

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH *September 2015*

EU-China cooperation

Carlos Moedas visited China from 6 to 10 September where he met with Wan Gang, Chinese Minister for Science and Technology, participated in a conference at the Chinese Academy of Science and co-chaired the Annual Meeting of the National Champions (AMNC – Summer Davos Conference).



«...any European knowledge economy of the future must be swift to adapt and Open to the World.»

Carlos Moedas

For full speech please click [here](#)

Dear Reader,

The [European Researchers' Night](#) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The events took place on 25 September in 300 cities across Europe and beyond. Often billed as family events, the European Researchers' Nights in fact appeal to people of all ages – whether with their family, their school, friends or on their own – who are intrigued by how things work and by what science means for their lives.

It is time to evaluate the excellent start of the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation. The brochure «[Horizon 2020 first results](#)» presents information on the first 100 calls for proposals that closed by 1 December 2014.

The Editors

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Commissioner Moedas' visit to China

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, made his first official visit to China from 6 to 11 September 2015. Commissioner Moedas held meetings with high-level officials and key stakeholders in Beijing from 6 to 8 September and co-chaired the Annual Meeting of the New Champions (AMNC - Summer Davos Conference) in Dalian from 9 to 10 September. He was accompanied by Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council.



Photo: handshake between Wan Gang, Chinese Minister for Science and Technology, on the right and Carlos Moedas

In his meeting with China's Minister for Science and Technology Wan Gang on Monday 7th, both sides agreed to swift implementation of the Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM) for research and innovation that had been agreed at the EU-China High Level Innovation Cooperation Dialogue and Summit on 29 June in Brussels. Both sides now confirmed that the Co-Funding mechanism building on Horizon 2020 on the EU side and relevant research and innovation programmes on the Chinese side, will be in place from 2016 till 2020. Over this five-year period the European Commission expects to continue spending over 100 million Euros per year for the benefit of Europe-based entities in joint projects under H2020 with Chinese participants. China will match corresponding resources and expects to spend 200 million RMB per year for the benefit of Chinese based entities that will participate in joint projects with European ones under Horizon 2020. Priority will be given to strategic areas of common interest and mutual benefit, such as food, agriculture, biotechnology, green transport – including aviation –, sustainable urbanisation, information and communication technologies, energy, health and mobility of young researchers.

Commissioner Moedas then met with Bai Chunli, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and participated in the Conference 'Promoting Excellence through Enhanced EU-China Researchers' Mobility and Cooperation' co-organised with CAS. The conference featured interventions by Chinese Vice Minister of Science and Technology Cao Jianlin, NSFC Vice-President Liu Congqiang and CAS Vice Secretary General Tan Tieniu from the

Chinese side, and by ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon from the EU side, as well as inspiring testimonials from researchers who have participated actively in collaboration with the European Union. In his speech, Commissioner Moedas highlighted the '3 Os' strategy, i.e. open science, open innovation, and open to the world, and called for **enhanced EU-China collaboration** on research and innovation.



Photo: group photo at the conference 'Promoting Excellence through Enhanced EU-China Researchers' Mobility and Cooperation' co-organised with CAS

Later in the day, accompanied by Minister Wan Gang and Madame Yan Aoshuang, Chairwoman of the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission, Commissioner Moedas visited the Zhongguancun Innovation Street and attended a roundtable discussion with representatives of Chinese entrepreneurs and investors. On 8 September, Commissioner Moedas met Professor Xue Qikun, Tsinghua University Vice President and visited Professor Liu Qingfei's laboratory at the School of Medical Sciences which is involved in a recently selected Horizon 2020 collaborative research project 'Aging with Elegans'. Commissioner Moedas then attended a round table discussion with Tsinghua University professors aimed at sharing experience from past or present collaboration with European research institutes and universities.

