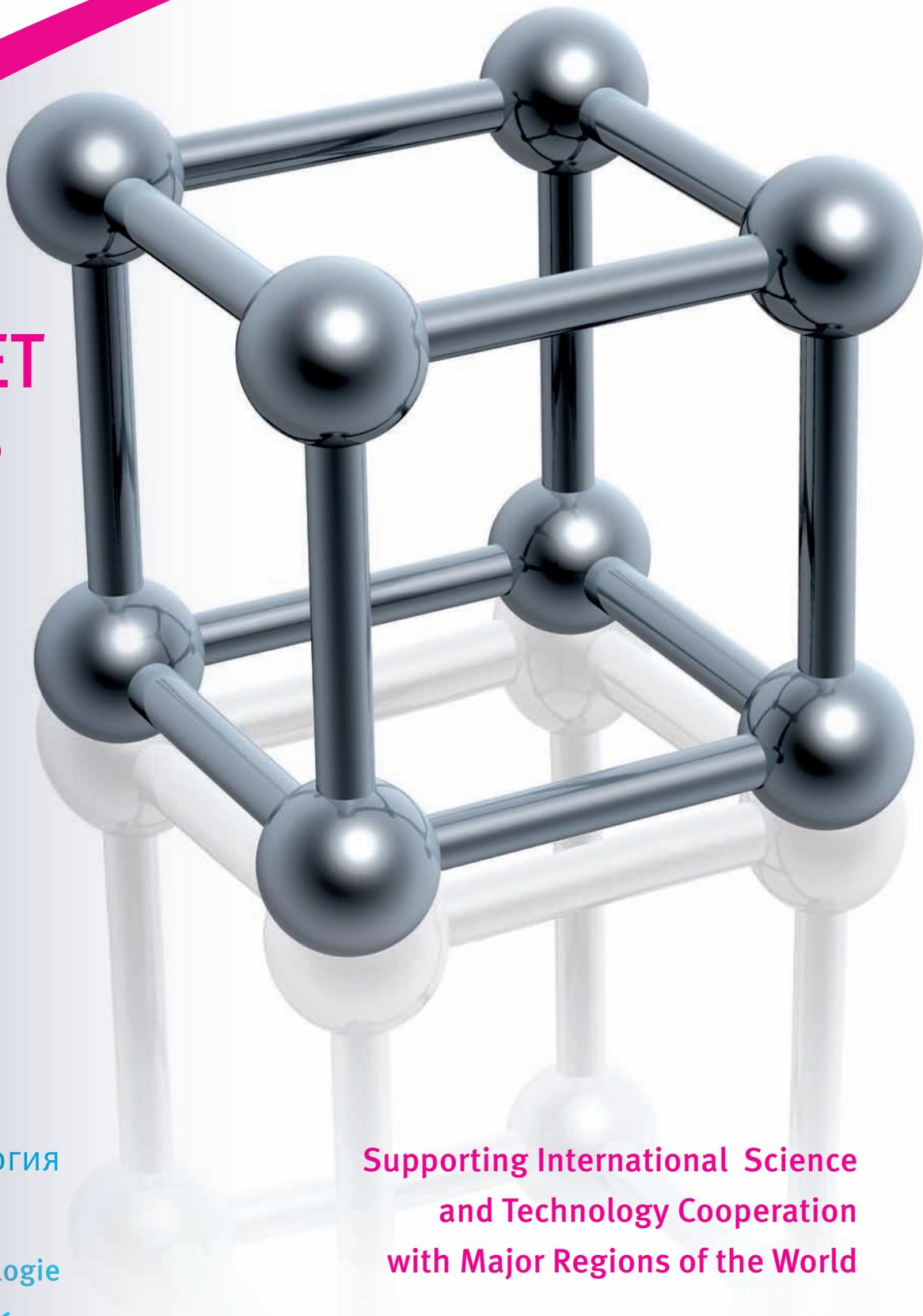




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Supporting International Science
and Technology Cooperation
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by Mary Minch, Director of International Cooperation, Directorate General for Research

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Foreword



The launch of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research (2007-2013) places a renewed emphasis on international cooperation in Science and Technology which is increasingly seen as being at the centre of Community policies.

International Cooperation in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) addresses three interdependent objectives:

- supporting European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries⁽¹⁾ in selected fields of science, and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe;
- facilitating contacts with partners in third countries with the aim of providing better access to research carried out elsewhere in the world;
- tackling specific challenges that third countries face or having a global character on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit (e.g. contributing towards Millennium Development Goals and addressing global climate change, combating biodiversity loss, water and energy scarcity).

Significant changes and improvements have taken place in the approach to international cooperation from the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) to FP7, which integrates international research collaboration throughout the Framework Programme by including both geographical and thematic targeting.

In order to maximise impact, international activities take place across all Specific Programmes of FP7 in a complementary and synergistic manner. The Cooperation Programme enables research cooperation between different global research partners in collaboration with European researchers. The Capacities Programme supports a range of activities to support S&T cooperation policies and strengthen research capacity in the European scientific community and other regions of the world. The People Programme meets the need to foster both incoming and outgoing international mobility of researchers. The Ideas Programme supports excellence in frontier research and enables individual top international researchers to participate in Europe-led teams.

Within the Capacity Programme main activities of International Cooperation range from the bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation, including priority setting and the support of the S&T policy dialogue (so-called INCO-NET projects), to the bilateral coordination of S&T policies with those countries that signed (or are in the process of signing) an S&T agreement with the Community (so-called BILAT projects), and finally the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States concerning international S&T cooperation (so-called ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus projects).

⁽¹⁾ Third countries other than EU Member States and Associated countries to the Framework Programme.

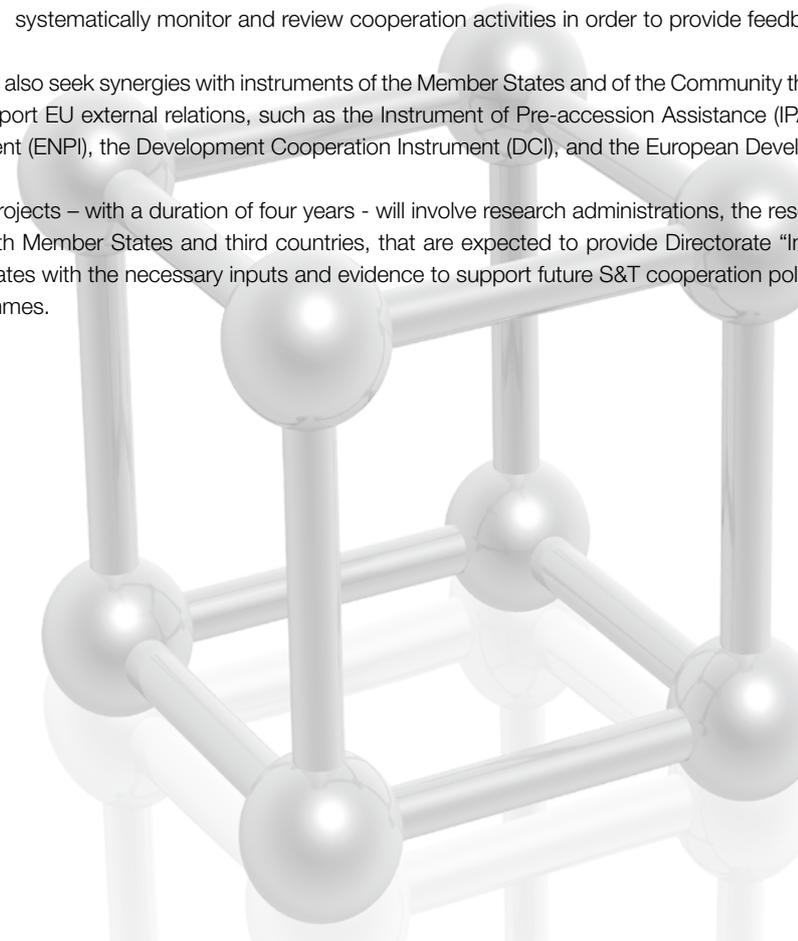
This booklet presents the activities of the first six INCO-NET projects which have been selected following the evaluation of the first call of proposals published at the end of 2006. These projects cover different regions of the world, i.e. Western Balkan Countries, Mediterranean Partner Countries, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, South East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

INCO-NET projects aim to establish coordination platforms, which:

- bring together relevant policy makers, researchers, the private sector and other stakeholders of the EU and of third countries that belong to the targeted region in order to identify S&T priorities and support the definition of S&T cooperation orientations;
- implement awareness and dissemination activities dedicated to the strengthening of the participation of the targeted countries/regions to the Framework Programme, including the support for information points in third countries;
- carry out strategic analysis of S&T trends and mapping of research capacities in the targeted region, including their links with corresponding EU research counterparts;
- systematically monitor and review cooperation activities in order to provide feedback and updating of S&T policies and priorities.

