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Innovation in
support of the
European
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7th Framework Programme

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Innovation*

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Research & Innovation in support of the European Neighbourhood Policy

7th Framework Programme

Edited by Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro

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Introduction

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004 with the objective of enhancing cooperation between the enlarged EU and neighbouring countries and thus strengthen prosperity, stability and security in the region. The ENP framework now extends to 16 of EU's closest neighbours – Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. The ENP, which is chiefly a bilateral policy between the EU and each partner country, is further enriched with regional and multilateral co-operation initiatives such as the Eastern Partnership (launched in Prague in May 2009), and the Union for the Mediterranean (the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, formerly known as the Barcelona Process, re-launched in Paris in July 2008).

The development of a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space (CKIS) linked to the EU 2020 smart growth pillar and its Innovation Agenda flagship initiative is one of the main priorities spelled out by the EU's new Neighbourhood Policy strategy of May 2011. The CKIS is meant to cover policy dialogue, national and regional capacity-building, cooperation in research and innovation, as well as increased mobility opportunities for students, researchers and academics.

The EU's Seventh Framework Programme (2007–13) (FP7), which is the main instrument to implement the EU research and innovation policy, has already paved the way to the CKIS achievement. Through the general opening of the programme and targeted international activities, the FP7 participation of stakeholders from ENP countries has indeed been very strong. Projects with an international component have been funded across all specific programmes of FP7. Theme-oriented international cooperation activities have developed under the FP7 'Cooperation' programme and international mobility under the FP7 'People' programme. The FP7 'Ideas' programme has supported excellence in frontier research and has provided individual top international researchers with opportunities to participate in European-led teams. Furthermore, the FP7 'Capacities' programme has contributed to optimise the use and development of research infrastructures, enhance the innovative capacities of SMEs, support regional research-driven clusters, bring European society and science closer together, and provide for horizontal actions and measures underlining international cooperation.

This booklet presents a selection of FP7 projects, which, among all those involving partners from the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs)¹ or the Eastern Partnership countries, directly contribute to the achievement of the CKIS. It is noteworthy that a majority of these projects are *Activities of International Cooperation*, a priority of the FP7 'Capacities' programme which supports international science and technology (S & T) cooperation policies and reinforces scientific relations with third countries. The projects are organised in

¹. Associated Countries to the Framework Programme, as having a distinct status to other ENP countries, will not be taken into account by this criterion.

nine thematic chapters, and for each project a short description and a list of all participating organisations and contact persons are provided.

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CHAPTER 1: ENERGY

J-Eracenter – The National Energy Research Center (NERC) as a centre of excellence for EU–Jordan S & T cooperation: towards Jordan’s integration into the ERA (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

JORIEW – Improving capacity of Jordanian Research in Integrated Renewable Energy and Water supply (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

MATS – Multipurpose Applications by Thermodynamic Solar

PERA – Palestine for European Research Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

WELL – Water and Energy for Life in Libya (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

J-Eracerter

The National Energy Research Center (NERC) as a centre of excellence for EU–Jordan S & T cooperation: towards Jordan’s integration into the ERA

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 602 479

Budget from EC: EUR 499 233

Contract number: 295073

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: NATIONAL ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching aim of the J-ERAceter is to contribute to the effective integration of Jordan into ERA, through building the National Energy Research Centre’s (NERC) organisational, strategic and human capacities to actively participate in European S&T partnerships and execute large-scale projects in the key area of Renewable Energy, with a view to creating a centre of excellence within Jordan and actively promoting further dissemination and replication in the region. Specifically J-ERAceter aims:

- To build capacities in international R&D cooperation and EU project management, by providing targeted training to NERC staff and researchers and enable them to replicate the knowledge benefiting a wider target group of researchers in Jordan.
- To strengthen direct links between research teams of NERC and their EU counterparts and initiate joint R&D initiatives in the area of Renewable Energy, through a series of networking/ partnering events and facilitating mobility of researchers.
- To ensure firm and sustainable implementation of the enhanced capacities at NERC with a view to

promoting the centre’s international competitiveness and improve its response to socio-economic challenges; through implementing specific internationalisation, visibility, IP and competitiveness strategies (for enhancement of the institutional development strategy), and the implementation of a R&D Cooperation Unit.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

J-ERAceter should promote the visibility and impact of this pilot action, positioning NERC as a Centre of Excellence for EU–Jordan RTD cooperation, via targeted multiplication and dissemination actions (networking events, info-days, seminars). Jordan’s leading research centre in Renewable Energy is the main beneficiary and coordinator, due to its high multiplier potential to act as catalyst for integration into ERA, and the importance of research to both regions. The consortium includes EU partners with complementary expertise in the scientific field and EU project management.

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JoRIEW

Improving capacity of Jordanian Research in Integrated Renewable Energy and Water supply

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 602 479

Budget from EC: EUR 499 233

Contract number: 266579

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: HASHEMITE UNIVERSITY

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the JoRIEW project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of Jordanian research centres by promoting closer scientific collaboration with a number of ERA-located research centres and universities. The JoRIEW project will help structure and enhance S&T cooperation in areas of common interest, such as research system integration, integrated energy and water planning, and development of water supply systems that can be powered by intermittent renewable energies, in particular flexible pumping techniques and reverse osmosis desalination technology, where joint research efforts could bring common solutions and mutual benefits. It opens a new chapter of scientific cooperation between the EC and Jordan, an important partner in the EU's neighbourhood policy.

ACTIVITIES

Improving Jordanian capacities in research will be achieved through:

- ▶ the networking of Jordanian and EU research centres in view of disseminating

scientific information, identifying partners and setting up joint research;

- ▶ developing training modules to build competency and facilitate Jordanian participation in FP7;

- ▶ developing the Jordanian research strategy for sustainable and renewable energy and water desalination in order to increase its scope, and to improve its responses to the socioeconomic needs of Jordan and other countries in the region.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The JoRIEW project actions aim to enhance international cooperation with Jordan by including S&T capacity-building activities (human resources, research policy, networks of researchers and research institutes). The project will enable Jordanian researchers to contribute to the solution of local, regional and global problems and to economic and social development. Enhanced research capacity will also encourage researchers to compete internationally in terms of scientific excellence and increase their incentives to continue to base their research activities in Jordan.

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MATS

Multipurpose Applications by Thermodynamic Solar

Period: 19/07/2011 to 18/01/2015

Total cost: EUR 20 457 086

Budget from EC: EUR 11 755 050

Contract number: 268219

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE
NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L'ENERGIA E LO
SVILUPPO ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

MATS project aims at promoting the exploitation of concentrated solar energy through small and middle-scale facilities, suitable to fulfil local requirements of power and heat, and easy to back-up with the renewable fuels already available locally or that can be expressly produced. More particularly, MATS project is focused on the innovative CSP technology developed by ENEA as an improvement to its solar thermodynamic technology based on molten salts as heat transfer fluid. This technology, referred to as TREBIOS, allows combined heat and power production from a solar source integrated with renewable fuels, such as biomass, biogas and industrial residues.

ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the project allows for testing of the CSP (concentrating solar power) technology in a location very advantageous with regard to the solar radiation rate, as an example for the diffusion of this technology to other Mediterranean countries.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The expected impact of the project is to start up the development of specialised local industries in the Mediterranean countries.

COORDINATOR

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PERA

Palestine for European Research Area

Period: 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2013

Total cost: EUR 508 754

Budget from EC: EUR 454 614

Contract number: 266605

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: PALESTINE TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY - KADOORIE (PTUK)

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The PERA project aims to strengthen capacities of the Palestine Technical University — Kadoorie (PTUK), while developing it as an international centre of excellence, and reinforcing the cooperation capacities and research activities in Palestinian's water and energy sectors by defining water and energy research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European water and energy research initiatives and inclusion in the European research area.

ACTIVITIES

The project will support the coordination between policy, research and business in the field of water and energy in Palestine. By setting up a Palestinian environmental national contact point (NCP), it will enable a better participation of Palestine in framework programmes and will contribute to enhance the EU–Palestine

S&T partnerships in energy and water research. The project will also focus on building the capacities of PTUK's for solving specific energy and water problems, and will contribute to strengthen its cooperation capacities by developing a strategy of research valorisation and internationalisation of the centre.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The main impact of PERA will be the increased capacities of the PTUK centre and the structuring and enhancement of the existing EU–Palestinian territories support landscape in energy and water S&T cooperation in a threefold way by: (i) supporting the participation of Palestine in FP7, (ii) knitting together all relevant support schemes, and (iii) facilitating both the uptake of water and energy research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of this cooperation.

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WELL

Water and Energy for Life in Libya

Period: 01/07/2012 to 30/06/2014

Total cost: EUR 556.003

Budget from EC: EUR 495.769

Contract number: 295143

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: GENERAL WATER AUTHORITY

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The WELL project aims to strengthen the capacities of the General Water Authority while turning it into an international centre of excellence, and reinforcing the cooperation capacities and research activities in Libyan's water and energy sectors by defining research priorities in water and energy to respond to socio-economic needs, facilitating participation in the European water and energy research initiatives and inclusion in the European Research Area. Considering the actual crisis in Libya, the WELL project represents a model to overtake "standard" CSA project, pointing out the importance of the Governance inside the "Triple Helix" (Policy, Research and Business) in Libya and fostering capacities of GWA to participate at FP7 Calls.

The specific objectives of WELL project are:

- Better Coordination Between Policy, Research and Business in Libya
- Enabling Better Participation in Framework Programmes
- Enhancement of EU-LIBYA S&T Partnership in Energy and Water Research

- Capacity Building for Solving Specific Energy and Water Issues
- GWA's Strengthening and Cooperation Capacities Reinforcement
- Energy and Water Research Results Dissemination
- Fostering innovation in Libya through active participation of SMEs in FP7
- Increase job opportunities that encourage gender equality in Libya, in particular for young scientists

EXPECTED RESULTS

The main impact of WELL will be increased capacities of the GWA centre and the structuring and enhancement of the existing EU-Libya support landscape in Energy and Water S&T cooperation through a fourfold way: (i) by proposing a Research-focused Triple Helix Governance Model to enhance stability in the Country, (ii) by supporting the participation of Libya in the FP7 and other EU related initiatives, (iii) knitting together all relevant support schemes, and (iv) facilitating both the uptake of water and energy research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of this cooperation.

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CHAPTER 2: ENVIRONMENT

BAT4MED - Boosting Best Available Techniques in the Mediterranean Partner Countries

CB-WR-MED - Capacity Building for direct Water Reuse in the Mediterranean Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

CLIMB - Climate Induced changes on the hydrology of Mediterranean basins: reducing uncertainty and quantifying risk through an integrated monitoring and modelling system

CLIM-RUN - Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region: Responding to User Needs

DEBPAL2 - Reinforcing Capacity Building for Defending Biodiversity in the Palestinian Territories (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

EcoArm2ERA – EU cooperation capacity-building of the Centre for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia: towards Armenia's integration into the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

ENVIROGRIDS - Building Capacity for a Black Sea Catchment Observation and Assessment System supporting Sustainable Development

FUME - Forest fires under climate, social and economic changes in Europe, the Mediterranean and other fire-affected areas of the world

INCOMMET - Improving National Capacities in Observation and Management of Marine Environment in Tunisia (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

MEDINA - Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Indicators for North Africa

MEDSEA - MEDiterranean Sea Acidification in a changing climate

MOICT - Morocco Research Advance in ICT for Water (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

PEGASO - People for Ecosystem-based Governance in assessing sustainable development of Ocean and Coast

PERSEUS – Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in the Southern European Seas

PROMITHEAS-4 – Knowledge transfer and research needs for preparing mitigation/adaptation policy portfolios

SASPARM – Support Action for Strengthening Palestinian-administrated Areas capabilities for Seismic Risk Mitigation (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

SUDSOE - Spontaneous clearance in Patients acutely infected with HCV — Immune profiling, Novel biomarkers and X-omics approaches (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

BAT4MED

Boosting Best Available Techniques in the Mediterranean Partner Countries

Period: 01/12/2010 to 31/05/2013
Total cost: EUR 1 151 853
Budget from EC: EUR 943 365
Contract number: 265327

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE
TECNOLOGIA

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

BAT4MED's main objective is to ensure a higher level of environmental protection of the Mediterranean region, minimising the negative impacts associated with the activities of the key industrial sectors. With this aim, the possibilities for and impact of diffusing the EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control approach to the Mediterranean partner countries (MPC) will be assessed and the implementation of best available techniques in the national environmental programmes will be promoted and supported. BAT4MED aims to help implement the EU's technologies action plan by supporting the transfer and uptake of environmental technologies in developing countries. Industrial pollution processes account for a considerable share of the overall pollution in the Mediterranean region. Though awareness of environmental issues related to industrial pollution has notably grown in the last decades, pollution monitoring shows that positive results have hardly been achieved. The goal of the project justifies its transnational dimension, since pollution in the Mediterranean has a

global dimension and cannot be tackled separately by each single country.

ACTIVITIES

The project brings together eight organisations from six countries: four organisations from three EU Member States (Spain, Belgium, Italy), three from three MPC (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) and one international organisation based in Egypt to build mutual understanding through established networking in industrial pollution prevention and control.

Firstly, BAT4MED will analyse the industrial context in the MPC to select the most promising sectors with the highest environmental benefit potential. Secondly, a methodology for BAT assessment will be designed and applied and BAT will be selected for each identified sector taking into account local conditions. Lastly, an analysis of potential convergence of MPC policies with the EU approach will be carried out. The project includes an ambitious set of awareness creation and dissemination activities.

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Capacity Building for direct Water Reuse in the Mediterranean Area

Period: 01/11/2010 to 30/04/2013
Total cost: EUR 549 064
Budget from EC: EUR 490 665
Contract number: 266609

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: CENTRE DE RECHERCHES
ET DES TECHNOLOGIES DES EAUX
Website: <http://www.cbwrmed.eu/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

In the Mediterranean region, pressure on water resources is high, so there is no water to waste. Water is becoming a limiting factor for agricultural, and even for industrial, development. Treated wastewater is part of the community's water resources and one component of a sustainable water management approach. Directly reusing wastewater, instead of discharging it in the network, reduces the costs of treatment and avoids dumping biological recalcitrant compounds into water streams. To reach this objective, water treatment should target: (i) pollutants degradation, (ii) multi-purpose water use, and (iii) sustainability of the technologies. The reinforcement of cooperation between EU and ENP countries is necessary to implement sustainable water management. The project proposes to use the framework of the FP7 programme ERA-WIDE to reinforce the cooperation capacities of the Centre of Water Researches and Technologies (CERTE), a Tunisian research

centre, in specific areas where CERTE already has expertise to build on its competency and capacity. The topic 'wastewater treatment for elimination of recalcitrant compounds allowing multiuse of the water and direct recycling and avoiding pollution of water system' is considered the leitmotiv of this project.

ACTIVITIES

The project will focus on the reinforcement of the R & D capacities of CERTE, as well as on its regional and international impact, with the ultimate goal that R & D activities lead to a fruitful cooperation with the EU for sustainable water management in accordance with national and European strategies. High attention is given to capacity building on EC cooperation and scientific research through workshops, trainings, technical visits and pilot plants upgrading. The construction of a web platform and the organization of a network and international conference will help disseminate the results of these efforts.

COORDINATOR

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CLIMB

Climate Induced changes on the hydrology of Mediterranean basins: reducing uncertainty and quantifying risk through an integrated monitoring and modelling system

Period: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2013

Total cost: EUR 4 157 348

Budget from EC: EUR 3 148 945

Contract number: 244151

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: LUDWIG- MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

OBJECTIVES

CLIMB aims to employ and integrate advanced field monitoring techniques, remote sensing analyses and retrievals, climate models auditing and integrated hydrologic modelling and socioeconomic factor assessment in a new conceptual framework to significantly reduce existing uncertainties in climate change impact analysis. During its four-year design, an analysis of climate change impacts on available water resources will be targeted on seven mesoscale river or aquifer systems in Italy (2), France, Tunisia, Turkey, Gaza and Egypt. Each of the selected sites includes one more of the following components, which cause a threat to future water security: high agricultural productivity, irrigation, heavy multisource nutrient loads and pollution, seawater intrusion and growing water use rivalries. Methodology CLIMB comprises eight work packages (WP). WP 0 identifies and fosters the scientific synergies within a cluster with WASSERMed and CLICO and other topic-related projects. The ultimate goal of this WP is to establish a more focused and efficient policy outreach. WP

1 manages and coordinates the CLIMB consortium internally. WP2 develops and provides the common data infrastructure for and throughout the project. WPs 3 to 6 focus on scientific research, development and innovation of technologies. These WPs are interconnected by means of interfaces, dependencies and feedback loops to ensure an iterative reduction of uncertainty and a more accurate assessment of water-related ecological and economic risk. WP 7 is devoted to the interaction with stakeholders. It builds upon scientific progress and ensures a coherent dissemination of project findings.

EXPECTED RESULTS

CLIMB will develop a site-specific set of recommendations for an improved and integrated monitoring and modelling strategy for the assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources and use. Relevant sources of uncertainty in the data and modelling chain will be revealed, quantified and reduced. The integration of hydrological model results

and socioeconomic factor analysis is intended for the development of a GIS-based modular vulnerability and risk assessment tool. This tool will serve as a platform for the dissemination of project results, including communication with and

planning for regional agriculture and water resources experts and stakeholders as well as for the discussion and comparison of scientific results with teams working in the abovementioned cluster.

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CLIM-RUN

Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region: Responding to User Needs

Period: 01/03/2011 to 28/02/2014

Total cost: EUR 4 680 341

Budget from EC: EUR 3 489 334

Contract number: 265192

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO

Website: www.climrun.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

CLIM-RUN aims at developing a protocol for applying new methodologies and improved modelling and downscaling tools for the provision of adequate climate information at regional to local scale that is relevant to and usable by different sectors of society (policymakers, industry, cities, etc.). The region of interest for the project is the greater Mediterranean area, which is particularly important for two reasons. First, the Mediterranean is a recognised climate change hotspot, i.e. a region particularly sensitive and vulnerable to global warming. Second, while a number of countries in central and northern Europe already have well-developed climate service networks in place (e.g. the United Kingdom and Germany), no such network is available in the Mediterranean.

ACTIVITIES

Differently to current approaches, CLIM-RUN will develop a bottom-up protocol directly involving stakeholders early in the process with the aim of identifying well-

defined needs at the regional to local scale. The improved modelling and downscaling tools will then be used to optimally respond to these specific needs. The protocol will be assessed by applying it to relevant case studies involving interdependent sectors, primarily tourism and energy, and natural hazards (wild fires) for representative target areas (mountainous regions, coastal areas, islands).

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

CLIM-RUN is thus also intended to provide the seed for the formation of a Mediterranean basin-side climate service network which would eventually converge into a pan-European network. The general time horizon of interest for the project is the period 2010–2050, a time horizon that encompasses the contributions of both inter-decadal variability and greenhouse forced climate change. In particular, this time horizon places CLIM-RUN within the context of a new emerging area of research, that of decadal prediction, which will provide a strong potential for novel research.

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Reinforcing Capacity Building for Defending Biodiversity in the Palestinian Territories

Period: 01/03/2012 to 28/02/2015

Total cost: EUR 499 587

Budget from EC: EUR 499 587

Contract number: 294936

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: AL QUDS UNIVERSITY -
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY -
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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Palestinian territories are an emblematic case of massive biodiversity loss (both natural and agricultural), which has a series of severe consequences on the state of the environment, of human life and the economy. As the United Nations Environment Programme stated in 2003, biodiversity is one of the fundamental pillars of the future sustainable development of the Palestinian territories that presents all the escalating environmental threats of the Mediterranean region worsened by the acute environmental degradation caused by conflicts. In recent years, the most critical conflict-related problem has been the extensive land clearing (with the connected soil degradation, land aridification, and erosion of biodiversity in all its manifestations). The nearly 750 km long separation barrier ('Wall') has significant repercussions on biodiversity, by causing the fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats, and by cutting natural ecological corridors, on the one hand, and by eliminating traditional agriculture on a wide scale, on the other.

