

# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH *May 2015*

## HORIZON 2020

Commissioner Moedas participated to the European Civil Protection Forum 2015 and presented the [Innovation Union Scoreboard report](#) which provides a comparative assessment of research and innovation performance in Europe.



« *Our interest in science diplomacy is not a fleeting interest. In Europe, we know that investing in others, learning from others and being challenged by others, is the surest way to spark innovation.* »

*Carlos Moedas*

For full speech please click [here](#)

### *Dear Reader,*

In the context of Milan Expo 2015, the European Commission has launched an online consultation on how science and innovation can help the EU ensure safe, nutritious, sufficient and sustainable food globally. The consultation is available [online](#) for input by all interested stakeholders until 1 September 2015.

Click [here](#) to see the video message by Commissioner Moedas on the occasion of the Expo which will be open to the public until 31 October 2015. You can also take a [virtual tour](#) of the Visitor Experience at the EU Pavilion. Do not miss «[The Golden Ear](#)» short film, the story of Sylvia and Alex, coming true at the European Union Pavilion in a stunning multimedia special effects theatre.

The Editors

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## Commissioner Moedas at the EU-Japan Business Round Table

On 27 April 2015 Mr Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, participated at the 17<sup>th</sup> [EU-Japan Business Round Table](#) in Brussels, and gave a [keynote speech](#). Commissioner Moedas highlighted the remarkable EU-Japan industrial cooperation, and emphasised the strong potential for strengthened EU-Japan cooperation in industry, research and innovation. He underlined that Japan is a key strategic partner for Europe in science and technology and that the EU and Japan through joint efforts can address the challenges that both are facing - including an ageing population, energy security, access to critical raw materials, and climate change.

The successfully launched coordinated calls with Japan were brought up, which also involve industry. Japanese-affiliated companies based in Europe are very active in the framework programme, but there is still space for increasing the number of Japanese companies participating in Horizon 2020 projects as involvement from the Japanese industrial sector in the European research and innovation system comes mostly through Japanese affiliates in Europe.

The Horizon 2020 National Contact Point in Japan – the [EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation](#) – can provide important guidance, practical information and assistance in this context.



Photo: Commissioner Moedas at the EU-Japan Business Round Table in Brussels

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## Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance is moving forward

Carlos Moedas, the European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and Karmenu Vella, the European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries opened the “The Atlantic, our Shared resource – Making the Vision Reality» conference which took place on 16-17 April 2015, at the Egmont Palace in Brussels. The implementing activities of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research Cooperation, signed in May 2013 by the EU, Canada and the USA, launching an Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance are advancing to a new exciting stage. The objective of the event was to launch the ‘Galway Statement follow-up projects’ funded through the first Horizon 2020 Blue Growth Calls - the main EU financial instrument to make the Galway Statement commitments a reality. It brought together project coordinators and partners from European Atlantic coastal States and other European countries, our partners from the US and Canada, and also representatives from Brazil and South Africa, aiming to extend the cooperation towards the Southern Atlantic. The European Commission will provide the European stakeholders with approximately EUR 72 million funding to support the implementation of the Galway Statement through Horizon 2020 while the international non-EU partners will join with their own resources. Commissioner Moedas said that ‘The ocean research community has no borders’ and that he considers it as having a leading role for a blue economy and prosperity, combined with vital marine conservation. Several projects were presented: The largest project is AtlantOS – «Optimizing and Enhancing the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System». It will receive more than EUR 20 million funding from the first round of the Horizon 2020 Blue Growth Call and cooperates already with the North and South Atlantic partners. The AtlantOS objective is to support the transition from loosely-coordinated ocean observing activities to a sustainable, efficient, and fit-for-purpose Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System (IAOOS). AtlantOS will fill existing observing system gaps, ensure more data accessibility, and contribute to developing the much needed predictive capability for the monitoring of climate change impact on the Atlantic. Another project is the Irish government’s Celtic Explorer, a 65.5-metre-long research vessel which will start its exploratory journey in June 2015, from Newfoundland-Canada to Galway-Ireland, transecting eight kilometres of the ocean floor. The scientists from the Irish Marine Institute will be joined by a team of ocean mapping experts from the US, Canada and the EU. After this pilot voyage, the plan is to extend the mapping and cover the whole ocean floor. ‘It has never been done before, on any ocean’ stated Simon Coveney, the Irish Minister for Agriculture, Food, Marine and Defence.