They will also seek synergies with instruments of the Member States and of the Community that are designed to implement cooperation policies and support EU external relations, such as the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), and the European Development Fund (EDF).

These projects – with a duration of four years - will involve research administrations, the research community, industry and other stakeholders from both Member States and third countries, that are expected to provide Directorate “International Cooperation” and the other Research Directorates with the necessary inputs and evidence to support future S&T cooperation policies, including the preparation of future FP7 Work Programmes.



Mary Minch
Director of International Cooperation
Directorate General for Research

Western Balkan Countries

Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET -

WBC-INCO.NET



Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET - WBC-INCO.NET

Coordination
Centre for Social Innovation - ZSI
Austria

<http://www.wbc-inco.net>

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
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1. Background and objectives

In the last few years, considerable progress has been made to enhance scientific cooperation of the European Union (EU) (and Associated Countries) with Western Balkan countries (WBCs). WBC-INCO.NET is designed to become a major strategic project in order to support cooperation in the field of S&T between the EU, the countries associated to FP7 and WBCs.

The creation of the Steering Platform on Research between the EU and WBC — launched during the Austrian EU Council Presidency in June 2006 with the participation of the European Commission (EC) — has already had a considerable impact on the progress of S&T relations between the WBCs and the EU. The platform follows up on the S&T Action Plan, adopted in Thessalonica in 2003 during the Greek EU presidency, between the EU and the WBCs. It brings together senior S&T officials and invited experts, but despite having the highest level of coordination politically, its implementation capacity has remained limited.

WBC-INCO.NET was established in connection with the Steering Platform. It will provide analytical and operational support for the policy dialogues conducted under its roof. The EC already supported the Steering Platform by funding a Specific Support Action (SSA) submitted under FP6 (INCO): the 'Information Office of the Steering Platform' (<http://see-science.eu>), whose main services will be continued through WBC-INCO.NET.

The three core objectives of WBC-INCO.NET are:

- to support the bi-regional dialogue on S&T by interacting in an efficient division of labour with the Steering Platform on Research;
- to identify RTD priorities and RTD potential in a transparent and methodologically sound way in WBCs. These will subsequently be prepared for eventual take-up in forthcoming work programmes and calls for proposals due to be launched under the Cooperation, People and Capacity Specific Programmes of FP7;
- to enhance the participation of researchers from WBCs in European projects of mutual interest and benefit by implementing relevant capacity building measures on a structural (horizontal) and individual (i.e. research entity) level, and by accompanying tailor-made networking activities.

The concept of WBC-INCO.NET is to bring existing projects together so as to exploit synergies, fill in gaps with new structural activities, and enhance processes through coordination and networking.

2. Dialogue activities

WBC-INCO.NET will support the political dialogue between the EU Member States, the Associated Countries and the EC, with WBCs, by providing logistical and analytical evidence-based input to the Steering Platform. WBC-INCO.NET also supports dialogue within the region through 'Regional S&T Policy Meetings' to find common solutions to cross-border problems and challenges. Furthermore, a structured information exchange with representatives of several Directorates General of the EC will allow for the exploitation of the results and integration of S&T in other sectors (e.g. education, economy, labour market, regional development). Last but not least, round tables with international stakeholders, such as UNESCO, OECD, World Bank and other multilateral initiatives (e.g. relevant ERA-NETs), will be organised in order to disseminate information, detect synergies, avoid duplications and add critical mass to ongoing or planned activities.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

The dialogues are substantiated with a number of analytical inputs. For this purpose, top European and regional research institutes are participating in WBC-INCO.NET to help identify research areas of mutual benefit, in an inclusive and comprehensive manner. WBC-INCO.NET will facilitate the identification of S&T needs and potentials of the WBCs, and their subsequent take-up in the calls for proposals launched under FP7.

WBC-INCO.NET also puts emphasis on capacity building and the facilitation of networking opportunities for researchers in order to improve absorption capacity and enhance the international recognition of existing WBC potential. Several renowned European National Contact Points (NCPs), organisations and research agencies have committed their capacities to joining WBC-INCO.NET and supporting the integration of the Western Balkan region into the ERA. Implementation activities will include seminars, workshops and reviews that will be targeted to, for example, statisticians and civil servants working with S&T statistics, finance managers from RTD organisations and research managers from companies, academies of science, universities, no-profit organisations, and NCPs. Brokerage events will be organised to serve researchers from all WBCs, the EU and countries associated with FP7. Furthermore, awareness raising sessions will be organised during major European S&T conferences in order to inform audiences about RTD cooperation potential of WBC researchers, and to support partner search.

4. Monitoring and review activities

WBC-INCO.NET will also monitor the take-up of identified research areas in forthcoming RTD programmes and the participation of WBC researchers in collaborative FP7 projects. Monitoring activities will deal with realised S&T cooperation and its impact (positive or negative, intended or not), analyses of existing cooperation patterns with social network methodologies and the exploration of barriers to cooperation through the use of empirical investigations. A milestone in this regard would be the development of a toolbox that provides reliable information on the conditions and opportunities of WBC researchers participating in FP7 and other selected European initiatives and programmes. This will allow for an evidence-based assessment of the level of involvement of WBC researchers, its structure and articulation, as well as a better understanding of major barriers that hamper more active cooperation between researchers from WBC and the EU.

List of partners

| Country | Acronym | Participant organisation name |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Austria | ZSI | Centre for Social Innovation - Coordinator |
| Albania | MOES | Ministry of Education and Science |
| Croatia | MZOS | Ministry of Science, Education and Sports |
| FYR of Macedonia | MON-MK | Ministry of Education and Science |
| Montenegro | MPIN | Ministry of Education and Science |
| Serbia | MSCI | Ministry of Science |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | SUS BIH | Foundation for Higher Education World University Service |
| Serbia | MPI | Mihailo Pupin Institute |
| Croatia | IvoPilar | Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar |
| Kosovo* | KEC | Kosova Education Center |
| Albania | CIVET | CIVET 2000 |
| Slovenia | SBRA | Slovenian Business & Research Association |
| Greece | SEERC | South East European Research Centre |
| Netherlands | UNU-MERIT | UNU - Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology |
| Spain | JRC-IPTS | Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies |
| Germany | PT-DLR | International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| Austria | FFG | Austrian Research Promotion Agency |
| Turkey | TUBITAK | Scientific and Technological Research Council |
| Greece | GSRT | General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Development |
| Slovenia | MHEST | Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology |
| Austria | BMWF | Federal Ministry of Science and Research |
| Germany | BMBF | Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| Bulgaria | MES-CRA | Ministry of Education and Science |
| Belgium/ Turkey | TURBO | Turkish Research and Business Organisations |
| Italy | APRE | Agency for the Promotion of European Research |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | MCA | Ministry of Civil Affairs |

* as defined by the UNSC resolution 1244 of 10.06.1999



Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

S&T International Cooperation Network
for Eastern European
and Central Asian Countries -
IncoNet EECA



S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries - IncoNet EECA

Coordination International Centre for Black Sea Studies - ICBS Greece

www.icbss.org section 'IncoNet EECA' and www.inco-eeca.net

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
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1. Background and objectives

The Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region is of strategic importance to the European Union, in both economic (trade, energy) and political (security, stability) terms. The principal objective of EU cooperation in this region is to develop an increasingly close relationship, going beyond past levels of cooperation to gradual economic integration and deepening political cooperation.

