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ACCESS4EU – Exploring New Opportunities for European Researchers in International S&T Cooperation

PROJECT INFORMATION

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Opening Horizons

ACCESS4EU – Exploring New Opportunities
for European Researchers in International
S&T Cooperation

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The Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7) places renewed emphasis on international cooperation in Science and Technology (S&T) an area that is increasingly seen as being at the centre of Community policies.

International cooperation in FP7 addresses three independent objectives:

- supporting European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with scientists in third countries in selected fields to work in and with Europe;
- facilitating contacts with partners in third countries with the aim of providing better access to excellent research carried out in other parts of the world;
- tackling the specific challenges faced by third countries, or global problems, together with strategic partners in third countries.

Theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the **Cooperation Programme** and international mobility actions under the **People Programme**.

The **Capacities Programme's activities** are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme, as well as to provide opportunities to access research programmes managed by third countries. They foster international cooperation by putting measures in place to promote dialogue and information exchange activities with third countries in order to enable the EU and targeted states/regions outside Europe to discuss current and future research priorities.

This brochure gives an overview of the ACCESS4EU projects, which are funded under the FP7 Capacities programme.

This unique instrument aims at **increasing European researchers' awareness of funding opportunities for international research projects** in third countries.

More specifically, the ACCESS4EU projects should help give access to national research and innovation programmes in:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- India
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- United States of America

These projects should translate into a measurable increase of European research organisations' effective cooperation with third countries, as well as less readily measurable improvements in mutual understanding of the respective research systems. In this respect, the projects will contribute to the implementation of the agreements by identifying the different funding programmes open to EU researchers and promote their participation, i.e. developing the reciprocity aspects of S&T agreements.

The opening of new funding opportunities

In practical terms, the ACCESS4EU-funded projects start by mapping out the access opportunities in the aforementioned target countries. This empirical research includes the screening of bilateral cooperation agreements and programmes between European Member States and/or Associated Countries and the target country participating in the respective project.

The project consortia also decide on a strategy to disseminate the information to the European research institutions, universities, political decision makers and the European Commission.

The new projects funded by the **International Cooperation activities** of the Capacities Programme like ACCESS4EU, but also those under INCO ERA-NET, BILAT and INCO-NET, should have an impact beyond FP7 as they will help S&T stakeholders in Europe to be more alert to future collaboration opportunities for European scientists in and with centres of scientific excellence in targeted countries or regions outside Europe.

All the Access4EU projects have in common that they want to disseminate the information about research and innovation programmes to European researchers. To pass on the information and to attract the attention of as many researchers as possible, the solution is to bundle forces between the ACCESS4EU projects.

To define which dissemination activities can be linked together, the European Commission invited three organisations involved in nine of the 11 projects, to develop a common dissemination strategy. These were the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE, Italy), International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Center (DLR, Germany) and Help Forward (Greece).

The two main objectives of the common dissemination strategy are:

- to reach as large an audience as possible ('economies of scale'), covering all the Member States and Associated Countries of FP7; and
- to provide the target beneficiaries with information on research and innovation programmes that is relevant to their specific interests.

The approach of the common dissemination strategy is to create a **strong visual identity** for all ACCESS4EU projects. This approach includes providing the target beneficiaries with **thematic and horizontal information** through **transnational networks**. The **FP7 structure** will be used for the identification of research and horizontal themes in Third Countries that are available in research and innovation programmes open to EU researchers.

Who are the target beneficiaries?

The first interested parties are, of course, the researchers themselves. The second group consists of professional associations that act as umbrella organisations representing researchers (and other stakeholders) at national or at European level. The third beneficiaries are SMEs and large industries. The last target group of the dissemination activities are European programme owners who can use the information to adapt their research and innovation programmes to those in 'Third Countries'. In this light, it is important to mention that information about programmes in Third Countries will also be presented to the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committees (JSTCCs) responsible for implementing the bilateral S&T agreements with each of the Third Countries covered by the ACCESS4EU projects.

What are the information channels?

The National Contact Points (for all FP7 programmes, including the International Cooperation programme) are crucial in delivering the message directly to researchers and researcher organisations. Other information multipliers – like university departments responsible for international cooperation – can further assist in spreading the information. When it comes to involving the business world, many project partners are a member of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) that links the industrial world, particularly SMEs, with the research community. Other dissemination channels include ERA-WATCH, the information portal on ‘national and regional research policies, actors, and programmes in the EU and beyond’; ERA-NET schemes and INCONET projects with which many Access4EU partners have direct links; as well as other, more country-specific channels.

What tool will be used?

Five tools will be used to support the strong visual identity and the provision of thematic or horizontal information.

Project logos – As part of the common branding, each project will use the following common ‘key’ element in their logo.



Website and RTDI programme database – A common web portal has been developed as an access point to information on all projects. The webportal will also host a *RTDI programme database* with specific information on Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) programmes and open calls.

Brochure – To provide general information on the ACCESS4EU programmes during conferences, the development of a common brochure is planned. The brochure will include a link to the Common Webportal.

Newsletter – Following the assessments of Third Country RTDI programmes, Newsletters focussing on one or more particular research themes will provide European target beneficiaries with a complete overview of opportunities in their sector in interest.

Information Days – Focusing on particular research themes, will be jointly organised, if possible to coincide with large conferences on the same theme(s), especially taking into account conferences organised in the country that hosts the EU presidency.

A common web portal

A key element of the ACCESS4EU common dissemination strategy is the common web portal (see image below).

The portal (www.access4.eu) serves as the unique access point to all eleven ACCESS4EU projects. The web portal includes the RTDI programme database, with a user friendly search tool that allows the identification of programmes by country and/or theme of interest. The portal will also present common news items and an event calendar, showing upcoming events organised by the 11 projects. Furthermore, updates on new calls, new programmes and new events will be regularly promoted via a common ACCESS4EU newsletter, which can be subscribed on the web portal.



Screenshot from the common web portal showing the homepage (www.access4.eu).

What does the RTDI programme database offer?

The RTDI programme database acts as ‘one single information gate for research and innovation funding opportunities within Third Countries’.

European researchers – as well as the other target beneficiaries of the common dissemination strategy – can benefit from a database which provides information on all funding programmes in relation to research and innovation that exist within Third Countries, and thus exploit any opportunities for research cooperation around the world.

Through the RTDI database, users can search for research and innovation programmes introduced and administered by Third Countries through various search paths, including country or thematic search options (following the existing FP7 themes). All information will be presented in English, thus eliminating the language barrier which exists in some cases.

The results of each search are provided through a standard format which includes all the necessary information needed to gain a sound understanding of the characteristics of the various programmes as well as the necessary modalities for participation. The data provided further include information on key contact persons for each programme. As such, European researchers are able to directly refer to the key programme owners to further enquire about information related to their participation.

