

SwissCore Synopsis Research

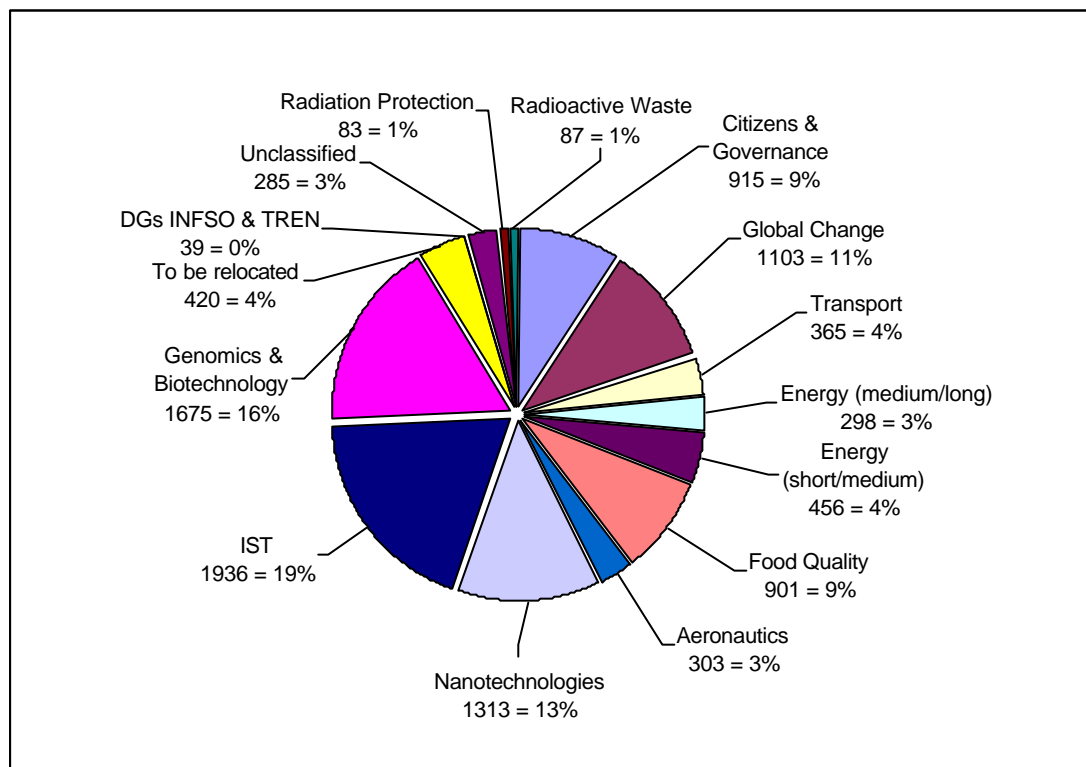
June-July 2002

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15'500 Expressions of Interests reached the Commission by 7 June 2002

The European Commission has started working on the analysis of the Expressions of Interests (Eols) received following its call from 20 March 2002.

A first distribution and basic reading allowed to cut down the number of Eols received to approximately 10'000, as many Eols had been sent to the Commission up to 3 or 4 times. A first division of the Eols into thematic areas shows the following pattern:



The Commission's timetable with regard to the analysis of the Eols received will typically be as follows:

- 7 June: distribution per thematic priority
- 15 June: distribution per sub-area
- 17 June-20 July: reading (looking mainly at ideas and topics)
- 26 July: draft analysis per sub-area
- 16 August: draft analysis for Priority 7
- 26-30 August: expert panels per cluster of sub-areas for strategic advice
- Sept: analysis on the web
- Sept/Oct: workshops in Brussels in certain thematic priorities (for example in Priority 7: Citizens and Governance) => Commission will invite key researchers

This timetable can of course vary between thematic areas depending on the amount of Eols received and on the system of analysis put into place (external evaluation in certain fields such as Priority 1: Biotechnology and Genomics).

One of the most tangible results of the call for Eol will be the publication of an analysis by the Commission of the ideas received. The structure of this analysis to be published in September for each thematic priority will encompass the following points:

- 1) Statistics;

- 2) Areas where the research community is ready to present projects adapted to the new instruments;
- 3) Areas with good ideas but where the research community is not quite ready yet;
- 4) Areas where the new instruments do not seem usable.

