

JUNE 2010

Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

“BILAT-USA” AND “LINK2US”

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IN THIS ISSUE



Recent European Research Area (ERA) and U.S. S&T news, with updates on the U.S. COMPETES Act and EU Commissioner's visit to the U.S.

In addition, look for Project updates including a review of the first BILAT-USA event, the FP7 People Programme, a new S&T Agreement Survey, and a spotlight on the Euraxess Link USA program and U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI).

ERA NEWS



EU Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn Makes First Visit in New Post to the U.S.

Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn visited Washington to meet U.S. research, innovation and science policymakers in her first trip outside the EU since taking up her new post. The trip took place from 27 May – 1 June 2010. Geoghegan-Quinn met with key U.S. counterparts such as Dr. John Holdren and Dr. Steve Chu, among others.

[Details](#)

New Call Launched by European Commission External Relations (DG RELAX): “Getting to Know Europe”

As part of the [DG RELAX Annual Work programme 2010](#), a call for proposals has been launched. The call is seeking programmes that promote greater knowledge of the EU, within local and regional communities in the United States. This includes the EU's international role, and the value and significance of the EU –U.S. transatlantic partnership. All activities should be targeted at local and regional audiences in the U.S. Applicants are expected to bring together a range of local and regional groups, as well as to propose a package of events. The application deadline is **13 September 2010**.

[Details](#)

Simplifying the Implementation of the Research Framework Programme

The European Commission has unveiled a plan to simplify the procedures for taking part in EU-funded research projects. The overall aim is to make participation simpler and attractive to the best researchers and innovative companies in Europe and beyond.

[Details](#)

Green Week 2010

Green Week 2010, the largest annual conference on European environment policy, took place between 1-4 June 2010 in Barcelona. The conference addressed the state of **bio-diversity** and nature in Europe and the world, the benefits they bring, present-day pressures on them, and possible solutions to the current rates of loss. The path to be taken by EU policies on biodiversity and nature policies post-2010,

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the economic dimension of biodiversity, ecosystem services and Natura 2000 were also discussed.

[Details](#)

New 'Joint Programming Initiative' Announced

The first EU Joint Programming Initiative has been announced. The overall goal of this initiative is to boost research on Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases (JPND).

[Details](#)

Future and Emerging Technologies: Flagship Initiatives

The Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) scheme as part of the Directorate General for the Information Society and Media (DG INFSO) Information Communication Technologies (ICT) programme is in the process of setting up "Flagship" Initiatives. FET Flagships will present novel and ambitious goal-driven initiatives for developing and keeping leadership in foundational research. Flagships are envisaged as sizeable, multidisciplinary initiatives that run for 10 years with an annual budget of approximately € 100 million each.

[Details](#)

S&T NEWS FROM U.S.

New Head of the National Science Foundation Announced

On June 8th, President Obama formally sent to the U.S. Senate his nomination of Subra Suresh to serve as the new Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

[Details](#)

COMPETES Bill Finally Passes the House

The America COMPETES Act (**H.R. 5116**), which failed on two previous attempts to pass the full House, finally **passed** on May 28 by a vote of 262 to 150. The **AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program website** has a detailed table of the COMPETES funding levels, as passed by the House. A companion bill in the Senate has yet to be introduced.

[Details](#)

Funding for 10 New Health Centres Announced

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), with funding open to European Union researchers, announced the awarding of 10 new Centres for Population Health and Health Disparities

The 10 centres will support transdisciplinary collaborations among biological, medical, behavioural, social, and public health scientists. In addition, each centre will play a major role in the training of a new generation of transdisciplinary researchers in collaborative team science.

[Details](#)

Reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate

On April 15 the House Committee on Homeland Security reported out favorably Homeland Security Science and Technology Authorization Act of 2010 (**H.R. 4842**), a bill to reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. The bill would increase authorized directorate funding to \$1.12 billion in 2011 and \$1.16 billion in 2012.

[Details](#)

WHAT IS NEW ON THE WEB PORTAL?

RSS feeds are now available for News and Events!

