

Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

"BILAT-USA" AND "LINK2US"

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Project Highlights



This issue of the E-Newsletter highlights FP7 information days and brokerage events in the thematic areas of KBBE and transport. In addition the U.S. NSF and DOE strategic plans are discussed, along with a look at the current status of the U.S. federal budgets for FY 2011 and FY 2012 and what it means for EU-based researchers. As always, U.S. S&T and ERA News are highlighted, along with key trans-Atlantic news.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) NEWS

EU Framework Programme: New Calls of 7 billion Euro

EU Framework Programme prepares to publish new calls for proposals of approx. 7 billion Euro volume which is Europe's biggest ever package of research and innovation investment.

The European Unions 7th Framework Programme for Research - the largest trans-national cooperative research programme - is currently preparing a new round of calls for proposals to be published on 20 July 2011.

Nearly 7 billion Euro will be made available for joint research projects covering a vast range of scientific disciplines, public policy areas and commercial sectors. This funding will contribute to advance scientific boundaries, increase European competitiveness and help solve societal challenges such as climate change, energy and food security, health and an ageing population. Participants from European research organisations, universities and industry, including SMEs can take advantage of the upcoming opportunities. Furthermore, the 7th EU Framework Programme is open to organisations from outside Europe, this years' calls for proposals have a particular focus on stimulating cooperation with the U.S.

This package of calls for proposals can clearly be understood as an economic stimulus expected to create jobs and long-term investments in a smarter, sustainable and more inclusive Europe. It is a key element within the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative.

Initial Evaluation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has been established to reshape the European innovation landscape and to provide solutions to bridge the innovation gap. The EIT shall be a key driver of sustainable European growth and competitiveness through the stimulation of world-leading innovations with a positive impact on economy and society. The external evaluation is a requirement of the establishing regulation of the EIT. The initial findings include: the most important priority for the EIT being to consolidate its current practices and to develop robust internal procedures to secure its long-term future.

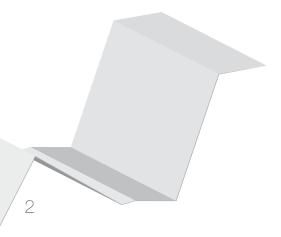
Details

FP7 KBBE Information Day & Brokerage Event

The European Commission (EC), on 15 July 2011 in Brussels, will organize an information day for the new call, FP7-KBBE-6-2012, under the 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology' (FAFB/KBBE) theme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The event is also being organized in collaboration with the Bio Circle 2 project.

EU and Third County research stakeholders from both the public and private sectors will attend this international event. During the information day, the Commission Officers will provide information on the upcoming calls to the participants about the FAFB Theme. In the afternoon a brokerage event will be organized by the Bio Circle 2 Project, in order to give to the researchers the opportunity to present their proposal ideas and meet potential new partners interested in joining a consortium; group discussions and face-to-face meetings will be organized during the partnering event.

Details



ESFRI Strategy Report and Roadmap Update 2010 to Contribute to the European 2020 Strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative

The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. The mission of ESFRI is to support a coherent and strategyled approach to policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe, and to facilitate multilateral initiatives leading to the better use and development of research infrastructures, at EU and international level. With an ambitious action plan the ESFRI will help to implement as much of the top level Research Infrastructures on the ESFRI Roadmap as possible to contribute to the European 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative.

Details

5th Call for Networking and Brokerage Events in the FP7 Programme Transport (incl. Aeronautics)

Within the frame of the FP7 Transport Information Days (18-19 July 2011, Brussels), the Project ETNA organises two networking and brokerage events. These events will focus on transport (including Aeronautics) topics covered within the next round of calls, to be published on 20 July 2011. The networking and brokerage events will take place in the afternoon on both days – following the informational sessions carried out by the EC in the morning. The event on day 1 (Monday, July 18) will focus on the topics in the subprogramme Aeronautics and Air Transport (AAT). The event on day 2 (Tuesday, July 19) will focus on the sub-programme Sustainable Surface Transport (SST). Both events will take place in the building Charlemagne, Rue de la Loi 170 – the same location as the informational sessions in the morning.

Participation in the networking and brokerage events is free of charge. For logistical reasons, ETNA requests all participants to register for the event online using the registration system provided in the event dedicated page. Deadline for registration for the networking and brokerage events is 13 July 2011.

Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union Conference

"Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union" Conference will be held in Budapest, Hungary on 28-29 June 2011. The conference will be organized by the Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation in the frame of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The main objective of the conference is to provide a suitable forum for discussing the training, career and mobility of researchers from different perspectives while highlighting challenges and best practices. As the Hungarian Presidency gives special attention to the involvement of young people as a horizontal priority, this conference will aim to promote the researchers' life paths and to encourage young people to embark on scientific careers. The conference will also provide an opportunity to present the achievements of the EURAXESS programme.

Details

U.S. S&T NEWS

NSF Releases Strategic Plan for FY 2011-2016

On 10 May the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) released its strategic plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2011-2016. Empowering the Nation Through Discovery and Innovation: NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2011-2016 sets three strategic goals: "transform the frontiers, innovate for society, and perform as a model organization." The agency notes that it will continue to utilize both intellectual merit and broader impacts as metrics for awarding grants and as tools for finding ways "to reach out to the range of communities that play complementary roles in the innovation process and are essential to ensuring the impact of NSF investments." In addition, "... increasing international partnerships and collaborations." is specifically highlighted within the plan as performance goal.

Details

U.S. HHS holds 2nd Annual Health Data Initiative Forum

On 9 June 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Institute of Medicine (IoM) co-hosted the second annual Health Data Initiative Forum. The forum focused on innovative applications and services that harness the power of open data from HHS and other sources. Overall, the goal is to help improve health and health care. Forty-five new or updated solutions were featured, that serve the needs of consumers, health care providers, employers, public health leaders, and policy makers.

Details

NIH Success Rate Likely to Reach Historic Low

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director, Francis Collins, testified on 11 May 2011 before the U.S. Senate and projected that the success rate for grant applications would reach a historic low in FY 2011 - around 17 or 18%.

Details

DOE 2011 Strategic Plan Released

The U.S. Department of Energy has released its 2011 Strategic Plan. The 2011 plan aims to serve as a blueprint for DOE to address the U.S. energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges. The plan is organized into four categories: catalyzing the transformation of the U.S. energy system and securing U.S. leadership in clean energy technologies; maintaining a vibrant U.S. effort in science and engineering as a cornerstone of U.S. economic prosperity; enhancing nuclear security through defense, nonproliferation, and environmental efforts; and establishing a framework to maximize mission success.



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BILAT-USA E-NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Reader

Summer is near, so is the next wave of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Calls which will be published on 20th July 2011. With the key objective of strengthening competitiveness, this years calls make available nearly 7 billion Euro for joint research projects covering a vast range of scientific disciplines, public policy areas and commercial sectors. This funding will contribute to advance scientific boundaries, increase European competitiveness and help solve global societal challenges such as climate change, energy and food security, health and an ageing population. The Seventh EU Framework Programme is open to organisations from outside Europe, this years' calls for proposals have a particular focus on stimulating cooperation with the U.S.

"Horizon 2020" will be the name of the successor Programme to FP7 for the period of 2014 to 2020. Discussions have started with respect to the new orientation of "Horizon 2020", stay tuned!

Enjoy reading and have a great summer time!

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

TRANS-ATLANTIC NEWS 🤝

"NIH and EC Funding" Information Day Highlights Joint Funding Opportunities for U.S. and EU Researchers

NIH and EC funding: Building transatlantic partnerships information day took place on 23 May 2011, in Brussels. The event focused on joint funding opportunities within the European Commission (EC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), for EU and U.S. researchers in the field of health. Speakers included Ian Magrath: President International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research, Office of the Director, National Cancer Institute – NIH; Dr. Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Director of the Health Directorate at the Research DG of the European Commission; and Dr. Skentelbery, Secretary General European Biotechnology Network. For a brief description of each speakers comments, please click on "Details".

Details

EU and U.S. Transatlantic Dialogue on Biometrics and Security Technologies

On 5-6 May 2011, the EU funded initiative RISE (Rising pan European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics) held a meeting in Washington DC, hosted and organized by the Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies (C-PET). The main focus of the meeting was to continue the international dialogue already initiated by ear-



lier conferences and workshops on ethics and biometrics, as well as to discuss the establishment of an international interest group and to prepare the agenda for the 4th and final RISE International Conference to be held on December 1-2, 2011 in Brussels (for participation please contact Silvia Venier – silvia.venier@cssc.eu).

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This high-level meeting resulted in a deeper understanding of global issues related to data protection and privacy and included roundtable discussions on biometrics and security in global perspective, emerging issues in biometrics and policy, emerging global policy questions, and security, privacy and ethics. Guest speakers included Mr. Peter Hustinx, European Data Protection Supervisor and Mary Ellen Callahan, CPO at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Stewart Baker, former Assistant Secretary for Policy, DHS, Duane Blackburn, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Robert Mocny, Director of US-VISIT Program, DHS, Rene von Schomberg, European Commission, and Jay Stanley of the ACLU, amongst others.

