

# SwissCore Synopsis

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SwissCore - Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education, Rue du Trône 98, B-1050 Bruxelles  
Tel +32-2-549 09 80, Fax +32-2-549 09 89, [infodesk@swisscore.org](mailto:infodesk@swisscore.org), <http://www.swisscore.org>

## ◆ Seen from Brussels

### Outlook on an innovative “interim” year

The year 2009 has been declared “Year of creativity and innovation” by the European Commission (see Synopsis 2008/10); regarding new initiatives in research, innovation and education however, 2009 is expected to be rather uneventful. Indeed, notwithstanding all creativity and innovation, members of the European Parliament will be busy campaigning in anticipation to the European elections of June, and the “old” Parliament will not be very eager to start new initiatives it will not be able to adopt.

Creativity will certainly be needed for the appointment of a new European Commission: indeed, it is unclear at present under which rules it should be appointed, the ones from the Treaty of Nice or the ones from the Lisbon Treaty. Pending the vote by the Irish citizens and ratification by the Czech and Polish Presidents, the Lisbon Treaty is not in force, which means the Commission’s appointment follows the rules of the Treaty of Nice. The latter, however, foresees that the next Commission shall be composed of fewer Commissioners than there are Member States in the Union. To avoid a showdown between the 27 about which countries have to yield, all kinds of innovative scenarios are pulled out of the hat, including having an “interim Commission”. This uncertainty about the procedure will further hamper the work of the current Commission.

Work will nevertheless continue, if not on creative new initiatives, than certainly on implementing what has been decided previously and taking stock on what has been achieved so far. This thought is actually reflected in the programme of the Czech Presidency, which deals mostly with implementation and evaluation (p. 6). Several key initiatives of previous years will reach a certain maturity in 2009, for example the European Research Council (ERC), whose review is planned this year, or the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), which should be launching its first call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) at the end of March. The Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI) are busy implementing their Strategic Research Agendas (SRA), while the European Commission is planning further Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for the phase beyond 2010, as part of the economic recovery plan presented at the end of 2008 (p. 3). Another area of creativity will be the implementation of the renewed ERA, including the definition of topics for Joint Programming by the High Level Group (see Synopsis 2008/10).

In the education field, the Commission tabled two Communications just before the Christmas holidays. First, the new strategic framework for reaching the goals of the Lisbon strategy (p. 9) should be adopted by the Education Council in May 2009. Second, focus is given on the skills that will be needed in the next years (p. 10) and on the growing importance of the university-business partnership. The Czech presidency will also take an active part in the Bologna Process, especially in evaluating the implementation of the priorities of the Bologna process set for 2007-2009, and in preparing the interim report on the overall development for 1999-2009 as well as the supporting documentation for defining the vision of higher education beyond 2010. The implementation of common tools such as the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQARF) will also be important during 2009.

We hope that all this implementation activity will allow us to keep the Synopsis filled with interesting information throughout the year; otherwise, I guess we will just have to be creative...

### **New feature: “Dossier”**

To report on the current progress regarding the ongoing implementation of initiatives and programmes, SwissCore has decided to introduce a new feature called “Dossier” into the Synopsis. Under this heading, we will give a general update about such initiatives and programmes, and summarize in a structured form the manifold small information that SwissCore gathers through its regular contacts in Brussels. The first “Dossier” appears in this issue and concerns the Joint Technology Initiatives.

### **Dossier: Taking stock of the Joint Technology Initiatives**

The first four Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI) were launched at the end of December 2007 as a novel type of funding mechanism under FP7, followed shortly after by the fifth in May 2008. The basic idea of these JTI is to bring together the industry in a sector of strategic importance for Europe and to let it define the goals and instruments it would need to face future R&D challenges. In essence, it puts groups of companies (i.e. industry associations) in the driving seat of their own research programmes, specially tailored to their needs and requirements. This arrangement is achieved through the creation of a Joint Undertaking (JU) between industry and the European Commission (and sometimes Member States), based on Art. 171 of the EU Treaty. It is assumed that the two partners in the JU would contribute equally to the JTI, both financially and from their commitment.

As the majority of the JTI have been in place for at least a year, we decided to look at the developments that have happened during this time and the lessons that can be drawn from these first experiences. For this, each JTI will be analysed separately, preceded by a few general comments.