More information will be available in September 2002 under the Eol website:
<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-instruments/>

◆ FP6

FP6 adopted on 3 June 2002

In May, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers had reached a consensus on the content of the Decision concerning the 6th Framework programme. This agreement was confirmed on 3 June, when the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs officially gave their final approval (without debate).

The content of the 6th Framework programme thus remained as we had outlined in our edition of May 2002. The agreed text was finalised by the legal services of the Council on 27 June and the publication in the Official Journal, which will give it its final reference number and official existence, is expected during the next few weeks.

The "Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Sixth Framework programme of the European Community for research technological development and demonstration activities, contributing to the creation of the European research area and to innovation (2002-2006)" is structured in the following way (76 pages out of 86 are annexes):

Text of the Decision

Annex I: Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the actions and priorities

Annex II: Budget: Maximum overall amount, respective shares and indicative breakdown

Annex III: Instruments and rules for financial participation by the Community

The annexes remain fairly general and will be specified by the Specific Programmes and the Rules for Participation.

The final text of the Decision concerning the 6th Framework programme can be found under:
<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/02/st03/03635en2.pdf>

Specific Programmes to be finally adopted in autumn

The Decision concerning the Specific Programmes will build upon the FP6 Decision and give details regarding the thematic content of each part of the framework programme. The legislative process with regard to the adoption is a simple one, as it requires adoption by the Council of Ministers alone and the European Parliament is only consulted in a non-binding way.

On 12 June, the European Parliament adopted its opinion on the matter through five different reports on each aspect of the Specific Programmes:

- 1) Wim Van Welzen Report on "Integrating and Enhancing the ERA";
- 2) Myrsini Zorba Report on "Structuring the ERA";
- 3) Yves Pietrasanta Report on the actions to be implemented through the Joint Research Centres (JRCs);
- 4) Konrad Schwaiger Report covering nuclear activities conducted by the JRC;
- 5) Konstantinos Alyssandrakis Report on nuclear activities under the Euratom Treaty.

All these were adopted by a large majority by the European Parliament.

In the Council, intensive work was undertaken by different working parties and committees. According to the latest news (18 July 2002), a complete agreement has been reached on the text of the "Integrating" and "Structuring" Specific Programmes (concerning their scientific and technological content) as well as on the two JRC Specific Programmes.

The remaining open issues concern:

- a limited number of details of the scientific and technological content of the “Nuclear energy” programme;
- the management (“comitology”);
- the budgetary allocation to COST and INTAS;
- some bio-ethical provisions with regard to embryonic stem-cell research.

In order to finish work on these issues and be ready for adoption, the Council of Ministers will probably need one more month of work. This would lead to a final adoption of the Specific Programmes around September 2002.

The European Parliament reports can be found under:

<http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/calendar?APP=PDF&TYPE=PV2&FILE=p0020612EN.pdf&LANGUE=EN>
(p. 13, 53, 63))

<http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/calendar?APP=PDF&TYPE=PV2&FILE=p0020613EN.pdf&LANGUE=EN>
(p. 16, 23)

Rules for Participation to be still adopted in July 2002

The Rules for Participation are another topic which has been mobilizing the Parliament and the Council of Ministers lately. Indeed, the Rules for Participation for FP6 have to be adopted through the co-decision procedure which requires an agreement between the European Parliament and the Council. Both had made clear that they wished to come to an agreement on this issue in the first reading in order to obtain a quick formal adoption.

On 4 July, the European Parliament adopted the report by Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl on the Rules for Participation for FP6, as it had been negotiated with the Council. The main amendments were the following:

- 2-stage evaluation procedure:

The parliament advocated for the possibility of a two-stage procedure for project evaluation and also proposed that the calls for expressions of interest which the Commission might issue shall not affect any decisions the Commission may subsequently take.