RTDI is expected to be of great value to European researchers who wish to explore available opportunities and enhance their participation in research and innovation programmes of Third Countries. The ACCESS4EU projects will ensure the up-to-date gathering of information as well as its presentation through an organised and searchable format, with characteristics that are appealing to European researchers.

Supporting EU access to Australian Research Programmes – AUS-ACCESS4EU

Website: www.access2australia.eu

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244485

EC contribution: EUR 499 955

Starting date: 1 October 2009

Duration: 24 months



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The work plan of AUS-ACCESS4EU puts the objective of the FP 7 Capacities Work Programme ‘Supporting the EU access to third countries programmes (FP-INCO-2009-5) to help to develop the reciprocity aspects of the S&T agreement by identifying programmes open to EU researchers and promote their participation’ into practice. The overall objective of the AUS-ACCESS4EU project is to increase S&T cooperation between the EU and Australia by identifying access opportunities for European researchers in Australian research capabilities and programmes, and by widely disseminating this information to the European research community.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The individual activities and tasks proposed in the work plan of the project cover a wide array of activities within four work packages. Work packages 1 and 2 can be considered as thematic work packages. Work packages 3 and 4 are of a horizontal nature and thus support the successful implementation of the whole project.



Inventory and Monitoring aims to map the opportunities for European researchers and research institutes to access Australian Federal Government, State/Territory Government programmes and other significant programmes run by Academies/NGOs and philanthropic bodies, etc. This includes analysing the rules of participation and funding guidelines for European organisations and researchers, as well as identifying the practical obstacles to their participation in Australian research.

The inventory will include:

- a survey of the bilateral cooperation agreements of EU Member States and FP7 Associated Countries with Australia, with a special focus on the reciprocity conditions of agreements;
- a comparative analysis of the level of involvement of European scientists in Australian programmes and the participation rates of Australian teams in European programmes, including a study of best practices;
- an analysis of the rules of participation and funding of European researchers;
- an inventory of the rules and regulations of existing programmes and analysis of the potential practical obstacles to participation for European researchers.

Awareness raising and profile building. The objectives of this work package are to raise the awareness of Australian institutions and programme owners of this project, to analyse aspects of the reciprocity of research programmes and to give recommendations to the European Commission based on the results of this analysis.

The portfolio of inter-connected ACCESS4EU projects is an innovative and well-timed effort to focus attention on the importance of moving towards a truly global research system in which researcher mobility and reciprocity in access to national funding schemes play a key role in national policy frameworks.

This work package will consist of:

- a kick-off conference with the participation of Australian programme owners to make them aware of the project;
- the dialogue with Australian programme owners, i.e. identifying relevant programme owners, conducting interviews and coming to conclusions;
- organising at least 2 workshops with programme owners and the relevant policy decision makers on enhancing opportunities for EU participation in Australian programmes.

Information dissemination and outreach aims to increase the European research community's opportunities to access Australian support and capability in order to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European organisations in the programmes managed by Australian programme owners. This work package aims to make optimum use of synergies with existing activities and projects and will also ensure broad public dissemination of the outcomes of WP 1 and 2.

This work package will concentrate on:

- the preparation of relevant information and its dissemination to EU researchers, as well as relevant stakeholders and policy makers;
- organising information and awareness activities by Australian programme owners in the EU via presentations and information days;
- developing an interactive website for researchers in the private, public and academic sectors and establishing links to other ACCESS4EU websites and to the common central ACCESS4EU webportal; and
- linking with other relevant ongoing Coordination and Support Actions.

Project coordination and management

The objectives of this work package are:

- to organise and coordinate project activities;
- to provide a smooth interface between the individual work packages and to ensure the proper implementation of the work packages and corresponding tasks;
- to ensure a continuous quality assurance of the deliverables;
- to execute the overall legal, financial and administrative management;
- to provide the optimum implementation of the contract;
- to assure an effective information flow;
- to ensure an appropriate handling of unexpected events and conflict management.

3. Expected impact

- The main contribution of AUS-ACCESS₄EU will be the promotion and strengthening of EU-Australian research cooperation in S&T addressing common interest and mutual benefit (and building on shared understanding and trust). With AUS-ACCESS₄EU, the significance of the EU-Australian partnership will be emphasised and an enhanced momentum to EU-Australian S&T cooperation will be given. In general terms, AUS-ACCESS₄EU will promulgate a better understanding of the Australian research system in Europe.
- By supporting the EU access to programmes managed by Australia, this project contributes to the development of the reciprocity aspects of the S&T agreements between the EU and Australia. It will enhance the permeability of S&T cooperation programmes in both directions and facilitate a dialogue between European Member States/Associated Countries at the same level.

List of Partners

- **International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Center – DLR – Germany**
 - **Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation (FEAST) at the Australian National University – ANU – Australia**
 - **The British Council – BC – UK**
 - **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation – CSIRO – Australia**
-

Supporting EU Access to Brazilian National Research Programmes – APORTA

Website: www.access4.eu/brazil

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244388

EC contribution: EUR 499 476

Starting date: 1 October 2009

Duration: 36 months



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

Brazil is the 5th largest country in the world, both in terms of territory and of population. As a key emerging world economic power, Brazil is an important partner country for the EU in Latin America.

Brazil's government is aware of the importance of science and innovation for the country's economy and society. Due to special efforts of Brazilian policy, the scientific production of the country has grown fast in the last few years and Brazil now accounts for about 2 % of the scientific production worldwide. National innovation efforts have made Brazil a leading actor in technology intensive areas such as off shore petrol mining, construction of aircrafts and the production and use of bio-fuels. Through the governmental 'Action Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation', Brazil is investing EUR 17 billion in the national research and development system in the period from 2007 to 2010.



More recently, in the context of the 2nd Brazil – European Union Summit (Rio de Janeiro on December 22nd, 2008) both the European Union as well as Brazil stated, once again, their commitment to collaborate in the field of Science and Technology and to foster cooperation in this field. S&T cooperation with Brazil dates back to 2004 when the S&T agreement was signed.

Access4EU-projects as such are aimed at increasing S&T cooperation between the EU and third countries by identifying access opportunities for European researchers in national research and/or innovation programmes managed by third countries.

APORTA, the ACCESS4EU directed to Brazil, meets the challenge of raising awareness among EU researchers about opportunities offered by Brazilian research and innovation programmes. APORTA strives to enhance the participation, and hence the active cooperation of EU Member States' research institutions in the national research and innovation programmes managed by Brazil.

*Each ACCESS4EU target country is unique.
But, within the ACCESS4EU framework,
we aim to create one single gateway to research
programmes around the world.*

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

APORTA focuses on collecting information regarding national research and innovation capacities and programmes within Brazil. A further objective is to widely disseminate this information to researchers and other stakeholders in the European Research Area, aiming at the creation of effective collaboration activities between the EU and the Brazilian research community. The results of APORTA will be publicly available on a common ACCESS4EU web portal (www.access4.eu), and presented during information days and relevant events in Europe.