The EECA countries have significant potential, both in terms of their strong academic community and worldwide leading S&T institutes in a variety of scientific disciplines. In order to make better use of each other's academic strengths, to share respective resources and to prepare the ground for a joint transfer of academic results to national, regional and worldwide markets, there is a strong bi-regional interest in enhancing S&T cooperation. In this context and in order to achieve this goal, the IncoNet EECA project aims to:

- support the establishment and operation of a sustainable, knowledge-based, bi-regional dialogue platform between stakeholders from the EU Member States and Associated Countries, and the EECA countries. The support of other Community policies will be sought to identify complementary opportunities and to contribute to the development of synergies among the relevant instruments;
- perform several activities to increase the participation of researchers from EECA countries in FP7, particularly in the Cooperation, People and Capacities Specific Programmes;
- implement a series of analyses feeding the policy dialogue and increasing its efficiency, monitoring the project's own activities with particular emphasis on their sustainability, and implementing coherent dissemination activities in order to increase its visibility and impact.

2. Dialogue activities

Unlike some other regions, an EU–EECA S&T policy dialogue platform does not yet exist and consequently, a major objective would be the creation of such a platform. The implementation of this initiative should build on existing structures (such as the Working Group on S&T of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – BSEC), and at the same time should take into consideration and adapt to specificities (such as the joint policy of Four Common Spaces with Russia and the existing cooperation Agreements in S&T between EU–Russia, and EU–Ukraine).

More specifically the project will:

- establish a Regional S&T Policy Dialogue Platform (RPDP) that will bring together National Representatives/policymakers from the EU, Member States and Associated Countries, and from the EECA countries, as well as representatives of the European Commission's (EC) services. The platform will: (i) provide a forum for the discussion of research priorities and initiatives; (ii) address the regional (i.e. multilateral) dimension of S&T cooperation; and (iii) act as Advisory Committee to the project.
- help set up and sustain an S&T senior officials group involving stakeholders from Russia, EU Member States, Associated Countries and representatives of the EC's services. Such a distinct Platform is essential due to the particular importance and dynamics of the cooperation with Russia, and the specific character of the bilateral relations between the EU and its Member States and Russia.
- highlight and improve the existing cooperation in S&T with Ukraine and develop new opportunities and links between the Ukrainian and EU scientific communities. The project will help set up and sustain an S&T senior officials group, involving national representatives/policymakers from Ukraine, EU Member States, Associated Countries, and representatives of the EC's services.

Furthermore, the project will address other EU policies and instruments (such as the EU Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument – ENPI, the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – CIP, etc.) in order to explore new synergies.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

The **implementation activities** of the project include all the necessary actions that would initiate and sustain the policy dialogue (e.g. setting up secretariats for the policy dialogue platform, organising senior officials groups meetings, etc.), as well as a broad spectrum of activities aimed at:

- an increased participation of researchers from EECA in FP7 through the organisation of information days and brokerage events, identification of barriers, training, support and networking of National Contact Points (NCPs) / National Information Points (NIPs), and formulation of proposals for Specific International Cooperation Activities (SICAs) in FP7 Themes, etc.
- the analysis of key issues and the preparation of reports that will feed the policy dialogue. These analyses include: improvement of S&T indicators, review of S&T cooperation patterns, mapping of outstanding research institutes and review of national policies towards global challenges.

A series of important **dissemination activities** will provide the necessary visibility to the project, for the scientific community, the policymakers and stakeholders. Among these activities, the following are mentioned:

- the setting up of a Central Information Office — complemented by a web portal and website, that will raise awareness for the S&T potential in the EECA, will inform interested stakeholders from science, industries and policymaking about opportunities for enhanced S&T cooperation, and will foster active networking among the science communities and R&D-oriented innovative industries in the Member States, Associated Countries, and the EECA partner countries;
- the organisation of 'EECA sessions' in major European scientific conferences, as well as the organisation of conferences and events at the highest political level that will promote and consolidate the EU – EECA S&T cooperation.

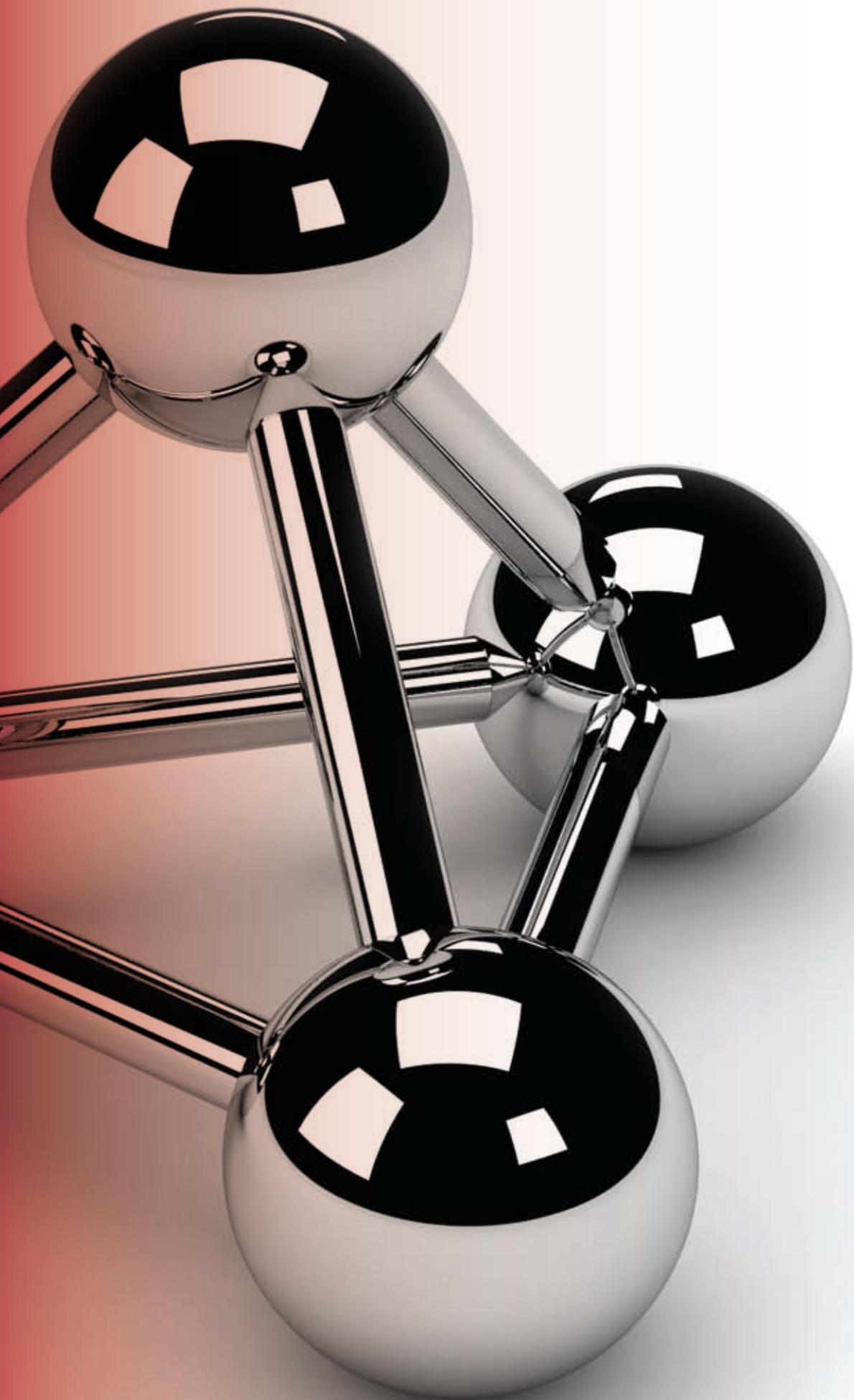
4. Monitoring and review activities

IncoNet EECA is a large and rather challenging project involving numerous partners from many countries, and includes many different activities. In this context, a series of project tasks will specifically address:

- the quality of the overall process (SWOT analysis of the project, quality of the deliverables);
- the establishment of links with other projects addressing EECA;
- the sustainability of activities that are undertaken in order to ensure their continuation after the completion of the project.

