

Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

“BILAT-USA” AND “LINK2US”

CONTENTS

In this Issue	1
ERA News	1
U.S. S&T NEWS	2
BILAT-USA	
Coordinator's Message	
TRANSATLANTIC News	3
Project Highlights	5
Project of this Issue	7
LINK2US	
Coordinator's Message	
Project Highlights	8

IN THIS ISSUE



In this issue of the E-newsletter, recent EU and U.S. energy policies and related activities are highlighted, along with other key news highlights. This includes a new report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and the EU Energy 2020 Strategy.

In addition look for a sneak peak at an upcoming report from the Link2US project, as well as an in-depth look at the Cooperation programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) NEWS



Interim Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme Finalised

An independent Expert Group has looked at whether the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is fulfilling its ambitions, as well as several facets of the programme's implementation, in order to arrive at recommendations for its development in the years to come. Lessons drawn from the evaluation are expected to inform subsequent EU research programmes and policies. One of the key highlights of the report is that FP7 is on course and is clearly making a significant contribution to European science and the development of the ERA.

[Details](#)

DECEMBER 2010

U.S. S&T NEWS



New Report Suggests that the U.S. is not Keeping Pace

A new study by Thomson Reuters suggests that the U.S. is no longer globally dominant in the production of scientific papers, as it was 30 years ago. Rather, the EU and the Asia-Pacific region, as of 2009, have surpassed the U.S. in research output. In 1981, U.S. researchers produced 40% of all researcher papers, while in 2009 they produced only 29%. The EU27 saw their shares rise during this period from 33% - 39%, with the Asia-Pacific region seeing a rise of 13%-31%. The report also looks at citation impact and thematic areas.

[Details](#)

Chances for Passage of COMPETES Wane

Final passage of the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act 2010 (The America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act) within the U.S. House of Representatives looks less likely to pass by the end of the congressional session due to two factors. First, the bill has yet to be filed in the U.S. Senate, a step that is required in order for it to be passed, and second, the uncertainty surrounding the final FY 2011 budget numbers, due to growing pressure to reduce the federal deficit and cut discretionary spending, complicates the process. Some observers believe that even if Congress does not complete action on the bill during the last session before a new Congress begins, chances for its passage in the next Congress appear reasonably good. However, there is considerable uncertainty about when, and with what authorization levels, the bill might be passed. COMPETES calls for substantially increased science funding for the U.S.

[Details](#)

NIH Director Favors Merger of Institutes

U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins released a statement last week saying that the creation of a new institute focusing on addictions, as recommended by NIH's Scientific Management Review Board, "makes scientific sense and would enhance NIH's efforts to address the substance abuse and addiction problems." This would include incorporating most current programs of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, as well as relevant programs from other Institutes and Centers, such as those at the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Collins announced the creation of a task force to explore how forming the new institute could best be conducted. The task force plans to issue recommendations by next summer.

[Details](#)

PTO Extends Expedited Patenting for GHG Reduction Technologies

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) announced that it will extend a trial program to expedite the processing of patent applications for technologies that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions until 31 December 2011. Under the Green Technology Pilot Program, the first 3,000 applications pertaining to environmental quality, energy conservation, development of renewable energy, or greenhouse gas emission reduction will be advanced out of turn for examination, compressing the normal two-year waiting period for receiving a patent to 49 days.

[Details](#)

PCAST Releases New Report on Energy Policy

On 29 November 2010 the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) released its Report to the President on Accelerating the Pace of Change in Energy Technologies Through an Integrated Federal Energy Policy. At a briefing held at AAAS to launch the report, PCAST members Ernest Moniz of MIT and Maxine Savitz of the National Academy of Engineering outlined the report's major recommendations, which include establishing a Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) process for creating a government-wide federal energy strategy and increasing energy R&D expenditures by \$10 billion annually.

[Details](#)

BILAT-USA NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2010**COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Reader

Sustainable and secure energy is the basis for our life. Taking care of energy efficiency is a responsibility towards our children and following generations.

In early November, the European Commission released its new energy priorities strategy for the next ten years. It laid down actions to be taken in order to tackle the challenges of saving energy as well as achieving a market with competitive prices and secure supplies. Boosting technological leadership and effectively negotiating with our international partners are additional energy-related goals which shall contribute – as one of the seven Flagship initiatives - to the “Europe 2020 Strategy”.

The December issue of the BILAT-USA E-newsletter provides readers with insights into the European Commission's “Energy 2020 Strategy” as well as the recent EU-U.S. Energy Council meeting, followed by the new agreement between the EU and the U.S. in order to promote better cooperation in nuclear security.

