

SwissCore Synopsis

July-August 2009

2009 / 7

◆ Seen from Brussels

- Full speed before the holiday in August 2

◆ Research

7th Framework Programme – FP7

- Dossier: the European Research Council two and a half years after its inception 3
- Dossier: do the FP7 calls move towards solving Grand Challenges? 4
- DG Research consults the stakeholders on possible simplification of FP7 5

EU Research Policy

- The Commission's first proposal for a Joint Programming initiative 5
- CREST working group report on internationalisation of R&D 6

Publications

- The World in 2025 – DG Research looks into the crystal ball 6
- Report on FP7 participation in 2007 and 2008 7
- FP programme evaluation website 7
- EDCTP Annual Report 2008 7
- European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) adopted 7
- Clean Sky info day in Brussels regarding first call 7

◆ Innovation

- Interim evaluation of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme 8
- EIT presents Annual Report and draft Work Programme 2010-2012 9

Publications

- ARTEMIS and ENIAC JU appointed their Executive Directors 10
- Fourth status report on European Technology Platforms published 10

◆ Education

- Public consultation on learning mobility of young people 10
- New Master Courses and Joint Doctorates added to the Erasmus Mundus Programme 11

Publications

- Growing success for Erasmus 12
- Key data on Education in Europe newly published 12

◆ SwissCore Küche

- New trainee at SwissCore: Florence Balthasar 13

This edition of the SwissCore Synopsis as well as previous editions are available on our website.

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, <http://www.swisscore.org>

Full speed before the holiday in August

Even if it is known that the summer break reduces the rhythm of work in Brussels, July was a busy month before the real start of the holiday in August. The new European Parliament sat for the first time on 14 July and elected its new President. Jerzy Buzek from the European People's Party (EPP; Christian Democrats) and former Polish Prime Minister will sit in this function for the two-and-a-half coming years. Few days later, the members of the different Committees were communicated. The Committee in charge of research (ITRE) will be chaired by the German Herbert Reul (EPP) and the one in charge of education (CULT) by the German Doris Pack (EPP). The newly composed ITRE Committee will meet next week. One of the first points on the agenda will be the reply to the report on the review of the European Research Council, which was delivered by the review panel to the Commission on 23 July (see Dossier, p. 3).

Nominations were not only happening at the European Parliament, but also at the European Commission, where Wolfgang Bartscher has been selected by the European Commission as Deputy Director-General for Research, replacing one of the two leaving Deputy Director-Generals Daniel Jacob and Zoran Stancic. The 49-years-old Austrian will be responsible for managing human and financial resources and for the internal control framework, as internal control coordinator. He will also be in charge of external audit policy and of the strategic planning of the Directorate-General's activities. Mr Bartscher is currently Director in DG Agriculture and responsible for the audit of expenditure. That might suggest that DG Research wants to improve the control on spending, as the European Court of Auditors' last report warned about the lack of controls on research money... (see Synopsis 2008/1). These are certainly welcomed skills as Potocnik's Cabinet is currently discussing possible adaptation of the 2% error tolerance in the spending of the budget (see Synopsis 2009/4).

After the transfer of several DG Research units to the Executive Agency of the European Research Council (ERCEA), which reached its autonomy mid-July (p. 3), and the appointment of the Executive Directors for ARTEMIS and ENIAC Joint Undertakings (p. 10), the organisation chart of both DG Research and DG INFSO will soon be updated.

The summer was also the occasion to table a large number of proposals and publications from which we hope to have selected the most valuable for our readers, such as the EC first proposal for a Joint Programming initiative on neurodegenerative diseases (p. 5), the progress reports on FP7 participation (p. 7) and on the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) (p. 9), the launch of a large batch of FP7 calls for proposal (see Dossier, p. 4) and the report on the interim evaluation of the first pillar of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) (p. 8).

Moreover, the European Commission organised an information day on the new Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) of the Recovery Plan and on Clean Sky (p. 7) and opened a consultation to collect suggestions for FP7 simplification in order to prepare a Communication expected for beginning 2010 (p. 5). A similar consultation for stakeholders is to be expected in spring 2010 in the framework of the interim evaluation of FP7.

On the education side, DG Education and Culture promoted during the summer the increasing interest in Erasmus activities (p. 12) as well as Erasmus Mundus new courses (p. 11) and opened a consultation to promote learning mobility for young people (p. 10).