#### ***First experiences and encountered implementation problems***

In general, the experience of industry in the collaboration with the European Commission has been rather sobering. Indeed, in nearly all cases, the involved associations and companies expected a swift implementation of the JTI and a fast setup of the JU. Problems initiated when the legal services of the Council of the EU fixed the legal status of the JU executive offices as Community Bodies. This status brings about a string of regulations and rules on the recruitment and handling of staff that cannot be easily dealt with. The second complication came from the fact that the Commission was made accountable for the JUs as long as they were not deemed independent enough. As a result, the procedures and operations of the JTI are under the control of the relevant DGs in this initial phase, which led to some disgruntlement from industry regarding the speed at which the implementation was coming about.

Many potential call participants, mainly from academia, have been complaining about the limitation of the indirect costs (overhead) to 20% in all JTI. Many universities argue that this cap on overhead costs will prevent them from financing JTI projects properly and are discouraging their scientists to take part in the JTI calls. Another complication came from the industry side. Due to their respective specificities, the rules of participation for the JTI differ substantially from one another, and compared to the FP7 rules. This led to incomprehension and concerns amongst scientists interested in answering the JTI calls. Indeed, problems have arisen regarding the national funding proportion in Artemis and ENIAC, and the Intellectual Property Rules in IMI (see below). On the bright side, most of the JTI have launched calls for proposals that were answered enthusiastically by the scientific community, demonstrating that this type of arrangement between the private and the public sector can work.

#### ***Stage of advancement***

The specificities and development stage of the different JTI are the following:

- **ARTEMIS**: The most common form of computers in use today are embedded computers, hidden in all kind of devices. The ARTEMIS JU is reflecting this trend. It aims to reach a critical mass in R&D spending for embedded systems in Europe. The first call was launched in April 2008. As for the ENIAC JU the contribution to the total eligible cost from the European Commission has been set by 16.7%. This will be kept for the second call, which is foreseen at the end of February 2009. Even more than in the first call the evaluation criteria will stress factors like market innovation and market impact (which will be even weighted twice), or market analysis and exploitation plans. The time schedule for the nomination of the Executive Director is about the same as for ENIAC (see below). As for ENIAC a discussion with Eureka

countries on convergence and overlap between the Eureka cluster on embedded systems (ITEA 2) and the ARTEMIS JU will take place soon.

- **Clean Sky:** With the aim of building the clean planes of tomorrow, this JTI spends three quarters of its €1.6 billion budget by directly funding named beneficiaries, which are the so-called “ITD Leaders” and their associates. This seems to correspond to the “specificities” of the aeronautics industry, which is quite a tightly knit community. The first grant agreement for a Clean Sky project was signed on 19 November 2008, and further calls for proposals are foreseen in spring 2009. The search for an Executive Director is ongoing; meanwhile Liam Breslin from DG Research is acting as interim Director.
- **ENIAC:** The ENIAC JU is aimed at encouraging long term investments in nanoelectronics which are important drivers of innovation and growth, seen their use in many applications such as mobile communication or transport.

For the first call the budget amounted to €180 million. Half of the amount was coming from ENIAC Member States and from the European Commission, the other half from industry. A short time to contract and a high success rate have been specific for ENIAC (out of 12 submitted proposals 8 were selected). ENIAC will launch the second call on 26 February 2009. This time proposers will have to follow a two step approach with a Project Outline to be submitted by 15 April. The Full Project Proposal has to be submitted by 3 September. The ENIAC Work Programme 2009 is a complement to the one of 2008. In order to increase participation of SME some satellite projects could be introduced in the call 2009 as a novelty, targeting SME. Synergies with relevant Eureka cluster such as CATRENE will be checked in the near future. A final decision concerning the nomination of the Executive Director is expected by the end of March or beginning of April. This means that the successful candidate will most likely start working at the beginning of September. Meanwhile the JU is lead by Dirk Beernaert from DG INFSO.