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## EU-Africa cooperation on science, technology and innovation

The Commissions of the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) met in Brussels on 22-30 April to advance the Partnership embodied by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) launched in 2007. In the margins of this meeting, EU Commissioner for research, science and innovation Moedas met bilaterally with AU Commissioner for Human Resources Science and Technology Ikounga, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Tumusiime, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs (including health) Sidiki Kaloko and AU Commissioner for Political Affairs Abdullahi. The progress of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on science, technology and innovation (STI) in developing a jointly funded EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA) was welcomed, with an agreement to mobilise adequate resources for implementation, including from member states. Also recognised was the need for better preparedness for infectious diseases through research and surveillance, such as through the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID) and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). The EU-Africa HLPD Expert Working Group (EWG) presented its final input to the EU-Africa HLPD Bureau and representatives of DG Research and Innovation, DG Agriculture and Rural Development and DG International Cooperation and Development on 27 April. The EWG has been working since April 2014 on scientific input to a roadmap towards the jointly funded EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership. The work included an external consultation exercise. The HLPD Bureau will now develop a final roadmap in view of the senior officials meeting scheduled for March 2016. The Horizon 2020-funded RINEA project was kicked-off in Bonn on 28-30 April. RINEA will support the EU-Africa HLPD. The project is also expected to take up some specific activities as put forward in the draft roadmap towards the EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on FNSSA. The project will work in close cooperation with other projects of the HLPD such as CAAST-Net Plus, ProIntensAfrica and a potential follow-up to ERAfrica.



Photo: Commissioner Moedas and AU Commissioner Ikounga

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation

On 18 May, the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology (S&T) Cooperation was held in Brussels. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General for Research and Innovation and Mr Makoto Katsura, Ambassador for S&T Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan. The Japanese delegation at the meeting was composed of 20 persons from the Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Office, the MoFA, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and S&T (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan's S&T Agency (JST), the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO). The meeting assessed progress achieved since the last Joint S&T Committee meeting in Tokyo in June 2013, and adopted a joint vision for the new EU-Japan strategic partnership in Research and Innovation, which articulates actions in the following areas:

- the deepening of strategic cooperation by frequent consultation at multiple levels;
- thematic approach for promoting activities in key strategic areas: substantial collaboration, not least through coordinated calls, in key strategic areas of ICT, Aeronautics and Materials including Critical Raw Materials, and a mutual interest in increasing cooperation in areas such as health/medical research, environment, energy and high-energy physics;
- frameworks that facilitate collaboration: the establishment of mechanisms for the joint funding of research and innovation projects (with Japan's S&T Agency in the first instance), and measures to enhance mobility of researchers such as the soon to be signed ERC-JSPS cooperation arrangement and the opportunities offered by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions;
- close consultation and possible collaboration on Science, Technology and Innovation policies in areas such as Open Science; and
- the important role of support activities and public engagement to give further visibility to the cooperation.

The joint vision of the new strategic partnership in R&I is expected to be endorsed by the EU-Japan Summit on 29 May.



Photo: Participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology

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## Science diplomacy contributes to prosperity and stability in the Middle East

Science diplomacy is a driver of scientific and technological excellence, a key for tackling global challenges and a powerful tool for improving relations across countries, regions and cultures. It is one of the best sources of 'soft power' and an important instrument in today's increasingly complex world. It has a particular added value in Middle East cooperation as the universal language of science opens channels of communication and builds trust where few other mechanisms are feasible. To demonstrate the EU's increasing engagement in the Middle East through science diplomacy, the EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas travelled recently to Jordan where he participated in a high level conference on «Addressing shared challenges through science diplomacy: the case of the EU–Middle East Regional Cooperation». On such occasion Commissioner Moedas visited the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)<sup>1</sup> which is a Research Infrastructure that plays a main role in building scientific and cultural bridges while also contributing to a culture of cooperation through international collaboration in science.



Photo: Commissioner Moedas and Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General of DG RTD, visiting SESAME International Research Centre

During his participation at the conference he reiterated that the Middle East, like Europe, is very diverse in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, history and governance traditions. While it is one of the most unstable and complex regions in the world, providing one of the toughest 'tests' for science diplomacy, at the same time it offers a rare opportunity for human capital development as diversity is perhaps the greatest asset any region can boast. He recalled that the region's contribution to world science has been significant throughout history and has resulted in a number of major scientific breakthroughs and technological inventions without which today's life would be unthinkable. These achievements have had a great influence on European/Western medicine, physics and other life and natural sciences as even in the past there was a lot of interaction between European and Middle Eastern scientists. He also added that there are a number of scientific and research areas where science diplomacy could be particularly instrumental and the EU and the Middle East can work together: these include water, energy and food security, health, cultural heritage, cultural and religious divides, etc. During his meetings Commissioner Moedas reiterated that large scale research, science and innovation projects in the region can foster scientific and technological excellence, and prevent or reverse the brain drain, by enabling world-class scientific research in subjects ranging from biology, archaeology and medical sciences through basic properties of materials science, physics, chemistry,

and life sciences. Such projects create a motivating scientific environment that encourages the region's best scientists and technologists to stay in the region or to return if they have moved elsewhere.

