

**Ways of successful science, technology and innovation  
cooperation between Europe and the USA**

**Lessons learned  
and concluding remarks**

**BILAT USA workshop**

**Vienna, 24 April 2012**

# Evolution of international S&T cooperation

- Towards a multi-polar S&T world
  - The emergence of other countries (China, India, ...)
  - Evidence for increasing international collaboration
    - Average collaboration distance is higher
    - Virtualisation of science
    - ICT infrastructure allows for intense collaboration
- New drivers for enhanced cooperation
  - Individual researchers (to work with the best scientists)
  - Research institutions (strategic alliances)
  - Business R&D (approaching to markets/knowledge)
- From narrow to broader paradigm
  - Collaboration in the “knowledge triangle”

# Evolution of policies on international cooperation

- Both the European Union, individual Member States and US funding agencies are redefining their international cooperation strategies, priorities and tools
  - Looking for more intense cooperation ranging from fundamental research to innovation
  - Moving from individual to institutional support
- In the EU, the Council created SFIC (Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation)
  - Partnership between the European Commission and Member and Associated States to *“facilitate the further development, implementation and monitoring of the international dimension of ERA”*

# Experiences in the UE-US S&T cooperation (I)

- EU and US S&T communities are cooperating by using a variety of schemes
  - From mobility actions to joint research projects or more innovative schemes
  - “policy experimentation” arena
- The participation of US entities in the FP7 is growing but there is still room for improvement
  - Difficulties to accept the EU-FP7 rules for participation
- S&T cooperation between EU and US partners is not limited to FP
  - Bilateral US-MS schemes are moving towards multilateral schemes
  - SFIC has provided the basis for defining MS+AC international cooperation

# Experiences in the UE-US S&T cooperation (II)

- The workshop has presented a set of experiences and lessons learned from them
  - Identification of legal barriers (Belgium Court, Penalties, ownerships of foreground, etc.) for signing Grant Agreements or Consortium Agreements (40% of US partners did not signed the GA!!)
    - Subcontracting, third parties??
    - Easier if no exchange of funds
  - The importance of pre-commercial procurement to support innovation at the international level
  - The specificity of some areas (i.e. space sector)
    - Different behaviour of US agencies (i.e. NASA)
  - The lack of information for potential participants (NCP??)

# The EU-US cooperation staircase



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# Trends for the future (I)

- Progressive openness of R&D actions/programmes
  - From the US:
    - NSF: take advantage of PIRE, IRES, SAVI, ... (other agencies ??)
  - From the EU:
    - Increased participation in H2020
    - Good experiences: mobility (NRO), joint projects (ANR, BMBF...)
    - Initiative “Approaching USA” with a set of action points
  - From individual MS:
    - A variety of programmes depending on the country
    - Mobility, joint projects, joint labs, Master/PhD programmes, ...
- Agreements between individual institutions
  - Universities, research centres
  - Governmental support ?

# Trends for the future (II)

- Increased role of innovation
  - Academic-industry involvement
    - New actors??
  - Entrepreneurship
    - EIT involvement??
- Cooperation US-EU in a global scenario
  - In the G8 context
    - research councils
    - research infrastructures
  - Moving to G20??



# Conclusions

International cooperation in S&T is not an option:  
it is an essential driver for growth and knowledge creation

- US-EU S&T collaboration is growing but there is still room for improvement
- Hints for the future
  - How to move towards H2020?
    - ... taking into account the accumulated experience (global ERA-NET?)
  - How to implement joint actions between several MS and US agencies?
    - “Variable geometry” approach (inter-agency agreements)
    - With or without “common pot”
  - How to increase university-industry relationships?
- A lot of work to do!!