Details

ERC Grant for U.S. Nobel Laureate

Professor James J. Heckman, American Nobel Prize winning economist from the University of Chicago, has been awarded an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council (ERC). He and his team will carry out the funded research project at the University College Dublin, Ireland, on "understanding health across the life course", combining health, social and economic research.

Details

ERC Funded EU-U.S. Team Reveals How the Cells Inside Us Like to Dance

A research team, made up of researchers from Spain and the United States, investigated the physical forces that determine how cells migrate. The findings, presented in the journal Nature Materials, show that these patterns of migration are both coordinated and chaotic. The research project is funded by the European Commission under the IDEAS/ERC (European Research Council) programme of the Seventh-Framework Programme (FP7).

Details

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop on "Bilateral EU-U.S. Cooperation in Nanotechnology"

The BILAT-USA consortium organised a workshop on 1 June 2011 in Budapest in the frame of the EuroNanoForum 2011. Participants received information about the nanotechnology research in the EU and in the U.S. The U.S. was represented by Mark A. Canning, Head of Environment, Science and Technology HUB Office, U.S. Embassy Budapest, while the European Commission was represented by George Katalagarianakis, Scientific Officer, DG Research. Information was distributed about the possibilities for the cooperation, and current projects were also represented in order to demonstrate existing collaborations. Presentations of the workshop will be uploaded to the website of the conference.

Details

BILAT-USA Participates in the 2011 BIO International Convention

On 29 June 2011, as part of the 2011 BIO International Convention, the BILAT-USA project hosted an IPR workshop at the European Commission's booth. Workshop participants were invited to attend, in order to identify and discuss the most common limitations or constraints that create obstacles for U.S. researcher/institution participation in the Framework Programme. The workshop was conceived as follow-on to the December 2009 event "Legal Discussion Workshop on Opportunities & Challenges of the 7th Framework Programme for Research", organised during th EU Delegation's visit to the United States.



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BILAT-USA Project Achievements

BILAT-USA (coordinated by FFG, Austria) submitted its first 18-month project report end of May 2011.

As for the impact of the project, BILAT-USA:

- contributed to the transatlantic dialogue on S&T through the Policy Forum and communication and coordination with EC and U.S. authorities
- created a comprehensive information portal with all EU-U.S. S&T related information easily accessible
- improved the process of providing information on funding opportunities designed to promote cooperation with the U.S. in the 7th Framework Programme
- contributed to provision of supportive and background information of EU and U.S. S&T systems as well as mechanisms
- shared best practices via Symposia, presenting state of the art and the prospects for cooperation such as in the fields of Research Infrastructures, as well as Innovation and Technology Transfer
- created synergies and cooperation with other projects and initiatives

Details

U.S. IN THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: SPOTLIGHT ON THE IDEAS PROGRAMME

About

The objective of the 'IDEAS' Programme is to reinforce excellence, dynamism, and creativity in European research, as well as improve the attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from both European and Third Countries(1). Communication and dissemination of research results is an important aspect of this programme. The basic rule for this 'IDEAS" is the participation of only one organization, hosting the Principal Investigator and his/her team to carry out the research proposed. The Host Institution must be based in a EU Member State or Associated Country. Organizations based in Third Countries are not eligible as Host Institutions. Nevertheless, it is possible to include in the proposals other organizations as "additional participants"; in some cases it is possible to involve additional participants from Third Countries, including the U.S., but this participation must be essential to the project and are subject to the opinion of the evaluators, meaning that participation and funding of additional participants from Third Countries are evaluated case by case. In summary, researchers from U.S. are allowed to

apply, but only in the case they decide to move to a European institution to carry out the research proposed.

U.S. Participation

From January 2007 to December 2009, 99 U.S. organisations were included in 73 proposals submitted. Out of these, only one grant agreement has been signed by a U.S. University (Skidmore College), included as additional participant of a project hosted by the University of Durham, UK. Due to the IDEAS Programme's specific limitations, minimum participation from U.S. organizations was seen (1.4%).

¹ As far as their research is carried out in Europe.