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<sup>1</sup> Synchrotrons use light (beam-lines) that ranges beyond the visible (in the infrared, ultraviolet, X-ray and beyond) to study matter (from biological cells to atoms). They are used for a wide scope of applications – infrared imaging of diseases, designing pharmaceuticals, solar cells enhancement, CO<sub>2</sub> capture, assessing archaeological artefacts, etc. <http://www.sesame.org.jo/sesame/about-us/what-is-sesame.html>

## Upcoming events

**EU-LAC Health Conference**  
**“Proceeding to the next step of health research cooperation between the European Union, Latin American and Caribbean Countries: The EU-LAC Health Roadmap”**  
 2 June 2015 - Brussels - Belgium  
 Click [here](#) to access this event

**6<sup>th</sup> INCO Conference**  
**Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity**  
 17-18 June 2015 - Beijing - China  
 Click [here](#) to access this event

## H2020 Calls update

**Disaster-resilience: safeguarding and securing society, including adapting to climate change**  
 Topic: Ethical/Societal Dimension topic 3: Impact of climate change in third countries on Europe's security  
 Deadline: 27-08-2015 - 17:00 (Brussels time)

**Sustainable Food Security**  
 Topic: Authentication of food products  
 Deadline: 11-06-2015 - 17:00 (Brussels time)

For more information on these calls and other calls click [here](#)



Photo: Commissioner Moedas speaking at the conference «Addressing shared challenges through science diplomacy: the case of the EU–Middle East Regional Cooperation» held in Jordan

## Joint Research Centre explores closer collaboration with China

Representatives of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre came to Beijing from 20 to 23 April to attend the ASEM Seminar on Cooperation in Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development and to hold a series of meetings with several institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other Chinese institutions. The aim was to explore and discuss research collaboration opportunities on issues such as air pollution and food contact materials-related issues. The outcomes will further strengthen the collaboration between the JRC and Chinese partners. In the field of air pollution, promising opportunities for collaboration have been discussed with the CAS Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and exchanges took place with MOST- ACCA 21 and national experts involved in the preparation and future implementation of the national key research initiative on air pollution prevention and control (plan (2016-2020)). The JRC is planning to sign a collaborative research arrangement with CAS RADI at the next EU China Summit in June this year and a related implementation workshop is planned in Brussels at the same time. Food contact materials scientific collaboration between the JRC and Chinese institutions could further support progress in this field. The Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine as well as the China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment are also interested in the JRC's expertise in areas such as exposure assessment, and contact will continue in order to boost enthusiasm for future scientific collaboration. The JRC Delegation also attended the International Technology Transfer Convention.



Photos: (left) Maria Pilar Aguar Fernandez, Head of Unit Chemical Assessment and Testing, JRC Institute for Health and Consumer Protection, meeting at the China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment - (right) Elisabetta Vignati, Head of Unit Air and Climate, JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability with Prof. Guo Huadong, Director-General CAS RADI

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## Chinese Academy of Sciences President Meets EU Ambassador to China

On 16 April, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) President Bai Chunli met the EU Ambassador to China, Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, and his team at the CAS Headquarters. Prof. Bai welcomed the EU Delegation and gave an introduction to CAS on

its organisational structure, scientific research and achievement transformation, education of students, international talent schemes and the Pioneer Initiative. The friendly discussions confirmed CAS willingness to collaborate with EU institutions and the President's encouragement to CAS institutes and researchers to participate in Horizon 2020 and bilateral programmes with individual EU Member States. To this end earlier this year CAS launched the CAS-EU Partnership Programme which provides merit-based support to successful CAS researchers in Horizon 2020 projects. Positive views have been exchanged with regard to targeted collaboration in specific areas, such as the JRC/CAS-RADI (Institute for Remote Sensing and Digital Earth) collaboration on remote sensing applications. CAS RADI/JRC cooperation is one of the successful examples of the EU-China cooperation. CAS committed to continue its active participation in Horizon 2020, encourage staff exchange, and reinforce cooperation with the EU in the fields of large research infrastructures, life sciences, space sciences etc. Ambassador Schweisgut thanked CAS for its matching support of the CAS-EU Partnership Programme to Horizon 2020, and expressed his belief that huge potential exists for collaboration between both sides in many fields such as large research infrastructures.