- **Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI):** With a budget of €2 billion, this JTI has the goal to increase the speed and efficiency of the drug development process in the pharmaceutical industry. After a bumpy start overshadowed by a heated debate on IP rules, IMI has launched a first call for proposals on 30 April 2008. IMI has put in place a two-stage procedure: in the first stage, Expressions of Interest (Eols) are asked from the public organisations and SME that form the public consortium. In this first stage, participating industry consortia are involved in the evaluation of the public consortia proposals, a rather unorthodox way of proceeding. Nevertheless, the first step of the call was a success, as close to 150 Eols have been submitted. The second stage of evaluation is ongoing, and a second call is planned for the first half of 2009. The search for an Executive Director is under way; Alain Vanvossel from DG Research is leading the JU at interim.
- **Fuel Cells and Hydrogen:** The youngest JTI is lagging just a little behind the others; indeed, the first call was launched on 15 October 2008. The search for the Executive Director is also ongoing; the interim Director is Wiktor Raldow (DG Research).

### ***Outlook and conclusions***

Some possible new public-private partnerships have been announced in conjunction with the EU recovery plan adopted on 12 December 2008 by the European Council (see Synopsis 2008/10), Despite some first rumours that this could mean the creation of new JTI it seems at present time that there are too many doubts whether new JTI are the appropriate measure to deal with the effects of the economic crisis directly, seen the complexity of JTI in general and particularly the fact that their implementation would take about two years. It seems to be more likely that instruments within FP7 as well as existing JTI will be used to cover the needs of those industries that are mentioned in the recovery plan for the short term. These measures will mainly address the car industry (green car initiative), the manufacturing industry (factories of the future initiative), and the construction industry (energy-efficient buildings initiative).

In general, despite an uneasy start, the JTI have taken off quite well and are on the way to reach their expected “state of independence”, which would take them out of the hands of the Commission. But until then, a few conditions still have to be met, as much on the administrative

side (financial rules, model grant agreements) as on the human resource side (Executive Directors' appointments, staff recruitment). But only once the outcome of the first calls will be known will we know if the instrument JTI delivers on its promises.

Short factsheets with useful information on the different JTI can be found under:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/jtis/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/jtis/home_en.html)

### **Good marks and some criticism for the JRC**

On 15 January, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission published an independent review of the work it carried out under FP6. The independent review panel, led by Sir David King, former Chief Science Adviser to the UK Government, found that the work performed by the JRC is generally of good to excellent quality, and that the Centre provides invaluable services to the public at an international scale. More specifically, in the view of the panel, the JRC has increased its networking activities across Europe and internationally, enhanced the training of European researchers and helped Candidate Countries in the last steps of the EU accession process. With this, the JRC has implemented the recommendations made in the previous "Five-Year Assessment" published in 2003, which recommended a stronger orientation towards customers.

However, the present report also points at weaknesses of the JRC and makes some recommendations for improvements:

- The panel noticed that the structure of the JRC Work Programme changes with every Framework Programme, while the basic elements of its work remain the same. The JRC should keep a Work Programme structure that reflects its core activities, while adaptations to changing political priorities should be accommodated in substructures.
- As a result of its new customer-oriented mission, the JRC needs to develop a rolling five-year corporate strategy and formulate clear visions and goals.
- Surprisingly, the JRC seems to mainly operate in a reactive "policy support" mode, while it would have the knowledge and resources to play a proactive "policy advice" role. The European Commission should allow the JRC to play such a role (the report proposes the creation of an "Office of Chief Scientific Adviser", an idea that most likely comes from Sir King himself...).
- Human resources are critical for the JRC, so hiring procedures and career management schemes should be adapted as much as possible within the frame of the Staff Regulations; moreover, the quality of graduate training should be assured.
- The panel also sees potential for modernising the JRC, notably by setting up efficient mechanisms for coordination of activities within the organisation, by introducing contemporary knowledge management tools and by assessing the status of its infrastructures on a regular base.

The panel also identified topics within the JRC (food, health, foresight, environment, public security) whose position needs to be seriously analysed. For this, competence or sector-oriented external evaluations should be performed in addition to the legally required "Five-Year Assessment".

The independent experts seem to highly regard the work performed by the JRC's scientists and the reforms that have been implemented so far by the management; however, their criticism points at a substantial amount of work still to be done, especially on the organisational side.

