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1. Editorial

The ERA-MED project is funded by the EU, under the International Cooperation measures (INCO) of the 6th Framework Programme. It builds on the achievements of previous initiatives funded by the European Commission, such as the EuroMEDANet and EuroMEDANet2 projects, which stimulated the participation of the Mediterranean Countries (MPCs) in EU-funded R&D research, and aims to ensure continuity between FP6 and FP7, by further integrating the research potential of the Mediterranean region.

To strengthen the ERA and FP7 in the Mediterranean Countries, the project includes a number of activities, such as the creation of a database comprising the profiles of key-players/organisations in the partner countries involved in R&D national Programmes and Framework Programmes, and the organization of FP7 thematic workshops of key interest to the national research community that will take place in each Mediterranean Partner Country.

The current e-newsletter aims to inform and raise awareness among the Scientific, Research and Academic communities as well as among the SMEs and the Industrial sector of the EU and Mediterranean Countries regarding the 7th Framework Programme (FP7). We welcome your suggestions and ideas on the ERAMeD-newsletter and ask you to inform us about your participation in a previous or on-going project under the EU Framework Programmes for R&D.

a. EU News

FP7 call for proposals: International Cooperation programme

The European Commission has issued a call for proposals for 'International Cooperation' activities under the Capacities programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

The activity area covered by this call is 'Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T [science and technology] cooperation'.

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to step up the cooperation and coordination of research programmes carried out at national or regional level in the Member or Associated States through the networking of research programmes, towards their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities.

Under FP7 the ERA-NET scheme is continued and reinforced, notably through the introduction of the ERA-NET Plus actions in which the Commission will provide an incentive to the organisation of joint calls between national or regional research programmes by 'topping-up' joint trans-national funding with Community funding.

The budget for the call has been set at €11 million. To see the full details of the call, please

[click here](#). For more information on funding for international cooperation activities under FP7, please visit: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/international-cooperation_en.html.

Remarks: The deadline for submitting proposals is 12 February 2008.

Source: CORDIS

Commission adopts simpler payment scheme for non-EU FP7 participants

The European Commission has finalised the arrangements for lump-sum payments to International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) taking part in the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7).

Flat rate lump-sum amounts can now be incorporated in grant agreements for indirect actions concluded under FP7. This option should make the grant-agreement process, as well as project administration, far simpler than was the case with the traditional reimbursement of eligible costs.

'By offering international cooperation partner country beneficiaries a simpler method of financing the work, we facilitate their participation in FP7 research activities and reduce the administrative follow-up,' says Mary Minch, Director for International Cooperation within the Commission's Research DG.

'The lump-sum amounts have been defined on the basis of World Bank data on gross national income levels in the different countries. It is up to the individual partners to decide whether or not to opt for the lump-sum system of payment. Alternatively, participants may request the standard reimbursement of eligible costs,' she adds. The lump sum covers all the costs of the ICPC involved - not only personnel and travel costs, but also those for equipment, consumables and indirect costs.

In addition to World Bank data, calculations on the maximum EU contribution take into account the number of person-years requested for the project, the type of funding scheme that the project is using, and the legal status and activity type of the legal entity in the ICPC.

For more information, please visit:

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/financialguide_en.pdf

Source: CORDIS

The CORDIS FP7 Service goes multilingual!

In line with efforts to bring EU information closer to citizens, and improve access to funding, CORDIS is further extending its boundaries. Key pages of the CORDIS FP7 Service, the official access point to funding from the Seventh Framework Programme for research (FP7), are now available in six languages.

Users will be able to access pages linked to the homepage, and the individual programmes' homepages, not only in English, but also German, Spanish, French, Italian and Polish - all with a single click. The translated web pages will improve the localisation of information, facilitating access to EU research funding through FP7 for new participants such as small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) and regional actors.

For more information, please visit:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=9&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1181903307077&RCN=27778

Source: CORDIS

b. News from MPCs

Reinforcing Euro-Mediterranean Energy Cooperation

Brussels, 9 July 2007

In a speech on 9 July to the Brussels conference to promote the Trans Saharan Gas Pipeline, the EU Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, said that the European Union is committed to reinforcing Euro-Mediterranean energy cooperation in general and with Algeria in particular. "Algeria has been a reliable supplier to the EU for more than 30 years, and we are looking forward to deepening our bilateral ties and cooperation," he told delegates.

He said that the European Union is committed to continue supporting energy infrastructure projects of common interest in order to complete the electricity and gas rings in the Mediterranean. "The finalisation of these two projects, alongside the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic energy partnership between Algeria and the EU, remain our main priorities for bilateral cooperation in the near future," Commissioner Piebalgs said.

He described the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline as an impressive and ambitious project, but warned that while its development has many advantages, there are also risks that need to be analysed carefully. He remains convinced, nonetheless, that "the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline could constitute a promising supply source and route for the EU."

