 3 990 000

Coordinator: Rafael Rodriguez (raro@orgc.csic.es)
Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de
Investigaciones Científicas, Spain

OBJECTIVES

This coordination action, Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA), aims to develop and support EU–Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC) dialogue by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders of the MPCs (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-administered areas, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and EU Member States. This dialogue will go hand in hand with the political dialogue created by the Barcelona process of Euro–Mediterranean dialogue through the Monitoring Committee for Euro–Mediterranean Cooperation in Research and Technological Development, also named the Barcelona RTD Monitoring Committee (MoCo).

This project aims to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interests in research areas, set up S&T priorities, support capacity-building activities and enhance the interaction between the different cooperation instruments of the European Commission (EC) and EU Member States. MIRA will promote actions in order to monitor, develop, promote and contribute to the creation of synergies among the various S&T cooperation programmes between the MPCs and the EU Member States, and foster the participation of the MPCs in the framework programme. In this sense, an observatory of EU–MPC cooperation in S&T will be created in the project framework.

DESCRIPTION

One of the main objectives of MIRA is to characterise the actual situation of the S&T activities in the MPCs and strengthen the dialogue between the EU and MPCs on S&T issues by supporting the existing policy dialogue structure, such as MoCo, and develop new activities, including conferences and working meetings. The following are the current dialogue activities.

- Arranging a screening conference: this conference will aim at compiling a 'state of the art' through the screening and monitoring of ongoing and completed projects, and other initiatives regarding S&T priority identification. These results will be used as inputs to define topics for thematic conferences.
- Supporting the organisation of the annual MoCo meetings in cooperation with the EU presidency and the EC services. Among other issues, these meetings will follow the development of the project and related activities and, wherever possible, they will be organised in connection with the management board meetings.
- Discussions between MoCo ad hoc groups and representatives of EC directorates-general, such as INF50, RELEX, DEV, etc., and of the EC delegations in MPCs to explore synergistic activities of different EU programmes. A workshop on these topics and the possibilities to integrate objectives and actions could be organised in connection with a MoCo meeting.

MIRA

- Monitoring EU–MPC scientific and technical cooperation by promoting and coordinating the actions of national and regional or subregional observatories of S&T development.
- Creating and handling the dialogue platform on present and future common problems and interests on research initiatives between the EU and MPCs. This platform will act as an open forum for external and internal stakeholders where problems and ideas could be posted.
- Establishing a Euro–Mediterranean innovation space (EMIS) discussion platform. This action is aimed at launching a dialogue among companies, administrations and researchers on how S&T cooperation could support the setting up of the EMIS. A science industry working group will be created to study the framework of relationships between industry and research in the MPCs.
- Discussing and reviewing the implementation of FP7 priorities at the international level. This will be done by identifying the interests and open questions of the Directorate-General for Research's thematic directorates (either before or directly following the screening conference) and organising thematic workshops on identifying priorities within the thematic research areas of FP7 addressing the mutual interest and benefit of the EU and MPCs.
- Organisation of a pilot action promoting the establishment of a technology transfer network between the EU and MPCs. This action will be handled with the support of the science industry working group. This network will provide opportunities for benchmarking and good practice exchange regarding strategies, structures, resources associated with technology transfer and the underlying political and cultural aspects that influence the effectiveness and efficiency of technology transfer (entrepreneurship and new business creation, networking between research and industry, organisational and internal management, intellectual property rights management, licensing, etc.).
- Supporting the development of EU–MPC cooperation policies defined in the Barcelona process and the objectives of the EU for the Mediterranean, notably the Horizon 2020 programme for the decontamination of the Mediterranean Sea, financed by the ENPI, by identifying a possible research agenda supporting its final objective.
- Facilitating the training of MPC NCPs and stakeholders interested in participating or managing FP7 projects, in cooperation with the MPC BILAT projects.
- Organisation of a conference of EU–MPC 'Cooperation' programme managers, including bilateral and multilateral schemes, to search for complementarities

MIRA

and synergies between the two types of actions.

MIRA facilitates participation in FP7 through capacity-building in the MPCs, notably by evaluating the actual information points; training of managers, scientists, auditors and other relevant actors; promoting seminars for project writing; and delivering recommendations to the national authorities.

The project develops dissemination material to be used in all MPCs on the opportunities offered by FP7; they are addressed to the academy and the industrial sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in Arabic, English and French.

Several public events are being organised informing about the content and opportunities offered by FP7, dedicated particularly to SICAs (specific international cooperation actions).

The development of the partner-search tools should help enhance cooperation between the EU and MPC stakeholders, and increase the participation of MPC organisations in the activities of FP7. Besides the awareness activities targeting a broad scientific community, training activities for project managers are organised to build on the common knowledge and competences of administrators, regulators and managers in the Mediterranean countries.

The project communication is managed by means of a central Internet-based forum containing an intranet accessible only to INCO-NET-MPC members and an Internet site open to external parties and with possibilities of acting as a portal for

EU-MPC cooperation in S&T, as well as a central library with documents related to the activities of INCO-NET-MPC and links to all available information sources. The aim of the MIRA website is to act as a portal to support EU-MPC scientific, technical and innovation cooperation.

The project continuously monitors and reviews ongoing EU-MPC cooperation activities in the field of S&T. It identifies specific S&T indicators in MPCs to be used by the observatories so as to monitor S&T cooperation activities between the EU and MPCs. The observatories will eventually help promote the creation of an academic taskforce able to tackle and measure the social impact of research in the Mediterranean area.

The MIRA observatory team group provides the necessary feedback to the MoCo on the progress and impact of EU-MPC cooperation so as to help the policymakers update their policies and priorities of cooperation. It also provides valuable input into the preparation of EC strategic papers in the area of bi-regional S&T cooperation.

The MIRA website, a powerful information and knowledge management system, is also used as an instrument for the monitoring of internal activity and the production of review reports on EU-MPC S&T cooperation activities.

PARTNERS

1. Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Spain
2. Ministère de l'Éducation Supérieure, de la Formation des Cadres et de la recherche

MIRA

- Scientifique, Direction de la Technologie, Morocco
3. Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France
4. Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la recherche scientifique et technologique, Direction Générale de Recherche, Tunisia
5. Ministry of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research, Egypt
6. International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
7. Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
8. National Hellenic Research Foundation, Greece
9. Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, Direction Générale de la Recherche Scientifique et du Développement Technologique, Algeria
10. Turkish Academy of Sciences, Turkey
11. Malta Council for Science and Technology, Malta
12. Higher Council for Science and Technology, Jordan
13. Centre International Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes, Italy
14. Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network, France
15. WIP GmbH und Co., Germany
16. Centre de développement des Energies Renouvelables, Algeria
17. Israel-Europe R&D Directorate, Israel
18. Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt
19. Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique, Lebanon
20. Planning Bureau, Cyprus
21. Autonomous government of Madrid, Spain
22. Arab Open University, Lebanon
23. The Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey
24. Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina
25. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Spain
26. Directorate General of Development & Scientific Research, Occupied Palestinian Territories
27. National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research, Morocco
28. Ministarstvo Prosvjete i Nauka, Montenegro
29. British Council, United Kingdom
30. Fundação de Ciencia e Tecnologia, Portugal

FAWIRA

Strengthening of food, agriculture and water-related international research cooperation of Algeria

Start date: 1.12.2011

Duration: 36 months

Project cost: EUR 558 600

Project funding: EUR 499 060

Coordinator: Ali Ferrah (aliferrah@gmail.com)

Institut National de la Recherche

Agronomique d'Algérie, Algeria

OBJECTIVES

The FAWIRA project aims to reinforce the research cooperation capacities of the Algerian National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRAA) in the field of food, agriculture and water.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- the analysis of needs and opportunities;
- capacity-building and organisation of training activities;
- creation of a network;
- dissemination of results and knowledge;
- ensuring sustainability.