APORTA is divided into four work packages. The first work package is aimed at *'Inventory and monitoring'* and can be considered as the analytical cornerstone that will be used for the development of the dissemination and information instruments in further work packages. A mapping and inventory of Brazilian national research programmes will be carried out. The rules of participation and funding of European organisations and researchers as well as the potential obstacles to their participation, will be analysed. Additionally, the participation of EU researchers and institutes in Brazilian national research programmes shall be monitored.

The second work package targets the *'Dialogue with the EC and Brazilian Programme owners'*. The EC as well as Brazilian programme owners, who are responsible for setting the rules and regulations of access conditions, will be involved from the beginning in a close dialogue through a series of conferences, workshops and continuous exchange through other means of communication.

The third work package focuses on '*Information dissemination and outreach*'. In order to achieve a maximum outreach of the project and effective impact in EU research institutions, APORTA will follow the '*Common Dissemination Strategy*' for all ACCESS4EU projects – above all through taking part in an overall ACCESS4EU web portal, joint information days, contributing to a newsletter, etc. On the ACCESS4EU web portal, as well as on a specific APORTA website, a database will be made available including all national calls open for European researchers.

The fourth work package is dedicated to '*Project Coordination and Management*', thus ensuring a successful implementation and outcome for APORTA.

3. Expected impact

APORTA will provide feedback to the European Commission in the context of the Joint Committee meetings of the S&T agreement between Brazil and the EU. By making recommendations regarding current possibilities and obstacles, APORTA intends to enhance the reciprocity laid down in the S&T cooperation agreement and increase the mutual benefits for both sides. The expected impact of APORTA will thus be an increased participation of EU scientists in Brazilian research and innovation programmes and a closer interaction and cooperation.

List of Partners

- **International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Center – DLR – Germany**
 - **Foundation of Research and Technology Hellas – Forth – Greece**
 - **Institute of Research for Development – IRD – France**
 - **National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq – Brazil**
-

Supporting EU Access to Canadian Research and Innovation Programmes – Access2Canada

Website: www.access2canada.eu

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244422

EC contribution: EUR 499 714

Starting date: 1 September 2009

Duration: 36 months



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

This project focuses on Canada and the opportunities for EU researchers to access Canadian research and innovation programmes. In 1976, the EU established the first S&T relationship with Canada by signing the EC-Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. However, it was only after the EC adopted its multi-annual Framework Programmes in 1984 that the two sides could more concretely begin to identify S&T cooperation opportunities. S&T cooperation between the EU and Canada has evolved ever since and in 1995 a formal Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed⁽¹⁾. This agreement between Canada and the European Union is administered by the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC). The JSTCC meets on an annual basis, with meetings being held alternately in the EU and Canada. Despite an important increase in S&T cooperation since 1996, there remains a lack of awareness and active participation of researchers in each other's research and innovation programmes – most particularly for EU researchers in Canadian programmes.

(1) The Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Canada and the European Union was ratified and came into force in 1996 (E102117 – CTS 1996 No. 24). Six years earlier, in 1990, the EU and Canada had already reinforced their relations with the Declaration on European Community-Canada Relations.



The main objective of the Access2Canada project is:

To strengthen and increase EU-Canada S&T cooperation by supporting the access for EU researchers to Canadian research and innovation programmes.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The quality of Access2Canada lies in a strong and balanced partnership that will carry out the planned activities. The effectiveness of the project is ensured by the long experience of the partners in working in the field of international cooperation and their wide networks both at governmental level and in the European and Canadian research communities. The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) fully supports the proposed activities.

ACCESS2CANADA will:

- map Canadian research and innovation programmes and EU-Canada S&T agreements, and identify opportunities and obstacles for the EU research community to access Canadian research and innovation programmes;
- monitor European researcher participation in Canadian research and innovation programmes;
- provide feedback to the European Commission and the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) EU-Canada about the opportunities and obstacles for EU researchers and present suggestions to improve the S&T cooperation;
- raise awareness amongst EU researchers about Canadian research and innovation programmes and encourage EU researchers to participate in these programmes.

It is now time to show European researchers the way to Canada.

The dissemination activities will all be focused on the opportunities and obstacles for EU researchers to participate in Canadian research and innovation programmes.

The target groups of the dissemination are:

- European researchers;
- European professional associations;
- European industry/SMEs;
- EU/national/regional programme holders.

The activities will be coordinated with other ACCESS4EU projects, in order to provide the European researcher with the best possible overview of access opportunities to research and innovation programmes in Third Countries.

The dissemination is based on:

- ACCESS2CANADA information days in Europe;
- presentation of new opportunities during R&I events in Europe;
- webinars (web-based information sessions);
- website (www.access2canada.eu);
- online database of 1) accessible Canadian research and innovation programmes, and 2) existing S&T agreements and arrangements;
- newsletter (subscription online);
- project video.

The ACCESS2CANADA information days will allow for face-to-face encounters with researchers and thus the dissemination of up-to-date information on opportunities to access Canadian research and innovation programmes. To ensure a maximum attendance of researchers from all over Europe, the Info-days will be organised in coordination with other ACCESS4EU project events and/or other relevant EU S&T events.

3. Expected impact

A key impact is an increased awareness in the EU research community about access opportunities in Canadian research and innovation programmes. At the same time, the Canadian research community – especially through the Canadian research and innovation programme holders – will be better informed about opportunities for cooperation. Moreover, Canadian research and innovation programme holders will thus be more involved in enhancing this cooperation. In addition, the project activities will automatically contribute to more reciprocity between research and innovation programmes on either side of the Atlantic ocean.

Due to the synergies that will be sought with other ACCESS4EU projects, and with other relevant S&T projects in Europe, the impact of project activities will be significantly enlarged.

Another important impact is the enrichment of the JSTCC strategy with feedback from Canadian research and innovation programme holders, Canadian research organisations (with bilateral agreements), EU embassies in Canada as well as Canadian embassies in the EU, EU multipliers and the EU research community.

In the longer term, it is expected that an increased awareness in Canada and the EU will lead to a higher participation of EU researchers in Canadian research and innovation programmes.

List of Partners

- **Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea – APRE – Italy**
 - **Peter L. Eggleton – Telligence – Canada**
 - **International Commerce Associates – ICA – Canada**
 - **Public Knowledge Canada / Savoir Public Canada – PKC – Canada**
 - **International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Center – DLR – Germany**
 - **Institut Pasteur – IP – France**
-

Supporting the EU access to Chinese research & innovation programmes – ChinaAccess4EU

Website: www.access4.eu/China

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244459

EC contribution: EUR 498 651

Starting date: 1 January 2010

Duration: 30 months



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

Having succeeded in recent decades in establishing itself as ‘the world’s factory’ and one of the biggest recipients of foreign direct investment, China is now becoming a world-leading high-tech country and a rising Research and Development (R&D) power. In the past few years, China has gone from having a very low level of R&D expenditure to becoming in 2006 the second highest R&D expenditure country in the world, after the US. In terms of scientific publication, China is now ranked roughly at the level of UK and Germany, and by 2010 will be second to the US.