In the final part of his visit in Beijing, the Commissioner hosted a working lunch with representatives of Chinese industries with R&D activities in Europe including Huawei, Chinese Aeronautics Establishment, Beijing Genomics Institute and China Electric Power Research Institute. The Commissioner's visit allowed for deepening of EU-China research and innovation cooperation, building on the results of the 2nd Innovation Cooperation Dialogue that took place in the margins of the 17th EU-China Summit on 29 June 2015 in Brussels. It also helped showcase European research and innovation strengths and the EU's commitment to further strengthening collaboration with China on research and innovation, which has now become a significant component of the EU-China strategic partnership.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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2015 Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian, China

Carlos Moedas was one of the eight co-chairs of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the New Champions (AMNC) in Dalian on 9-10 September, the World Economic Forum's annual global meeting on innovation, science and innovation alternating between Dalian and Tianjin. This was the ninth AMNC edition bringing together more than 1,500 participants from business, government, research and media from over 90 countries to discuss innovative and entrepreneurial responses to the current global lower growth challenges. As co-chair, Commissioner Moedas took part in the opening press conference and in several high-visibility discussion panels 'from lab to market', 'partnering in science', 'future-proofing the internet economy'. The 'co-chair roundtable: from lab to market' panel was a conversation with Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, during which Commissioner Moedas encouraged scientists to be more vocal and argued that the role of politicians was to lower innovation barriers. In the **"Partnering in Science"** panel, moderated by Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, Nature Magazine, with international personalities from academia, funding agencies and policy making, Commissioner Moedas highlighted the importance of interdisciplinarity and user innovation and developed the notion of "patient capital" to emphasize the need for longer-term research and innovation investments and the leverage effect of public funding over private investments. In one of most-attended panels on **"future-proofing the internet economy"** with Jack Ma's participation, Commissioner Moedas called for adaptable regulations that could cope with the fast development of the internet economy and the involvement of all stakeholders in an open decision-making process. Commissioner Moedas attended a private session with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and held a number of bilateral meetings and media interviews. Whereas the full media coverage report will only be available in a couple of weeks, the [World Economic Forum website](#) gave prominence to Commissioner Moedas' interview.



Photo: Commissioner Moedas at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the New Champions (AMNC) in Dalian

Bioeconomy International Conference in Tianjin, China

The EU Delegation to China participated for the fifth time in the International conference on bioeconomy on 23 July which this year celebrated its 10th anniversary with a focus on «Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Bioeconomy». The bioeconomy conference is China's largest high level biennial bioeconomy conference organised by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and the Tianjin Municipal People's Government, in collaboration with UNESCO, OECD and the EU. It serves as an international platform for accelerating technology transfer and promoting development of emerging biotech industries through an exhibition and eight parallel sessions targeting different bioeconomy aspects.

The conference saw the participation of a wide range of industry representatives and academics, including Nobel Prize Winner Barry J. Marshall. In his opening speech, Mr Laurent Bochereau recalled the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the EU and China and the relevance of research and innovation cooperation in the field of bioeconomy referring to both the European Bioeconomy Strategy and the Horizon 2020 Programme. Building on the work of the EU-China Task-Force on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, there are more than 15 Chinese teams which work jointly with European research teams in Horizon 2020 projects on issues such as food safety, animal health and crop protection.



Photo: (l-r) Laurent Bochereau, Minister Counsellor, EU Delegation to China; Huang Xingguo, Mayor of Tianjin Municipality; Wan Gang, Minister of Science and Technology of China; Sang Guowei, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering; Barry J. Marshall, Nobel Laureate, Professor of University of Western Australia)

FOR MORE INFORMATION (ALL PAGE)

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Research and Innovation Tour moves on through Chinese research and innovation hubs

The 3rd leg of the «2015 Research and Innovation Tour – Where Europe and China Connect» led representatives from the EU Delegation and Member States representations to Chengdu (Sichuan Province) on 6 July 2015 and Chongqing Municipality on 7 July. Four EU Member States (Finland, Hungary, Italy, and UK) participated in the events. Hungary and UK were represented at Consul General and Acting Consul General level which confirms the importance the EU Member States attach to the 2015 Tour. So far the Tour has reached more than 740 research and innovation stakeholders from a large variety of institutions across five central and Western provinces. Besides meeting high level government stakeholders of the local S&T authorities the Science and Technology Counsellors visited the National Engineering Centre for Biomaterials (NERCB) in Chengdu, China's first national institute for biomaterials research and development. Based on Sichuan University, NERCB is an independent legal entity combining activities in biomaterial science and engineering including education, research, development, engineering, manufacturing, and business incubation. In the Western municipality of Chongqing, the Tour was hosted by the Chongqing University of Post and Telecommunications, an important player in China's rapidly emerging telecommunication sector. The Chongqing S&T Commission emphasized their keenness on closer collaboration with European countries showing that Chongqing has a solid foundation for industry in various fields of excellence. After the summer the Research and Innovation Tour will continue through a further 11 cities in China.