September will certainly bring interesting news, such as the much expected but delayed results of the ERC second Starting Grants call...

Dossier: the European Research Council two and a half years after its inception

Already after two years, the achievements made by this first pan-european research funding organization are considered as a new benchmark around Europe yet. Therefore this dossier provides you with an overview on the current situation of the ERC.

Independent evaluation

The European Research Council (ERC) structures and mechanisms have been evaluated, as foreseen in the FP7 Specific Programme "Ideas". The independent panel in charge of the review published its report on 23 July. Appointed in February 2009 (see SwissCore Synopsis 2009/2), the panel, composed of six eminent experts, consulted during five months the scientific community, many research organisations and other stakeholders in order to collect input for improvement. Surprisingly, neither the Programme Committee members nor the National Contact Points have been consulted. The panel recognised that "the launch of the ERC constitutes a major improvement in relation of the existing funding structures in Europe, [...] establishing a new standard of excellence for Europe". Despite the promising start, the panel also expressed its concerns about the long-term sustainability of the scheme under the present operational conditions. Fundamental problems related to rules and practices regarding the governance, administration and operations are not adapted to the nature of modern "frontier" science management. A range of measures are recommended by the panel for immediate implementation for next year (improve transparency, streamline the governance structure and the administrative procedures, etc.), while an additional review conducted in two years time should determine the need for further major structural change, such as an Art. 171 structure to be ready for FP8. An initial response from the Commission is expected in October 2009.

It is to hope that the recommendations made by the review panel will help the ERC distancing from too much bureaucracy and reach more autonomy, in order to give it the chance to offer the ideal conditions for European basic research.

Latest institutional changes

Following the Scientific Council decision of 2006, Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell has taken over as Secretary General on 1 July 2009, replacing Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker who held the position from January 2007 to June 2009. Andreu Mas-Colell was to date Professor of Economics at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and Chairman of the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics. He is known for his highly successful initiatives as Minister of Universities, Research and the Information Society in Catalonia (2000-2003). He established a series of institutes, research infrastructures and a publicly funded innovative foundation (ICREA) for recruiting international top researchers. Mas-Colell's term of office will end in December 2011. Following the recommendations formulated by the review panel, Mas-Colell might become as well director of the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA). The ERCEA was formally established in December 2007 (see SwissCore Synopsis 2008/1) and reached its administrative autonomy on 15 July 2009.

Final results of the second Starting Grants call delayed

The results of the second call for Starting Independent Researcher Grant (StG), expected for August, have not been published yet.

Developments for 2010

Among many other FP7 calls (see p. 4), the Commission published the third call for Starting Grants on 30 July. As main adjustment, the financial balance between the Starting and Advanced Grants has been revised: more emphasis is given to young researchers who will be newly split into two categories. The panels will evaluate the young Principal Investigator either as "Starters" (2 to 6 years after PhD) or as "Consolidators" (6 to 10 years after PhD), taking into account the specific stage of the research career at the time of the application. The new Work Programme 2010 and the updated Guide for Applicants published at the end of July highlight these changes.

ERC info material has been updated on the ERC website. Printed versions are expected to be available for order in September. An updated version of the Guide for Applicants may be published for the ERC Advanced Grant call 2010 in the autumn 2009.

The evaluation report is available on the ERC website:

http://erc.europa.eu/PDF/final_report_230709.pdf

Information concerning the StG call 2010 (Work Programme 2010, Guide for Applicants, etc.) can be found on Cordis or on the ERC website:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage>

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.IdeasDetailsCallPage&call_id=286#infopack

Dossier: do the FP7 calls move towards solving Grand Challenges?

On 30 July the European Commission issued a large batch of calls for proposals under FP7. While most calls concern the “classical” Themes and activities within the Cooperation and Capacities sub-programme, it is interesting to note that “cross-thematic approaches” represent a substantial amount amongst the published calls. These are:

- A series of calls concerning the previously announced Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), “Green Cars (GC)”, “Factories of the Future (FoF)” and “Energy-efficient Buildings (EeB)” (see Synopsis 2009/3). Bringing together budget from up to four different Themes, these will be implemented either as coordinated (parallel evaluation and funding) or joint calls (common evaluation and funding).
- A coordinated call between Health and Food, Agriculture & Biotechnology addressing influenza (FP7-INFLUENZA-2010); this obviously responds to a so-called “emerging need”.
- A joint call of €34 million for multidisciplinary research projects for research on maritime activities (e.g. fishery) and preservation of marine ecosystems (FP7-OCEAN-2010), bringing together not less than five different Themes. A specifically dedicated information event on this call will take place on 16 September.
- A coordinated call for Africa (FP7-AFRICA-2010; €63 mio), implemented together with the African Union Commission to improve through research health as well as water and food supply for African populations. Local stakeholders are expected to participate in all the projects; thus, 2-3 partners must be established in an African country. The selected projects should also include research capacity-building activities. This call is one of the follow-up actions of the EU-Africa Strategic partnership, signed in December 2007 by the EU and the African Union (see also Synopsis 2008/9).

In addition to the proliferation of such “cross-thematic approaches”, a small revolution has taken place within the Theme “Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)”. Starting with the 2010 Work Programme and calls (that is, the current ones!), a new concept with “increasing focus on a challenge-driven approach” has been introduced in SSH research by the European Commission. As a result of this, “a coordinated inter-disciplinary approach”, “development of a critical mass of actors” and a “rigorous professional approach on managing research”, amongst others, will be included in the increasingly larger projects (so-called “large-scale integrating projects”, or IP). The introductions of such large, professionally managed projects in a traditionally highly diversified and profoundly academic field like SSH might scare off more than one scholar; therefore, the Commission reminds the eventual detractors that “traditional” topics will still be found in the SSH Work Programme, albeit in a smaller proportion. As part of this new approach, SSH research under FP7 should follow an indicative “Strategic Research Roadmap” covering the period 2011-2013 (see link below).

It is interesting to note that DG Research tends more and more towards bigger projects, as exemplified by the new SSH approach. Moreover, the idea of research topics based on “Grand Challenges” rather than on the “classical” Themes seems to gain ground, not only for the next Framework Programme, but also under FP7: the aforementioned “cross-thematic approaches” could be seen as such “Challenges”, be it the Ocean, Africa or the PPPs as part of the EU’s

economic recovery plan. It will be interesting to see if this trend persists or even increases with the 2011 calls.

The official list of the calls published on 30 July can be found under:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:177:0016:0018:EN:PDF>

The indicative Strategic Research Roadmap for SSH can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/indicative-strategic-research-roadmap_en.html

DG Research consults the stakeholders on possible simplifications of FP7

In January 2010, the European Commission plans to issue a Communication on possible ways to simplify the Research Framework Programme. Indeed, while the rate of participation in FP7 is generally high and qualitatively satisfying, many participants from the public and the private sector alike have been deploring the cumbersomeness of FP7's administrative procedures. In an attempt to alleviate the administrative burden, the Commission will examine possible simplifications of FP7 during the next year. To gather ideas on how such simplification could best be achieved, DG Research has launched on 24 July an online consultation, in which organisations, public authorities and also simple citizens can take part.

The consultation is divided into two parts: first, simplifications that do not need a change in the legal basis (i.e. Commission internal procedures, IT tools, guidance documents) are to be addressed, while in the second part, possible amendments and modifications to the legal basis (i.e. FP7 Decision, Rules for Participation, grant agreement) can be proposed.

While diverse informal inputs to simplify FP7 (and also future FPs) have been recently addressed to the Commission services by Brussels representatives of diverse countries and organisations, this online consultation provides a more direct way to voice one's concerns and to propose new and innovative ways to handle the administration of the Framework Programme.

The online consultation can be accessed under:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/fp-simplification/consultation_en.htm

EU Research Policy

The Commission's first proposal for a Joint Programming initiative

On 22 July, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a Council Recommendation on "measures to combat neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's, through joint programming of research activities". This proposal is a first pilot action for Joint Programming, a new type of research initiative that had been created by the Commission as a follow-up to the 2007 ERA Green Paper. The Communication on Joint Programming, published in July 2008, foresees that Member States would bring together their research capacities and funds to tackle a restricted number of "research challenges" faced by Europe. This type of collaboration would be voluntary and based on a variable-geometry principle (see Synopsis 2008/7).

