

April 2010

Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

“BILAT-USA” AND “LINK2US”

Welcome to the first newsletter on EU-U.S. cooperation in Science & Technology!

If you are looking for up-to-date information regarding science and technology (S&T) cooperation between the European Union and the United States, you have come to the right place!

Establishing strong partnerships in S&T will enable the EU and the United States to, together, not only address global challenges, such as in environment, energy, and health, but also to advance knowledge and scientific understanding by benefiting from each others' experiences and know-how.

Two new projects were launched in October 2009: “BILAT-USA” and “Link2US.” Supported by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme (FP7), these complementary projects enhance EU-U.S. S&T cooperation through dialogues and information exchange activities between the EU and the United States and create greater awareness on both sides of the range of opportunities for S&T cooperation. The outcome of these activities will contribute to overcoming barriers to cooperation, developing cooperative research policies and topics, and formulating respective FP7 projects.

In more pragmatic terms, the BILAT-USA and Link2US projects will together serve as an information platform for identifying funding programmes for cooperative research projects and facilitator fostering trans-Atlantic EU – U.S. cooperation. For further information, check out our new website at www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu.

If you are interested to receive this quarterly newsletter please sign up for it at our website.

Sabine Herlitschka
Coordinator of BILAT-USA

Tom Wang
Coordinator of Link2US

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BILAT-USA

LINK2US

IN THIS ISSUE



This issue of the e-Newsletter will discuss a variety of topics with the goal of enhancing EU-U.S. cooperation. A new edition will be released every three months.

Within the newsletter two main sections can be found – General Information and Project-related news.

General Information gives an explanation of what these two projects are about, what they can do, and how they will reach their ultimate goal. This also includes up to date news from ERA and updates on U.S. Science and Technology (S&T) news.

Project related events announces what is new within the projects, including the upcoming AAAS Policy Forum, highlights from both projects, the announcement of a new catalogue for European researchers regarding S&T funding, and spotlights the EU-US Match Project.

BILAT-USA IN A NUTSHELL

Program:	7 th Framework Programme
Category:	Capacities / International Cooperation
Project Type:	Support Action
Funding:	€713.063 (of which €499.903 is EU funded)
Duration:	October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2012
Coordinator:	FFG - Austrian Research Promotion/ Division European and International Programmes

BILAT-USA will set up a sustainable knowledge base and bi-regional dialogue platform between S&T key players as well as stakeholders from the EU-Member States, Associated countries and from the U.S.

The project will strengthen the trans-Atlantic EU-U.S. Dialogue on S&T policies by bringing policy makers, researchers, research organizations, universities, thematic networks, industry, national /regional research funding agencies together in order to identify and demonstrate the mutual interest and benefits of S&T Cooperation. At the same time, the platform will address global issues such as climate change, infectious disease, energy, water and food supplies, security, etc.

The project will particularly focus on contributing to the implementation of the EU Framework Programmes' objectives by increasing participation of U.S. researchers in the 7th EU Framework Programme through a comprehensive approach in awareness raising, training and dissemination activities.

Sharing good practices and fostering the establishment of new research partnerships will be an important part of the work of BILAT-USA and this will be achieved by organising specific workshops, conferences and symposia on cross-cutting multidisciplinary S&T issues such as research infrastructures, innovation and technology transfer, trans-Atlantic mobility, etc.

LINK2US IN A NUTSHELL

Program:	7 th Framework Programme
Category:	Capacities / International Cooperation
Project Type:	Support Action
Funding:	€526,625 (of which €376,693 is EU funded)
Duration:	October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2012
Coordinator:	AAAS – the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Link2US will facilitate easy access to relevant information on U.S. cooperation programmes through electronic communities such as a website, e-newsletter, and virtual helpdesk and designated activities such as training workshops.

The Link2US Project seeks to enhance U.S. European Union & S&T cooperation by increasing awareness of and addressing barriers to participation in U.S. federal cooperative research funding schemes by European scientists and research organizations.