The BILAT-USA Project has recently published 2 reports: U.S. Participation in the EU-Framework Programme and Analysis of Science & Technology Priorities in Public Research in Europe and the U.S. These reports provide you with an up-to-date overview on current developments and as such are helpful in identifying potential areas for transatlantic EU-U.S. cooperation.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming BILAT-USA Event: The Symposium on Transatlantic EU-U.S. Cooperation on Innovation and Technology Transfer. The Symposium will focus on open innovation processes and operations with some good practice examples from Europe and the U.S. Check out the details and save the date!

Enjoy reading! Have a peaceful Christmas and an “energetic” New Year 2011!

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

Dr. Sabine Herlitschka

Coordinator of BILAT-USA Project

For questions and comments, please contact us at bilat-usa@ffg.at

**TRANSATLANTIC
NEWS****Energy 2020: A Strategy for Competitive, Sustainable and Secure Energy**

On 10 November 2010, the European Commission adopted “Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy”. The European Union aims at achieving ambitious energy and climate-change objectives for 2020: reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increase the share of renewable energy to 20% and make a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. Cooperation with third countries, such as China, Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. in specific technologies will be promoted.

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DECEMBER 2010

**15th European Career Fair (ECF 2011)
to be held 22-24 January 2011**

The 15th European Career Fair at MIT will be held on 22-24 January 2011. The Fair is a three-day recruiting event held on the campus of MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It brings together European employers with talented candidates from all disciplines, including engineering, management, natural and life sciences, economics, and computer science. Participating employers from public, private, national, and international companies and institutions use the first day to present their organizations at a fair booth, and two subsequent days to schedule onsite interviews with promising candidates.

The Fair is organized by a dedicated team of volunteers from Boston-area schools. Since 2007, ECF has partnered with the European Commission to promote Europe's vast array of career choices and quality of life. The ECF is also supported by various European consulates and networking organizations, all with the goal of matching top-quality candidates with the best job opportunities that Europe has to offer.

[Details](#)**EU-U.S. 2010 Energy Council Meets**

The EU-U.S. 2010 Energy Council meeting, set up at the November 2009 EU-US summit in Washington, took place prior to the 2010 EU-US and NATO summits in Lisbon, on 20 November 2010. The main issues ministers discussed were climate change, international development and security.

[Details](#)**New agreement between EU and the U.S. to
Promote Greater Cooperation in Nuclear Security**

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) signed a new agreement with the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) to promote greater cooperation in nuclear security.

[Details](#)**International Early Career Scientist Program
of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute**

The new International Early Career Scientist Program of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) will support up to 35 outstanding scientists based outside the United States in selected countries. In this pilot program, HHMI seeks to identify researchers who are, or have the potential to become, scientific leaders. Those selected will receive five-year grants that will each total \$650,000.

[Details](#)**Call for Applications of two Austrian Marshall Plan
Foundation Fellows in Central European Studies**

The Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellowships in Central European Studies enable each year two outstanding scholars to conduct research on important issues related to Central Europe at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. The first Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellows will be appointed for a nine (9) month period from October 2011-June 2012.

[Details](#)

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2010

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Main Key Players and Multipliers of the BILAT-USA Project Identified

The main key players and multipliers to the BILAT-USA Project have been listed for effective coordination and promotion of project results. Main key players, stakeholders and multipliers in EU and in the U.S. shall more efficiently exchange information and reach out to larger communities dealing with science and technology.

[Details](#)

Needs for Future Collaboration Between EU and U.S. Recognized at the 'Symposium on Transatlantic EU - U.S. Cooperation in the Field of Large Scale Research Infrastructures' in Rome on 1 October 2010

Organized by the BILAT-USA Project in cooperation with the European Commission and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the 'Symposium on Transatlantic EU - U.S. Cooperation in the Field of Large Scale Research Infrastructures' held in Rome on 1 October 2010 brought together high level experts as well as leading representatives of Research Infrastructure projects in Europe and the U.S. Participants from the EU and the U.S. expressed the strong need to strengthen the systematic exchange of information and experience, and have identified a number of areas that provide opportunities for future collaboration.

Final report of the Symposium outlines the issues and recommendations discussed during the plenary and parallel sessions. Symposium related documentation is also included in the report.

[Details](#)

Two New Report Released by BILAT-USA!

