

**Report on Communication and
Coordination Activities Related to EU-
U.S. Programmes, Initiatives, Task
Forces/Working Groups and
ERA-NETs**

BILAT-USA

BILAT-USA Project aim to improve the awareness towards EU-U.S. Science & Technology cooperation through setting up a sustainable, knowledge based, and bi-regional dialogue platform between S&T key players as well as stakeholders from the EU-Member States and Associated countries and from the U.S. Project is funded by European Union's Capacities Programme on International Cooperation under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Cooperation.

More detail information can be found on the project web-site:

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

1. Executive summary

Inventory of existing thematic task forces/working groups and ERA-Nets

The purpose of Task 1.1 (T1.1) is, on the one hand, to develop an online [inventory \(M1\)](#) of existing thematic task forces/working groups and ERA-Nets in selected priority themes, and on the other hand, to exploit information provided by the inventory as the basis for communication and coordination activities foreseen in T1.1 and T1.2. The aim of this Deliverable (D1.1) is to report on communication and coordination activities performed in relation to T1.1 and T1.2.¹

2. Methodology

In period 1, the following resources provided the main input for communication activities:

- Bilat USA Task 1.1 online inventory [\(M1\)](#) including thematic task forces, working groups, networks of excellences (NoE), ERA-Nets, FP7 projects and EU-US pilot projects operating at EU, at U.S. and at the trans-Atlantic level,
- Bilat USA Task 1.2, the online survey and its report [\(D.1.3\)](#) presenting the experiences and recommendations of representatives of thematic task forces, working groups, EU-US pilot projects operating at EU-U.S level.

Communication activities aim to:

1. create awareness on the project, its activities and website
2. develop synergies and seek cooperation opportunities with the target group of T1.2

3. Results

The following projects and programmes have been approached between October 2009 - October 2010:

3.1 ERA-NET projects

After the contact information of ongoing ERA-NET projects had been compiled through the [Inventory study \(M1\)](#) and the project newsletter has been launched, the task leader sent an introductory e-mail to the ERA-NET projects together with the first newsletter. (2010/04)

¹ T1.1> Task 1.1: Inventory of existing thematic task forces, working groups, and ERA-NETs
T1.2>Task 1.2: Communication and Synergies with existing thematic task forces, working groups, and ERA-NETs

3.2 Access4EU Project (Link2US)

As the consortium of LINK2US and the BILAT projects overlaps, the task leader and other partners involved in two projects had the chance to discuss opportunities for collaboration at joint project meetings (October 2009, March, 2010).

3.3 EURAXESS LINKS USA and EURAXESS

EURAXESS LINKS USA and EURAXESS have been informed of project activities by Project coordinator as well as the task leader in person at the Bridgehead meeting in June, 2010 in a plenary discussion. Additionally, EURAXESS LINKS USA was published as Project of the Issue in the Newsletter (Issue 2). A regular contact has been established between 2 projects (BILAT-USA and EURAXESS LINKS USA) in the form of informing each other about important news and events that of mutual interest. One of the other positive outcomes of this close communication is that the BILAT-USA is planning to organize its Symposium on Transatlantic Mobility in cooperation with EURAXESS LINKS USA.

3.4 EU-US pilot projects launched by DG External Relations (DG RELEX)

These projects were covered in the [Inventory \(M1\)](#). Following that the coordinator and the task leader have conducted e-mail correspondence and telephone conversation about the goals and activities of the project with the coordinators of the EU-U.S. pilot projects in the period between June-August, 2010. Cooperation opportunities will be sought based on theme specific activities.

3.5 EU-U.S. Joint Task Forces, Working Groups

EC-U.S. Task Force on Biotechnology Research

The task leader has introduced the project in person to Gertrud Matthiessen Guyader, representing the EC-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research, in September, 2010.

As a result of D1.1, target groups defined by Task 1.1 and Task 1.2 have received information about the BILAT USA project activities, highlighting its 1st results.

EU-U.S. Energy Council

The Project coordinator had a meeting with the EC officials in charge with EU-U.S. Energy Council. The purpose of the meeting and later communication via e-mail was to learn more about the activities of the Energy Council, present BILAT-USA Project and its objectives and relevant activities foreseen and seek cooperation opportunities in the form of organizing a joint thematic workshop on Renewable Energy. Communication still continues on this respect.

4. Conclusions

During October 2009-October 2010, the above mentioned communication and coordination activities have been realized. These initial steps should serve as the basis to develop closer cooperation with selected programmes/initiatives in Period 2. Also, the target group of communication activities could be extended by EU Centres of Excellences, a programme with substantial EU-U.S. scope.