List of partners

| Country | Acronym | Participant organisation name |
|------------|----------------|--|
| Greece | ICBSS | International Centre for Black Sea Studies - Coordinator |
| Germany | PT-DLR | International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| Russia | HSE | State University - Higher School of Economics |
| Austria | FFG | Austrian Research Promotion Agency |
| Ukraine | NIP | Kyiv State Centre for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information |
| Turkey | TUBITAK | Scientific and Technological Research Council |
| France | ENQHEEI | European Network for Quality of Higher Engineering Education for Industry |
| Kazakhstan | InExCB-KZ | Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan |
| Sweden | VINNOVA | Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems |
| Uzbekistan | IUCP-T | Indo-Uzbek Centre for Promotion of S&T Cooperation |
| Austria | ZSI | Centre for Social Innovation |
| Armenia | CIT | Centre of Ideas and Technologies |
| Greece | HELP – FORWARD | Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas – Help Forward Network |
| Azerbaijan | ANAS | Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences |
| Bulgaria | BAS | Bulgarian Academy of Sciences |
| Moldova | ASM | Academy of Sciences of Moldova |
| Norway | RCN | Research Council of Norway |
| Estonia | ARCHIMEDES | Archimedes Foundation |
| Belarus | BellSA | Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific & Technical Sphere |
| Romania | NSPSPA | National School of Political Studies and Public Administration |
| Georgia | GNSF | Georgian National Science Foundation |
| Poland | IPPT-PAN | National Contact Point for EU Research Programmes - Polish Academy of Sciences |
| Finland | AKA | Academy of Finland |



Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs)

Mediterranean Innovation
and Research Coordination Action -

MIRA



Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action - MIRA

Coordination Spanish Council for Scientific Research - CSIC Spain

www.miraproject.eu

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
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1. Background and objectives

This Coordination Action, **Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA)**, aims to develop and support the dialogue EU-MPCs by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders of the Mediterranean Partners Countries (MPCs: Algeria, Egypt, Palestinian administered areas, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) and EU Member States. This dialogue will go hand in hand with the political dialogue created by the Barcelona Process of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue through the Monitoring Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in RTD, also named the Barcelona RTD Monitoring Committee (**MoCo**).

This project aims to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interests in research areas, set up S&T priorities, support capacity building activities, and enhance the interaction between different cooperation instruments of the European Commission (EC) and EU Member States. MIRA will promote actions in order to monitor, develop, promote and contribute to the creation of synergies among the various S&T cooperation programmes between the MPCs and the EU Member States, and foster the participation of the MPCs in the Framework Programme. In this sense, an observatory of EU-MPCs cooperation in S&T will be created in the project framework.

2. Dialogue activities

One of the main objectives of MIRA is to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and the MPCs on S&T issues by supporting the existing policy dialogue structure, such as MoCo, and develop new activities, including conferences and working meetings. The planned dialogue activities are:

- supporting the organisation of the annual MoCo meetings in cooperation with the EU presidency and the EC's services. Among other issues, these meetings will follow the development of the project and related activities and wherever possible, they will be organised in connection with the management board meetings.
- discussions between MoCo ad-hoc groups and representatives of EC Directorates General, such as INFSO, RELEX, DEV, etc., and of the EC delegations in MPCs to explore synergistic activities of different EU programmes. A workshop on these topics and the possibilities of integrating objectives and actions could be organised in connection with a MoCo meeting.
- arranging a screening conference. This conference will aim at compiling a 'State of the Art' through the screening and monitoring of ongoing and completed projects, and other initiatives regarding S&T priority identification. These results will be used as inputs to define topics for thematic conferences.
- creating and handling the dialogue platform on present and future common problems and interests on research initiatives between the EU and MPCs. This platform will act as an open forum for external and internal stakeholders where problems and ideas could be posted.
- establishing a Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) discussion platform. This action is aimed at launching a dialogue among companies, administrations and researchers on how S&T cooperation could support the setting up of the EMIS. A Science Industry Working Group will be created to study the framework of relationships between industry and research in the MPCs.
- discussing and reviewing the implementation of FP7 priorities at the international level. This will be done by identifying the interests and open questions of DG Research Thematic Directorates (either before or directly following the screening conference) and organising thematic workshops on priorities identification within the thematic research areas of FP7 addressing the mutual interest and benefit of the EU and MPCs.
- a pilot action promoting the establishment of a technology transfer network between the EU and MPCs. This action will be handled with the support of the Science Industry Working Group. This network will provide opportunities for benchmarking and good practices exchange regarding strategies, structures, resources associated with technology transfer, and the underlying political and cultural aspects that influence the effectiveness and efficiency of technology transfer (entrepreneurship and new business creation, networking between research and industry, organisational and internal management, intellectual property rights management, licensing etc.).
- organisation of a conference of EU-MPCs Cooperation Programme Managers, including bilateral and multilateral schemes, to search for complementarities and synergies between the two types of actions.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

MIRA will facilitate participation in FP7 through capacity building in the MPCs, notably by evaluating the actual information points, training of managers, scientists, auditors and other relevant actors; promoting seminars of project writing; and delivering recommendations to the national authorities. The project will develop dissemination material to be used in all MPCs on the opportunities offered by FP7; they will be addressed to the academy and the industrial sector, especially the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in English, French and Arabic.

Several public events will be organised in the MPCs on information of the content and opportunities offered by FP7, dedicated especially to SICAs (Specific International Cooperation Actions). The development of the partner search tools should help enhance cooperation between the EU and MPC stakeholders, and increase the participation of MPC organisations to the activities of FP7. Besides the awareness activities targeting a broad scientific community, MIRA will organise training activities for project managers so as to build common knowledge and competences for administrators, regulators and managers in the Mediterranean countries. The project communication will be managed by means of a central Internet-based forum containing the following sections:

- An Intranet accessible only to INCO-NET-MPC members.
- An Internet site open to external parties and with possibilities of acting as a portal of the EU-MPC cooperation in S&T.
- A central library with documents related to the activities of INCO-NET-MPC and links to all available information sources.

4. Monitoring and review activities

The project will develop a continuous monitoring and review of ongoing EU-MPCs cooperation activities in the field of S&T. It will identify specific S&T indicators in MPCs to be used by the observatory so as to monitor the S&T cooperation activities between the EU and the MPCs. The observatory will eventually help promote the creation of an academic taskforce able to tackle and measure the social impact of research.

The observatory will provide the necessary feedback to the MoCo on the progress and impact of the EU-MPCs cooperation so as to help the policymakers update their policies and priorities of cooperation. The observatory will also provide valuable input in the preparation of EC strategic papers in the area of bi-regional S&T cooperation.

The MIRA website, which is designed as a powerful information and knowledge management system, will be used as an instrument for the monitoring of the internal activity and the production of review reports on EU-MPC S&T cooperation activities.

List of partners

| Country | Acronym | Participant organisation name |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| Spain | CSIC | Spanish Council for Scientific Research |
| Morocco | DT-MENESFCRS | Directorate of Technology, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research |
| France | IRD | Institute of Research for Development |
| Tunisia | DGSRT | Directorate General of Research, Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology |
| Egypt | MHESR | Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research |
| Germany | PT-DLR | International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| Italy | CNR | National Council of Research |
| Greece | NHRF | National Hellenic Research Foundation |
| Algeria | DRSDT | Directorate of Scientific Research and Technology, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research |
| Turkey | TUBA | Turkish Academy of Sciences |
| Malta | MCST | Malta Council for Science and Technology |
| Jordan | HCST | Higher Council for Science and Technology |
| Italy | CIHEAM | International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies |
| France | TETHYS | Open University of the Mediterranean Region |
| Germany | WIP | Economics and Infrastructure GmbH and Co. |
| Algeria | CDER | Centre for the Development of Renewable Energies |
| Israel | ISERD | Matimop, Israeli Industry Centre for Research and Development |
| Egypt | ASRT | Academy of Scientific Research & Technology |
| Lebanon | CNRS | National Council of Scientific Research |
| Portugal | FCT | Foundation for Science and Technology |
| Spain | MADRI+D | Foundation for Knowledge MADRIMASD |
| Lebanon | AOU | Arab Open University |
| Turkey | TUBITAK | Scientific & Technological Research Council |
| Spain | MEC | Ministry of Education and Science |
| Palestinian a.a.* | DGDSC | Directorate General of Development & Scientific Research, Ministry of Higher Education |
| Tunisia | ONST | National Observatory of Science and Technology |
| Morocco | CNRST | National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research |
| UK | BC | The British Council |

Palestinian a.a.*: Palestinian administered areas



Sub Saharan Africa

Network for the Coordination and
Advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa-EU
Science & Technology Cooperation -

CAAST-Net



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology Cooperation - CAAST-Net

www.caaast-net.org

| | |
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1. Background and objectives

CAAST-Net has been developed against the background of an emerging global consensus that capacity in S&T is essential not only to economic competitiveness, but also to sustainable development and poverty reduction. In Africa, a growing number of governments are prioritising S&T as a key sector of their national and regional growth and development programmes. The internationalisation of research and development programmes is also a policy objective shared by Europe and Africa and as a consequence, there is an increasingly important focus on S&T under Europe-Africa cooperation programmes.