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## European Virus Archive goes global

Professor Jean-Louis Romette (AMU-Polytech Marseille), coordinator of the FP7 research infrastructure project EVA (European Virus Archive - 2009-2014) and its successor EVAg (EVA goes global) selected following the first Horizon 2020 call, visited several Chinese partners with the aim of securing their participation in, and funding of, EVAg activities. Building on the results of the EVA project, EVAg's objective is to create and mobilise an international network of high calibre centres selected for their appropriate expertise, to collect, amplify, characterise, standardise, authenticate, distribute and track mammalian and other exotic viruses. The network of EVAg laboratories includes 26 institutions, representing an extensive range of virological disciplines, currently holding approximately 50% of the 500 recognised human pathogens in the collection. EVAg will provide access to high containment biosafety facilities to carry out in vivo studies of infectious disease using natural or model hosts, to look at prophylactic or therapeutic control measures and to develop materials for the evaluation of diagnostic tests. The meetings organised at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and the Wuhan Institute of Virology (first BSL4 containment facility built in China) confirmed the interest of the leading Chinese virology research institutions in taking an active role in the project.

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## EU-China Research and Innovation Forum

The DRAGON-STAR event, organised by the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) of MoST and with the support of the European Commission, was held in Brussels on 28 April 2015. The Forum hosted more than 100 participants, including a large Chinese delegation and a broad range of stakeholders from both sides ranging from policy makers and researchers to industrial and business actors.

The event was opened by Mr Epaminondas Christoflopoulos, DRAGON-STAR's coordinator, Mr Kostas Glinos and Mr XING Jijun, the representatives from the European Commission and China who presented overall EU-China relations in R&I and highlighted the joint efforts for deepening bilateral cooperation. This year the EU and China are also celebrating 40 years of constructive diplomatic relations first established on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1975.

The Forum included successful examples of cooperation initiatives, testimonials of successful FP7 projects with important Chinese participation, opportunities for enhancing future R&I cooperation and a panel discussion on sustainable urbanisation. Moreover, the Forum hosted the DRAGON-STAR Innovation Award Ceremony awarded to selected bilateral teams for excellent cooperation and substantial technological outputs.

The different presentations and discussions illustrated the potential to further enrich EU-China cooperation in research and innovation, in particular towards addressing common societal challenges and improving the competitiveness of European and Chinese enterprises.



Photo: Participants to the EU-China Research and Innovation Forum held in Brussels on 28 April 2015

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## ELI-NP Expo at the Embassy of Romania to Russia in Moscow

On 3 April the EU Delegation to Russia attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition "EXTREME LIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE - NUCLEAR PHYSICS (ELI-NP)", organised by the Horia Hulubei National Institute of Research & Development for Physics & Nuclear Engineering (Romania) in collaboration with the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research - JINR (Dubna, Russia) and hosted by the Embassy of Romania in Russia. Present at the event were representatives of foreign embassies, of the Russian research community and of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (approx. 40 persons in total). The exhibition was opened by the Ambassador of Romania to Russia, Mr. Vasile Soare, and the JINR Chief Scientific Secretary Nikolai Russakovich. The Director of the Exhibition, Prof. Gheorghe Stratan (Horia Hulubei National Institute of Research & Development for Physics & Nuclear Engineering), presented the ELI-NP project to the audience. The organisers of the exhibition repeatedly underlined the importance of the EU-supported ELI project for Europe and the rest of the world, and for Romania in particular. They also recognised the deep links between the Romanian and Russian research communities, especially in the area of nuclear physics (in particular through Romania's membership of JINR as one of its founding countries), and encouraged the Russian research community to take an active part in exploiting the new research facilities (once they are ready – expected by 2018) by implementing joint projects and conducting joint research. The opening ceremony of the exhibition concluded with a tour and technical explanations of the (photo)graphic exhibits.



Photo: (l-r): Prof. Gheorghe Stratan and Ambassador of Romania to Russia Vasile Soare

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## Horizon 2020 information events in Russia