- Map opportunities of U.S. federal collaborative funding schemes and rules for participation through research and analyses.
- Raise awareness among the European scientific community by disseminating information about programmes and funding opportunities through a multi-faceted network.
- Identify and analyze potential obstacles to cooperation through these programmes and funding schemes so that they may be avoided and/or that solutions may be found.

Both BILAT-USA and Link2US will provide easy access to information by creating an information center. **The web portal www.EuUsSciencetechnology.eu**, which was recently launched, will be the major information platform regarding EU-U.S. Cooperation in Science and Technology. The Projects will issue a quarterly e-Newsletter in order to provide regular updates on EU-U.S. scientific and technological cooperation to its subscribers.

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CONSORTIUM

The project will be carried out by a consortium, consists of 5 partners from 5 countries:

FFG, Austrian Research Promotion Agency/Division of European and International Programmes, is the coordinator of BILAT-USA-Austria

AAAS, American Association for the Advancement of Science- USA

APRE, Agency for the Promotion of European Research, Italy.

TETALAP, Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation, Hungary

INTRASOFT, Luxemburg. [BILAT-USA only]

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency, Division of European & International Programmes (FFG/EIP) hosts all Austrian National Contact Points to the 7th European Framework Programme, the Austrian EUREKA Office as well as the Enterprise Europe Network. FFG is the biggest Austrian funding agency for applied research.

APRE is the Italian National Contact Point (NCP) organisation for the EU Framework Programme as well as the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) host.

TETALAP is a non-profit public foundation, with the mission to develop the international relations of the Hungarian R&D community, to facilitate the access of interested Hungarian parties to EU R&D funding and to support participation in the EU Framework Programme.

AAAS is an international non-profit organization, based in Washington DC dedicated to advancing science around the world by serving as an educator, leader, spokesperson and professional association. It serves through 262 affiliated societies and academies of science 10 million individuals. Science Magazine, published by AAAS, has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of one million.

INTRASOFT is a leading European company in the area of Information and Communication Technology Services. INTRASOFT is currently leading a project called, US-EU Match, which is a bridge between USA and Europe allowing to create partnerships in terms of: Business Development, Technology Transfer and Research activities.

ERA NEWS



EU 2020 Strategy and the European Research Area

The EU 2020 Strategy, which was proposed by the Commission on 03 March 2010 and agreed upon by the European Council on 25/26 March 2010, will focus on knowledge and innovation, a more sustainable economy, high employment, and social inclusion. Implementation of the Strategy will be done under the leadership of the European Council. The European Commission will be responsible for the coordination of the process.

EU headline targets are:

- aiming to bring to 75% the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64;
- combined public and private investment levels in this sector to 3% of GDP

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels; the share of renewables in final energy consumption to 20%; and moving towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency;
- improving education levels, in particular by aiming to reduce school drop-out rates and by increasing the share of the population having completed tertiary or equivalent education
- rates and by increasing the share of the population having completed tertiary or equivalent education
- promoting social inclusion, in particular through the reduction of poverty.

Further to European Council's adoption (in June 2010) all member states will set their national targets and prepare their national reform programmes where they will indicate the strategy implementation (including the financial instruments and incentives planned) in detail by Autumn 2010. By the end of 2010, an Action plan will be prepared and presented by the EC.

MAIN FEATURES OF ERA



European Research Area

- An adequate flow of competent researchers with high levels of mobility between institutions, disciplines, sectors and countries;
- World-class research infrastructures, integrated, networked and accessible to research teams from across Europe and the world, notably thanks to new generations of electronic communication infrastructures;
- Excellent research institutions engaged in effective public-private cooperation and partnerships, forming the core of research and innovation 'clusters' including 'virtual research communities', mostly specialised in interdisciplinary areas and attracting a critical mass of human and financial resources;
- Effective knowledge-sharing notably between public research and industry, as well as with the public at large;
- Well-coordinated research programmes and priorities, including a significant volume of jointly-programmed public research investment at European level involving common priorities, coordinated implementation and joint evaluation;
- An opening of the European Research Area to the world with special emphasis on neighbouring countries and a strong commitment to addressing global challenges with Europe's partners.

