



STRUCTURING INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION

International Cooperation
INCO-NET projects, calls 2007 and 2009

A network diagram featuring a central globe of the Earth. Six light blue spheres are arranged around the globe, connected to it and to each other by thick, glowing green and yellow lines. Two large, curved blue arrows originate from the left side of the image, pointing towards the right, suggesting a flow or direction of cooperation.

PROJECT INFORMATION

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
Directorate D — International Cooperation
Unit D3 International Cooperation Projects

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Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
Directorate D – International Cooperation
Unit D3 International Cooperation Projects

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

- Supporting European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries¹ 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 6th Framework Programme (FP6) to FP7, which integrates international research collaboration throughout the Framework Programme by including both geographical and thematic targeting. This new approach provides a contribution towards the Europe 2020 Flagship initiative 'Innovation Union' through global knowledge sourcing and a greater coherence and a more efficient realisation of Europe's interests.

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.

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

Within the Capacity Programme the 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 Union (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).

This booklet presents the activities of all INCO-NET projects which have been selected following the evaluation of the FP7 calls for proposals published in 2006, 2009 and 2010. 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, Caribbean and Pacific region, Arab Gulf Countries, Latin and Central America.

INCO-NET projects aim at establishing 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, 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 in the Framework Programme, including the support for information points in third countries;
- Carry out strategic analysis of S&T trends and mapping 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 European Union 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 and Economic Cooperation instrument (DCECI), and the European Development Fund (EDF).

These projects will involve research administrations, the research community, industry and other stakeholders from both Member States and Third countries that are expected to provide the Directorate for "International Cooperation" and the other Research Directorates with the necessary inputs and evidence to support future S&T cooperation policies and activities.

I. Saragossi

*Director of International Cooperation
Directorate General for Research and Innovation*

Western Balkan

WBC-INCO.NET –

Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET

**“WBC-INCO.NET: Research
and Innovation Policy Coordination
with the Western Balkans”**

WEB SITE:
www.wbc-inco.net

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 212029

STARTING DATE:

1/01/2008

EC CONTRIBUTION:

3.048.470,63 €

DURATION:

72 months

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Centre for Social Innovation - Coordinator	ZSI	Austria
Ministry of Education and Science	MOES	Albania
Ministry of Science, Education and Sports	MZOS	Croatia
Ministry of Education and Science	MON-MK	FYR of Macedonia
Ministry of Education and Science	MPIN	Montenegro
Ministry of Science	MSCI	Serbia
Foundation for Higher Education World University Service	SUS BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mihailo Pupin Institute	MPI	Serbia
Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar	IvoPilar	Croatia
Kosova Education Center	KEC	Serbia including Kosovo as defined by UNSC resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999
CIVET 2000	CIVET	Albania
Slovenian Business & Research Association	SBRA	Slovenia
South East European Research Centre	SEERC	Greece
United Nations University Maastricht, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology	UNU-MERIT	Netherlands
Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies	JRC-IPTS	Spain
International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research	DLR	Germany
Austrian Research Promotion Agency	FFG	Austria
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	TÜBİTAK	Turkey
General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Development	GSRT	Greece
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology	MHEST	Slovenia
Federal Ministry of Science and Research	BMWF	Austria
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	BMBF	Germany
Ministry of Education and Science	MES-CRA	Bulgaria
Turkish Research and Business Organizations	TURBO	Belgium/ Turkey

Agency for the Promotion of European Research	APRE	Italy
Ministry of Civil Affairs	MCA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Directorate for development of small and medium-sized enterprises	DDSME	Montenegro
Ministry of Economy	MOE-MK	FYR of Macedonia
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy	METE	Albania

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

WBC-INCO.NET has become a strategic player in the process of enhancement of scientific cooperation between the EU, FP7 Associated Countries and the Western Balkan Countries (WBC). The project addresses issues of bi-regional dialogue at the highest stakeholder level with a strong operational implementation basis and aims to produce tangible results and generate a high structural impact. By bringing together existing projects, WBC-INCO.NET exploits synergies, fills in gaps with new structural activities and enhances processes through coordination and networking.

The creation of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries continuing the S&T Action Plan between the EU and WBC has already had considerable impact on the progress of S&T relations between both parties. It defines itself as a clearing-house for S&T policy ideas and brings together senior S&T officials and invited experts, thus having the highest level of political coordination. WBC-INCO.NET has established a consensus with the Steering Platform and provides analytical and operational support for the policy dialogues.

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 Western Balkan Countries RTD priorities and potential which will be subsequently prepared for eventual take-up in forthcoming work programmes and calls for proposals to be launched under the Cooperation, People and Capacity FP7 Specific Programmes,
- to enhance the participation of researchers from the WBC 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.

At the same time, WBC-INCO.NET focuses on a preparation of an Action Plan for further WBC cooperation in the field of innovation.

2. Dialogue activities

WBC-INCO.NET supports the political dialogue between the EU and WBC by providing logistical and analytical evidence-based input to the already existing Steering Platform on Research. It also supports dialogue within the region through "Regional S&T Policy Meetings" aiming to find common solutions to cross-border challenges, to exchange information and best practices on innovation policies.

Furthermore, a structured information exchange with several Directorates General of the European Commission has enabled WBC-INCO.NET to exploit the results and integration of S&T in other sub-sectors such as education, economy, labour market, regional development.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

WBC-INCO.NET put an emphasis on an identification of S&T needs and potentials of the WBC and their subsequent take-up in the calls for proposals launched under FP7. It also helps to identify research areas of mutual benefit in an inclusive and comprehensive manner. Implementation activities include seminars, workshops and reviews.

Additionally, specific actions like brokerage events focus on the facilitation of network-building. To inform audiences on RTD cooperation potential with researchers from Western Balkan Countries and to support partner search, awareness raising sessions are organised during major European S&T conferences.

The project's dissemination activities encompass a continuously updated professional website/on-line database, professionally designed and reviewed printed information, newsletters and a biweekly link digest/eJournal distributed to over 7,000 subscribers.