Photo: Research and Innovation Tour in Chengdu

EU Member States and EU Delegation visit Chinese Academy of Space Technology

EU Delegation representatives together with Science and Technology Counsellors from 7 EU Member States visited the Chinese Academy of Space Technology (CAST) in the «Space City» in Beijing. The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Shen Bin, vice president of CAST international, and officials from the international cooperation department. Overall, the visit was a success in terms of understanding some of the most recent

R&D achievements in China in space technology, e.g. the BEIDOU navigation satellite system, and notifying potential projects for future EU-China cooperation. CAST, which was founded on 20 February 1968, as the major Chinese space agency is a subordinate of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) and the main spacecraft development and production facility in China. With more than 26,000 employees, CAST has 15 R&I subsidiaries in China including Beijing, Tianjin and Shenzhen and three overseas representative offices (in Munich, Paris and San Jose). CAST is now undertaking three mid- and long-term space technologies research and innovation tasks from the Chinese Government: BEIDOU navigation satellite system, manned space projects and high-resolution satellite programmes. Current EU-China cooperation in space technology is a multi-layered framework with a range of activities in the industrial sector and talent exchanges. The visit was concluded by an interesting tour through the satellite assembly facility (seven satellites currently under final assembly) and the CAST exhibition hall showcasing major achievements in China's development of space research and exploration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION (ALL PAGE)

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Upcoming events

Together for the next generation

The aim of the conference is to analyse the successful initiatives in maternal and newborn health and those which proved lacking.

8 December 2015 - Brussels - Belgium

Click [here](#) to access this event

Towards an EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

The Directorate for International Cooperation of DG RTD organises an interactive round-table with international experts from public and private sector

18 October 2015 - EXPO MILAN - Italy

Click [here](#) to access this event or here to [register](#)

H2020 Calls update

Demonstrating and testing innovative solutions for cleaner and better urban transport and mobility

CSA Coordination and support action - MG-3.6b-2015

Deadline: 15-10-2015 - 17:00 (Brussels time)

For more information on these calls and other calls click [here](#)

One more step towards an EU-CELAC common research area

Maria Cristina Russo, the Director for International Cooperation of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation participated in the meeting of Science and Technology Ministers and High Level Officials of CELAC in Quito on 14 and 15 September. The visit to Ecuador took place during the Ecuadorian presidency of CELAC, at the invitation of Mr Ramirez, Secretary of State for Education, Science and Technology, to ensure a follow-up discussion with CELAC STI Ministers on the June 2015 EU-CELAC Summit decision to move towards a Common Research Area (CRA). At the Ministerial meeting Ms Russo presented the concept of an EU-CELAC CRA and discussed with them the next steps towards achieving this objective.

In addition to this meeting, the creation of an EU-CELAC Common Research Area was discussed also with the Minister of Development Cooperation, Ms Rosero, the Vice-Minister of Human Talent, Mr Rubén León and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs Silvia Espindola.

CELAC STI Ministers and Senior Officials, as well as the other institutions, received very well the idea of an EU-CELAC CRA presented based on the mandate received by Commissioner Moedas. They welcomed the proposal that the move towards the CRA focuses on 3 main elements, namely facing global challenges together by means of increased thematic cooperation through higher participation into Horizon 2020; access to research infrastructures, including the submarine cable linking Latin America and Europe and mobility of researchers. The Ministerial meeting also mandated the next Senior Official Meeting of the CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) on 25 and 26 November in Brussels, to develop a concrete action plan for moving forwards towards a CRA based on these three elements. Minister Ramirez was invited to co-chair the next JIRI SOM in Brussels together with Ms Russo. They fully converged on the importance of giving a more strategic focus to the JIRI SOM meeting of November by involving also scientists in the priority areas of the JIRI working groups.

The visit was also an important occasion to promote Horizon 2020 with the Ecuadorian research community through a workshop organised by SENSCYT to which over 200 researchers participated in person and with web stream connection to other key universities and research centres in the country. During the visit future cooperation through increased participation of Ecuador in H2020 was discussed with particular focus on areas of common interest such as environment, biodiversity and bioeconomy, volcanology, renewable energies and others.

