

# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH *July 2015*

## EU-China cooperation

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Wan Gang, Chinese Minister for Science and Technology, agreed to step up EU-China cooperation in the field of research and innovation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Innovation Co-operation Dialogue, in the margins of the EU-China Summit.



« *But I would like to go much further to begin building a Global Research Area.* »

Carlos Moedas

For full press release please click [here](#)

### *Dear Reader,*

Commissioner Moedas delivered a speech at the conference 'A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation' held in Brussels. The Commissioner exposed his ideas to develop a new strategy that is fit for purpose for a world that is open, digital and global. The [new strategy](#) will develop around three ideas: Open Innovation, Open Science, and Openness to the World. Discover the international cooperation axis of the new strategy on page 2 through an excerpt of the Commissioner's speech.

We hereby inform you of the fact that the newsletter will not be published in August but we will be back in September to report on all news and events of the summer. Let us take this opportunity to wish you a relaxing holiday!

The Editors

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## Commissioner Moeda's 3 O's strategy: The Openness to the world axis

such as China, Latin America and the United States. As a first step, we announced two weeks ago the creation of a Common Research Area at the Academic Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States. I would like to take a similar step next Monday, when I co-chair the EU China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue.

*«So, during my mandate I commit myself to launch and expand a series of international initiatives.»*

[...] I see three strategic priorities:

Open Innovation,  
Open Science, and  
Openness to the world.

So what do I mean exactly? [...]

[...] we need to be Open to the world!

Europe is a global leader in science, and this should translate into a leading voice in global debates. To remain relevant and competitive, we need to engage more in science diplomacy and global scientific collaboration. It is not sufficient to only support collaborative projects; we need to enable partnerships between regions and countries.

Challenges in areas like energy, health, food and water are global challenges. And Europe should be leading the way in developing global research partnerships to address these challenges. This means speaking with one voice, and close coordination with Member States' international collaborations. The example of the EDCTP initiative shows that we can do it.

But I would like to go much further and begin building a global research area. This will not happen in one step, but through developing partnerships with other areas,

Let me give some examples:

I will work with Latin America and African partners to launch a common research strategy for the South Atlantic, mirroring what has been done for the North Atlantic under the Galway initiative.

I am working with Member State and partner governments to launch the PRIMA initiative as a joint research programme on water and food for the Mediterranean region.

We should invest more in projects like the SESAME initiative in Jordan that enables researchers from across this region to work together on world class science.

This conference is our opportunity to complete the current ERA and Innovation Union actions and to move forward confidently towards open innovation, open science and open to the world. This new InnovationERA must be based on actions and not words. I have mentioned a few examples today, but there are no doubt other possibilities and better ideas.

We should not be afraid of testing new ideas and piloting new actions [Drew Faust the Dean of Harvard always tells students: «A key part of any success is the part of you that is willing to fail»].

But we then must have the discipline to stop those which are not working, and the ambition to scale up what works. Research and innovation must take a long term perspective and not be trapped by the past. And we must make sure that each one of our actions brings in new entrants, young researchers, dynamic entrepreneurs, and people who have never been involved in European research and innovation.

This isn't just another Commission conference.

This is your chance to feed your ideas and aspirations into this new strategy. We will find out soon enough what works and what doesn't and we will build on our successes together.

When innovators like LEGO start fusing real bricks with digital magic, when citizens conduct their own R&D through online community projects, when doctors start printing live tissues for patients ... Policymakers must follow suit.

We owe it to the European Citizens.

We owe it to the future generations.

Let's dare to make Europe open to innovation, open to science and open to the world.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Full speech [here](#)

## EU-China Summit and High level Innovation Cooperation Dialogue

Research and innovation were confirmed as fundamental policy components of overall EU-China relations at the 17<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Innovation Cooperation Dialogue (ICD) of 29 June in Brussels. Commissioner Carlos Moedas and Chinese Minister for Science and technology Mr Wan Gang co-chaired the ICD and participated in the Summit. Leaders in the Summit reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in the area of research and innovation as a driver for economic and social development and a key element of EU-China relations. Both sides agreed to work together to harness each other's comparative advantages in such areas as innovation policy, mobility and training of researchers, commercialisation of R&D results, technology dissemination and sharing of research facilities and framework conditions for innovation.



Photo: (back l-r) Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission; Mr Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of China; Mr Donald Tusk, President of the European Council; (front) Mr Wan Gang, Chinese Minister of Science and Technology; Mr Carlos Moedas, Member of the European Commission

Three research and innovation related documents were signed at the Summit:

- A Joint Statement on the Renewal of the EU-China Science and Technology Agreement;
- An Implementing Arrangement between the European Research Council and the National Natural Science Foundation of China to promote cooperation on frontier research;
- And a collaborative research arrangement between the European Commission Joint Research Centre and the Chinese Academy of Science Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth.

Carlos Moedas underlined the great importance for EU and China to cooperate as equal partners in strategic areas of common interest to address global challenges and promote sustainable growth. He said «China has become a major science and technology power. Europe needs to engage with China in the context of our open science, open innovation and open to the world policy. The agreements reached at the Summit and Innovation Cooperation Dialogue mark a step towards addressing

global societal challenges and developing joint innovative solutions together.»

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Innovation Cooperation Dialogue was organised by DG RTD and saw the participation of high level representatives from a variety of Commission services engaged in research and innovation such as DG AGRI, CNECT, TRADE, JRC, ERC, and GROW. Innovation experts and stakeholders from academia and industry also participated in the meeting with reports and recommendations.

The ICD allowed the two sides to engage in frank, constructive and substantial discussions on issues related to innovation framework conditions, selected thematic initiatives and horizontal schemes such as the new ERC and JRC implementing arrangements. Among the issues agreed it is worth noticing the commitment to ensure reciprocal access to respective research and innovation funding programmes and the agreement to set up a new co-funding mechanism based on Horizon 2020 on the EU side and relevant research and innovation funding programmes on the Chinese side to support joint research and innovation projects in strategic areas of common interest. In addition it was agreed to continue the bold implementation of the flagship initiative on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology by supporting joint projects in the areas of plant breeding, food safety, animal health, soil and water resources management, and urban agriculture, and to jointly promote research and innovation cooperation on Sustainable Urbanisation as one of the pillars of the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership launched in 2012.