DESCRIPTION

INRAA wishes to achieve its aim of becoming a centre of excellence in food, agriculture and water in the context of the European research area. Additionally, INRAA will improve its standing by facilitating its participation in the seventh framework programme (FP7) and other European-related research programmes, where INRAA will cooperate and develop responses to Algeria's socioeconomic needs.

The FAWIRA project implements its activities in order to achieve the main objective of the ERA-WIDE call for proposals, reinforcing the cooperation capacities of research centres located in the ENP countries which are not associated with the FP7.

The FAWIRA work plan strategy is based on a combination of core and complementary activities, allocated to highly experienced partners

that can ensure the full involvement of the relevant components of food, agriculture and water research and capacity-building. The work plan is composed of six interconnected and mutually supportive work packages (WP) for strategic development, enhancing innovation and human resources capacity-building and research instrument strengthening. The whole action is based on thorough food, agriculture and water research needs and opportunities analysis, backed by a strong network of facilitation and dissemination activities and supported by a solid project management organisation.

- WP1, Project management and quality assurance, is designed to provide sound overall administrative and operational management and ensure the achievement of the project objectives. This work package also includes quality assurance and risk management activities that ensure the smooth implementation of the project and the best performance.
- WP2, Analysis of food, agriculture and water research needs and opportunities, will create the base for the whole action through analysis of INRAA's food, agriculture and water research and innovation priorities and needs, assessment of the current situation and matching current S & T policies and programmes with cooperation patterns. The WP2 provides SWOT analysis and insight into supporting and hindering factors, and presents concise input to further capacity-building

FAWIRA

activities (WP3 and WP4) and the strategic development of INRAA (WP5). Some of the outcomes of this work package are shared with the MIRA project, particularly WP7 for shaping a research strategic agenda in support of the Horizon 2020 programme.

- WP3, Enhance innovation, is dedicated to the formulation of the strategic development plan for the realisation of competitive research to address local and regional socioeconomic needs. Particular activities are undertaken to foster research and innovation through the creation of links between research and entrepreneurs to build up a sustainable pathway for innovation.
- WP4, Human capacity-building and strengthening of research instruments, is designed to increase capacities for innovation, research management, proposal formulation and project management, as well as to increase EU–Algeria research partnerships in the fields of agrifood and water and Algerian researchers' participation in the FP7 programme. This work package also focuses on specific support schemes for young researchers and provides personalised individual coaching sessions to maximise the impact of training. The setting up of a food, agriculture and water laboratory at INRAA will support research even after the completion of the project, thus facilitating the sustainability of the project.
- The main rationale for WP5, Strategic planning and strengthening of INRAA, is the development of a business plan to provide strategic direction for further development of the research centre towards internationalisation and efficient responses to local socioeconomic needs in terms of enhancing the delivery services of food, agriculture and water, integration of women in research and providing better opportunities for young researchers (to reduce the brain-drain phenomenon). The innovation component will be anchored through the inclusion of insights from industry representatives and the incorporation of further strategic intelligence planning, covering the value chain, joint projects, business development foresight and monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes.
- In parallel with the core project activities, WP6, Network and dissemination activities, focuses on the creation of synergies with other Algerian, Mediterranean and EU initiatives, network facilitation and dissemination of project information and food, agriculture and water research results. Through WP6, the corporate identity and communication policy of the project, together with the necessary instruments (dissemination plan, project website with communication platform and internal project management system, promotional materials, dedicated section

FAWIRA

of the Algerian e-government portal) have been developed. Networking activities are directed at enhancing the networking potential, development of research partnerships and creation of synergies with other initiatives in food, agriculture and water, and relevant projects, events, NCP networks and international partnership platforms.

PARTNERS

1. Università di Pisa, Italy
2. REDINN S.r.l, Italy
3. Centre de Noves Tecnologies i Processos Alimentaris, Spain

INCONET-GCC

Science and technology international cooperation network for Gulf cooperation countries aiming at the promotion of bi-regional dialogue

Start date: 1.1.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 2 650 000
 Project funding: EUR 1 966 931

Coordinator: Stavroula Maglavaera
 (s.maglavaera@euroconsultants.com.gr)
 Euroconsultants S.A., Greece

OBJECTIVES

The core objectives of INCONET-GCC are to:

- support the bi-regional dialogue on S & T between stakeholders from EU Member States and associated countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries;
- promote regional interaction for the identification and prioritisation of common research agendas of mutual interest and benefit in a transparent and methodologically sound way;
- enhance the participation of researchers from the GCC in EC-funded projects of mutual interest and benefit by implementing capacity-building measures and by accompanying tailor-made networking activities;
- implement a series of analyses feeding the policy dialogue and increasing its efficiency, monitoring the project's own activities, with particular emphasis on their sustainability, and implementing coherent dissemination activities in order to increase its visibility and impact.

DESCRIPTION

INCONET-GCC aims to develop and support the bi-regional dialogue on S & T by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders from the GCC countries and the EU. It aims to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interests in research areas, set up S & T priorities, support capacity-building activities

and enhance the interaction between different EC cooperation instruments.

It promotes actions to monitor, develop, promote and contribute to the creation of synergies among the various S & T cooperation programmes between the GCC and the EU, and foster the participation of the GCC in the European framework programme for research and technological development. An observatory of EU–GCC cooperation in S & T will be created in the project framework.