4. Monitoring and review activities

WBC-INCO.NET has monitored the take-up of identified research areas in forthcoming RTD programmes and the participation of WBC researchers in collaborative FP7 projects in terms of realised S&T cooperation its impact and has analysed existing cooperation patterns with social network methodologies and exploration of barriers to cooperation by empirical investigations. A milestone in this regard was the development of a toolbox which provides reliable information on the conditions and opportunities of WBC researchers from participating in FP7 and other selected European initiatives and programmes. This allows for 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.

South East Asia

SEA-EU-NET –

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

*“SEA-EU-NET: Linking the world’s best
science in Europe and Southeast Asia
for a sustainable future”*

WEB SITE:
www.sea-eu.net

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 212334

STARTING DATE:

1/01/2008

EC CONTRIBUTION:

4.100.000 €

DURATION:

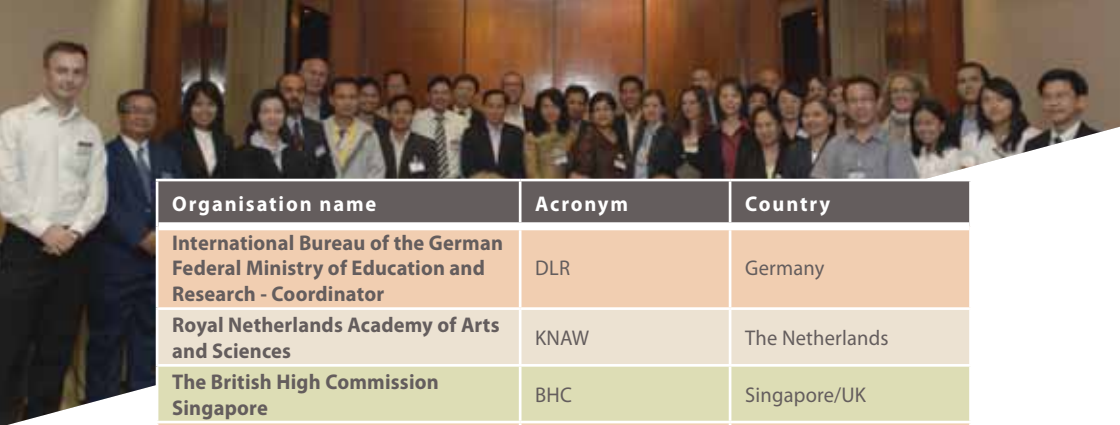
60 months

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research - Coordinator	DLR	Germany
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences	KNAW	The Netherlands
The British High Commission Singapore	BHC	Singapore/UK
Collegium Budapest, Institute for Advanced Study	COLBUD	Hungary
The Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey	TUBITAK	Turkey
National Science and Technology Development Agency	NSTDA	Thailand
Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria
Ministry of State for Research and Technology	RISTEK	Indonesia
National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information	NACESTI	Vietnam
Institute of Asian Studies GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies	GIGA	Germany
Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement	CIRAD	France
Centre National de Recherche Scientifique	CNRS	France
The Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey- UME	TÜBITAK-UME	Turkey
Polska Akademia Nauk	PAN	Poland
National Metrology Laboratory – SIRIM Berhad	NML-SIRIM	Malaysia
Department of Science and Technology	DOST	Philippines
Asian Institute of Science and Technology	AIT	Thailand
Nanyang Technology University	NTU	Singapore
Verein Euresearch	EURESEARCH	Switzerland

Organisation name	Acronym	Country
National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Office	STI	Thailand
National Authority for Science Technology, Science and Technology Research Institute	NAST	Laos
The Royal Society of London	RS	UK

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The SEA-EU-NET project, launched in January 2008, was set up to expand scientific collaboration between Europe and Southeast Asia in a more strategic and coherent manner. It increases the quality, quantity and impact of bi-regional Science and Technology (S&T) cooperation between Southeast Asia and Europe. It supports EU policies, the specific objectives of FP7 and contributes to building the EU's S&T pillar for achieving its political, economic and social objectives. The SEA-EU-NET project delivers a wide range of measures to increase SEA-EU cooperation amongst academic, industrial and government stakeholders and it has made considerable progress in:

- establishing a bi-regional dialogue between EU and ASEAN S&T policy makers at Senior Officials level;
- raising the profile of FP7 amongst the Southeast Asian research community and increasing the level of Southeast Asian participation in the FP7 programme;
- completing analytical work on the current state of EU-SEA S&T relations, and developing recommendations to strengthen the relationship and to feed the policy dialogue;
- extending the dialogue on EU-SEA S&T cooperation to include a wide range of stakeholders;
- linking results to other existing ERA-, INCO-NET, and thematic EU-FP projects thus also facilitating the development of a coherent European-level approach towards international S&T cooperation.

2. Dialogue activities

The annual meeting "EU-ASEAN Bi-Regional S&T Policy Dialogue Platform" is a forum for exchange and drafting policy recommendations. The meetings alternate between South-East Asian and European venues and are an opportunity to engage with a larger audience of policy makers, scientists and NGO representatives in a discussion on S&T collaboration between the regions. About 150 policy makers, scientists and international organizations representatives from both Southeast Asia and Europe attend.

3. Dissemination activities

The project informs stakeholders from science, industries and policy makers about opportunities for an enhanced S&T cooperation and the respective framework. It also fosters 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 and existing tools, platforms, and services (e.g. NCP-network, ASEAN-COST, CORDIS-Website, etc.)

The project organises a series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences to address various groups of stakeholders:

- National and regional Information Days in the SEA on the 7th FP in close cooperation with the respective national stakeholders (governments, Science organisations and Info-points);
- Specific information sessions on the S&T potential of SEA in EU conferences;
- 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, addressed to political stakeholders at national, regional and Community level.

SEA-EU-NET has also created a new EU-SEA internet portal, devoted to the cooperation with the SEA region, also functioning as a meta-portal as future single access point: www.sea-eu.net

4. Monitoring and review activities

One major objective 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 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 regions;
- supporting the alignment of S&T statistics in order to follow the dynamics of the S&T systems;
- establishing a coherent mapping of the EU partner's unilateral initiatives and bi-lateral programmes with SEA;
- clustering the identified programmes and feature high-potential institutions in SEA in the mapping database;
- identifying convergences and diversities of the cooperation programmes;
- providing recommendations on improving S&T collaboration between the EU and SEA.