The report of the independent experts can be found under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/downloads/2008\\_expost\\_fp6\\_evaluation\\_final\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/downloads/2008_expost_fp6_evaluation_final_report_en.pdf)

### A quantitative analysis of the ERA: the 2008 ST&C key figures

On 22 January, the European Commission published the Science, Technology and Competitiveness (ST&C) key figures 2008 in a revamped format. For the first time these figures provide an overview of the progress from 2000 to 2006 in the R&D investments in Europe as well as the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA). The key figures often include Associated Countries like Israel, Norway, Turkey and Switzerland, in addition to the regular comparators Japan and the US. The main findings are:

- The globalisation of R&D is increasing: In terms of domestic expenditure in R&D (GERD), number of researchers and number of patent applications, the share of the rest of the world is increasing compared to the ones of Europe, the US and the developed Asian countries Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. This is most likely due to China's and India's increase in these indicators.
- The overall R&D intensity in Europe is stagnating: Although all EU Member States have increased their GERD in the past six years, the concomitant increase in GDP led to a constant proportion of the average R&D spending at around 1.84%. The previously observed regional differences remain quite significant, but the highest growth in GERD was found in the weaker Member States. On the bottom line, the EU is still far from reaching the Lisbon target of 3%.
- The private sector investment in R&D is still too low in Europe: The gap of Europe with its usual competitors Japan and US is mainly due to lower private investments in R&D, which has even decreased in Europe in the reported period. The report attempts to get to the root of this difference, and finds that the US has both a larger and more research-intensive high-tech manufacturing industry than the EU.
- Europe is the largest producer of scientific publications: The EU increased its share of scientific publications from 37.6% to 39.7% in the reported period. However, the contribution of the US to high-impact publications is higher than that of the EU.
- The number of researchers is increasing in Europe: The EU has produced more higher education graduates and doctoral graduates than the US or Japan since 2000, and the growth rates were also much higher. The number of researchers has grown twice as fast in the EU as in the US, despite the fact that their total number is still lower. The proportion of researchers in the labour force has grown fast in Europe, but it remains low (0.56%) compared to the US (1.07%) or Japan (0.98%).

These are just the very general findings of the key figures, which are a goldmine of information on all kinds of indicators concerning diverse aspects of the ERA. The data in the second part of the report is conveniently divided along the five axes of the ERA Green Paper. While it is a rather thick document to read in its entirety, a glance at the appealing colour figures can give the needed background data to science policy specialists.

The Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures 2008 can be found under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/key-figures-report2008-2009\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/key-figures-report2008-2009_en.pdf)

### Priorities of the Czech Presidency in the field of R&D

Under the title "Europe without barriers", the Czech Presidency has presented its work programme at the beginning of January. In the field of research and development (R&D) this slogan becomes "ERA (European Research Area) without barriers". The focus will be set on the following four topics:

- Research Infrastructures: despite their efforts to push the adoption by the Council of the EU of all five initiatives resulting from the ERA Green Paper ("ERA initiatives", see Synopsis 2008/7), the French Presidency did not manage to get a political agreement on the new Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure (ERIC), due to differences of opinion regarding taxes. It will now be up to the Czechs to handle this issue, which is more in the remit of the Finance Ministers than of the Research Ministers. Moreover, the ESFRI Roadmap update should be adopted in the Competitiveness Council meeting of 5-6 March.

- Evaluation of results of investments into R&D: The Czech Presidency will organise a major conference on this topic, EUFORDIA, on 24-25 February in Prague. This will be combined with discussions in Council on the ex-post evaluation of FP6 and preparations for the mid-term evaluation of FP7. Council conclusions on this topic are expected at the meeting of 28-29 May.
- Ljubljana Process: this process, initiated under the Slovenian Presidency in 2008 and followed up by the French (see Synopsis 2008/7), led to the development of the 2020 Vision of ERA. The Czech Presidency aims at initiating the discussion on the implementation of this Vision, notably at the Informal Competitiveness Council meeting of 3-4 May in Prague. Formal conclusions on the Ljubljana Process are expected at the May meeting.
- Development of human resources in R&D and mobility of researchers: with this topic, the Czechs want to contribute to the mobility of researchers and an ERA without barriers, by pushing the implementation of the European Partnership for researchers (see Synopsis 2008/8) and through a series of high-level conferences.