<http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to both Projects have been added to the web-site:

<http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/home/faq.html>

This section will be updated regularly based on the questions received from visitors.

A Feedback form is now available for your valuable contributions related to Projects and the web portal!

<http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/home/contact.html>

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COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the second e-newsletter from the BILAT-USA Project! With each issue we aim to highlight new developments on EU-U.S. Science & Technology cooperation.

In addition to the several new features of the www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu Web portal, we highlight opportunities available in the Mobility Programme – the so called “People” Programme - of the 7th EU Framework Programme. In the political context we inform you about significant developments, amongst them the discussion on simplification efforts and the publication of the European Commission Communication on Simplification as a major step.

Enjoy reading!

Sabine Herlitschka

Coordinator of BILAT-USA

TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE



BILAT-USA Project Holds Successful Session at AAAS Annual Policy Forum

On 13 May 2010, the BILAT-USA Project held a successful session as part of the AAAS Annual Science and Technology Policy Forum. The event, **“New Approaches to International S&T Engagement: Trans-Atlantic Perspectives”** was attended by 100 Forum participants. The two-part session focused on “New Approaches to Science Engagement Taken by Governments in the U.S. and Europe for Capacity Building and Development and Diplomacy”, and “New Approaches to U.S.-EU Collaboration to Address Global Challenges”.

[Details](#)

EU-U.S. Joint Consultative Group Meets

The EU-U.S. Joint Consultative Group on science and technology cooperation Meeting was held on 11-12 May 2010, in Washington, D.C. This year also marks the 20th Anniversary of the EC-U.S. Joint Task Force on Biotechnology Research, a key initiative for S&T cooperation between the EU and U.S.

Conference on EU-U.S. for Collaboration & Funding in the EU Space Research Programme

The European Commission has announced a half-day conference on 21 July to inform the U.S. space community about new opportunities for U.S. space companies, universities, research labs, government agencies, foundations and related research organizations to participate in the European

Commission's Space Research Programme. The event will be held on Wednesday, 21 July at Stanford University, from 8:30am to 2:00pm.

[Details](#)

U.S. IN FP7



The **next calls** in 2010 will be published end of July with a budget of approximately 6 billion euros.

Calls specifically targeting the U.S. will be published on the Project web-site at the end of July 2010.

[Details](#)

MOBILITY PROGRAMME (PEOPLE)

This Issue will highlight the “PEOPLE” Programme (also called “Marie Curie Actions” (MC)) within the 7th EU Framework Programme (FP7) and provide an overview on U.S. Participation.

PEOPLE is one of the most popular actions of the Framework Programme as it responds to the training, mobility, and career development needs of European researchers. Around 4,7 billion Euro is allocated to the mobility actions within the FP7 period (2007-2013).

The objective of the PEOPLE Programme is to strengthen human resource capabilities in the areas of research and technology, and make Europe the most attractive place for the best researchers in the world. The main characteristics of the PEOPLE Programme are:

- No thematic priorities
- Open to all researchers at different stages in their careers
- Structuring impact on the **European Research Area**
- Private sector involvement
- Strengthened international dimension
- Balanced gender objective

Project types available:

- Initial training of researchers (so called "Initial Training Networks" or ITN)
- Life long learning and career development actions at the European Level (which includes various individual fellowship schemes)
- Industry-academia partnerships and pathways (IAPP)
- World Fellowships
- Various specific actions

In this article we will focus on **World Fellowships** that aim to strengthen the international dimension of the FP. Within this category, there are 3 different funding schemes applied that are highly relevant for EU-U.S. cooperation:

The International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF) allows experienced European researchers the opportunity to go abroad for training at high-level organizations active in research, established in a third country.

According to the FP7 statistics, out of 908 proposals submitted with U.S. participation, 339 were positively evaluated. This constitutes the highest level of proposals submitted among the MC Actions. (Please see Table 1.1)

This figure shows clearly that U.S. research organizations are among the most preferred 3rd country host institutions for European researchers.