ERA 2020 vision, which was adopted by The Council of the EU on 2 December 2008, refers to free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology by 2020. *By 2020, all actors fully benefit from the "Fifth Freedom" across the ERA: free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology. The ERA provides attractive conditions and effective and efficient governance for doing research and investing in R&D intensive sectors in Europe. It creates strong added value by fostering a healthy Europe-wide scientific competition whilst ensuring the appropriate level of cooperation and coordination. It is responsive to the needs and ambitions of citizens and effectively contributes to the sustainable development and competitiveness of Europe.* http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/2020_era_vision_en.html

Discussions around ERA will contribute to the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy.

OTHER ERA RELATED NEWS

- **CREST Report on Internationalization of R&D (April 2009)**
The report summarises the coordination of policy measures between the Member States, Associated Countries and the European Commission in variable geometries undertaken in year 2008 by the CREST OMC Working Group on "Internationalization of R&D –Facing the challenge of globalization: Approaches to a Proactive International Policy in S&T".
- **ERA Indicators and Monitoring (October 2009), Expert Group Report**
The publication is the report of the Expert Group chaired by Professor Rémi Barré. Combining economic and statistical expertise, the group presents a comprehensive and flexible framework for an evidence-based monitoring of progress towards the European Research Area.

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- **Drivers of International Cooperation, Final Report, (December 2009) EC DG Research**

This Report, written jointly by the Technopolis Group and the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (The University of Manchester), seeks to understand what policy considerations are made when establishing and implementing science, technology and innovation (STI) linkages with other countries.

- **Priority-setting in the European Research Framework Programmes**

The report describes the intricate mechanisms to come to decisions on the form and contents of a framework programme. The report was written by Dan Andr ee, Special Adviser at the Swedish Ministry for Education and Research.



S&T NEWS FROM U.S. i

On February 1, President Obama released his proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011. To view the President's R&D budget please visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/rdbudgets>

To view the AAAS analysis of the R&D budget visit:

<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/fy2011/>

The fourth public meeting of the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) was held on March 12, 2010. The primary topics were: the National Nanotechnology Initiative; Agriculture and Food Security; Energy; Advanced Manufacturing; and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education. For more information visit the PCAST website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/pcast>.

The Reauthorization for the America COMPETES Act has begun. The House Science and Technology Committee took the first steps toward reauthorizing the America COMPETES Act by marking up a **committee print** of its energy title in the Energy and Environment Subcommittee on March 25. This title contains three bills that provide a comprehensive reauthorization of the Department of Energy's Office of Science (**HR 4905**) a reauthorization of ARPA-E (**HR 4906**), and an authorization of Energy Innovation Hubs (**HR 4907**).

Much of the discussion and several amendments offered during the three-hour mark-up centered on how much to authorize for these well-regarded programs in an era of rising deficits. House S&T Committee staff are using the two-week congressional recess to seek comments from key stakeholders on a draft of other components of the America COMPETES bill, primarily related to NSF. The draft does not yet provide details of the funding levels for the agencies, nor does it contain all of the education sections.

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COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



The Austrian Research Promotion Agency/European and International Programmes together with the project partners welcomes you to this first newsletter of the BILAT-USA project!

The project's goal is to improve the awareness towards EU-U.S. Science & Technology cooperation through a comprehensive set of activities:

- support a trans-Atlantic dialogue platform, addressing global issues.
- provide information on Science & Technology (S&T) cooperation activities and opportunities between the EU and the U.S. to facilitate new partnerships towards the EU Framework Programme.
- promote excellence in cooperative research through the organization of science forums at the policy level, symposia on cross-cutting multidisciplinary issues, workshops and linked brokerage events at the thematic level.
- facilitate networking to support cooperative activities.