With the present proposal, the Commission fulfils the task that was given to it by the Council of the EU (Council of Ministers) in December 2008, when ministers invited the Commission to propose a first Joint Programming pilot action on neurodegenerative diseases, to be started "as soon as possible in 2009". The tabled Recommendation invites the Member States to develop a common vision on cooperation in this field, define a Strategic Research Agenda with priorities, timelines and expected deliverables as well as to undertake a series of actions as part of the implementation plan (like the identification of areas of research activities, the exchange of best practices and information resources and the sharing of research infrastructures). Moreover, a common management structure should be established. The Commission, on the other hand, is ready to launch initiatives that assist Member States in the implementation of the common research agenda (including support to the management structure) and explore possible complementary measures.

While it seems that there is still a lot of work to be done, a number of implementation measures have already been prepared by an informal working group set up under the French Presidency. A Declaration of Intent has thus been signed by ten Member States and one Associated Country.

This first pilot initiative for Joint Programming might therefore keep up with the ambitious time plan that had been set by the Ministers in December 2008 and start the implementation work before the end of 2009. However, the approval of the Commission's proposal by the Council is still pending. On 22 July, the Commission also issued a Communication on a "European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias" which addresses the public health challenges associated with this disease and imbricates the Joint Programming proposal in a whole series of other measures and actions.

The Commission's proposal for Joint Programming of research in neurodegenerative diseases can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/documents/rec2009_379_en.pdf

The Communication on Alzheimer's can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/documents/com2009_380_en.pdf

CREST working group report on internationalisation of R&D

The European Commission recently published the report dated from April 2009 of the CREST working group on internationalisation of R&D. Under the rather long title "Exploring synergies through coordination policy measures between the EU Member States, Associated Countries and the European Commission", the report summarises the discussions that took place in 2008 in the frame of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and drafts some recommendations:

- Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of information gathering on S&T, mainly by expanding ERA-WATCH;
- Making optimum use of joint or coordinated measures and activities, for example by 'globalising' ESFRI and through the establishment of a network of 'science counsellors';
- Preparing the ground for reliable and comparable assessment and evaluation of S&T policy measures addressing international cooperation, mainly by developing and measuring relevant indicators.

People interested in S&T international cooperation will certainly find the discussions and the recommendations interesting, especially when assessing their own strategic options.

The CREST working group report can be found under:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/crest.pdf>

Publications

The World in 2025 – DG Research looks into the crystal ball

In a recent report entitled "The World in 2025 – Rising Asia and socio-ecological transition", the Directorate for Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities of DG Research summarises its visions for the future of Europe and the World in the next 15 years. The report is based on analyses by the Directorate's staff and colleagues from other DGs, as well as on inputs by a group of experts, whose views are detailed in an accompanying document.

The report is divided into the three sections "trends", "tensions" and "transitions" and identifies two major tendencies for the future, already named in the title: a more prominent role for Asia and the emergence of a new development model drawn from tomorrow's ecological and demographic challenges. Unlike many other Commission reports, this one is quite fascinating to read and will certainly give much food for thoughts to policy-makers at all levels. This report is scheduled to be discussed at the Competitiveness Council (Council of Ministers) of 24-25 September.

The summary report "The World in 2025" can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/the-world-in-2025-report_en.pdf

The full report including the experts' detailed views can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/indicative-strategic-research-roadmap_en.html

Report on FP7 participation in 2007 and 2008

The new European Commission report entitled “FP7 Subscription, Performance, and Implementation during the first two years of operation 2007-2008” provides an overview of the success rates for different types of participants and countries, based on 33’919 eligible proposals submitted in FP7 and Euratom. 5’477 of these proposals were retained for funding (worth a total of €10 billion requested in EC contribution), giving an overall success rate of 16 per cent. The study also highlights the improvement in the average time to contract, reduced to 317 calendar days in FP7 compared to an average of 384 days under FP6. The annexes present a full breakdown of the data analysed in the report.

The report can be consulted under:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/reports/2009/pdf/fp7-1st-two-years-subscription-performance.pdf>

FP programme evaluation website

Upon changing its Framework Programme (FP) evaluation system (see Synopsis 2009/2), the European Commission has now launched a website dedicated to this specific topic. All the reports and documents regarding the FP programme evaluation can be found on this site, as well as news and reports of conferences. There is also a section dedicated to the EU RTD Evaluation Network, a group of contact points for this subject in the different national and regional ministries and agencies.