During the visit Ms Russo was accompanied by Domenica Bumma, policy officer for Brazil and CELAC and by Mr Piero Venturi, science counsellor for Brazil and Latin America.

Under the FP7 from 2007 to 2014, there were 747 participations of research entities from CELAC receiving over 100 million Euro of EU support. Over the same period, Marie-Curie awarded 834 fellowships to researchers of CELAC, ERC signed 20 grants and over 5000 CELAC researchers took part in the staff exchange programmes IRSES. During FP7, Ecuador participated in 15 projects.

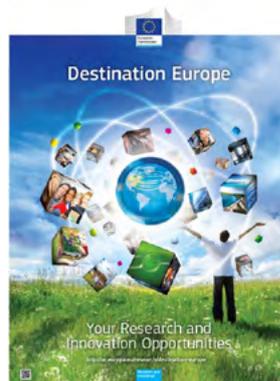


Photo: participants to the meeting of Science and Technology Ministers and High Level Officials of CELAC in Quito

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Destination Europe in Chicago



The next Destination Europe event will take place on Friday 16 October 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. The event will provide information on research career and funding opportunities in Europe for researchers, of any nationality, at all stages of their careers. Since the launch of the Destination Europe Initiative in 2012, almost 2000 people have attended Destination Europe conferences and have been very enthusiastic in their feedback on the events. Participation is free but prior [registration](#) is essential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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or check the programme [here](#)

CONFAP Forum

The latest Brazilian National Council of Research Aiding Foundations (Confap) Forum was held in São Paulo, on 27 and 28 August. The event was opened by the STI Minister Aldo Rebelo. The main topic was International Cooperation in R&I.

Representatives of the EU Delegation to Brazil presented the EU's Horizon 2020 cooperation opportunities to Brazilian researchers. They also explained details of the calls to be launched for the period 2016-2017, for each thematic area.

Around 20 Brazilian State Foundations signed an adhesion letter to the document signed in December 2014 by the Head of the EU Delegation to Brazil, Ana Paula Zacarias and Sérgio Gargioni, the President of Confap. The document aims to strengthen information sharing on scientific cooperation opportunities and to align the support mechanisms in order to foster Brazilian participation in Horizon 2020.



Photo: Elisa Natola of the Delegation EU presenting the opportunities for Brazilian participation in Horizon 2020 programme for the State's Research Foundations in the Confap Forum São Paulo.

Third EU-Chile Forum

The Third EU-Chile Forum «Innovation as a development and social inclusion encouragement» took place in the city of Santiago, Chile, on 21 and 22 July. The event aimed at renewing the EU-Chile Association Agreement, debating specific subjects such as commercial relations, investments, enterprise support and SME financing.

Other topics covered included models of innovation and new technologies in economic and social inclusion, development, applications in education, productive sectors such as communication, energy, infrastructure, health and many others.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Chile, Rafael Dochao, opened the event. Former European Commissioner, and President of the Euroamérica Foundation, Benita Ferrero-Waldner and the Minister of External Relations of Chile, Heraldo Muñoz were also present.



Photo: Benita Ferrero-Waldner, ex Commissioner, President of EuroAmérica Foundation, Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Rafael Dochao, Head of the EU Delegation to Chile.

FOR MORE INFORMATION (BOTH ARTICLES)

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Research publication

Investing in European success - EU-Africa cooperation in science, technology and innovation

Think of Africa and surely you will think of breathtaking natural landscapes, astounding biodiversity and of rich cultural and linguistic heritage. But Africa has also long been brimming with scientific and technological promise. This publication highlights some of many fascinating projects through which the EU and Africa are currently innovating side by side. Each one, an opportunity to learn from one another: paving the way for deeper, mutually beneficial cooperation in the future. The research set out in this booklet reveals what we can learn from traditional African medicines, how we can collaborate to tap into gamma ray astronomy, how we can harness the desert sun to produce clean energy and even how we can bring Africa's culinary diversity to European markets.

It is available for download [here](#)



Canada and South Korea re-associated to EUREKA

In July 2015, the month when the Network celebrated its 30th anniversary, EUREKA also confirmed its determination to be a key player in global innovation by formally re-associating Canada and South Korea for another three-year period.