The current environment for the development of S&T cooperation between Europe and Africa is very conducive. The report of the Commission for Africa and the recommendations of the 2005 G8 Summit at Gleneagles (Scotland) provide a strong case for increased investment in Africa's S&T capacity and for investment in skilled human capacity to stimulate economic growth, alleviate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The renewed international focus on Africa — as shown for example in the EU's adoption in 2005 of a New Strategy for Africa, the preparation of a Joint EU-Africa strategy for adoption at the 2007 EU-Africa Summit of Heads of Government, and the acknowledged role of science, technology and innovation in economic transformation, sustainable development and poverty alleviation — has contributed to a gradual change in the perception of the potential of S&T on the African continent.

Recent years have therefore seen a greater interest in S&T cooperation with Africa, through collaborative R&D programmes, such as the Framework Programmes, but also through development cooperation instruments, including the European Development Fund of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

Responding to this dynamic but complex environment, in which current S&T cooperation initiatives frequently lack coherence with policy objectives and suffer from fragmentation, the analytical, policy dialogue and partnership interventions proposed by CAAST-Net will play an essential role in ensuring the optimal evolution of the Europe-Africa S&T relationship.

CAAST-Net's goal is to promote and facilitate an increase in the quality and quantity of EU-Africa cooperation in S&T, primarily, although not exclusively, focusing on greater use of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, and aiming for greater synergy between R&D and development cooperation instruments, such as the European Development Fund (EDF). In order to achieve this goal, CAAST-Net will support and inform the existing EU-Africa S&T policy dialogue and cooperation processes. It will identify and prioritise common research areas of mutual interest and benefit, especially for inclusion in the thematic priorities of the FP7 Cooperation Programme, as well as harness cooperation so as to address specific problems faced locally and regionally within Africa, as well as common problems of a global nature.

The project will promote synergy between Europe-Africa S&T partnerships and development cooperation instruments in order to enhance the creation and application of new knowledge in support of achieving the MDGs, poverty alleviation and economic growth. In support of these activities, CAAST-Net will undertake specific activities dedicated to strengthening the participation of African countries in the Framework Programme through a series of events aimed at raising awareness, providing information, brokering partnerships and optimising synergies. Lastly, CAAST-Net will continuously monitor the performance and impact of EU-Africa S&T cooperation under the Framework Programme to provide feedback to the relevant European Commission's services.

2. Dialogue activities

In the African region, the African Ministerial Council for Science and Technology (AMCOST) is the primary body responsible for S&T and for the promotion of bi-regional S&T cooperation. CAAST-Net will foster the understanding and trust of this forum to encourage collaboration. CAAST-Net's dialogue activities focus on proposals for an enhanced S&T policy dialogue process through a 'Steering Platform for EU-African S&T cooperation' whose role will be to support and inform existing intergovernmental processes. The aim of the Steering Platform dialogue process will be enhanced knowledge on national and bilateral S&T policies relevant for strengthening the bi-regional S&T cooperation and the participation of Africa in the activities of the growing European Research Area; priorities, implementation scenarios and concrete action-oriented recommendations; and recommendations for S&T activities addressing global issues of common interest.

CAAST-Net will also build an EU-Africa S&T cooperation platform, collaborating with other INCO-NETs where possible. Consisting primarily of a series of knowledge-based thematic workshops and led by African and EU participants, the platform will be used to build partnerships for S&T cooperation and to develop concrete proposals to DG Research for consideration within the context of Work Programmes in FP7. In particular, the focus will be on identifying topics for future Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs) for the calls for proposals.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

CAAST-Net's primary activities focus on the facilitation and promotion of the bi-regional dialogue process. Implementation relies heavily on dialogue-based events for communication and dissemination of information. Success is, therefore, predicated upon building broad engagement with and support for CAAST-Net's common vision among European and African stakeholder communities. To this end, the awareness raising process is vital to implementation. CAAST-Net already has a strong consortium whose core participants represent all geographic regions and the major international languages of Africa, but early efforts will aim to further broaden the community. Dissemination and communication activities are built around the creation of the web-based 'CAAST-Net Community Knowledge Management Platform'.

4. Monitoring and review activities

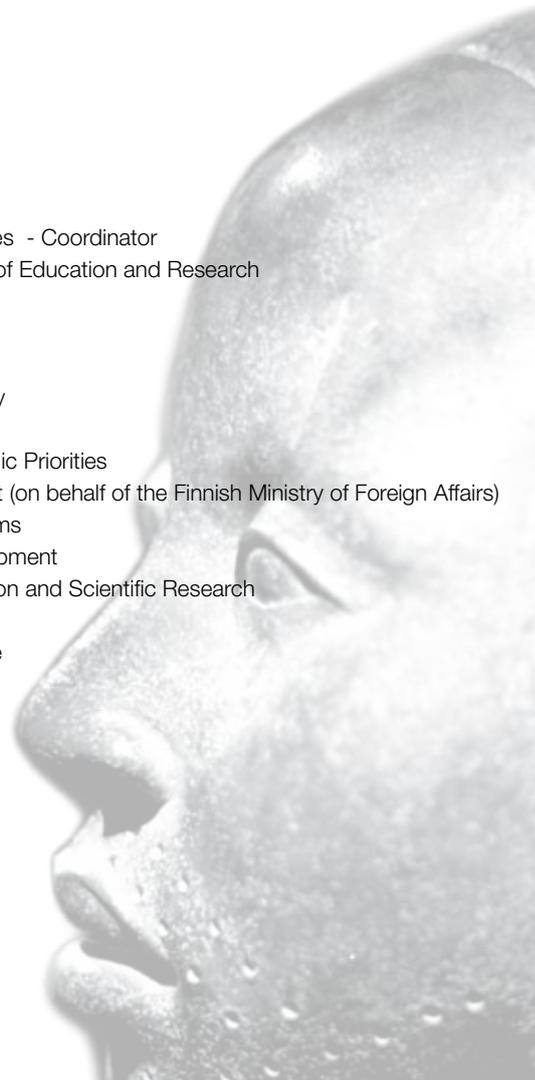
An analysis of past and on-going Europe-Africa S&T collaborations under the EU Framework Programmes, taking into account major bilateral collaboration programmes between African and EU countries, as well as other major European and international mechanisms of S&T cooperation, is vital to the process of updating policies and priorities for international cooperation.

CAAST-Net proposes, in collaboration with the INCO-NET for the Mediterranean MIRA as part of a joint Observatory, to conduct analyses that will examine the themes and instruments of S&T cooperation, as well as the extent to which collaboration adheres to acceptable standards of good practice. Moreover, it will also be examined whether and under what circumstances African participants gain from FP7 participation with a view to spreading best practice in building long-lasting partnerships, whether participation produces sustainable and tangible outputs that contribute to social and economic development goals, and whether there is an identifiable and positive legacy to participation. Part of this analysis will be the identification of means and ways for enhancing the participation of African Countries in European research programmes, primarily the Framework Programme.

Analyses will critically review the thematic diversity of Europe-Africa collaboration to assist in the development/enhancement of research partnerships.