The Palestinian territories, divided into four main environmental-biogeographical zones, are part of a 'hotspot of biodiversity': the Mediterranean basin. To qualify as a hotspot, a geographical region has to be characterised both by exceptional levels of plant endemism and serious levels of habitat loss. It must meet two criteria: it must contain at least 1 500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70 % of its original habitat. In other words, hotspots are the earth's biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial ecoregions. The Palestinian territories are an emblematic case of this ecological degradation, and need to be supported in their potential activities addressed at protecting biodiversity.

The objective of the project is to increase the capacity building of Al Quds University in the strategic field of biodiversity (including agro-biodiversity), and in the interlinked fields of conservation and restoration as requested by the international Convention on Biological Diversity, through a coherent plan foreseeing networking and joint research activities with the well-experienced Tuscia

University; training in technological transfer towards local SMEs; training in FP7 project appraisal and development of its own research strategy

ACTIVITIES

The DEBPAL2 work plan consists of different sets of activities.

►Networking and joint research activities in biodiversity conservation and restoration and related socioeconomic aspects, with a well experienced Italian university that has developed many European projects in this field.

►Training in technology transfer from research to business with an Italian SME, already involved in the demonstration of new technologies and new business systems in the Mediterranean area.

►Training in the approach, selection, preparation and submission of EU-funded environmental projects; the Italian university will develop the training as regards environmental and biodiversity conservation matters, and a Belgian non-

profit association will develop the general FP7 part.

►Development of Al Quds University's research/ policy strategy, able to support the government in its environmental planning activities, according to EU policy and objectives.

►Dissemination and project management activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The competences, techniques and technologies that will be developed in Al Quds University focus on integrating biodiversity, cultural and social perspectives into a coherent sustainable landscape management. This approach is strategic for the Palestinian territories but also, in a larger dimension, for the whole of the Mediterranean region, where the erosion of biodiversity is worsening and there is an increasing problem due to climate change, the human impact on the environment and the absence of consistent global politics to combat and control them.

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ECOARM2ERA

EU Cooperation Capacity Building of Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia: Towards Armenia's integration into the ERA

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/11/2014

Total cost: EUR 560.700

Budget from EC: EUR 499.957

Contract number: 294924

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL-

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Website: <http://ecoarm2era.eu/>

OBJECTIVES

The central goal of the project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of Armenia's leading research institute in the field of environmental research and ecology — the Centre for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (CENS). This overall goal will be achieved through the following specific objectives:

- to define and promote a sustainable development strategy for the CENS focusing on the overall improvement of the institution's capacities, visibility and competitiveness;
- to develop a strategic partnership between CENS and the Earth Sciences Institute, University College Dublin (UCD), and the Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva (UNIGE), and to build CENS' capacity to acquire and carry out international collaborative research partnerships;
- to build the competencies needed by Armenian researchers and staff members in order to participate in the FP7/FP8 programmes.

DESCRIPTION

EcoArm2ERA consists of five work packages (WP) that contribute to the building of CENS' capacities and to its integration into the European research area.

- WP1, Strategy, comprises the organisation of a strategy working group, the performance of a SWOT analysis and the creation of the corresponding strategic development agenda for CENS. Apart from the valuable input from the European twinning partners UCD and UNIGE, additional advice will be sought externally from appropriate bodies.

- WP2, Twinning, comprises the development and implementation of a plan for joint research. This includes, in particular, the development and implementation of at least two joint research projects and the initiation of joint publications and joint research proposals, as well as the setting up of a virtual research laboratory between CENS and its European twinning partners UCD and UNIGE. Mutual study visits and the conducting of the EcoArm2ERA scientific workshop and EcoArm2ERA summer school are integral parts of the twinning efforts and will enable sustainable integration of CENS into the European research area.

- WP3, Training, comprises two different training measures: (i) the preparation and conducting of two FP7/FP8 training workshops; and (ii) the implementation of a coaching scheme which will enable on-going practical and guided training in FP7/ FP8 project management and acquisition of CENS staff. Thus, rather than just theoretical education, CENS staff will receive hands-on training on the job.
- WP4, Project coordination/ dissemination, supports the activities in all work packages. The targeted project coordination and quality control mechanisms will lay the basis for the achievement of top-quality results and timely delivery within the given budgetary constraints. Moreover, adequate risk identification and handling procedures are in place. The fact that CENS is directly supported by the experienced partner GIRAF contributes to the general effectiveness of the project management activities and procedures. The project's dissemination strategy will be developed in order to deliver the planned impacts.
- WP5, Project management.

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ENVIROGRIDS

Building Capacity for a Black Sea Catchment Observation and Assessment System supporting Sustainable Development

Period: 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2013
Total cost: EUR 8.007.430
Budget from EC: EUR 6.222.574
Contract number: 226740

Funding scheme: CP
Coordinator: UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
Website: <http://envirogrids.net/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Black Sea Catchment is internationally known as one of ecologically unsustainable development and inadequate resource management, which has led to severe environmental, social and economic problems. EnviroGRIDS @ Black Sea Catchment aims at building the capacities of regional stakeholders to use new international standards to gather, store, distribute, analyse, visualize and disseminate crucial information on past, present and future states of the environment, in order to assess its sustainability and vulnerability. The EnviroGRIDS @ Black Sea Catchment project addresses these issues by bringing several emerging information technologies that are revolutionizing the way we are able to observe our planet. The Group on Earth Observation Systems of Systems (GEOSS) is building a data-driven view of our planet that feeds into models and scenarios. EnviroGRIDS aims at building the capacity of scientist to assemble such a system in the Black Sea Catchment that will address several GEO Societal Benefit Areas within a changing climate framework. This system will

incorporate a shared information system that operates on the boundary of scientific/technical partners, stakeholders and the public. It will contain an early warning system able to inform in advance decision-makers and the public about risks to human health, biodiversity and ecosystems integrity, agriculture production or energy supply caused by climatic, demographic and land cover changes on a 50-year time horizon the capacity of decision-makers to use it, and the capacity of the general public to understand the important environmental, social and economic issues at stake.

ACTIVITIES

To achieve its objectives, EnviroGRIDS will build an ultra-modern Grid enabled Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) that will become one component in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), compatible with the new EU directive on Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Union (INSPIRE). EnviroGRIDS will particularly target the needs of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) and the International Commission for the Protection of the

Danube River (ICPDR) in order to help bridging the gap between science and policy.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Among the outcomes of the project will be a gap analysis of existing regional observation systems to prepare recommendations for improvement of networks for data acquisition in the region/country; an improved regional network to coordinate the efforts of partners active in observation systems; a spatial data infrastructure to link, gather, store, manage and distribute key environmental data; real-time access sensors and satellites data; spatially explicit scenarios of key changes in land cover, climate and demography; grid-enabled spatial data infrastructure for large calculations and datasets; streamlined production of indicators on sustainability and vulnerability of societal benefits; early warning and decision support tools at regional, national and local levels; and capacities developed in the implementation of many new SDI frameworks (INSPIRE, GEOSS, UNSDI,..).

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FUME

Forest fires under climate, social and economic changes in Europe, the Mediterranean and other fire-affected areas of the world

Period: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2013

Total cost: EUR 8 228 227

Budget from EC: EUR 6178 153

Contract number: 243888

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: UNIVERSIDAD DE CASTILLA - LA MANCHA

Website: www.fumeproject.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Fire regimes result from interactions between climate, land-use and land-cover (LULC), and socioeconomic factors, among other. These have changed during the last decades, particularly around the Mediterranean. Our understanding of how they affected fire regimes in the past is limited. During this century, temperatures, droughts and heat waves will very likely increase, and rainfall decrease. These and other socioeconomic changes will affect LULC. Additional areas will be abandoned due to being unsuitable for agriculture or other uses. Fire dangers and fire hazards are very likely to increase, affecting fire regimes. FUME will learn from the past to understand future impacts.

ACTIVITIES

Mod. 1 will study how LULC and socioeconomic factors have changed and how climate and weather have affected fire in dynamically changing landscapes. Fires will be mapped throughout Europe to determine hazard burning functions for different LULC types. Since climate has changed, an attempt to attribute (sensu

IPCC) fire regime changes to climate, differentiating it from socioeconomic changes, will be made. Mod. 2 will produce scenarios of change (climate, including extremes, land-use land-cover, socioeconomics, vegetation) for various emissions pathways and three time-slices during this century. With these and other results from Mod.1, projected impacts from models and field experiments on fire regime and vegetation vulnerabilities will be calculated, including climate extremes (drought, heatwaves). Mod. 3 will investigate adaptation options in fire and land management, including restoration. Fire prevention and firefighting protocols will be tested/developed under the new conditions for mitigating fire risks. A company managing fires will be a key player.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The costs and policy impacts of changes in fires will be studied. Research will focus on old and new fire areas, the rural interface, the whole of Europe and the Mediterranean, including all Mediterranean countries of the world.

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INCOMMET

Improving National Capacities in Observation and Management of Marine Environment in Tunisia

Period: 01/01/2012 to 30/12/2015

Total cost: EUR 813 918

Budget from EC: EUR 499 962

Contract number: 295009

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The INCOMMET project, coordinated by the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM), the major public research institution in Tunisia in the field of oceanography and marine environments, and also involving the University of the Mediterranean (UNIVMED, France) and the Zoological Station of Naples (SZN, Italy) aims at increasing research excellence and visibility of INSTM, and fostering its participation into ERA.

stage researchers, PhD and master students to improve INSTM scientific and technological capacities. To enhance EUINSTM cooperation and visibility and increase INSTM's participation in EU FP or related EU programmes, specific training will be provided by the EU Grant Unit of UNIVMED to INSTM administrative staff and researchers. INCOMMET will elaborate a strategy to improve the internal and scientific structuring of INSTM and will conduct regional and national lobbying to increase the visibility of INSTM.

ACTIVITIES

INCOMMET is structured in 6 work packages (WP) providing ideal conditions to achieve its goals. To reinforce the management capacity of INSTM with EU projects, a twinned management will be ensured by INSTM and the European Research Grant Unit of UNIVMED. The consortium will make a scientific literature review on Mediterranean areas close to Tunisia and will undertake a SWOT analysis of INSTM. This will define training courses, workshops, twinnings and visits targeting INSTM staff, early

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

INCOMMET will design an International Mixed Laboratory involving INSTM and its partners and elaborate a common EU research programme. The international scientific recognition of INSTM will be reinforced by strengthening communication and dissemination through a public website, production of leaflets, scientific DVDs, local conferences targeting socio-economic partners and stakeholders and a final international conference.

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MEDINA

Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Indicators for North Africa

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2014

Total cost: EUR 4 195 232

Budget from EC: EUR 3 454 575

Contract number: 282977

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: UNIVERSITA CA' FOSCARI
VENEZIA

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

MEDINA is designed to enhance northern African countries' monitoring capacity of their coastal area ecosystems, including fish stock resources, and consequently their capacity to implement environmental policies, conventions and protocols. In response to this call for proposals and supported by a strong European partnership, MEDINA focuses on the Mediterranean coasts of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The plan to enhance those countries' monitoring capacity relies on a science and technology transfer approach, starting from the solid European experience in Mediterranean coastal management and active participation across GEO activities and Communities of Practice.

ACTIVITIES

MEDINA plans to achieve its objectives by implementing and demonstrating a set of five thematic pilot case studies, based on the requirements identified during the project's initial phase. Relevant data include satellite earth observations (EO), in situ monitoring networks, airborne and ground survey information as well as

socioeconomic data, ecological analyses and national and regional cartographic datasets. Data availability to all parties will be ensured through the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI). Existing software components for data access, processing and modelling will be adapted to requirements gathered within MEDINA and integrated in the GCI. MEDINA will exploit the GCI capabilities populating its registries and complying with the GEOSS data sharing principles. In agreement with the GCI System of Systems philosophy, MEDINA will build on existing national capacities — represented in the project by key actors in ICZM — completing and advancing them, where necessary.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

MEDINA will mobilise such resources by assembling them in a dedicated e-infrastructure. Addressing user requirements, a set of specific tools will complete the platform to advance the scientific knowledge. These tools will enable MEDINA to assess the status of the coastal ecosystem, including fish stocks and marine habitats.

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MEDSEA

MEDiterranean Sea Acidification in a changing climate

Period: 01/02/2011 to 31/01/2014

Total cost: EUR 4 824 147

Budget from EC: EUR 3 490 169

Contract number: 265103

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA

Website: <http://www.medsea-project.eu>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Increases of atmospheric CO₂ and associated decreases in seawater pH this century are likely to have wide impacts on marine ecosystems including those of the Mediterranean Sea. A consequence of this process, ocean acidification, threatens the health of the Mediterranean, adding to other anthropogenic pressures, including those from climate change. Yet in comparison to other areas of the world's oceans, there has been no concerted effort to study Mediterranean acidification, which is fundamental to the social and economic conditions of more than 130 million people living along its coastlines and another 175 million who visit the region each year.

ACTIVITIES

The MedSeA project addresses ecological and economic impacts from the combined influences of anthropogenic acidification and warming, while accounting for the unique characteristics of this key region. MedSeA will forecast chemical, climatic, ecological-biological, and socioeconomic changes of the Mediterranean driven by

increases in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, while focusing on the combined impacts of acidification and warming on marine shell and skeletal building, productivity, and food webs. An interdisciplinary approach will be followed involving biologists, earth scientists, and economists, through observations, experiments, and modelling. These experts will provide projections of Mediterranean acidification under the influence of climate change as well as associated economic impacts. Projections will be based on new observations of chemical conditions as well as new observational and experimental data on the responses of key organisms and ecosystems to acidification and warming, which will be fed into existing ocean models that have been improved to account for the Mediterranean's fine-scale features.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

These scientific advances will allow the best advice to be provided to policymakers who must develop regional strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

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MOICT

Morocco Research Advance in ICT for Water

Period: 01/01/2012 to 30/06/2014

Total cost: EUR 552 910

Budget from EC: EUR 494 566

Contract number: 295053

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: UNIVERSITÉ SIDI MOHAMED
BEN ABDELLAH

Website: www.usmba.ac.ma

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the MoICT project is to strengthen Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Morocco's collaborative and technical capacities, to reinforce the ICT for water research and application in the context of the European Research Area, as well as to develop a research centre of excellence to respond to Morocco's socio-economic needs. More specifically, MoICT aims to set up an innovation collaboration framework to enhance cooperation between research and the private sector and enable better conditions for young researchers.

ACTIVITIES

The specific actions to be implemented are the following ones: - Strategic strengthening of USMBA to become a regional centre of excellence; - Strengthening of USMBA capacities for ICT research and application in the water sector; - Improving innovation capacities and the quality of research management; - Better integration in ERA and enhanced EU-Morocco research cooperation in ICT and water sectors; - Research results and project information dissemination to

wider EU/ Mediterranean audiences; - Support to young researchers through targeted mobility schemes; - Fostering innovation through collaboration with industry stakeholders.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The MoICT project's main outcome will be better integration of Moroccan researchers in ERA and strengthened USMBA research centre in terms of: increased USMBA ICT and Water research capacities and established permanent dialogue with innovation actors; increased research management capabilities and regional coverage encompassing strategic relations within Morocco, Mediterranean countries and EU regions; enhanced number of international research partnerships and participation in the FP7; better conditions enabled for Moroccan young researchers' scientific career. The project brings together a well-defined mix of expertise in water research, ICT and strategic capacity building, represented by a consortium of one Moroccan and three EU partners.

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PEGASO

People for Ecosystem-based Governance in assessing sustainable development of Ocean and Coast

Period: 01/02/2010 to 31/01/2014

Total cost: EUR 8 903 161

Budget from EC: EUR 6 999 005

Contract number: 244170

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA

Website: <http://www.pegasoproject.eu>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Many efforts have been deployed for developing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. Both basins have suffered and continue to suffer from severe environmental degradation. In many areas this has led to unsustainable trends which have impacted on economic activities and human well-being. Important progress was made with the launch of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea in January 2008. The main objective of PEGASO is to build on existing capacities and develop common novel approaches to support integrated policies for the coastal, marine and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins in ways that are consistent with and relevant to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea. PEGASO is consistent with the frameworks of the Barcelona and Bucharest conventions which seek to achieve a coordinated approach to sustainable resource management and development, and to protect these regional seas and the quality of life of their peoples. It also

continues ICZM efforts, supporting new marine and maritime policies.

METHODOLOGY

PEGASO will use the model of the existing ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea and adjust it to the needs of the Black Sea through three innovative actions.

- ▶ Construct an ICZM governance platform as a bridge between scientist and end-user communities, going far beyond a conventional bridging. The building of a shared scientific and end-user platform is at the heart of our proposal linked with new models of governance.

- ▶ Refine and further develop efficient and easy-to-use tools for making sustainability assessments in the coastal zone (indicators, accounting methods and models, scenarios). These will be tested and validated in a multiscale approach for integrated regional assessment.

- ▶ Implement a spatial data infrastructure (SDI), following the INSPIRE directive, to organise and standardise spatial data to support information sharing on an interactive visor, to make it available to the ICZM platform, and to disseminate all

results of the project to the end users and interested parties.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ▶ EU ICZM recommendation (2002–07) and ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean: Review of the set of ICZM indicators dealing with land and its interface to the sea. Updating of the ICZM indicators to measure sustainable development of the coast and building of an indicator of progress in ICZM. Stocktaking to know how countries are prepared for implementation. Building of a governance platform, sustainability tools and SDI.
- ▶ Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD): Design and implementation of indicators for sustainable development. Gathering of seabed maps. Development of a spatial indicator for 'ecological potential'. Measurement of impacts from some maritime activities.
- ▶ Maritime spatial planning: Stocktaking of maritime activities and future scenarios. Identification and assessment of cumulative impacts on key spaces. Participative decision making for spatial maritime planning.

- ▶ Climate change adaptation (EU Green Paper): Methodology for vulnerability and risk assessment in coastal zones. Guidelines for adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- ▶ Halting biodiversity loss by 2010, Habitats and Birds directives: Implementation of the relevant SEBI indicators in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Accounting for biodiversity loss in wetlands, islands and marine protected areas (MPA). Urban impacts and intensive agricultural impacts on designated sites.
- ▶ Water Framework directive: Development of indicators. Development of land–sea scenarios on water and ecosystem quality.
- ▶ Fisheries (especially ecosystem-based management): Spatial integrated indicators and assessment on this issue. Accounting of ecosystem services such as aquaculture.
- ▶ Horizon 2020: Mapping of urban growth and scenarios. Water use and management.
- ▶ SEA directive: Development of impact indicators. Identification of main future threats and priorities to mitigate them or to adapt. Production of tools to be used in assessments.
- ▶ Cohesion funds: Identification of most vulnerable areas and issues for funding.

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PERSEUS

Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in the Southern European Seas

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015

Total cost: EUR 16.947.071

Budget from EC: EUR 12.973.123

Contract number: 287600

Funding scheme: CP

Coordinator: HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH

Website: <http://www.perseus-net.eu>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

PERSEUS is a research project that assesses the dual impact of human activity and natural pressures on the Mediterranean and Black Seas. It merges natural and socio-economic sciences to predict the long-term effects of these pressures on marine ecosystems and it aims to design an effective and innovative research governance framework, which will provide the basis for policymakers to turn back the tide on marine life degradation by achieving Good Environmental Status for EU seas by 2020.

