

Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

“BILAT-USA” AND “LINK2US”

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BILAT USA

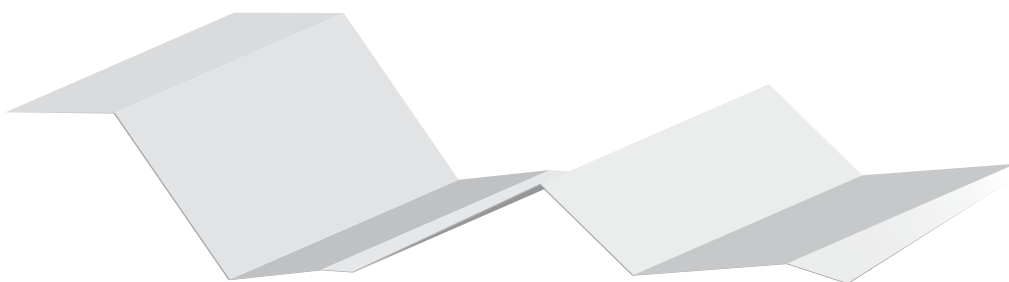
[BILAT-USA](#) is addressing U.S. researchers providing information on the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), such as open calls targeting specifically cooperation with U.S. researchers, research organizations and companies.

The [BILAT-USA Helpdesk](#) provides U.S. researchers support via e-mail responding to questions related to EU-U.S. cooperation under FP7.

Link2US

[Link2US](#) is addressing the participation of European-based researchers in the major U.S. federal government funding programmes that are open to European researchers.

The [Link2US Helpdesk](#) provides assistance to European-based researchers on U.S. federal government funding programmes via e-mail.



IN THIS ISSUE



This issue of the E-Newsletter highlights first results of a recent survey conducted by the BILAT USA project on U.S. participation in FP7, as well as a soon to be available update on the analysis of U.S. participation in FP6 and FP7 and a summary of a recent event in Washington, DC on Science and Technology Landscape in a Changing World. As always, U.S. S&T and ERA News are highlighted, along with key trans-Atlantic news.

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EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) NEWS

EC Opinion on the Independent Expert Evaluation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

On 30 November 2011 the European Commission published its opinion on the independent expert evaluation of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) outlining recommendations from the independent external evaluation the EIT shall implement.

[Details](#)

EC Report on the State of the Innovation Union 2011

On 2 December 2011 the European Commission published its Report on the State of the Innovation Union 2011. The first year of Innovation Union, an integrated innovation strategy built around 34 specific commitments, has seen the economic and financial crisis reaching a new phase.

[Details](#)

U.S. S&T NEWS

News from U.S. Budget for R&D for 2012

The overall federal R&D investment for FY2012 decreased by \$1.8 billion (or 1.3% below FY2011) reaching \$142 billion.

[Details](#)

New National Institute of Health's Translational Sciences Center is Announced

The new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) will, with a budget of \$575 million in its inaugural year, enhance the process of making translational scientific discoveries into new drugs, diagnostics, and devices.

[Details](#)

NIH establishes two new divisions

NIH has announced that the National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) has established two new divisions: the new Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity will be directed by Clifton A. Poodry, and the new Division of Biomedical Technology, Bioinformatics, and Computational Biology will be directed by Karin Remington.

[Details](#)

National Science Foundation Funding Programmes

Some funding opportunities are now open for submissions in the Plant Genome Research Programme (PGRP), allowing coordinating research and initiating collaborations between U.S. and EU scientists.

[Details](#)

National Research Council Releases Report on U.S. Global Change Research Program's Strategic Plan

The report highlights the results of a study of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP's) draft 10-year Strategic Plan. The 20 year old programme draft strategic plan proposes to expand its scope to include "climate-related global change."

[Details](#)

Human Research Standards Compilation released

The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) released the 2012 edition of "The International Compilation of Human Research Standards."

[Details](#)

Scientific Integrity Policy from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Agency

NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco released her agency's new scientific integrity policy. NASA did the same a few days later.

[Details](#)

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TRANS-ATLANTIC NEWS

EU-U.S. Summit Focuses on Jobs and Growth

At the annual EU-U.S. Summit in Washington, DC, leaders announced the establishment of a high-level working group to boost job creation and economic growth on both sides of the Atlantic.