The SEA-EU-NET Steering Committee is responsible for reviewing the project and providing advice. It gauges the impact of the Consortium's actions and ensures complementarities at policy and research institutions level. It comprises government representatives, International Organisations and NGOs.

Latin America

EULARINET –

Coordinating Latin America Research
and Innovation NETWORKS

**“The EULARINET project is serving
as an umbrella for the on-going
EU-LAC cooperation in S&T”**

WEB SITE:

www.S2lat.eu/eularinet

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 212186

EC CONTRIBUTION:

2.999.808 €

STARTING DATE:

1/03/2008

DURATION:

48 months

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

EULARINET aims at strengthening bi-regional dialogue on S&T between EU Member States, Associated States and Latin American Partner Countries (LAPC) 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 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 Chile; 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 open to all EU and LA countries are planned during the duration of the project. The consortium will actively address other Member States, Associated Countries and LAPC that are currently not members of the EULARINET consortium, to participate and contribute, thus increasing the impact of the dialogue. 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.

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 comprehensive and structured exchange with LAPC regarding the research activities of the European Commission (EC);
- promote regional integration;
- address global issues of common interest, and develop scenarios and concrete recommendations for actions, including in support to the EU-Latin American and Caribbean Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation and on S&T activities addressing topics related to the EU Framework Programme.

Links with broader EU S&T policies will contribute to social and economic development and stimulate an environment for transnational scientific cooperation of individual scientists and institutions.

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 and horizontal awareness-raising and information dissemination events will be carried out through a series of national, regional and bi-regional conferences, as well as seminars and workshops on S&T cooperation opportunities. These will address various groups of stakeholders from the scientific, industrial and policy-making communities.

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 website with public and private areas with advanced functionalities to support collaborative dialogues among the partners and that will link to other relevant websites;
- 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;
- publications to disseminate the major EULARINET activities, findings and events to external stakeholders.

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.

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.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

IncoNet EECA –

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

*“IncoNet EECA:
Expanding S&T synergies across regions”*

WEB SITE:
www.inco-eeca.net

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 212226

STARTING DATE:

1/01/2008

EC CONTRIBUTION:

3.550.000 €

DURATION:

54 months

COORDINATOR:

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The principal objective of EU cooperation in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region is to develop an increasingly close relationship, going to gradual economic integration, and to a deepening political cooperation.

The EECA countries have significant potential both in terms of their strong academic community and of worldwide leading S&T institutes in a variety of scientific disciplines. To make better use of each others academic strengths, to share respective resources and to prepare the ground for a joint transfer of academic results to markets, there is a strong interest in enhancing S&T cooperation. Therefore the IncoNet EECA project aims at:

- Supporting bi-regional EU – EECA S&T policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policy making, science community and industry. The dialogue addresses S&T potentials, policy goals and demands in order to define common priorities and to develop joint scenarios and implementation strategies.
- Carrying out activities aiming at an increased participation of researchers from EECA countries in FP7.
- Implementing a series of analyses feeding the policy dialogue and increasing its efficiency, monitoring the project's own activities with emphasis on their sustainability and implementing coherent dissemination activities in order to increase its visibility and impact.

2. Dialogue activities

The policy dialogue process has been developed through implementing an initial phase of "Policy Stakeholder Conferences" organized in July 2009 and April 2010.

A series of additional bi-regional stakeholder conferences will be arranged, addressing key issues of the S&T cooperation framework with Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries including specificities of the joint policy of the Four Common Spaces with Russia. The stakeholder conferences help to share information on policy objectives and best practice in EU-EECA S&T cooperation (instruments and impact), to identify present challenges and barriers and to pave the way for more coherence and efficiency of bilateral and multilateral approaches. They include targeted discussions at a dual level (i.e. political stakeholders and the scientific community) in order to optimise the bi-regional cooperation framework set by policy makers.

Particular priority is given to:

- Evaluation and benchmarking practices of S&T institutions and programmes.
- Financial schemes for joint activities.
- Instruments for collaboration at regional level (e.g. South Caucasus, Central Asia).
- Mutual learning and priority setting.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

The implementation activities of the project include actions that would initiate and sustain the policy dialogue (e.g. content and logistics for the policy stakeholders' conferences or preparatory workshops to feed the conferences), as well as a broad spectrum of activities aiming at:

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

A series of dissemination activities will provide the visibility of the project for the scientific community, policy makers and stakeholders. Among these activities are:

- The setting up of a Central Information Office, complemented by a web portal and website, raising awareness of the S&T potential in the EECA, informing interested stakeholders about opportunities for an enhanced S&T cooperation and fostering networking among the science communities and R&D oriented innovative industries.
- The organization of 'EECA sessions' in major European scientific conferences, as well as the organization of events at the highest political level, promoting the EU – EECA S&T cooperation.

4. Monitoring and review activities

The IncoNet EECA is a challenging project involving partners from many countries and including numerous activities. A series of project tasks will specifically address:

- The quality of the overall process (SWOT analysis, Deliverables quality).
- The establishment of links with other projects addressing EECA.
- The sustainability of activities undertaken.

Central Asian and South Caucasus countries plus Moldova

INCONET CA/SC –

S&T International Cooperation Network
for Central Asian and South Caucasus
Countries

**“From Atlantic to Caspian:
S&T Cooperation beyond Borders”**

WEB SITE:
www.inco-casc.net/

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 244417

STARTING DATE:

1/04/2010

EC CONTRIBUTION:

1.599. 860 €

DURATION:

36 months

COORDINATOR:

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International Centre for Black Sea
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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
International Centre for Black Sea Studies (coordinator)	ICBSS	Greece
International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – German Aerospace Center	DLR	Germany
Independent Expert Consulting Board to Promote Scientific Research Activity in Kazakhstan	InExCB-KZ	Kazakhstan
Archimedes Foundation	ARCHIMEDES	Estonia
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	TUBITAK	Turkey
Georgian National Science Foundation	GNSF	Georgia
Indo-Uzbek Centre for Promotion S&T Cooperation	IUCP-T	Uzbekistan
Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria
Centre of Ideas and Technologies	CIT	Armenia
Foundation for Research and Technology Helias – Help Forward Network	H-F	Greece
National Academy of Sciences of Republic of Azerbaijan	ANAS	Azerbaijan
Academy of Sciences of Moldova	ASM	Moldova
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	CNRS	France
National Center on Complex Processing Mineral Raw Materials of the Republic of Kazakhstan	CMRP-Kz	Kazakhstan
Central Scientific Library of the Ministry of Education and Science	CSL-Kz	Kazakhstan
National Library of Kyrgyzstan	NLKR	Kyrgyzstan
Research Institute of Water and Hydro-energy Problems of the Kyrgyz Republic Academy of Sciences	IWP	Kyrgyzstan
Public Foundation EnConsult	EnConsult	Kyrgyzstan
Society for Development of Scientific Cooperation	SODESCO	Tajikistan
Public Organisation ‘Modern Scientists’	MS	Tajikistan
Institute of Material Sciences of Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences	IMS-Uz	Uzbekistan
National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia	NAS-RA	Armenia
Institute of Geology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	GIA	Azerbaijan
Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan Republic, Scientific-Research Institute for Geotechnological Problems of Oil, Gas and Chemistry	GPOGC	Azerbaijan
Caucasus School of Business	CSB	Georgia

Organisation name	Acronym	Country
General Secretariat for Research and Technology	GSRT	Greece
Georgian Research and Development Foundation	GRDF	Georgia
Scientific Consulting Center "Altyn Umyt"	SCC "Altyn Umyt"	Turkmenistan

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The countries of Central Asia and South Caucasus (CA/SC) display a significant potential in terms of research and innovation. As a consequence, a strong bi-regional EU-CASC interest in enhancing S&T cooperation has been developed with the aim to share strengths and resources in order to prepare the ground for a joint transfer of academic results to national, regional and worldwide markets.

With the objectives to support and facilitate the bi-regional EU – CA/SC S&T policy dialogue, to address the coordination with other EU instruments and to strengthen participation in FP7, the IncoNet CA/SC targets all the Central Asian and South Caucasus countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, plus Moldova.

The project aims to complement and deepen in the two sub-regions the activities of the ongoing IncoNet EECA¹ project, with particular emphasis on Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan that were partially addressed so far. At the same time, by avoiding duplications and by extending the synergies between the two projects which are geographically overlapping, their impact will be maximized.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The main activities of the project include:

- Policy dialogue:
 - i) the organisation of missions in every targeted country in order to contact policy makers and other stakeholders, to identify mutual interests and to pave the way for an enhanced participation in the European Research Area and FP7,
 - ii) the organization of two Stakeholders' Conferences to formulate proposals for an enhanced cooperation, to promote mutual learning among policy makers, to identify barriers, etc.

¹ S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian countries, www.inco-eeca.net

In parallel, specific attention will be given to other EU policies such as the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) and the Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI), for their better coordination with the S&T policy.

- Support to information multipliers (e.g. training sessions to NCP/NIP structures) and to the scientific community (Info Days in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, grants for the participation of scientists in Brokerage Events in the EU, etc.).
- Studies on Innovation policies and structures in CA/SC, on successful participations in FP6 and FP7 in order to identify critical factors, as well as extension of studies implemented under the IncoNet EECA, inter alia: mapping of key institutes, monitoring and review of cooperation patterns, S&T indicators and ways to improve them, etc. The aim of these studies is to feed the policy dialogue.
- Communication and dissemination activities: in addition to the creation of a web site and a communication platform (www.inco-casc.net), particular effort will be devoted to the strengthening of the coverage of KG, TJ, TM by the already established Central Information Office and its network of Regional and Local Correspondents, in order to further increase the volume and quality of the information on the 'incrEAST' Web Portal (www.increast.eu).

3. Expected impact

The activities included in the IncoNet CA/SC project will have a direct positive impact on the cooperation with the targeted countries, at both policy making and operational/ implementation levels. More specifically, at the policy making level, the IncoNet CA/SC is expected to:

- i) increase the knowledge on the S&T landscape and the S&T policies in the target regions and Moldova;
- ii) raise awareness and support for the bi-regional Policy Dialogue process in the targeted countries; and
- iii) have a significant impact on the development of synergies among different EU policies.

At the operational/implementation level the IncoNet CA/SC is expected to increase participation in FP7, through specific horizontal (e.g. training of NCPs) and thematic activities (e.g. Information Days) that will enhance the information dissemination and assistance, and create awareness of the opportunities for enhanced cooperation among researchers.

Caribbean countries

EUCARINET –

Fostering the European Union -
Caribbean Research and Innovation
Networks

**“Connecting Caribbean and European
researchers, policy makers and
Stakeholders in Joint research actions”**

WEB SITE:
www.eucarinet.eu

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 244510

STARTING DATE:

1/04/2010

EC CONTRIBUTION:

1.532.485,03 €

DURATION:

48 months

COORDINATOR:

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
MENON Network	MENON	Belgium
Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement	CIRAD	France
Ministerie Van Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie	EL&I	Netherlands
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	UAB	Spain
(Until June 2011) Centre d'Etude des Relations entre l'Union Européenne et l'Amérique Latine	CERCAL	Belgium
Caribbean Community	CARICOM	Guyana
University of the West Indies	UWI	Trinidad and Tobago
Université Antilles Guyane	UAG	Guadeloupe
Universidad Iberoamericana	UNIBE	Dominican Republic
Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente	CITMA	Cuba
University of the Netherlands Antilles	UNA	Netherlands Antilles

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The main objective of the project is to promote and support a long lasting sustainable multi-stakeholder bi-regional policy dialogue on S&T between EU Member States (MS), Associated States (AS) and the Caribbean Region including the Caribbean ACP countries, overseas departments and collectivities, Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) at policy, programme and institutional (research entities) level, thus contributing to a threefold objective:

- Create the conditions for the sustainable multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on S&T between the European Union and the Caribbean Region, leading to a joint definition of S&T co-operation policies.
- Foster interregional (EU-CARIBBEAN) and intraregional cooperation notably through the identification and prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Stimulate and support the participation of the Caribbean research stakeholders in FP7 programmes.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

In order to achieve these objectives, the EUCARINET project will promote and support the setting up of a permanent and sustainable multi-stakeholder co-ordination and dialogue, bringing together the key EU and Caribbean policy makers and programme managers, representatives of universities, research institutions, the private sector as well as other representatives of civil society. Dialogue fora both at interregional and intraregional level will be established, identifying S&T priorities in order to strengthen the S&T cooperation between the EU and the Caribbean region and stimulating the participation of Caribbean researchers in FP7.