The EU-China relations 40th anniversary logo

The EU and China are celebrating this year 40 years of diplomatic relationships. Since 1998 with the conclusion of the EU-China S&T Agreement, cooperation on science and technology is a pillar of this relationship. The ICD, a recent exercise stemming from a Joint Declaration signed at EU-China Summit in 2012, is now adding a new dimension and deepening the dialogue with China as one of the EU key international partners in research and innovation.

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## The Joint Research Centre strengthens cooperation with the Chinese Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth

On 29 June, at the EU-China Summit, Vladimir Šucha, Director-General of the JRC and Professor Guo Huadong, Director-General of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (CAS-RADI) signed a new collaborative research arrangement between the two institutions that will contribute to addressing global challenges, such as sustainable development, climate action and disaster risk reduction. Under this new agreement, the co-operation will be reinforced and extended to promising areas, such as: air quality, human settlement detection and characterization, land and soil mapping, land cover mapping, digital earth sciences and agricultural monitoring. Collaborative activities under the new arrangement will include: exchange of scientific and technological information, joint training programmes, participation in the implementation of on-going programmes, projects and related activities of mutual interest to the parties. The relations between the JRC and CAS-RADI build upon more than a decade of successful co-operation. Tangible outcomes of this co-operation include the development of a shared vision of Digital Earth for the next decade and disaster impact methodologies in the area of disaster management. Digital Earth is a participative framework to share information about the state of our planet, and about the complex interactions between society and the physical environment. Co-operation between the JRC and CAS-RADI started in 2008, with the focus on analysis of human settlements, the use of Global Human Settlement Layer in disaster risk reduction applications, global urban observation and information tasks, crisis and media monitoring, land and soil cover mapping, as well as crop monitoring. As China is a key priority country for the JRC, active and wide-ranging scientific co-operations have been established with government bodies and universities through bilateral agreements as well as in a multilateral context.



Photo: Vladimir Šucha, Director-General of the JRC and Professor Guo Huadong, Director-General of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (CAS-RADI)

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## New joint EU-China initiative launched to encourage Chinese top researchers to join ERC teams in Europe

In the context of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue a new agreement was signed on 29 June at the EU-China Summit in Brussels by European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas and the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang, in the presence of ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and Liu Congqiang, Vice President of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

This new initiative - the fifth in a string of similar agreements with non-European counterparts - is open to active holders of NSFC grants and will facilitate young Chinese researchers to come to Europe on scientific visits, joining ERC-funded teams. Selected Chinese researchers will be offered the possibility to undertake single (6-12 months) and long-term or multiple short term research visits (e.g. for joint experiments), becoming part of teams led by ERC grant holders in Europe. The implementation of the initiative is foreseen for autumn 2015, with the first visits of Chinese researchers to ERC-funded research teams expected in the summer of 2016.

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## Upcoming events

### The 6<sup>th</sup> EMBO Meeting 2015 - Advancing the life sciences

An annual event held in Europe to promote the life sciences and the exchange of scientific results.

5-8 September 2015 - Birmingham - England

Click [here](#) to access this event

## H2020 Calls update

### MOBILITY for GROWTH 2014-2015

Topic: Safe and connected automation in road transport - MG-3.6b-2015

Deadline: 15-10-2015 - 17:00 (Brussels time)

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



## Advancing EU-Cabo Verde cooperation in Research and Innovation

On 18 June 2015 Commissioner Moedas, accompanied by Maria da Graça Carvalho, Advisor, and Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation, met with the Minister of Cabo Verde for Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr. António Leão de Aguiar Correia e Silva and his delegation.

Together, they discussed measures and support to increase EU-Cabo Verde cooperation through the opportunities available under Horizon 2020, highlighting common areas of interest for mutual benefit. Cabo Verde is an African success story with stable democracy, good governance, and respect for human rights, and shares European values and cultural tradition. In addition to this, Cape Verde is the only country within the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States with a Special Partnership with the EU: a framework of mutual interests with an important political dimension that goes beyond the traditional donor-recipient relationship. In this context, the EU-Cabo Verde meeting explored ways to further progress the Special Partnership with Cabo Verde in the areas of science, research, innovation and education.

A dedicated technical meeting, led by Cristina Russo, took place in the afternoon and identified specific support measures such as training, knowledge dissemination and awareness-raising initiatives with the aim, over the coming months, of improving support to universities and research centres in Cabo Verde in their international cooperation activities.



Photo: (l-r) Minister for Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Cabo Verde, Dr. António Leão de Aguiar Correia e Silva and Commissioner Moedas shaking hands

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Joint S&T Cooperation Committee in Seoul

The EU and the Republic of Korea held the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint S&T Cooperation Committee in Seoul on 15 June 2015. The meeting, chaired by EC Director-General Robert-Jan Smits and Korean Vice-Minister Sukjoon Lee, was further testimony to the breadth and dynamism of the EU-Korea partnership where successful cooperation on political, economic, security and science & technology affairs reflects the EU's and Korea's increasing international engagement and shows that they face similar challenges and share many of the same values and concerns. At the meeting both sides emphasised the importance of continuing to improve the framework conditions for EU and Korean scientists and innovators to work together. They agreed to early exchanges of programme information to enable more efficient provision of matching funds and to allow for monitoring of cooperation intensity. Participants also agreed to continue support to joint events and to the efforts of multipliers to facilitate access to information and partnering of R&I stakeholders. The substantial progress of current Korea-EU R&I cooperation was appreciated by both sides, who also emphasised the need to deepen, scale up and open cooperation in selected thematic areas of mutual benefit. These areas include a joint call on 5G-next generation communication networks, Internet of Things and cloud services; a twinning call on CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies; and cooperation through multilateral initiatives on nano-safety and on infectious disease preparedness. Potentially new common priority topics include nanoelectronics, materials modelling, innovative medicine, medical devices, and satellite navigation. The Implementing Arrangement for Korean researchers to join the teams of ERC Principal Investigators is progressing well with two calls launched already, and researchers' mobility through Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions is set to increase through R&I Staff Exchanges and Innovative Training Networks. Overall it was a very rich meeting reflecting the success and great potential of EU-Korea cooperation.