The Science & Technology Agreement signed in 1998 has resulted in the Chinese research community becoming increasingly involved in EU Framework Programme activities. In turn, China opened its National High Technology Research and Development Programme (the ‘863’ Programme) and the National Basic Research Programme (the ‘973’ Programme) to its EU counterparts. However, the participation of EU researchers in Chinese research funding programmes



Prof. Augusto Medina,
coordinator of the
ChinaAccess4EU project

is still low. The European Commission's 2006 communication 'EU-China: Closer Partners, Growing Responsibilities' pointed out the need to increase EU participation in Chinese programmes. The Joint Declaration from the Science and Technology Forum in May 2005 set the context for taking co-operation forward, based on mutual benefit and reciprocal access and participation. The 10th China-EU Summit held in Beijing on 28 November 2007 expressed the willingness to continue to strengthen S&T cooperation and to encourage programmes assisting the mobility of researchers, in particular facilitating the participation of European researchers in Chinese funded programmes.

The ChinaAccess4EU project has the following general objectives:

- increase the awareness and dissemination in the EU of access opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in Chinese national research and innovation programmes;
- increase S&T cooperation between Europe and China, especially effective collaborations of European researchers and research organisations in Chinese national research and innovation programmes;
- help develop the reciprocity aspect of EU-China S&T agreements and improve EU's understanding of the respective research systems in China.



*ChinaAccess4EU – helping your first steps
to the Great Wall.*

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

Mapping of the access opportunities in China

Data will be collected from Chinese national agencies and programmes on research and innovation that are open to EU researchers. The mapping process will be ongoing throughout the project, as the project team will set up and constantly update the project website (functioning as the access platform) where the information on Chinese funding programmes and latest calls will be made available in a searchable format in English to EU researchers.

Dissemination of the results to European research organisations and multipliers

Project results will be disseminated through the project website, project brochures, targeted mailing, multiplier events, existing European S&T networks and projects, as well as project workshops in the EU and China with the participation of key stakeholders to help establish interests and contribute to the development of EU-China research partnerships.

Monitoring of the participation of researchers from the EU in Chinese programmes

The project team will monitor the participation of EU researchers in Chinese programmes through gathering statistics from the Chinese national research and innovation programmes, conducting a bi-annual survey to European researchers and research organizations, and publishing the results in the form of bi-annual newsletters about the latest projects approved in China with EU researchers' participation.

Provision of feedback and recommendations to the EC

The project team will conduct a survey of the bilateral cooperation agreements and programmes between the EU and China and a quantitative and qualitative

assessment of the effectiveness of these programmes, in particular their reciprocity conditions. Based on the survey findings, the project team will provide feedback for use by the Commission in the context of the Joint Committee meetings of the S&T agreements and make appropriate recommendations to ensure matching reciprocity from China.

The project team will develop and implement the detailed project management structure, to ensure that all deliverables are completed within set deadlines and budget, to resolve promptly any issues or difficulties the project team encounters, and to report to the EC on a regular and accurate basis through delivering regular progress reports.

3. Expected impact

The ChinaAccess4EU project is expected to lead to:

- an increased S&T cooperation between Europe and China by identifying access opportunities for European researchers in research programmes managed by China;
- a measurable increase of effective collaborations of European research organisations in Chinese programmes;
- an improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and China with S&T agreements.

List of Partners

- **Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação** – SPI – Portugal
 - **European Business & Innovation Centre Network** – EBN – Belgium
 - **Université Joseph Fourier** – UJF – France
 - **Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, Steinbeis Innovation** – SEZ – Germany
 - **China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham** – UNOTT – UK
 - **Torch High Technology Industry Development Centre, Ministry of Science & Technology China** – TORCH – China
 - **Institute of Policy & Management, Chinese Academy of Science** – IPMCAS – China
 - **International Technology Transfer Centre, Tsinghua University** – ITTC (COWAY) – China
 - **Zhejiang University** – ZJU – China
 - **Hong Kong University of Science & Technology** – HKUST – China
 - **EU Project Incubation Centre** – EUPIC – China/Europe
-

**Increasing the Dialogue between India and Europe
by Improving EU Awareness and Access to Indian Research
and Innovation Technology Programmes – INDIA GATE**

Website: www.indiagateproject.org

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244442

EC contribution: EUR 500 000

Starting date: 1 January 2010

Duration: 36 months



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The main objective of the INDIA GATE project is to increase the S&T cooperation between India and the EU by creating a ‘one-stop shop’ for funding opportunities that are available in India for European organisations. The S&T agreement between India and EU recognises the mutual benefit of access to respective funding programmes, and while several initiatives exist to support Indian organisations’ participation in the Seventh Framework Programme, INDIA GATE aims to play a similar role for European organisations willing to participate to Indian RTD programmes. The INDIA GATE project will identify Indian research and innovation funding programmes, the obstacles that could prevent EU researchers and organisations from taking part in the identified opportunities and make the information available in a user-friendly manner to stimulate, encourage and facilitate participation.



The intention to create synergies between S&T initiatives is reflected in the Government of India's XI Five-Year Plan (2007-2012) as well as in the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development; several joint calls have already been launched. There are also many other funding programmes in India open to European organizations, most of them within the frame of bilateral agreements between individual EU Member States and India. The INDIA GATE project will play an important role in providing information on the current situation and feedback, with suggestions on how to improve the current status.

The strategic objectives of INDIA GATE are to:

- **map and identify funding opportunities** open for European organisations in India with a focus on their reciprocity character, rules of participation and funding rates;
- **analyse** the obstacles for participation with focus on their reciprocity conditions;
- **review** the bilateral agreements between EU Member States and India;
- **improve** the flow of information on programmes and funding opportunities (Initiatives of the Government of India, Bilateral Programmes) designed to support scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and India;
- **enhance** know how on cultural differences in business conduct and working style via a user friendly e-training;
- **identify** and demonstrate mutual understanding, interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and India;



Understanding the Indian research landscape to help drawing a new Euro – Indian cooperation.

- **monitor the participation rate** of European organisations in Indian funded programmes;
- **develop feedback** and recommendations for decision makers and **provide expert input** to the Joint Committee meetings;
- **increase the mutual understanding** of respective research systems.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The India Gate project starts with a review of the available funding opportunities and an analysis of the obstacles facing European organisations wanting to take part in Indian funded projects. The information will support the development of effective dissemination tools to be used in the dissemination strategy. A dynamic webpage will be developed and serve as a ‘one-stop shop’ for information on Indian programmes open to European organisations, with all relevant information available both in web format, e-training format and as downloadable material. Additionally, the participation rate will be monitored allowing to provide expert input to decision makers and the Joint Committee of the EU S&T cooperation agreement.