This new quarterly newsletter will present key project-related news and activities. This quarter's newsletter covers the launch of the new web portal that will serve as key information source on EU-U.S. S&T cooperation, an inventory of relevant networks and players, an overview on the current status of U.S. participation in the EU Framework Programme and an overview on up-coming events.

If you want to receive this newsletter regularly, please subscribe at <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/bilat-usa/subscribe-newsletter.html>

Enjoy reading!

Sabine Herlitschka

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Communication & Dissemination

The new EU-U.S. Science and Technology Portal has been launched end of March 2010! This portal will be one of the main information platforms related to EU-U.S. cooperation in the field of science and technology. The BILAT-USA section of the portal will provide up-to-date information on project related activities. The main features of the web-site include the following:

Framework Programme will provide general and most current information, including open calls targeting specifically U.S. researchers. **Inventory database** will provide information on task forces, working groups, networks operated within EU, U.S. and bilaterally. An inventory will be done based on thematic areas. **Key players** and multipliers will be identified as important contributors for EU-U.S. cooperation. **News and Events** will keep you up-to date. **Virtual help desk** has been formed to respond to your questions related to EU-U.S. cooperation under the Framework Programme. Additionally, all EU-U.S. related publication and document (created within and outside of the BILAT-USA and Link2US projects) will be accessible and searchable under **Documents & Publications**.

For more details please our web-site:

<http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/bilat-usa>

The Projects Brochure is also available! Please click [here](#) to download the Brochure.



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ENHANCING TRANS-ATLANTIC COOPERATION



Online Inventory

BILAT-USA provides an overview on existing collaborations in order to strengthen S&T Dialogue and cooperation by increasing their visibility.

The online **inventory** covers existing thematic task forces, working groups, networks of excellences (NoE) and ERA-Nets operating at EU, at U.S. and at the trans-Atlantic level. Information collected is easily searchable along thematic areas and types of organisations.

Thematic areas of the inventory will cover

energy, environment including climate change, food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology, health, information and communication technologies, metrology, nanoscience, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies, security, socio-economic sciences and the humanities, space and transport.

As of March 2010, the preliminary results of the inventory provide the details of 63 national thematic task forces/working groups in the U.S, 21 thematic task forces/working groups in the EU, 59 ERA-Nets, 3 joint U.S.-EU thematic task forces/working groups and 9 NoEs.

According to these first results, in the fields of energy, nanosciences and environment (including climate change) there are total numbers of 9 NoEs, 5 of those include partners from the U.S.

In addition to those collaborations, **DG External Relations** has launched pilot projects in order to promote mutual understanding and learning among EU and U.S. policy researchers and policymakers on a number of challenges with a global dimension. The 1st call was launched in 2008-2009, followed by a conference where the findings of the projects were presented.

In the 2nd call 7 new pilot projects were selected. Projects will continue until 30 June 2011. Projects include the following topics: security, child health and obesity, e-health challenges,

marine governance, immigration systems, energy efficiency and low carbon technologies.

For details please visit the related **web-site**.

POLICY FORUM



On 13-14 May AAAS will hold its Annual Forum on Science and Technology Policy, in Washington D.C., U.S.A. The Forum is aimed at those interested in public policy issues facing the science, engineering, and higher education communities.

This year a session will be organized under the auspices of the BILAT-USA project. The session titled "New Approaches to International S&T Engagement: Trans-Atlantic Perspectives" will run from 2:00pm -5:00pm on 13 March 2010. The session will comprise two panels, the first will discuss new approaches to science engagement taken by governments in the U.S. and Europe towards capacity building/development and diplomacy. The second session will cover new approaches to U.S.-EU collaboration to address global challenges.