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PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE

European Basin-scale Analysis, Synthesis and Integration

Acronym: EURO-BASIN

Website: http://www.euro-basin.eu

Coordinated by: National Institute for Aquatic Resources, at

the Technical University of Denmark

Funded under: FP7-ENV-2010

Objectives: The North Atlantic Ocean and its contiguous shelf seas are crucial for the ecological, economic, and societal health of both Europe and North America. The deep ocean and shelf seas support major fisheries. An overarching property of the ecosystems of the shelf seas and the deep ocean is that they are influenced at the basin scale by a common atmospheric forcing. However there is a significant lack of information at a mechanistic level about how the forcing impacts marine populations and how impending climate changes may alter the ecology and biogeochemical cycling of the basin. The overarching objectives of the EURO-BASIN initiative are to understand and predict the population structure and dynamics of key plankton and fish species of the North Atlantic and shelf seas, and assess the impacts of climate variability on North Atlantic marine ecosystems and their goods and services.

The project will develop understanding and strategies that will ultimately contribute to improve and advance management of North Atlantic marine ecosystems following the ecosystem approach.

Major Activities: EURO-BASIN will promote a joint EC / North American research initiative to improve the understanding of the variability, potential impacts, and feedbacks of global change and anthropogenic forcing on the structure, function and dynamics of the ecosystems of the North Atlantic Ocean and associated shelf seas and on their capacity to provide services. The underlying goal of EURO-BASIN is the creation of predictive understanding based on furthering the knowledge base on key species and processes which determine ecosystem dynamics and feed back to climate via carbon sequestration. To this end EURO-BASIN will use a range of approaches: exploiting existing data and filling data gaps through targeted laboratory and field studies as well as the application of integrative modelling techniques.

Partners: The large Integrated Project (IP) includes experts from Denmark, France Germany, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Spain, Turkey and the UK.

An International Expert Advisory Panel of external experts will be selected, and will include members from funded and potential U.S. and CANADA national programmes.



LINK2US E-NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Reader

Welcome to the Link2US July 2011 E-Newsletter! As the current debate on the U.S. federal budget for FY 2011 has come to a close, and debate on FY 2012 continues, a clearer picture regarding the U.S. R&D budgets has begun to emerge. This issue includes a discussion with Dr. Patrick J. Clemins, a federal budget expert at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who highlights key issues of importance to EU-based researchers interested in receiving U.S. funding.

This issue also focuses on three recent events held by the Link2US project on the topics of health, information technology, and challenges related to applying to U.S. federal programmes. In addition, we have started a new feature, which highlights a funding programme open for direct application by EU-based researchers. Don't miss this month's focus on the U.S. NIH's R01 programme. Stay tuned next quarter as we highlight results of the EARMA session discussion in Portugal, and another U.S. federal funding programme.

Enjoy reading!

For continuous updated information please visit our website at http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/Link2US

Dr. Tom Wang

Coordinator of Link2US

For questions and comments, please contact us at Link2US@aaas.org

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Opportunities for Health Research in Third Countries

On 9 June 2011, Link2US participated in an Access4EU info session in Brussels, focused on opportunities for health research in third countries. The event was part of the official FP7 Health-information day organised by the European Commission. The aim of this Access4EU info-session was to provide an overview of the opportunities in Health research that exist outside Europe. Participants not only had the opportunity to understand the importance of International Cooperation under FP7, but also to learn about the access possibilities to Third Countries RTD programmes.

The information session was very popular with more than 100 participants present. U.S. programmes open for EU researchers was reviewed by Dr. David Bruce Conn, from the Office of International Health and Biodefense (OES/IHB), U.S. Department of State. Presentations from the workshop can be found on the events website.

Details

Issues in EU Participation in U.S. Federal Science & Technology Research Funding Programmes

Link2US organized a workshop at the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) Annual Conference in Braganca, Portugal on 24 June 2011. The aim of the session was to better understand major U.S. research funding programmes and to help identify key issues and navigate obstacles related to these programmes for grant administrators/ managers, particularly those in non-U.S. institutions. The session featured a discussion to elucidate those policy areas that should be made more coherent and compatible by U.S. and EU authorities to ease research cooperation.

Two U.S. funding entities – National Institute of Health (NIH) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – were represented and speakers gave overviews on the programmes available for EU researchers, along with comments about grants stewardship regarding foreign applicants.



ACCESS4EU Information Day Held on ICT Proposers' Day

A thematic workshop on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) was held in Budapest on 20 May 2011 with the participation of 10 non-EU countries in the frame of the Access4EU initiative. The overall objective of this thematic workshop was to deliver a general overview on ICT research cooperation between Europe and the target countries. Link2US project, as part of the Access4EU initiative was represented by Katalin Kalai (TETALAP, Hungary). A short overview on the U.S. research system on ICT as well as the opportunities for collaboration open for EU researchers was given. Presentations from the workshop can be found on the event website.