The main objective of EUREKA's association agreements with Canada and South Korea is to create joint win-win R&I projects strengthening European, South Korean and Canadian competitiveness and establishing EUREKA as a global player in innovation.



Both countries' track records in transnational cooperation via EUREKA projects have been more than impressive: for South Korea, associated to EUREKA since 2009, it is the second re-association. It has gone so far as to incorporate EUREKA into its national innovation strategies. Under the supervision of the Ministry for Trade, Industry and Energy, the South Korean Institute for the Advancement of Technology (KIAT) has built on EUREKA's platform to generate transnational cooperation in R&I. Since 2009, South Korean organisations have participated in 41 transnational cooperative projects under EUREKA. Between 2012 and 2014, South Korea invested €18.8 million in such projects. A sharp increase is foreseen this year: €9 million from the country's budget will go to the EUROSTARS programme. EUROSTARS is a European joint programme co-funded from the national budgets of the 34 EUREKA member-countries and by the EU through Horizon 2020. EUROSTARS supports R&I-performing SMEs and stimulates international collaborative research and innovation projects.

Canada has been a EUREKA member since 2012. Under the responsibility of the Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, the National Research Council Canada (NRC) has established a national EUREKA office, led by the President of the NRC, as well as a national EUREKA coordination committee formed by the main Canadian innovation stakeholders. Canada has also integrated EUREKA tools into its national innovation strategy. Since 2012, local innovators have participated in 32 EUREKA projects. In 2014, the Canadian contribution to EUREKA projects more than tripled, from €4 million in 2013 up to €13 million.

This will increase in the future, as Canada has announced its willingness to participate in the EUROSTARS programme.

While Canada prefers to be involved mainly in bilateral EUREKA Network projects, South Korea is more active in multilateral Cluster projects. Although all these projects involve European participants, EUREKA's impact now stretches beyond the continent.

South Korea's re-association agreement was signed by Bruno Moor, the current Swiss Chair and by Yoon Sang-Jick the South Korean Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy, during the EUREKA-Korea Days in Seoul, on 21 May 2015.

Canada's re-association took place during the latest EUREKA Network meeting in Lugano, on 1 July 2015, in the presence of the Canadian Ambassador to Switzerland Jennifer MacIntyre and the President of the National Research Council Canada (NRC) John Mc Dougall.

EUREKA members, European research ministries and national innovation agencies are proud to have South Korea and Canada as partners. Together with South Africa, which joined the Network in 2014, they make significant contributions to EUREKA's positioning as a global player in Research and Innovation.



Photo: (r-l) Bruno Moor - Swiss Chairmanship, Jennifer MacIntyre - Ambassador of Canada to Switzerland, John Mc Dougall - President National Research Council Canada, Pedro de Sampaio Nunes - Head EUREKA Secretariat

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ERC President at the 8th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM)

ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon attended the 8th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM) held from 10 to 14 August in Beijing.

At the Conference, the President chaired a mini-symposium «Funding for Research in Mathematics: the European Research Council». The main objective of the session was to illustrate the ERC funding instruments with the support of live testimonials delivered by evaluation panel members and ERC grantees. Among the ERC-funded researchers, worth noting was the presence of Annalisa Buffa and Jean-Michel Coron who were awarded the ICIAM Collatz and Maxwell Prizes 2015, and Martin Hairer, Fields Medal winner in 2014.

The session was well attended by participants from China, Far East Asia, North America, and the EU. Among the guest speakers were prominent representatives of the Chinese mathematical community and research funding organizations. They described the selection, evaluation and funding policies of their institutions, and shared data on the financial resources invested in fundamental research in their country.

Prof. Bourguignon also had the opportunity to meet representatives of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) with the purpose of establishing a feasible calendar to implement the new initiative encouraging top Chinese researchers to join ERC teams in Europe. This new scheme was launched by the ERC and the NSFC in the context of the 2nd EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue signed in Brussels earlier this summer.



Photo: Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and Chinese guests, ERC session at ICIAM, August 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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EURAXESS Science Slam: 2014 winner from India offered post-doc in Vienna, Austria

Anand Kant Das, PhD candidate at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai, India has secured a post-doc position at the Vienna University of Technology in Austria. Due to join the research team of Professor Gerhard Schütz in December 2015, he will study subunit stoichiometry and supermolecular organization of transmembrane transporters. Anand is one of the six winners of the EURAXESS Science Slam 2014, an annual science communication competition organised in all locations where EURAXESS Links is present and which promotes Europe's high attractiveness for (young), aspiring researchers.