PARTNERS

1. Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece
2. London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
3. Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Italy
4. Stiftelsen Hogskolan I Jonkoping, Sweden
5. International Association of Science Parks, Spain
6. Items International, France
7. The Research Council of Oman, Oman
8. Higher Colleges of Technology, United Arab Emirates
9. Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research, Bahrain
10. Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, Kuwait
11. King Saud University-Riyadh Techno Valley, Saudi Arabia
12. Public Establishment for Industrial Estates, Oman

INCONET-GCC

13. Qatar University, Qatar
14. Political Development Forum, Yemen
15. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt
16. Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Formation des Cadres et de la Recherche Scientifique, Direction de la Technologie, Morocco
17. King Abdullah University for Sciences and Technology, Saudi Arabia

EARN

Euro–Algerian research networking

Start date: 1.10.2010
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 570 404
 Project funding: EUR 509 964

Coordinator: Susanne Jakobs-Bohack
 (info@zenit.de)
 Zenit — Zentrum für Innovation und
 Technik, Germany

OBJECTIVES

The project's aim is to improve S & T cooperation and to support the bilateral dialogue between Algeria and Europe. In practice, the objectives are fivefold:

- to provide information on European and Algerian funding programmes designed to promote cooperation projects between Algerian and European researchers;
- to provide supportive schemes for identifying suitable partners in Algeria and the EU;
- to implement a network of contact points in the different thematic areas of the framework programme and to train R & D managers dedicated to supporting and advising Algerian researchers on legal and administrative issues related to project management;
- to contribute to building a bridge between science, innovation and the industrial sector by promoting dialogue on innovation support schemes;
- to identify and analyse research priorities of mutual interest so as to support the S & T dialogue between the two sides.

DESCRIPTION

EARN is expected to contribute to the measurable increase in effective collaborations between Algerian and European researchers, improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems and a functioning NCP system for Algerian researchers who want to become part of the European research area.

Finally, the translation of research results into an increased competitiveness of Algerian industries will be ensured by analyses and policy learning.

In order to reach its goals, the project is divided into six main work packages (WP).

- WP1, Creating a knowledge base for an enhanced EU–Algerian science, technology and innovation (ST&I) cooperation, provides the analytical basis for the project work. The Algerian S & T landscape is described as well as the existing bilateral cooperation programmes. Finally, the existing EU–Algerian S & T links will be analysed.
- WP2, Setting the scene for the creation of thematic FP7 contacts in Algeria, represents a core part of the work. It focuses essentially on the creation of an efficient NCP system, by contributing to an adequate set-up of an Algerian thematic NCP network and facilitating networking activities in Algeria, with Arabic NCPs as well as with EU NCP-networks.
- WP3, Information, training and mentoring, concentrates on providing efficient services to the research communities from both sides. A web portal supports the information actions for disseminating knowledge on EU and Algerian research and on the Algerian science system. Training and mentoring activities will bring the necessary knowledge for efficient participation in EU framework programmes.

EARN

- WP4, From science to innovation: building an EU–Algerian innovation bridge, attempts to shift the project’s focus from a purely scientific to a more innovation-oriented view by reviewing existing innovation support tools and elaborating policy options for Algeria, as well as training and linking Algerian activities with good practice in Europe.
- WP5, Facilitating the policy agenda, supports the bilateral EU–Algerian dialogue on current and future issues of a joint S&I policy agenda by systematically analysing the information arising from the previous work packages.
- WP6, Project management, guarantees the successful achievement of EARN’s objectives and will ensure a balanced view between the European and Algerian priorities. A strong collaboration between EARN and other EU projects in the region will be established so as to learn from previous experiences and build on these exchanges.

PARTNERS

1. Centre de Developpement des Energies Renouvelables, Algeria
2. Innovation & Development Consulting, Belgium
3. Centre de Recherche sur l’Information Scientifique et Technique, Algeria
4. Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement, Algeria
5. Ministère de l’ Enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, Algeria
6. Association de Coordination Technique pour l’Industrie Agroalimentaire, France
7. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
8. Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Délégation chargée des Relations avec l’Union Européenne, Belgium

J-ERACenter

The National Energy Research Centre (NERC) as a centre of excellence for EU–Jordan S&T cooperation: towards Jordan’s integration into the European research area

Start date: 1.3.2012
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 548 004
 Project funding: EUR 488 636

Coordinator: Salamah Walid
 (walid@nyit.edu.jo)
 National Energy Research Centre,
 Jordan

OBJECTIVES

The overarching aim of the J-ERACenter project is to contribute to the effective integration of Jordan into the European research area (ERA), by building the National Energy Research Centre’s (NERC) organisational, strategic and human capacities to actively participate in European S&T partnerships and execute large-scale projects in the key area of renewable energy, with a view to creating a centre of excellence within Jordan and actively promoting further dissemination and replication in the region.

This overall objective will be achieved through pursuing the following specific objectives:

- building capacities in international R&D cooperation and EU project management;
- strengthening direct links between the research teams at NERC and their EU counterparts and initiating joint R&D initiatives in the area of renewable energy;
- ensuring firm and sustainable implementation of the enhanced capacities at NERC;
- promoting the visibility and impact of this pilot action.

The project achieves these goals by implementing a set of complementary and interlinked work packages and activities, taking maximum advantage of the expertise of the consortium and with a view to generating outputs with high multiplier and dissemination potential.

DESCRIPTION

The activities were planned with a view to taking maximum advantage of multiplier effects and capitalising on the expertise of the partners, as well as previous investments made by the EU in pursuit of Jordan’s integration into the ERA. Dissemination and sustainability measures are inherent to the J-ERACenter project design.

The main tasks are as follows.

- Strategic actions for competitiveness: the overall goal is to increase the national and international competitiveness of NERC based on socioeconomic needs.
- Human resource capacity-building at multiple levels: aiming at building the competences of NERC staff and researchers for enhanced participation in FP7 and Horizon 2020 programmes.
- Physical and structural capacity-building: helping the centre become a national point of monitoring and dissemination of EU projects.
- International networking and cooperation: to enhance NERC’s (and Jordan’s) visibility in the EU, create a network of contacts, initiate joint R&D projects and programmes.
- Visibility actions (national and regional): to increase the scope and visibility of the project and position NERC as the centre of excellence in EU–Jordan R&D cooperation.

J-ERACenter

- Project management and monitoring: ensures the successful implementation of the project and attainment of the expected outputs in time and budget.

PARTNERS

1. University of Alicante, Spain
2. Technikum Wien, Austria
3. Universidad de Murcia, Spain

KHCCBIO

Supporting the establishment of a cancer biobank for Jordan and its neighbouring countries through knowledge transfer and training

Start date: 15.11.2011
 Duration: 24 months
 Project cost: EUR 616 646
 Project funding: EUR 549 843

Coordinator: Maher A. Sughayer
 (msughayer@khcc.jo)
 King Hussein Cancer Foundation
 Center, Jordan

OBJECTIVES

The King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCC) is a specialised cancer centre in the Middle East that treats both adult and paediatric cancer patients. Currently, over 3 500 new cancer patients arrive each year from Jordan and the neighbouring countries of Egypt, the Gulf countries, Iraq, Lebanon, north Africa and Syria. Founded in 1997, the KHCC is a non-governmental and not-for-profit facility that is acknowledged as a leader in cancer treatment in the Middle East.

The KHCC is eager to maintain its leading position in cancer therapy in the Middle East and remain at the forefront of cancer detection and treatment. In order to achieve this, the KHCC plans to establish a cancer biobank, KHCCBIO bank, for the storage and archiving of biospecimens that can help in the elucidation of the disease.