The PERSEUS project aims to identify the interacting patterns of natural and human-derived pressures on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, assess their impact on marine ecosystems and, using the objectives and principles outlined in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, to then design an effective and innovative research governance framework based on solid scientific knowledge. The project will help

Mediterranean and Black Sea countries to reach Good Environmental Status (GES) and reach the goal of 'Clean Seas by 2020' through adaptive policies and management schemes, as well as policy recommendations, in order to design feasible management schemes for marine governance. By providing strong links between natural and socio-economic sciences, PERSEUS will not only help to predict the long-term effects of such pressures on marine ecosystems but also by assessing good environmental status in a coherent and integrated (holistic) manner, it will support the ecosystem-based approach to management.

PERSEUS will engage scientists, policymakers and the public, thereby reaching a shared understanding and informed decision-making based on sound scientific knowledge, with particular reference not only to the MSFD, but also to the relevant features of the Integrated Maritime Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and the SES regional sea conventions, the UNEP/Mediterranean

Action Plan and the Black Sea Commission.

ACTIVITIES

Some of the actions and activities already carried out in the first year of PERSEUS include the identification of the interacting patterns of natural and human-derived pressures in basin, sub-basin and coastal scale through an extensive literature review, as well as a thorough Gap analysis on data and knowledge. In parallel, and in order to achieve the necessary integration, the pressures in socio-economic terms have been analysed. In order to upgrade and expand the observing capacity in the SES for the implementation of MSFD, a review of the ocean observing systems in the SES and recommendations on upgrades has been prepared. The stage towards engaging remotely operated monitoring and modelling capabilities as scientific tools to evaluate the SES environmental status has been set by generating and distributing the forcing functions [surface and land-based fluxes (run off and nutrient loads) for current and scenario conditions] needed to provide model boundary conditions and, by upgrading existing models towards an “Ecosystem E2E” perspective that will link and couple together Lower and Higher Trophic Levels models. Towards the Basin wide (EU and non-EU) promotion of MSFD principles PERSEUS has reviewed the EU MSFD Initial Assessments (data, methodologies and/or principles) and identified knowledge/data gaps. An effort was also made to promote the principles of MSFD, by training ministry officials of the BSEC countries and by presenting PERSEUS

work in several Mediterranean and Black Sea countries (e.g. Cyprus Presidency, Water Conference, Balkan Environmental Association, Istanbul etc.) The state of play for the implementation of the Adaptive Policy Framework has been defined along with the participating stakeholders. Finally, the scientific and operational needs of the new vessel have been identified and evaluated.

The project’s work plan has been initiated with the aim to identify the gaps of knowledge and, building on these gaps, to propose the sampling and experiment strategy for next year. Workshops have been organised between and within tasks and disciplines. The state of play for the implementation of the Adaptive Policy Framework has been defined by taking an initial stock of the scientific, technical, economic, legal and institutional knowledge needed and developing the necessary Stakeholder platforms, using participatory methods. The scenarios have been initially agreed in a common workshop. PERSEUS has developed an excellent plan for the dissemination of knowledge, collaboration with existing projects and engagement of the public, going beyond borders and regions.

PERSEUS will take advantage of the on-going and past research projects including observations, data management, modelling and information supply to users and stakeholders. Efforts with other EU initiatives will be coordinated as well as with other Mediterranean and Black Sea initiatives, as the PERSEUS Management Team believes that together we can achieve more than what one single project can do. The goal is to make the

best possible use of previous investments in order to maximise impact and avoid the duplication of efforts. Principal Investigators, WP leaders or coordinators from several national and international projects are and will be actively involved in PERSEUS.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

PERSEUS will strengthen scientific networking, will build upon existing SES scientific tools, projects and networks and involve a large number of scientists from many EU and non-EU countries surrounding the SES. The project will provide opportunities for scientific cooperation and networking between scientists from EU and non-EU countries from the beginning of the project, through several training activities, personnel exchange schemes and workshops, achieving the maximum cooperation between the different regions and countries. These steps will create a platform for strengthening human capacity building in interdisciplinary science and science-based management to create a two way process, towards the achievement of GES and the long-term objectives for sustainable management of the SES.

Regarding science, PERSEUS will create knowledge relevant to policy design, scenarios and adaptation of issues in order to be able to address challenges, such as the transboundary strategy for the Mediterranean and Black Seas basins. This knowledge will be built upon relevant EU projects, on-going national research

projects and initiatives, using existing and upgraded observation and modelling tools. These existing tools will be used to evaluate and predict environmental status.

Finally, PERSEUS will ensure that several steps are taken to propose management strategies at basin scale and create an impact on policy-makers, from national to international levels. The project will make an inventory and assessment of the existing law, policy, institutional frameworks and scenario planning, dealing with marine policies in the SES. At the same time, PERSEUS will follow up the MSFD environmental status assessments submitted by EU Member States (due in 2012) during its course, as well as other assessment elements from other non-EU countries surrounding the SES and Regional Sea Conventions and then develop an Adaptive Policy Framework (APF) across the SES waters. In doing so, PERSEUS will propose multi-scale management schemes and adaptive policies involving, in an interacting way, stakeholders/decision makers and scientists from EU and non-EU countries throughout the process, using, as vehicle, several specially designed workshops which are planned to be held in non-EU countries. The type of tools that will be used by PERSEUS to elaborate the APF management schemes and policies, are set to follow the system's progress towards sustainable development in support of reaching marine GES in this context.

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PROMITHEAS-4

Knowledge transfer and research needs for preparing mitigation/ adaptation policy portfolios

Period: 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2013

Total cost: 1.060.985

Budget from EC: 961.455

Contract number: 265182

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: NATIONAL AND

KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

Website: [http://www.promitheasnet.](http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr/Promitheas4/)

[kepa.uoa.gr/Promitheas4/](http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr/Promitheas4/)

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The EU and the international community are striving to set under UNFCCC a global post-2012 agreement whose implementation should be ensured on a sound scientific knowledge base with the participation of emerging economies. PROMITHEAS-4 aims to develop, transfer and disseminate knowledge for the development and evaluation of Mitigation/Adaptation (M/A) policy portfolios in twelve countries with emerging economies (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine). It also aims to identify and prioritize the relevant research needs and gaps.

The achievement of these aims is ensured through: I) The evaluation of available data and information that includes the overview of international procedures and standards in collecting and reporting data and information. It also includes data collection and development of national data bases for the beneficiaries. II) The choice and implementation of the

appropriate model for the beneficiary countries. III) The development and implementation of Scenarios (BAU, Optimistic, Pessimistic) for the determination of effective M/A policy portfolios under a post KYOTO agreement for the beneficiary countries. IV) The evaluation of the developed M/A policy portfolios against a set of criteria incorporating social, economic and environmental requirements. V) The identification of existing research needs and gaps, in each country, with parallel presentation of existing EU and other international funding mechanisms. VI) The training that includes tele-training sessions, tele-teaching courses, “tailor made” workshops, seminars and conferences with the development of the associated supporting material and VII) Dissemination through a multi-dimensional approach that includes a worldwide newsletter, special editions, reports and presentations to national stakeholders, ministerial meetings, their supporting bodies, and ad-hoc visits to international organizations like BSEC, UN. The knowledge transfer (training – dissemination) includes a continuous flow

of information to decision makers and market stakeholders of both the public and private sectors.

ACTIVITIES

The foreseen activities of PROMITHEAS – 4 include one (1) workshop for model (LEAP) training (one week), one (1) workshop for scenarios development (one week), on line support for the development and assessment of twelve national M/A policy portfolios (sixteen months), high quality international tele-teaching courses (four months) followed by one (1) case study seminar (one week) on M/A policy mixtures, twelve (12) national workshops –conferences in each beneficiary country and one (1) international conference. It also includes regular reporting to the United Nations and to the governmental and national competent authorities of the beneficiaries through the Permanent Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and their ministries. It also includes presentations to the BSEC Working Groups (Environment, Energy, Science and Technology etc.), Ministerial Meetings and other international events. In addition the dissemination activities include a worldwide circulated newsletter to one hundred seventy (170) countries and twenty three thousand (23.000) scientists and decision makers, a main website with fifteen (15) linked websites, papers in scientific journals, Conferences and one (1) special edition with the Climate Change Policies of the twelve (12) beneficiary countries. Twelve (12) M/A policy reports will be finally prepared, translated into their national languages

and will be escorted by the relevant national data bases. Additional efforts will be carried out for coordinated action with the United Nations, the Energy Charter Secretariat, the OSCE and other international organizations that are activated in the region.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The expected results can be numerically summarized in twelve (12) packages, of deliverables, one for each beneficiary country. Each package contains one (1) national data base, three (3) scenarios (BAU, Opt, Pes), their simulation with the LEAP model, the assessment and optimization of the derived policy portfolios and one (1) inventory of the identified needs and gaps.

The PROMITHEAS–4 ambitions are to facilitate the beneficiary countries to develop, assess and optimize their M/A policy portfolios based on the transferred knowledge in their academic institutions and further to that to support their efforts to participate, as a region, to international and EU initiatives related to the post Kyoto era in the context of the green economy.

The implementation of a common methodology (based on the use of common developed data bases, common structure of scenarios, same use of model, similar concept of assumptions, same assessment method and set of criteria) for twelve countries, provides a unique opportunity for the decision makers not only to shape and optimize their national policies but also to establish a comparative framework concerning the neighbouring policy mixtures.

This process is supported by an international group of experts from the academic institutions of the beneficiaries, which has been intensively trained for two years.

Taking into account the robust efforts to motivate academics, governmental authorities, market stakeholders and international organizations during the

whole period of its implementation and especially during the last year, PROMITHEAS-4 promotes the establishment of a regional Green Alliance among them, as a prerequisite for the promotion of the Green Economy concept, mainly among the countries of BSEC, in line with the EU relevant policies and financing instruments.

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SASPARM

Support Action for Strengthening Palestinian-administrated Areas capabilities for seismic Risk Mitigation

Period: 1/10/2012 to 30/09/2014

Total cost: EUR 615.606

Budget from EC: EUR 549.997

Contract number: 295122

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

This project aims to reinforce the cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the European Research Area. The An-Najah National University (NNU) in the Palestinian-administered Areas (PS) will coordinate the project, supported by the European Centre for Training and Research in Earthquake Engineering (EUCENTRE) and the Institute for Advanced Study of Pavia (IUSS) in Italy. The supporting action of EUCENTRE will lead NNU to become a globally competitive and experienced research centre in the field of seismic risk mitigation and disaster management. EUCENTRE will collaborate with NNU to devise a research strategy capable of increasing the scope and visibility of NNU at the national and international levels. The supporting action of IUSS will be fundamental for the training activities for students and young researchers.

The long experience of IUSS in the field of earthquake engineering and engineering seismology post-graduate courses will represent a distinguishing feature of the

international vocation of the SASPARM activities.

By developing a comprehensive research strategy, the significant strengthening of NNU's role will be fundamental in meeting the national socio-economic challenges and regional and international research activities.

ACTIVITIES

The project activities are identified with the goal to create a research infrastructure and to develop and enhance international cooperation with PS in the field of scientific technology and capacity building, i.e. human resources, research policy, networks of researchers and research institutes. In an international framework the proposed activities will lead NNU to a fruitful cooperation with the EU.

At national level, an enhancement of capability will ensure that PS gain a centre prepared to respond to the earthquake engineering needs of the local community. The latter target will be pursued by enhancing the capability of NNU for training activity in the field of

earthquake engineering. Furthermore, a higher visibility of NNU will encourage researchers to compete internationally in terms of scientific excellence (e.g., acquiring and participating in EU Framework projects related to seismic risk reductions) and increase their incentives to continue their research activities in PS.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Improved competitiveness of NNU, creation of networks of research centres, and the promotion of initiatives for general public awareness are some of the expected results of SASPARM.

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SUDSOE

Characterisation and Sustainable use of Egyptian Degraded Soils

Period: 01/01/2012 to 30/06/2014

Total cost: EUR 499 195

Budget from EC: EUR 499 195

Contract number: 295031

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences

Website: <http://www.narss.sci.eg/>

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

This project will reinforce the ability of the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS) in Cairo, Egypt, to enhance its performance through the activities of capacity building. Overall, the objectives of SUDSOE are as follows.

▶To clearly identify existing economic potentials and needs to be addressed by NARSS in order to develop the corresponding action plan that will properly interact with local and international stakeholders and revert to the socioeconomic needs concerning the sustainable use of degraded and polluted soils.

▶To strengthen and enlarge existing NARSS human resources and their capabilities for the implementation of soil regulations, having as a reference the EU directive for the sustainable use of soils, in close collaboration and knowhow exchange with three research institutions from Spain, Sweden and the Czech Republic facing the problem of degraded soils.

▶To hire experienced researchers to reinforce the human potential of NARSS. Due to the enlargement of the activities

of private laboratories, NARSS increasingly suffers from the lack of human potential. Therefore, SUDSOE plans to hire senior research scientists specialised in the project topics to foster both research and service activities that will increase NARSS' resources to make such activities sustainable.

▶To retain the best research professionals at NARSS ('brain gain') and to attract experienced researchers from abroad to reinforce know-how and experience implementation.

▶To gain first-hand knowledge of the state-of-the-art in specific areas of solid waste and waste water treatment technologies research that are of interest to both the EU and MED as a basis for this joint research and to establish a research agenda based on the pre-selected scientific topics of interest and any others to be selected during the project. Identify best practice amongst the partners in the selected research fields and define strategies to transfer this know-how to other interested laboratories.

▶To strengthen existing and establish new collaborations between involved complementary research groups by transferring and sharing their experience

and expert knowledge, with the aim of building an interdisciplinary SUDSOE network of excellence as a prerequisite for the formation of a research-driven cluster — the waste cluster initiative — with similar projects in the region dealing with the environment. As a result of this cooperation, two research project proposals are planned to be submitted under FP7 (specific programmes Environment, and Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies).

▶To foster collaboration between NARSS and external partners from public and private sectors at both national and international level, improving technology transfer activities by the appropriate support between NARSS and industrial partners. In this context, the WC I (EU waste cluster initiative) will be a specific key tool to accomplish this objective.

▶To increase the technical capacity of the applicant for future research activities. This will include training on the monitoring of environmental quality indicators for both soil characterisation and the sustainable use of degraded soils, and will extend the research performance to improve environmental issues and achieve leadership in the Mediterranean area concerning the sustainable use of degraded soils.

▶To provide specific support for the sustainable use of Egyptian degraded soils related to the development of a directive for the sustainable use of soils, by monitoring environmental quality indicators. This will contribute to national and regional sustainable socioeconomic development by generating new services concerning the potential sustainable use of degraded soils.

▶To disseminate results of the SUDSOE project to both regulatory authorities and end users, stakeholders, managers and decision makers, using a wide and diverse range of target instruments in the designed promotional kit. Such activities will increase the visibility of the applicant's excellence in S&T research of the Mediterranean (MED) research area. The WC I will play a specific role for the visibility of SUDSOE activities.

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CHAPTER 3: FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

AQUAMED - The Future of Research on Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region

ARIMNET - Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean

BIOPARTNERS – Reinforcing Georgian international cooperation capacities in the field of food and biotechnologies (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

BIOPROTECH - Improvement of research capacities of the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax in Bio-Processes for biotech applications, tying up with the European Research Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

BOTERA - Reinforcing cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and ERA (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

COCONET – Towards COast to COast NETworks of marine protected areas (from the shore to the high and deep sea), coupled with sea-based wind energy potential.

CREAM - Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

FAWIRA - Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water-related International Research Cooperation of Algeria (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

FORCE - Fisheries and aquaculture-Oriented Research Capacity in Egypt (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

FORESTERRA – Enhancing FOrest RESearch in the MediTERRAnean through improved coordination and integration

OLITREVA - Capacity Building for Sustainable Treatment and Valorisation of Olive Mill Waste (OMW) in Palestine (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

SIRRIMED - Sustainable use of Irrigation water in the Mediterranean region

SUSTAINMED - Sustainable agri-food systems and rural development in the Mediterranean Partner Countries

SUWARESA - Capacity and knowledge building on the Sustainable Use of Water Resources in Syrian Agriculture (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

SWUP-MED - Sustainable water use securing food production in dry areas of the Mediterranean region

ULIXES - Unravelling and exploiting Mediterranean Sea microbial diversity and ecology for Xenobiotics' and pollutants' clean up

AQUAMED

The Future of Research on Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Region

Period: 01/06/2010 to 31/05/2013

Total cost: EUR 1 111 950

Budget from EC: EUR 996 852

Contract number: 244999

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: EUROPEAN FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE ORGANISATION

Website: <http://www.aquamedproject.net/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The fast development of Mediterranean aquaculture (freshwater, marine) is confronted with a set of difficulties, e.g. inadequate production systems and competitiveness, interaction and space competition with other users and the need for a proper integration in the coastal zones, possible negative impact on the environment and negative image of the product quality. Aquaculture development in Mediterranean countries is differentiated in terms of the importance of the sector, domestic market demand, typology of the industry, and research and development structures and capacities. Consequently, a strategy for a knowledge-based development of the activity has to be implemented using a flexible and concerted approach.

ACTIVITIES

To deliver practical results, the AQUAMED project will be based on a four-step process consisting of: (1) mapping and setting up a database of all relevant information (about policies, research and socioeconomics) in each partner country; (2) identifying common situations and

constraints between countries; (3) grouping countries confronted with similar driving forces in order to foster information exchanges and formulate more focussed science-based recommendations; and (4) setting up of a multi-stakeholder platform to promote a research organisation and a revolving implementation plan aimed at the sustainable development of aquaculture.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The platform will be organised such that it is self-sustainable after the end of the project. It will be instrumental to rationalising research programming in order to avoid duplication, fragmentation and dispersion of research efforts, and to stimulate long-term cooperation and coordination among policymakers, aquaculture industry and RTD performers in the region. The project consortium, covering most of the situations of the aquaculture sector encountered in the Mediterranean, will take a participatory approach and disseminate the outcomes of the AQUAMED activities, emphasizing the sustainability of the multi-stakeholder platform.

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Coordination of Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean

Period: 01/10/2008 to 31/03/2013

Total cost: EUR 1 236 752

Budget from EC: EUR 999 999

Contract number: 219262

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA
RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE

Website: www.arimnet.net

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Agricultural research in the Mediterranean is characterised by three main features: it is scattered within the EU members and in Mediterranean partner countries, and most of the problems and challenges that Mediterranean agriculture is facing are shared by all the countries in the area and even further; its objectives are largely the same in the whole area, even if priorities can vary from one country to another; the conditions resulting from climate change as well as the objective of sustainable development and production make it necessary to rethink agricultural research in all the countries and to begin its alignment in the whole area in order to increase its impact.

ACTIVITIES

This situation calls for a Coordination Action at the level of the Mediterranean (among EU members, and between them and the other Mediterranean countries) which will fight against fragmentation by fostering the convergence of national programmes and by attaining a new critical mass to address the key issues

(such as the growing demand for safer, healthier and higher quality food; the sustainable production and use of renewable bio-resources; threats to the sustainability and security of agricultural and fisheries production resulting in particular from climate change). Furthermore, the Coordination Action will increase the excellence and relevance of research, as well as enhance and strengthen cooperation within the region by aligning objectives and priorities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

This ERA-Net project has a double ambition: to enhance coordination of agricultural research programmes within the Mediterranean area and to improve cooperation within the area. It gathers twelve countries (six EU Member States, two associated countries and four other Mediterranean countries) and the programmes that could be under the Coordination Action gather more than 3 000 researchers and EUR 300 million per year.

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BIOPARTNERS

Reinforcing Georgian international cooperation capacities in the field of Food and Biotechnologies

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014

Total cost: EUR 598.813

Budget from EC: EUR 500.000

Contract number: 293514

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: GEORGIAN STATE AGRARIAN

UNIVERSITY, DURMISHIDZE INSTITUTE OF

BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Website: <http://www.biopartners-dibb.ge/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

BIOPARTNERS is an EU funded Support Action aiming to stimulate cooperation between Europe and Georgia in the field of Biotechnology.