Photo: (l-r) Director-General Robert-Jan Smits and Vice-Minister Sukjoon Lee

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## The Journey towards a Common Research Area for the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean

Speaking at the EU-CELAC Academic Summit on 8 June in Brussels, Commissioner Moedas illustrated his vision for an EU-CELAC Common Research Area. Addressing researchers and scholars from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Commissioner Moedas welcomed the strong ties that already exist between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of science, technology and innovation. He underlined the affinities between the two regions and underscored that cooperation in research and innovation is one of the cornerstones of EU-CELAC relations. He further added that science diplomacy and research cooperation are core elements of the EU Strategy to stand as a strong global actor and that Latin America and Europe can benefit even more from increasing their cooperation in science, technology and innovation. The EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research and innovation increased EU-CELAC cooperation by funding the participation of over 750 Latin American and Caribbean researchers in collaborative projects with European partners, for a total of €100 million. This is an excellent basis for building a Common Research Area between the two regions, based on knowledge sharing and cooperation in specific areas of common interest such as renewable energies, climate services, bio-economy, marine research, ICT and health. Horizon 2020, as the largest multilateral research programme, provides a key tool for achieving this objective as it is fully open to the world. The Second EU-CELAC Academic Summit of 8 & 9 June took place in Brussels before the main EU-CELAC Summit of 10-11 June. The main theme of the Academic Summit was «Towards a Euro-Latin American Caribbean common space for higher education, science, technology and innovation».

## EU-CELAC Summit



The EU-CELAC Summit took place in Brussels on 10 and 11 June. The EU and CELAC leaders meeting in Brussels recognised the value of EU-CELAC cooperation and expressed their intention to revitalise this cooperation in a number of strategic areas, including research and innovation. The important result of this summit is that research cooperation was confirmed as one of the cornerstones of EU-CELAC cooperation. This was reflected in the Summit's final declaration which specifically mentioned the need to move towards a Common Research Area based on increased research cooperation, enhanced mobility of researchers and exchange of knowledge and best practice. The implementation will be prepared in view of the next Senior Officials Meeting of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation that will take place in November in Brussels.

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## EU-LAC Health Conference

High-level policy-makers, ministry and funding agency representatives, expert scientists and members of the EU-LAC Health Advisory Board attended the project's conference at the Bibliothèque Solvay in Brussels on 2 June 2015. The presented EU-LAC Health consensus roadmap provides concrete thematic health research areas with mutual benefit for both regions: Chronic Diseases, Infectious diseases, Cancer, Neurological Disease & Stroke, Prevention of Disease and Promotion of Well-being, and Health and Social Care Services Research. Additionally, it contains a proposal on how to effectively coordinate such bi-regional health research and innovation cooperation - the Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation (JIRI-Health). Marcelo Jenkins Coronas, Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, Jesús Fernández Crespo, Director of the Spanish National Institute of Health Carlos III and Rafael Sánchez Cárdenas, Vice Minister of International Affairs of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Dominican Republic commonly stressed the importance of the bi-regional health research initiative, which has already managed to create and engage a large network of interested stakeholders across the Atlantic. Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (EC), stated that Commissioner Moedas pointed at CELAC as a key region for collaboration and stressed that the EC is strongly committed to the relations with this region. Ms Russo indicated that all the elements to strengthen EU-CELAC cooperation in research and innovation in the coming years exist and should allow a move towards a Common Research Area between the two regions, based on knowledge sharing and cooperation in specific areas of common interest such as renewable energies, climate services, bio-economy, marine research, ICT and health. Horizon 2020, as the largest multilateral research programme, provides a key tool for achieving this objective as it is fully open to the world. Philippe Cupers, acting Head of Unit in Directorate Health of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (EC), encouraged the consortium to further use and explore existing EU Initiatives that work well (including infrastructures) for greater participation of CELAC countries. EU-LAC Health can also serve as a bridge for CELAC countries to connect to those ongoing initiatives. Several representatives of ministries and funding agencies expressed strong interest in the initiative. Some of them were Spain, Portugal, France, Israel, Finland, Romania, Costa Rica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Discussions will take place within the group of interested parties on the next steps for the coordination of cooperation, the definition of its term, and further commitment of the agencies.

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## Mexico Summit

This Summit took place on 12 June in Brussels. The conclusions of the summit included the willingness of both parties to launch, in 2015, the process of starting negotiations to modernise the Global Agreement and to reinforce the EU-MX Strategic Partnership in which research cooperation appears as a main flagship of the overall cooperation. The leaders mentioned the progress achieved, especially with regard to stepping up research cooperation, in key areas such as health, information and communication technologies (ICT), and renewable energy – particularly with regard to the planned coordinated call on geothermal energy, and in the preparatory work towards an implementing arrangement between the European Commission and the Mexican National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT). Particularly highlighted were the possibilities of expanding bilateral cooperation in renewable energy and joint initiatives on energy efficiency.

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## Horizon 2020 days in Uruguay

In June, the EU Delegation and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay organised events in Montevideo, Colonia and Madonado aiming to raise awareness of Horizon 2020 as the largest multilateral research cooperation programme open to the world. The main purpose of these events was to spread knowledge about the opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 and also by the Member States of the European Union in the area of university cooperation on research and innovation. Representatives of the embassies of the UK, France, and Germany took part in these events. The Head of the EU Delegation in Uruguay, Juan Fernández Trigo, inaugurated the series of events with a speech in which he underscored the importance of Horizon 2020. He added that international cooperation is a vital component of research cooperation and that strategic cooperation with global partners is paramount. Piero Venturi, Science Counsellor at the EU Delegation in Brasilia also took part in these events. He gave a presentation focusing on the strategic approach of Horizon 2020 to work together with international partners on identifying solutions to global challenges.