Together with the other five winners Bhamini Bhujun (Malaysia), Kai Narita (Japan), Kurtis Baute (Canada), Vanessa Cardoso Pires (Brazil) and Yanting Wang (China), Anand travelled in mid-June 2015 to Bonn, Germany to claim his prize: a two-day science communication training course in Bonn; a trip to Brussels to meet with European Commission (EC) officials involved in European and international research and innovation; and an individual meeting at a European research institution of their choice as a way to encourage and support their future scientific careers. It was during this tour, that Anand had the opportunity to personally visit Professor Schütz in Vienna. "This trip to Europe was one of the most refreshing and fruitful experiences of my life. Thanks to EURAXESS for arranging this trip. It turned out to be a real game changer for me." concluded Anand.

The live finals of the EURAXESS Science Slam 2015 will be held in October 2015. For more information, please visit our [website](#).



Photo: After their meeting at the European Commission: The EURAXESS Science Slam winners about to embark on their journeys to the UK, France, Germany, Austria and Denmark for individual meetings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Fifth Annual EU-Israel Innovation Seminar

On 10 September, the EU Delegation held the Fifth Annual EU Israel Innovation Seminar. This year's seminar, co-hosted with the Israel Venture Network, the Israel Innovation Institute, the Porter School for Environmental Studies and ISERD, focused on social innovation.

The seminar was held within the framework of the week long DLD Tel Aviv Innovation Festival and was preceded by a meet-up during an evening of lively DLD events held along one of Tel Aviv's major boulevards. Among the 112 participants were 39 from 12 Member States, 51 Israelis and 22 Member State Embassies and EU Delegation staff. Participants came from academia, national and local government, civil society and the business sector.

Encompassing a wide range of social innovation topics, the core of the seminar was composed of four parallel roundtables during which participants discussed smart accessible cities, smart healthy cities, engaged society and social financing. A professional graphic facilitator summarised the seminar's main insights in a colourful poster.

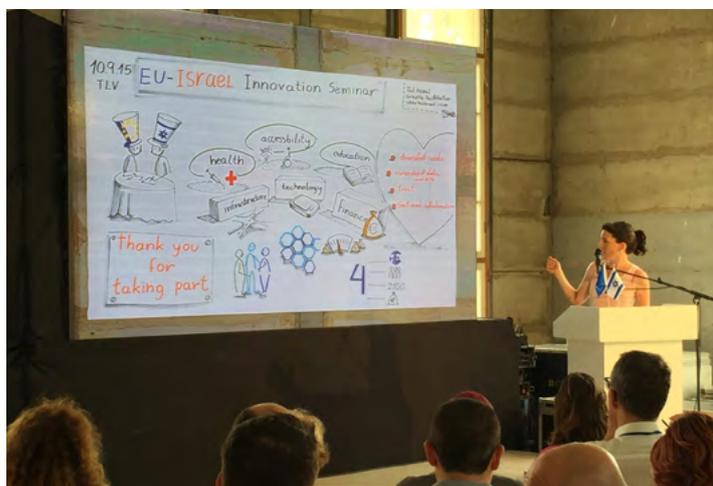


Photo: Presentation of the graphic facilitator's summary at the EU Israel Innovation Seminar

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Russia's International Aviation and Space Salon - MAKS 2015

The EU Delegation to Russia attended Russia's largest air show, the International Aviation and Space Salon (MAKS), which was held from 25-30 August in Zhukovsky, Moscow region. The event, organised every two years, featured about 600 Russian companies and more than 150 foreign firms representing around 30 countries. The highest profile visitors were the Saudi and Jordanian kings, the Egyptian President, as well as Chinese and Iranian military delegations. Western participation included commercial delegations of leading aerospace companies and the delegation of the European Space Agency (ESA) led by ESA Director-General Johann-Dietrich Wörner, Director of Human Spaceflight and Operations Thomas Reiter, and Director of Science and Robotic Exploration Álvaro Giménez Cañete. MAKS has long been a useful forum for laying the groundwork for future contracts with foreign partners, and several agreements were again concluded this year, including an agreement between Airbus and Russian satellite manufacturer Russian Space Systems to launch a production line for satellite hardware; and a number of cooperation documents in the space industry which Roscosmos signed with the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). In addition, ESA and Roscosmos signed an agreement on promoting cooperation within the ExoMars project, with mission launches planned for 2016 and 2018.