The BIOPARTNERS project mission has the following objectives:

(i) Map and assess the strengths, weakness and collaboration potential and prepare DIBBAUG, (ii) Georgian prominent research institute, to the new step in its strategic development; (iii) Set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme; (iv) Develop DIBBAUG's cooperation capacities; Organise international events information, training, networking & brokerage and dissemination.

ACTIVITIES

Project will include several main types of activities, thus forming a coherent plan for improving the DIBBAUG' capacities in a number of fields relevant to the FP7 Thematic Priority " Food, Agriculture & Fisheries, and Biotechnologies":

Twinning activities, based on the joint research plan to be prepared and implemented jointly by DIBBAUG and its European partner, Universidad de Murcia. This activity will include, for example, exchange of researchers and

young specialists and organisation of joint scientific workshops. Larger-scale networking & brokerage activities, which will be implemented on wide European and regional level, thus involving other European and regional organisations, thus extending the project impact. Exchange of researchers and young specialists and organisation of joint event. Training and coaching activities, that will aim to increase DIBBAUG understanding of FP7, build competences and enhance the Institute's participation in FP7 with different European research consortia.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project activities will strengthen cooperation and research capacities of DIBBAUG. Georgian research will be given a new impulse, Georgian research

capacities will be strengthened, Georgian participation in the FP7 programme will be significantly improved, Georgia's involvement in the ETP will be addressed

and then increased, and Georgian competences will have much better visibility in Europe.

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BIOPROTECH

Improvement of research capacities of the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax in Bio-Processes for biotech applications, tying up with the European Research Area

Period: 01/11/2010 to 30/04/2013

Total cost: EUR 622 053

Budget from EC: EUR 498 759

Contract number: 266519

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: CENTRE DE BIOTECHNOLOGIE DE SFAX - CBS

Website: <http://bioprotech.org/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

On the way to a more knowledge-based economy and in accordance with scientific and technological agreements with the European Union, Tunisia launched necessary policies and measures to set up and improve the efficiency of research centres such as the Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax (CBS). As a key element of the Tunisian biotechnology plan, the CBS focuses on applied research particularly in terms of the use, development, transfer and application of bioprocesses. BioProtech aims to support the CBS in improving its capacities in bioprocesses development such as fermentation and microarrays technologies as well as all related fields such as technology transfer mechanisms, know-how about the EU Framework Programme (FP) and biosafety competencies, all of which will lead it to be better integrated in the European research area (ERA). This support will be organised in six work packages covering the technological aspect of bioprocesses (fermentation, microarray and biosafety),

the incubation and transfer of bioprocesses especially to local industry, training and coaching in FP7, dissemination of scientific results, strategy and evaluation regarding the focus of CBS and the further integration in the ERA, and project management.

ACTIVITIES

To achieve the objectives, five European partners have been selected who are highly qualified and specialised in each of the topics. The results will support local economic development through the creation of new or support of existing high-tech companies and more scientific collaborations with the EU. In the field of bioprocesses this means identifying promising results and supporting their path through cooperation, licensing or start-up creation. Comparison and matching between what exists in Tunisia and in the EU will help update and adjust the local competencies and shape the research agenda and priorities for the following years. This will also benefit the European actors as know-how and

capacities will be better integrated and available in the ERA.

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BOTERA

Reinforcing cooperation between the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan and ERA

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014

Total cost: EUR 497 570

Budget from EC: EUR 497 570

Contract number: 294416

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: Royal Botanic Garden

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Jordan is rich in flora with over 2500 species including 363 species of vascular plants. It is situated at the Southern edge of the Fertile Crescent and is a hotspot for crop, wild crop relatives and medicinal plant diversity of vital global importance. However, due to pressures associated with desertification, many of Jordan's plant habitats are threatened or on the verge of extinction. About 35% of all Jordanian flora can be found at the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan (RBG), the country's only botanical garden. It was established by the Ministry of Environment to implement the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and its mission is to conserve regional biodiversity at the habitat level. RBG is well networked with agricultural, environmental and tourism organisations throughout Jordan and the surrounding region and acts as a natural focal point for botanical and conservation research. Via BOTERA, RBG aims to become more closely integrated with ERA through

capacity building and strategic collaboration with three excellent European research and innovation organisations: Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew, University of Birmingham, and Innoveo Consulting.

ACTIVITIES

The focus of the capacity building will be on three key botanical research topics: A) Plants and Seed Conservation, B) Genetic Resource Diversity and Biotechnology, and C) Utilisation and Access Benefit Sharing. These are research topics highly relevant to the FP7 KBBE and Environment thematic priorities. The BOTERA project will be implemented by a dedicated team of experienced RBG researchers. It will be overseen by a steering committee involving the consortium partners plus members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, NCARE, ICARDA and Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan.

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COCONET

Towards COast to COast NETworks of marine protected areas (from the shore to the high and deep sea), coupled with sea-based wind energy potential

Period: 01/02/2012 to 31/01/2016

Total cost: EUR 11 368 996,69

Budget from EC: EUR 9 000 000

Contract number: 287844

Funding scheme: CP

Coordinator: CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE
DELLE RICERCHE

Website: www.coconet-fp7.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The project regards the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. The objectives are the production of guidelines for the institution of networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the evaluation of the possibility of constructing Offshore Wind Farms (OWF) in both seas. The aims, thus, regard direct environmental protection, by passing from focused action within MPAs to widened action throughout networks of MPAs, and indirect environmental protection with clean energy production with the instalment of OWFs. It is important that the same group of scientists and SMEs are carrying out both actions, because energy production and environmental protection are often in contrast with each other, whereas their harmonization is crucial to an ecosystem-based management of our activities. The fragmentation of approaches, in fact, might lead to contrasting outcomes that might reduce the possibility of effective governance.

ACTIVITIES

The 39 Institutes and SMEs involved in the project belong to 22 countries in three continents: Africa, Asia, Europe. A foremost activity is to foster dialogue and collaboration within the group, with a series of workshops, summer schools and individual visits aimed at amalgamating the community of scientists while focusing on the main themes of the project. The expertise of the participants ranges from molecular biology to ecosystem ecology, geology, physical oceanography, socio-economy, engineering, international law and many other sub-disciplines. The analysis of available knowledge on the topics relevant to the project will lead to a synthesis aimed at fulfilling the two main objects of the project (the production of guidelines to establish networks of MPAs, and OWFs in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas). Two pilot projects, one in the Mediterranean Sea and one in the Black Sea, will help refine the concepts stemming from already available knowledge. Capacity building will be an important outcome of the project, with the share of expertise throughout the consortium, as well as outside the

consortium with focused outreach activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

As requested by the call, the results will be the guidelines for the design of networks of MPAs in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, and an evaluation of the possibilities of establishing OWF in both basins. To reach these objectives, a series of steps will be taken, resulting in better knowledge of the investigated systems. For instance, MPAs, with little exceptions, cover coastal areas only. The networks, however, will comprise the open and the deep sea, with the opening of new approaches to marine conservation, intertwined with the ways of producing clean energy. The general vision that will stem from this project will frame specific problems (in this case MPAs and OWF) into a wider context, so as to reach a synthetic view that will consider the links among areas of human intervention that, so far, have been considered as separate. This will allow for a knowledge-based management and protection of the marine environment.

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CREAM

Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

Period: 01/05/2011 to 30/04/2014

Total cost: EUR 1 237 119

Budget from EC: EUR 999 137

Contract number: 265648

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: MEDITERRANEAN
AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE OF ZARAGOZA /
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED
MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC STUDIES
Website: www.creamproject.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Coordination Action (hereafter 'the project') will establish an effective collaboration network among key players in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries research and management. The participants in the project include national research institutes from Mediterranean and Black Sea countries with a long history and active participation in fisheries research and assessment, who provide advice to national, regional and international fisheries management organisms. The project will seek the active collaboration of regional and international fisheries management organisms as external participants in the project, in order to identify the gaps (in terms of data, knowledge, training, coordination) which hamper at present the full application of the ecosystem approach in the management of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

ACTIVITIES

The project will have a strong training and capacity-building component in order to help harmonise data collection and methodologies used in fisheries assessment and management in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The project will serve to establish the guidelines for the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, both in EU Member States and in third countries. The project is organised in six work packages: (i) project coordination; (ii) review of current knowledge on data collection and methodological practices in assessment and management ; (iii) identification of data needs, quality, harmonisation, methodologies and models for EAF; (iv) establishing coordination with the assessment and management international/regional bodies; (v) training and capacity building; symposium; dissemination component ; (vi) strengthening the scientific basis of EAF application in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

COORDINATOR

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FAWIRA

Strengthening of Food, Agriculture and Water-related International Research Cooperation of Algeria

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014

Total cost: EUR 558 600

Budget from EC: EUR 499 060

Contract number: 295088

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE D'ALGÉRIE

Website: <http://www.inraa.dz>

OBJECTIVES

FAWIRA aims to reinforce the research cooperation capacities of the Algerian National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRAA) in the field of food, agriculture and water. INRAA will achieve its objective by becoming a centre of excellence in food, agriculture and water in the context of the European research area. Additionally, INRAA will improve its standing by facilitating its participation in FP7 programmes like KBBE and Environment, and other European related research programmes, where INRAA will cooperate and develop the responses to Algeria's socioeconomic needs.

ACTIVITIES

The FAWIRA work plan is fully functional and designed for optimal performance to achieve its objectives. The work plan strategy is based on a combination of core and complementary activities, allocated to highly experienced partners that can ensure the full involvement of the relevant components of food, agriculture and water research, as well as capacity building. The work plan is

composed of three interconnected and supporting work packages for strategic development, enhancing innovation and the building of human resources capacities and research instrument strengthening. The whole action is based on food, agriculture and water research needs and opportunities analysis, backed by a strong network facilitation and dissemination activities and supported by a solid project management organisation.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project will carry out an analysis of food, agriculture and water research needs and opportunities in Algeria. Part of the outcomes of this WP will be shared with the MIRA project, particularly WP7 for shaping a research strategic agenda in support of Horizon 2020. The project will also support the development of a strategic plan for the realisation of competitive research to face local and regional socioeconomic needs and the development of a business plan to provide strategic direction for further development of the research centre towards internationalisation and efficient responses to local socioeconomic needs

as regards enhancing the delivery of food, agriculture and water services, integrating women in research and providing better opportunities to young researchers to reduce brain-drain phenomena. The project will particularly focus on specific support schemes for young researchers and provide personalised individual coaching sessions to maximise the impact of trainings. The setting up of a food, agriculture and water laboratory at INRAA will support research also after the project's completion, thus facilitating the sustainability of the project. In parallel, the project will focus on the creation of synergies with other Algerian, Mediterranean and EU initiatives, facilitation of networks, dissemination of project information and food, agriculture and water research results.

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FORCE

Fisheries and aquaculture-Oriented Research Capacity in Egypt

Period: 01/11/2011 to 30/04/2013

Total cost: EUR 589 982

Budget from EC: EUR 499 557

Contract number: 295004

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FISHERIES

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

FORCE is designed to enhance the capacity of the Egyptian National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) to carry out research activities aimed at supporting the implementation of sound and science-based policies for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in Egypt, as well as in the whole Mediterranean North African region.

ACTIVITIES

In order to achieve these objectives, FORCE project will focus on the following activities:

- ▶ 1: to ensure an efficient and integrated management of the consortium. This work package will be led by NIOF, allowing this institution to learn-by-doing how the administrative part of a European project should be carried out (i.e. documentation to provide to the EC, financial management, deliverables, etc.) and how a coordinator should interact with the consortium to achieve a successful project.
- ▶ 2: to support NIOF in testing indicators of impact of finfish cage culture in coastal areas, in order to identify the

most cost-effective monitoring practices and to enhance NIOF's research capacities in sustainable aquaculture by training NIOF researchers in using and developing simulation models. This knowledge transfer from the University of Ca'Foscari to NIOF will reinforce the research capacities of this institution in the field of aquaculture, thus facilitating its participation as partner in EU research projects.

- ▶ 3: to promote the coordination and stimulate synergies between Egypt and EU Member States, to strengthen the capacity for developing the sustainable management of fisheries through training and exchange of expertise, and to transfer expertise on fishing technology based on the requirements of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, in order to describe new fishing methods and strategies that mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- ▶ 4: to enhance the capacity building for a comprehensive strategy, to improve women's capacities to contribute effectively to a real improvement in the socioeconomic conditions of the fishery community, and to encourage female scientists and postgraduate students to participate in EU research programmes

and to improve their capability for writing competitive research proposals for the Framework Programme.

► 5: to ensure effective external dissemination, communication and optimal outreach of the project and its results and to strengthen the NIOF network in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors with relevant European research centres in the area.

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FORESTERRA

Enhancing FOrest RESearch in the MediTERRAnean through improved coordination and integration

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015

Total cost: EUR 2.467.435.20

Budget from EC: EUR 1.997.795.00

Contract number: 291832

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA Y COMPETITIVIDAD

Website: <http://www.foresterra.eu/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Context

Forest research in the Mediterranean region is currently handicapped by its fragmentation, its limited means, and occasional outdated and isolation. In addition, the low benefits that Mediterranean forests provide to forest-based industries -compared to other European forests- make it difficult to attract interest and funds from the private sector.

Objectives

- Harmonise data collection and information exchange
- Promote dialogue among scientists and international bodies
- Provide an ambitious framework for networking
- Mitigate and adapt to climatic threats
- Develop recommendations to improve cooperation
- Disseminate information and results

ACTIVITIES

New ways to overcome the situation will be implemented through research partnerships,

networking, capacity building, higher education programmes, knowledge transfer and lifelong learning.

Advancing scientific knowledge and fostering innovation will be essential to ensure the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests and to build knowledge based on bio-economy in the region.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Main results

FORESTERRA ERA-NET aims to reinforce the scientific coordination and integration of Mediterranean programmes in forest research, as well as the scientific cooperation with countries of the Mediterranean area, and with other Mediterranean Climate Areas (Australia, South Africa, Chile, and California).

Secondary results

- Avoid duplication among different research bodies, and also identify the knowledge gaps and opportunities.
- Integrate the network of the regional bodies and the national organisations

responsible of Mediterranean forests research.

- Develop knowledge and foster sharing of foresight visions, which will be a driver for research and innovation on Mediterranean forest and the goods and services they provide.
- Increase cooperation among disciplines and organisations.
- Durable cooperation and integration among FORESTERRA partners

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Capacity Building for Sustainable Treatment and Valorisation of Olive Mill Waste (OMW) in Palestine

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2014

Total cost: EUR 644 168

Budget from EC: EUR 495 700

Contract number: 295107

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: APPLIED RESEARCH
INSTITUTE JERUSALEM

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The treatment of olive mill waste (OMW) is a major challenge for the Mediterranean region. It has been largely demonstrated that incorrect OMW management leads to soil, surface and groundwater pollution and deterioration of the landscape. In Palestine, where water is considered to be a highly important resource for which there is currently an increasing demand from almost all sectors, OMW treatment and valorisation is gaining increasing attention from many researchers in the world. Olives and their oil make major contributions to the Palestinian economy. Olive farms cover almost half of the cultivated area in the West Bank, and oil production contributes around 28.7% of the agricultural domestic income. At the same time, olive mills generate large amounts of wastewater, which at the moment is not being treated, thus exacerbating water availability. Finding effective treatment methods for the effluents of the olive industry is therefore an important research topic for universities and scientific institutes in Palestine. Indeed, some small-scale

projects have been carried out, mainly by Palestinian research organisations with the support of international donors. However, they have not sufficiently contributed to a substantial improvement in environmental conditions. In response to this situation, efforts in this field should focus on strengthening local research, including researchers and their institutions, and on building up local S & T capabilities. The level of domestic science and technology capabilities determines the success or failure of a given country to benefit from technology transfer and goes hand-in-hand with social progress and economic development. In this particular case, it is imperative to equip Palestinian research institutions with appropriate S&T and cooperation capacities to be able to propose appropriate solutions to the environmental challenges caused by OMW. Along these lines, the aim of OLITREVA is to reinforce the RTD capacities of the Applied Research Institute — Jerusalem (ARIJ) in the sustainable management of OMW in the West Bank, by increasing networking and cooperation with European centres of top-level research and scientific excellence

working in the same field. In this way, ARIJ will develop the necessary capacities to respond to the environmental challenges resulting from incorrect OMW disposal. Engaging one of the country's leading institutions in this field, ARIJ, will be the first step towards the achievement of this goal, while widening the path for future collaborations between EU and Palestinian researchers and bringing current research activities in the field of OMW treatment and valorisation to new heights.

ACTIVITIES

The work plan conceived for the present action will boost human and organisational development in Palestine by means of exchanging and sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices between EU and Palestinian research organisations in the long term. In parallel, it will promote the establishment of research networks that will accelerate the creation of new knowledge in the field of OMW and provide more comprehensive scientific solutions to the common challenges. OLITREVA will enhance the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge as well as the cross-fertilisation of ideas. The Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs) have developed diversified technologies and know-how specialising in certain fields dictated by peculiar local conditions. Some countries have thus built up knowledge and expertise on specific problems, gaining a wealth of experience that could benefit those countries faced with similar problems. The definition of the future research path in OMW treatment and valorisation represents a great step

towards the development of cost-effective technology for the special conditions of the Mediterranean region. The content and structure of the work plan have been chosen to achieve the objective described above as efficiently as possible, and within a period of two years. The first stage of the project will cover the assessment of the current state of RTD capacities in the field of OMW treatment and valorisation. Based on the assessment results, the partners will evaluate challenges, opportunities and the potential of this research area in Palestine. In turn, the second stage of the project will be devoted to strengthening the RTD and cooperation capacities of ARIJ, by means of a tailor-made strategy for research and cooperation improvement and activities for capacity building. Finally, the dissemination activities seek to increase the international visibility of Palestinian researchers and research institutions, while fostering networking with peer organisations abroad in the frame of OLITREVA's international conference.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The expected outputs of the project are to:

- ▶ Provide an in-depth assessment of the existing S&T capacities of local research institutions dealing with OMW treatment, a basis that will be used by Palestinian researchers to build on and search for the most efficient techniques that suit their national conditions;
- ▶ Facilitate the exchange of information and expertise between European and Palestinian researchers on OMW;

- ▶ Train certain junior researchers on technical OMW treatment and valorisation processes and on European project management related issues;
- ▶ Raise awareness amongst the scientific community, public authorities and society on the necessity of sustainable and

environmental technologies for the development on OMW treatment;

- ▶ Show examples of good practice in demonstrative activities of implemented OMW treatment technologies, and help the Palestinian research institute to chart the course of future research in the addressed field.

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SIRRIMED

Sustainable use of Irrigation water in the Mediterranean region

Period: 01/07/2010 to 31/12/2013

Total cost: EUR 4 300 086

Budget from EC: EUR 2 999 078

Contract number: 245159

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO
SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES
CIENTIFICAS

Website: www.sirrimed.org

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

SIRRIMED will address issues related to the sustainable use of water in Mediterranean irrigated agricultural systems, with the overall aim of optimising irrigation water use. The approach proposed in SIRRIMED for reaching this goal will be based on integrated water irrigation management (IWIM) where improving water use efficiency will be considered at farm, irrigation district and watershed scales. This strategy implies the development of more efficient irrigation techniques improving water productivity that will allow reductions in water consumption.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

SIRRIMED will consider the development, testing and validation of new deficit irrigation strategies, the sustainable use of poor quality waters and the improvement of precise irrigation

scheduling using plant sensors. These new techniques will be integrated with suitable husbandry irrigation practices. At the district scale, efforts should be directed towards an integrated policy of water allocation which accounts for the characteristics and specificity of each farm, requiring the availability of databases and management tools (decision support systems) specifically designed to fulfil the objectives of maximising water use efficiency. At the watershed scale, priority should be given to the assessment of new models of water governance, and the definition of strategies and policies aimed at promoting a more responsible use of irrigation water. Finally, SIRRIMED will establish a sound dissemination strategy for transfer of knowledge towards the end users, with a very important participatory approach to facilitate an adequate involvement of stakeholders (farmers, association of irrigation users, water authorities and SMEs).