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## Climate Services: R&I Cooperation with Latin America & the Caribbean

The [EUROCLIMA](#) project organised a series of meetings in Buenos Aires from 26-29 May 2015 in order to define the priorities for future climate change cooperation with Latin America (LA) and the Caribbean. The two-day event was dedicated to consulting and discussing with representatives from 18 Latin American countries on the definition, purpose, structure and outline of a new Regional Programme on Environmental Sustainability/Climate Change under the EU Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Latin America 2014-2020 that is under preparation in DG DEVCO. Around 80 government representatives and experts from Latin America participated in the meetings. The event was opened by the Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Alfonso Díez Torres, the President of the Argentine Federal Council for the Environment and San Luis province, Daiana Hissa, and the Governor of Buenos Aires province (and current presidential candidate), Daniel Scioli. Anastasios Kentarchos from DG RTD introduced –for the first time– an explicit ‘knowledge management in support of decision making’ R&I component in the new programme under the MIP 2014-2020. Climate services, one of RTD’s policy initiatives, will play a central role in exchanging knowledge on climate change in Latin America and with Europe and supporting regional efforts for low-carbon emissions and a climate-resilient future. The discussions with Latin American counterparts helped shape activities that will reinforce the link between research/innovation and decision making in the public and private sector under the new DEVCO programme. The Latin American government officials were very supportive of this field of innovation and asked for further information on some of the key actions outlined in the recently published ‘European Research and Innovation Roadmap for Climate Services’. Considering the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovative Production of Argentina and building upon a bi-regional seminar on Climate Services that was organised by the Ministry in Buenos Aires in March this year, possibilities for future research and innovation cooperation on climate services between EU and Latin American countries were discussed. There is a strong will from several Latin American countries to step up research cooperation with the EU on climate change, with special interest in the area of climate services.

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## 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Morocco JSTCC

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Morocco JSTCC established under the bilateral S&T Agreement took place in Rabat, Morocco, on 15 June 2015 at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, back-to-back with the 4<sup>th</sup> EEAS sub-committee on Research, Science and Innovation. The meeting's objective was to assess the level of Science, Technology and Innovation-STI cooperation since the last JSTCC, which took place in Brussels, on 12 September 2012, both at bilateral and regional levels. The review of our bilateral cooperation highlighted the good evolution of STI cooperation with Morocco to date: in FP7, there are 122 projects involving 172 Moroccan applicants, which represents an increase of 43% in terms of participants and 24% in terms of projects between FP6 and FP7. The main areas of cooperation are in Agronomic research, Environment, Energy, Health, ICT, and, to a lesser extent but, nevertheless in progress, in SHS. The transition towards H2020 has not been accompanied by effective communication actions towards the Moroccan scientific community. Despite this constraint, the first calls launched late 2013 have attracted 41 Moroccan institutions who have submitted 36 proposals, of which 8 are selected for funding. The role of the EU-Morocco BILAT project (MOBILISE, due to finish by September 2015) in communicating to research centres and universities the possibilities of cooperation offered by H2020 to the Moroccan scientific community, has been acknowledged. The meeting also identified paths for further improvements in the future, notably in the fields of NMP, Space and TPT research, and in fostering more research-industry partnerships.

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## EU Delegation to Russia takes part in the Skolkovo Start-Up Village

On 2-3 June, the EU Delegation to Russia took part in the third annual international 'Start-Up Village' organised by the Skolkovo Innovation Centre (initiative launched in 2009 to set up an ultra-modern scientific and technological centre just outside Moscow for developing and commercializing advanced technologies). The event allowed young Russian scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and start-up companies to pitch their innovative ideas and technologies to a large number of investors, representatives of development institutions, major technology corporations and business communities, and the media from around the world. The three-day series of events featured lively debates, interactive start-up exhibitions, and match-making sessions. This year the Start-Up Village was attended, amongst other high-level guests, by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovitch. The EU Delegation participated with a speech in a special welcome session for the diplomatic corps accredited in Russia.

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## 'ERA.NET Plus with Russia' marks a new stage in EU-Russia science cooperation

On 1-2 July 2015, 20 funding parties from Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey and Russia met at Saint Petersburg State University to take a final decision on multilateral research projects to be funded in the framework of the ERA.NET Plus with Russia, an initiative supported under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7). Officially launched in November 2013, the overall aim of the ERA.NET Plus with Russia initiative, which is coordinated by the German Aerospace Center (DLR), is to encourage durable partnership, develop and strengthen the coordination of national research activities as well as to further enhance transnational funding of research between Europe and Russia. With an overwhelming number of 300 proposals submitted within the two funding lines 'Science and Technology' (nanotechnologies, environment/climate change, health, social sciences and humanities) and 'Innovation', the ERA.NET Plus with Russia has clearly demonstrated the tremendous interest of European and Russian researchers in implementing joint research projects despite the worsened political relations between Russia and the EU. With 62 funded projects (44 in S&T/18 in innovation) and a financial volume of EUR 20 million of the national and regional funding parties and the European Union, the ERA.NET Plus with Russia is considered to be a huge success. It has become not only the largest geographical ERA.NET, but also a flagship and leading initiative in the EU-Russia science cooperation. Thus, the initiative will further enhance the significance of the EU-Russian partnership and help to reach a new strategic level in EU-Russian science cooperation with benefits for European and Russian S&T communities, policy-makers, economies and societies alike.