Currently, there are no, or very few, biobanks in the Middle East. The KHCCBIO bank intends to change this situation by establishing an ISO-accredited biospecimen repository incorporating all current international guidelines and best-in-class practices under an approved quality management system to procure, process and store biospecimens for the benefit of researchers in Jordan, its neighbouring countries, European researchers and researchers throughout the rest of the world.

The KHCCBIO bank will be developed for the purposes of collecting, processing, storing and distributing high-quality, clinically annotated biospecimens from consenting patients.

This novel, Jordan-based biobank will also standardise and define the collection of biological samples for patient-oriented research, to include hypothesis-driven collections, as well as collections for future situations, for the ultimate improvement of patient diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, leading to a more personalised approach to healthcare. Sample procurement will be carried out by a team of highly trained KHCC technicians who will directly participate in surgeries and carry out the collection of samples and recording of data. Sample collection will be precisely documented and very short tissue cold (post-surgical) ischemia times between resection and fixation will be the standard.

Additional aims of the KHCCBIO support action are:

- developing KHCC's research infrastructure, increasing its scope and visibility and improving its competitiveness throughout the European and worldwide biomedical science arena;
- establishing a platform for future knowledge transfer and collaborative research;
- developing and enhancing partnerships between European and Middle Eastern organisations for future staff exchanges, seminars and conferences focused on cancer;
- disseminating KHCCBIO progress and activities particularly with EU early lung cancer (EUELC) collaborators to ensure the greatest impact;

- building competency so as to facilitate the participation of KHCC in future FP7 calls.

DESCRIPTION

To achieve the above objectives, the KHCCBIO project proposal will focus on training and other support activities that are essential in order to establish a modern, standardised cancer biobank.

This includes:

- consenting procedures, data privacy standards and policies;
- tissue procurement, processing and preservation standards;
- ISO quality management system (QMS) development;
- equipment and systems infrastructure qualification and validation;
- tissue storage and distribution standards.

KHCCBIO's approach is based on knowledge transfer between organisations and individuals from Europe and Jordan, existing technological innovation and internationally recognised quality standards.

Training courses on consent for tissue banking, procurement, processing and preservation will be performed by Trinity College Dublin (TCD), a college specialises in the management of thoracic malignancies. Training in ISO quality management, data privacy standards, equipment and systems infrastructure qualification, tissue storage and distribution standards will be executed by Biostór Ireland, a fully accredited and EU-licensed tissue establishment.

The KHCCBIO consortium follows five well-established biobanking principles:

- evidence-based, data-driven technical and operational standards to ensure quality;
- high-quality biospecimen annotation with pathological and clinical data;
- biospecimen access through a timely, centralised peer-review process;
- ethical and privacy compliance through a chain of trust with research participants;
- top-class informatics systems to track biospecimens and associated data and research participant informed consents.

To guarantee sample quality, QMS standards will be based on the EU's tissue and cells directives (EUTCD), which specify quality requirements for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissues and cells for human application, incorporating best practices from international guidelines. The established QMS will be in compliance with ISO standards and ready for accreditation at the end of the project. Collection of relevant patient data is an essential part of biobanking, so personal data privacy and confidentiality must be controlled. To maximise control and standardisation from the onset, KHCCBIO will implement an ISO 9000 QMS that will ensure that KHCCBIO services meet customer requirements and any potential future regulatory requirements.

Because the biospecimens and associated clinical data will be obtained from cancer patients and used in the research and development of

KHCCBIO

biomarkers and, potentially, in future diagnostic products, the quality system will incorporate GXP-type standards from EU tissue establishments, pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

PARTNERS

1. The Provost, Fellows and Scholars of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin, Ireland
2. Accelopment AG, Switzerland
3. Biostór Ireland Ltd, Ireland

IJERA

Integrating Jordan into the European research area

Start date: 1.1.2011

Duration: 24 months

Project cost: EUR 544 499

Project funding: EUR 498 544

Coordination: Fida'a Jibril

(fida@emarcu.gov.jo)

Royal Scientific Society, Jordan

OBJECTIVES

The IJERA project aims to strengthen capacities at the Environment Monitoring and Research Central Unit at the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan while realising it as an international centre of excellence, dealing with water monitoring and testing, and research establishment. The project also aims to implement a framework to reinforce the cooperation capacities and research activities in Jordan's water sector by defining water research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European water research initiatives and inclusion in the Euro-Mediterranean Research and Innovation Area.

The specific objectives of IJERA project are:

- reinforcement of cooperation capacities at EMARCU;
- dissemination of water-related research results;
- internationalisation and coordination between research and business sectors;
- enhancement of EU-Jordan S&T partnerships in water research and capacity-building for solving specific water issues;
- Strengthening of EMARCU and setting up an environmental NCP in Jordan.

DESCRIPTION

The project contains six well-defined work packages (WP) involving close collaboration between the project partners.

- WP1, Management, is dedicated to the smooth running of project activities from

a formal, administrative and financial point of view and ensuring the quality of the final results.

- WP2, Analysis and review in water research, will analyse the current situation in terms of national policies and programmes, funding needs and offers, current cooperation patterns and relevant actors in water research. It will provide concise input to policymakers and other relevant bodies (EU, regional science ministries, etc.) as a basis for decision-making with regard to the Jordan-EU water research action plan.
- WP3, Knowledge-sharing events and partnership: in the framework of this work package, regional workshops and knowledge-sharing events have been organised in order to provide intensive training for the staff of the EMARCU/RSS on issues concerning EU framework programmes, including the procedures and opportunities for cooperation in the FP7 environment, water and related programmes (water-related aspects of the health and KBBE programmes, ICT, etc.) and 'People' (ITN, IRSES, IIF) and to transfer knowledge to EMARCU/RSS in the process of becoming the environmental national contact point in Jordan. These events are also expected to support the EMARCU/RSS staff in forming future project consortia to address relevant research challenges

- of importance in the next calls for proposals for water.
- WP4, Capacity-building for innovative projects: the water testing laboratories at RSS will be assessed for future expansion of their scope to include an experimental station (a pilot plant) to be used by researchers for testing the performance of wastewater treatment processes before full-scale application. The final objective will be a comprehensive analysis aimed at developing an experimental wastewater treatment pilot plant able to perform in the fields of wastewater treatment and reuse technologies according to the country characteristics and complying with national and international standards. This objective will be achieved taking into account the situation of the research requirements in Jordan as well as the developed EMARCU/RSS strategy for internationalisation. In particular, the analysis scope will be focused on the technologies that can be implemented in the reuse of treated domestic wastewater by industries to reduce the use of fresh water and prevent the pollution of natural waters.
 - WP5, Developing EMARCU/RSS strategy, is dedicated to the development of the EMARCU/RSS strategy for internationalisation of the research centre and aims at building a strategy for EMARCU/RSS in order to achieve world-class status in water research.
 - WP6, Network facilitation and dissemination, deals with important aspects of the work: the need to facilitate contacts and relationships between Jordanian research centres and their European counterparts as well as the need to disseminate information about project activities and results to the widest possible audience, so as to maximise the impact of its action.