EUCARINET will provide:

- Support to policy dialogue
 - through an inventory of S&T Caribbean major institutions;
 - assessment of R&D cooperation capacity;
 - analysis of barriers to cooperation;
 - awareness raising on Research & Innovation priorities for fostering cooperation;
 - support to the implementation of the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation.

➡ Joint priority setting

- through thematic dialogue workshops on mutual EU-Caribbean research priorities setting.

➡ Awareness-raising

The project communication will be carried out through a series of different actions at different levels:

- EUCARINET Promotional kit: EUCARINET logo, presentation, flyer & website;
- Events: technical meetings and workshops, info-days and brokerage/thematic events;
- Specific presentations devoted to EU-Caribbean collaboration in S&T in the frame of major events taking place in Europe and in the Caribbean;
- Networking with existing actions and projects;
- Collaboration with National Contact Points (NCP) networks.

➡ Training and match-making

- Support to the creation of a network for FP7 Caribbean National Contact Points;
- Training sessions on FP7, workshops, staff exchanges and thematic brokerage events open to the whole Caribbean research community.

3. Expected impact

The main expected impact of the project is “to strengthen bi-regional sustainable policy dialogue on S&T between the European Union and the Caribbean Region” in terms of quantity, quality and viability, targeted on three issues:

a. Sustainable networking, dialogue and communication flow

The policy dialogue and the mapping of the research organizations and of the state and advancement of the scientific and technological cooperation between Europe and the Caribbean will contribute to the transfer of knowledge, the centralization of information on cooperation and exchange programs and monitoring the related progress, identifying possible obstacles to strengthening this relationship as well as contributing to foster dialogue between European and Caribbean policy makers;

b. Research Priorities setting

It will support the bi-regional S&T policy dialogue in providing a general overview of the strengths and needs of the existing cooperation between the European Union and the Caribbean, therefore orienting the horizontal issues that must be taken into account at the level of each sector and/or priority topic.

c. Identifying and training best potential RTD promoters and project partners

Human capital is the basis of any action. Identifying, selecting and training the best promoters and partners (especially future NCPs and research officers) will be a direct result of EUCARINET as well as of the identification of priorities and of the information obtained in the dialogue workshops.

Central America

ENLACE –

Enhancing Scientific Cooperation
between the European Union and
Central America

“ENLACE: new bridges – new opportunities
in science, technology and innovation
between Central America and Europe”

WEB SITE:

www.enlace-project.eu

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 244468

EC CONTRIBUTION:

1.600.000 €

STARTING DATE:

1/11/2009

DURATION:

48 months

COORDINATOR:

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	UPC	Spain
Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas	HELP-FORWARD	Greece
Austrian Latin America Institute	LAI	Austria
Menon Network	MENON	Belgium
Tudományos és Technológiai Alapítvány	TETALAP	Hungary
(Until June 2011) Centre d'Etude des Relations entre l'Union Européenne et l'Amérique Latine	CERCAL	Belgium
Universidad de Costa Rica	UCR	Costa Rica
Consejo Nicaragüense de Ciencia y Tecnología	CONICYT	Nicaragua
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala	USAC	Guatemala
Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazan	UPNFM	Honduras
Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí	UNACHI	Panama
El Colegio de la Frontera Sur	ECOSUR	Mexico
Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano	CSUCA	Guatemala
Federación de Cámaras y Asociaciones Industriales Centroamericanas	FECAICA	Guatemala

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

ENLACE – Enhancing Scientific Cooperation between the European Union and Central America aims at supporting the bi-regional dialogue between the EU and Central America (CA) on Science and Technology (S&T) issues, identifying common interests in research, setting up common S&T priorities and supporting capacity building activities.

ENLACE objectives include:

- Identification and prioritization of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit;
- Supporting institutional capacity building in CA and promoting the setting up of FP7 contacts in CA;
- Promoting public-private partnerships and strengthening the participation of the private sector in innovation and knowledge transfer activities;
- Increasing the awareness on the benefits of EU-CA research cooperation for stakeholders (researchers, policy makers and entrepreneurs) in the region;
- Fostering exchange and partnership between CA and EU researchers.

The objectives of ENLACE also contribute to the INCO-NET projects goals: establishing bi-regional dialogues (including support to the implementation of the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation), facilitating the uptake and use of common identified research areas and promoting and structuring the participation of CA countries in the activities of FP7. These objectives are implemented in co-operation with the project EULARINET that aims at covering the whole Latin America.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

To achieve the objectives of ENLACE, different activities are planned: policy dialogue meetings between S&T experts from the EU and CA to identify research priorities of mutual interest; organizing in CA training activities and awareness raising sessions on FP7, organizing events to enhance the participation of the private sector as well as the networking among EU and CA researchers.

Dissemination events and travel grants for researchers will provide concrete tools to boost the participation of the Central American countries in FP7.

For the realization of the activities and objectives ENLACE offers specific services:

- Training activities to increase the basic knowledge of FP7 and Innovation & Technology Transfer;
- Networking and partner search activities to raise researchers' awareness on FP7 in Central America, like the elaboration of a directory on Central American research institutions for their promotion in Europe;
- A Travel Grant Scheme offering fellowships to CA researchers to attend conferences and arrange visits in Europe.
- Dissemination events including the "FP7 Adventure" campaign in the Central American countries to bring ENLACE results to policy makers and the scientific community

3. Expected impact

The expected impacts of ENLACE are directly linked with the planned activities:

- Enhanced and strengthened exchanges and collaborations between EU and CA academic and industry researchers;
- Increased awareness on FP7 activities;
- Enlarging the network of FP7 Contacts in CA.

The Central American partners are in charge of project's activities in the region, e.g. carrying out the analysis of policies and research priorities to compile national position papers and a regional position paper; identifying selected organizations able to act as future FP7 Contacts, and organizing training sessions in their countries (in coordination with EU partners).

Moreover, all Central American partners participate in several joint activities at different levels: management; S&T dialogue platform; dissemination and raising awareness in CA and EU. These activities as a whole will serve to create a strong Central American regional network of competent actors, interconnected both internally and with the EU region, thereby promoting regional integration on high-level research and in reinforcing the bi-regional dialogue on S&T between CA and the EU.