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SUSTAINMED

Sustainable agri-food systems and rural development in the Mediterranean

Partner Countries

Period: 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013

Total cost: EUR 2 644 117

Budget from EC: EUR 1 996 771

Contract number: 245233

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES

HAUTES ETUDES AGRONOMIQUES

MEDITERRANEENNES INSTITUT

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Website: <http://sustainmed.iamm.fr/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the SUSTAINMED project is to assess the impacts of EU and national agricultural, rural, environmental and trade policies in the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs). Specific impacts will include socioeconomic changes, income distribution, resource management, trade liberalisation, poverty alleviation, employment and migration trends, as well as commercial relations with major partners (in particular the EU).

ACTIVITIES

The project will integrate a wide range of complementary methods and analytical tools including quantitative modelling, structured surveying, indicator building and qualitative data analysis, in order to provide: (i) orders of magnitude of the impact in MPCs related to changes in important policy parameters; and (ii) qualitative insights into processes which will be important for the future welfare of MPCs but which cannot be fully captured by quantitative indicators.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project results will enable the European Commission and relevant stakeholders to formulate realistic policies and action plans aimed at supporting sustainable agri-food systems, rural development programmes and capacity building in the Mediterranean region. The project outcomes will also contribute to improving collaboration and economic and commercial relations between the EU and target MPCs, in line with the stated goals of the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean. Furthermore, the project will provide relevant research for sustainable development in fulfilling the EU's commitment towards the UN millennium development goals in the region. The project consortium brings together recognised researchers from six EU Member States, one associated country and five MPCs, with a strong scientific background and experience in Mediterranean policy, market and institutional analysis.

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SUWARESA

Capacity and knowledge building on the Sustainable Use of Water Resources in Syrian Agriculture

Period: 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2013
Total cost: EUR 616 380
Budget from EC: EUR 499 904
Contract number: 266504

Funding scheme: CSA
Coordinator: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND AGRARIAN REFORM
Website: www.gcsar.gov.sy

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

SUWARESA's main objective is to reinforce the scientific and research cooperation capacities of MAAR-GCSAR-ANRR in the sustainable management of water resources in Syrian agriculture and to increase its competency and fund-raising skills for a successful participation in the EU Framework Programme. The specific objectives of SUWARESA are: to setup the research/ cooperation priorities between Syria and the EU in the field of agricultural water management; to build capacity and develop human resources for scientific research and research cooperation in the Syrian agricultural water management sector; to promote

networking, joint research themes and exchange of knowledge on specific topics of agricultural water management; to set up the ANRR research and cooperation strategy on the short and long-term basis; and to disseminate the results of activities by using different tools.

ACTIVITIES

SUWARESA will be carried out in close collaboration with two well-reputed regional partners (CIHEAM-IAMB and CSIC), and with the involvement of local stakeholders and recognised external, international S&T policy experts and from the other (neighbouring) European neighbourhood policy (ENP) countries.

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SWUP-MED

Sustainable water use securing food production in dry areas of the Mediterranean region

Period: 01/07/2008 to 30/06/2013

Total cost: EUR 3 929 765

Budget from EC: EUR 2 728 104

Contract number: 212337

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: Københavns Universitet

Website: <http://www.swup-med.dk/>

CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The strategic objective of the project is to improve food crop production in the Mediterranean region, influenced by multiple abiotic stresses. These stresses are becoming even more pronounced under the changing climate, which is predicted to result in drier conditions, increasing temperatures, and greater variability, causing desertification. The project will work mainly in farmers' communities to improve farming systems, by strengthening a diversified crop rotation and using marginal-quality water for supplemental irrigation, aiming at the following. (1) Introduce and test new climate-proof crops and cultivars with improved stress tolerance, selecting promising varieties of cereals, grain legumes and new crops. Climate-proof traits will be identified for breeding programmes using advanced physiological and biochemical screening tools. Supplemental irrigation will be performed as deficit irrigation by different sources of water. (2) Investigate the sustainable field applicability of the farming systems, such as environmental

effects related to irrigation water quality assessed by monitoring groundwater and soil quality. Financial implications for the farmer and economic costs and benefits in the food sector will be analysed. (3) Develop a research synthesis in dialogue with the food sector, based on experimental results and advanced simulation modelling to improve farming systems management, utilising dynamic tools that ease adaptation to the effects of a variable and changing climate.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The approach is participatory, involving the farmer's community and the market and political levels. The expected outcome is improved productivity and sustainable use of agricultural lands by developing a more diverse farming system, supporting economic development in non-European Mediterranean countries while ensuring mutual interest and benefit with the EU. It will accelerate the adoption of improved agricultural practices and technologies to meet future constraints imposed by climate changes.

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ULIXES

Unravelling and exploiting Mediterranean Sea microbial diversity and ecology for Xenobiotics' and pollutants' clean up

Period: 01/02/2011 to 31/01/2014

Total cost: EUR 3 909 331

Budget from EC: EUR 2 993 812

Contract number: 266473

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

Website: www.ulixes.unimi.it

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The project Ulixes aims to unravel, categorise, catalogue, exploit and manage the microbial diversity available in the Mediterranean Sea for addressing bioremediation of polluted marine sites. The idea behind Ulixes is that the multitude of diverse environmental niches of the Mediterranean Sea contains a huge range of microorganisms and their components (e.g. catabolic enzymes) or products (e.g. biosurfactant) that can be exploited in pollutant- and site-tailored bioremediation approaches.

ACTIVITIES

Ulixes intends to provide the proof-of-concept that it is possible to establish and exploit for bioremediation site-specific collections of microbial strains, mixed microbial cultures, enzymes, biosurfactants and other microbial products. These biotechnological resources will be mined by using approaches based on isolation of culturable microorganisms as well as by extensively applying advanced novel 'meta-omics' technologies recently

developed by the project partners and exclusively available for Ulixes. Three pollutant classes recognised worldwide as environmental priorities will be considered: petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated compounds and heavy metals. A large set of polluted environmental matrices from sites located all over the Mediterranean Sea will be explored, including seashore sands, lagoon sediments, deep sea sediments polluted by heavy oil hydrocarbons, hypersaline waters and sediments from polluted salty coastal lakes and natural deep hypersaline anoxic submarine basins and mud volcanoes where hydrocarbon seepages occur.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The mined collections of microbial biotechnological products will be exploited for the development of novel improved bioremediation processes whose effectiveness will be proved by ex situ and in situ field bioremediation trials. A careful dissemination action will be pursued of the Ulixes results and products to relevant stakeholders and SMEs.

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CHAPTER 4: HEALTH

COMBIOM – Strengthening cooperation in molecular biomedicine between EU and Ukraine (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

EUMEDNETVSTB - Building a cooperative strategy between Europe and Mediterranean countries for upgrading tuberculosis research and control

EUNAM - EU and North African Migrants: Health and Health Systems

GM_NCD_in_co - Reinforcing IPT capacities in Genomic Medicine, Non-Communicable Diseases Investigation and international cooperation (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

HEPACUTE - Host and viral factors in acute hepatitis C

HITT-2008 – Health in Times of Transition: Trends in Population Health and Health Policies in CIS Countries

INARMERA – Integrating Armenia into the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

KHCCBIO - Supporting the Establishment of a Cancer Biobank for Jordan and its Neighbouring Countries through Knowledge Transfer & Training (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

LEB'IN - Lebanon–Europe ‘on boarding’ to innovate and enhance research links in health (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

MEDCHAMPS - MEDiterranean studies of Cardiovascular disease and Hyperglycaemia: Analytical Modelling of Population Socio-economic transitions

MEDIGENE – Genetic and environmental factors of insulin resistance syndrome and its long-term complications in immigrant Mediterranean populations

NEUROMED - Mediterranean Neurosciences Network

RESCAP-MED – NCDs and their social determinants in Mediterranean partner countries: building sustainable research capacity for effective policy intervention

SPHINX - Spontaneous clearance in Patients acutely infected with HCV — Immune profiling, Novel biomarkers and X-omics approaches

THEBERA - Theodor Bilharz into the European Research Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

COMBIOM

Strengthening Cooperation in Molecular Biomedicine between EU and Ukraine

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/11/2014

Total cost: EUR 510.840

Budget from EC: EUR 455.499

Contract number: 294932

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTYTUT MOLEKULARNOI
BIOLOGII I GENETYKY NAN UKRAINY

Website: <http://www.combiom-fp7.org/>

The objectives of the project are to:

- enhance the involvement of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics (IMBG) researchers in the European research area (ERA) in a framework of EU–Ukraine mutual interests, especially in biomedical research, and create a core consortium for future FP7 collaborative projects;
- increase the cooperation capacities of the IMBG as a promising partner in EU research programmes;
- prove the achievements and high potential of Ukrainian biomedical research to ERA and accommodate it in European research priorities.

Description

Ukraine is one of the largest and closest of the EU's neighbours, with high potential for scientific and technological development. This project is devoted to the development of the operational network of EU and Ukrainian scientists based on the different approaches to solving the problem of deciphering the molecular mechanisms of cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, with special emphasis on the possible links

between these two pathologies. The Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics (IMBG) is one of the leading research institutions in molecular biomedicine, oncogenomics and gene technologies in Ukraine. It can carry out even higher quality investigations aimed at searching for effective diagnostics and therapies for oncological and neurodegenerative diseases, which could be implemented for all European citizens. There are two EU partners in the consortium, which are scientifically well recognised in their countries as well as in Europe, and which are experienced in running projects of the fifth, sixth and seventh framework programmes (FP5, FP6 and FP7). The French partner, IGR, consists of groups focused on molecular and cellular the aspects of lymphomas, namely mantle cell lymphoma and Burkitt lymphoma and neuromuscular disorders such as facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD). The Polish partner, IIMCB, the similarly to the Ukrainian partner, consists of groups working on several aspects of molecular biomedicine including neurodegeneration and

oncology. Neither IGR nor IIMCB is a new partner for IMBG. There have been many years of scientific relations, exchange visits, joint conferences, workshops and collaborative projects, which are now described in detail.

To extend and upgrade the existing links, several mutual visits between the EU–Ukrainian research groups are planned in order to learn more about the partners’ scientific expertise, strengths and research models. Specific projects are planned in the activities of the first work package (WP1) in years 1–3 of the COMBIOM project. The IMBG group leaders will be in charge of ensuring the most fruitful scientific exchange as described in WP1, and of reflecting the results in the reports. By involving EU and Ukrainian partners’ groups in the development of a common biomedical research strategy, we can address the scientific aims of the project in setting up joint experiments using different methodologies and approaches.

In WP2, the EU partners will develop special training programmes, which will help the coordinators to build their competency in applying and running the project. For this purpose, the experienced members of the International Collaboration Unit of the Polish partner will provide IMBG staff with training on FP7 participation rules and conditions as well as successful proposal writing. Furthermore, complementary courses will be organised for IMBG scientists

and administrators focusing on intellectual property, technology exchange, ethical issues, etc.

WP3 describes the development stages of the IMBG research strategy in the molecular bio-medicine area. These stages should lead to a close correlation with ERA research priorities and increased research capacities due to the intensification of international cooperation and, as a result, to enhanced participation in EC ‘Cooperation’ research programmes. Strengthening IMBG competitiveness in corresponding research areas will be an example to Ukrainian stakeholders of successful involvement in the ERA and improving IMBG responses to the socioeconomic needs of Ukraine.

WP4 is devoted to the dissemination of the project results and sharing of scientific knowledge. Several actions aimed at increasing IMBG visibility are planned — such as the creation of a project website, updating the institute’s web-site, printing project booklets and leaflets, popularisation of the research results by lectures and two round-tables with the mass media.

WP5 concentrates on project management matters with the accent on the leading role of IMBG in COMBIOM’s successful implementation.

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Building a cooperative strategy between Europe and Mediterranean countries for upgrading tuberculosis research and control

Period: 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013

Total cost: EUR 1 157 400

Budget from EC: EUR 999 915

Contract number: 245872

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUT PASTEUR

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Tuberculosis (TB) is amongst the most deadly infectious diseases worldwide. Despite the availability of a vaccine and effective drugs, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the etiologic agent of TB, still defies humanity. An alarming increase in drug resistance and the emergence of outbreaks has made the need for increased surveillance and control urgent. With its structured global geographical distribution, it becomes increasingly clear that this pathogen could have established an advantageous association with its host. Such region-specific host-pathogen equilibrium argues for a TB control at a regional level. The overall objective of this project is to establish a network connecting leading institutions in the field from three North African countries (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) and Europe. The aim is to upgrade the research and surveillance capacity potential of Europe's closest neighbouring Mediterranean partner countries (MPC) through know-how sharing, two-way experience exchange, training, joint research activities, and equipment upgrading.

By reinforcing existing human and technological resources in the targeted MPCs, the planned activities will contribute to better address the host and pathogen key factors governing TB transmission/expansion dynamics, emergence of drug resistance, and host susceptibility. This will endow MPCs with higher capacity to better unveil the molecular mechanisms leading to the prevailing epidemiological situation in the specific regional context.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Since TB is a health threat common to both sides of the Mediterranean Sea, which is amplified through consistent population migration flows, the planned cooperative initiative could also positively impact on TB control in Europe. Ultimately, dissemination of the project's results will foster the MPCs' institutional visibility and scientific competitiveness, allowing them to be more integrated for participation in future Framework Programme calls.

ACTIVITIES

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EUNAM

EU and North African Migrants: Health and Health Systems

Period: 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2015

Total cost: EUR 2 403 480

Budget from EC: EUR 1 998 430

Contract number: 260715

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: DEUTSCHES

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Website: www.dkfz.de/en/

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The coordinates of human health are complex in a single population, but they are even more complex in migrants whose life situation is always influenced by the host country and the country of origin. Some migrants may experience several host countries and some return to their country of origin. Thus it is important to survey well-being, health status, disease panorama and use of health services of immigrants compared to the native population. Such analyses would be incomplete without casting a view on the same indicators and parameters in the country of origin.

ACTIVITIES

For this project, a team of experts has been gathered to cover health aspects of the full cycle of migration, considering the health situation in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria as representative of the Mediterranean North African (NA) partner countries, which are the origin of vast numbers of immigrants in the EU. The EU partner countries from France, Italy, Germany (subcontracting Slovenia) and

Sweden are not only receivers of NA immigrants but they also have larger numbers of immigrants from others areas, allowing comparisons between immigrant groups. The team has experience in a variety of health and disease measures and it has access to a variety of survey and register material relating to population health, disease patterns and function of health care systems. Many of the surveys and disease registers have been carried out or constructed by the present partners who thus possess unique sources of data.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The team will review health effects of migration from the country of origin to the host country and come up with scientifically valid state-of-the-art evaluations and appropriate recommendations for scientific and health policy measures in improving the conditions for EU immigrants.

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Reinforcing IPT capacities in Genomic Medicine, Non-Communicable Diseases Investigation and international cooperation

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/05/2014

Total cost: EUR 604 800

Budget from EC: EUR 499 690

Contract number: 295097

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: Institut Pasteur de Tunis

Website: www.pasteur.tn

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project is to reinforce Institut Pasteur Tunis' (IPT) capacities in genomic medicine and its applications in non-communicable diseases (NCD) investigations and in international cooperation activities. At the national level, the objectives are to increase the research activities in the field of NCD and cooperation capacities and facilitate the participation of Tunisian researchers in relevant topics of the health theme, with the ultimate goal of integrating in to ERA. Specific objectives of the project are to:

- ▶ strengthen IPT competencies in international cooperation and project setting in order to enhance the participation of researchers in international FP projects. This will be achieved via specific training modules;
- ▶ reinforce IPT's scientific research and technical capacities in the field of genomic medicine and new molecular tools for the investigation of the genetic basis of NCDs:
 - ▶ updating and upgrading the knowledge level of IPT personnel is a prerequisite for a successful action plan of capacity building and

strengthening. This specific objective will be achieved through professional training via advanced courses and workshops in IPT;

- ▶ via short visits to European laboratories and two pilot projects, one on a preliminary investigation of the genetic landscape of the Tunisian population and one on gene identification using next generation sequencing;
- ▶ stimulate collaboration between Tunisian and EU researchers in topics of mutual interest in the field of NCD with networking and dissemination activities;
- ▶ build the IPT business plan and associated strategy of valorisation and technology transfer activity in the frame of EU–Tunisian R&D cooperation.

ACTIVITIES

To achieve the aims of the project several actions are proposed: setting-up and implementing training modules, two trainings on international project setting in the framework of the European framework programme, four advanced courses, and theoretical and practical workshops on various aspects of

structural and functional genomics, with a particular emphasis on NCD investigations, will be organised. Exchange visits between IPT, IP Paris and other EU laboratories working in relevant fields are also planned to improve networking capacities. Two pilot projects will be performed, one on disease gene identification using next generation whole exome sequencing and one on a preliminary description of the genetic landscape of the Tunisian population. The pilot projects will help stimulate cooperation, identify potential bottlenecks and propose improvements.

GM_NCD_in_Co targets IPT, an independent governmental institution, under the tutorship of the Tunisian Ministry of Health. More than a century old, this institution is considered as a national and regional centre of excellence in particular in the field of infectious diseases. To respond to the new challenges of the epidemiological transition and with the increase in prevalence of NCDs, IPT has developed new activities related to the investigation of the genetic basis of monogenic and multifactorial diseases. Reinforcing these promising activities has a great potential to benefit EU research institutions through new international cooperation

activities. The consortium includes Institut Pasteur in Paris (a non-profit research organisation) and one SME (Synbea) specialised in strategy, organisation and innovation consulting.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

This project also aims to reinforce the activities of the health theme contact point in a synergistic way with other EU projects (European–Tunisian collaboration ETC and MIRA projects) and in collaboration with contact points of other thematic areas, i.e. environment, ICT and KBBE. Dissemination and networking activities will be performed via the project website, newsletters, meetings and brokerage events. A development plan will be constructed for IPT in order to increase its regional coverage and to improve its response to socioeconomic needs. The project results will be analysed and recommendations signalled to national authorities on how to increase the participation of Tunisian researchers in ERA, to tackle common regional challenges for health systems. The ultimate goal of this project is to integrate Tunisia, a Mediterranean partner country (MPC), into ERA, which is one of the priorities of the EU's European neighbourhood policy (ENP).

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HEPACUTE

Host and viral factors in acute hepatitis C

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 3 854 861

Budget from EC: EUR 2 999 500

Contract number: 260844

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: KLINIKUM DER UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Website: <http://www.hepacute.eu/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE

Chronic hepatitis C is one of the most common chronic viral infections of humans and a major cause of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis and liver cancer. Still, about 4 million new infections occur worldwide each year with 50–85% of patients progressing to chronic hepatitis C. Currently there is no marker to predict spontaneous viral clearance and to guide treatment decisions. The major objectives of the HepaCute proposal are to develop biomarkers predicting the outcome of acute hepatitis C, improving the management of the concerned patients and thus decreasing the health burden of hepatitis C in Europe and Mediterranean partner countries (MPC). The HepaCute consortium has evolved from a series of EC-funded projects on hepatitis C (HCVacc, HepCvax, Virgil, HEPACIVAC) and consists of world leading experts in HCV epidemiology, immunology, and virology, including partners from Egypt and Morocco, who have strongly influenced the current management of patients with acute hepatitis C in their respective regions. HepaCute is closely connected to ongoing national, European and Egyptian networks on HCV research (HepNet, EASL,

STDF). Together with another pertinent EU-funded research project, SPHINX, it actively contributes to coordinating EU-funded hepatitis C research with research projects funded in the MCP countries, in particular with hepatitis research projects funded under the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED IMPACT

Within HepaCute the most innovative technologies will be employed such as genome-wide association studies, transcriptomics, proteomics, and ultra-deep sequencing to better understand the early events in acute hepatitis C and to translate these results into readily practicable diagnostic tools to predict spontaneous viral clearance. HepaCute has firmly integrated partners from Egypt and Morocco with pre-existing research collaborations with European partners into the scientific research programme and we expect this continuing partnership between European and Mediterranean countries to have a strong impact on the care of patients with acute hepatitis C both in Europe and MPC.