At a joint press availability following the meeting, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy stressed that the European Union and the United States both “need to take strong action to address the near-term growth concerns as well as fiscal and financial vulnerabilities, in order to strengthen the world economy.” He noted that “slower global growth is not only due to the problems in the Eurozone. Others have to do their part of the job too, for instance on exchange rate and on implementing the commitments made in Cannes earlier this month.”

[Details](#)

JRC signs Letter of Intent with the U.S. Department of Energy on e-mobility and smart grids

At the Transatlantic Economic Council meeting, held in Washington on 29 November 2011, the Director-General of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) has signed a Letter of Intent for closer cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) on e-mobility and smart grids.

[Details](#)

Google chooses MateFitness with a grant of \$100.000

The “Maths Gym” of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) is an Italian project selected in the frame of activities to support education promoted by Google. The MateFitness project aims at disseminating and supporting a new concept and culture of Maths through games and an interdisciplinary approach.

[Details](#)

Global Funding of Nanotechnologies – 2011

In the last 11 years, governments around the world have invested more than \$67 billion in funding nanotechnology research. While some funding programs are mature and concentrating on translational research, others are still at an early stage requiring large purchases of infrastructure, from instruments to buildings and services.

[Details](#)

European Commission Confirms New Chief Science Adviser

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso announced that European Union’s first chief science adviser and Scottish microbiologist Anne Glover will be taking her new position in January.

[Details](#)

World Mobility Tour, 16-17 February 2012, Rome, Italy

The “People” National Contact Points (NCPs) Network will meet in Rome, Italy, on the 16 – 17 February 2012. During this event, which will gather “People” NCPs from all over Europe, a specific session (the “World Mobility Tour”) will be dedicated to the mobility opportunities in Third Countries.

[Details](#)

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BILAT–USA Analysis of Existing Instruments, Regulations and Obstacles for U.S. participation in the 7th Framework Programme

In order to analyze the most common limitations and obstacles that can affect the participation of U.S. researchers and organizations in the Framework Programmes, two different questionnaires have been submitted.

130 Coordinators (47%) and 105 U.S. Participants in FP7 projects (29%) filled in the online questionnaire.

The main obstacles indicated by the respondents regard the lack of funding for U.S. partners, and legal/ administrative provisions.

If transatlantic cooperation in research is seen as a key point from both sides, than the funding mechanisms on both sides should provide funding opportunities for all partners. U.S. partners perceive the unavailability of funding as a lack of regard to their role in the project and make them feel to be not considered as “full partners”. Also, administrative and legal provisions should be defined in a way that can be acceptable for the U.S. participants.

The full report will be soon available on the BILAT-USA website.

[Details](#)

U.S. IN THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: UPDATED REPORT RELEASED

After the first report released in 2010, the BILAT-USA project has published the updated version of the document “*Report on the Analysis of U.S. Participation in the 6th and 7th Framework Programmes*”, with data updated at December 2010.

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

From January 2007 to December 2010, a total number of 2.670 proposals, with at least one U.S. participant in the consortium were submitted to the 7th Framework Programme. This resulted in 395 Grant Agreements being signed by the specific U.S. entities involved.

Breakdown of funding area and number of Grant:

Agreements signed:

- People – 147
- Euratom – 5
- Cooperation- 215
- Ideas – 2
- Capacities – 26

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

The whole report is available at:

http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/uploads/news/D2_1_US_FP_Participation_firstUpdate.pdf

A new updated version of the report will be released in the course of year 2012.

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PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE

**Humanitarian Assistance and Food Security**

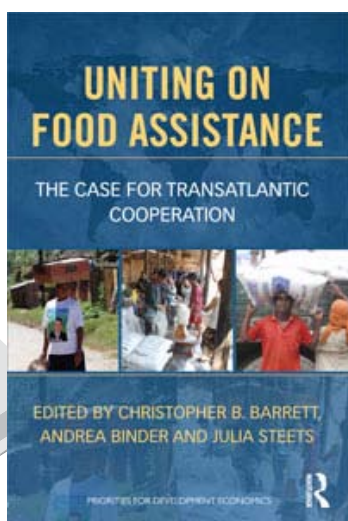
On 10 November 2011, seven pilot projects focused on “Transatlantic methods for handling global challenges” presented their results and recommendations to the European Union External Action Service, the European Commission’s Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, policymakers from European institutions, member states and the U.S. mission to the EU.