- Criteria for the evaluation and selection of research actions:

The parliament introduced certain optional evaluation criteria, such as a reference to the role of women in research and the synergy with training and societal implications. In addition, it removed the requirement for anonymity of experts during the evaluation, unless otherwise stipulated in the call for proposals. On the other hand, emphasis was placed on the confidentiality of the evaluation process which is to be ensured by the Commission services.

Other amendments dealt with:

- Minimum number of participants

It was proposed that specific support actions and actions to promote human resources and mobility should not need a minimum of at least three different legal entities established in three Member States or associated States.

- Signature of the contract and consortium agreement

In addition to specifying that the contract shall enter into force on signature by the Commission and the coordinator, the parliament introduced an obligation on the participants to conclude a consortium agreement unless otherwise stipulated in the calls for proposals. It also proposed specifying the main elements that have to appear in this agreement.

- Grant for the networks of excellence

The parliament asked that Community contribution should be calculated depending on the degree of integration and the number of researchers whom the participants propose to integrate, as well as the specific features of the research area and joint activity programmes concerned. It also limited the cost of management activities to 7% of the Community financial contribution.

- Joint and several liability

The parliament has removed any explicit reference to financial solidarity between participants.

- Intellectual property rules
- Participation by legal entities from third countries

These amendments were acceptable in their entirety to the Council. An agreement on the Rules for participation for the Euratom Framework Programme has also been reached. This means that as soon as the legal and linguistic finalisation of the text has taken place, the Rules will be submitted to the Council for formal adoption. This should happen in the next days, probably still before the August break.

Model contracts for FP6: results of the Working Group meeting of 11 July 2002

Like in other aspects of the implementation of FP6, most details in the model contracts still need to be defined. What did already become clear is the point that there is going to be only one model contract (instead of approximately 18 in FP5), which will then be complemented by instrument-specific annexes. New versions of the documents on model contracts are expected to come out some time in August, and the Working Group will meet again in September. We will keep you informed as soon as more information will become available.

Some of the Working Group's documents (some of which are outdated, unfortunately) can be found under:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/working-groups/model-contract/index_en.html

Support for research infrastructures in FP6

The DG Research Unit responsible for the support to research infrastructures' actions in FP6 recently published a document presenting the actions that will be undertaken in this field during FP6 as well as their implementation details (possible participants, evaluation criteria, schedules and budgets).

The support for research infrastructures in FP6 is part of the actions with a view to "Structuring the European Research Area". It has been awarded a budget of 655 million Euro (of which 200 million which will be managed autonomously by the IST thematic area for GEANT and GRID).

By nature open to all fields of research, although almost 50% of users of the FP5 schemes remained physicists, the support for infrastructures in FP6 will set up 4 support schemes:

1. Transnational access: This covers a financial support for infrastructures in order to allow them to open their infrastructures to users who would otherwise not be able to afford access to the infrastructure necessary for the realization of a project. In FP6, this scheme will also include access to remote scientific services provided by an infrastructure (e.g. reference materials or sample analysis). Such a support could typically amount to 0,3-0,5 million Euro per year.
2. Integrated Infrastructure Initiatives (I3s): This new scheme aims at reinforcing, structuring and providing an integrated approach to infrastructure services at European Level. These non-thematic "groups" will combine networking activities, transnational access measures as well as, possibly, the implementation of joint research projects aimed at improving infrastructures' services. Contracts could typically amount to several millions Euro per year.
3. Design studies: The Commission is ready to finance up to 50% for preparatory studies for infrastructures which States are committed to build.
4. Construction of new infrastructures: For infrastructures which are going to be built and for which 100% of the financing is available, the Commission is ready to add up to 10% of the budget (typically 5-15 million Euro) in order to optimize the European dimension of the infrastructure.

These schemes will be an interesting new opportunity for Swiss researchers and infrastructures as soon as Switzerland is associated to FP6.

To find out more, please consult the Commission's working paper under:

◆ **EU-Research Policy:**

No more “Research Council” meetings

At the European Council of Seville, Heads of States adopted a reform of the structure and functioning of the Council of Ministers which will come into force on 31 July 2002. As a consequence, the Research Ministers will be meeting in the framework of a so-called “Competitiveness” Council, which will deal with Internal Market, Industry and Research issues. The “Education and Youth” Council will also be reformed and renamed “Education, Youth and Culture” (including audio-visual affairs).