Algeria is currently the third largest supplier of gas to the EU and, as the Commissioner noted, Algerian gas supplies to the EU could increase from the current 70 billion cubic metres (bcm) per year to approximately 95 bcm per year by 2011, if infrastructure projects currently under construction are achieved according to plan.

The Commissioner congratulated the Algerian Energy and Mines Minister Chakib Khelil for proposing the conference.

For more information, please visit:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/07/477&type=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>

Source: Europa

Ministers give Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation a boost

Cairo, 18 June 2007

Research cooperation around the Mediterranean has been given a boost with the adoption of a declaration 'Towards a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research Area' during the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The meeting, which took place in Cairo, Egypt, was attended by representatives of the research ministries of all 27 EU Member States and the ten Mediterranean partner countries. It was chaired jointly by Annette Schavan and Hany Helal, the German and Egyptian Research Ministers respectively, and EU Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik.

Until now, research and education have not figured strongly in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, which was launched almost twelve years ago. This now looks set to change, as the declaration states that 'higher education, research and innovation should be defined as a priority sector within the Euromed partnership'.

Speaking at the event, Janez Potocnik stated his belief that greater research cooperation in the region would help both Europe and its neighbours face the challenges and opportunities of globalisation.

In the Cairo Declaration, the Ministers pledge to integrate the Mediterranean partner countries into the European Research Area (ERA) by promoting links between centres of

excellence in the Euromed region, and boosting the participation of these countries in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

Researcher mobility is addressed in the declaration, with Ministers calling for a simplification of visa procedures for researchers and students moving between Euromed countries.

The declaration also calls for work to promote innovation and knowledge sharing in the region, for example by setting up national and regional innovation funds and developing capacity building in research and development (R&D) and innovation management. Implementation of the conference declaration will be overseen by the Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Research and Technological Development (RTD), which will report back to the Euromed Committee in 2008. A second Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research will be held in 2009 to assess the achievements made and make plans for further cooperation.

Also at the event, the EU and Egypt signed a new grant financing agreement worth €11 million to support Egypt's research, development and innovation initiatives. The four-year programme is designed to facilitate Egypt's participation in the ERA by stimulating research linkages between scientists in the EU and Egypt.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.euromed-erconf.org/>

Source: CORDIS

2. EU Events

EU and Egypt hold joint Committee Meeting on Science and Technology for the first time

Egypt, 20 June 2007

Egypt and the EU held the Joint Committee meeting on Science and Technology for the first time in Egypt on Wednesday, 20th June 2007 at the Smart Village. This was the second Joint Committee meeting of its kind since the signature of the EU/Egypt Science and Technology Co-operation Agreement in Egypt exactly two years previously.

After one year of implementation of the EU/Egypt Science and Technology Agreement, the fruits of co-operation are already bountiful: over 88 Egyptians participated in 70 projects in partnership with EU institutions under the FP6 programme, with a total of €6.6 million. In addition, the establishment of new EU/Egypt Innovation Fund of more than €6 million was recently signed. Furthermore, a network of over 30 focal points was established to disseminate information on FP7 in Egyptian universities, research and technology centres. Last but not least, a mobility portal for researchers in Egypt is currently under preparation.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.eu-delegation.org.eg/en/News/509.asp>

Source: *The European Commission's Delegation to Egypt*

Events in the Mediterranean

FP7 Information Day,

Beirut, 6th July 2007

The information day on FP7, organised by the FP7 Lebanese National Contact Point at the UNESCO center in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, marked the launching of the first FP7 activity in the Mediterranean region (ERA-MED project). It attracted around 200 participants, mainly university researchers and scholars. Representatives of various research institutes, SMEs, the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Tourism, and Industry were also

present. The event was held under the patronage and support of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Khaled Kabani and the presence of the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Lebanon, Ambassador Patrick Laurent, the representative of DG Research and the Scientific Officer for the ERA-MED project, Dr. Philippe Froissard, and the ERA-MED administrative project officer from EKT, Mr. Henry Scott. The event was chaired by Dr. Fairouz Sarkis, the director of the Arab Open University.

Attendees expressed their eagerness to communicate with the Lebanese NCP by registering their names in the NCP's information service database. Additionally, the attendees were provided by a kit containing all relevant documents, important links, open calls schedules, registration form, and concise and informative brochure that summarizes all important aspects of FP7 and the process of participation.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.eramed.gr/opencms/opencms/eramed/events/event_060707.html

Useful links

CORDIS

- *CORDIS Partner search:* http://cordis.europa.eu/partners-service/home_en.html
- *CORDIS Projects database:* <http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?dbname=proj>
- *CORDIS NCPs' database:* http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html
- *CORDIS – FP7 – Find a call:* <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>
- *FP7 useful documents:* http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html
- *FP7 – information for proposers from outside the EU:*
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/public_en.html?Public=Outside+the+EU

EUROPA

- *FP7 - Official documents:* http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=documents
- *Brochures:* http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=publications *Multipliers events – speakers presentations:*
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=event-070207-prog