In addition, discussions and decisions are expected during the Czech Presidency regarding two initiatives under Art 169, EMRP (see Synopsis 2008/10) and BONUS, as well as the politically loaded topic of the association of Russia to the Framework Programme. With this mixed basket of initiatives and topics, we look forward to an interesting Presidency in this otherwise rather dull electoral year.

The work programme of the Czech Presidency of the EU can be found under:

<http://www.eu2009.cz/scripts/file.php?id=6226&down=yes>

## **Publications**

### **The Science, Economy and Society Directorate's activities in 2008**

In a publication issued in January, Directorate L of DG Research presents a comprehensive and graphically appealing overview of its activities in 2008. Headed by Jean-Michel Baer, the Directorate is in charge of the FP7 Theme "Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities" (SSH) in the Cooperation chapter, as well as of the "Science in Society" (SIS) part of the Capacities Programme. Moreover, it implements measures to support the societal dimension of European research, as exemplified by the Communication Unit located in this Directorate. Besides allocating €129 million to 124 projects selected out of 570, it has developed a strategic roadmap for the period 2010-2013 for the SSH and SIS Work Programmes. Moreover, the following policy activities were implemented in 2008:

- An EC Recommendation with a Code of Conduct for nanosciences and nanotechnologies research (see Synopsis 2008/2);
- A pilot project for Open Access to EU-funded research results (see Synopsis 2008/8);
- The setting up of a foresight expert group on the EU in 2025, contributing to the Commission strategy for the budgetary period after 2013;
- A number of major conferences in the fields of SSH and SIS, often in collaboration with EU presidencies.

All these activities are nicely detailed in the brochure, and the last part presents the different Units of the Directorate with photographs of the staff. These will certainly be useful to support the networking efforts of scientists and policy makers alike at meeting and conferences where EU officials are present.

The brochure on the activities of Directorate L in 2008 can be found under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document\\_library/pdf\\_06/dirl-highlightsoftheyear2008\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/dirl-highlightsoftheyear2008_en.pdf)

### **Survey on the image of science in Europe**

In October 2008 the DG Research published a survey on the image of science and the research policy of the European Union which was coordinated by the DG Communication. The results of this study come from group discussions that were carried out in the 27 EU Member States during

Summer 2008. The study focused on the citizen's perceptions and attitudes relating to research issues in various areas that are currently the object of controversy and public debate. The results show that even though the interest in science varies, science is a highly valued notion and one that is intimately linked to the idea of progress. However, it also gives rise to some fears and reservations and is generally regarded as something complex and difficult for people to understand. European citizens have the impression that scientific research is weak and insufficient in their country due to too small research budgets, absence of political vision on the part of the State and a low degree of appeal for careers in research.

The study can be downloaded under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document\\_library/pdf\\_06/qualitative-study-rapport08012009\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/qualitative-study-rapport08012009_en.pdf)

### **Euraxess publishes a new newsletter as information service on researcher careers**

In January 2009, the Commission launched a new newsletter "Europe4Researchers" under the Euraxess services. The newsletter aims at providing researchers, research institutions, universities and industry regular news about career development opportunities in the European Research Area. Some news and focuses are given on new initiatives and events, related to researcher careers.

To subscribe to the newsletter, follow the link below and click on the hyperlink under "Go to the Registration page": [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm?l1=23](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm?l1=23)

## **◆ Innovation**

### **Switzerland ahead in the 2008 European Innovation Scoreboard**

As part of the EU Innovation Policy, the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) provides since 2001 an annual assessment of innovation performance across the EU, but also in other European countries such as Switzerland or Norway. For the 2008 EIS some methodological changes have been introduced which take into account service innovation and non-technological aspects of innovation as well as output indicators.

According to the latest issue of the EIS, Switzerland is heading the group of European innovation leaders, which consists of Switzerland, Germany, UK, Finland and Sweden. For most of the six areas Switzerland is above the European average, though for "Economic effects" only very narrow. Particularly strong is Switzerland in the field of intellectual property ("Troughputs") and regarding the number of companies which are introducing innovations either on the market or within their organisation ("Innovators"). Also the Swiss rate of improvement is above that of EU27.