It was agreed that following this concentration, several Ministers from each Member State would be able to participate as full members of the same Council configuration.

This reform also touches upon the content of programming of the Council’s work. Indeed, from December 2003, the European Council will adopt a multiannual strategic programme for the 3 years to come. This strategic programme will be followed up by an annual operating programme of Council activities. The operating programme will be proposed jointly by the next two presidencies in line and contain the political priorities for the year to come as well as a list of indicative agendas for the first 6 months of the year. The first annual operating programme will be drawn up in December 2002.

More information on the measures concerning the structure and functioning of the Council adopted on 21 and 22 June can be found in the Annex II of the Presidency conclusions of the Seville European Council under:

<http://ue.eu.int/en/Info/eurocouncil/index.htm>

Danish Presidency started on 1 July 2002

On 1 July 2002, Denmark took over the Presidency of the Council of Ministers from Spain. A work programme “One Europe. Programme of the Danish Presidency of the EU. July to December 2002” has just been published. According to this document, the Danish Presidency will focus on the following topics:

- 1) Enlargement
- 2) Freedom, security and justice
- 3) Sustainable development
- 4) Safe food
- 5) Global responsibility

With regard to research issues, Helge Sander, the Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, wants to put an emphasis on moving towards the ERA as well as on bringing FP6 and Eureka, which he also chairs, closer together.

The next meeting dates for the Research Ministers (in the new “Competitiveness” Council) will be 30 September and 29 November 2002.

The web-site of the Danish Presidency containing the dates of meetings, events and information on thematic issues can be found under: <http://www.eu2002.dk/main/>

Investment in research: EU falling further behind USA

When presenting FP6 to journalists, Commissioner Busquin referred once more to the lack of public and private investment in the EU. Whilst, in 2000, R&D spending was 228 billion Euro in the USA, the EU countries spent only 164 billion. Mr. Busquin added that “At parity, and at constant prices, the gap between the USA and the EU was more than 100 billion Euro for 2000. In 1994, the gap was 51 billion Euro, but it has constantly increased since then. This trend confirms the importance and urgency of reaching the target agreed by the Barcelona summit of increasing R&D spending in the EU to near 3% of GDP by 2010”.

In this, Commissioner Busquin was relaying the warning sent by six Nobel Prize winners to the European Council of Seville. In an open letter, they drew the attention of the Heads of States to the risk of Europe not being able to keep up with scientific and technological progress worldwide if it does not spend more on R&D.

Commission press release:

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cqi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/909|0|RAPID&lg=en&display=

European Parliament report on Community statistics on science and technology

In August 2001, the European Commission had tabled a proposal for a Decision concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology (COM(2001) 490). The aim of this proposal was to develop a new set of statistical variables on science and technology at EU level, to consolidate the Community statistical information system on science and technology, and to fill the vacuum that existed since the expiry of the former framework on Community statistics in 1997. With regard to these goals, the Commission proposed specific actions with an emphasis on statistics on innovation, human resources in science and technology, patent statistics, high technology statistics and general gender statistics.

As this Commission proposal has to go through the co-decision procedure, the European Parliament gave its first reading opinion on the 2 July 2002. In its plenary session, the Parliament adopted the report by G. Nistico which called for some improvements of the proposal regarding to the following aspects:

- better collaboration between the EU and the OECD and other international organizations, notably concerning statistics on patents and high technology activities
- more collaboration with the Helsinki expert group concerning statistics on the participation of men and women in scientific and technological activities
- a report on the implementation of this Decision to be drafted 4 years after its entry into force

It is now up to the Council to give its Common Position to conclude the first reading.

More information can be found at the following addresses:

Commission proposal:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/en_501PC0490.pdf

Procedure and EP report:

http://www.db.europarl.eu.int/oeil/oeil_ViewDNL_ProcViewCTX?lang=2&procid=5493&HighlightType=1&Highlight_Text=Community/SPACE_statistics

State Aid framework for Research & Development prolonged

The European Commission recently decided to prolong the existing State Aid framework for Research & Development without any modification until 2005. DG Competition had initiated a review of this framework set up in 1996, which had last been amended in 1998.