Photo: Roscosmos Director-General Igor Komarov and ESA Director-General Johann-Dietrich Wörner shaking hands

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How to contribute to the International Research newsletter?

- Kindly send us an article relating your event (2000 characters - spaces included - with picture)
- A good quality picture (free of rights)

Do not forget to mention the title of the article, the caption of the picture and a Commission internal contact point.

EuroScience in Australia

During the week 13–17 July 2015, Australia's National Science and Technology Centre, Questacon, held its second EuroScience at Questacon event with the Delegation of the European Union to Australia the major sponsor. EuroScience is a special programme showcasing the wonders of science through the eyes of Europe, featuring activities that highlight the work of European scientists past and present in a fun, family-friendly experience. Over 1600 people attended EuroScience during the week.

The week involved 22 science shows and guest presentations, including theatrical presentations: Inside a Collider, European Astronomy, Shocking Science - the story of Nikola Tesla, Marie Curie's Notebooks, European Dinosaurs, and Balloonatic by Questacon Staff, and a special presentation on teaching a computer to summarise information by Finnish researcher Hanna Suominen.

In addition there were a variety of QLab activities facilitated throughout the week that were inspired by the key work of past European scientists, and a free professional development workshop for teachers where they undertook simple, hands-on activities that can easily be replicated in any classroom. The activities represent discoveries by some of Europe's most famous scientists including Pascal, Archimedes and da Vinci.

Questacon is also a member of the European Network of Science Centres and Museums (ECSITE).



Photo: Graham Durant, Questacon, Anne McNaughton, Australian National University and Caroline Lambert, EU Delegation with Antoine Lavoisier at the launch of EuroScience

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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A Pacific delegation at the European Parliament

Mr Maurice Ponga, Member of the European Parliament, welcomed the delegation of the PACE-Net Plus project, coordinated by the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), on its visit to the European Parliament on the 24th of June 2015. Before the visit, Mr. Ponga outlined his commitment to the overseas countries and territories and the South Pacific nations of the ACP group.

This visit to the European Parliament concluded the bi-regional dialogue platform organised by PACE-Net Plus, held on 23-24 June 2015 in the heart of the European quarter of Brussels. The platform gathered some 80 delegates from Europe and the South Pacific, all senior scientists or decision-makers involved in Research in Science, Technology and Innovation.

An objective of this Platform was to report on and discuss a selection of the project outcomes (state of play of research in the South Pacific, thematic Think Tanks, seed-funding scheme, etc.).

Participants also actively discussed policy recommendations developed in the framework of the project, the aims of which are to strengthen cooperation between Europe and the South Pacific, and to increase the visibility of areas of research in STI in need of support, within the political institutions of the South Pacific. To sustain this bi-regional dialogue, the project also aims to increase the understanding within Europe of the potential and perspective of the South Pacific nations.

The delegates were enthusiastic in pursuing this dialogue, and reasserted the necessity to implement a Regional Committee for research in the South Pacific, as well as the importance of the European Union to launch research project calls in a format suitable for the South Pacific region. Also highlighted was the formidable research opportunity represented for both regions by the development of a multi-disciplinary climate change observation system in the South Pacific.



Photo: the PACENET delegation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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our world
our dignity
our future



 #EYD2015 [Click here to visit the EYD website](#)

Establishing the link between climate change and human security

Coordinated by the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, CLICO mobilised 14 research teams and brought together for the first time some of the world's leading researchers in water resource, vulnerability, and peace and security studies. The three year project examined seven areas where droughts or floods pose threats to human security. The areas covered ranged from Niger, Sudan, the Jordan and Nile basins, to Cyprus, Italy and the Sinai desert.

With about €3 million funding under the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), CLICO was part of CLIWASEC, a cluster of collaborative research projects that also included WASSERMed and CLIMB. All three projects fell under the FP7 coordinated topic between Environment, including Climate Change (ENV), and Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

"CLICO saw a large dataset of hydro-conflicts in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel being compared with climatic, hydrological and socio-economic variables," says CLICO project coordinator Giorgos Kallis of Universidad Autonoma

de Barcelona. "The ultimate aim was to develop a suitable international institutional framework for dealing with the human security implications of hydro-climatic hazards," adds Kallis.