Link to the 2008 European Innovation Scoreboard:

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=437&parentID=51>

### **European Commission discovers social innovation**

On 20 January, the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA), an internal Commission political think-tank, organised a workshop on social innovation. At a meeting following the workshop, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso met social innovation experts in order to explore ways how social innovation can be boosted. Social innovation is about the creation of new ways to meet social needs such as the delivery of healthcare, teaching and education, childcare or others. Social innovation and social entrepreneurship are also one of the main topics of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos which started just a couple of days after the EC workshop.

Following the workshop, the EC plans to further support social innovation, mainly through the structural funds. It will also encourage the creation of networks for further exchange and reflection on the topic.

A list of external participants can be found here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/81>

## **Publications**

### **European Innovation Progress Report 2008 sheds light on success and failure**

On 22 January DG Enterprise and Industry published the European Innovation Progress Report (EIPR) 2008. Like the INNO-Policy Trend Chart the EIPR tries to track innovation policy developments in all 27 EU Member States as well as in 12 more countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Croatia, Turkey, Israel, Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, USA and India). The EIPR is based on a set of country reports and analyses innovation policy from the perspective on innovation system failures. The comparison done in the EIPR takes into consideration the same groups of countries as the European Innovation Scoreboard, that is to say innovation leaders, innovation followers, moderate innovators and catching-up countries. One of the lessons learned from the countries that belong to the innovation leaders (Switzerland, Germany, UK, Finland and Sweden) is that successful innovation governance and policy are more than just powering money and creating organisations. However, the success of the innovation leaders is depending on constantly investing in evidence, experimenting with policy, benefiting from learning and raising ambitions. Stability and quality of the administration are other important reasons for a successful innovation system in those countries.

One chapter of the EIPR is dealing with the global financial crisis and innovation, assuming that the global downturn could create new opportunities for both, business and societal entrepreneurs. The innovation policy response to the new economic circumstances could be a "total innovation strategy", drawing together public and private, social and commercial innovation, and boosting demand for innovation. Demand-driven type innovation policies, such as the Lead Market Initiative, could therefore gain momentum in the present situation, according to the authors.

In addition to the sections charting recent policy trends and changes in innovation governance, the EIPR includes also an analysis of the different themes of the INNO Policy Trend Chart country reports for 2008. Topics include support for innovative start-ups and Gazelles as well as support of creativity and innovation.

The report can be found on the Pro Inno Europe website:

[http://www.proinno-europe.eu/admin/uploaded\\_documents/EIRP2008\\_Final\\_merged.pdf](http://www.proinno-europe.eu/admin/uploaded_documents/EIRP2008_Final_merged.pdf)

## **◆ Education**

### **Update of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training**

On 16 December, the European Commission tabled a Communication presenting its strategic vision for cooperation between Member States on the reform of their education and training systems. The Education and Training 2010 Agenda set in the context of the Lisbon Strategy for Education is therefore adapted. The Communication identifies immediate priorities for 2009-2010 as well as long-term challenges. Indeed, changes are needed to better prepare people to find a job, to help businesses find their staff and to support social inclusion. To achieve these goals, lifelong learning needs to become a reality for people in Europe so that they can acquire key skills at an early stage and update them throughout their life. For that, countries could learn from each other and develop common tools. The Commission also proposes to review the

benchmarks of the Education and Training 2010 Agenda, including early school leavers, graduates in maths, science and technology, reading literacy of 15 year-olds and participation of adults in lifelong learning, and will consider new benchmarks in more key areas such as tertiary education attainment, employability and student mobility. The first implementations are likely to come into effect in May 2009.

The European Commission's Communication "An updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training" can be downloaded under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news1108\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news1108_en.htm)

### **Better match between skills and labour market to be reached by 2020**

Another Communication called "New Skills for New Jobs" was tabled by the European Commission on 16 December. The aim is to improve European and national capacities to assess, forecast and anticipate the skill needs of EU citizens and companies. This will also help to ensure a better match between skills and future labour market needs as already mentioned in a previous Council resolution from 15 November 2007 and in the "Bordeaux communiqué" from November 2008 (see article on the Copenhagen Process in the Synopsis 2008/10).