Photo: ERANet RUS plus meeting funding parties 2015

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## EU-Russia Joint Science & Technology Committee Meeting

June saw the highlight of R&I relations with Russia with the annual meeting of the EU-Russia Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee, held on 19 June in Brussels. The meeting was co-chaired by Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation of DG RTD, and Sergey V. Salikhov, Director of the Science & Technology Policy Department of the Russian Ministry of Education & Science. Participants on the EU side included representatives of the International Cooperation and several thematic directorates of DG RTD, DG EAC, the ERC, EEAS and the EU Delegation to Russia. The Russian delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Education & Science, the Central AeroHydrodynamics Institute (TsAGI), National Research Centre 'Kurchatov Institute', Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, International Center for Innovation in Science, Technology & Education in Moscow, Lomonosov Moscow State University, National Research University 'Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys' (MISiS), National Research University 'Higher School of Economics', as well as the Permanent Russian Mission to the EU. The Russian delegation also included Prof. Edward Crawley, President of the Skolkovo Institute of Science & Technology (SkolTech), and Prof. Stephen Hagen, Vice-President for Change Management at the National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics (ITMO) in St. Petersburg.



Photo: Participants to the JSTCC meeting, held at the RTD premises on 19 June

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive spirit despite the current overall difficult political environment. Russia continues to show strong engagement and commitment towards strengthening research & innovation cooperation with the EU, especially in the context of Horizon 2020. In this context, the Joint Committee noted the concrete steps that had been taken in the course of the past year, first and foremost the establishment by the Russian Ministry of Education & Science of a mechanism to financially support Russian participants of Horizon 2020 projects, coupled with support measures such as the appointment

of Russian National Contact Points for practically all areas of Horizon 2020, including "horizontal" ones such as research infrastructures, SMEs and the ERC, and the creation of a specific e-mail address in the Russian Ministry for enquiries about participation in Horizon 2020.

The Joint Committee was preceded by a number of informal thematic bilateral discussions in Brussels and a meeting of the joint EU-Russia Working Group on Aeronautics Research in the margins of the Le Bourget airshow near Paris on 18 June. During the latter, Russia confirmed its strong interest in continuing to work with European counterparts (R&D facilities and industry) in the area of aeronautics and aviation technologies through Horizon 2020 as well as through the JTI Clean Sky II. For the development of cooperation in the area of research infrastructures and large-scale scientific facilities, the role of the upcoming Horizon 2020-supported CREMLIN project was noted. Other issues on the agenda of the Joint Committee meeting included cooperation possibilities through thematic ERA-Nets as well as in the context of multilateral initiatives such as those for health, arctic environment, nuclear research facilities and especially with regard to Russian interest in joining the Glopod-R initiative.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cooperation between DFG and RFBR

On 2 June, the EU Delegation to Russia participated in the high-level celebration event marking the 20-year anniversary of cooperation between the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR). The festive event included speeches and presentations by eminent German and Russian representatives and a podium discussion on the role which DFG and RFBR play in the development of bilateral research collaboration. The discussion was led by Prof. Dr. Peter Strohschneider, DFG President, and Academician Vladislav Panchenko, Chairman of the RFBR Board. Both sides praised the constructive spirit which the cooperation between the two foundations has maintained during the last two decades and expressed their intention to continue their successful partnership. The event was attended by top-level representatives of the Russian scientific and science policy-making communities, including Andrey A. Fursenko, Aide to the Russian President; Lyudmila M. Ogorodova, Russian Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Vladimir Fridlyanov, Chairman of the Board of the Russian Foundation for the Humanities (and former Vice-Minister for Education and Science), and many others.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION (ALL PAGE)

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## EU-India Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Days

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the EU-India STI cooperation days, taking place in Rome on 15-16 October 2015, will focus on WATER FOR HEALTH. SMEs, researchers, and policy makers will join the event to discuss ongoing and future cooperation and to set the scene for further fruitful initiatives in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation. The event aims to support new research and business networks on issues of priority interest for both regions, and promote funding opportunities offered by the EU, India, bilateral programmes and by industry. This edition will focus on water for health in order to maximize future scientific and business collaboration in this field. Market opportunities in Europe and India for entrepreneurs will be explored and innovative technologies will be showcased. The event will also support the linking of existing bilateral and multilateral projects on water research.



Photo: The EU-India STI Cooperation Days 2015 conference announcement poster

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit [www.b2match.eu/euindiacoopdays2015/](https://www.b2match.eu/euindiacoopdays2015/)

## 'Destination Europe' event in Ottawa

Researchers, university administrators and policy makers came to the University of Ottawa on 31 May to learn about EU funding opportunities open to Canadians interested in carrying out research in Europe. Hosted by EURAXESS Links North America and Universities Canada (partner in the ERA-Can+ project), the event provided participants with an overview of Horizon 2020, ERA-Can+, the European Research Council, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and the EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion initiative. Presentations were made by Bodo Richter from the European Commission, Sebastien Winkler from the European Research Council Executive Agency and Luigi Scarpa de Masellis from the EU Delegation to Canada. Maanasa Raghavan, a Canadian who completed her doctoral degree in Denmark, also spoke enthusiastically about her experience as an MSCA fellow. The Destination Europe event was organised in connection with the Congress 2015 of the Humanities and Social Sciences. EURAXESS Links North America and ERA-Can+ held a week-long info booth at the Congress and answered questions about research careers in Europe.



Photo: (l-r) Stephanie Jannin (EURAXESS Links North America), Johanna Fullmann (ERA-Can+/DLR), Luigi Scarpa De Masellis (EU Delegation to Canada), Danielle Lenarcic Biss (Universities Canada), Bodo Richter (MSCA), Maanasa Raghavan (MSCA fellow), Sebastien Winkler (ERC) & Viktoria Bodnarova (EURAXESS Links North America)

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## Research publication

### Ex-post evaluation of international cooperation activities of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

This report presents the findings of the group of independent experts tasked by the European Commission-DG RTD to undertake an evaluation of the International Cooperation Activities of the Seventh Framework Programme's for Research 2007-2013 (FP7) under the Capacities 'pillar' of the Programme. The ex-post evaluation takes stock of the dedicated activities undertaken to strengthen international cooperation in FP7, assesses them, and concludes by making a number of recommendations at both strategic and operational level in view of further work under Horizon 2020.