The dedicated website for the evaluation of EU FPs can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm

EDCTP Annual Report 2008

EDCTP, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, recently published its annual report 2008, containing the most recent information on EDCTP-funded projects. A lot of statistics concerning the initiative can also be found in the report. As a reminder, EDCTP is the first initiative under Art. 169 of the EU Treaty and was started by DG Research under FP6. After a lot of difficulties, EDCTP seems now back on track and all the details of the now manifold running projects can be found in the annual report.

The Annual Report 2008 of EDCTP can be found under:

http://www.edctp.org/Annual_Reports.24.0.html

European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) adopted

On Monday 27 July, the Council of the European Union adopted a decision approving participation by the EU in the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP). EMRP is based on the ERA-NET Plus iMERA Plus and is the third initiative in which the EU will participate according to Art. 169 of the EU Treaty (the other two are Ambient Assisted Living and Eurostars). Contribution of the EU will be taken from the FP7 budget and will amount to €200 million. This sum will be completed with another €200 million from the participating countries (see also Synopsis 2008/10).

EMRP will be undertaken by 19 EU Member States plus Switzerland, Norway and Turkey.

For more information on EMRP, you can visit the website of the European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET):

<http://www.euramet.org/index.php?id=homepage>

Clean Sky JTI info day in Brussels regarding first call

On 10 July an info day was held in Brussels responding to Clean Sky’s first call for proposal. The call, which was closed on 30 August, addressed specific technology needs in the following areas: engines, fixed wing aircraft, aircraft systems, regional aviation and rotorcraft. Research in these areas is aimed at helping the aeronautics industry to reach specific targets for pollution and noise

reductions. The evaluation of projects will take place between 14 and 19 September and the negotiation of contracts is foreseen for October. Thus, time from application to contract would be less than four months.

Clean Sky will run until 2017 and will dispose of an overall budget of €1.6 million, half of it taken from the FP7 budget and the other half coming from industry (in-kind contribution). In the first call €26.5 million are available and will be distributed among 72 topics, each of them very narrowly defined. Thus, unlike other existing JU's and most calls in FP7, Clean Sky does not require applicants to form consortiums. Anyone, even a single small company or research institute, can apply for funding, which will be consequently rather small.

At the info day Clean Sky participants were welcomed by Interim Director Liam Breslin and the incoming Director Eric Dautriat has been introduced.

More information as well as presentations given at the Info day can be found here:

http://www.cleansky.eu/index.php?arbo_id=52&item_id=22

◆ **Innovation**

Interim evaluation of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) has a complex structure, consisting of three main pillars and various sub-programmes. This is in particular true for its first pillar, the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) which comprises an overall budget of €2.17 billion (2007-2013). EIP includes the Enterprise Europe Network, the financial instruments for SMEs, the eco-innovation funding scheme, but also measures to foster an entrepreneurship and innovation friendly culture as well as the promotion of enterprise and innovation related economic and administrative reforms.

Not surprisingly, one of the main findings of an interim evaluation report on EIP is that the EIP architecture is too complex. The report therefore recommends to streamline the CIP/EIP programme architecture. At the same time the intervention logic for each measure should be made more transparent, especially the link between the activities within EIP and the anticipated effects on competitiveness and innovation at EU level (for many people it is not always clear what the single activities undertaken within EIP have to do with the overarching goal which is to improve conditions for enterprises in Europe and thus to foster competitiveness and innovation). By applying this fundamental recommendation, the overall coherence of the programme could be improved and it could be demonstrated where the programme has actually impact.

Rather few concrete conclusions and recommendations are made regarding the Enterprise Europe Network, which is one of the main activities in the CIP:

- The services of the network should be kept under review in case new issues emerge, or a refocusing of efforts is required.
- An overlap with the National Contact Points (NCP) for FP7 is acknowledged, as Enterprise Europe Network shares the objective of promoting SME access to the EU RTD Framework Programme. A solution for this problem is still to be found.
- The feedback element of the network should be further developed and the network should be kept informed of the outcomes of the feedbacks given by SMEs on EU policy. The use of the network within the Commission as a vehicle for information to and from SMEs should be further encouraged.
- Some grey area between the policy responsibilities of the European Commission and the implementation role of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) needs to be clarified.
- Enterprise Europe Network has the potential to become an EU brand, but further efforts to increase its visibility need to be undertaken.