In the course of March-April, the EU Delegation to Russia participated in a series of Horizon 2020 information events, among which an information day organised by the Russian National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow on 26 March. The event attracted nearly 100 representatives of Russian universities and research organisations. The programme of the event included presentations by the EU Delegation and representatives of Russian National Contact Points on Horizon 2020. During the Information Day, the participants had an opportunity to become acquainted with all main elements of the programme and receive practical guidelines on participation in Horizon 2020. The presentations generated much interest among the audience and were followed by lively discussions. A similar event was organised at the Moscow State University of Food Production on 14 April. The thematic focus of this Information Day was on cooperation opportunities in the area of food biotechnology and environment. A special session on issues of national co-funding, including evaluation and selection procedures, was also held in the framework of the event. On 15 April, an information seminar on European programmes in the areas of research and higher education took place in the Russian National Research University 'Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys' (MISIS). Several presentations on relevant programmes implemented at EU and EU Member State levels were delivered during the event with the main focus on the Horizon 2020 programme. On 16 April, the EU Delegation took part in two information events on the Horizon 2020 programme in Yekaterinburg, Russia's fourth largest city, the heart of the Russian Ural region and one of the country's most important industrial centres. Horizon 2020 was presented at the Ural Federal University (one of the leading Russian universities and the largest in terms of the number of students) and the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.



Photo: The H2020 Information events in Russia - Participants, speakers and promotional material

## Forum of Innovative Technologies InfoSpace

The EU Delegation to Russia took part in the sixth Forum of Innovative Technologies 'InfoSpace', held in Moscow on 24 March. The Forum is an annual event organised with the support of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Russian Parliament, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and several large industrial companies. The plenary of the Forum featured speakers such as directors of organisations supporting innovation development, members of the Russian State Duma and high-ranking Russian officials. In a special panel session of the Forum dedicated to the application and development of innovative technologies in the health sector, the EU Delegation spoke about EU-Russia cooperation in research and innovation, and cooperation opportunities available under the Horizon 2020 programme, in particular in 'life sciences'.

## Special focus on Horizon 2020 at the XVI International Academic Conference on Economic & Social Development

On 8-10 April, the EU Delegation to Russia took place in the XVI International Academic Conference on Economic & Social Development, organised annually by the Russian National Research University 'Higher School of Economics'. As in previous years, the separate three-day part of the conference dedicated to science, technology and innovation had a very strong international component, both in terms of content and participants. Most of the agenda and speakers' presentations addressed issues related to EU research & innovation policies and programmes and OECD cooperation activities with third countries. A full day was devoted to discussing Horizon 2020, and in particular third countries' participation in it. That day saw speakers from around the world, including H. Matsumoto from the Centre for Industrial Cooperation with the EU in Japan; Mr. Silenzi from the Ministry of Science, Technology & Productive Innovation of Argentina; M. Shaton of the Israel-Europe Directorate for the EU Framework Programme in Israel; K. Schuch from the Centre for Social Innovation in Austria; P. Tamas of Corvinus University in Hungary; S. Ulutas Aydogan from the EU Framework Programmes National Coordination Office at TÜBİTAK in Turkey; Mr. Beltran, the Ambassador of Mexico to the Russian Federation; and Mr. Josten of the DLR - Project Management Agency for European and International Cooperation in Germany.

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## 'Researchers' Funding Guide 2015 Launch Event' - Euraxess Links Japan

On 22 April, Euraxess Links Japan organised the launch of the 2015 version of 'The [European Funding Guide for Researchers and Students in Japan](#)', featuring over 300 programmes for researchers' mobility, at national level (Japan and individual EU Member States), as well as at EU level.

During the event, Dr. Yuko Harayama from the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, explained the importance of researchers' mobility, and the milestones in EU-Japan cooperation in STI. Mr. Hideyuki Yamaguchi presented researchers' mobility programmes offered by the Japan Society for Promotion of Science. The EU Delegation presented an overview of researcher and student mobility schemes, i.e.: MSCA, ERC and Erasmus+.

Over 140 European and Japanese researchers joined the event, which was also a good networking opportunity thanks to a reception that followed the presentations. Many European researchers continue to expand their careers, either in Japan or in Europe or somewhere else, and it is important that they stay in touch with each other, with Euraxess and the EU Delegation.



Photos: 'Researchers' Funding Guide 2015 Launch Event'

from top left: Dr. Matthieu Py, Euraxess Links Japan; Dr. Yuko Harayama, Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Cabinet Office; Dr. Leonidas Karapiperis, Head of S&T Section, EU Delegation; Mr Viorel Isticioaia-Budura, Ambassador of the EU to Japan

bottom: Mr. Hideyuki Yamaguchi - Japan Society for Promotion of Science

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## EU-Japan Symposium: 'Electrical Technologies for the Aviation of the Future'