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HITT-2008

Health in Times of Transition: Trends in Population Health and Health Policies in CIS Countries

Period: 01/05/2009 to 30/04/2013

Total cost: 3.350.212

Budget from EC: 3.000.000

Contract number: 223344

Funding scheme: CP

Coordinator: INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN)

Website: <http://www.hitt-cis.net/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

“Health in Times of Transition: Trends in Population Health and Health Policies in CIS Countries“ (HITT-CIS) is an international research project that will study, in detail, trends in population health and health policies in 10 countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine). Its main objectives are to measure and explain prevalence and distribution of risk factors, health outcomes, and their social, cultural, and economic determinants; to develop and implement validated community profiles to capture the opportunities and obstacles to leading a healthy lifestyle; to assess health system performance, focussing on accessibility and quality of health services; to quantify the cost of ill health through reduced labour supply and productivity; to identify opportunities for and obstacles to policy change in Russia; market analysis; regional analysis of alcohol -related mortality in Ukraine.

ACTIVITIES

The study combines specialist expertise in public health with epidemiological and social science methods. Public health expert identify key areas relevant to policy and define areas for research, while the social scientists develop and refine a wide range of sociological measurement tools and techniques. This combination will provide new insights into an under-researched but extremely important issue.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

HITT-CIS will bring concrete benefits by providing recommendations to improve public health policies and interacting with national and international stake-holders by: disseminating findings within each country and to EU policymakers and international researchers; capacity building through training of researchers; identifying policy implications based upon research evidence.

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INARMERA

Integrating Armenia into ERA

Period: 01/09/2010 to 31/08/2013

Total cost: 544.120

Budget from EC: 499.710

Contract number: 265128

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: CENTER OF MEDICAL
GENETICS AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

OBJECTIVES

Integration of the South Caucasus countries into the European research area (ERA) is one of the priorities of the EU's European neighbourhood policy. This is the objective of the ERA-WIDE initiative aimed at reinforcing the cooperation capacity of a prominent R & D centre in these countries by providing opportunities to improve its research activities in the thematic priority areas of FP7. The government of the Republic of Armenia recommended as such a centre the Centre of Medical Genetics and Primary Health-care (CMG), due to its high reputation, broad international contacts, participation in FP7 and the importance of the top-level research in medical genetics for the general population.

children and adults in its outpatient clinic facility. The staff has many years of experience and fruitful scientific collaborations with well-known international institutions and research programmes that are directly relevant to the medical genetic problems of Armenia. The CMG permanently supports the creation of innovative projects in molecular diagnostics, mental retardation, women's health, cancer genetics and genetic epidemiology.

DESCRIPTION

CMG, founded in 1998, is the only healthcare centre in Armenia and the South Caucasus with high-profile clinical and genetic departments, including molecular genetics, biochemistry, cytogenetics, immunohistochemistry and genetic counselling. The CMG also provides a broad range of services for

The INARMERA project consortium, consisting of the CMG, the Institute of Cancer Biology of the Danish Cancer Society and the European Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer (Belgium), carries out research assessments for CMG and organises training in FP7 for CMG scientists and their research training in medical genetics. For networking and dissemination purposes, workshops and summer schools are organised in Armenia while Armenian scientists attend events in Europe. Meanwhile, from the start of INARMERA, four pilot projects in medical genetics have been organised between CMG scientists and their colleagues not only in Europe but also in Georgia, highlighting

the regional aspect of INARMERA. The pilot trials help participants to identify bottlenecks of cooperation and propose improvements.

The Strategy Experts Group developed the strategy for CMG aimed at the establishment of CMG as a visible centre of medical genetics studies in the Caucasus and at turning it into a reliable partner for European institutions in framework programmes. Project results and achievements will be analysed and recommendations will be submitted to the authorities on strengthening EU–Armenia R & D cooperation leading to the successful start of the integration of Armenia into the ERA.

Implementation of INARMERA is expected to turn CMG into reliable and capable partner for Europe, jointly participating in FP projects and developing new ways of diagnosing and treating genetic disorders. INARMERA creates favourable conditions for participation in new FP7 calls for proposals. These opportunities will encourage the emergence of new centres of excellence — new potential partners for the EU — and increase the regional coverage of the research and technological performance of the CMG High-level European scientists, enhancing their collaboration with Armenia due to INARMERA, offer young talented Armenians support to undertake research projects in Europe and the possibility of future collaborative links with Europe. INARMERA helps to link Armenia’s S & T sector institutions with EU partners and defines the beneficial areas of collaboration. Recommendations, developed by INARMERA, highlight the

priorities and prospects for Armenia’s R & D organisations and assist in the commercialisation of applications through linking Armenian institutes and universities to EU technology centres and businesses. The implementation of the INARMERA work programme facilitates the formulation of common priorities for EU–Armenia collaborative R & D.

INARMERA can visibly contribute to research and technological development (RTD) capacity-building in Armenia via enhancing and enforcing CMG’s ability ‘to tap into the growing stock of global knowledge and create new responses to local needs’. Being a European project, and promoting participation in joint EU projects, INARMERA, nevertheless, creates conditions and helps set up projects covered by bilateral agreements between EU Member States and associated countries with Armenia.

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KHCCBIO

Supporting the Establishment of a Cancer Biobank for Jordan and its Neighbouring Countries through Knowledge Transfer & Training

Period: 15/11/2011 to 14/11/2013

Total cost: EUR 571 744

Budget from EC: EUR 571 744

Contract number: 295010

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: KING HUSSEIN CANCER CENTER

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) is a specialised cancer centre in the Middle East that treats both adult and paediatric cancer patients. Currently, over 3500 new cancer patients arrive each year from Jordan and the neighbouring countries of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Gulf countries and North Africa. Founded in 1997, KHCC is a non-governmental and not-for-profit facility that is well-recognised as a leader in cancer treatment in the Middle East. KHCC is eager to maintain its leading position in Middle Eastern cancer therapy and remain at the forefront of cancer detection and treatment. In order to achieve this, KHCC plans to establish a cancer biobank, KHCCBIO bank, for the storage and archival of biospecimens that can help in the elucidation of the disease. The KHCCBIO bank intends to establish an ISO-accredited biospecimen repository incorporating all current international guidelines and best-in-class practices under an approved quality management system to procure, process and store biospecimens for the benefit of researchers in Jordan, its neighbouring countries, European researchers and

researchers throughout the rest of the world.

ACTIVITIES

KHCCBIO bank will be developed for the purpose of collecting, processing, storing and distributing high-quality, clinically annotated biospecimens from consented patients. This novel, Jordan-based biobank will also standardise and define collections of biological samples for patient-oriented research, to include hypothesis-driven collections, as well as collections for new questions arising, for the ultimate improvement of patient diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and leading to a more personalised approach to healthcare. Sample procurement will be carried out by a team of highly trained KHCC technicians who will directly participate in surgeries and perform sample collections and data recording. Sample collection will be precisely documented and very short tissue cold (post-surgical) ischemia times between resection and fixation will be the standard.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Additional aims of the KHCCBIO support action are to:

- ▶ develop KHCC's research infrastructure, increase its scope and visibility and improve its competitiveness throughout the European and worldwide biomedical science arena;
- ▶ establish a platform for future knowledge transfer and collaborative research;

- ▶ develop and enhance partnerships between European and Middle Eastern organisations for future staff exchanges, seminars, and conferences focused on cancer;
- ▶ disseminate KHCCBIO progress and activities particularly with EU early lung cancer (EUELC) collaborators to ensure greatest impact;
- ▶ build competency so as to facilitate participation of KHCC in future FP7 calls.

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LEB'IN

Lebanon–Europe ‘on boarding’ to innovate and enhance research links in health

Period: 01/01/2012 to 30/06/2013

Total cost: EUR 736 228

Budget from EC: EUR 510 082

Contract number: 294983

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: UNIVERSITÉ SAINT JOSEPH

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

LEB'IN is a support action project, aimed at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Lebanon in the thematic priority ‘Health’ and at integrating Lebanon into the European research area, in order to:

- ▶ support Europe’s leading position and European competitiveness in health sciences through strategic partnerships with Lebanon by engaging the best Lebanese health scientists to work in and with Europe;

- ▶ enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with Lebanon, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;

- ▶ address specific problems that Lebanon faces or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. Consequently, the project aims to develop cooperation capacities between Lebanon and the European Union in the field of health, and — through twinning, capacity building and networking — to support joint Lebanese–European

research activities relevant to the priorities identified in the FP7 work programme 2011.

In order to stimulate the cooperation, the LEB'IN project mission has four objectives:

- ▶ map and assess the strengths, weakness and collaboration potential of the project coordinator, one of the leading Lebanese institutes, Université Saint-Joseph (USJ), and prepare USJ for the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs;

- ▶ set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between USJ and its long-term European partner, the Mediterranean University of Aix-Marseille II (UNIVMED) (France), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, improving work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing USJ for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development;

- ▶ develop USJ’s cooperation capacities and awareness raising, significantly increasing its visibility at European level and its participation in the 7th and future framework programmes and setting the

basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project;

- ▶ organise international events as well as information, training, networking and brokerage and dissemination workshops and sessions, thus developing USJ's FP7 skills and raising awareness about collaboration opportunities in the health theme in order to promote the research capacities of USJ and to enlarge its network.

ACTIVITIES

LEB'IN will be implemented on the basis of the twinning concept between USJ and UNIVMED. Twinning brings together organisations from two countries, which put in common skills, knowledge, and data and establish joint research activities. The interest of implementing this kind of partnership is to achieve closer scientific collaboration with Lebanon and to ensure a sustainable improvement of the cooperation capacities of the French twinning partner UNIVMED and especially of the Lebanese partner USJ. The twinning concept is based on mutual benefit and

reciprocity. It could especially help the lesser known organisations in Europe, such as USJ, to demonstrate in-house research capacities and to gain new ones. It can also contribute to the improvement of relations between the partners by practical applications. The twinning approach allows the use of technologies, methods and strategies, which are not available to one of the partners. Finally, putting together know-how and experience in the common field of research could contribute to fostering academic research achievements with significant scientific results in the area of health technological development for both parties. Twinning helps to create a sense of a common European identity — something that can never be imposed from above. In order to make these results achievable, the twinning concept includes the implementation of different actions. It is about short-term exchanges of experts, setting-up of common working groups, organisation of scientific workshops, joint PhD students and practical data sharing.

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MEDCHAMPS

MEDiterranean studies of Cardiovascular disease and Hyperglycaemia: Analytical Modelling of Population Socio-economic transitions

Period: 01/03/2009 to 28/02/2013

Total cost: EUR 3 475 602

Budget from EC: EUR 703 358

Contract number: 223075

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
UPON TYNE

Website: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/medchamps/index.html>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and diabetes, are increasing dramatically in low and middle income countries. The main reasons for this are an increase in major risk factors, particularly increasing obesity (as a consequence of changes in nutrition and decreases in physical activity), and increasing tobacco use. Globalisation, urbanisation and an ageing population are contributing to this trend. A common misperception is that NCDs are diseases of affluence, but in fact they are common amongst poorer sectors of populations, and age-specific disease rates can be higher in developing countries than in industrialised settings. Health services in these countries, developed to tackle acute infectious diseases, are often not ideally organised to promote effective care and prevention for NCDs.

ACTIVITIES

This project will develop a CVD and diabetes model (IMPACT) for use in this region. After appropriate testing and validation, we will enter data from each of the four Mediterranean study countries (Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) into the model, and validate results against current disease levels and trends. We will use a combination of situation analysis, policy and document review, and qualitative techniques to elicit the current state of NCD policy development in the study countries, and stakeholders' perceptions of potentially effective interventions. We will then use the country-validated models to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of selected future policies. Finally, we will develop implementation and evaluation plans for these policies in each study country. The goal of this project is to reduce the NCD burden of CVD and diabetes.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The overall purpose of the project is to be able to make recommendations about

policy initiatives, both within and outside the health sector, likely to be the most effective and cost-effective in reducing the burden of CVD and diabetes mortality and morbidity in each country.

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MEDIGINE

Genetic and environmental factors of insulin resistance syndrome and its long-term complications in immigrant Mediterranean populations (Cooperation – Health)

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015

Total cost: EUR 4.320.350

Budget from EC: EUR 2.996.907

Contract number: 279171

Funding scheme: CP

Coordinator: UNIVERSITE MONTPELLIER I (UM-1)

Website: www.medigene-fp7.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Complex disorders such as obesity, diabetes and metabolic syndrome contribute to the overall mortality of human populations. One major concern in research in our days is the impact of these complex diseases on the 41 million immigrants in Europe. Both genetic and environmental factors are sources of differences in health among EU citizens, very often disadvantaged by inequalities or low income. Understanding of modern migration requires a broader perspective of population movements across centuries. Indeed, West Mediterranean shores were a place of pre-historical termini of population expansion from Southern Europe and North Africa. The actual diversity and immigration is an extraordinary source for understanding the interplay between pathogenic factors for complex disorders. MEDIGENE project proposes to study genetic and environmental determinants of the metabolic syndrome in recent immigrants in Europe. The fundamental idea is to use the genetic architecture of Mediterranean

populations to better stratify populations in case-control *Genome Wide Association Studies* (GWAS) and locus refining by *Next Generation Sequencing* (NGS) to detect rare SNPs, ethnic specific and with strong effect. The ultimate goal with clinical applications is to considerably ameliorate the association signal for complex disorders.

ACTIVITIES

The project proposes to characterize the genetic landscape of Southern Europe, the Balkans, Anatolia and North Africa based on archaeogenetic studies in Europe using mitochondrial (mt) DNA, Y chromosome and *Ancestry Informative Markers* (AIMs). At the genetic level, we propose to study the variability of almost 150 candidate genes for insulin resistance in both natives and immigrated populations across the Mediterranean Sea, including immigrants (*Albanians, Romanians, Turkish, Tunisians, Algerians and Morocco*) in host countries France, Spain, Italy and Greece. Moreover, archaeologists in Tarragona (*Catalonia*) have the

extraordinary opportunity to study ancient (a)DNA from Roman populations settled between I to IVth century BC on Mediterranean borders as an example of historical migration. Although both historical and modern immigrations are able to reveal pathogenic factors, very likely the global burden of diabetes and obesity in modern times is explained by ancestral colonization of Europe by successive waves during the late Palaeolithic. Alimentary and lifestyle factors are integrated components in the collision with the genetic makeup of Europeans. Therefore, we intend to search potential new genes or variants as well as gene - environment interactions for metabolic syndrome in both immigrant and host populations. Genetic findings will be replicated in home countries (*Anatolia and North Africa*) in the goal to develop genetic markers which are ethnic specific and significant at a clinical scale.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project will bring together the competences of anthropologists, clinical geneticists and demographers in the effort to uncover the genetic susceptibility for metabolic syndrome. These complimentary competences of the MEDIGENE consortium are expected to generate new interdisciplinary research. Particular efforts will be made to implement at UM-1 (Montpellier) common facilities in bioinformatics and statistics for GWAS and NGS for all country participants (<http://medigene.synap.fr/>) and bursting R&D activities of SMEs. Refined genetic analysis in ethnic groups in both host and home countries will ameliorate the association signal,

increasing power and better explaining heritability in population. While insulin resistance is currently considered through energy allocation mechanisms, our study will situate metabolic syndrome on a broader perspective, as adaptation of humans in relation with fertility, population density, social competitiveness and hierarchy or rural to urban transitions. Major impact is also expected from dissemination of our findings to prevent the occurrence of metabolic syndrome and obesity in children and adolescents or in descendants of modern immigration and to understand variability of clinical manifestations in the context of malnutrition. Findings from the MEDIGENE program will have large consequences in understanding the way of life of different people in native countries, thus appropriately helping Public Health interventions.

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N€UROMED

Mediterranean Neurosciences Network

Period: 15/11/2009 to 14/05/2013

Total cost: EUR 1 120 744

Budget from EC: EUR 1 000 000

Contract number: 245807

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: UNIVERSITE DE LA
MEDITERRANEE D'AIX-MARSEILLE II

Website: www.neuromedproject.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Europe and MPCs possess a good potential of well-trained researchers in the field of brain function and dysfunction in disease. However, neuroscience remains poorly represented in collaborative projects in the Mediterranean and European countries. Yet, as MPCs access the status of developed economies, they face severe health burdens of brain dysfunction in relation to developmental issues, education, aging, neurodegenerative diseases, mental and addictive disorders. It is thus crucial for MPCs to invest in this theme of research. In this context, N€UROMED aims at supporting MPC research institutions' infrastructure and potential development in brain research.

ACTIVITIES

The project, built on existing collaborations and local networks, gathers a strong human potential from a range of universities and research centres and complementary expertise in basic and clinical neuroscience. More precisely, the project promotes and improves: (1)

twinning between centres of excellence in the EU and MPCs; (2) recruitment, training and secondments in MPC centres; (3) transfer of knowledge and know-how to the MPC research centres; (4) physical research infrastructure in MPC centres.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Focusing on four major relevant societal issues (neurodegenerative and mental diseases, neuroplasticity, adaptation to environmental stress and brain imaging), where cooperation with EU research entities can help increase the human potential and physical infrastructure in MPCs, N€UROMED will pave the way to the creation of solid links amongst institutions in MPCs and Turkey, and to step up Euro–Mediterranean cooperation in the field of neurosciences. In parallel to the implementation of specific activities, N€UROMED will also improve the participation of MPCs in FP7. Finally, the project is expected to have a broader impact on other key EU policies as it contributes to the fulfilment of the neighbourhood policy, as well as the international aspect of the European R&D policy.

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RESCAP-MED

NCDs and their social determinants in Mediterranean partner countries:
building sustainable research capacity for effective policy intervention

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014

Total cost: EUR 2.226.435

Budget from EC: EUR 1.986.255

Contract number: 281640

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
UPON TYNE

Website: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/rescap-med/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are increasing dramatically in many low and middle income countries, including in the partner countries in this project, in the East Mediterranean and North Africa. The main reasons for this are an increase in major risk factors, particularly increasing obesity (as a consequence of changes in nutrition and decreases in physical activity), and high levels of tobacco use. Globalisation, urbanisation and an ageing population are contributing to this trend. While there are few epidemiological studies of NCDs in the region, research on the health policies necessary for managing this growing burden is scarcer still. This project contributes to building the research capabilities and regional research networks necessary to address these gaps, through the creation of a Mediterranean regional network for NCD researchers.

ACTIVITIES

A Coordination Action facilitates the integration of diverse developmental activities within particular countries into a more integrated programme of training in research techniques and methods, to foster the skills and networks of a rising generation of researchers. This Action brings together ten academic partners and one international organisation (WHO-EMRO). The main activities of RESCAP-MED are Workshops (discipline-specific and generic), a Visiting Fellowship programme designed to support south-south visits as well as north-south mentoring, an E-Learning initiative, and two international Symposia on NCDs and their social determinants. We focus on strengthening the disciplinary capacity necessary to explain the social and environmental factors causing the rise in NCDs, and necessary to identify achievable policy outcomes and interventions. Five disciplines are priorities in this action: epidemiology, health economics, environmental health, medical anthropology, and health policy evaluation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

RESCAP-MED is intended to produce shorter-term impacts and facilitate longer-term impacts. In the shorter term, the outcome should be enhanced capacity for research on NCDs and their social determinants, and strengthened regional

networks for collaborative and comparative research. These will integrate a number of academic disciplines not currently well embedded in partner countries. An organizational framework for ongoing academic exchanges and dialogue with national and regional policy makers is the key to sustainable impact.