PARTNERS

1. Europe for Business Ltd (EFB), United Kingdom
2. The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan
3. Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (ENEA), Italy

M2ERA

Integrating Morocco into the European research area

Start date: 1.12.2008
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 577 284
 Project funding: EUR 500 000

Coordinator: Mohamed Smani
 (rdmaroc@menara.ma)
 Association R & D Maroc, Morocco

OBJECTIVES

The M2ERA project aims to reinforce S & T cooperation and partnership between Morocco and Europe in order to foster the integration of Morocco into the European research area.

The activities planned in this project complement previous initiatives implemented at the regional level, such as ERA-MED (strengthening the European research area in Mediterranean countries) and MIRA (Mediterranean innovation and research coordination action). They targeted the specific needs of Morocco, such as supporting capacity-building, promoting partnership and reinforcing policy dialogue.

DESCRIPTION

The following activities are planned within the M2ERA project.

- A study of Moroccan–European S & T cooperation: an analysis of Moroccan–European cooperation under the framework programmes is vital to the process of updating policies and priorities. This study will identify the most significant barriers to Moroccan researchers' interest in FPs. The socioeconomic impact of these projects will be studied, and then successful projects will be awarded. Furthermore, the most relevant project results will be disseminated to stakeholders and policymakers. This action will be carried out in synergy with previous and current relevant initiatives funded by the European

Commission and related to Euro–Mediterranean cooperation in S & T ASBIMED (assessment of the bilateral scientific cooperation between the European Member States, accession countries, candidate countries and the Mediterranean partner countries), ESTIME (evaluation of science, technology and innovation capabilities in the Mediterranean countries), ERAMED, and MIRA.

- Capacity-building for implementing thematic NCPs: the reinforcement of the national contact point in Morocco by implementing thematic NCPs will provide a sustainable structure for promotion of the FP as well as collaboration between Europe and Morocco. The creation of thematic NCPs will be based on a benchmark approach to define the appropriate scheme, taking into account local context and needs. Training and twinning activities are planned for the thematic NCPs.
- Promotion of the partnership between Europe and Morocco: the links between research communities from both sides will be supported by the following activities: identification of suitable research partners in Morocco and Europe; support for their participation in mutual events; initiation of the Moroccan diaspora to support Moroccan–European cooperation; increase in awareness of Moroccan–European scientific collaboration. Actions to improve the Moroccan environment

M2ERA

for FP7 participation will be implemented to support institutional capacity in order to offer Moroccan researchers a better environment in which to carry out cooperation projects with European partners, support dialogue at political level and implement the S&T agreement between Morocco and Europe. The identification of bilateral priorities and future actions for Moroccan–European cooperation will be discussed in coordination with MIRA project activities.

In order to strengthen the awareness of S&T collaboration opportunities between Morocco and Europe and to increase the effective participation of Morocco FP7, special attention is paid to:

- disseminating project actions and results to a wider audience;
- organising information and awareness events;
- producing tailor-made promotional material;
- creating information tools (databases, CDs, websites, etc.);
- disseminating project results to stakeholders and policymakers in Morocco and at European level.

The project is implemented by a consortium involving three Moroccan and three European institutions. The distribution of tasks reflects the leading role of the Moroccan partners to ensure a better involvement of local participants in the success of the project. The M2ERA project will

greatly benefit from the participation of European partners in all actions. All European partners are key actors in S&T diffusion. They have developed specific information tools, competencies and contact networks in S&T.

The impact of M2ERA will be evaluated in accordance with the strategic objectives of FP7 activities, especially under the objective ‘bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T partnerships’. This should allow the establishment of information facilities to promote European–Moroccan S&T cooperation.

M2ERA addresses the following points.

- Information and links on existing collaboration: existing S&T collaborations between Morocco and Europe are investigated.
- Information on Community programmes and improvement of the Moroccan environment for participation in FP7: information tools have been developed to publicise collaboration opportunities in FP7 (seminars, material, websites) and training activities are carried out.
- Assistance in identifying suitable research partners and forming research partnerships: potential partners will be identified in both Morocco and Europe. A database of Moroccan partners will be developed and made available on a CD-ROM and on the website.
- Participation in events to promote collaboration: support will be given to

M2ERA

selected groups to attend mutual events (the project expects to organise an event in Europe).

- Actions to exchange information and experience with the information platforms present in Member States: actions will be implemented to develop collaboration between thematic contact points in Morocco and similar structures in Member States.
- Supporting policy dialogue and implementing the S & T Agreement between Morocco and the EC: actions will be developed to improve this dialogue, mainly through the direct involvement of the Moroccan ministry in charge of research.

PARTNERS

1. Association R & D Maroc, Morocco
2. Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Formation des Cadres et de la Recherche Scientifique, Morocco
3. Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, Morocco
4. Cirps Consortium, Italy
5. ASTER — Societa Consortile per Azioni, Italy
6. Université de la Méditerranée — Aix-Marseille II, France

CB-WR-MED

Capacity-building for direct water reuse in the Mediterranean area

Start date: 1.11.2010
 Duration: 30 months
 Project cost: EUR 549 064
 Project funding: EUR 490 665

Coordinator: Latifa Bousselmi
 (latifa.bousselmi@certe.nrnt.tn)
 Centre de Recherches et des
 Technologies des Eaux, Tunisia

OBJECTIVES

Activities planned in the CB-WR-MED project are linked to an element essential to the Mediterranean basin water. The consortium developed around the Centre de recherches et des technologies des eaux (CERTE) is made up of two engineering schools (POLITO, CNRS-LRGP) and two European centres (CTM, EFB). After identification of needs and CERTE's position, the activity of the partners covers the following two objectives.

- Competence-building on project management skills and EU-Tunisia cooperation, based on intensive training through workshops. The subjects included are linked to the integration of activities in a regional framework in order to reinforce S & T cooperation with the EU. This integration requires knowledge of the EU strategy and tools for cooperation in order to develop future joint actions.
- Capacity-building and research capacity support for water-related project topics, linked to the reinforcement of S & T capacities in the field of sustainable water management by means of innovative approaches and innovative technologies. CERTE pilot plants for water treatment and sustainable water management will be upgraded to provide a tool for international S&T cooperation.

DESCRIPTION

In the Mediterranean region, water is becoming a limiting factor for agricultural, and even for industrial development. Treated wastewater is part of the community's water resources and one component of sustainable water management approach. Direct reuse, instead of the discharge of wastewater into the network, reduces the costs of treatment and entry of biological recalcitrant compounds into water streams. To achieve this goal, water treatment should target pollutant degradation, multi-purpose water use and sustainability of the technologies. Reinforcement of cooperation between the EU and ENP countries is necessary to implement sustainable water management. The project proposes to use the framework of the seventh framework programme (FP7) for the reinforcement of cooperation capacities at the Tunisian Centre of Water Research and Technologies on specific items in which CERTE is already experienced in order to build competency and capacity. The topic 'Wastewater treatment for the elimination of recalcitrant compounds allowing multi-use of the water and direct recycling and avoiding pollution of water system' is considered a leitmotif in this proposal. There is much effort needed to build cooperation to develop appropriate sustainable water management. Still, great attention is given to capacity-building for EC cooperation and scientific research through workshops, training, technical visits and the upgrading of pilot plants. Networking and dissemination to highlight

CB-WR-MED

the results of these efforts towards effective cooperation include the construction of a web platform, a network and an international conference.