On 26-27 March, SUNJET-II, a support action under Horizon 2020 led by Airbus Innovation Group, aimed at enhancing the relations between the EU and Japan in research activities related to aviation, held a symposium on electrical technologies for the aviation of the future. The event was supported by METI and hosted by the EU Delegation. Over the two days, approximately 30 carefully selected speakers from government, industry and research institutions of Japan and Europe presented, to a selected audience of 150, the common needs and challenges in developing such technologies: system level applications and requirements, advanced batteries, fuel cells, superconductivity and public funding. Several participants are now preparing proposals for the currently open call in aeronautics (on cabin systems, composite structures, heat exchangers and flight control). During the symposium Mr Pablo Perez-Illana (Aviation Unit – DG RTD) introduced Horizon 2020 in the context of aviation and presented projects in aeronautics in FP7, H2020 and Cleansky). On 27 March, the Delegation held the formal kick-off meeting of the SUNJET-II project. The project will build on existing collaboration (SUNJET-I, resulted in 3 FP7 projects: JEDI-ACE (de-icing), SHEFAE (heat exchangers) and HIKARI (high-speed transport)), develop consolidated roadmaps in the fields of airframes, engines, systems and equipment, make recommendations for future EU-Japan calls, and promote communication, networking and exchanges between European and Japanese aeronautics stakeholders. The members of the European consortium are Airbus Group, DLR, NLR, ONERA, Aerospace Valley and BAE Systems. The Japanese mirror consortium would probably include SJAC, JADC, JAXA, University of Tokyo and representatives of industry. Also, on 27 March the Delegation held the final meeting of the HIKARI project, which resulted from the SUNJET-I support action (mentioned above). The project that started in February 2013 and ended in January 2015 developed the technology roadmap for the future high speed air-transport (suborbital flights with speed of Mach 5-3 hours from Tokyo to Paris). 16 members of the EU-Japan consortium have identified a number of challenges that will need to be tackled, such as: new ceramic materials, thermal and energy system management, combustion, propulsion architecture, range, speed, design, climate and environmental impact, sonic boom and market analysis. HIKARI will also make a contribution to the progress on regulation aspects of the suborbital flights through cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

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EU Delegation to Japan



## Research and Innovation features highly at the 16<sup>th</sup> EU-Brazil Joint Committee Meeting

The 16<sup>th</sup> EU-Brazil Joint Committee Meeting took place on 28 April 2015 in Brasilia. This Committee reviews the status of cooperation between Brazil and the EU in all areas. Research and Innovation was once more highlighted as one of the building blocks of overall EU-Brazil relations.

At the meeting, Brazil and the EU particularly welcomed the progress achieved in research cooperation in a number of priority areas such as food security, sustainable agriculture and bio-economy, energy, marine sciences, innovation and nanotechnologies. The importance of mobilising Brazilian funding mechanisms to support the participation of Brazilian researchers in the EU Research Programme Horizon 2020 was highlighted as an important framework condition for successful research cooperation.

Brazil and the EU will now prepare the 8<sup>th</sup> Brazil-EU Summit which will take place later this year. Both sides stressed the importance of interaction at the Mercosur-EU level and the bi-regional CELAC-EU relations, particularly in view of the EU-CELAC Summit of 10-11 June, where research and innovation will also be a key pillar. The Brazilian Delegation was led by the Director of the Department of Europe at the Ministry of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Ambassador Oswaldo Biato and the EU Delegation was led by the Managing Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Mr Christian Leffler.



Photo: (l-r) Augusto Albuquerque - Head of Information Society Section (DELBRA), Stefan Simosas - Head of Political Section (DELBRA), Alina Stanculescu - EEAS Desk officer Brazil, Christian Leffler - Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias - Head of EU Delegation to Brazil, Francisco Fontan - Deputy Head of Delegation to Brazil, Piero Venturi - Head of Research and Innovation Section (DELBRA), Laura Maragna - JRC Local Agent in Brazil.

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## The EU-Chile Liaison office for Science and Technology celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On 9 April, European Ambassadors to Chile met in the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) to exchange ideas on EU-Chile cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The meeting took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EU-Chile Liaison Office for Science and Technology. The office is hosted by CONICYT and aims to establish a platform for dialogue between Chilean and European researchers and to enhance Chilean Participation in European research projects, including Horizon 2020.

The EU-Chile Liaison Office for S&T plays a key role in the context of the S&T Agreement signed by the EU and Chile in 2002. During the event, the Ambassador of the EU to Chile, Rafael Dochao Moreno, stated that «European leaders have clearly decided to increase funding in research and innovation as an investment in the future».

The Ambassador also highlighted the added value of EU-Chile research cooperation in the overall relations between the two parties. He finally added that international cooperation in research and innovation is essential to face global challenges in areas such as health, environment, energy etc.

During the first week of May there will be further events celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EU-Chile Liaison Office for S&T which will be reported in the newsletter.