PACIFIC

PACE-Net –

Pacific Network for Science
and Technology

**“PACE-NET: A new tool for more
cooperation with the Pacific Region”**

WEB SITE:
www.pacenet.eu

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 244514

STARTING DATE:

1/05/2010

EC CONTRIBUTION:

1.399.476 €

DURATION:

36 months

COORDINATOR:

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	IRD	France
Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea	APRE	Italy
International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research	DLR	Germany
Malta Council for Science and Technology	MCST	Malta
The Australian National University	ANU	Australia
Ministry of Research, Science and Technology	MoRST	New Zealand
University of South Pacific	USP	Fiji
Secretariat of the Pacific Community	SPC	New Caledonia
University of Papua New Guinea	UPNG	Papua New Guinea
Euro Research Support Limited	CGC	New Zealand
University of the Netherlands Antilles	UNA	Netherlands Antilles

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

The Pacific-EU network for S&T will establish a bi-regional dialogue platform on S&T between the EU, the 15 ACP countries and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the Pacific region, Australia and New Zealand. PACE-Net pursues the following objectives:

- To reinforce existing S&T dialogues/networks and promote regional integration for those networks (cooperation between the research organizations and universities);
- To identify S&T international cooperation activities and programmes geared towards the Pacific region. The PACE-NET will set up dialogue for bringing together the relevant S&T experts and stakeholders to establish the priority areas for FP7, including SICAs;
- To strengthen the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities and programmes carried out by other European instruments. PACE-NET will examine possible synergies or complementarities with EU activities, especially with respect to challenges faced by developing countries.

2. Implementation and dissemination activities

PACE-Net will pay great attention to dissemination activities which are key elements for the reinforcement of Pacific-EU S&T cooperation. The dissemination plan of the activities and outcomes of PACE-Net intends to ensure a wide use of the project achievements. Dissemination will be performed through various channels.

A website will be developed to disseminate information about the project to a wide range of stakeholders and the general public. The website will provide information about on-going activities, available results and events, plus archived newsletter and press releases.

A publication concerning significant S&T research activities will be produced and distributed to a wide range of stakeholders.

The PACE-Net knowledge dissemination activities will also complement other relevant platforms and provide editorialised news services – which apart from ensuring knowledge dissemination on Europe-Pacific S&T cooperation, will also help to foster public debate on and understanding of the role played by S&T as an instrument for sustainable development.

Other information tools: project reports, open days at research institutes, will also be organised to ensure the appropriate dissemination of information to the different targeted audiences (scientists, industries, and citizens).

3. Expected impact

The expected impact of the project can be considered at two different levels.

At the European level, PACE-Net will:

- Increase the opportunities for S&T cooperation with the Pacific region;
- Share the ERA with new actors and partnerships from the Pacific region;
- Establish a European international strategy for the ACP countries in the Pacific;
- Set up the basis for a real coordination of EU MS activities;
- Provide a critical mass of key EU and Pacific actors and more integration between national programmes and the FP.

At the national level, it will:

- Establish a structured and long-lasting framework of cooperation between EU MS and the targeted countries;
- Bring transferable lessons to improve the effectiveness of S&T programmes in the region and the use of S&T for the national purposes of the targeted countries;
- Ensure the reinforcement of research building capacities by creating links between European OCT's and PICTs.

Gulf Cooperation Countries

INCONET-GCC –

Science and Technology International Cooperation Network for Gulf Cooperation Countries aiming at the promotion of bi-regional dialogue

“INCONET-GCC creates an observatory of EU-GCC cooperation in S&T through the development and support of the bi-regional dialogue”

WEB SITE:

www.inconet-gcc.eu

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 244401

STARTING DATE:

1/01/2010

EC CONTRIBUTION:

1.966.931 €

DURATION:

36 months

COORDINATOR:

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Euroconsultants S.A.	ECSA	Greece
Foundation For Research And Technology Hellas / Help-Forward	HELP-Forward / FORTH	Greece
London School of Economics and Political Science	LSE	United Kingdom
Universita Degli Studi di Ferrara	UniFE	Italy
Stiftelsen Hogskolan I Jonkoping	HJ	Sweden
International Association of Sciences Parks	IASP	Spain
Items International	ITEMS	France
The Research Council of Oman	TRC	Oman
Higher Colleges of Technology	HCT	United Arab Emirates
Bahrain Center for Studies and Research	BCSR	Bahrain
Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences	KFAS	Kuwait
King Saud University-Riyadh Techno Valley	KSU-RTV	Saudi Arabia
Public Establishment for Industrial Estates	PEIE	Oman
Qatar University	QU	Qatar
Political Development Forum	PDF	Yemen
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	MHESR	Egypt
Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Formation des Cadres et de la Recherche Scientifique, Direction de la Technologie	MENESFCRS	Morocco

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

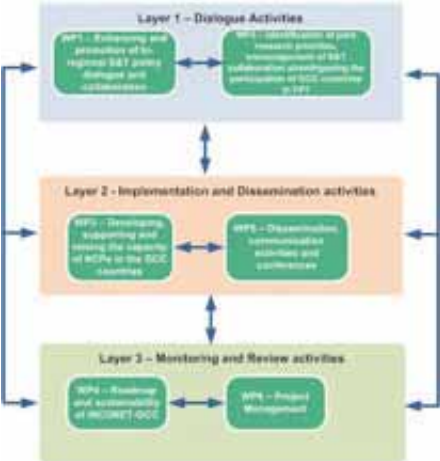
INCONET-GCC aims to develop and support the bi-regional dialogue on S&T by bringing together policy-makers and stakeholders from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) and the EU. It aims to create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interests in research areas, set up S&T priorities, support capacity building activities, and enhance the interaction between different EC cooperation instruments. It 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 GCC and EU, and foster the participation of the GCC in the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

The core objectives of INCONET-GCC are to:

- support the bi-regional dialogue on S&T between stakeholders from EU Member States, Associated countries and the GCC.
- promote regional interaction for the identification and prioritisation of common research agendas of mutual interest and benefit in a transparent and methodologically sound way.
- enhance the participation of researchers from the GCC in EC funded projects of mutual interest and benefit by implementing capacity building measures and by accompanying tailor-made networking activities.
- 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. Implementation and dissemination activities

