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Revisions

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Version 1	July 2012		Elli B. Tzatzanis-Stepanovic, FFG



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Executive Summary

ESOF2012 (Dublin, 11-15 July 2012) was chosen as the second EU-U.S. Science Forum for BILAT-USA as it is the largest science meeting in Europe and very well known in the U.S. as well. BILAT-USA and Link2US were represented with a booth between 11 and 15 July 2012 and with 3 sessions in the exhibition area on 13 and 14 July 2012. BILAT-USA highlighted the last FP7 calls as good opportunity for trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation, obstacles to trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation as well as the requirements for U.S. based European researchers being able to contribute to their native country’s education and innovation process. Despite the fact that it needs individuals who have the motivation to stay connected with the native country it needs a good network in order to reach critical mass and a long-term effect on trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation. Educational exchange and mentoring programs, such as short stays and summer schools were proposed as good tools to foster scientific cross-Atlantic exchange and knowledge transfer, bringing profit for both sides of the Atlantic.

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Conclusions

ESOF2012

The Atlantic as shared resource and the opportunities of STI cooperation dominated the trans-Atlantic part of this year’s ESOF2012 conference between 11 and 15 July 2012 in Dublin, Ireland. The Atlantic with its challenges to shared marine resources is seen as valuable and unique climate regulator. Trans-Atlantic education programs, research projects as well as marine institute partnerships shall help scientists to jointly study and understand the Atlantic ecosystem.

Robert-Jan Smits (Director General at the European Commission for Research and Innovation) outlined the necessity for exploring the opportunities and benefits of trans-



Atlantic scientific collaboration. His counterpart from NSF agreed that there is an increased need in promoting trans-Atlantic relationships!

This was precisely the reason why BILAT-USA and Link2US were present at ESOF2012 with a stand as well as with 3 sessions in the exhibition area.

BILAT-USA @ ESOF2012

On 13 July 2012 in the morning BILAT-USA highlighted the **‘Last FP7 calls as good opportunity for trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation’** with Ms. Kitty Fehringer (DG Research and Innovation) outlining that re-submission of research proposals is encouraged by the European Commission and that integrating a U.S. project partner can very often lead to increased success rates.

On 13 July 2012 in the afternoon **‘Obstacles to trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation’** have been discussed between Prof. Nicholas P. Farrell (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Dr. Konstantinos Dalamagkidis (Technical University Munich). They pointed out that researchers in the U.S. are more flexible and free to pursue their research career whereas in Europe they have more financial security as far as their salaries are concerned. Circulation of ideas and people can only be enabled when all aspects involved are facilitated, from the scientific visa to housing requirements. Transition between the individual European countries as well as between the U.S. and Europe has even more to be eased and bureaucracy has to be reduced.

The main BILAT-USA session on 14 July 2012 raised the question **‘How can U.S.-based European researchers contribute to their native countries’ innovation process?’**

Ms. Kitty Fehringer (EC, DG Research), Prof. Nicholas P. Farrell (Virginia Commonwealth University, Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists), Dr. Konstantinos Dalamagkidis (Technical University Munich), and Dr. Konstantinos Drosatos (Columbia University, World Hellenic Biomedical Association) discussed the ways and prerequisites for U.S. based European researchers being able to contribute to their native country’s education and innovation process. The conclusion was that it needs individuals who have the motivation to stay connected with the native country as well as a good network in order to reach critical mass and long-term effects. The linking elements between the U.S. network and the native country, that have been introduced as examples from the Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists and the World Hellenic Biomedical Association, were educational exchange and mentoring programs, such as short stays and summer schools. According to the speakers scientific cross-Atlantic exchange and knowledge transfer brings profit for both sides. Its stimulation is exactly the goal of BILAT-USA and Link2US!

The **BILAT-USA stand 49** was very well visited, with numerous European researchers looking for trans-Atlantic cooperation possibilities. The following promotion material was distributed:



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- BILAT-USA Report on Obstacles
- Link2US Report on U.S. funding possibilities
- BILAT-USA Info sheet on last FP7 Calls
- BILAT-USA and Link2US info leaflet
- Invitation to BILAT-USA sessions at ESOF2012

In addition, BILAT-USA and Link2US were represented with info material at the **Access4EU stand** as well as on **the AAAS Science stand**.

Networking with the session speakers, other projects, networks and organisations was very useful. Several collaboration possibilities were identified which could be pursued in the future.

Recommendations

The presence of support actions like BILAT-USA and Link2US at such big events is very useful for the projects' visibility, addressing a big audience. Nevertheless becoming part of the official program may sometimes be difficult.

Collaboration with the European Commission and EURAXESS Links USA was very good. In order to use all possible synergies at such a big event the exchange on regular basis should have been sought prior to the event in order to clarify details. The combination of the session 'All-aboard the Brain Train! Experiences of Europe's global scientific diaspora' (exchange of experience of the Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists and the European EURAXESS network to explore how engaging diaspora contributes to the enrichment of scientific careers) and the BILAT-USA session 'How can U.S.-based European researchers contribute to their native countries' innovation process?' could have been taken into consideration in order to address even more researchers. The promotion of support actions of the European Commission, such as BILAT-USA, should be a central part of the European Commission's mission at such events.

Agenda and Speakers Biographies



The two FP7 projects BILAT-USA and Link2US support the enhancement of trans-Atlantic S&T partnerships.