In another chapter the evaluation report is assessing the financial instruments which have the biggest budget of all EIP measures and which are managed by the European Investment Fund

(EIF). The two main financial instruments supported by EIP are underpinned by a strong market failure rationale. One scheme is addressing the financing constraints faced by start-up and growing SMEs (High Growth and Innovative SME Facility, GIF) and the other one allows lending for all kind of SMEs that are in need of financing (SME Guarantee Facility, SMEG). Thus, EIP offers a mix of pro-cyclical (venture capital) and counter-cyclical (guarantees) instruments. Regarding the financial instruments the report concludes the following:

- The EIP financial instruments should address long term improvements and not focus on crisis management (as there was a temptation to do so in the current crisis). Seen their budget, the EIP financial instruments would also be too small relative to reductions in availability of finance due to the current economic crisis.
- There is an obvious risk of overlap between programmes of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) managed by DG Regional Policy and EIP financial instruments. The 2007 to 2013 Structural Fund Regulations place significant emphasis on the use of Venture Capital and Loan Fund instruments. This includes joint initiatives with the European Investment Bank (EIB) such as Joint European Resources for Micro and Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE) or the Joint Action to Support Micro Finance in Europe (JASMINE).
- Given the variety of financial instruments that are managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF), the EIF should develop a clear and visible deal allocation policy for its different mandates (EIP, JEREMIE, JASMINE etc.). At the same time the communication with financial intermediaries should be improved so that they have a better understanding of the rules governing the financial instruments. The report also proposes to introduce the requirement of press releases in local newspapers on signature of contract between EIF and financial intermediaries. This would increase the visibility of EIP activities at a local level in Europe.

More information on EIP, its work programme and activities can be found on this website:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip_en.htm

EIT presents Annual Report and draft Work Programme 2010-2012

Not much has been heard of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) during the last couple of months, as the first call is under way and therefore communication has been very limited. Some of the few exceptions are the EIT Annual Report 2008, published on 23 June 2009, and a draft version of the triennial Work Programme 2010-2012, published on 3 July and sent to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on 16 July, which each may address an opinion to the EIT Governing Board. Especially the draft Work Programme gives some hints on ideas that are currently discussed within the EIT Governing Board. It contains for example the information that an EIT Foundation will be housed in the Netherlands, according to a decision of the Governing Board. A novelty is the EIT Academy for Entrepreneurship, to be launched in the second half of 2010. This Academy will include a number of world leaders in innovation and entrepreneurship as well as leaders from industry to interact with the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) in a range of advisory, coaching and mentoring roles. An EIT Award for entrepreneurship in universities is planned. The launch event for the first KICs will be held in Spain in spring 2010 during the Spanish EU Presidency. The EIT intends to increase its communication efforts, especially on a world scale. On an international stage the China expo in Shanghai in May 2010 will be used to launch and promote the KICs. EIT communication will become in general more interactive and more intense.

The deadline for the first EIT call was on 27 August. Two or three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) will be selected by the end of 2009.

The website of the EIT is now clarifying that Switzerland is not a participating state within the meaning of Article 2.3 of the Regulation (EC) 294/2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. However, according to the website a Swiss organisation can, with the approval of the Governing Board, be a partner in a KIC and can host a co-location centre. Approval for this is not required at the proposal stage. A Swiss organisation cannot be the coordinator of a KIC proposal.

The website also contains some important and new information for proposers concerning certain parts of the proposal.

The Annual Report, the draft Work Programme 2010-2012 as well as the note for proposers can be found on the EIT website:

http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/Official_documents/EIT_Draft_Triennial_Work_Programme_2010-2012.pdf
http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/Official_documents/EIT_Annual_Report_2008.pdf
[http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/kics/Proposal_Part_A3 - KIC financing and funding 2009 07 30.pdf](http://eit.europa.eu/fileadmin/Content/Downloads/PDF/kics/Proposal_Part_A3_-_KIC_financing_and_funding_2009_07_30.pdf)

Publications

ARTEMIS and ENIAC JU appointed their Executive Directors

Eric Schutz, currently Vice President European affairs of ST Microelectronics, has been appointed as Executive Director of the ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking (JU). He took office on 1 September 2009 and will be accountable to the Governing Board of the ARTEMIS JU.