Details



Link2US (coordinated by AAAS, U.S.) submitted its first 18-month project report end of May 2011.

Activities aimed to enhance the awareness and participation of European researchers and research organisations in national research programmes of the United States:

- Mapping and monitoring access opportunities in the U.S.
- Survey of all S&T agreements between the U.S. and EU as well as the agreements between the U.S. and individual EU Member States and Associated Countries
- Analysis of issues faced by researchers at European institutions participating in U.S. programmes
- Participation statistics of EU-based researchers during U.S. fiscal year 2009
- Funding catalogue: U.S. Federal government funding programmes open to European Researchers
- "Coordination and Awareness Raising Activities" focused on connecting the stakeholders in the EU-U.S. S&T agreement and raising the awareness about the U.S. scientific research funding structure

NIH Research Project Grant Program (R01)	
Description	The NIH R01 provides support for health-related research and development based on the mission of the NIH. R01s can be investigator-initiated or can be in response to a program announcement or request for application.
Funding Area	All Institutes and most Centers at NIH support the R01 grant mechanism.
Duration	Applications are generally awarded for 1 - 5 budget periods, each normally 12 months in duration.
Funding Conditions	Foreign Institutions and international organizations, including public or private non-profit or for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for this research project grant.
Further Details http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/funding_opportunity/show/id/4	

SPOTLIGHT - U.S. Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and 2012 Budgets: Impacts on EU Researchers

In recent months, the U.S. Federal budget has continuously been in the news. From discussions of severe cuts, to raising the debt ceiling, and even a potential government shutdown, federal budget news has created confusion both within the U.S. and internationally, regarding what it means for researchers. As a result, Link2US spoke with Dr. Patrick J. Clemins, Ph.D, a federal budget expert within the Research and Development (R&D) Budget and Policy Programme at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Below are key points regarding the current status of the FY 2011 and FY 2012 U.S. federal budgets, along with comments on key priority areas, and what it all means for EU researchers seeking U.S. funding.

Current Status of the Federal Budgets

FY 2011

The U.S. FY 2011 budget has been finalized. R&D funding ended up at \$144.4 billion, a 3.5% decrease from FY 2010. The greatest cuts were in the U.S. defense budget (at -5.4%). Non-defense R&D programs fared better, with a small 0.9% decrease. Generally, applied research programmes suffered the biggest cuts while basic research programmes were held relatively flat.

Details

FY 2012

Currently, the U.S. government is still negotiating the final FY 2012 budget. The President's request has \$149.1 billion in R&D investment, a 3.3% increase from FY 2011 with the largest gains for research funding and energy research. However, based on the numbers coming from the U.S. House of Representatives as they draft bills, these funding numbers are not realistic, with applied research programme budgets facing steep cuts for a second straight year. Bills have been passed for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy bill has been reported by the Appropriations Committee. All show double digit percentage decreases for certain R&D programs.

Details

Key S&T Priorities Being Seen

- 1) Research, however, the U.S. Congress favors basic research over applied research
- 2) Energy
- 3) Innovation, jobs, and economic recovery
- 4) Future direction of NASA, especially human spaceflight

Outlook for Key Entities which are able to Directly Fund EU-Based Researchers

- U.S. Department of Homeland (DHS) The S&T budget in the FY 2012 House bill has been cut <u>severely</u>.
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Funding outlook is more positive for the Office of Science. However, applied research programmes will see cuts <u>over</u> 10%.
- U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Work has yet to begin on the budget for NIH. The expectation is that the budget will remain flat or decrease slightly.

Impact on EU-based Researchers

The impact of the FY 2011 and FY 2012 budgets on EU-based researchers can be broken into two parts – the total funding available and Congressional oversight. Generally, it is similar for both EU and U.S.-based researchers when it comes to agency budgets. For researchers who typically receive funds from basic research programmes will likely see relatively flat budgets for their funding programs, however, the outlook is poor for researchers that rely on applied research programmes for their funds. Proposed cuts are as deep, if not deeper, for FY 2012 as compared to FY 2011. A second potential issue is Congressional oversight. Historically, the U.S. Congress has indicated preference that only a small percentage of R&D funds should go to overseas researchers, and during tough budget times, this type of oversight may increase.

IMPRESSUM

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