From a competition and "State Aid" point of view, the current rules distinguish between three levels of R&D:

1. Fundamental research (i.e. "designed to broaden scientific and technical knowledge, not linked to industrial or commercial activities") may receive State funding up to 100% of eligible costs.
2. Industrial research may receive up to 50% of eligible costs.
3. Pre-competitive development activities may receive up to 25% of eligible costs.

These basic rates of 50% and 25% may be increased by up to a supplementary 25% if the R&D activities are undertaken under certain circumstances (e.g. by SMEs).

On the whole, the Commission is of the opinion that this framework has functioned satisfactorily up to now and that it is suitable to support the goal to increase investment in R&D to 3% of GDP by 2010.

The framework of 1996 can be found under:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/state_aid/legislation/96c46_en.html

◆ **Life Sciences (FP5-QoL)**

Gesundheit und Umwelt: 20 Millionen Euro zum Thema Umwelthormone

Die Europäische Kommission wird für 20 Millionen Euro ein Cluster von Forschungsprojekten finanzieren, das die Auswirkungen von Umwelthormonen auf Menschen, Tiere und Pflanzen untersuchen soll. Dies sind Stoffe, die – natürlicherweise oder vom Menschen in Umlauf gebracht – in der Umwelt vorhanden sind und als Hormone wirken oder das Hormonsystem beeinflussen können. In den Teilprojekten EDEN, COMPRENDO, EURISKED und FIRE werden insgesamt 64 Organisationen aus ganz Europa diese Fragen koordiniert angehen. Das Cluster wird für andere laufende oder künftige EU-finanzierte Projekte dieses Bereichs offen sein, kann sich also im 6. Rahmenprogramm zu einem "integrierten Projekt" weiterentwickeln. Kommissar Busquin sieht voraus, dass sich im Rahmen dieses Clusters eine wichtige Schnittstelle zwischen Wissenschaft und Politik entwickeln wird, und er erwartet daraus einen direkten Beitrag für die Entwicklung einer EU-Strategie für den Umgang mit Umwelthormonen.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/01262_en.htm

Siehe auch das Schweizer Nationale Forschungsprojekt, NFP 50: „Hormonaktive Stoffe: Bedeutung für Menschen, Tiere und Ökosysteme“: http://www.snf.ch/NFP/NFP50/Home_d.html

European Parliament report on labelling of GMO-based food

In its last plenary session before the summer break, on 3 July 2002, the European Parliament debated two Commission proposals on GMO-based food dealing with the labelling and traceability of GMOs. The Parliament supported the Commission's proposal to require (a) labelling of all GM food and feed irrespective of the presence of transgenic DNA or protein, and (b) traceability of GMOs throughout the chain from farm to table. In such a way, comprehensive labelling should ensure consumer choice.

In its voting, the Parliament lowered the level of tolerance for accidental contamination of conventional products by GMO products from 1.0% to 0.5%, but it rejected the stricter amendments proposing a system of GMO-free labelling, and labelling of product that come from animals fed with GMOs.

In general, these results were welcomed almost unanimously by European environmentalists, trade and consumers, whereas U.S. American government officials expressed their disappointment about the voting. Such a legislation, they claimed, would seriously compromise trade of GM farm products and the capacity of developing countries to take use of a novel, promising technology.

The report of the European Parliament will now be transmitted to the Council, which is expected to adopt its Common Position this autumn.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/99210IRAPID&lg=EN&display=

◆ **Information Society (FP5-IST)**

New eEurope 2005 Action Plan published

On 28 May, the European Commission adopted the “eEurope 2005: An Information Society for All” Action Plan, which will follow up from the “eEurope 2002” Action Plan adopted in June 2000. In the context of the Lisbon Strategy, which is not only about productivity and growth but also about employment and social cohesion, eEurope 2005 puts the users at the center of its aims.

The action plan is based on two groups of actions which reinforce each other. On the one hand, it aims at stimulating services, applications and content covering online public services and e-business; on the other hand, it addresses underlying questions such as broadband infrastructure and security matters. Thus, the goals of this action plan are the following:

By 2005, Europe should have:

- modern online public services (e-government, e-learning services, e-health services);
 - a dynamic e-business environment;
- and, as enabler for these,
- widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices;
 - a secure information infrastructure.