The dissemination activities will focus on:

- raising awareness of the Indian S&T programmes and encouraging participation of European researchers;
- preparing relevant information and disseminating it to European stakeholders;
- enhancing the information flow and facilitating multilevel information exchange;
- creating synergies with the other ACCESS4EU projects.

3. Expected impact

INDIA GATE is structured to maximise the impacts expected by the programme. As a main objective, INDIA GATE intends to **increase the S&T cooperation between India and the EU** by improving access to information on funding opportunities available in India for European organisations. It will identify Indian research and innovation funding programmes, obstacles for participation and make the information available in a user-friendly way to stimulate, encourage and facilitate participation of European researchers in those programmes. It will also monitor the participation rate of European organisations to provide relevant information to decision makers on the actual current situation. The expected impact is to have an increased number of projects implemented by consortium composed of both EU and Indian partners, an increased mutual understanding, an enhanced information flow, improved know-how on cooperation opportunities and enhanced capacity related to project development and implementation.

List of Partners

- **Agency for the Promotion of European Research – APRE – Italy**
 - **Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas – FORTH – Greece**
 - **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – CSIR – India**
 - **Europa Media PSC – EM – Hungary**
 - **EIRC Consulting Private Limited – EIRC – India**
 - **The Brussels Enterprise Agency – BEA – Belgium**
 - **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade – CITT – India**
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Promoting High-Quality Research Opportunities for European Researchers in Mexico – ACCESS2MEXCYT

Website: www.access2mexcyt.eu

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244384

EC contribution: EUR 499 918

Starting date: 1 November 2009

Duration: 24 months



COORDINATOR

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www.access2mexcyt.eu

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The starting point of the project is the ongoing international cooperation between Mexico and the EU, and in particular the sectoral agreement on Science and Technology signed in 2004, based on the principles of mutual benefit and access to EU and Mexican research programmes.

The ACCESS2MEXCYT project aims at increasing the awareness and the participation of EU research institutions (universities, public and private research centers, SMEs, etc.) in the Mexican research and innovation programmes. The expected results are (i) to identify and disseminate access opportunities for European researchers in research programmes managed by Mexico and (ii) to improve S&T cooperation between the EU and Mexico.

In addition, the project will provide valuable information to the EU-Mexico Joint Steering Committee (JSC) of the S&T Cooperation Agreement, in view of contributing to the dialogue on strengthening S&T cooperation between the EU and Mexico.



2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The strength of the consortium lies in putting together key institutions with long experience in international cooperation and with wide networks both at governmental level and in the European and Mexican research communities.

The partners will:

- map Mexican research and innovation programmes and bilateral S&T agreements between Mexico and Member States, and identify barriers to EU participation in these programmes;
- raise awareness amongst EU researchers about Mexican research and innovation programmes, facilitate their access to information and promote their participation in these programmes;
- monitor the participation of European researchers in Mexican research and innovation programmes;
- provide feedback to the European Commission and to the EU-Mexico Joint Steering Committee (JSC) about the opportunities and obstacles for EU researchers and present suggestions to improve S&T cooperation.

All the dissemination activities will be conducted in coordination with other ACCESS4EU projects, in order to provide a complete picture of the opportunities in Third Countries.

*Find all the information you need for cooperating
with Mexican researchers!*

The strategy for the dissemination of the information collected is based on the identification of the target public from one side and the dissemination actions foreseen, that are:

- brochure on the Mexican S&T funds and programmes opened to EU;
- short video on Mexican research capacities, national research and innovation programmes and the ACCESS2MEXCYT project;
- newsletters on access opportunities and opportunities of collaboration;
- project website;
- presentations of access opportunities in events organised by the European NCP networks;
- info-days;
- brokerage event in Mexico to build new partnerships.

To ensure a maximum attendance of researchers from all over Europe, the Info-days will be organised in coordination with other ACCESS4EU project events and/or other relevant EU S&T events. The events will preferably be organised as back-to-back events of European scientific conferences or Info Days.

3. Expected impact

The ACCESS₂MEXCYT project will on the one hand provide the EU researchers with relevant information about access opportunities in Mexican research and innovation programmes, and on the other, the Mexican research community with opportunities for cooperation and for establishing new partnerships. Therefore, it is expected that the increased awareness from both sides will lead to a higher participation of EU researchers in Mexican research programmes, thus contributing to enlarge the scope of cooperation opportunities between Mexico and EU in the field of research.

From the perspective of political impact on the cooperation between the EU and Mexico, the project will contribute, with specific information and recommendations, to the EU-Mexico S&T dialogue in the frame of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on the issue of ‘reciprocity’ in S&T cooperation.

The synergies with other EU-Mexico initiatives, such as UEMEXCyT II (European Union-Mexico Cooperation Programme on Science and Technology), with other relevant S&T projects and with other ACCESS₄EU projects, will reinforce the impact of project activities.

List of Partners

- **Agency for the Promotion of European Research** – APRE – Italy
 - **Centre of Studies for EU-Latin American Relations** – CERCAL – Belgium
 - **National Council of Science and Technology** – CONACYT – Mexico
 - **Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas** – FORTH – Greece
 - **Institute of Research for Development** – IRD – France
 - **Austrian Latin American Institute** – LAI – Austria
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Opportunities for access of European Researchers to the New Zealand Research System – ACCESS4EU:NZ

Website: www.access4eu.org.nz

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244463

EC contribution: EUR 498 513

Starting date: 1 January 2010

Duration: 36 months



COORDINATOR

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www.access4eu.org.nz

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

There is a long history of cooperation between researchers from Europe and NZ. A survey by the NZ Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) in 2003 found that over half of all NZ based researchers have at least one significant, and active, European collaboration. However, this collaboration has traditionally been bilateral activity between NZ and the major research powerhouses of the UK, Germany and France. Evidence, through data on co-authoring of academic outputs, suggests that collaboration over the last decade between NZ and Europe has been increasing, though there is little understanding of the exact mechanisms of how this collaboration is supported, or initiated. With the signing of the Science and Technology Cooperation (STC) Agreement between the European Community and the Government of NZ in July 2008, and the establishment of formal bilateral planning activities through the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation (JSTC) meetings, there has been a renewed impetus for closer EU-NZ cooperation.



This has been led by the EC and MoRST with initiatives to facilitate greater collaborations between Europe and NZ, mostly through stimulating the participation of NZ researchers in FP7. ACCESS4EU:NZ seeks to improve understanding and, if necessary, redress the balance in the EU-NZ scientific relationship, by highlighting opportunities for European researchers and facilitating access to NZ's research and innovation programmes.

