



Brussels News Update

September 2008

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Commission launches open access pilot project

The European Commission has launched a pilot project which will see the results of EU-funded research in seven key subject areas made freely available online. According to the Commission, the initiative should raise the visibility of European research, and drive innovation by ensuring that businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have access to the latest research results.

The pilot project will cover certain areas of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), namely health, energy, environment, information and communication technologies (ICTs), research infrastructures, socio-economic sciences and humanities, and science in society. These areas were chosen because of their high societal impact and their importance in helping Europe address major challenges such as climate change.

Between them, the subject areas targeted account for some 20% of the total FP7 budget. Recipients of FP7 grants in these fields will be required to deposit peer-reviewed research articles arising from the projects in the open access repository of their choice. A new clause added to the grant agreement in the chosen subject areas requires researchers to ensure their articles are freely available either 6 or 12 months after publication, depending on the subject area. In fast moving fields such as energy, environment, health and ICT, the deadline is six months. For research fields in which results remain relevant for longer, such as in the social sciences and humanities, the deadline is 12 months. This period will give publishers the chance to get a return on their investment. The pilot will run until the end of FP7 in 2013.

Sources: <http://cordis.europa.eu1> <http://europa.eu1>

Link: <http://www.euractiv.com1>

Practical Guide to EU research funds

The European Commission has published a new guide, the *Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation*, to help better use of European research, innovation and cohesion funding. In addition to practical information on combining the different funding sources, the guide includes a description of each fund, advice for policy makers and an innovative Checklist and Scorecard. These allow potential beneficiaries to quickly identify exactly how they can access European funding at every stage of a project.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu2> **Link:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net>

European water research day at EXPO 2008

Past, on-going and future EU research activities in the field of water research were presented during the European water research day in the framework of the Zaragoza International Expo 2008 'Water and Sustainable Development', paving the way for the identification of knowledge gaps and future challenges for sustainable solutions. The main findings and impacts of European water-related research activities have been summarised. In addition, the content of the 2009 Call for proposals of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) regarding water-related research was also presented.

Sources: <http://www.lswn.it> <http://europa.eu2>

The EuroRis-Net project

The European Research Infrastructures Network of National Contact Points (EuroRis-Net) brings together 35 partners from EU Member States, Associated countries and Russia, Canada and South Africa. The project is funded by the European Commission, under the FP7 Capacity Programme, theme Research Infrastructures for the period of four years. The project's main aim is to emphasize the Research Infrastructures' (RIs) key role in the future development of European science and to put the RIs in the spotlight of the European Research Area (ERA), through several coordination activities and high level services offered by the Network. By developing a co-ordination mechanism for stimulating closer cooperation among NCPs, the project will foster proposals for optimization of the use and development of the best RIs existing in Europe and for creation of new RIs of pan-European interest in all fields of science and technology.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu3>

New marine and maritime research strategy

The European Commission has adopted "A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research". The Strategy's objective is to overcome fragmentation of the European marine and maritime research landscape by capacity building, increased integration across traditional research sectors and increased cooperation of all actors in this area.

Sources: <http://cordis.europa.eu4> <http://europa.eu4>

Link: <http://www.euractiv.com2>

European energy policy reviewed

The EU's energy policy has for the first time been reviewed and critiqued by the International Energy Agency (IEA). The review urges the Commission to allocate more funding to non-nuclear energy research in a recasting of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The report asks that the Commission address a marked imbalance in the allocation of funds to energy research projects. The IEA also advises that more efforts should be directed at demand-side research. The EU's SET-Plan, laid out in March 2007, was praised and the Commission was encouraged to implement it with all speed, in particular by 'following up the proposals on a better governance structure to build synergies across the EU and national research programmes and between public and private energy research and development', and by 'financing, together with the Member States and industry, its proposed industrial initiatives and research efforts as part of the SET-Plan to increase the further development uptake of all low-CO2 technologies in the EU'.

The IEA review also concluded that the European Commission should continue its efforts to bring more private and national funding to EU energy research projects, and that it should strive to balance the nuclear and non-nuclear sides of the programme. Energy proposals are currently under discussion between the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu5>

TESTNET

Towards European Sectorial Testing Networks for Environmental Technologies (TESTNET) aims to enhance the application of Environmentally sound Technologies (EsTs) through the development of a European structure for the production of reliable and independent performance data for EsTs. TESTNET will cover two technology areas: "water technologies" and "clean production", while environmental monitoring will be included in these technologies. The strategic objective of TESTNET will be met through: the identification of promising EsTs and innovative solutions for verification; the design of a system for testing and verifying new and existing EsTs; validation of the functionality of the verification system for the selected technology areas and for different types of organisational solutions; a sustainable follow-up of the verification system and networks, including a financially sound and reliable structure and organisation as well as the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the networks.