The main impact of the CB-WR-MED project is to tighten the strategic partnership between the EU and MED (Tunisia) by increasing the networking and scientific capacities at CERTE in the water area. Its regional coverage will be improved and CERTE will then participate in the development of a sustainable common space for research and innovation in the Mediterranean region based on the European research area, contributing to the reinforcement of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

An expected impact is also the participation of management, and co-decision in finding solutions for sustainable water management (SWM) and Mediterranean protection. CERTE will have the capacity to address water-specific problems at national level and face global challenges. Furthermore, the project promotes and develops, in scientific and technological ways, the

multi-use of water and direct reuse as an efficient means of reducing pressure on resources and using water in a sustainable way. This supports the national water strategy as well as the European water framework directive with respect to the promotion of water reuse. Upgraded pilot plants will be available for south Mediterranean and EU researchers to use for further awareness, demonstration and development in this topic and cooperation.

Capacity-building of competences will ensure the emergence of new profiles of researchers and future decision-makers. Throughout this project, exchanges, training and job opportunities will be presented to young researchers.

PARTNERS

1. Politecnico di Torino, Italy
2. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
3. Fundació CTM Centre Tecnològic, Spain
4. Europe for Business Ltd, United Kingdom

ShERACA

Shaping Egypt's association to the European research area and cooperation action
<http://www.sheraca.eg.net/>

Start date: 1.12.2009
 Duration: 36 months
 Project cost: EUR 576 085
 Project funding: EUR 499 987

Coordinator: Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry
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 Ministry of Higher Education and
 Scientific Research, Egypt

OBJECTIVES

Within the context of the Euro–Mediterranean partnership, the strong relations between the European Union and Egypt are governed by an association agreement that entered into force in June 2004.

Out of the conviction of the pivotal role of science and technology as a vehicle towards sustainable economic development, Egypt and the European Community signed the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in June 2005, consolidating their longstanding endeavours in this area. A Joint EU–Egypt S&T Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) was established with the functions of ensuring, evaluating and reviewing the implementation of the agreement. The JSTCC also aims to identify potential sectors of cooperation and priorities of research policies, and explore future orientations and prospects for cooperation within the agreement. Parallel to the abovementioned efforts, the EU and Egypt signed, in 2007, the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Agreement (MEDA, EUR 11 million) to enhance Egypt's economic growth and international competitiveness by improving its research, development and innovation performance.

On the regional front, Egypt is actively pursuing a pivotal role in EU–MPC cooperation in science and technology. In this context, both Egyptian beneficiaries of ShERACA are actively participating in the Mediterranean innovation and research coordination action (MIRA).

Despite the existence of the abovementioned initiatives to enhance EU–Egypt partnership, coupled with the highly skilled Egyptian researchers' community, Egypt's participation in different ERA activities still has vast potential for improvement. The overall objective of 'ShERACA' (an Arabic word meaning 'partnership') is to enhance the participation and involvement of Egyptian R&D stakeholders and key players in the various ERA activities. Such an objective will be carried out in synergy with the regional and bilateral actions currently running; namely the MIRA and the RDI programmes. In pursuing this overall objective, and in line with the INCO BILAT call, the project aims at:

- promoting, enhancing and supporting the partnership between the EU and Egypt's science, technology and innovation stakeholders;
- strengthening EU–Egypt research cooperation capacity;
- increasing the visibility of the Egyptian research capacity in Europe;
- supporting and reinforcing the Egyptian national contact points' (NCPs) structure and capacity;
- complementing the role of the JSTCC in enhancing the S&T policy dialogue between the EU and Egypt.

DESCRIPTION

ShERACA's objectives are fulfilled through the following core activities:

- capacity-building of Egyptian NCPs and thematic advisors;

ShERACA

- integration of Egyptian NCPs in the NCP thematic networks;
- development of a mobility portal linked to the EU mobility portal (EURAXESS);
- mapping of the research capacity of Egyptian organisations;
- identification of common research priorities;
- identification and networking opportunities for potential partners;
- dissemination for awareness and engagement activities;
- sound management and communication strategy.

Dissemination is a substantial part of ShERACA in order to raise awareness among Egyptian and European stakeholders about the project's aims and objectives, ensuring that all potential cooperation opportunities receive adequate coverage and updating stakeholders with pertinent news and partnership opportunities. Reinforcing bilateral dialogue and facilitating multilevel information exchange is also targeted through the different dissemination and networking activities planned in ShERACA.

The main expected impact of the project is to improve S&T cooperation between the EU and Egypt. This will be accomplished through the following three actions.

- Providing access to information: the design of the work packages ensures that access to information on ERA activities and on the state and advancement of S&T collaboration between the EU and Egypt is

a sustainable process, extending beyond the lifetime of ShERACA.

- Evaluating the achievements of the current EU–Egypt S&T cooperation agreement: the assessment of Egyptian participation in the sixth and seventh framework programmes is a crucial step for shaping Egypt's participation in the European research area. The assessment will be the cornerstone for evaluating the achievements of the current EU–Egypt S&T cooperation agreement on the one hand and planning for the new agreement on the other. Assessing Egypt's participation in EU framework programmes is important in order to pinpoint the elements of success and hindering factors to be tackled in the future EU–Egypt cooperation agreement.
- Identifying best partners: since human capital is the basis of any action, identifying and selecting the best partners, both Egyptian and European, is a vital objective of ShERACA, which has been comprehensively addressed in most work packages.

PARTNERS

1. Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt
2. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, Turkey
3. Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, Italy

ETC

European–Tunisian cooperation

<http://www.etcproject.eu>

Start date: 1.9.2009
Duration: 36 months
Project cost: EUR 560 640
Project funding: EUR 499 904

Coordinator: Moez Jebara
(moez.jebara@mes.rnu.tn)
Ministry of Higher Education and
Scientific Research, Tunisia

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to foster and build a network of S&T organisations and enterprises involved in research and technological development (RTD) activities in the European and Tunisian areas. The main goals are to create a community of actors able to share knowledge, know-how, skills and information and also to address S&T cooperation in strategic fields of mutual interests through an integrated set of actions, including:

- raising awareness of European scientific and technological programmes;
- scouting the main priorities in the S&T target areas, highlighting the mutual benefits of S&T cooperation;
- improving the transfer of knowledge and skills development between the two areas;
- spreading and sharing best practices in order to present the state of the art and the prospects in S&T fields of cooperation.