Photo: Participants to the meeting at work

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## EU promotes Cluster-to-Cluster Mobility Partnerships in India

Six joint research & innovation (R&I) projects to promote cooperation between European and Indian research and innovation clusters were recently launched between the EU and India, on the basis of a call for proposals published in 2014 by the Delegation of the European Union to India, New Delhi.

With the establishment of the EU's Innovation Union and India's Decade of Innovation initiative, the importance of innovation in addressing resource constraints or designing delivery systems has been recognised as an important factor in development policy. Appropriately, proposals were invited in the areas of environment, biotech, transport, energy, health, and information and communication technologies (ICT) where societal challenges and opportunities are the greatest.

Six projects have now been selected and will be funded, each with a maximum funding of €333,333 provided by the EU. Most of them will run from December 2014 till November 2018; and they include a total of 21 European and 15 Indian participants.

The common theme of these projects is cooperation between industry-research clusters on both sides. Clusters present an apparent paradox: close agglomerations of similar or mutually-supporting organisations in a globalised world. Surveys show that there are geographic and sectoral clusters consisting, typically, of manufacturers, raw material suppliers, customers, policy makers, educational institutions, associations, smart money in the form of venture capital, local heroes, specialised media and experts. Research first undertaken by strategy guru Michael Porter in America, and later by professors Örjan Sölvell and Göran Lindqvist at the Centre for Strategy and Competitiveness in the Stockholm School of Economics shows that promoting clusters can improve innovation and competitiveness, and spur start-ups.

Hollywood and Bollywood are well-known film industry clusters, while other examples are the software cluster in Bengaluru and automotive cluster in Pune. In fact there are some 1086 clusters identified by the MSME Foundation in India. While European clusters are looking for Indian markets for their products and technologies, Indian clusters are looking for best practice in

cluster development as well as technologies and investments for their sectors, cities and regions. The six selected projects cover a range of sectors and the partners include some of the top technical institutions on both sides.

Read more about the [Cluster Observatory](#)

## INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme: 5 India-Europe research projects in the field of «Clean water and health» will be funded

Through the INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme joint call on "Clean water and health" which was announced in July 2014, 5 collaborative research projects with the participation of teams from Europe and India will be funded.

This call is funded by national and regional contributions from 5 funding organisations representing 5 different countries including India, Belgium, Estonia, Germany and Portugal.

5 collaborative research projects involving 20 excellent research teams/partners have been selected out of 25 proposals submitted by international consortia. A total budget of approximately € 2,600,000 will be allocated to the funded projects for a period of 3 years.

The 5 projects have been selected following a scientific evaluation process which involved remote external peer reviews as well as an evaluation carried out by the scientific experts members of the INNO INDIGO Scientific Council.

The projects are expected to start their activities in October 2015.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION (ALL PAGE)

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## Predicting disease outbreaks in East Africa

Researchers are taking data from satellite observations and combining it with first-hand experience from health workers to make smart tools that can predict where outbreaks of diseases such as malaria might strike. Malaria and other water-related diseases kill hundreds of thousands of people in Africa every year - most of them children. This is partly driven by changes in environmental conditions, including climate, which bring rains and floods that carry such diseases into previously unexposed populations with little immunity. It can result in more frequent, severe epidemics, with dire socioeconomic consequences. Climate researchers, public health workers and environmental scientists came together as part of the EU-funded HEALTHY FUTURES project to work out how to improve prediction of future outbreaks of the water-related diseases malaria, Rift Valley fever and schistosomiasis. 'HEALTHY FUTURES will contribute to the identification of vulnerable populations or areas through the use of models and risk maps that help to predict where potential future outbreaks of the diseases can occur,' said Dr Laragh Larsen, of the Geography Department at Trinity College.

### Snail fever

The role of water in the spread of these three diseases is crucial. Scientists know

that the likelihood of 'vector-borne disease' epidemics in tropical countries increases soon after seasons of good rainfall, when insects that can carry disease thrive in the heat and humidity. But the links between the environment and such diseases are extremely complex and often under-explored. While scientists have detailed knowledge of the climatic triggers for specific diseases, it is not always clear why particular areas become vulnerable, particularly given changes in the environment. It can also be difficult to assess how far ahead outbreaks can be predicted. Even where reliable environmental data has been collected and research provides significant insight into the patterns of climate and disease, translating this into effective action to prevent outbreaks or manage epidemics is far from simple, according to Professor David Mark Taylor, the coordinator of HEALTHY FUTURES.