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SPHINX

Spontaneous clearance in Patients acutely infected with HCV — Immune profiling, Novel biomarkers and X-omics approaches

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 3 890 180

Budget from EC: EUR 2 989 910

Contract number: 261365

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: INSTITUT PASTEUR

Website: <http://www.sphinx-hcv.eu>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims to identify novel biomarkers and provide new insight into the mechanisms of spontaneous clearance of hepatitis C virus (HCV) during the early stages of acute infection. Indeed, hepatitis C is a major public health problem with high incidence in regions such as Egypt and other Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs). This project follows from an FP5 project entitled 'Promoting Healthy Societies: research in support of regional infectious disease surveillance, which permitted the development of a cohort of patients with acute symptomatic HCV. In this project, we propose to build on this programme for the biochemical, immunologic and gene polymorphism assessment of patients with an enriched consortium of European, Egyptian and Tunisian academic institutions and one European SME. Our multinational, interdisciplinary consortium is in a strong position to establish an in-depth understanding of spontaneous viral clearance and provide needed information that will impact patient management and the design of candidate vaccines for HCV genotype 4.

ACTIVITIES

Specifically, we aim to use '-omics' or hypothesis-generating approaches to perform: (i) multianalyte profiling of plasma analytes; (ii) characterisation of HCV-specific cellular immune responses during the clearance phase; and (iii) assessment of genetic and epigenetic variations that predict viral clearance. Together, this will provide a framework for understanding the host response to acute HCV. In addition, we aim to establish a cooperative training programme under the umbrella of the EU/MPC research collaboration — Fighting hepatitis in Egypt — which will enhance clinical epidemiology and biomarker discovery. Cross-consortia collaborations with the EU-funded project HepaCute and Egyptian-funded STDF will further enhance the impact of our project.

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THEBERA

Theodor Bilharz into the European Research Area

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 561 486

Budget from EC: EUR 500 658

Contract number: 266581

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: THEODOR BILHARZ

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SANAA BOTROS

Website: <http://www.thebera.eg.net/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The THEBERA project aims at strengthening the capacities of the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute (TBRI) in Egypt while driving its transformation as an international excellence and reference centre for liver diseases and hepatic surgery, by defining liver research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European liver research initiatives and inclusion in the Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation area.

ACTIVITIES

The main activities of THEBERA project are (i) to reinforce TBRI's cooperation capacities; (ii) to disseminate liver-related research results; (iii) to develop internationalisation and coordination between research and business sectors; (iv) to enhance EU-Egypt S&T

partnerships in liver research; (v) to build capacity for cooperation; and (vi) to develop THEBERA's central strategy.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The main impact of THEBERA will be increased capacities of the TBRI and the structuring and enhancement of the existing EU-Egyptian support system in the domain of liver S&T cooperation in a threefold manner: (i) by supporting the participation of Egypt in the FP7 in the liver research area, (ii) by combining all relevant support schemes, and (iii) by facilitating both the uptake of common identified liver research areas and the monitoring of the performance and impacts of this cooperation. The THEBERA consortium brings together four Egyptian and EU organisations representing a well-defined mix of competencies and expertise.

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CHAPTER 5: INFORMATION SOCIETY AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

HP-SEE – High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe’s Research Communities

INARMERA-ICT – Integrating Armenia into the European research area: information and communication technologies (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

JEWEL - Jordan Europe Wide Enhanced research Links in ICT (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

LINKSCEEM-2 - Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean - Phase 2

PICTURE – Policy dialogue in ICT to an Upper level for Reinforced EU-EECA Cooperation

RECOCAPE - Reinforcing Cooperation Capacity of Egypt in embedded ubiquitous computing (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

HP-SEE

High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe's Research Communities

Period: 01/09/2010 to 31/08/2013

Total cost: 3.900.463

Budget from EC: 2.100.000

Contract number: 261499

Funding scheme: CP-CSA

Coordinator: GREEK RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY NETWORK S.A.

Website: <http://www.hp-see.eu/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

HP-SEE, High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe's Research Communities, will link existing and upcoming HPC facilities in South East Europe in a common infrastructure, and it will provide operational solutions for it. As a complementary action, the project will establish and maintain a GÉANT link for Southern Caucasus.

The project objectives are:

- Empowering multi-disciplinary Virtual Research Communities.
- Deploying integrated infrastructure for Virtual Research Communities.
- Policy development and stimulating regional inclusion in pan-European HPC trends.
- Strengthening the regional and national human network.

ACTIVITIES

Networking activities

"National and Regional HPC initiatives and international liaison" activity will provide support for organizational models on national and regional levels.

"Dissemination and training" activity will focus on outreach, both to the wider public as well as to specific HPC operator and existing and new user communities.

"Virtual Research Communities support" is the central activity of the project which will provide round-the-clock user support for a range of national and SEE-wide applications.

Service activities

"Regional HPC operations and interoperation" activity will ensure that integrated services will be provided to end users, by deploying the regional HPC infrastructure on top of the existing networking infrastructure, complementary to the existing Grid infrastructure, and fused with end-user services.

Procurement and network design will conduct the procurement of the connectivity elements between core points in south Caucasus region and the pan-European GEANT network PoP in South East Europe.

Network operations will ensure stable operation of the connections of South Caucasus National Research & Education

Networks (NRENs) to the European Academic network GEANT3.

Joint Research activities

Software stack and technologies updates will support activities for analysis and integration of software stacks used, as well as permanent technology watch.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The HP-SEE project goes beyond the current state-of-the-art and consolidates the process of regional infrastructure development and exploitation by deploying the regional HPC infrastructure, empowering the users and helping the region on the policy level, with the final result being the provision of fully integrated infrastructure services on the European level, including the SEE region as a peer. Furthermore, HP-SEE will enable HPC technology adoption in crucial strata of research communities in South-East Europe, especially in the context of the regional-level applications, thus creating a strong bond of researchers across borders and allowing co-ordination of high-quality research in target research fields which benefit from infrastructure use.

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INARMERA-ICT

Integrating Armenia into Era: Information and Communication Technologies

Period: 01/02/2012 to 31/01/2015

Total cost: EUR 548.500

Budget from EC: EUR 497.978

Contract number: 294943

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATICS AND AUTOMATION PROBLEMS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Website: <http://www.inarmera-ict.eu/>

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of INARMERA-ICT is to rein-force the cooperation capacity of the Institute for Informatics and Automation Problems (IIAP) of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in Yerevan by creating opportunities to improve its research activities in the areas of FP7 thematic priorities. Successful implementation of the INARMERA-ICT work programme will have a profound and long-lasting impact on EU–Armenia R & D cooperation.

The goal of INARMERA-ICT is the realisation of the following improvements in EU-Armenia cooperation in framework programmes:

- enhanced quality of cooperation — more frequent contact and meetings, different levels of cooperation;
- enlarged scope of cooperation — more EU Member States involved, more research centres and businesses involved, more topics of mutual interest covered;
- deepened content — more joint articles in leading research journals, patent

applications, joint leadership of PhD students, etc.;

- increased number of FP7 project proposals with Armenian participation;
- strengthened links between policy-makers in the EU and Armenia in S &T.

DESCRIPTION

The problem that INARMERA-ICT addresses is the missed opportunity of strong S &T cooperation between Europe and Armenia in the mutually important field of S & T, and the benefits it can bring to both sides. In practical terms, it means new jobs, better career opportunities and better prospects for the development of new products and services. It helps with issues of standardisation and interoperability, providing an environment of effective cross-border cooperation.

INARMERA-ICT addresses this problem by pro-posing dedicated activities aimed at improving the cooperation capacity of Armenia. These activities complement the research and innovation activities described in the Armenian national

indicative programme and covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The planned activities will eventually result in the promotion of closer scientific cooperation between the EU and Armenia and will be a step forward in the direction of preparation for Armenia's future association with the framework programmes. This is in line with the EC communication on the strategic framework for international S & T cooperation, an important part of which is the call for the reinforcement of cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the European research area (ERA). The IIAP is the leading ICT research and technology development institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

The INARMERA-ICT project aims at reinforcing the cooperation capacity of the IIAP by providing opportunities to improve its research activities in the areas of thematic priorities of the framework programme. Participation of the IIAP in the ERA-WIDE call was endorsed by the Armenian government due to the important role it assigned to the institute in the transition of the country to an innovative knowledge-based economy, due to active participation in FP5, FP6 and FP7 projects, and the responsibility the institute bears in the development of ICT in Armenia and in the region.

The project consortium consisting of the IIAP and three partners from Belgium, France and Hungary will carry out a research assessment of the IIAP, organise training in FP7 and FP8 and research training in the latest methods in information technology, cybernetics, etc. for IIAP scientists. For networking and

dissemination purposes, workshops and summer schools are organised in Armenia, while Armenian scientists are able to attend events in Europe. Meanwhile, from the start of INARMERA-ICT, four pilot projects will be organised between IIAP scientists and their colleagues in Europe and also in Georgia, highlighting the regional aspect of the project. The pilot projects help participants to identify bottlenecks of cooperation and find remedies: they will lay the ground for larger FP project proposals.

The Strategy Experts Group develops strategy for the IIAP aiming at confirming its reputation as the leading regional ICT centre and turning it into a committed partner for European institutions in framework programmes. Project results and achievements are analysed and recommendations will be drawn up to pre-sent to the authorities on strengthening EU- Armenia R & I cooperation leading to the successful integration of Armenia into the ERA.

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JEWEL

Jordan Europe Wide Enhanced research Links in ICT

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 591 091

Budget from EC: EUR 498 632

Contract number: 266507

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

JEWEL aims at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Jordan in the thematic priority ICT and at integrating Jordan into the European Research Area, in order to:

- ▶ Support European leading position and European competitiveness in ICT sciences through strategic partnerships with Jordan by engaging the best Jordan ICT-scientists to work in and with Europe;
- ▶ Enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with Jordan, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
- ▶ Address specific problems that Jordan faces or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

ACTIVITIES

In order to stimulate cooperation, the JEWEL project mission has four activities:

- ▶ Map and assess the strengths, weakness and collaboration potential of the project coordinator, one of the leading Jordanian institutes, JUST, and prepare JUST to take the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs;
- ▶ Set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between JUST and its long term European partner, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, giving better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing JUST for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development;
- ▶ Develop JUST's cooperation capacities and raising awareness, significantly increasing its visibility on the European level and its participation in the 7th and future Framework Programs and setting the basis for long term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project.
- ▶ Organise joint trainings and ensure skills improvements, by developing and implementing a concept of joint training modules, and building a more solid bridge

between young researchers with different backgrounds.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The impact of the JEWEL project will be substantial in the short to medium term on the policy, technology and socio-economic levels, since it will provide a solid framework for ICT research cooperation and strengthening the cooperation capacities not only of JUST,

but also of Jordan and the surrounding Mediterranean region. The project combines different kinds of scientific events, allowing networking, training and consequently, facilitating the establishment of fruitful partnerships. The new ICT-projects, which JUST will have the opportunity to undertake in the context of JEWEL, will have a greater impact on Europe's S&T research and excellence in the ICT sector.

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LINKSCEEM-2

Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean - Phase 2

Period: 01/09/2010 to 31/08/2014

Total cost: EUR 4 121 340

Budget from EC: EUR 2 450 000

Contract number: 261600

Funding scheme: CP-CSA

Coordinator: THE CYPRUS RESEARCH
AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Website: <http://www.linksceem.eu/joomla/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

This project proposes the development of a high performance computing ecosystem in the Eastern Mediterranean region by interlinking and coordinating regional computing, data and visualisation resources to form an integrated e-platform.

ACTIVITIES

The project provides training activities and user support, and engages regional communities through networking activities such as workshops, exchange of visitors and organization of joint events. Its focus is on virtual research communities in three fields that are clearly relevant to the region and of global importance, namely Climate Modelling, Digital Cultural Heritage and Synchrotron applications. Regional HPC centres are contributing resources to support user communities in the region with the Computation-based Science and Technology Research Centre of the Cyprus Institute, the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences

(Egypt) and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt) being initially the major contributors. SESAME, (Jordan/ UNESCO), a major experimental facility with a broad user community, is promoting networking in the region.

EXPECTED IMPACT

An upgraded connection between Cyprus and Jordan will provide the needed bandwidth for the transfer of SESAME data. The Julich Supercomputing Center and the National Center of Supercomputing Applications of the University of Illinois will provide know-how at the highest level for running and integrating such facilities, whereas international leaders in the three thematic areas will ensure transfer of state-of-the-art techniques to the regional user communities, thereby linking the Eastern Mediterranean with the European and international computational science activities.

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PICTURE

Policy dialogue in ICT to an Upper level for Reinforced EU-EECA Cooperation

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/05/2014

Total cost: EUR 734.652

Budget from EC: EUR 620.000

Contract number: 288279

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INNO TSD SA

Website: <http://www.eeca-ict.eu/mainpage>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Aimed to foster collaboration opportunities and to support policy dialogue, PICTURE is a logical continuation of the successful activities carried out under the EECA ICT clustering projects - ISTOK-SOYUZ, SCUBE-ICT and EXTEND - that were running from January 2009 until June 2011 with the common mandate of strengthening the cooperation between EU and EECA countries in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The cluster experience clearly has shown the need to continue the efforts in the EECA countries, further amplifying their impact.

Therefore, the main objective of the PICTURE project is to exploit collaboration frameworks built on the foundations and achievements of previous experience to enrich and support the research dimension of the EU-EECA ICT Policy Dialogue. The PICTURE Consortium, with complementary skills and experiences in international cooperation and bilateral cooperation with EECA countries, engages the EU and EECA stakeholders from the

government and academia, research institutions and enterprises, to bring the present collaboration in ICT research to a higher level.

ACTIVITIES

To achieve the project objectives, the consortium will undertake activities focused at :

- Updating the EU-EECA ICT priorities for cooperation and provide an overview of the EECA ICT policy dialogue, currently existing in the region ;
- Assisting and enriching the Policy Dialogue process and meetings between the EU and EECA with periodic and other reports, encompassing findings from policy research and stakeholder views dealing with common R&D perspectives, priorities, opportunities and challenges
- Setting up and animating the 3 working groups, focusing on Policy Dialogue (WG1), Components, Computing Systems, and Networks (WG2) and Content Technologies

and Information Management (WG3)

- Organizing three workshops, ten working groups meetings, and more than 30 projects events in EECA countries;
- Implementing pilot projects relevant to each EECA country, exchanging experience and the lessons learnt (e.g. access for EU researchers to the EECA programmes...)
- Recommending future co-operation initiatives and identifying matching counterpart funding to leverage EECA research capability and capacity and to engage in projects in common priority areas
- Exploring and recommending existing EECA programmes in order to open new perspectives for participation of the EU ICT organizations, and highlight the ways to access these programmes;

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

As a final outcome, the project will present step-wise recommendations and strategies for reinforcement of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, covering the large geographical area of the EECA countries. It is expected also that PICTURE will create a good ground for making a substantial contribution to the existing *state of the art* in ICT policy dialogue by releasing cooperation potential of the EECA region which is rich in talents but not yet adequately internationalized.

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RECOCAPE

Reinforcing Cooperation Capacity of Egypt in embedded ubiquitous computing

Period: 01/11/2011 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 496 518.5

Budget from EC: EUR 609 279

Contract number: 295039

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Website: <http://www.secc.org.eg/RECOCAPE/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Software Engineering Competence Center (SECC) is one of the key players in the ICT sector in Egypt. It was inaugurated in 2001 by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to transform and promote the software and ICT industry in Egypt. It was embodied in the organizational structure of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) in 2005. SECC has taken the mandate of increasing Egypt's competency in recent technologies as Service-Oriented Architecture, Enterprise Service Bus, Semantic Web, Model-Driven Development, and Embedded Ubiquitous Computing. The aim is to bridge the gap between the technologies needed to overcome the economic-social-

environmental challenges and the current existing technologies. The objectives are:

- ▶ Developing SECC's strategic technology plan
- ▶ Developing and delivering training modules to build competency in Service-Oriented Architecture, Enterprise Service Bus, Semantic Web, Model-Driven Development, and Embedded Ubiquitous Computing
- ▶ Setting up joint relevant experiments in the above relevant technologies
- ▶ Exchanging SECC staff with TECNALIA to work on FP7 proposal preparation and related running projects
- ▶ Disseminating knowledge through organizing key events, such as the EuroMed SPI, to involve local stakeholders and generate regional impact
- ▶ Exploiting results through implementing cluster projects involving local ICT businesses.

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CHAPTER 6: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BILAT-UKR*AINA – Enhancing the BILATeral S&T Partnership with UKRraine * Advanced INnovative Approach

EARN - Euro-Algerian Research Networking

ERAIHM – Advancing Research and Cooperation Capacities of IHM NASU towards ERA

ETC - EUROPEAN–TUNISIAN COOPERATION

EU-JORDANNET II – Enhancement of Jordan-European S&T Partnerships

IncoNet CA/SC – International Cooperation Network for Central Asian and South Caucasus countries

IPERA – Integrating the Institute for Physical Research of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia into the European research area

MED-SPRING – Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

MIRA - Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action

MOBILISE – MOrocco and the EU: strengthening Bilateral Links in Innovation and Science for Economy

SHERACA - Shaping Egypt’s Association to the ERA and Cooperation Action

BILAT-UKR*AINA

Enhancing the BILATeral S&T Partnership with UKRraine * Advanced INnovative Approach

Period: 01/09/2012 to 30/06/2015

Total cost: EUR 838,089.84

Budget from EC: EUR 749,657.00

Contract number: 311839

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: ZSI – Zentrum für soziale Innovation

Website: www.bilat-ukr.eu/

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Ukraine is an important partner for the European Union in science and technology (S&T). An S&T Cooperation Agreement with Ukraine has been in force since 2003 but compared to other S&T agreements, the one with Ukraine was not as active as potentially could be. The dual objective of BILAT-UKR*AINA is thus to contribute to a deepening of the dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation, but also to target directly the research communities in Ukraine and the EU through a number of support measures facilitating an increased take-up and response to unilateral, bilateral and multilateral collaboration opportunities.

instruments etc.). Several activities are designed to promote cooperation opportunities in Horizon 2020, to facilitate the creation of researcher networks and participation in joint projects. Monitoring activities scrutinise the development of S&T cooperation in terms of co-publications, opportunities for reciprocal participation of EU researchers in Ukrainian S&T State Programmes and study the impact of FP participation on different analytical categories. Moreover, training and outreach activities as well as awareness raising activities about the assets of S&T cooperation with Ukraine are foreseen.

ACTIVITIES

To increase the level of S&T cooperation BILAT-UKR*AINA organises different exchange and coordination forums, provides analytical input to the bilateral policy dialogue and pilots follow-up activities to forward the implementation of the joint EU-Ukraine STI Roadmap (e.g. feasibility study about joint-funding

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The project has the ambition to stimulate stakeholder exchange and policy dialogue through various formats which are substantiated by analytical evidence and policy analysis. The previously sluggish exploitation of the bilateral S&T Cooperation Agreement will be re-launched through different coordination approaches and Ukrainian researchers will have increased awareness about

opportunities and key benefits of international S&T cooperation with the EU which will result in an enhanced level of collaboration between EU and Ukrainian researchers for mutual benefit.

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Euro-Algerian Research Networking

Period: 01/10/2010 to 30/09/2013

Total cost: EUR 570 404

Budget from EC: EUR 509 964

Contract number: 266535

Funding scheme: Support actions

Coordinator: ZENIT ZENTRUM FÜR
INNOVATION UND TECHNIK

OBJECTIVES

The European Union and Algeria recently concluded a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement in order to promote their cooperation in several fields related to research and innovation. In this context, the project's aim is to improve and open opportunities of cooperation and to support the bilateral dialogue between Algeria and Europe. In practice, the objectives are fivefold:

- ▶ to provide information on European and Algerian funding programmes designed to promote cooperation projects between Algerian and European researchers;
- ▶ to provide supportive schemes for identifying suitable partners in Algeria and the EU;
- ▶ to implement a network of contact points in the different thematic areas of the framework programme and to train R & D managers dedicated to support and advise Algerian researchers on legal and administrative issues related to project management;
- ▶ to contribute to building a bridge between science, innovation and the industrial sector by promoting dialogue on innovation support schemes;

- ▶ to identify and analyse research priorities of mutual interest so as to support the science and technology dialogue between both sides.