VISIT US AT STAND NO. 49

SESSIONS IN THE EXHIBITION AREA:

FRIDAY, 13 JULY 2012

10.30-11.00

Title: The last FP7 calls as good opportunity for trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation

Subject: European collaborative research project consortia with U.S. participation have a higher success rate. Why should European and U.S. researchers cooperate now?

Speakers: Ms. Kitty Fehringer (EC, DG Research)

FRIDAY, 13 JULY 2012

14.30-15.00

Title: Obstacles to trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation

Subject: What are the real obstacles to trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation and how to overcome them?

Speakers: Prof. Nicholas P. Farrell (Virginia Commonwealth University), Dr. Konstantinos Dalamagkidis (Technical University Munich)

SATURDAY, 14 JULY 2012

12.15-13.15

Title: The role of U.S.-based European researchers in the process of competitiveness and innovation in the European Union

Subject: What kind of political measures can be put in practice in order to use "brain circulation" between Europe and the U.S. as gain for enhancing scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and the U.S.? How can U.S.-based European researchers contribute to their native countries' innovation process?

Speakers: Ms. Kitty Fehringer (EC, DG Research), Prof. Nicholas P. Farrell (Virginia Commonwealth University), Dr. Konstantinos Dalamagkidis (Technical University Munich), Dr. Konstantinos Drosatos (World Hellenic Biomedical Association)



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BIOGRAPHIES

Kitty Fehringer joined the European Commission in 2002. From 2007 to date she is in charge as project officer for activities under the header “EURAXESS-Researcher in Motion” dealing with the mobility aspect of a researcher career. Ms Fehringer is coordinator of the around 230 EURAXESS Services Centres located in 40 countries as well as the 5 overseas destinations.

Ms Fehringer has a professional background in Marketing Management following her studies of special education for disabled children at the University of Vienna.

Professor Nicholas P. Farrell is a graduate of University College Dublin. He is currently professor of Chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). His research interests are in the medicinal uses of inorganic compounds and his work has included development of anticancer, antiviral and antiparasitic drugs. The first genuinely structurally novel platinum drug to enter clinical trials in thirty years (BBR3464) arose from his laboratory research. His laboratory has active collaborative research projects with many international scientists including Australia, Brazil, Israel and The Czech Republic. Professor Farrell has written or co-edited three books in the area of platinum anticancer agents and medicinal inorganic chemistry. He is the author of over 200 refereed papers and review chapters. He and his collaborators have received over sixty patents worldwide from his inventions.

He is Director for the VCU-University of São Paulo strategic partnership and has organized research scholar exchange at undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels. Through his efforts, VCU participates in a model international Research Experience for Undergraduates (iREU), run jointly by NSF and FAPESP (Brazil). He is also developing a joint master’s program in Chemistry with Fudan University, Shanghai China. He is co-founder and President of The Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists, an All-Ireland Professional Network enabling connection, communication and collaboration of the Irish scientific, technological and engineering Diaspora. Professor Farrell is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish.

Dr. Konstantinos Dalamagkidis is a postdoctoral research associate with the Chair of robotics and embedded systems of the Technical University of Munich. He received his PhD in Computer Engineering from the University of South Florida in 2009 and has since worked as a postdoctoral associate in the US and Germany where he participated in a number of research projects. Currently he is the coordinator of an FP7-ICT project in robotics.

Dr. Konstantinos Drosatos is president of the executive board of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association. This is an organization that was founded in 1990 in the UK and its domicile now is in New York. The membership of this organization includes 10 Hellenic medical or biosciences societies in several countries and approximately 1,500 physicians and biomedical scientists from more than 25 countries in 5 continents. After his undergraduate training in Biology, he joined the graduate program in Molecular Biology and Biomedicine of the University of Crete (UoC), Greece. Upon his admission to the PhD program of the UoC, he was offered a graduate student research position at Boston University that allowed him to move to Boston and perform the research part of his PhD thesis. For his postdoctoral training he joined Columbia University and worked on a project investigating the effects of lipid accumulation on β -adrenergic receptor dysfunction prior to heart failure development. His current research investigates the interplay between sepsis and cardiac fatty acid metabolism. Particularly, his research focuses on the mechanisms that link sepsis-related energy deficiency and cardiac dysfunction.



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Between 11 and 15 July 2012 Dublin will host the Euroscience Open Forum 2012, Europe's largest, general science meeting. BILAT-USA is participating with three sessions and a stand!

The Euroscience Open Forum 2012 will attract top researchers from the natural sciences and the social sciences; business leaders; senior EU and government officials; and international scientific media. They come to discuss the best of European science and to address all of the current major global scientific challenges, including Energy, Climate Change, Food and Health.

Visit the two FP7 projects, BILAT-USA and Link2US, at stand no.49 and participate in the sessions in the Exhibition area on Friday 13 July and Saturday 14 July:

-The last FP7 calls as good opportunity for trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation (Friday, 10:30-11:00)

-Obstacles to trans-Atlantic S&T cooperation (Friday, 14:30-15:00)

-The role of U.S.-based European researchers in the process of competitiveness and innovation in the European Union (Saturday, 12:15-13:15)

More information about the BILAT-USA sessions at ESOF 2012 can be found under <http://www.eusscienceandtechnology.eu/events/show?id=106>

Country: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Germany; Denmark; Estonia; Spain; Finland; France; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Lithuania, Republic of; Luxembourg; Grand Duchy of; Latvia; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Sweden; Slovenia; Slovakia; United Kingdom;

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