### Combining the data

To bridge this gap, the 16-member HEALTHY FUTURES consortium, coordinated by Trinity College in Dublin, is combining data from satellites with computer modelling tools, information from regional government health departments, and first-hand accounts from health workers in the field, and using the information to develop tools that can help predict outbreaks. The region in focus covers most of Africa's Great Lakes, and has a wide range of environmental conditions, from the near-desert lowland

plains in eastern Kenya to the cool, humid rainforests of western Uganda and Rwanda, meaning researchers need to adapt their models for each area. Crucially, the project relies on interested parties and those working in the region to identify what tools could be most useful in making decisions. By the time it finishes at the end of 2014, it hopes to have developed and applied statistical and dynamic disease models, as well as provided high-resolution regional climate projections. In addition, the project plans to construct future disease risk and vulnerability maps - highlighting the areas that could face the most difficulty as a result of changes in the local environment. This will help inform health services as they decide what actions to take, and how best to use their often scarce resources. 'These tools could support health planners to formulate and assess strategies for managing responses to disease risks, including environmental management for vector (disease carrying agent) control or directing finances to at-risk areas for the provision of insecticide-treated bed nets, for example,' Dr Larsen said. Not only has the project already succeeded in ensuring closer links between researchers and health workers in the fight against disease in East Africa, Dr Larsen said, but it has also been able to bridge the research gap between eastern Africa and western Europe.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[visit the EYD website](#)

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*This page provides a regular update on recent Research and Innovation (R&I) policy news from our network of R&I Counsellors in the EU Delegations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Russia, the United States (US) and the African Union (AU).*

*With a particular focus on international cooperation, different policy related themes are highlighted in relation to a number of countries to illustrate trends, similarities and different approaches. This issue covers policy news from Brazil, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan and Korea.*

## Policy News from the Delegations

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting, held in Brasilia, **Brazil**, the BRICS countries proposed the establishment of a BRICS Technology Foresight for Climate System to address solutions for climate change and disaster management while identifying relevant R&D initiatives for the future. Based on a Brazilian proposal, a Work Plan 2015-2018 will be developed to focus on five thematic working areas, with each BRICS member providing leadership in one of them: (a) prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, to be led by Brazil, (b) water resources and pollution treatment, to be led by Russia, (c) geospatial technology and its applications, to be led by India, (d) new and renewable energy, and energy efficiency, to be led by China, and (e) astronomy, to be led by South Africa.

The BRICS STI ministerial meeting also endorsed **India**'s Young Scientists Forum Initiative that will form part of the Work Plan 2015-2018. Other recent developments in relation to India include the decisions to set up New All India Institutes for Medical Sciences and two new Indian Institutes of Technology: the **Atal Innovation Mission Platform** to focus on interactions between industry, universities and other players; and the **Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation mechanism** to support start-ups in technological areas.

The Ministry of Economy's Office of the Chief Scientist in **Israel** has published its first **Annual Innovation Report**. The report has been prepared in cooperation

with several departments and agencies within and outside the Ministry. This represents the first official attempt to provide an overview of Israel's high tech industry and eco innovation system, to identify the challenges faced, and to present recommendations. Horizon 2020 is noted as a component of Israel's eco innovation system. The report's four major recommendations are to create new sources of funding for industry; to transform more high tech companies into major companies; to implement and develop technologies in traditional industries and in the public sector; and to ensure smarter and more efficient government involvement.

In **Japan**, the 5<sup>th</sup> **Science and Technology Basic Plan** to set the priorities and key issues over the 2016-2020 period is now under development, with an interim draft expected towards the end of May. An international strategy within the context of the 5<sup>th</sup> Basic Plan is under consideration and a paper on this topic has been published by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI). The 5<sup>th</sup> Plan may come to broaden the internationalisation agenda and spread it more evenly across and within the science and research system itself. Separately, Japan has decided to disclose academic papers and research data after they are published, in case of public funded research. This change is in line with the global trend of open science.

In **Korea**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Basic Plan for R&D Results Evaluation (2016-2020) has

been confirmed by the **National Science & Technology Council**. Accomplishing the two key objectives of building up a researcher-oriented evaluation system, and creating eminent R&D outcomes through the advancement of the evaluation system, the Korean government proposes five strategies and 13 core projects. The main contents of the new evaluation system include a stronger acknowledgement of failure on innovative and challenge-based research, securing research autonomy, a simplification of the evaluation process and documentation, and improving research creativity.

In partnership with the Ministries of International Cooperation and Higher Education in **Egypt**, the Government of the United States (US) has launched the **US-Egypt Higher Education Initiative**. The initiative aims to provide educational opportunities for Egyptians. Through this \$250 million initiative, up to 1,900 university scholarships and exchanges will be provided to Egyptians to study in Egypt and the US. It will support up to 20 higher education partnerships to strengthen research and exchanges between Egyptian and US universities.

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