ACCESS4EU:NZ will establish a platform to increase the awareness and dissemination, within Europe, of opportunities for European researchers and research organisations to participate in NZ's publicly-funded research and innovation programmes. This platform aims to reduce or remove impediments to European researchers seeking to participate in NZ's research and innovation programmes, through improving the provision of information on the opportunities available to Europe within NZ's schemes, and the identification of prospective NZ partners for collaboration.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The project will implement a series of four integrated work-packages (WP). WP₁ provides an overview of NZ funding schemes that can be accessed by researchers from EU Member States, as well as identifying prospective NZ partners. WP₂ disseminates this information to the broadest possible European audience, through a website and the development of training materials for information multipliers. WP₃ builds EU-NZ researcher connections, through workshops and networking events. In WP₄, surveys of the number of collaborations and the process/policy environment within which these collaborations were developed will be carried out.

It is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the research relationship between Europe and New Zealand, and it perfectly complements the FRENZ initiative.

Their outcome and the conclusions drawn will feed the policy dialogue between NZ and the EC.

To ensure an increase in effective collaborations, it will be necessary for European researchers to strengthen their connections with the NZ research community. To facilitate the development of researcher-researcher connections that are both ‘deep’ and ‘wide’, the project will bring European and NZ researchers together, through workshops and networking events, in order that the personal relationships which underpin successful collaborations can be fostered. Through sustained contact (over three days) the workshop relationships should be deep. Further, through exposure of over 100 European researchers to each NZ researcher, connections should also be wide.

In order to identify and disseminate accessible opportunities for European researchers, the project will:

- outline the scope of NZ’s publicly-funded research and innovation programmes, and their rules for European participation, with a view to making information on these programmes more accessible to a European audience;
- develop a picture of NZ’s capability landscape, with a view to helping European researchers identify synergistic opportunities for EU-NZ collaboration in NZ’s schemes;
- provide a Europe-focused web interface to allow researchers to have free and simple access to the information on programmes and opportunities in NZ;
- present NZ’s programmes, and opportunities for collaboration, to a wide audience of European researchers through various fora, including through the preparation of standard training materials for presentation to – and by – information multipliers and other relevant, interested parties.

3. Expected impact

The project activities will impact upon the aim of increasing EU-NZ science and technology cooperation by identifying opportunities for European researchers to participate in NZ-based research initiatives. Through addressing the information and connection needs of European researchers, it is expected that the project will have a positive effect on both the number and strength of EU-NZ research collaborations.

The focus will be on building opportunities for researchers to increase their collaboration through a series of meetings, developing research synergies and participation within existing funding initiatives. Additionally, base line and review research will be combined with policy recommendations and be made available for policy makers in the hope that it offers support for increased funding programmes.

List of Partners

- **University of Canterbury – UC (NCRE) – New Zealand**
 - **Royal Society of New Zealand – RSNZ – New Zealand**
 - **International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre – DLR – Germany**
 - **Sigma Orionis – SIGMA – France**
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Strengthening EU-Russia Sciences and Technology cooperation and EU access to Russian National Funding Programmes – ACCESSRU

Website: www.access-ru.eu

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244493

EC contribution: EUR 438 204

Starting date: 1 November 2009

Duration: 30 months



COORDINATOR

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

For many years, the European Union has had a very rich scientific and technological relationship with Russia, both at the level of the individual Member States and at EU level.

Sixteen bilateral scientific cooperation agreements between Russia and EU Member States and Associated Countries to the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research are currently in force. At EU level and in addition to the Scientific & Technology Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission and Russia, there are also cooperation agreements with Russia on nuclear safety and nuclear fusion, as well as several other EU, pan-European, and international S&T programmes with, or involving Russia, such as ITER, ISTC, ISS, Eureka and CERN. Moreover, the EU and Russia have entered into a political commitment to create a 'Common Space in Research & Education, including Cultural Matters', the 'fourth Common Space'. Permanent joint European Commission-Russia research working groups for the thematic priorities of the EU Seventh



Ms Svetlana Klessova,
coordinator of the
ACCESSRU project

Framework Programme have been created and have represented a substantial step towards more common research agendas and increasingly common decision-shaping processes between the EC and Russia.

Russia has been one of the most successful, non-associated, third-country partners in the activities of the EU Research Framework Programmes, both in terms of the total number of participations and in terms of the total amount of financial contributions received from the European Commission. In the current EU Seventh Framework Programme, the involvement of Russian research groups continues to be very strong.

On the other hand, the participation of EU research organisations and researchers in activities supported by Russian national and regional programmes in the science and technology field has so far been very limited. Preliminary investigations, carried out by the FP7 ACCESSRU partners, have identified major obstacles, such as the lack of information about Russian national research programmes, linguistic barriers and financial and legal issues, which can make access to the Russian public-funded research activities difficult.

In this context, the FP7 ACCESSRU project is inspired by the need to develop the reciprocity component of the EU-Russia S&T Cooperation Agreement by facilitating the access of the EU research community to the opportunities offered by the research and innovation programmes managed by Russian authorities.

We are proud to be the coordinator of this flagship project. The idea of supporting European researchers participate in Russian programmes is simply unique and innovative.

The project has the following objectives:

- assessing access opportunities in Russia for EU research organisations, by screening the Russian S&T landscape and identifying common challenges, needs and opportunities in scientific cooperation on both sides;
- raising awareness on access opportunities in Russia amongst European research organizations, stimulating and facilitating the participation of European organisations in Russian research and innovation programmes;
- enhancing the S&T policy dialogue, in particular by and formulating strategic recommendations on scientific collaboration between EU and Russia.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The project will analyse Russian research & innovation programmes to identify access opportunities for European researchers. A particular focus will be put on the ongoing bilateral cooperation agreements and programmes between the EU Member States/Associated Countries and Russia in order to analyse their reciprocity conditions.

Once the state-of-the-art EU-RU S&T collaboration opportunities are drawn up, a Green Paper on EU-Russian collaboration and an Opportunities Report will be prepared, discussed and diffused.

The project will also help European research organisations to access the Russian research programmes, through developing several pilot cases and identifying success stories. Pilot ‘case studies’ will be analysed and concrete mechanisms to support access of EU research organisations to the Russian programmes will be developed.

The project will implement two inter-linked dissemination and awareness raising campaigns: to promote the access to Russian programmes inside the European research community and to inform Russian research organisations that the involvement of European partners for Russian programmes is possible and welcome. The project's S&T collaboration observatory will help to monitor the participation level of EU research organisations in Russian programmes. The project will also provide assistance and expertise to joint European Commission-Russia research working groups.