During the initial and intermediate period of the ARTEMIS JU, Kostas Glinos and José Cotta, both from DG INFSO, have taken up the Interim Executive Director position.

On 1 September Andreas Wild started as Executive Director of the ENIAC JU, taking over from the Interim Executive Director Dirk Berneert (DG INFSO). Wild holds a PhD in Atomic Physics and has a track record in the nanoelectronics industry, having worked in positions such as European ASIC Engineering manager, R&D Lab Manager and Chief Technologist of the Semiconductor Products Sector. Most recently he worked for Freescale Semiconductor.

Fourth status report on European Technology Platforms published

Each year the European Commission publishes an overview on all European Technology Platforms (ETP) and their achievements during the past year. So far 36 initiatives have been recognised by the European Commission as official ETPs. ETPs were set up as industry forums with the aim of defining medium to long-term research and technological goals and roadmaps to achieve them. ETPs take considerably influence on the content of FP7. Some ETPs have been drafting the three EU Public Private Partnership Initiatives «Green Car», «Factories of the Future» and «Energy efficient buildings». Several ETPs have participated in the launch of Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI). Moreover, ETPs are having increasingly impact on policy initiatives, such as the Lead Market Initiative or the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) and some of them have linkages with Eureka clusters and international initiatives. The Commission participates in ETP events as an observer.

The ETP status report can be found here:

http://bookshop.europa.eu/eubookshop/download.action?fileName=KINA23729ENC_002.pdf&eubphfUid=10576423&catalogNbr=KI-NA-23729-EN-C

On 13 October an ETP conference will discuss further the findings of the report. More information on the conference which will take place in Brussels can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/policy/eu_tech_platform_en.htm

◆ Education

Public consultation on learning mobility of young people

In order to offer all young people more and better opportunities to go abroad for learning, the European Commission launched, at the beginning of July, a public consultation in order to receive input on the best strategies on how to achieve this objective. Published in the form of a Green Paper, this consultation is the answer to the call launched by the Education, Youth and Culture Council in November 2008, following the conclusion report of the High Level Expert Forum established in January 2008 with the mandate to explore any possible expansion of

mobility. Additionally, other political and experts circles reflected on the benefits of learning mobility, such as the Bologna Process which set a goal at its last Ministerial Conference in April 2009 (see SwissCore Synopsis 2009/4) that 20% of graduates should be partly trained abroad by 2020. There is already a clear consensus in supporting mobility, in particular for young people. Now concrete strategies have to be set.

The scope of the Green paper is very broad. It addresses the situation of all young people between 16 and 39 years old in all education and training contexts, i.e. at school, at Bachelor, Master and PhD levels, but also in internships, apprenticeships, youth exchanges, volunteer work or vocational training, within or outside the European Union.

The consultation is therefore structured in three parts:

- The first section deals with issues related to the preparation of a mobility period, e.g. information, motivation, language training, etc.
- The second part tackles issues related to the period spent abroad as well as some follow-up aspects such as validation and recognition of the experience.
- The third section presents proposals for a new partnership on youth mobility.

Additional information is provided for all three sections, such as examples of good practice or related initiatives. Finally, questions are raised after each issue in order to stimulate the debate such as:

- How can we convince more young people to go abroad to acquire new knowledge, skills and experience?
- What obstacles to mobility do we have to overcome?
- How can all stakeholders join forces in a new partnership for learning mobility?

Notwithstanding all current mobility programmes, tools and initiatives, going abroad with the support from EU programmes remains the exception, representing only 0,3% of 16 to 29 year-olds in 2006.

The deadline for inputs is set on 15 December 2009. Responses can be submitted via an online or paper questionnaire. It is to hope that the consultation will help find good and new creative ideas to increase the mobility of young people in the future and that DG Education and Culture will coordinate the follow-up with other Commission initiatives launched e.g. by DG Research or DG Employment.

The Green Paper “Promoting the learning mobility of young people” can be consulted under:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/mobility/com329_en.pdf

You can access the publication consultation under:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

New Master Courses and Joint Doctorates added to the Erasmus Mundus Programme

As a result of the first call for proposals under the Erasmus Mundus Programme’s second phase (2009-2013, EMII) published on 10 February (see SwissCore Synopsis 2009/1), the European Commission selected 50 Masters Courses and 13 Joint Doctorates, new element within EMII, to be added to the already existing courses.