The European Commission is currently examining the best concept for a European EsT testing programme. The outcome of this study will be analysed and used as input in TESTNET. Lessons learned from the EPA Environmental Technology Verification programme in the United States will also be incorporated in the project. A consortium of European sector organisations and leading research institutes in the field of EsTs has been composed to ensure that the tasks of TESTNET are completed.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu6>

More sustainable energy in road transport targets

The Industry Committee championed more sustainable biofuels when it decided not only to support the Commission proposal that by 2020 at least 10% of the energy used in road transport should be from renewables, but also to insist that at least 40% of that renewable energy would be from more sustainable sources than traditional biofuel. This share would include hydrogen, electricity and "second-generation" biofuels, made from waste or algae, for example.

MEPs in the committee also decided to set an interim target of 5% by 2015 for renewables in road transport fuel. They maintained the Commission's 2020 target for Member States to ensure that renewables account for at least 10% of final energy consumption in road transport.

Sources: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu1> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu2>

LinkS: <http://www.euractiv.com3> <http://www.euractiv.com4>

ERC Advanced Grant recipients announced

The European Research Council (ERC) has released details of the first round of recipients of its Advanced Grants in the physical sciences and engineering fields. Some 105 of the almost 1,000 applicants from these disciplines have been allocated funding. The ERC received a total of 2,167 applications for its Advanced Grants; details of the successful candidates in the life sciences, and social sciences and humanities fields will be published in the coming months.

The physical sciences and engineering grant recipients will be carrying out research in a diverse range of fields. Their host institutions are located in 19 countries in the EU and the countries which have signed up to the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The ERC recently published its second call for proposals for its Starting Grants, which are targeted at researchers in the early stages of their career. The second call for proposals for the Advanced Grants is due to be launched in November of this year.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu7> **Link:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net2>

New FP7 service on Article 169 initiatives online

CORDIS, the Community Research and Development Information Service, has launched a new service providing detailed information on the Article 169 Initiatives. These four initiatives, supported under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), aim to integrate Member States' national research efforts in certain areas and thus pooling resources and preventing duplication.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu8>

European Union Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS 2008) took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 19 to 26 September. About 130 students aged between 14 and 21, from 39 different countries, competed for prizes and honorary awards. This year's contestants presented their projects in the fields of sustainable energy production, new pharmaceuticals, protection of the environment, modern health care products and new ways of transportation, as well as more traditional areas such as physics, mathematics and chemistry. Professional patent agents and innovation consultants evaluated ideas and projects.

In addition, to mark the EUCYS's 20th anniversary, the European Commission decided to award a Prize for International Cooperation, using this special event as a vehicle to promote international cooperation amongst young people with a vested interest in science.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index_en.cfm?contest=2008&pg=press

Cooperation Network of National Contact Points

The overall objective of the FOOD-N-CO proposal is to improve the quantity and quality of participation of International Cooperation Targeted Countries (INCO) in Food Quality and Safety related research in the Sixth and Seventh EU Framework Programmes. Participation of INCO-Countries has, so far, been disappointing, despite a dedicated budget and the presence of highly skilled research communities in those countries.

Organisations representing these countries as National Contact Points, have indicated that this is mainly a result of lack of information and lack of contacts. FOOD-N-CO will improve the participation of INCO-countries by building a strong network of National Contact Points in both European and INCO-Countries, by intensifying the relationships between European and INCO-Countries and by supporting the research communities in INCO-Countries with tailor-made information and services.

The network will be built through a series of training sessions, information days, national training sessions, a brokerage event and a final INCO Conference. FOOD NCPs from INCO countries will be supported and trained. They will have the opportunity to promote their national research communities in various European countries and will learn to find the way into FP6 and FP7 projects. By mapping the competences and challenges in the various countries, a clear picture will arise, enabling EU projects to find the right partners in INCO countries.

At the final INCO Conference a Best Practice Guide will form the basis for further improvement of international cooperation in future Framework Programmes. The consortium consists of 7 EU Member States and 14 INCO-Countries from all parts of the world.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu10>

FP7 Energy Research

Four calls for proposals are scheduled to be published under the Energy theme of the Cooperation Programme of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu5>

Catalogue of first FP7 environment projects published

The EC has produced a publication containing a summary of all 72 of the projects funded under the first call under the Environment theme of FP7 (FP7-ENV-2007-1) which closed in May 2007. The document is useful for potential applicants to get a feel for the type of projects chosen and to be aware of what had already been funded. It is also a source of information for applicants who are looking for experienced partners in a certain research field and for other stakeholders, such as policy makers interested in research in certain fields.