This Communication presents a first assessment of the European future skills and jobs requirements up to 2020. It proposes a series of actions in order to organise this assessment on a permanent basis, to pool the efforts of Member States and other international organisations and to develop better information on future needs. According to the projections from CEDEFOP – the EU's vocational education and training agency – 19,6 million additional jobs are expected to be created between 2006 and 2020 in the EU-25. Three quarters of the jobs are likely to be in services requiring high and medium education levels. To support the Communication's aims, the Commission organised on 5-6 February a forum bringing together University and Business. As following steps, it is foreseen that CEDEFOP will publish a complementary study providing projections of skill supply which will help to identify skill mismatches and shortages. Finally, a comprehensive series of skill needs in 16 sectors should be presented at conferences in Member States in May 2009.

The Communication "New Skills for New Jobs" can be downloaded under the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news1110\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news1110_en.htm)

More information on the University-Business Forum can be found under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/business/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/business/index_en.html)

CEDEFOP's reports on skill needs can be downloaded under:

[http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/Information\\_resources/Bookshop/publications.asp?section=28](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/etv/Information_resources/Bookshop/publications.asp?section=28)

## ***Publications***

### **Erasmus Mundus II: two calls for proposals and new programme guide**

On 23 December 2008, the European Commission published a call for proposals under the programme Erasmus Mundus II, which has finally been adopted by the Education Council of the EU on 20-21 November 2008 (see Synopsis 2008/10). This is actually the third call for proposals under the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window, launched at the beginning of 2007 (see Synopsis 2007/1) and which is from 2009 onwards integrated as Action 2 "Partnerships" under the new Erasmus Mundus II programme, aims at promoting inter-institutional cooperation partnerships between universities from Europe and targeted Third-Countries. The deadline for the submission is 13 March 2009.

A second call under the Action 1 "Joint master and doctoral programmes" will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on 10 February (C 33 of 10/02/2009) with a deadline on 30 April 2009. The new programme guide for Erasmus Mundus II has just been published while the application form and annexes will be available later on in February.

Moreover, an Infoday is being organised by the Commission on 18 February and will present all actions of the programme. Live web streaming will be broadcasted under the website of the Executive Agency.

Swiss participation is foreseen only if a bilateral agreement with Switzerland is concluded (art. 9, §d of the legal decision establishing the programme).

The decision for the second phase of the Erasmus Mundus programme adopted in November 2008 has been published in the Official Journal of 19 December 2008. See the link below:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:340:0083:0098:EN:PDF>

Detailed information about the call under the External Cooperation Window can be found under:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/2008/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/call/2008/index_en.htm)

The programme guide can be downloaded under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc/call09/guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc/call09/guide_en.pdf)

More information about the Infoday and the live web streaming can be found under:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/mundus/infoday\\_2009\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/mundus/infoday_2009_en.htm)

### **Call for proposals for training actions in the audiovisual sector**

On 7 February, the European Commission published a call for proposals as support action for the networking and the mobility of students and trainers active in the audiovisual sector. Pan-European consortia of higher education institutions, training organisations and partners from the audiovisual sector can develop actions to improve the training of audiovisual professionals in a various range of fields from economic to script project development, integrating a European dimension. Institutions from Switzerland can also participate. The deadline for submission is 27 March 2009.

For detailed information about the call, please refer to the following document:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:031:0017:0018:EN:PDF>

### **European database for financial education**

The European Commission has published a European Database for Financial Education (EDFE) on the Europa website. The database is designed to reference the abundant financial education programmes from public and private European institutions. Searches can be made by various criteria such as name of provider, country, subject matter covered, target audience or method of delivery used.

The database can be consulted under: [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/fesis/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/fesis/index.cfm)

## **◆ SwissCore Küche**

### **New trainee at SwissCore: Sarah Daepf**

Since the 1 February 2009 Sarah Daepf works as a trainee for SwissCore and as of 4 February she took up her work in Bruxelles. She normally lives in Berne where she also graduated from University with a Master's degree in Modern and Contemporary English Literature and a Bachelor's degree in Sports.

The traineeship at SwissCore allow Sarah to combine several of her fields of interest, such as research, organisation and, of course, languages. She hopes that the traineeship will give her a general insight into the landscape of EU research programmes, and also to develop specific fields of interest. One of her goals is to find a position in Switzerland in the area of research, innovation and education policy and programmes.

Personal interests are reading of mainly English but also German and (translated) Russian literature, sports in general and climbing and skiing in particular.