- Report on 'U.S. Participation in EU Framework-Programmes' provides statistical analysis on U.S. participation in the Sixth and Seventh EU Framework Programme.

[Details](#)

- Report on 'Analysis of Science & Technology Priorities in Public Research in Europe and the U.S'.

[Details](#)

Symposium on Transatlantic EU-U.S. Cooperation on Innovation and Technology Transfer

The 'Symposium on Transatlantic EU-U.S. Cooperation on Innovation and Technology Transfer' will take place on 22 March 2011 in Vienna at the premises of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Wirtschaftskammer Oesterreich).

The purpose of the Symposium is to increase mutual understanding and raise awareness on open innovation processes and structure and operations of the technology transfer and innovation systems in Europe and the U.S.

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Newsletter

DECEMBER 2010

U.S. in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7): Spotlight on Cooperation Programme About

The Cooperation Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) covers ten Themes ranging from Health to Security. All ten of these Themes have an important international dimension, with the majority of funding allocated for International Cooperation, available under this Programme.

International collaborative research in the Cooperation Programme is supported in two ways to ensure a balanced thematic and geographic participation by Third Countries and regions:

- *The opening of the thematic areas to all Third Countries* This includes, in addition, new dedicated actions and calls for Third Countries (mainly industrialised and emerging economies). The general opening of the Seventh Framework Programme to international partners will enable participation in the programme by the global scientific community alongside European partners. This opening differs from previous Framework Programmes by placing more emphasis on attracting collaboration with Third Country partners.
- *Specific international cooperation actions* In each thematic area, these Actions are dedicated to Third Countries where there is mutual interest on the basis of both the science and technology (S&T) and the needs of the countries concerned.

U.S. Participation

The Cooperation Programme, together with the People Programme, is the most attractive for U.S. organizations interested in participating with EU partners for activities under the Seventh Framework Programme. From January 2007 to December 2009, 879 U.S. entities took part in the submission of 673 proposals.

During this two year period, U.S. researchers saw a 14,4% success rate (based in Grant Agreements signed). 97 projects were funded that included 119 individual U.S. participants.

A large variation among U.S. participants (those signing Grant Agreements) can be seen across the ten thematic areas. Figure 1 shows the success rate of U.S. participation under each Theme of the Cooperation Programme, based on Grant Agreements signed. Overall, the thematic areas of Health and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) saw the highest U.S. participation rates. In the area of Health, 29 U.S. participants participated in 23 projects, while for ICT saw 26 participants participated in 24 projects. Other areas that had U.S. participation include Knowledge-Based Bio Economy (KBBE), Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH), Space, and Nanosciences (NMP). During this two year period, the EC contributed 389.045.048€, to projects involving U.S. participants funded under the Cooperation Programme. U.S. participants received only 3,5% of this funding, for a total amount of 13.038.580€.

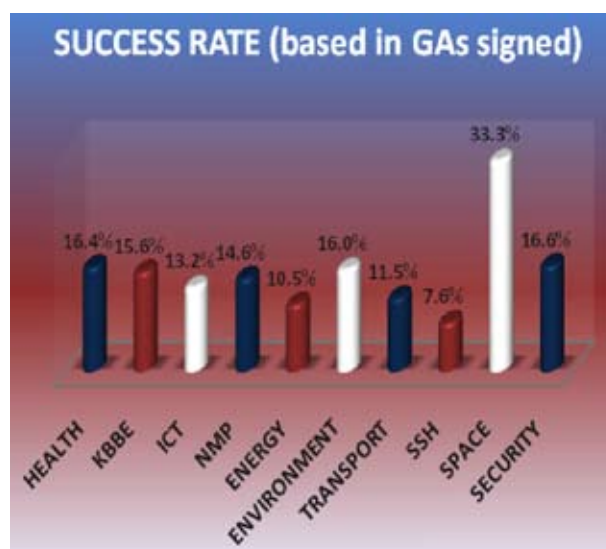


Figure 1: Success rate of U.S. participation under each theme of the Cooperation Programme

Source: Ecorda, European Commission

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2010

PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE



Highly Accurate Breast Cancer Diagnosis through Integration of Biological Knowledge, Novel Imaging Modalities, and Modelling

Acronym: HAMAM

Website: <http://www.hamam-project.eu/cms/website.php>

Coordinated by: EIBIR, Austria

Funded under: FP7-ICT-2007

Objectives:

Despite tremendous advances in modern imaging technology, both early detection and accurate diagnosis of breast cancer are still unresolved challenges. Unnecessary biopsies are taken and tumors frequently go undetected until a stage where therapy is costly or unsuccessful.