The planned activities are shown in the figure below:



- ➔ Dialogue activities
 - INCONET-GCC will support and facilitate the bi-regional S&T policy dialogue by building an open networking platform where new members external to the consortium can join project's activities in its later stages.
 - A structured information exchange with representatives of several DGs of the EC will allow for the exploitation of the results and integration of S&T in other sectors.
 - Pilot action promoting the establishment of a technology transfer network between the EU and GCC.
 - Preparation of INCONET-GCC roadmap of potential future EU-GCC S&T collaboration that will include guidelines on different issues.
 - Roundtables with international stakeholders, such as UNESCO, OECD, World Bank and other multilateral initiatives to disseminate information, detect synergies, avoid duplications and add critical mass to ongoing or planned activities.
- ➔ Implementation and dissemination activities
 - Organisation of an International Conference.
 - Trainings targeting Gulf countries' organisations.
 - Information days in the Gulf region aiming at raising public and stakeholder awareness concerning EC Programmes.
 - Publications and other information products.
 - Development of a website as the main dissemination tool.
 - Development of an INCONET-GCC exploitation plan for the Open Networking and Consultation Platform after the end of the project.
- ➔ Monitoring and review activities

Monitoring and review activities are aimed at:

 - collecting, processing and facilitating access and exchange of S&T information between the regions.
 - supporting the process of aligning S&T statistical indicators in to follow the dynamics of the S&T systems.
 - establishing a coherent mapping of EU partners' unilateral initiatives and bi-lateral programmes with GCC.
 - clustering the identified programmes and featuring high-potential organisations in Gulf countries in the mapping database.
 - providing concrete recommendations for improving S&T collaboration between the EU and GCC.
 - drafting the INCONET-GCC sustainability report that will include a roadmap relevant to the different stakeholders in the GCC & EU countries and Policy Guidelines for future potential collaborations.

3. Expected impact

The main outputs will be

- Creation of the INCONET-GCC open networking platform for policy dialogue and enhanced cooperation in S&T.
- Contribution of INCONET-GCC to the European Strategic Framework for International Cooperation in Science and Technology.
- Report on Collaborative plan in S&T policy contributing to the discussions of the GCC-EU Joint Council.
- INCONET-GCC White Paper.
- Support for the creation of the Gulf countries FP7 contact points and facilitation for their linkage with the European NCP network.
- INCONET-GCC roadmap and sustainability report.
- Organisation of an International Conference and other dissemination events.

Sub Saharan Africa

CAAST-Net –

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

“Operating in a progressive, conducive environment, with a dynamic and visionary consortium of partners, and with the endorsement of mandated authorities, the potential of INCO-NETs to support and add value to bi-regional cooperation is significant.”

WEB SITE:
www.caast-net.org

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant Agreement n°: 212625

STARTING DATE:

1/01/2008

EC CONTRIBUTION:

4.200.000 €

DURATION:

60 months

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Association of Commonwealth Universities.	ACU	UK
International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research	PT-DLR	Germany
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	IRD	France
Research Research (Africa) (Pty.) Ltd	RESEARCHAFRICA	South Africa
Ministry of Science and Technology	MoHEST	Kenya
Ugandan National Council for Science and Technology	UNCST	Uganda
Research Council of Norway	RCN	Norway
University of Jyväskylä/UniPID	JyU	Finland
Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems	VINNOVA	Sweden
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement	CIRAD	France
Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research	DR-MENRS	Madagascar
Ministry of Education, Sport and Science	MinESS	Ghana
Direcção Geral de Ensino Superior e Ciência	DGESC	Cape Verde
Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation	MINRESI	Cameroun
Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique	MRS	Senegal
Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia	FCT	Portugal
Department of Science and Technology	DST	South Africa
Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	CSIR-STEPRI	Ghana

Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	TUBITAK	Turkey
National Office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion	NOTAP	Nigeria
Ministry of Science and Innovation	MICINN	Spain
Department of Research, Science and Technology	DRST	Botswana
Ministry of Education	MINEDUC	Rwanda
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	MHESR	Egypt

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

There is an emerging global consensus that capacity in S&T is essential to economic competitiveness, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Therefore a growing number of governments in Africa are prioritising S&T as a key sector of their national and regional development programmes and put an emphasis on science and technology in Europe-Africa cooperation programmes.

CAAST-Net interventions goal is to promote and facilitate the EU-Africa S&T cooperation, focusing on greater use of the EU's Framework Programme and recognising the potential of the European and African national programmes offering support to international cooperation in S&T.

CAAST-Net facilitates EU-Africa stakeholders' dialogue on S&T and supports research partnerships through identifying and prioritising researchable topics of mutual interest and through networking and linking outputs to users. CAAST-Net harnesses cooperation to address specific local and regional problems in Africa and common problems of a global nature. Additionally CAAST-Net's actions to foster EU-Africa cooperation and dialogue offer a strategic dimension to regions' capacity for implementation of priority continental S&T programmes. It monitors the trends of EU-Africa cooperation under the Framework Programme and seeks to strengthen the participation of African countries through raising awareness, brokering partnerships and offering training.

2. Policy dialogue activities

An important objective of CAAST-Net is to support and add value to S&T cooperation policy dialogue between Africa and Europe. The activities include bi-regional senior stakeholder conferences on S&T cooperation, informal bi-regional discussion forums and facilitated dialogues between Africa's regional economic communities (REC) and interested EU parties. These activities may be also brought to the service of a new senior Africa-EU platform when needed. In such activities CAAST-Net partners seek the agreement and participation of mandated continental authorities to ensure maximum synergy with official processes.

3. Research prioritisation and partnerships

CAAST-Net promotes EU-Africa S&T research cooperation partnerships also through collaboration with other INCO-NETs. By bringing together African and European experts from specific thematic domains, CAAST-Net partners elaborate proposals recommended for consideration within the context of future FP work programmes. In line with CAAST-Net's strategic focus on support to RECs, future expert workshops will pay attention to regionalised priorities drawn from Africa's continental action plans. Since CAAST-Net activities place emphasis on enhancing EU-Africa cooperation under the EU framework programme, a fruitful cooperation between CAAST-Net and the new ERA-NET for Africa (ERAfrica) is much anticipated.