List of partners

| Country | Acronym | Participant organisation name |
|--------------|----------|--|
| UK | AU-ACU | Africa Unit, Association of Commonwealth Universities - Coordinator |
| Germany | PT-DLR | International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| France | IRD | Institute for Research and Development |
| South Africa | RA | ResearchResearch (Africa) (Pty.) Ltd. |
| Kenya | MOST-KE | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| Uganda | UNCST | Uganda National Council for Science and Technology |
| Rwanda | MINISTR | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| Norway | RCN | The Research Council of Norway, Division for Strategic Priorities |
| Finland | JyU | Finnish Universities' Partnership for Int'l Development (on behalf of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) |
| Sweden | VINNOVA | Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems |
| France | CIRAD | Agricultural Research Centre for International Development |
| Madagascar | DR-MENRS | Directorate of Research, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research |
| Ghana | MinESS | Ministry of Education, Sport and Science |
| Cape Verde | DGESC | Directorate General of Higher Education and Science |
| Cameroon | MINRESI | Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation |
| Senegal | MRS | Ministry of Scientific Research |
| Portugal | FCT | Foundation for Science and Technology |
| South Africa | DST | Department of Science & Technology |





South-East Asia

Facilitating the bi-regional EU-ASEAN
Science and Technology Dialogue -

SEA-EU-NET



Facilitating the bi-regional EU-ASEAN Science and Technology Dialogue - SEA-EU-NET

www.sea-eu.net

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1. Background and objectives

The SEA-EU-NET project will increase the quality, quantity, profile and impact of bi-regional S&T cooperation between the 10 member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Member States and Associated Countries of the EU⁽²⁾. There is untapped potential in strengthening the participation of South-East Asian (SEA) countries in FP7, and for increased European involvement in SEA S&T. Constraining factors include insufficient awareness of opportunities, inadequate connections amongst researchers, the 'distance' hurdle to building the trust and confidence necessary for partnerships, the complexity of S&T programmes on both sides, lack of assistance when navigating such programmes, and the asynchronous research funding systems between the two regions.

Despite these constraints, there is a significant opportunity to augment the cooperation and raise leverage on regional networks, policies and initiatives developed, for example, through the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) in South-East Asia. Increasing SEA-EU cooperation requires targeted measures that integrate and strengthen the S&T dialogue in a coherent and sustainable way.

The SEA-EU-NET project, presently supported by 25 key S&T institutions (17 participants and 8 additional members of the steering board), will deliver a wide range of measures to increase SEA-EU cooperation amongst academic, industrial and government stakeholders. In addition to current partner institutions, it also encourages additional SEA partners to join the consortium in the future.

2. Dialogue activities

Dissemination services will raise the awareness for S&T potential in the SEA region, inform interested stakeholders from science, industries and policymakers about opportunities for enhanced S&T cooperation, and implement a proactive dissemination strategy. Moreover, a number of horizontal events aimed at raising the awareness and disseminating information will be implemented.

Although a variety of information websites already exists, none have been explicitly devoted to cooperation with the SEA region. Therefore, SEA-EU-NET will create a new EU-SEA internet portal that will also function as a meta-portal, future single access point. This portal will utilise existing websites and electronic information which is provided by previous and ongoing projects inside and outside the Framework Programmes, as well as on the project's own analytical work. This portal will cater to the diverse needs of the users by presenting a range of information levels.

The annual project meetings will provide a platform for exchange and policy recommendations. The meetings are foreseen to take place in Paris (2008), Jakarta (2009), Budapest (2010) and Hanoi (2011), alternating between South-East Asian and European venues.

3. Dissemination activities

One of the main objectives of the project is to raise awareness for the untapped potential of S&T in the SEA region. The project will inform stakeholders from science, industries, and policymaking areas about the opportunities that exist for enhanced S&T cooperation and the respective framework. Furthermore it will foster active networking among the science communities and R&D-oriented, innovative industries in the Member States, Associated States and the SEA partner countries using various dissemination strategies-based synergies with existing tools, platforms, and services (e.g. NCP-network, ASEAN-COST, CORDIS-Website, etc.)

⁽²⁾ (Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam).

A series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences will be established to address various groups of stakeholders from the science community, industries and policymaking. The following events are planned:

- national and regional information days in the SEA in FP7, in close cooperation with the respective national stakeholders (governments, science organisations and info-points);
- specific information sessions in EU conferences informing about the S&T potential of SEA;
- regional conferences in specific research areas in the SEA addressing future cooperation with the EU;
- selected targeted political events to raise awareness on the opportunities and challenges of a closer bi-regional cooperation between the EU and SEA, addressed to political stakeholders on national, regional and Community level.

4. Monitoring and review activities

One major aim of the project is to provide scientific evidence to the bi-regional policy dialogue platforms and to spur cooperation mechanisms between the EU and the concerned countries at the technical expert level. Ongoing cooperation activities in S&T will be identified, screened, systematised and reviewed.

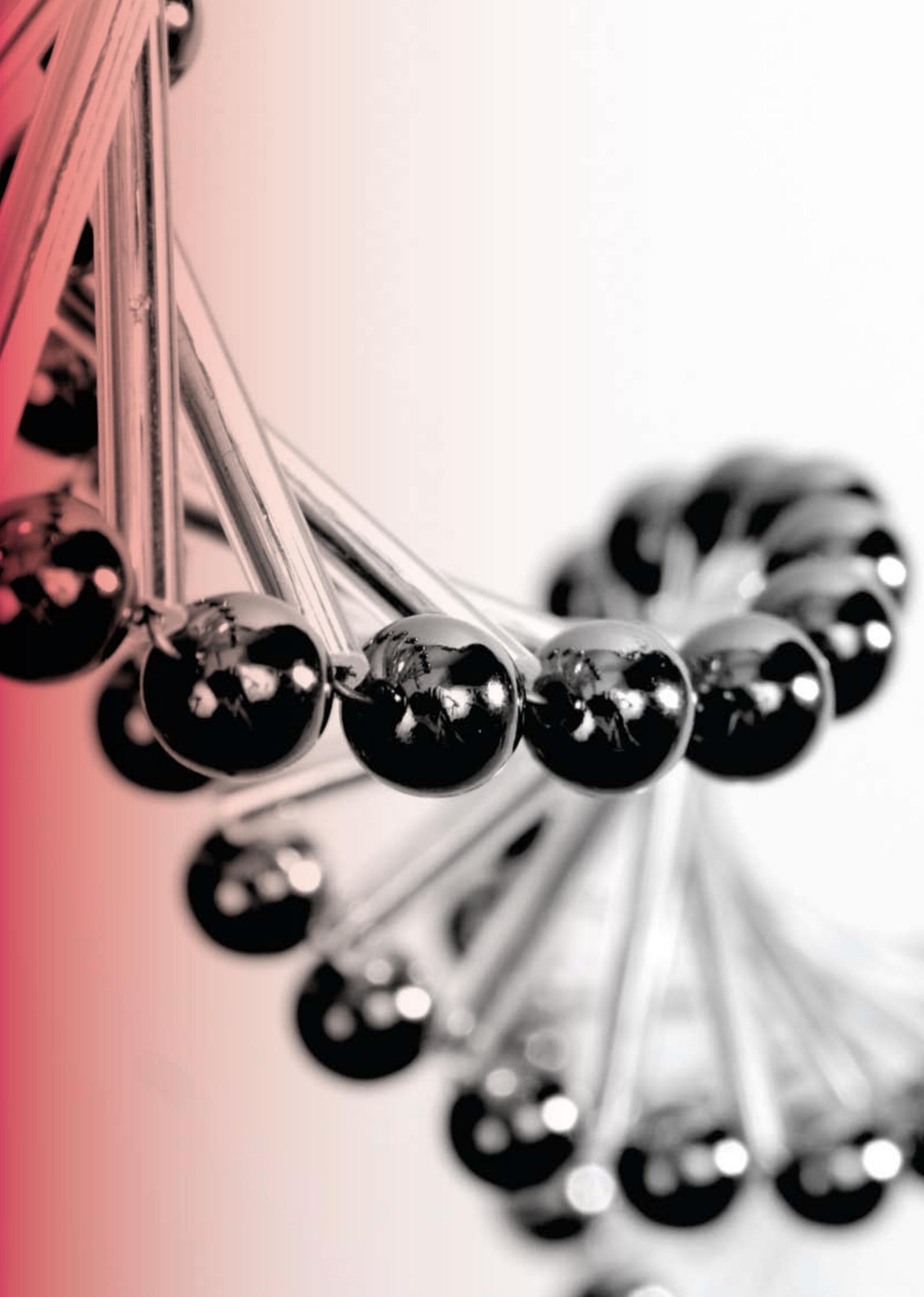
Monitoring and review activities are aimed at:

- collecting, processing and facilitating the access and exchange of S&T information between the two world regions;
- supporting the process of aligning S&T statistics in order to follow the dynamics of the S&T systems;
- establishing a coherent mapping of the EU partners' unilateral initiatives and bi-lateral programmes with SEA;
- clustering the identified programmes and featuring high-potential institutions in SEA in the mapping database;
- identifying convergences and diversities of the cooperation programmes;
- providing concrete recommendations on improving S&T collaboration between the EU and SEA.