It is available for download [here](#)



## Europe and Korea strengthen ties at KOREA EUREKA DAYS 2015

Korea is one of the associated countries of the [EUREKA Network](#) and a participant in the joint EU-EUREKA Eurostars programme. On 20-22 May the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the [KOREA EUREKA DAYS](#) took place in Seoul under the motto 'Global Innovation for Societal Challenges.' The KOREA EUREKA DAYS is a premier annual industrial R&D matchmaking event which has allowed the number of publicly funded technological collaborations between the country and Europe to increase significantly since its creation. Co-hosted by the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Swiss EUREKA Chairmanship, KOREA EUREKA DAYS 2015 brought together more than 550 innovative entrepreneurs and researchers from Korea, Europe, South Africa and China, with the largest European delegations coming from Turkey, Spain, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden. All 21 countries had sent their representatives to Seoul. A matchmaking event between private, public and university research-performing organisations, among them many SMEs, allowed more than 250 meetings between potential research partners to take place. Korea invited participants from China to the event for the first time. Korea has the ambition to be a platform for EUREKA project co-operations in the East Asian region. The programme of the three-day event also included a Eurostars Roadshow, a special session on 'understanding Korea' as well as case studies of successful international collaborations in R&D. It was also the occasion to debate the added-value of Korean-European cooperation in innovation, high-level speakers providing political and corporate insight into the matter. The role of EUREKA in developing this international cooperation and its development in the future was high on the agenda. This year the KOREA EUREKA DAYS focused on the following technological areas: IT & convenient life, healthy society into action, safe & secure societies of tomorrow as well as sustainable living for a greener future. The EUREKA DAYS event is an excellent platform to create new business opportunities, share innovative ideas and knowledge and initiate new R&D collaborations for innovation between Europe and Korea - reason enough for the Enterprise Europe Network to support this successful event.



*Photo: group photo from the Korea Eureka Day 2015*

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## Horizon 2020 presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry (GSC) and 4<sup>th</sup> Japan Association for Chemical Innovation Symposium in Tokyo

From 5 to 8 July about 800 industrialists, researchers and policymakers from approximately 20 countries participated in the 7th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry in Tokyo. In the span of three days they exchanged views on how innovations in new chemical technologies centred on GSC should support sustainable societies and improvement of citizens' daily life. Among the main speakers were: Sadayuki Sakakibara, Chairman of Japan Business Federation ('Chemistry based Innovation in GSC Field – The Key to Japan's Revitalization'), Kazuhito Hashimoto, Executive Member of Council for Science, technology and Innovation, Council for Industrial competitiveness ('Innovation Policy of Japan: One of the main growth strategies in Abenomics') and Akito Tani, DDG, Manufacturing Industries Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The EU was represented by Leonidas Karapiperis, Minister-Counsellor, Head of the S&T Section at the Delegation of the EU to Japan. In his keynote speech on 7 July, he presented the main features of Horizon 2020 and the opportunities for international research cooperation in GSC related areas. On the opening day, Gernot Klotz, Chairman to the EU Commission Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for LEIT-NMBP delivered a presentation titled 'Research-Invention-Innovation' – Key enabling technologies to master societal challenges!', in which he developed industry's understanding of innovation and explained the EU-supported PPPs in the GSC area. There were also over 100 exhibitors (booths/posters) representing mostly Japanese GSC industry and academia covering a vast range of GSC related topics. The EU Delegation's S&T Section had a booth with information on Horizon 2020 / MSCA / ERC, which attracted considerable attention.



Photo: EU Delegation booth 'Horizon 2020 – EU's R&I Programme'

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## President of Japan's Agency for Medical Research and Development outlining the Agency's research strategy at the EU Delegation

On 10 July, Dr. Makoto Suematsu, President of the newly established Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) delivered an exciting lecture before a high-level audience of almost 80 at the EU Delegation outlining the Agency's research strategy. Already, a small number of Japanese institutions had participated in some important health related research projects under FP7. The visit of Dr. Ruxandra Draghia-Akli in Tokyo in March 2015, on the occasion of her participation in the AMED launch event, gave a new impetus to the EU-Japan collaboration in medical research. Currently, AMED plans to join two schemes of global scale: Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Diseases (GloPID-R), which facilitates an effective research response within 48h of an outbreak of an infectious disease with pandemic potential, and International Rare Diseases Research Consortium (IRDiRC). In future, AMED may also facilitate participation of Japanese research organisations in the Health-related parts of Horizon 2020, including the Innovative Medicines Initiative, and the Human Brain Project. With a 2015 budget of about EUR 1 Billion and a staff of about 300, AMED put under a «single roof» over 60 different different research programmes previously managed by several different ministries and funding agencies. The main research activities covered by AMED include: drug discovery and development, medical device development, translational and clinical research core centres, regenerative medicine, genomic medicine, cancer research, research for psychiatric and neurological disorders, infectious diseases and rare diseases.



Photo: Dr. Makoto Suematsu delivering the lecture 'AMED: Missions and Perspectives' at the EU Delegation

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## 6<sup>th</sup> INCONTACT Conference: Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity held in Beijing

On Wednesday 17 June, the 6<sup>th</sup> INCONTACT conference “Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity” took place in Beijing. Dr Xing Jijun, DDG of the China Science and Technology Exchange Centre gave a warm welcome to the audience of participants from NCPs, EU Member States, Associated Countries and around the world, as well as EU embassies, EU Delegation and EURAXESS Links, in addition to Chinese regional contact points and thematic contact points from various regional S&T Exchange Centres. The opening addresses by Dr Laurent Bochereau, Research and Innovation Counsellor of the EU Delegation China, and Mr Nondas Christofilopoulos (FORTH), the coordinator of INCONTACT 2020, stressed the importance and role of the NCP network. Various keynote lectures emphasized the overall importance of international cooperation and the strong impact of researchers’ exchanges on the deepening of international research and innovation partnerships. Representatives from Chinese institutes and authorities introduced the specific features of China’s innovation system development, and prospects and challenges for closer international cooperation in different areas like urbanisation. Mr Dan Andree (VINNOVA), Chair of SFIC (EU’s Strategic Forum for International S&T Collaboration), and Ms Andrea Hoglinger (FFG) emphasised the importance of harmonisation between EU actors. Overall the conference and subsequent thematic and training sessions were well received and provided an excellent opportunity for networking and exchanges between research promoters from all over the world.