DESCRIPTION

The ETC project intends to build and enhance a network of European and Tunisian public and private research centres and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in RTD activities. Specifically, it aims to improve and expand cooperation between Europe and Tunisia by:

- setting up a dialogue between the major stakeholders responsible for European–Tunisian S&T cooperation;
- evaluating past, present and future collaborations between Tunisia and Europe in

S&T and proposing ways of optimising the rules and instruments;

- generating partnership opportunities between scientific and technological communities from both sides;
- improving the visibility of results and collaborations between Tunisia and Europe;
- sharing best practices and providing wider access to information.

To carry out this strategy, a very important step of the ETC project is the setting-up of the information platform, VINCE, designed by Innova BIC, to provide more friendly access to knowledge, spread information in real time and act as matchmaker for S&T actors in Europe and Tunisia. The platform and its tools allow for the creation of a virtual and collaborative environment, strengthening interactions between and among the project's stakeholders and simplifying the interactions between the project's target audience and stakeholders in the two areas. Finally, the ETC project will be able to build up and enhance an active partnership capable of increasing Tunisian international collaboration opportunities and facing Tunisian strategic challenges, with positive inputs into their relationship with Europe. Moreover, the ETC project, in order to support cooperation activities, will disseminate information on:

- European cooperation programmes;
- calls for proposals;
- best practices on project redaction and project-cycle management;
- forecasting results for Delphi analysis.

ETC

PARTNERS

1. Innova Business Innovation Centre, Italy
2. European Business & Innovation Centre Network, Belgium
3. JO Consulting S.r.l., Italy
4. Institution de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles, France

WESTERN BALKANS

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

Further integrating key research institutions from south-east Europe into the European research area

<http://plus.see-era.net>

Start date: 1.4.2009

Duration: 46 months

Project cost: EUR 3 770 000

Project funding: EUR 1 160 000

Coordinator: Martin Felix Gajdusek

(gajdusek@zsi.at)

Zentrum für Soziale Innovation,
Austria

OBJECTIVES

The core objective of this project is further integration of the western Balkan countries (WBCs) and their key research communities into the European research area (ERA), based on the forerunner project SEE-ERA.NET. It further enhances the coordination of bilateral research and development (R & D) cooperation with all six WBCs.

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS supports:

- executing R & D with the WBCs against strategic priorities at European level;
- continued integration of bilateral research and technological development (RTD) initiatives into multilateral, jointly agreed activities with high synergetic impact;
- reducing the duplication of efforts across Europe;
- strengthening research communities in the new Member States and WBCs and preparing them for participation in the seventh framework programme (FP7);
- satisfying the cooperation need for R & D cooperation in the south-east Europe (SEE) region, as proven by the huge interest in the pilot joint call of SEE-ERA.NET.

DESCRIPTION

The SEE-ERA.NET PLUS project launched a single call for joint European research projects (JERPs) with a planned call budget of around EUR 3 500 000. With the funding decision in 2010, the impressive figure of EUR 3 050 000 in funding was allocated to 23 selected projects,

showing the regional commitment to the project. The budget for funded projects consists of an EC top-up to the EUR 2 220 000 spent in national contributions from the participating countries. Compared to other national funding sources for research collaboration in the target region, the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS call budget is the largest amount of money dedicated to one call for project proposals in south-east Europe, including all the WBCs. The principle of *juste retour* (fair reward) is applied.

A careful selection of scientific priorities in cooperation with the WBC-INCO.NET project allowed combining of the two goals of enhancing cooperation with the WBCs and fostering scientific excellence.

Ensuring funding of high-quality research was achieved through:

- a scientific council;
- a two-step submission procedure for the call;
- using an extensive pool of more than 1 400 distinguished external evaluators covering a broad range of relevant scientific disciplines for remote evaluation of proposals;
- basing the selection of proposals on scientific excellence as the main criterion.

The SEE-ERA.NET PLUS project coordinates national R & D funding programmes, previously managed only on a bilateral basis. Through coordinated pooling of previously scattered resources, the consortium makes significantly more resources available. This also results in substantially more funding per research project,

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

making larger-scale research more possible than in previous small-scale bilateral projects.

Each research project consortium involves at least three teams from different SEE-ERA.NET PLUS countries. In this way, a truly multilateral cooperation is ensured, thereby preparing scientific networks for future cooperation in the framework programme and other funding schemes.

The call for JERPS was implemented in a two-step selection process based on an expression of interest (EoI) as a first step and the independent evaluation and ranking of the full proposals of the JERPs as a second step. This approach prevented unsuccessful project applicants from spending much time and effort on preparing a full proposal. A pool of external evaluators was consulted in both rounds of calls.

A scientific council for SEE-ERA.NET PLUS composed of eminent scientists from the participating countries was set up in order to provide support and guarantee scientific excellence concerning the evaluation and selection procedure. The established national contact points disseminated the call to relevant contacts and websites, such as the project website, websites of consortium members and CORDIS. In addition to the abovementioned channels, the consortium also used other dissemination channels to ensure high participation.

The results of this activity contributed to further strengthening of the ongoing cooperation among the participating countries, which can build on a successful pilot joint call in the framework of

the SEE-ERA.NET project. SEE-ERA.NET PLUS has a significant European added value in many respects. On a political level, it contributes to further integration of the WBCs into the ERA. It is of major importance for Europe to involve the WBCs in its structures and policies, and so contribute to political stability and sustainable development in the region. Thus, SEE-ERA.NET PLUS not only contributes to cooperation with EU Member States, but also provides a forum to stimulate cooperation amongst WBCs. In view of the possible accession of WBCs to the EU, the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS project contributes to the process of acclimatising WBCs to general European procedures and rules as well as those specific to S&T.

PARTNERS

1. Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, France
2. Autoritatea Națională pentru Cercetare Științifică, Romania
3. Ministerstvo za obrazovanie i nauka, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
4. Geniki Grammateia Erevnas kai Technologies, Ypourgeio Paideias, Dia Viou Mathisis & Thriskevmaton, Greece
5. Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i športa, Croatia
6. Ministarstvo Prosvjete i Nauke, Montenegro
7. Ministry of Education and Science, Albania
8. Ministarstvo za nauku i tehnološki razvoj, Serbia

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

9. Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu, Turkey
10. Ministrstvo za visoko šolstvo, znanost in tehnologijo, Slovenia
11. Deutsche Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany
12. Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany
13. Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, France
14. Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung (BMWF), Austria
15. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
16. Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgaria

WBC-INCO.NET

Coordination of research policies with the western Balkan countries

<http://www.wbc-inco.net>

Start date: 1.1.2008
 Duration: 72 months
 Project cost: EUR 3 400 000
 Project funding: EUR 3 050 000

Coordinator: Elke Dall
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 dall@zsi.at)
 Zentrum für Soziale Innovation,
 Austria

OBJECTIVES

The core objectives of WBC-INCO.NET are to:

- support the bi-regional dialogue on S & T by benefiting from, and interacting with, the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries;
- identify research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) cooperation potential and priorities for take-up in FP7 and other European programmes in a transparent and methodologically sound way;
- enhance participation of researchers from the region in European projects of mutual interest and benefit by implementing capacity-building measures and accompanying networking activities;
- analyse innovation needs and barriers in the WBCs, to exchange information and best practices on innovation policies and to prepare an action plan for further WBC cooperation in the field of innovation;
- establish closer cooperation between research and innovation, to strengthen inter-sectoral dialogue and to support the training of innovation stakeholders.