At the project level, it will be the SEA-EU-NET ad-hoc Advisory Group that will be responsible for reviewing the project. The group should gauge the impact of the actions of the consortium and ensure complementarities with the activities of other research institutions. The Advisory Group is represented by up to six external experts who are invited for their expertise. The composition of the Advisory Group will be decided by the General Assembly.

List of partners

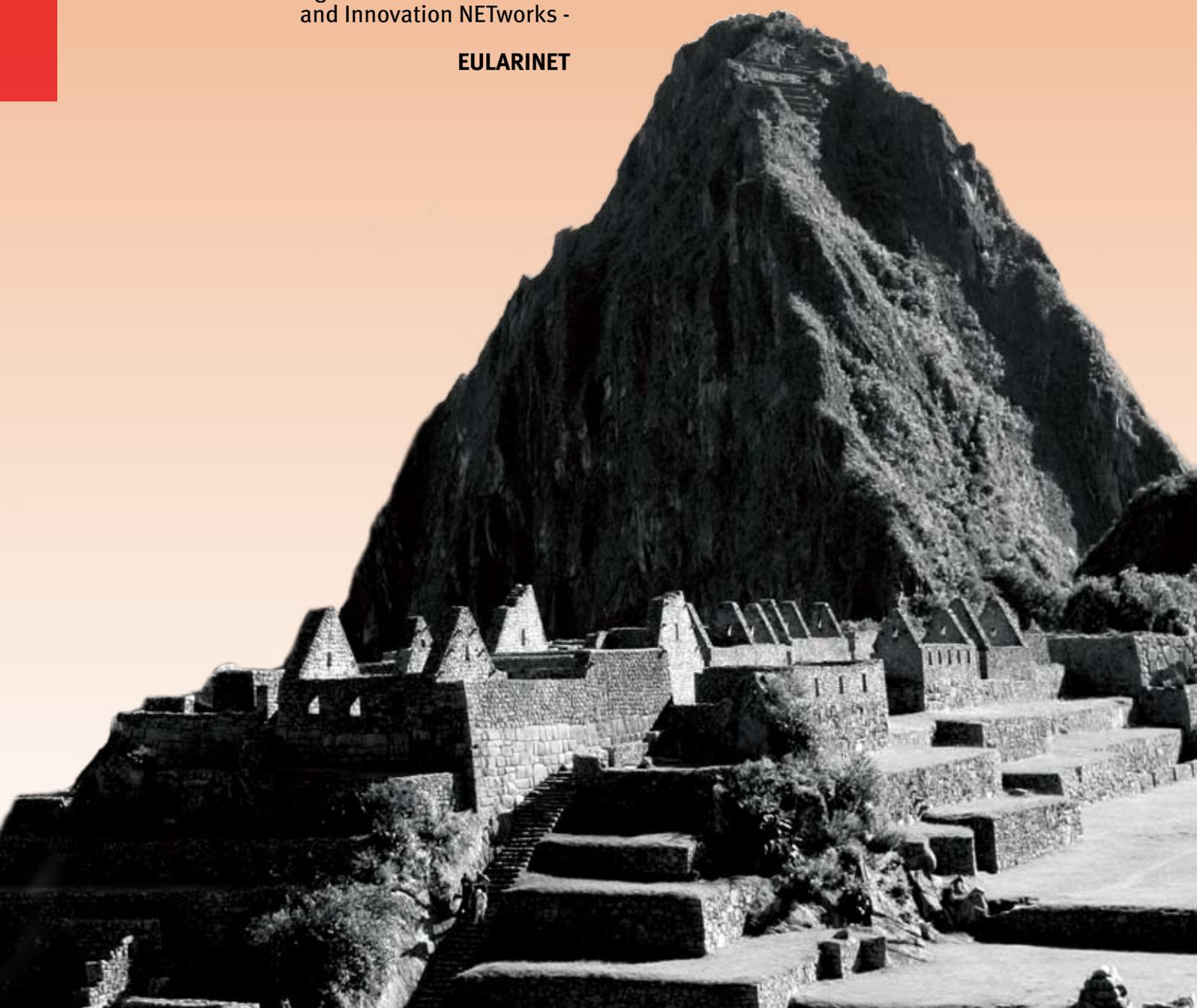
| Country | Acronym | Participant organisation name |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| Germany | PT-DLR | International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research – Coordinator |
| Netherlands | KNAW | Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences |
| UK | BHC | British High Commission, Singapore |
| Hungary | COLBUD | Collegium Budapest Egyesület, Institute for Advanced Study |
| Turkey | TUBITAK | Scientific & Technological Research Council |
| Thailand | NSTDA | National Science and Technology Development Agency |
| Austria | ZSI | Centre for Social Innovation |
| Indonesia | RISTEK | State Ministry of State for Research and Technology |
| Vietnam | NACESTI | National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information |
| Germany | GIGA | Institute of Asian Studies, German Institute of Global and Area Studies |
| France | CIRAD | Agricultural Research Centre for International Development |
| United Kingdom | DEMOS | DEMOS – Think tank for everyday democracy |
| France | CNRS | National Centre of Scientific Research |
| Turkey | TUBITAK-UME | Scientific and Technological Research Council - UME |
| Poland | PAN | Polish Academy of Sciences |
| Malaysia | NML-SIRIM | National Metrology Laboratory – SIRIM |
| Malaysia | MOSTI | Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation |



Latin America

Coordinating Latin America Research
and Innovation NETWORKS -

EULARINET



Coordinating Latin America Research and Innovation NETWORKS - EULARINET

www.S2lat.eu/eularinet

| | |
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1. Background and objectives

EULARINET stems from the agreed common vision for S&T cooperation between Latin America (LA) and the EU that evolved during the Summits in Rio de Janeiro (June 1999), Madrid (May 2002) and Guadalajara (May 2004), and that ended with the Guadalajara Declaration on the creation of a EU-LA Knowledge Area. The project builds on existing structures and will be reinforced and extended to the appropriate areas in order to cover all countries and strategic concerns of mutual interest and benefit.

EULARINET's goal is to strengthen bi-regional dialogue on S&T between EU Member States, Associated States and Latin American Partner Countries (LAPC) at policy, programme and institutional (research and industry entities) levels, thus contributing to a three-fold objective:

- promoting the joint identification, establishment, implementation and monitoring of priorities of mutual interest and benefit in future work programmes across the Specific Programmes of FP7;
- jointly supporting the definition of S&T cooperation policies;
- supporting and stimulating the participation of LAPC in FP7.

2. Dialogue activities

EULARINET will establish a network between European and Latin American stakeholders (research groups, universities, industry, policymakers, programme managers and civil society) to identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit for both regions.

Bilateral sub-regional dialogues will be organised annually in the three sub-regions of: Mexico and Central America; Andean countries; and the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) countries, involving stakeholders from policymaking, science and industry communities. A co-leadership between LAPC and EU partners will ensure balanced responsibility and participation in the activities.

High-level bi-regional meetings are planned during the entire duration of the project. The meetings will be open to all EU and LA countries; the EULARINET consortium will actively address and invite other Member States, Associated Countries and LAPC that currently are not members of the EULARINET consortium, to participate and contribute, thus increasing the impact of the dialogues. These high-level meetings will highlight and reflect the results from the sub-regional meetings on the identification of common topics for FP7 Thematic areas.

Overall EULARINET will:

- structure the communication channels by offering ad-hoc fora for bi-regional dialogue on S&T policy between LA and the EU, for the exchange of views and information on national and bilateral S&T policies relevant for bi-regional S&T cooperation, and for a more comprehensive and structured exchange with LAPC regarding the research activities of the European Commission (EC);
- promote regional integration as an asset, both for good neighbourhood relationships in Latin America and for heightening the attractiveness of S&T cooperation through regional networking;
- address global issues of common interest and benefit, and develop scenarios and concrete recommendations for actions on these matters, with emphasis on S&T activities that address topics related to the EU Framework Programme (e.g. Specific International Cooperation Actions – SICAs).