3. Expected impact

The impact of the project in the short and medium term perspective is expected to be high, as it should significantly facilitate the access of EU research organizations and researchers to Russian research and innovation programmes. It will also provide a real framework for joint S&T research activities based on a win-win collaboration approach, that will be translated into (1) a measurable increase of collaborations between European and Russian S&T organisations, and (2) a less readily measurable improvement in mutual understanding of the respective research systems in EU and Russia. Appropriate dissemination methodology of the access opportunities across Europe and Russia will ensure maximum impact and open a larger scope for potential cooperation. The cooperation projects that will be initiated by the ACCESSRU project will impact on the EU research expenses' efficiency, upstream global consensus, and – in a general way – on strengthening science and technological cooperation between EU and the Russian Federation.

List of Partners

- **Inno AG (representing inno-group with offices in Germany, France, Sweden)**
– inno – Germany
 - **European Science Foundation** – ESF – France
 - **Federal Agency for Science and Innovation** – Rosnauka – Russia
 - **International Center for Science, Innovations, Technology and Education**
– ICISTE – Russia
 - **Bakh Institute of Biochemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences** – INBI – Russia
 - **Russian Technology Transfer Network** – RTTN – Russia
 - **Tomsk Polytechnic University** – TPU – Russia
 - **INNOVA Europe** (Representing the INNOVA Group: Italy, Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium, Czech Republic and Poland) – INNOVA – Luxembourg
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Supporting the EU access to South Africa's research and innovation programmes – **SAccess**

Website: www.saccess-project.eu

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 243851

EC contribution: EUR 498747

Starting date: 1 September 2009

Duration: 36 months



COORDINATOR

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www.saccess-project.eu

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation concluded between the EU and SA in 1996, amongst other benefits, afforded SA researchers the opportunity to fully participate in the EU's Framework Programmes, thus contributing to enhancement of the international knowledge base and human resource development while promoting the overall sustainable development.

The new **SAccess** project complements and further enhances this successful research partnership. It aims at increasing the awareness and dissemination in the EU Member States and Associated Countries of access opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in national research and innovation programmes facilitated by South Africa.



Mr Constantine Vaitsas,
coordinator of the SAccess project

The project will provide substantial information relevant to the national research and innovation structures, capacities and programmes of South Africa. It will disseminate this information to all relevant stakeholders in Europe thus complementing the effective research collaborations between the EU and the South Africa R&D communities. By identifying greater synergies between FP7 and South Africa's national research and innovation programmes, the project will also contribute to improved implementation of the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC).

SAccess is thus targeted towards two main objectives:

- increase the participation of European stakeholders to South Africa's research and innovation programmes; and
- improve the prospects of research activities which are of international dimension and of mutual interest to Europe and South Africa.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The foreseen activities of SAccess will be implemented through four work packages. Implementation relies heavily on available information related to South Africa's R&D facilities and structures as well as on the events for communication and dissemination of information. A set of high visibility tools will be developed

Europeans will discover that South Africa offers exciting opportunities for participation in diverse research and innovation programmes.

and utilised in an effort to make available the generated information to as many stakeholders as possible in Europe. It should be underlined that the SAccess project aims to serve the wider European research community that can act as participants in South Africa's programmes.

Furthermore, the SAccess project will provide valuable feedback and will positively contribute to the policy dialogue within the context of the South African – European Union Joint Science and Technology Committee. A major input to the policy dialogue will be the identification of the conditions that will encourage/enhance and realize the participation of European researchers to South Africa's programmes and consequently facilitate reciprocity between Europe and South Africa.

The SAccess project will seek to leverage dissemination and awareness creation synergies with other ACCESS4EU projects, with the aim of maximising the visibility of information provision through joint activities. In addition, the ESASTAP 'portal' for the overall S&T cooperation activities between the EU and SA, the NCP networks (EU and SA) and the CAAST Net INCO Net for SSA will ensure the broadest possible dissemination of the project outcomes.

3. Expected impact

It is expected that the SAccess project will further promote the mutually beneficial EU-SA research partnership by identifying/ enhancing access opportunities for the participation of EU research entities, and their scientists, in the national research and innovation programmes facilitated by South Africa.

These access opportunities will be evaluated and disseminated through a dynamic and multidisciplinary approach to reach all relevant stakeholders within Europe and SA, thus enlarging the options for S&T cooperation between EU and SA stakeholders.

The overall process will provide new and additional inputs to the S&T policy dialogue carried out by the European Union -South African Joint Science and Technology Committee, it will particularly address the issue of reciprocity and it will contribute to the overall enhancement of S&T cooperation between Europe and South Africa.

List of Partners

- **Foundation of Research and Technology Hellas** – FORTH – Greece
 - **The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems**
– VINNOVA – Sweden
 - **Department of Science and Technology** – DST – South Africa
 - **Institut de Recherche pour le Développement** – IRD – France
 - **Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea** – APRE – Italy
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Stimulating and facilitating the participation of European researchers in Korean R&D programmes – KORRIDOR

Website: www.access4.eu/southkorea

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244367

EC contribution: EUR 499 422

Starting date: 1 December 2009

Duration: 24 months



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www.access4.eu/southkorea

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The Republic of South Korea is one of the priority partners of the European Union (EU) in the global economy. The impressive economic and technological progress South Korea has been demonstrating for the last several decades has brought the country to the forefront of the world's powerhouses. This progress is firmly rooted in the principles of the 'knowledge-based economy' that South Korea is consistently pursuing. The Korean economy is now the 12th largest in the world, and a key trade and investment partner for Europe. Korean RTD expenditures are above 4 % of the country's GDP, well above Europe and the OECD average. Korea is among the world's most technologically advanced and digitally connected countries and a recognized market leader in electronics, mobile communication and the automotive sector. Korea is one of the most important EU RTD partners, with well established legal frameworks for cooperation.



Mr Ki Cheol Kim, coordinator of the KORRIDOR project

At the same time, the level of public awareness of cooperative opportunities for European researchers in Korean research and innovation programmes is still low. Addressing this issue, the project's overall objective is to widen and strengthen the scientific cooperation between Korea and the EU in common research areas of interest by opening up access opportunities for European research groups in Korean national research and/or innovation programmes, facilitating joint research initiatives supported by the Korean side and contributing thereby to the improvement of the cooperative climate between Europe and Korea.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The project will set up an expert working group comprised of leading representatives from Korean S&T policy implementation agencies and European experts. This group will map all existing thematic and organisational options open to European participation. It will study the participation regime and existing problems and will develop recommendations. The findings obtained by the working group will be presented in a policy paper, participation guidelines, FAQ document, etc.

The Korean RTD programmes' Helpdesk service will be set up in Europe to provide fast and free consulting and advice services on access opportunities, legal, organisational, financial and cultural issues and available supporting mechanisms.

I hope that the ACCESS4EU open a new chapter in bilateral S&T cooperation, become an important element of the cooperative system and will contribute strongly to the implementation of the S&T cooperation agreements between the EU and non-EU countries.

Additionally, this Helpdesk will monitor the participation of European researchers in Korean RTD programmes and distribute this information to all stakeholders. The aim is to equip existing multipliers (European INCO NCPs, all Korean FP7 NCPs) with the project findings and facilitate partner search and consortia building and provide consulting services and advice both in Europe and Korea.