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### How to contribute to the International Research newsletter?

- Kindly send us an article relating your event (2000 characters - spaces included - with picture)
- A good quality picture (free of rights)

Do not forget to mention the title of the article, the caption of the picture and a Commission internal contact point.

## The 5<sup>th</sup> EU China Task Force Meeting on Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology

Research and innovation in the field of Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (FAB) has been identified as a key priority for EU-China cooperation and a so-called «FAB Flagship initiative» was launched by signature of a Letter of Intent between the European Commission and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in November 2013. The FAB Task Force, which was established under the Joint Steering Committee on EU China S&T Cooperation, met for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in Beijing on 4 June 2015. The meeting co-chaired by Aldo Longo, Director AGRI-H and CAAS Vice President Wu Kongming constitutes a milestone in the relationship as it agreed on a list of 5 topics of common interest which have been jointly drafted for the first time ever and will be published in the upcoming work programme 2016/2017 of Horizon 2020. The topics will call for more balanced, mutually beneficial, cooperation in the areas of plant breeding, animal production and welfare, urban agriculture, food safety and soil water resources. The task force also recognised the excellent cooperation and close coordination of the last 2 years that led to the selection in 2014 of seven projects of common interest, and acknowledged three more to come in 2015. It also emphasized the role of the FAB task force that should be further enhanced in the framework of overall EU China Research and Innovation Cooperation. The EU and China being the two biggest food producers in the world, both sides share the common goal and responsibility of joining forces to address the challenges of global food security and long-term sustainable agriculture through research and innovation. The excellent results of EU-China research and innovation cooperation achieved in the area of FAB were acknowledged in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue which took successfully place on 29 June in Brussels.



Photo: Group photo at the 5<sup>th</sup> EU China FAB Task Force Meeting at Chinese Academy for Agricultural Sciences

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## The EU helps Australia reach for the stars

The launch of Europe's latest Sentinel satellite is set to take the relationship between the EU and Australia – literally and figuratively – to new heights. Geoscience Australia, in association with the Delegation of the European Union to Australia, held an event on 23 June to watch the launch of the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2A satellite from French Guiana. The satellite is the latest tool in Europe's Earth observation programme. The event provided an opportunity to highlight a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Australian Government and the European Commission on Copernicus cooperation that is in the final stages of negotiation. Access to the data under the MoU will help Australia on a number of fronts including supporting management of iconic environmental sites such as the Great Barrier Reef as well as improving agricultural productivity and reducing risks from natural hazards such as bushfires. Australia supports its international partners with its considerable specialist expertise, including in high performance data processing, through Geoscience Australia's 'Data Cube', and in development of applications to use the data generated. Data from the Copernicus programme will also play a vital role in addressing major challenges in Australia's region such as responsible management of ocean resources, assuring future water availability and creating resilience to natural disasters. The EU's policy of providing full and free access to data from the Copernicus programme will also create significant opportunities for European and Australian industry to work together to utilise this data to develop new products and services for the global space marketplace.



Photo: The EU Ambassador to Australia, Sem Fabrizi, addressing the launch event of Sentinel-2A at Geoscience Australia's office in Canberra.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Global challenges, Mediterranean solutions conference

On 22 June, Cristina Russo, Director for International Cooperation in Directorate-General for Research & Innovation, participated to the conference on "Global challenges, Mediterranean solutions. Decision making and concrete actions", organised in Marseille, France, by the INTERREG MED Programme, where she gave a key-note speech on the "EU Strategy for EU-MED cooperation in STI". After recalling the political frame for EU STI cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean, she explained our strategy towards the region, gave an overview of our cooperation to-date, and detailed the perspectives for a strengthened cooperation in the future.

Her speech was followed by implementation case studies of the EU strategy, notably the Creative MED programme, which is capitalising on the MED projects related to creativity and territorial innovation in the Mediterranean space.

The various presentations at the session were followed by a series of questions/answers related to H2020 Programme future opportunities for the EU-South Med STI cooperation, with a particular focus on emerging research-innovation bridging initiatives.

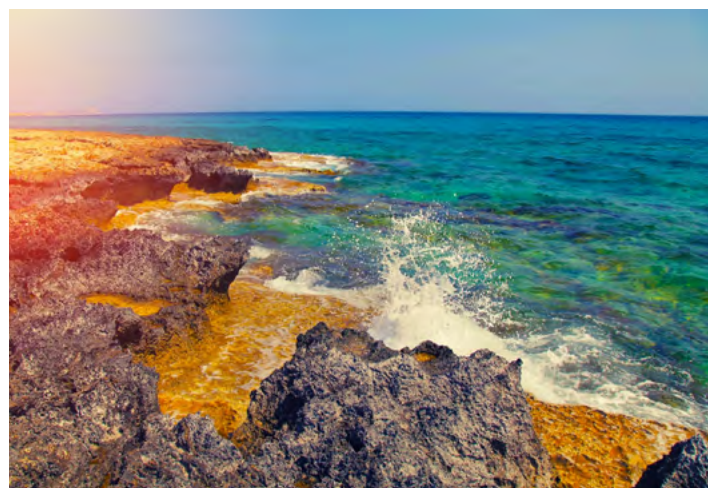


Photo: A mediterranean area landscape

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or visit <http://www.programmemed.eu/index.php?id=5175&L=1>



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## Squeezing every drop of efficiency from juice processing

Plastic packaging made from the fermented wastewater of processed juice could save industry millions in production costs and tap into growing consumer demand for environmentally friendly products. This is the goal of the EU-funded PHBOTTLE project, which is developing an innovative way of adding value to industrial residues and then developing these into a new biodegradable material.