Several CLICO case studies in Niger, Turkey and Ethiopia confirm that poverty can exacerbate vulnerability to climate stresses and human insecurity. In contrast, the link between climate change and water conflicts is, at most, indirect.

Results also illustrate that states can plan and facilitate adaptation by providing the regulatory frameworks that govern adaptation actions by individuals, groups and communities. However, too much dependence on states can reduce the capacity of communities to adapt autonomously.

Other case studies have highlighted the ambiguous effects of state-led adaptation responses. For instance, in Alexandria, Egypt, state-driven relocation from low-lying coastal lands may reduce direct risks from sea-level rise. However, it may also expose people to new risks associated with displacement and the need to secure sustainable livelihoods in new locations.

Overall, results indicate that climate change is likely to play, at most, a secondary role in creating or exacerbating

water-related conflicts. Economic and political factors have been shown to be more important in this regard.

Recommendations coming from the CLICO project team include strengthening social security systems to improve human security. There is also a need for participatory decision-making where local knowledge can inform state-led adaptation efforts. Finally, CLICO research has demonstrated the need for an integrated policy approach towards adaptation

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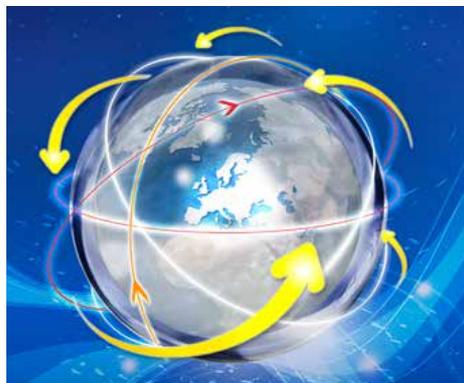
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With a particular focus on international cooperation, different policy related themes are highlighted in relation to a number of countries to illustrate trends, similarities and different approaches.

Policy News from the Delegations

African Union: The UN 'Financing for Development' conference has highlighted the importance of science and technology and has agreed to establish a technology facilitation mechanism; Dr Michael Makanga has been appointed executive director of the European-Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership.

Brazil: The Amazon Tall Tower Observatory, a joint initiative between the Research Institute of Amazonia and the German Max Planck Institute was inaugurated in São Sebastião do Uatumã.

Canada: A new multidisciplinary Marine Observatory is to be built with an investment of €22.1 million. It will have a particular focus on Arctic issues.

China: A new report released by released by the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development indicates that China has surpassed Japan in terms of total investment in R&D, but a Mckinsey study suggests that China's innovation output is not proportional to its investment due to the inefficient use of research funds.

Egypt: The Suez Canal expansion scheme will include a Technology Valley and specialised clusters for research and development activities in both ICT and renewable energies; Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia have signed a Joint Declaration on S&T cooperation in energy, water, health, agriculture and food.

India: The Defence Research and Development Organization announced an investment of over 50m€ to kick-start advanced defence related aerospace R&D; a 'Youth Innovation' fund has been launched by the state of Odisha; The Indian Space Research Organization will open a space research and satellite monitoring station in Fiji.

Israel: The law establishing the National Authority for Research, Development and Technological Innovation was passed by the Knesset; Ofir Akunis has been named the new Minister for Science, Technology and Space.

Japan: Budget requests for Fiscal Year 2016 have been submitted. In the area of S&T there is increased emphasis on 'the needs of future society' harnessing the potential of big data, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things.

Korea: Plans to invest around 4.3 billion euros over the next five years on core basic technologies in ICT, Bio, Nano and Climate Change. 19 industry areas will be funded such as fifth-generation (5G) network, smart car, unmanned drones and other high-end technology, and legislation and regulation to support these research programmes will be developed.

Russia: The new consolidated State Space Corporation «Roscosmos» has been signed into law; BRICS meeting in Russia discussed the establishment of Framework

Programme for multilateral joint projects in research, technology commercialisation & innovation, and the establishment of joint Research and Innovation Networking Platforms.

USA: The White House has added Ocean and Arctic issues to its S&T priorities for Fiscal Year 2017; A public consultation was launched on 'guiding principles' to protect privacy and build trust in the new Precision Medicine Initiative.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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