The concept of WBC-INCO.NET is to bring existing projects together so as to exploit synergies, fill in gaps with new structural activities and enhance processes through coordination and networking.

DESCRIPTION

The WBC-INCO.NET project supports the political dialogue between the EU Member States and associated countries, the EC and WBCs, by providing logistical and analytical evidence-based input to the steering platform.

Moreover, WBC-INCO.NET supports dialogue within the region through 'regional S & T policy meetings' to find common solutions to cross-border problems and challenges. Furthermore, a structured information exchange with representatives of several directorates-general of the European Commission allows for the exploitation of the results and integration of S & T into other sectors (e.g. education, economy, the labour market, regional development).

Last but not least, round-tables with international stakeholders, such as Unesco, OECD, the World Bank and other multilateral initiatives (e.g. relevant ERA-NETs) are organised in order to disseminate information, detect synergies, avoid duplication and add critical mass to ongoing or planned activities. The dialogue activities are substantiated with a number of analytical inputs. For this purpose, top European and regional research institutes are participating in WBC-INCO.NET to help identify research areas of mutual benefit, in an inclusive and comprehensive manner. The WBC-INCO.NET project facilitates the identification of S & T and innovation needs and potential of the WBCs.

The WBC-INCO.NET project also puts emphasis on capacity-building and the facilitation of networking opportunities for researchers in

WBC-INCO.NET

order to improve the absorption capacity and enhance the international recognition of existing WBC potential. Implementation activities include seminars, workshops and reviews targeted at, for example, statisticians and civil servants working with S&T statistics, finance managers from research and technological development (RTD) organisations and research managers from companies, academies of science, universities, not-for-profit organisations and NCPs. Brokerage events are organised to serve researchers from all WBCs, the EU and countries associated with FP7. Furthermore, awareness-raising sessions are organised during major European S&T conferences in order to inform audiences about the RTD cooperation potential of WBC researchers, and to support partner searches.

The project also monitors the take-up of identified research areas in forthcoming RTD programmes and the participation of WBC researchers in collaborative FP7 projects. Monitoring activities deal with ongoing S&T cooperation and its impact, analysis of existing cooperation patterns and the exploration of barriers to cooperation through the use of empirical investigations. A milestone in this regard is the development of a platform that provides reliable information on the conditions and opportunities for WBC researchers participating in FP7 and other selected European initiatives and programmes. The project allows for an evidence-based assessment of the level of involvement of WBC researchers, its structure

and articulation, as well as a better understanding of the major barriers that hamper more active cooperation between researchers from WBCs and the EU.

The WBC-INCO.NET project further focuses on the study of innovation systems in the region, the mapping of innovation infrastructures and other stakeholders, analysis of the needs in innovation policy and innovation support and identification of policy measures to improve the framework conditions for innovation. Dialogue and networking activities for innovation stakeholders are carried out, as well as training courses. Finally, WBC-INCO.NET aims to contribute to other projects and initiatives, such as the R&D strategy for innovation for the western Balkan countries, and to support the development of an action plan for the region.

PARTNERS

1. Ministry of Education and Science, Albania
2. Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Albania
3. Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation, Albania
4. Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Foundation for Higher Education World University Service, Bosnia and Herzegovina
6. Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia
7. Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia

WBC-INCO.NET

8. Ministry of Education and Science, FYRo Macedonia
9. Ministry of Economy, FYRo Macedonia
10. Ministry of Science, Montenegro
11. Directorate for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Montenegro
12. Ministry of Education and Science, Serbia
13. Mihajlo Pupin Institute, Serbia
14. Kosova Education Center, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)
15. Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Austria
16. Austrian Research Promotion Agency, Austria
17. Slovenian Business and Research Association, Belgium
18. Turkish Research & Business Organisations Public & Private Partnership, Belgium
19. Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, Bulgaria
20. Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
21. Project Management Agency of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre (PT-DLR) , Germany
22. General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Greece
23. South-East European Research Centre, Greece
24. Agency for Promotion of European Research, Italy
25. United Nations University MERIT, Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology, University of Maastricht, Netherlands
26. Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Slovenia
27. Joint Research Centre IPTS, Spain
28. The Scientific and Technological Research Council, Turkey

Funding schemes

The framework programmes for research promote the integration and strengthening of the European research area through the implementation of a set of funding instruments.

FP7 funding instruments (2007–13)

Collaborative projects

Support for research projects carried out by consortia with participants from different countries, aiming at developing new knowledge, new technology, products, demonstration activities or common resources for research. The size, scope and internal organisation of projects can vary from field to field and from topic to topic. Projects can range from small- or medium-scale focused research actions to large-scale integrating projects for achieving a defined objective. Projects should also target special groups such as SMEs and other smaller actors.

Networks of excellence

Support for a joint programme of activities implemented by a number of research organisations integrating their activities in a given field, carried out by research teams in the framework of longer-term cooperation. The implementation of this joint programme of activities will require a formal commitment of the organisations

to integrate part of their resources and their activities.

Coordination and support actions

Support for activities aimed at coordinating or supporting research activities and policies (networking, exchanges, transnational access to research infrastructures, studies, conferences, etc.). These actions may also be implemented by means other than calls for proposals.

Support for 'frontier' research

Support for projects carried out by individual national or transnational research teams. This scheme will be used to support investigator-driven 'frontier' research projects funded in the framework of the European Research Council.

Support for training and career development of researchers

Support for training and career development of researchers, mainly to be used for the implementation of Marie Curie actions.

Research for the benefit of specific groups (in particular SMEs)

Support for research projects where the bulk of the research and technological development is carried out by universities, research centres or other legal entities, for the benefit of specific groups, in particular SMEs or associations of SMEs. Efforts will be made to mobilise additional financing from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other financial organisations.

European Commission

Projects in support of international research and innovation cooperation — International cooperation activities of the FP7 Capacities programme

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This booklet presents all the coordination and support action (CSA) projects of international cooperation which have been supported under the FP7 'Capacities' programme, organised by country and regional chapters. The project descriptions cover a broad range of activities:

- bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation, including priority setting and the support of the S&T policy dialogue (INCO-NET projects);
- bilateral coordination of S&T policies with those countries that have signed an S&T agreement with the European Union (BILAT projects);
- coordination of international research cooperation programmes and activities of the EU Member States and associated countries towards third countries (ERANET and ERA-NET Plus projects);
- support of EU access to third-country research and innovation programmes (ACCESS4.EU projects);
- support of the capacities of research centres based in the European neighbourhood policy's countries (ERA-WIDE projects);
- development and opening of European research facilities located in third countries (INCO-LAB projects); and, finally,
- support for transnational cooperation among FP7 national contact points (INCO-NCP networks).

Each project is identified by its objectives, its activity area and the expected results, and includes the list of all participating organisations and contact persons.