“The main tangible result of the project will be a new bottle made of biodegradable material, which will be obtained through the fermentation of wastewater,” explains project coordinator Ana Valera. “The project should also contribute to the creation of new jobs, because new biotechnology facilities will be required to properly develop this new material.”

PHBOTTLE's work should also provide additional economic benefits for Europe. Food packaging is one of the most visible sources of waste, with over 67 million tonnes generated in the EU every year. Cutting down this waste would mean reduced energy use and carbon dioxide emissions, as well as less waste treatment costs.

PHBOTTLE is focusing on juice processing

wastewater because it contains high amounts of organic substances, including fermentable sugars such as glucose, fructose and maltose. The concentration of these fermentable sugars can reach 70% of the total organic load, which researchers believe makes juice wastewater an ideal and cheap source of raw material to produce PHB.

PHB is a type of biopolymer (an organic compound) that has several useful properties as a raw material for food packaging. It is moisture and vapour resistant, won't dissolve on contact with water, has see-through properties and offers good protection against oxygen. All these factors help to stop food from spoiling. In other words, the compound is perfect for making biodegradable juice packaging.

### Promoting green chemistry

Due for completion in 2015, PHBOTTLE will show how 'green chemistry' – a scientific approach to developing products and processes that reduce the use and generation of hazardous substances – can benefit European industry and consumers, and lead to new innovations.

Indeed, while the main target of PHBOTTLE is to develop new biodegradable food packaging solutions, potential non-food packaging uses, such as cosmetics, and even non-packaging applications such as

automotive parts, will also be examined.

For researchers, PHBOTTLE is providing them with better insight into potential uses for waste materials across a range of sectors, and how these materials can best be processed.

Throughout the project, particular attention is being paid to the stability of food packed in the new material during storage. Food safety and quality is important in the development of the new materials and processes.

The consortium includes partners from Europe – Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands – and also Latin America – Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. “This project is also a very international one,” says Dr Valera. “This way we get the latest and best research practices not only from Europe. International partners will also help us disseminate the project's findings more widely at the end of the project in 2015,” she concludes.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit the [EYD website](#)  
or visit [PHBOTTLE](#)

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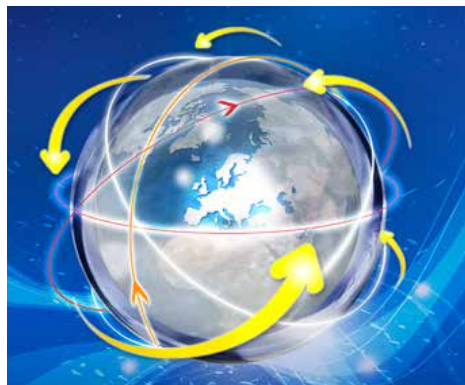
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*With a particular focus on international cooperation, different policy related themes are highlighted in relation to a number of countries to illustrate trends, similarities and different approaches.*

## Policy News from the Delegations

At the **African Union (AU) Summit** it was decided to establish a committee of 10 heads of state and government to champion Science & Technology (S&T) in Africa. The committee will be coordinated by President Macky Sall of Senegal and will report on the status of education, science and technology in Africa to the AU Summit once a year. African Leaders also signed a free trade agreement among the three existing African economic blocs: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Furthermore, the [African Network for drugs and Diagnostics Innovation \(ANDI\)](#) launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for pan-African Centres of Excellence in Health Innovation. It aims «to identify existing institutions with demonstrated capacity and expertise in specific health product or technology innovation area, including R&D, manufacture or supply chain across Africa».

**Australia's** national research organisation, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) signed an agreement which will give Australia better access to information from Europe's Earth-observing satellites, while ESA will benefit from Australia's scientific expertise. The Australian Government released its [White Paper for Developing Northern Australia](#). This White Paper contains a strategy to

unlock the potential and opportunities of the north of Australia. The Government also committed \$A75 (€53) million to create the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Developing Northern Australia, which will focus, initially, on agriculture, food and tropical medicine. It will also invest \$A15 (€11) million to position the north of Australia as a global leader in tropical health.

In **Canada**, the federal government established Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) to be the principal hub for scientific research in the Canadian Arctic, strengthen Canadian leadership in polar science and technology and establish and develop international partnerships.

**Egypt's** Ministry of ICT supported the first online Innovation Hub (Egypt Innovates). The launch of the Hub took place in June, 2015. The [Hub](#) aims to provide support to innovators and entrepreneurs in the Middle East, North Africa (MENA) region. It will be the first online innovation Hub providing tools and content in both Arabic and English.

The Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning in **Korea** published a new 'Law of Promotion for Information Protection Industry' which intends to strengthen national security against cyber terror but also promote growth of related industries. The Ministry also unveiled a three-year plan for information security in the coming Internet of Things era

that connects all mobile and electronic devices through the Web.

In the **US**, opposite trends in public versus private R&D investment can be observed: The Federal R&D investment stands at 0.8% of GDP, dropping from a relatively-stable pre-2008 level of 1% of GDP. Private R&D investment however, is moving in the opposite direction. According to Bloomberg Businessweek this month, between November 2014 and March 2015, US companies increased investments in R&D at the fastest pace in 50 years, reaching an annualised level of \$316 billion or 1.8 % of GDP (up from 1.7% last year or 1.6% in 2007). The big R&D spenders are mostly in the ICT and pharma sectors. The National Research Council released a new report «Diplomacy for the 21st century - Embedding a Culture of Science and Technology throughout the Department of State», that assesses the changing environment for S&T in diplomacy highlighting its critical role in a range of foreign policy issues.

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