Since 2004, the programme aims at enhancing quality in higher education and at promoting worldwide intercultural understanding by providing financial support for institutions and scholarships for individuals. Currently, Erasmus Mundus includes 116 Masters offering scholarships. For the 2009-2010 academic year, the European Commission announced the funding of nearly 10’000 Erasmus Mundus scholarships which should allow 8’385 students and academics to come to study or teach in Europe and 1’561 Europeans to spend time at partner institutions in countries outside the EU.

This is the first time that Masters applications are including non-EU universities as full partners in their consortium. Therefore, 58 non-EU universities mainly from India, Canada, Switzerland and China are now involved, representing around 15% of the Masters Courses partners.

The most popular area of the new Masters Courses is engineering and technology, followed by social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences and agriculture.

The list of the selected courses (Action 1a and 1b) is available under:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/2009/selection/selection_action_1_2009_en.php

Practical information about Erasmus Mundus can be found under:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/index_en.php

Publications

Growing success for Erasmus

For the last 22 years, student exchanges under the Erasmus scheme, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), have been continuously growing. In 2007-2008, 5.2% more students benefited from the programme, all schemes included, compared to the previous academic year. The latest figures published at the end of July revealed that since the Erasmus launch in 1987, some 1'846'600 students have undertaken a study period under the Erasmus programme. In 2007-2008, 162'695 Erasmus students studied abroad and 20'002 had traineeships (one of the new measures) abroad. The countries sending most Erasmus students in relation to their student population are Liechtenstein (6,43%), Austria (1,77%), the Czech Republic (1,54%) and Spain (1.41%). The biggest senders in term of number of students are Germany (23'553), Spain (23'107), France (22'556) and Italy (17'562). Social sciences, business studies and law are the most popular subject areas, followed by humanities and arts, engineering, manufacturing and construction. In 2007-2008, the average monthly grant increased by 26% compared to the previous year, reaching the amount of 242€.

On the basis of the published figures, the Commission assumes that the number of students participating in the Erasmus scheme has exceeded 2 million in the middle of the year 2009.

Not being part of the LLP, Switzerland is currently only participating in student exchanges. In 2007-2008, 2151 students from Switzerland studied abroad, while 2485 foreign students studied in Swiss institutions.

Detailed statistics, including breakdowns by country (except Switzerland), can be found under:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus/doc920_en.htm

Data concerning exchanges with Switzerland can be found under:

<http://www.crus.ch/information-programmes/erasmus/rapports.html?L=1>

Key data on Education in Europe newly published

On 16 July, the European Commission presented a report identifying major positive trends and serious challenges for the different education systems across Europe, entitled "Key Data on Education in Europe". The report produced by the Eurydice Network aims at giving a comprehensive overview of the organisation and functioning of the education systems of 31 European countries, namely all those involved in the Eurydice Network under the Lifelong Learning Programme (the 27 EU Member States, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey), based on 121 indicators.

As comparative analysis on how the education systems are organised, the human and financial resources invested in them, teaching processes and qualifications awarded, the publication outlines several positive developments such as the increasing enrolment of four-year-olds in pre-school education, the significant rise in the number of students in higher education and the general trend towards longer periods of compulsory schooling. It also highlights a few important future challenges to be immediately addressed. These include demographic change, which means both less children of school age in Europe and teacher retirement on a very large scale in many countries. Finally, it highlights a universal trend to greater schools autonomy in Europe.

The report is available online:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/key_data_series/105EN.pdf

New trainee at SwissCore: Florence Balthasar

Florence Balthasar has joined the SwissCore team on 1 September and will work as a trainee for the upcoming months. She graduated in June from the Free University of Brussels (ULB) with a Master degree in Multilingual Communication/International Relations and also has a degree in Translation from the University of Geneva (ETI). During her Master studies, a traineeship at the Belgian National Agency in charge of implementing the EU education programmes highly raised her interest in the EU education policy. The traineeship at SwissCore is for her an ideal opportunity to go more in depth into this area while examining the specific challenges inherent to Switzerland, as well as to get familiar with the European research and innovation policy and programmes. Her professional aim is to find a position in the field of education policy in Switzerland or in Brussels, a city she really enjoys living in, among others for its international character and all the cultural opportunities it offers. Her fields of interests are theater, literature, traveling, foreign languages and sport, mainly skiing and diving.