Sources: <http://cordis.europa.eu12> (under Miscellaneous publications)
<ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu13>

Call for proposals for ESF Research Conferences

The European Science Foundation has invited scientists to submit proposals for conferences to take place in 2010 in Europe within the framework of the ESF Research Conferences Scheme. Conferences in the following fields will be funded:

- Biology: molecular biology at the interface with other disciplines
- Energy and Environment
- Mathematics (for conferences in 2009 and 2010)

- Physics/Biophysics and Environmental Sciences
- Social Sciences and Humanities

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu13>

ERC's Starting Grants: second call

The European Research Council (ERC) has opened the second call for its Starting Grants, which are intended for researchers with three to eight years experience since gaining their PhD. The first Starting Grant call was hugely popular: over 9,000 applications were submitted for around 300 grants. The second call has different rules and eligibility criteria and staggered deadlines depending on the domain of the proposal: the physical sciences engineering - 29 October 2008; social sciences and the humanities - 19 November; and health and life sciences - 10 December.

Source: <http://erc.europa.eu6>

Several FP7 calls launched

The European Commission has published a number of calls for proposals under the specific programmes Cooperation and Capacities of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The calls address the following areas:

Cooperation:

Security; Space; Health (two calls); Environment (including climate change); Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology; Energy (three calls); Socio-economic sciences and humanities (three calls); Biorefinery joint call (two sections), including energy; environment (including climate change); food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology; and nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies.

Capacities:

Research for the benefit of SMEs (three calls); Activities of international cooperation (four calls); Science in society; Regions of knowledge.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu14>

COST open call: next deadline for pre-proposals

The next closing date for the open call for European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) is scheduled for 26 September 2008. Researchers are invited to submit preliminary proposals in one of the following 9 scientific domains:

- Biomedicine and molecular bioscience;
- Chemistry and molecular sciences and technologies;
- Earth system science and environmental management;
- Food and agriculture;
- Forests, their products and services;
- Individuals, societies, cultures and health;
- Information and communication technologies;
- Materials, physical and nanosciences;
- Transport and urban development.

Interdisciplinary proposals will be assessed separately. Preliminary proposals should involve at least five COST countries and can be submitted online. They should provide a short overview of the proposal and its intended impact. After assessment, selected proposers will be asked to provide a full proposal. Approximately 75 full proposals will be invited for final selection as one of approximately 25 new COST actions, each of which will receive funding in the range of €100,000

per annum for four years.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu15>

ERANIS international brokerage event

The EU-funded ERANIS ('Strengthening cooperation between European Research Area and Newly Independent States (NIS)') project is organising an international brokerage event on 10 October in Warsaw, Poland. The event is directed at organisations from ERANIS partnering NIS including Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Moldova and interested scientific institutes and enterprises from the European Union. In four parallel thematic sessions, it will cover four research themes, namely:

- information and communication technologies (ICT);
- nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP);
- food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology (KBBE);
- energy.

The objectives are to create the possibility for NIS organisations to establish new strategic research, technology and development (RTD) partnerships; to present concrete project ideas seeking to utilise their competence in cooperation with scientific institutes and enterprises from European Union; to bring together the skills and knowledge of the potential consortia members from the EU and NIS; to give partners from NIS the possibility for an adequate international exploitation of their research results, benefiting Europe at large; to promote and facilitate technology transfer from NIS to the European Union and vice versa; and to transfer the experience, expertise and contacts between successful project coordinators from other Member States to NIS.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu16>

WORKSHOPS:

Financial Management in EU Projects

A workshop on the financial guidelines for EU-funded research projects in FP7 addresses the financial rules and practices of the Cooperation and Capacities Programmes of FP7 and brings out the differences and similarities between FP6 and FP7.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu17>

University autonomy and globalisation of academic careers

This is a workshop on the potential, the limitations of university autonomy and the globalisation of academic careers.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu18>

FP7 and research projects

There are two training sessions available for all research projects leaders, persons in charge of research projects management, from public, private and non-profit sector (Universities, research centres, public authorities, enterprises including SMEs, associations active in the field, etc.)

- **Managing research projects financed within FP7** Offers a training session to maximise understanding of FP7 projects management works, how to optimize the final award of the grant in following management rules and applying good practices, presented by FP7 experts.
Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu19>
- **Project preparation and proposal writing within FP7** Offers a training session on understanding how FP7 works and how to optimize the chances of success in the application for grants.
Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu20>



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