For the Forum Programme: **AAAS Annual Forum 2010**

U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FP7



Overview of the status of U.S. participation in the past two years

From January 2007 to December 2009, approximately 1900 proposals, with at least one U.S. participant in the consortium were submitted to the 7th Framework Programme. This resulted in 248 Grant Agreements being signed by the specific U.S. entities involved.

Breakdown of funding area and number of Grant Agreements signed:

- People – 140
- Cooperation- 97
- Capacities – 17
- Euratom – 3
- Ideas – 1

FP7 projects with US participation involve research in the following thematic areas: Health, Information and Communication Technologies, Food, Agriculture, and Biotechnology, Nano-sciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies, Environment (including Climate Change) and Research Infrastructures.

Further and more detailed information will be covered in upcoming issues of this newsletter. The next e-Newsletter issue will highlight the Programme "People".

PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE

Project Acronym:	US-EU-MATCH
Title of the Project:	The US Gateway to the World's Largest Technology and Business Support Network
Coordinated by:	INTRASOFT Int.
Operated under:	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
Project Web-site:	www.us-eu-match.com



Objectives:

The **US-EU-Match Platform** was launched on September 2008 with the goal of supporting U.S. companies and research institutions seeking to establish strong links with their European counterparts, thereby enhancing trans-Atlantic trade and fostering the exchange of innovative ideas and technology.

The U.S.-EU Match Network links up with the existing **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)**, which combines and builds on the former Innovation Relay Centres and Euro Info Centres. The network offers a "one-stop shop" to meet all the information needs of SMEs and companies in Europe.

Major Activities:

The US-EU Match team will connect U.S. organizations with EU counterparts through proactive outreach services.

- Posting of technology requests and technology offers to set up technology partnerships
- Posting of business offers and requests to set up business partnerships
- Technology scouting service
- Support to establish businesses on both sides of the Atlantic
- Organizing brokerage and trade meetings
- Customized training and other services.

Partners:

- **Intrasoft International S.A** (Luxembourg),
- **NineSigma** (Cleveland, OH),
- **RTI International** (Research Triangle Park, NC), and the
- **European-American Business Organization, Inc.** (New York City, NY),

Contact

www.us-eu-match.com

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



AAAS, along with our project partners, would like to welcome you to the first newsletter for the Link2US project. The project's goal is to improve the awareness of U.S. international collaborative funding schemes to enhance cooperative research with American. Each quarter the newsletter will highlight key project activities and news and events related to EU-U.S. cooperation. This quarter's newsletter will spotlight the Link2US Virtual Helpdesk along and the new Funding Directory Catalogue that can now be found online.

For the most up-to-date information on the project, please see <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/link2us>

We hope you find this newsletter useful!
For any questions/comments please contact either Dr. Tom Wang or Stephanie Pals at Link2US@aaas.org

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



This month's highlight is the Virtual Helpdesk. The Virtual Helpdesk will be run by AAAS to answer questions about U.S. funding programmes open to European researchers. Beginning 1 April 2010, Office hours will take place each Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00am – 10:30am Washington DC time.

Contact Information for the Helpdesk is: +12023266663

For all questions and comments outside of the scheduled office hours, please contact info@link2us.eu

FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATES



A funding programme inventory has been added to the Link2US project website. Thirteen funding programmes within five US federal government agencies have been identified that are open to European researchers. This information is available in database form on the Link2US website. The inventory will be updated as new programmes are announced. To view the catalogue visit: <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/link2us/funding-opportunities.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Title	Place	Organizer/Project	Link
13 May 2010	The AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy New Approaches to International S&T Engagement: trans-Atlantic Perspectives	Washington D.C. USA	AAAS/ BILAT-USA	Click here

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IMPRESSUM

This e-newsletter is prepared and published within the scope of BILAT-USA and Link2US Projects, which are co-funded by the European Union's 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration.

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