HAMAM will tackle this challenge by providing a means to seamlessly integrate the available multi-modal images and the patient information on a single clinical workstation. Based on

knowledge gained from a large multi-disciplinary database, populated within the scope of this project, suspicious breast tissue will be characterised and classified.

Major Activities:

HAMAM is a successor of the very successful EU-projects SCREEN and SCREEN-TRIAL. These projects brought major advances in European breast cancer diagnosis, meaning that today Europe is the world leader in diagnostic systems for digital mammography. With HAMAM, Europe has the potential to strengthen its leadership in the whole area of image-based breast cancer diagnoses.

HAMAM is grouped into 7 scientific work packages with the aim to foster exchange and collaboration between basic scientists, clinicians and IT experts.

Details: http://www.hamam-project.eu/cms/website.php?id=/en/overview/the_project.htm

Partners:

HAMAM consists of eight European partners and one U.S. partner, i.e. the Boca Raton Community Hospital

Full list: http://www.hamam-project.eu/cms/website.php?id=/en/partners/01_eibir_at.htm

Welcome to the website of the project HAMAM, Highly Accurate Breast Cancer Diagnosis through Integration of Biological Knowledge, Novel Imaging Modalities, and Modelling. The HAMAM project is funded under the 7th Framework Programme for Research, and started in September 2008. The project is coordinated by EIBIR, the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research.

Fighting cancer would ideally be accomplished by preventing the onset of the disease. For breast cancer, the most widespread cancer among women, prevention in its proper sense is not foreseen as its causes remain undiscovered. Around 350,000 new breast cancer cases are found and 130,000 women die of breast cancer in Europe every year. This amounts to 26% of all new cancer cases among women and over 17% of cancer deaths. Currently, the primary goal of fighting breast cancer is its early detection in order to prevent a fully developed stage of the disease.

HAMAM Website

**LINK2US NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2010**

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Link2US project team, welcome to our final E-newsletter of 2010. This issue of the E-newsletter highlights key U.S. science and technology news, including an extension of the expedited patenting for green house gas reduction technologies, as well as a new report released by the President's S&T advisors looking at how the U.S. should move ahead in regards to energy policy.

Below you will find a sneak peak of the projects new report expected to be released early next year, looking at challenges for EU-based researchers in participating in U.S. federally funded programmes.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Enjoy!

Dr. Tom Wang
Coordinator of Link2US

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

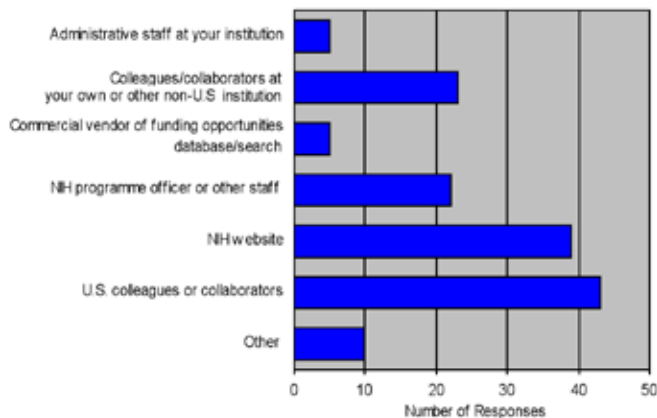
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



**Sneak Peak of Upcoming Link2US Report:
Looking at Challenges to Participation for EU-
Based Researchers in U.S. Funding Programmes**

In early September 2010, the Link2US project surveyed EU-based researchers who received grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) from fiscal year (FY) 2003-2010. The main objective of the survey is to identify key issues that EU-based researchers/institutions face when applying to and participating in U.S. federal government funding programmes that directly provide research grants.

One of the findings of the survey looks at how researchers hear about new NIH opportunities. The most common source is their U.S. colleagues or collaborators. The NIH, either through its website or NIH staff, is the second most common source. Closer to home researchers reported that they hear about new opportunities from colleagues at their own or other EU institutions. Relatively few got information from commercial databases or administrative staff at their own organization.



The report is currently being finalized and you will be alerted as soon as it is published.

Virtual Helpdesk

A reminder that the Link2US Virtual Helpdesk is open and available

Tuesdays and Thursdays from approximately 2:00pm – 4:30pm Central European time (+1 202 326 6663). The helpdesk seeks to assist EU researchers and institutions with information about U.S. funding.

DECEMBER 2010

IMPRESSUM

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