4. Awareness raising, dissemination and knowledge management

CAAST-Net's partners offer support and information to enhance Africa's FP participation. A group of experienced partners (e.g. VINNOVA in Sweden and TUBITAK in Turkey) has been established involved in a package of awareness rising activities, that are planned and executed as collaborative events with existing EC platforms such as the 'INCONTACT One World' network of INCO NCPs.

Implementation of CAAST-Net's primary activities relies on dialogue-based events for communication and dissemination. Therefore CAAST-Net's web-based Community Knowledge Management Platform has been created, acting as the hub of dissemination, communication and awareness raising activities.

5. Analysis, monitoring and review activities

CAAST-Net conducts analyses that examine the themes and instruments of S&T cooperation and check whether they accomplished the goals. A part of the analysis is also identification of the most relevant barriers to the participation of African countries in European research programmes.

Analyses of thematic diversity of Europe-Africa collaboration contribute to the formulation of new research priorities and examine reasons for possible disconnections between Africa's articulated priority S&T issues and Europe-Africa S&T collaboration and policy dialogue.

Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)

MIRA –

Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action

“Mediterranean Innovation and Research
Coordination Action (MIRA) provides a functional
dialogue and action platform to support
Euro-Mediterranean science, technology and
innovation (STI) cooperation.”

WEB SITE:

www.miraproject.eu

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Organisation name	Acronym	Country
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas	CSIC	Spain
Direction de la Technologie. Ministère de l'Education Supérieur, de la Formation des Cadres et de la recherché Scientifique	DT-MENES-FCRS	Morocco
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	IRD	France
Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de la Technologie	DGSRT	Tunisia
Ministry of Higher education and State for Scientific Research	MHESR	Egypt
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Turkiye Bilimler Akademisi	TUBA	Turkey
Malta Council for Science and Technology	MCST	Malta
The Higher Council for Science and Technology	HCST	Jordan
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British Council	BC	U.K.
Fundacao para a Ciencia e a Tecnologia	FCT	Portugal
Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación	MICINN	Spain

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. Background and objectives

Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA) is a dialogue and discussion platform which encourages scientific and technological collaboration between the Mediterranean Partner Countries and the European Countries, especially through 7th Framework Programme (7FP). MIRA is a powerful tool, a bridge between policy and research. The countries involved in MIRA are:

(1) Algeria, (2) Bosnia Herzegovina, (3) Cyprus, (4) Egypt, (5) France, (6) Germany, (7) Greece, (8) Italy, (9) Israel, (10) Jordan, (11) Lebanon, (12) Malta, (13) Montenegro, (14) Morocco, (15) Palestinian-administered areas, (16) Portugal, (17) Spain, (18) Turkey, (19) Tunisia, (20) United Kingdom.

A working group deriving from MIRA is EMIS - the Euro Mediterranean Innovation Space. It focuses on the analysis of knowledge transfer between research and industry, which is a common problem in the entire Mediterranean area, and a

2. Dialogue activities

MIRA, most importantly, contributes to the research community by identifying scientific priority topics, monitoring FP7 thematic priorities, sharing and analysing results through regional application within a global context.

In terms of Innovation policies, MIRA contributes to mobilize and connect different stakeholders to develop a more intelligent and competitive Euro-Med Innovation Space, by organizing the following activities: (1) Technology Transfer seminars (focussing on the academic sector), (2) promotion of a Mediterranean Metrology Centres Network and (3) Organisation of FORA. These FORA provide an optimum environment to make scientific and business communities exchange on their expertise, offers and needs. They are organised in close cooperation with intermediate structures and initiatives dealing with innovation (IPR experts, Technological Parks administrators, services providers), including national administrations and multi-national actors such as the European Investment Bank.

Based on the field experience, MIRA also serve to gather opinions and convey messages from the scientific community to the national authorities by formulating recommendations on ways of improving administrative issues.

An other role of MIRA is to support the activities of the Union for Mediterranean and European Neighbourhood Partnership Instruments (ENPI) that need the identification and development of a Research agenda in support of its objectives. For example, MIRA mobilizes an Expert Working Group in charge of elaborating a scientific agenda in support to the Horizon 2020 Programme for the decontamination of the Mediterranean Sea.

The outcomes of all these activities feed the S&T policy dialogue conducted within the "Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean S&T Cooperation" (MoCo), composed of senior officials of the S&T Ministries of the EU and Mediterranean Countries Governments.

3. Implementation and dissemination activities

MIRA supports the participation of the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) in the Framework Programme through capacity building and networking activities:

- Setting regional networks such as the networking of research institutions or the networking of Technology Transfer Units.
- Organizing Brokerage Events to promote opportunities of collaboration between scientists and entrepreneurs.
- Increasing the capacities of MPCs with trainings to build common knowledge and competences for administrators, regulators and managers.
- Supporting the regional network of National Contact Points (or FP7 Contact points) established six years ago to increase awareness on FP7 opportunities and other programmes and policies dedicated to support the RTD collaboration between Europe and the MPCs, and between the MPC.

Project communication is provided by an Internet-based forum and a website: www.miraproject.eu

4. Monitoring and review activities

One of the main objectives of MIRA is the creation of an Observatory of the EU-MPC S&T cooperation to provide the necessary feedback to the MoCo on the progress and impact of the EU-MPCs S&T cooperation since the 2007 Cairo Declaration. The observatory also aims to produce standard S&T indicators to analyse innovation systems, monitor bibliometric production and assess the international scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean region. MIRA reports to MoCo on a regular basis by presenting data produced by the observatory which in return enables policy makers to incorporate these and act upon informed decisions.

MIRA also proposes a methodology for the setting of a permanent Observatory beyond the life of the project, through a network of MPC experts to monitor ST&I cooperation and policies in the Mediterranean region. The “White Paper on strategic indicators for the measurement and impact of international scientific cooperation and collaborations in the Mediterranean region” is, in this sense, a good example of the outcomes provided by the MIRA consortium.

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Within the Capacity Programme the 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 Union (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).

This booklet presents the activities of all INCO-NET projects which have been selected following the evaluation of the FP7 calls for proposals published in 2006, 2009 and 2010. 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, Caribbean and Pacific region, Arab Gulf Countries, Latin and Central America.



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