Among them was the project “Uniting on Food Assistance”, designed to support enhanced cooperation and mutual learning on humanitarian food assistance between the European Commission and the U.S. government. Three key and mutually reinforcing challenges inhibit more effective food assistance and require transatlantic leadership: (1) outdated international governance, (2) gaps in matching food assistance needs with donor resources, and (3) difficulties in pursuing a twin-track approach to food security, bringing together short-term humanitarian relief and long-term approaches to agricultural development. The Uniting on Food Assistance

research and dialogue project sought to address these issues and assemble empirical evidence to support convergence among key EU and U.S. policymakers and practitioners.

The 14-month project was conducted jointly by the [Global Public Policy Institute](#) and [Cornell University’s Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management](#), with additional support from the [German Marshall Fund of the United States](#). Decision makers and experts in humanitarian assistance from both sides of the Atlantic were actively involved in the project through a series of Transatlantic Dialogues on Humanitarian Action, held in Berlin and Washington, DC. In addition to shorter policy briefs, op-eds and video casts (available on the GPPi [project website](#)), the research team published the edited volume [Uniting on Food Assistance. The Case for Transatlantic Cooperation](#). In the book, the authors analyze the policies and approaches of the European Commission and the U.S. government to humanitarian food assistance and develop recommendations for enhancing transatlantic cooperation and mutual learning in this field.

The recommendations were also disseminated between May-June 2011 among policymakers in Brussels and Washington, DC. A follow-up study titled [Food Security: A Mapping of European Approaches](#) is focusing on long-term aid and food security. The study, part of a new transatlantic project funded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, aims to identify the current priorities of European donors in the area of food security, as well as to highlight potential areas of cooperation among the transatlantic partners. The study helps a new transatlantic expert’s group in developing recommendations on transformational partnerships in the area of food security. The study will be an integral part of the experts group’s report to be published in early 2012.



Enhancing EU-U.S. collaboration

At the recent event “Science and Technology Landscape in a Changing World – enhancing Collaboration with the EU and its Member States” the U.S., EU and Member States focused on exploring existing mechanisms for collaboration and enhancing future of EU/ Member States scientific collaboration with U.S. partners.

The event was held on 12 December 2011 and linked to a joint effort between the European Commission and the EU Member States to promote and stimulate transatlantic collaboration in Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I).

Recognizing the S&T capacity of emerging nations (i.e. BRIC countries), the U.S. and EU representatives at the meeting examined the challenges, new approaches and best practices for transatlantic collaboration, but also focused on the future by discussing the opportunities and perspectives for enhancing the R&D collaboration between the two continents.

The discussions emphasized the importance of understanding how to use existing and innovative partnerships to further cooperation. Recognition and use of consortia, existing knowledge networks or platforms, training researchers (stressing

the importance of mobility), were discussed as means to further partnerships, while raising understanding of the potentials that the Eu has to offer to researchers on both side of the Atlantic. In an age of budget cuts, the need to join efforts by, for example, combining resources, such as infrastructure, was also highlighted. Finally, participants indicated that reciprocal access to U.S. and EU programs, laboratories and infrastructure and lowering administrative burden and allowing uniform funding mechanisms and consistent international regulations would help research collaboration.

The meeting stressed the need for commitment and trust from both sides of the Atlantic, and to continue the good work already accomplish toward advancing S&T cooperation between the U.S. and EU.

The conference was held under the auspices of Poland’s presidency of the Council of the EU and jointly organized by the science counselors of the Embassies of Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and UK and in cooperation with the EU Delegation and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

National Science Foundation Research Grant Programmes in brief

National Science Foundation (NSF) funding opportunities	
Description	The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the only federal agency whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering, except for medical sciences.
Funding Area	Varies Please see the funding website for the specific areas that are funded: http://www.nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp
Duration	Varies
Funding Conditions	NSF does not generally fund foreign institutions directly. However, coordinating research and initiation of collaborations between U.S. and EU scientists is encouraged when applicable
Further Details	http://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=OISE

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IMPRESSUM

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