Links with broader EU S&T policies will contribute to social and economic development and stimulate an environment for transnational scientific cooperation of both individual scientists and institutions. EULARINET will try to ensure a coherent approach, develop synergies with other relevant EU programmes and policies, and maintain a constant information flow to ongoing policy dialogues.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

A proactive dissemination strategy will be implemented in order to raise awareness for the potential of S&T in LA, inform interested stakeholders from science, industries and policymaking about opportunities for enhanced S&T cooperation within FP7, and to foster active networking. This networking will address the science communities and innovative industries in Member States, Associated Countries and LAPC. Here, synergies with existing programmes from the EC will be widely explored.

Specific workshops, training sessions, etc. will be carried out, and a number of horizontal events aimed at awareness raising and information dissemination will be implemented through a series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences, as well as seminars and workshops on S&T cooperation opportunities. Depending on the respective objective, the events will address various groups of stakeholders from the scientific, industrial and policymaking communities.

The following events are anticipated:

- national and regional Information Days in LA on FP7, in close cooperation with the respective stakeholders (governments, science organisations, and National Contact Points and FP7 Contact Points);
- specific information sessions at EU conferences informing on the S&T potential of LA;
- sub-regional conferences in LA (e.g. Mexico and Central America) addressing the future cooperation with the EU.

Selected targeted political events, addressed to political stakeholders on national, regional and EU level, will be targeted so as to raise awareness on the opportunities and challenges of a closer bi-regional cooperation between the EU and LA.

The following outputs are foreseen:

- A dedicated website with public and private areas that will link to other relevant websites — a variety of information websites already exist, devoted to cooperation with LAPC — with advanced functionalities to support collaborative dialogues among the partners.
- A new EU-LA internet portal, as a future single point of access building on existing websites and electronic information provided by previous and ongoing projects on EU-LA S&T cooperation.
- A series of publications to disseminate the major EULARINET activities, findings and events to external stakeholders including industry, society and the research community; these include regional magazines, advertisements about achievements on science, and technology benefits for society.

4. Monitoring and review activities

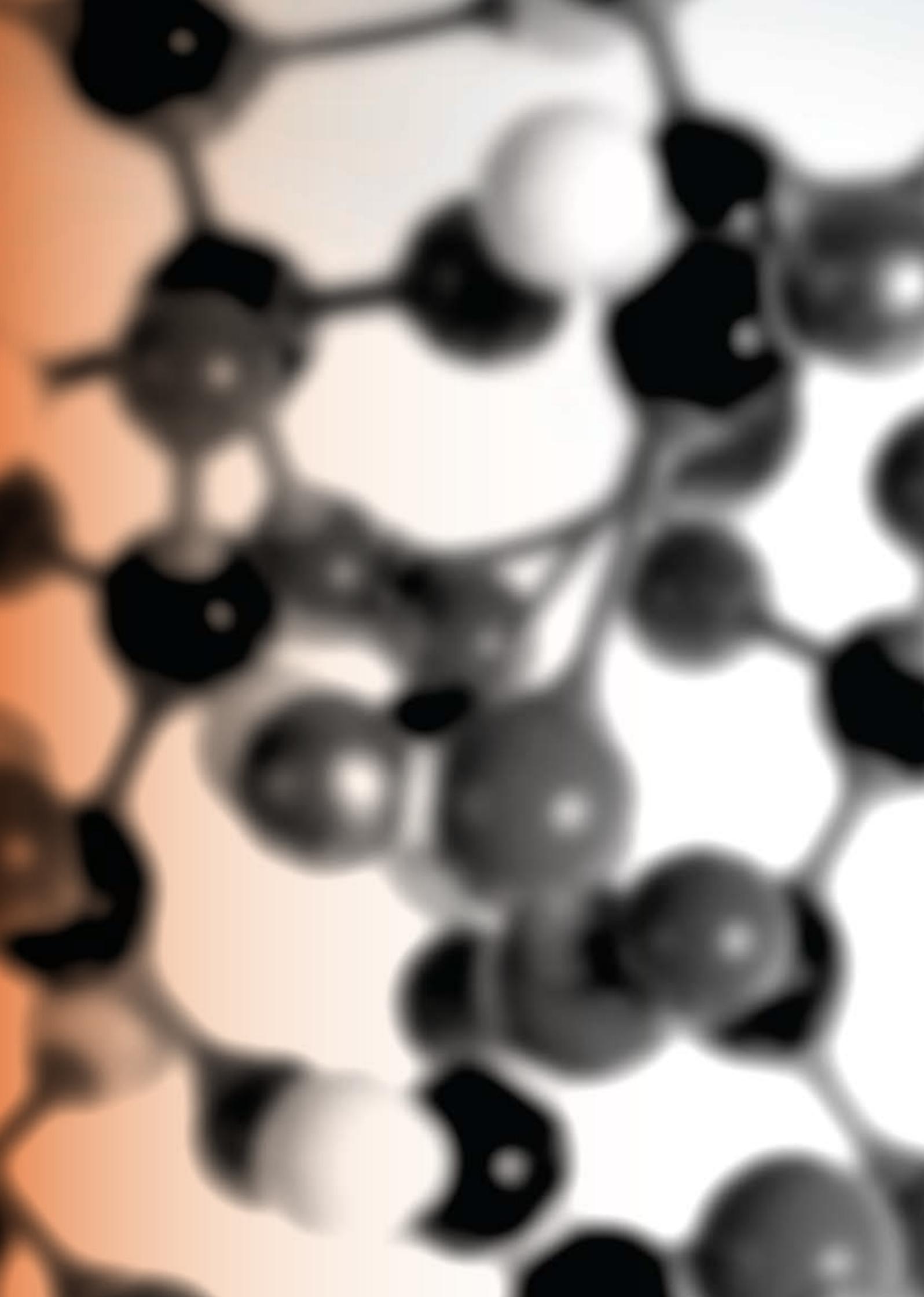
Monitoring will be focused on past and ongoing cooperation activities, and will provide a complete view of the modalities and intensity of the bi-regional cooperation through continuous monitoring in each of the participating LA countries.

Main activities will involve:

- developing questionnaires, interview schemes, S&T indicators and benchmarking criteria;
- working jointly and taking into account the results and working methods of ongoing initiatives (CYTED, EULANEST, LAC-ACCESS);
- mapping the activities through an online database for the results and statistical data of all tasks as a 'work-in-progress' S&T observatory;
- developing specific criteria for assessing EU-LAC FP6/FP7 cooperation activities.

List of partners

| Country | Acronym | Participant organisation name |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| Spain | MEC | Ministry of Education and Science - Coordinator |
| Argentina | SECYT | Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovative Production |
| Austria | ZSI | Centre for Social Innovation |
| Brazil | MCT | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| Chile | CONICYT-CL | National Commission of Scientific and Technologic Research |
| Colombia | COLCIENCIAS | Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology |
| Finland | AKA | Academy of Finland |
| France | CIRAD | Agricultural Research Centre for International Development |
| France | IRD | Institute for Research and Development |
| Germany | BMBF | Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| Germany | PT-DLR | International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| Mexico | CONACYT | National Council of Research and Technology |
| Nicaragua | CONICYT-NI | Nicaraguan Council for Science and Technology |
| Norway | RCN | The Research Council of Norway |
| Portugal | ADI | Agency of Innovation |
| Portugal | FCT | Foundation for Science and Technology |
| Spain | UPM | Polytechnic University of Madrid |
| Spain | CSIC | Spanish Council for Scientific Research |
| Uruguay | MEC-CUBIST | Ministry of Education and Culture-CUBIST |



European Commission

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SUMMARY

The launch of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research – FP7 (2007-2013) places a renewed emphasis on international cooperation in science and technology (S&T).

The new approach of international cooperation in FP7 aims to support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries, facilitating access to research carried out elsewhere in the world, and tackling specific challenges that third countries face or that have a global character on the basis of mutual interest and benefit.

International cooperation is embedded into the different specific programmes of FP7. The underpinning activities aimed at building a European Research Area open to the world are carried out under the Activities of International Cooperation of the Capacities Specific Programme and include the INCO-NET projects presented in these synopses.

The INCO-NET projects will support the policy dialogue in S&T with the different regions of the world, thus providing a platform for setting research priorities and implementing activities of dissemination and monitoring in order to strengthen the participation of organisations from third countries. The first wave of funded projects includes the following regions: Western Balkans, eastern Europe, central Asia, the Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan Africa, south east Asia and Latin America.