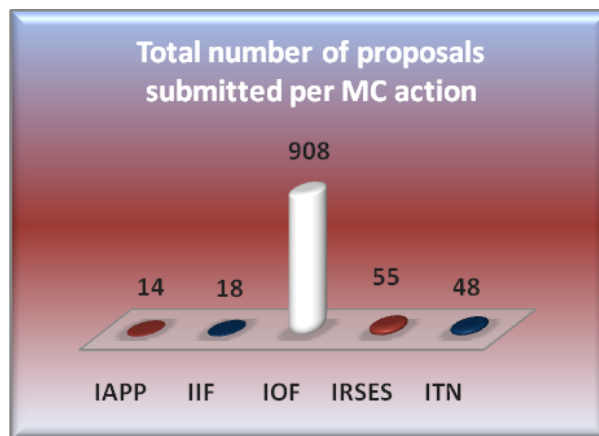


Table 1.1: Number of U.S. applications per MC specific action (2007-2009)

Source: Ecorda, European Commission

Marie Curie (MC) International Incoming Fellowships (IIF) is open to experienced researchers of any nationality to come to Europe (to a Member State or Associated country) in order to develop research cooperation between Europe and other parts of the world. Within the positively evaluated proposals, IIF has reached the success rate of around 45% out of all submitted proposals.

Marie Curie (MC) International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) aims to strengthen research partnerships between the European Community and third countries, by short term staff exchanges and networking activities. Third countries are those which the Community has a Science & Technology agreement with or a country where an agreement is being developed. In the same period of 2007-2009 a total of 55 proposals with U.S. participation were submitted under the IRSES scheme. Within those positively evaluated proposals, IRSES has the highest success rate (around 65%) compared to the other funding schemes.

AN IRSES SUCCESS STORY

The project **"Peg-Anion-Net"** is an excellent example of an IRSES Scheme involving institutional partners from the U.S. The Project is focused on the proteomic, epigenetic and pharmacogenetic implications of "Anion Transporters" and lays the foundation for the development of new drug-leads. This four-year project with a budget of Euro 381.600 is coordinated by Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg (Austria) with participation of the University of Milan (Italy), Yale University, and the Mayo Clinic (USA). The Project will enable cooperation and linking-up between the groups of researchers involved, particularly research stays, meetings and short visits.

[Details](#)

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PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE

| | |
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| Project Acronym: | EURAXESS Links USA |
| Title of the Project: | Network of European Researchers in the United States |
| Coordinated by: | Dr. Izabella Zandberg |
| Operated under: | European Commission, Directorate General - Research |
| Project Web-site: | http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/usa/index_en.htm |



Objectives:

EU RAXESS Links USA is a networking tool for European researchers in the U.S. It provides information about research in Europe; the European Research Area; opportunities for research funding, for international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. The objective of EURAXESS Links is a flourishing network of European researchers, scientists and scholars in the U.S. **Membership is free.**

Major Activities:

EURAXESS Links USA is a part of the **EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion** initiative that was launched in 2008 to support the mobility and careers of researchers, and assist in establishing Europe as an area of excellence in scientific research.

The EURAXESS Links USA network organizes **occasional meetings and events across the United States**. The network's **monthly newsletter** features the latest EU science and research policy news, interviews and updates on funding programs, and informs on upcoming European events in the U.S.

EURAXESS Links Web-site supports the network's activities with updates on what's new in European research, information on past and future events, collaboration opportunities and useful links. Email alerts are also used for employment and funding opportunities, upcoming events, training opportunities and other relevant issues.

An on-line EURAXESS Links USA community supplements those activities, providing a forum for the network members to share ideas, post documents and messages, launch discussions, and stay actively involved with the community of European researchers in the United States.

Partners:

EURAXESS Links USA collaborates with science sections of European embassies and consulates in the United States on a regular basis. In addition, ad-hoc partnerships are being established with various national networks and organizations across the United States. Long-term partnerships have been established with "**Research in Germany**" and **Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America (ISSNAF)**", and more partnerships are being developed.



COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the second e-newsletter from the Link2US Project! Each quarter we aim to highlight new U.S. funding programmes open to European institutions. This issue highlights a new programme from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Additionally, going forward we will spotlight different programmes, activities, and individuals that are key to enhancing the EU-U.S. science and technology cooperation. This quarter our spotlight is on nanotechnology and the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI).

For continuous updated information please visit our website at <http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/Link2US>

For questions and comments, please contact us at Link2US@aaas.org

Enjoy!

Tom Wang

Coordinator of Link2US

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Link2US Project Participates in ACCESS4EU Website

The Link2US Project will be contributing to the ACCESS4EU common web portal. This portal brings together 11 total projects that seek to enhance European research participation in third country programmes. Still in the final stages of completion, the portal currently offers links to each project. In the upcoming months it will be adding a joint database for funding opportunities and a joint newsletter about the latest news.

[Details](#)

S&T Agreements Survey

The Link2US project performed a survey of the current science and technology (S&T) cooperation agreements between the European Union, as well as its 27 Member States and Associated Countries, and the United States. The report of the survey, along with the actual S&T Agreements between U.S. and European Union and Member States are now available on the [website](#).

FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATES

New Funding Opportunity Announced

A new funding opportunity has been announced on the Link2US website. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate - International Cooperative Programmes Office has been added to the database. DHS is currently soliciting proposals for this Directorate until 23 September 2010. The Funding Opportunity Number is: DHS-10-ST-108-001.

[Details](#)

Release of Funding Catalogue

In mid-June, the Link2US Project released a printed version of the Funding Catalogue of open U.S. programmes. This catalogue is based on the database currently available on the website.

A pdf version of the printed catalogue is now available [online](#).

[Details](#)

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**SPOTLIGHT: U.S. NANOTECHNOLOGY:
NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (NNI)****ABOUT**

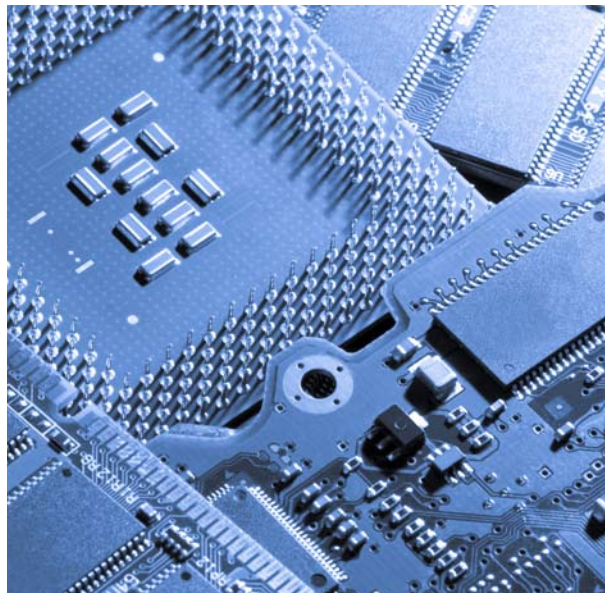
The National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) was established in Fiscal Year 2001 to coordinate Federal nanotechnology research and development. The goal is to act as a central locus for communication, cooperation, and collaboration for the 25 Federal agencies that are currently participating. The NNI has requested USD 1.76 billion across fifteen federal agencies for Fiscal Year 2011.

[Details](#)**GOALS**

- Advance a world-class nanotechnology research and development programme.
- Foster the transfer of new technologies into products for commercial and public benefit.
- Develop and sustain educational resources, a skilled workforce, and the supporting infrastructure and tools to advance nanotechnology.
- Support responsible development of nanotechnology.

**HOW EU RESEARCHERS & INSTITUTIONS
CAN BE INVOLVED**

While NNI funding is not available for EU Researchers and Institutions, there is still an opportunity to work with U.S. researchers. Each year since 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) along with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in conjunction with the European Commission (EC), has issued a coordinated call regarding funding for nanotechnology. Thus far, organized but separate calls have been made, with simultaneous and coordinated evaluation of the proposals completed according to their own rules.

[Details](#)

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IMPRESSUM

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