A range of dissemination and liaison-building mechanisms will be used:

- organising Korean RTD workshops/stands/booths collocated with selected European flagship RTD events in order to promote access opportunities;
- organising a conference on the 'EU-Korea S&T Cooperation: mutual opportunities and benefits' to promote bilateral cooperation and raise awareness on access opportunities to Korean RTD programmes;
- setting up a project webpage in a common web portal of the ACCESS4EU projects;
- reporting on project findings to the members of the Joint Committee on the EU-Korean S&T Agreement on the occasion of their annual meeting;
- issuing and circulating newsletters, publications and promotional materials.

3. Expected impact

In the short-term, the project will contribute to identifying the most suitable funding opportunities, providing clear and transparent guidelines for their uptake, and building a system of facilitation services (Helpdesk, NCP network), dissemination and promotion. It should result in an increase of European RTD teams willing to engage with Korean counterparts in Korean RTD programmes. Moreover, initial bilateral partnerships will have greater chances of success, thanks to a better choice of opportunities, better quality of proposals and support during the proposal preparation and submission process.

In the long-term, the project will help in identifying existing obstacles and pitfalls (legal, organisational, etc.) and directing the dialogue with the major agenda-setting entities in EU-Korea S&T Cooperation, in order to initiate the necessary improvements in the frameworks for European participation in Korean RTD programmes. The policy paper will highlight the current problems, and describe the progress and further actions which should be undertaken in this direction. The improvement of the frameworks shall lead to the increase of effective collaborations of European research organisations in Korean programmes, as well as the less-readily measurable improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and Korea. A long-term impact is also expected on researchers' mobility between Korea and Europe.

List of Partners

- **International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre – DLR – Germany**
 - **Centre National de Recherche Scientifique – CNRS – France**
 - **Korea Institute for the Advancement of Technology – KIAT – South Korea**
 - **National Research Foundation of Korea – NRF – South Korea**
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European Union – United States Research Cooperation
Network: Link to the United States – Link2US

Website: www.link2us.com

Reference of the Grant Agreement: 244371

EC contribution: EUR 376 693

Starting date: 1 October 2009

Duration: 36 months



COORDINATOR

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The United States and European cooperation on science has been underpinned by historical ties and extensive relationships between individual European and American scientists and research organizations. To continue to advance science and address global challenges, an increasing degree of cooperation and coordination is required. The European Union and the United States first signed an S&T cooperation agreement that entered into force in 1998 and was renewed in 2004 and again in 2008 for additional periods of five years. While cooperative research has been primarily funded according to where each participating research institution is based, to further enhance cooperation the United States and the European Commission (EC) are opening up funding opportunities to scientists and research organizations based on foreign soil. For example, in 2008, the then director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Elias Zerhouni, signed an agreement with EC Commissioner for Research, Dr. Janez Potocnik, reaffirming that biomedical research funding from NIH and the Framework Programme are



open to scientists whether based in the Europe Union or United States. However, advancing the Trans-Atlantic partnership in science and technology has been limited in part by the challenges in understanding a highly decentralised funding infrastructure in the United States. Therefore, in order for third countries and regions like the EU and their S&T communities to best take advantage of the cooperation agreement with the United States, the nature of U.S. cooperation programmes among all the major governmental S&T organisations should be elucidated and presented.

The overall objective for this project is to improve the awareness by European scientists and research organisations of U.S. collaborative funding schemes and their success in participating in the programmes and actions to enhance cooperative research with American counterparts and therefore take fuller advantage of the bilateral S&T agreements. Link2US strives to identify opportunities for participation by European researchers in U.S. federal government research collaboration programmes, provide a central access point and network through which to provide such information, assist these researchers and organisations in finding funding opportunities to support collaborative activities, and analyse barriers to cooperation and the reciprocity conditions in S&T agreements to support the EC.

Link2US is also developed in a complementary way with the BILAT-USA project. Between the Link2US and BILAT-USA projects, a systematic and comprehensive approach will be ensured to cover the research communities in the United States as well as the EU with the perspective of fostering cooperation in national U.S. programmes as well as the EU Framework Programme.

We are delighted to work with our European partners in making Link2US a strong contributor to strengthening US-EU scientific collaborations.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

Link2US will pursue the following three major areas of activity:

- Elucidating the U.S. national funding programmes by mapping opportunities for collaborative funding schemes, surveying bilateral agreements between the United States and the EU and Member States and analysing their reciprocity conditions, analysing barriers to cooperation through surveys of European and U.S. participants, and monitoring the participation of European researchers in U.S. funding schemes. Analyses of the funding scheme data, cooperation agreements, and European researcher participation experience will provide the most valuable recommendations to the EC.
- Raising awareness and providing assistance to European researchers on the U.S. cooperative funding programmes and the intricacies of these programmes through online resource networks. A website, funding programmes catalogue, brochure, electronic communications and a virtual help desk will be developed and utilized to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European researchers and organizations in U.S. cooperative funding schemes. These mechanisms will serve as a single source of information about U.S. funding schemes in the United States that facilitate EU-U.S. cooperation.
- Coordinating and maintaining strong relationships with U.S. national authorities and the EC, as well as stakeholders in the S&T agreements, including other European networks and the scientific communities in both regions. Meetings, workshops and events will be employed to reach out to these communities and networks.

3. Expected impact

The Link2US activities will directly contribute to the improvement of the awareness by European researchers and organisations of, and enhance their access to, U.S. programmes, by establishing a centralised information platform about the funding programmes and their rules for participation. The proposed analysis of existing and potential obstacles to participation will further lower barriers for European researchers and organisations interested in pursuing research with American partners. Recognizing that effective S&T cooperation requires the active engagement of all parties, Link2US will also strengthen the reciprocity on the U.S.-side of U.S.-European S&T agreements, directly through the survey and analysis of the S&T agreements, and indirectly through enabling European researchers and organisations to more easily identify opportunities for participation in U.S. programmes.

List of Partners

- **American Association for the Advancement of Science – AAAS – USA**
 - **Osterreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (Austrian Research Promotion Agency) – FFG – Austria**
 - **Tudományos és Technológiai Alapítvány (Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation) – TETALAP – Hungary**
 - **Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea (Agency for the Promotion of European Research) – APRE – Italy**
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European Commission

EUR 24434 – Opening Horizons: ACCESS4EU – Exploring New Opportunities for European Researchers in International S&T Cooperation

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The Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7) places renewed emphasis on international cooperation in Science and Technology.

The Capacities Programme's activities are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme, as well as to provide opportunities to access research programmes managed by third countries.

This brochure gives an overview of the ACCESS4EU projects, which are funded under the FP7 Capacities programme. This instrument aims at increasing European researchers' awareness of funding opportunities for international research projects in third countries.



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