Four tools should enable the implementation of this action plan:

1. policy measures to review and adapt legislation at national and European level;
2. facilitated exchange of good practices and demonstration projects but also sharing the lessons of failures;
3. monitoring of policy measures by improved benchmarking activities;
4. an overall co-ordination of existing policies which should be facilitated by the creation of a steering group.

The eEurope 2005 Action Plan was endorsed by Heads of State at the Seville European Council. They also called upon all institutions to ensure that it will be fully implemented by 2005. A mid-term review should be presented by the Commission in early 2004.

Please find the text of the action plan under:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/news_library/eeurope2005/index_en.htm

◆ **Environment and Energy (FP5-EESD)**

European Parliament adopts a report on biofuels

Following the Gothenburg European Council (June 2001), which adopted a strategy for sustainable development, the European Commission put forward a proposal to foster the use of biofuels for transport within the EU (COM(2001) 0547). This proposal included the development of biofuels in order to enable greater compliance with the Kyoto Protocol, and to strengthen the security of energy supply in the medium and long term. The proposal laid down an obligation on Member States to introduce legislation to ensure that biofuels should account for 2% of fuel for transport sold by the end of 2005 and for 5,75% by 2010.

On 4 July, the European Parliament adopted its first reading report and backed the proposal made by the European Commission. The Parliament called for measures to promote actively biofuel production, as it is thought that demand in biofuels will soon exceed supply. It also asked Member States to promote the use of biofuels in public/collective transport.

The Council of Ministers is expected to give its common position on this proposal in the autumn. More information can be found under:

http://www.db.europarl.eu.int/oeil/oeil_ViewDNL_ProcViewCTX?lang=2&procid=5824&HighlightType=1&Highlight_Text=biofuels

◆ **Publications**

Comparative report on Women and Science in 30 European Countries

The European Commission recently published a report on "National policies on Women and Science in Europe". Carried out by the "Helsinki Expert Group on Women and Science", a group of national civil servants, this survey shows that "gender-segregation is a feature of scientific careers in all countries surveyed".

The report can be found under:

<http://www.cordis.lu/improving/women/policies.htm>

Report on Public Perceptions of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Europe (PABE)

Since late May 2002, a research report on „Public Perceptions of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Europe“ is available on the internet. Commissioned by the European Commission, this study had been conducted in five EU countries to provide more detailed knowledge about perceptions of GMOs among ordinary citizens as well as perceptions of public responses to GMOs among

stakeholders. One of the key findings is that most stakeholders in the GM debate misunderstand public responses to GMOs. There is no evidence for the claim that public resistance to biotechnologies can be explained by a mixture of ignorance and a desire for zero-risk. Rather, people feel strongly that inherent and unavoidable uncertainties should be acknowledged by expert institutions, and taken into account in decision making. The report gives a detailed analysis of the gulf between stakeholder views of the public, and public views as expressed in focus groups, providing relevant insights for decision-makers at national and European level.

http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/ieppp/pabe/docs/pabe_finalreport.pdf

Evaluation: Procedures of the Max Planck Society

The Max Planck Society published in June a bilingual booklet (German-English) about its evaluation procedures. The different forms of evaluation used at the Max Planck Society (*Ex Ante Evaluation, Regular Evaluation, Extended Evaluation*) are presented in detail. Such a publication is seen by its editors as a guarantee of the commitment of the Max Planck Society to ensuring quality in research through the evaluation procedures.

This publication (36 pages) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.mpg.de/root/dokumentation/Evaluation.pdf>

◆ „SwissCore-Küche“

Praktikum bei SwissCore von Sofia Karakostas

Wir freuen uns, dass Frau Sofia Karakostas von Euresearch Zürich im Rahmen eines fünfwöchigen internen Praktikums vom 10. Juni bis 12. Juli bei SwissCore in Brüssel tätig war. Durch die aktive Einbindung ins Tagesgeschäft erhielt Frau Karakostas einerseits Einblick in die vielfältigen Aufgaben von SwissCore und trug andererseits die Erfahrungen und die Sicht eines Regional Office ins Brüsseler Team hinein. Über die Teilnahme an den laufenden Sitzungen mit den Kontaktbüros der Schwesterorganisationen aus den EU-Ländern und über Besuche bei der Europäischen Kommission oder dem Europäischen Parlament hat sie wertvolle persönliche Kontakte zu Akteuren im Bereich des Europäischen Bildungs- und Forschungsgeschehens vertieft und auch neu knüpfen können.

Dank dieser intensiven Auseinandersetzung mit den verschiedenen Arbeitsabläufen, Informationsquellen und Kontaktmöglichkeiten während der Zeit des Praktikums haben wir die Bedürfnisse und Angebote des jeweils anderen Büros besser kennenlernen können, und es sind auch die Möglichkeiten und Bereiche einer zukünftigen engeren Zusammenarbeit der beiden Büros klar geworden.

Ein solcher Aufenthalt hat also sicher auch für andere interessierte Büros und Personen ein grosses Potential!

Répartition interne des priorités thématiques du 6^e PCRD

Si l'équipe de SwissCore travaille en complémentarité sur la plupart des dossiers, les priorités du programme-cadre font l'objet d'une répartition interne. Suite à l'arrivée de Martina Weiss à la tête de SwissCore et en vue du 6^e PCRD, la répartition interne des dossiers thématiques a été revue de la façon suivante:

Martina Weiss sera responsable de :

- Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health (priorité 1)
- Nanotechnologies, intelligent materials, new production processes (priorité 3)
- Food quality and safety (priorité 5)
- Sustainable development (priorité 6)
- SME & Innovation
- European Research Area

Danièle Rod reprendra les dossiers suivants:

- Information Society Technologies (priorité 2)
- Aeronautics & Space (priorité 4)
- Citizens & Governance (priorité 7)
- Marie Curie (mobilité et ressources humaines)
- Research Infrastructures

Nouvelles brochures SwissCore !

La brochure de SwissCore présentant, en anglais, nos activités ainsi que nos sponsors et un plan de situation a été remise à jour et est maintenant disponible. Nous vous en enverrons volontiers une ou plusieurs copie sur simple demande auprès de : infodesk@swisscore.be

28 mai 2002 : SwissCore Annual Event

Bien établi dans le calendrier bruxellois, le SwissCore Annual Event a pour vocation de réunir les contacts et partenaires de SwissCore afin de les remercier de leur collaboration lors de l'année écoulée. L'hôte officiel de la soirée était, cette année, le professeur Helga Nowotny de l'ETHZ. De part ses différentes fonctions et intérêts, Madame Nowotny a marqué l'Annual Event d'une empreinte aussi bien suisse, en tant que directrice du Collegium Helveticum, qu'européenne, en tant que présidente du European Research Advisory Board.

La partie officielle fut introduite par Hans Peter Hertig, secrétaire général du Fonds National Suisse, qui salua les invités et présenta l'équipe remodelée de SwissCore. Dans son discours, Helga Nowotny mit l'accent, au travers de trois exemples actuels, sur des caractéristiques du paysage scientifique suisse qui ont des prolongations au niveau européen. En effet, aussi bien la relocalisation vers les Etats-Unis des activités de recherche de grands groupes industriels, le débat sur la recherche sur les cellules souches, et à travers celui-ci le dialogue entre la science et la société, ou la volonté politique d'augmenter les crédits alloués à la recherche scientifique sont des questions qui interpellent le monde de la recherche à Bruxelles comme dans les capitales européennes.

La soirée ainsi ouverte, les nombreux invités (près de nonante) ont eu l'occasion de débattre et de réagir aux propos de Madame Nowotny. M. Rainer Gerold, Directeur à la DG Recherche de la Commission européenne, a ainsi spontanément saisi l'occasion de saluer la prochaine entrée en vigueur des accords bilatéraux et de souhaiter la bienvenue à la Suisse en tant que pays associé au 5^e programme-cadre.



Helga Nowotny



Jean-Claude Badoux, Hans Peter Hertig, Rainer Gerold