ACTIVITIES

In order to reach its goals, the project is divided into six main work packages.

- ▶ WP1: Creating a knowledge base for enhanced EU–Algerian ST&I cooperation — it provides the analytical basis for the project work. The Algerian S&T landscape as well as the existing bilateral cooperation programmes will be described. Finally, the existing EU–Algerian S & T links will be analysed.
- ▶ WP2: Setting the scene for the creation of thematic FP7 contacts in Algeria — this represents a core part of the work. It focuses essentially on the creation of an efficient National Contact Point (NCP) system, by contributing to an adequate set-up of an Algerian thematic NCPs' network, and facilitating networking activities in Algeria, with Arabic NCPs as well as with EU NCP networks.
- ▶ WP3: Information, training and mentoring — this concentrates on providing efficient services to the research communities from both sides. A

web portal will support the information actions for disseminating knowledge on EU and Algerian research and on the Algerian science system. Training and mentoring activities will bring the necessary knowledge for efficient participation in EU framework programmes.

▶ WP4: From science to innovation: Building an EU–Algerian innovation bridge — this attempts to shift the project’s focus from a purely scientific to a more innovation-orientated view, by reviewing existing innovation support tools and elaborating policy options for Algeria, as well as training and linking Algerian activities with good practices in Europe.

▶ WP5: Facilitating the policy agenda — this will support the bilateral EU–Algerian dialogue on current and future issues of a joint ST & I policy agenda by systematically analysing the information emerging from the previous work packages.

▶ WP6: Project management — this will guarantee the successful achievement of EARN’s objectives and will ensure a balanced view between the European and Algerian priorities. A strong collaboration between EARN and other EU projects in the region will be established so as to learn from previous experiences and build on these exchanges.

to become part of the European research area. Finally, the translation of research results into an increased competitiveness of Algerian industries will be ensured by analyses and policy learning.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

EARN is expected to contribute to the measurable increase of effective collaborations between Algerian and European researchers, improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems, and a functioning NCP system for Algerian researchers who want

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ERAIHM

Advancing Research and Cooperation Capacities of IHM NASU towards ERA

Period: 01/11/2010 to 28/02/2013

Total cost: EUR 478.707

Budget from EC: EUR 385.763

Contract number: 266587

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUTE OF
HYDROMECHANICS NASU

Website: <http://hydromech.com.ua/eng/eraihm.html>

OBJECTIVES

The overall project objectives are to:

- develop a strategy for the Institute of Hydromechanics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IHM NASU) aimed at ensuring the coherence of its research and technological development (RTD) activities with the socioeconomic needs of Ukraine, enhancing its cooperation with European research centres and participation in European framework programmes;
- develop and implement training modules at IHM NASU to build capacity in participation in FP7 and to facilitate the involvement of stakeholders in the innovation process;
- develop a communication and dissemination toolkit to improve IHM NASU visibility for Ukrainian and European research centres and stakeholders, networking, dissemination and exchange of scientific information and design of joint research and technological development (RTD) activities.

DESCRIPTION

The ERAIHM project is designed to reinforce the cooperation capacities of one of the leading research centres of Ukraine, the IHM NASU, and enhance its participation in European framework programmes. IHM NASU was founded in 1926 and is currently the largest centre for research into a wide range of problems in modern fluid mechanics. IHM NASU has developed an infrastructure of experimental tools, which is recognised as Ukrainian national heritage. Based on the results of basic research, IHM NASU performs a wide range of applied investigations in areas included in such thematic priorities of FP7 as energy, environment, transport and biotechnology. The EU partners are assisting IHM NASU in capacity-building activities and the application of tools and methods for assessment of its innovation potential and competitive advantage. They also support networking with research centres in the EU for scientific exchanges and joint project formulation as well as building competence in the application of interactive back-casting for stakeholders' involvement in the innovation process in Ukraine.

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EUROPEAN–TUNISIAN COOPERATION

Period: 01/09/2009 to 28/02/2013

Total cost: EUR 560 640

Budget from EC: EUR 499 904

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Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: MINISTRY OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to foster and build up a network consisting of scientific and technological organisations and enterprises, involved in RTD activities, belonging to the European and Tunisian areas. The main goals are to create a community of actors able to share knowledge, know-how, skills and information, and also to address S&T cooperation in strategic fields of mutual interests through an integrated set of actions including:

- ▶ raising awareness of European scientific and technological programmes;
- ▶ scouting of the main priorities in the S&T target areas, highlighting the mutual benefits coming from S&T cooperation;
- ▶ improving the transfer of knowledge and skills development between the two areas;
- ▶ spreading and sharing best practices in order to present the state of the art and the prospects in S&T fields of cooperation.

DESCRIPTION

The ETC project intends to build and enhance a network of European and Tunisian public and private research centres and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in RTD activities. Specifically, it aims to improve and to expand cooperation between Europe and Tunisia by:

- ▶ setting up a dialogue between the major stakeholders responsible for European–Tunisian S&T cooperation;
- ▶ evaluating past, present and future collaboration between Tunisia and Europe in S&T and proposing ways of optimising the rules and instruments;
- ▶ generating partnership opportunities between scientific and technological communities from both sides;
- ▶ improving the visibility of results and collaboration between Tunisia and Europe;
- ▶ sharing best practices and providing wider access to information.

To perform its strategy, a very important step of the ETC project will be the setting-up of the information platform VINCE, designed by Innova BIC, to make access to knowledge more friendly, spreading information in real time and match-making S&T actors in Europe and Tunisia. The platform and its tools allow for the

creation of a virtual and collaborative environment, strengthening interactions between and among the project's stakeholders and will simplify the interactions between the project target audience and stakeholders of the two areas. Finally, the ETC project will be able to build up and enhance an active partnership capable of increasing Tunisian international collaboration opportunities and facing Tunisian strategic challenges, with positive inputs in their relationship with Europe. Moreover, the ETC project, in order to support cooperation activities, will employ the use of the Arabic language (as well as French and English) to disseminate information regarding:

- ▶ European cooperation programmes,
- ▶ calls for proposal,
- ▶ best practices on project cycle management,
- ▶ forecasting results for a Delphi analysis.

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EU-JORDANNET II

Enhancement of Jordan-European S&T Partnerships

Period: 01/10/2012 to 30/09/2015

Total cost: EUR 765,840.00

Budget from EC: EUR 682,874.00

Contract number: 311910

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: THE HIGHER COUNCIL FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HCST

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

EU-JordanNet II aims at further increasing the research cooperation between Jordan and Europe, following the successful activities of the first EU-JordanNet. On the one hand it will adopt a broader approach by addressing in particular the research-innovation chain encompassing academia as well as the private sector, and on the other hand will facilitate the preparation of collaborative activities by a coaching programme for individual researchers and developers. Although Jordan has been quite active in EU Framework Programmes over the past years, many researchers still face considerable problems in actively developing successful proposals.

ACTIVITIES

The project will directly support researchers who have concrete ideas for proposals through a step-by-step coaching, supporting the search for appropriate partners in Europe. Apart from the awareness and training session on the Horizon 2020 industrial component (ICT and NMP) and the societal challenges (Food), the project will focus on the Marie Curie actions, to increase the mobility of researchers between Jordan and Europe. In all these activities the project will put

special emphasis on the collaboration between the private sector and academia as a basis for an effective innovation culture.

EU-JordanNet II will also support the bilateral S&T policy dialogue through organizing joint EU-Jordan S&T Committee meetings to oversee implementation of the agreement and regularly discuss the future orientations of research policies and planning both in Jordan and in the EU.

EU-JordanNet II will also support the implementation of a service approach for FP7 Contacts in Jordan and train them on the coming Horizon 2020 programme.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- Increase the number of Jordanian researchers and developers in Horizon 2020 projects.
- Through closer cooperation with all research and innovation actors strengthen the research to innovation chain in Jordan.
- Identification of new priorities that need to be incorporated in the bilateral policy dialogue between Jordan and the EU.

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INCONET CA/SC

International Cooperation Network for Central Asian and South Caucasus countries

Period: 01/04/2010 to 31/03/2013

Total cost: EUR 3.727.552

Budget from EC: EUR 3.199.720

Contract number: 244417

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES

Website: <http://www.inco-casc.net/>

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–CA/SC interest in enhancing S&T cooperation has been developing with the aim of sharing 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 of supporting and facilitating bi-regional EU–CA/SC S&T policy dialogue, addressing coordination with other EU instruments and strengthening participation in FP7, the IncoNet CA/SC project targets all the central Asian and South Caucasus countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, plus Moldova.

The project has complemented and deepened, in the two subregions, the activities of the completed IncoNet EECA project, with particular emphasis on Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan,

which have been partially addressed so far. At the same time, by avoiding duplication and by extending the synergies between the two projects (which are geographically overlapping), their impact will be maximised.

DESCRIPTION

The following are the main activities of the project.

- Policy dialogue: organisation of missions in every targeted country in order to contact policymakers and other stakeholders, to identify mutual interests and to pave the way for enhanced participation in the European research area and FP7 as well as the organisation of two stakeholders' conferences to formulate proposals for enhanced cooperation, to promote mutual learning among policymakers, to identify barriers, etc. In parallel, specific attention will be given to other EU policies such as the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and the Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI), for their better coordination with the S&T policy.

- Support for information multipliers: for example, training sessions for NCP/NIP structures and the scientific community; info days in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan; grants for the participation of scientists in brokerage events in the EU.

- Studies on innovation policies and structures in CA/SC: successful participations in FP6 and FP7 will be considered in order to identify critical factors, as well as the extension of studies implemented under the IncoNet EECA, which include, 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 ([http:// www.inco-casc.net](http://www.inco-casc.net)), particular effort will be devoted to the strengthening of the coverage of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan through 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 (<http://www.increast.eu>).

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

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

At the operational/implementation level, 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 information dissemination and assistance and create awareness of the opportunities for enhanced cooperation among researchers.

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IPERA

Integrating the Institute for Physical Research of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia into ERA

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/11/2014

Total cost: EUR 556.985

Budget from EC: EUR 497.523

Contract number: 295025

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL RESEARCH OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF ARMENIA

Website: <http://www.ip-era.eu/>

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the IPERA project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of the Institute for Physical Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (IPR-NAS) in the research fields of quantum information, atomic and matter wave physics and scintillating materials, which are relevant to the FP7 work programmes ICT and NMP. This will enable IPR-NAS to become more closely integrated into the European research area (ERA). The specific objectives of the project are to:

- develop IPR-NAS' research partnerships;
- increase IPR-NAS' scientific visibility;
- increase IPR-NAS' human potential;
- increase IPR-NAS' medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

DESCRIPTION

IPR-NAS is a leading physics institute in Armenia for research into atomic physics, laser spectroscopy, photonics, quantum information and matter wave physics. Its researchers have published over 150

papers in international peer-reviewed journals during the past five years. IPR-NAS has collaborations with leading research organisations in over 20 countries around the world.

The IPERA project involves expanding IPR-NAS' capacities and scientific expertise through strategic collaboration with the following excellent research and innovation organisations: Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) (represented by Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Carnot de Bourgogne, UMR 5209, and Laboratoire de Physico-Chimie des Matériaux Luminescents, UMR 5620) and Intelligentsia — plus three subcontracted experts from the Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, the University of Latvia and CERN.

By making a major contribution towards cooperation capacity-building in quantum information (research topic A), atomic and matter wave physics (research topic B) and scintillating materials (research topic C), the IPERA project will enable IPR-NAS

to participate in and contribute to several FP7 thematic priorities.

In order for IPR-NAS to achieve its overall aim of being integrated into the ERA, the IPERA project is divided into five work packages.

- WP1, Project management, describes how IPERA is managed to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to ensure optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.
- WP2, Twinning, describes the twinning activities with European research centres in order to exchange scientific information, identify partners, set up joint experiments and prepare at least three project proposals for future FP7 calls for proposals. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, via twinning with CNRS-1 with respect to research topic A: quantum information. Secondly, via twinning with CNRS-1 with respect to research topic B: atomic and matter wave physics. Thirdly, via twinning with CNRS-2 with respect to research topic C: scintillating materials. Fourthly, via networking with other European research centres and submission of three project proposals for future FP7 calls for proposals with respect to FP7 research priorities with the support of Intelligentsia.
- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, describes the tasks to increase the visibility of IPR-NAS, by designing and implementing an IPERA website and regularly updating it with relevant R & D news, events and three newsletters. Promotional material will be designed and produced for IPR-NAS. It is also planned to organise a scientific conference in

Armenia in the final stages of the project focusing on relevant FP7 ICT and NMP thematic priorities.

- WP4, Training development, describes the training development needed to build competency in quantum information, atomic and matter wave physics and scintillating materials and facilitate the participation of IPR-NAS in FP7 ICT, NMP and research for SMEs. This will be achieved through five tasks. Firstly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and CNRS-1 relevant to research topic A: quantum information. Secondly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and CNRS-1 relevant to research topic B: atomic and matter wave physics. Thirdly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and CNRS-2 relevant to research topic C: scintillating materials. Fourthly, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and Intelligentsia relevant to FP7 ICT, NMP and research for SMEs. Finally, training development will be organised between IPR-NAS and Intelligentsia relevant to knowledge and technology transfer.
- WP5, Strategy development, describes how a strategy will be developed for IPR-NAS in order to augment its research excellence, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs. Firstly, a set of evaluation performance indicators will be defined for IPR-NAS and then a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by a team of international experts documented in an IPERA evaluation report. Secondly, the IPERA evaluation report will be presented during a workshop with representatives from the Armenian government and industry.

Based on the discussions, IPR-NAS will create an IPERA strategy report with defined goals for the next 5+ years. Thirdly, the performance of IPR-NAS will

be monitored during the project with respect to the evaluation performance indicators and towards the goals defined in the IPERA strategy report.

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MED-SPRING

Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway

Period: 01/02/2013 to 31/01/2017

Total cost: EUR 4.480.222

Budget from EC: EUR 3.999.945

Contract number: 311780

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DI ALTI STUDI AGRONOMICI MEDITERRANEI - ISTITUTO AGRONOMICO MEDITERRANEO DI BARI

Website: www.medpsring.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The current Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in RTD might be enhanced by some coordinated actions such as identifying regional priorities, strengthening regional research networking, tackling societal challenges in a sustainable way, and identifying achievements, overlaps and synergies of existing initiatives. To this end, MED-SPRING aims at: enhancing EU-MPCs co-ownership in research cooperation; creating synergies in order to reduce fragmentation of research actions; involving civil society in the institutional dialogue on research and innovation; developing cooperation instruments to tackle societal challenges with a view to sustainability; supporting research and innovation capacity-building through comprehensive training; and contributing to building an Euro-Mediterranean shared knowledge space.

ACTIVITIES

To reach its objectives, the project foresees a comprehensive analysis of selected societal challenges and will address capacity building to increase research capacity, shared knowledge and cooperation. It will also support synergies

and networking to strengthen joint activities and EU-MS-MPCs cooperation in EU programmes, as well as a monitoring of regional RTD cooperation and policies. In particular, the proposal is structured to address three societal challenges: energy, high quality affordable food, scarcity of resources. These challenges have been selected on the basis of the result of the long-standing and on-going EU-MPCs policy dialogue and represent the most significant areas of common interest in current Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

This INCO-Net proposal aims at tackling the above-mentioned issues and policy objectives by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions (traditional EU counterparts in the bi-lateral and bi-regional policy dialogue), research organisations, associations and civil society. It will also address capacity-building (training) and analysis of societal challenges to increase respectively research capacity and shared knowledge and cooperation on common areas of interest. It will support synergies and networking to strengthen joint activities and joint cooperation in EU programmes, and monitoring regional RTD cooperation and policies.

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MIRA

Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action

Period: 01/01/2008 to 31/01/2013
Total cost: EUR 4 920 000
Budget from EC: EUR 3 990 000
Contract number: 211359

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

With 30 partners across the Mediterranean, Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA) provides a functional dialogue and action platform to support Euro-Mediterranean science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation. A dialogue is supported by providing inputs and analysis from a range of collaborations between research and innovation communities from the European Union and Mediterranean countries especially through the 7th Framework Programme. An important task is also to support the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) by providing a think tank and implementing pilot actions.

DIALOGUE ACTIVITIES

An important aspect of MIRA activities is to stimulate dialogue and knowledge sharing as well to identify research topics of common interests, set up S&T priorities and monitor the content of the thematic priorities of FP7 with respect to the Mediterranean region. Indeed, MIRA offers a platform for sharing analysis with a focus on connecting global trends and

issues to regional specificities. In terms of Innovation policies, it contributes to bring together different stakeholders to identify and assess the relevance of activities to be performed to advance toward the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS). For example, it promotes activities where the scientific and business communities can exchange their expertise and needs in close cooperation with national administrations and multi-national actors such as the European Investment Bank ("Fora"). Based on the field experience, MIRA also gathers opinions and conveys messages to national authorities through the formulation of recommendations on ways of improving administrative issues. MIRA also supports the activities of the Union for Mediterranean and European Neighbourhood Partnership Instruments (ENPI) by identifying and developing 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 of the Programme Horizon 2020 for the decontamination of the Mediterranean Sea. The outcomes of these activities contribute to the S&T policy dialogue maintained within the "Monitoring

Committee for Euro-Mediterranean S&T Cooperation" (MoCo) senior official meeting composed of the Ministries responsible for S&T of EU and Mediterranean Countries.

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 elicit opportunities of collaborations between scientists and entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Increasing the capacities of MPC's by organising trainings to build common knowledge and competences for administrators, regulators and managers.
- ▶ Supporting the regional network of National Contact Points (or FP7 Contact points) in order to increase awareness on FP7 opportunities and other programmes and policies dedicated to support RTD collaboration between Europe and the MPCs, and between the MPCs. The project communication is provided by a central Internet-based forum and the website: www.miraproject.eu

MONITORING AND REVIEW ACTIVITIES

One of the main objectives of MIRA is the creation of an Observatory of the EU-MPC S&T cooperation able to provide the necessary feedback to the MoCo on the progress and impact of the EU-MPCs S&T

cooperation since the Cairo Declaration of 2007. This feedback helps policymakers update their policies and priorities of cooperation and provides a valuable input in the preparation of EC strategic papers in the area of bi-regional S&T cooperation. The Observatory helps to promote the creation of an academic task-force able to tackle and measure the social impact of research. One part of the continuous monitoring activities is related to the S&T and scientific capacities, e.g. bibliometric studies. Another part is dedicated to the identification of specific S&T indicators for the assessment of international scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean region. It also proposes a methodology for the setting up of a permanent Observatory beyond the life of the project, through a network of MPC experts to monitor the S&T&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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MOBILISE

MOrocco and the EU: strengthening Bilateral Links in Innovation and Science for Economy

Period: 01/10/2012 to 30/09/2015

Total cost: EUR 2.566.118

Budget from EC: EUR 2.249.999

Contract number: 312186

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: Association R&D MAROC

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The EU and Morocco are fully engaged in a strong and deepening cooperation supported by a high level policy dialogue, and pertaining to multiple sectors including research and innovation. In May 2011, an institutional twinning program is launched to strengthen and bring closer the Moroccan research and innovation system to ERA. Morocco is highly devoted to reinforce current bilateral initiatives and programs in S&T, aiming at the preparation and definition of joint activities targeting thematic of mutual interest, to improve oriented industry based on S&T cooperation between EU and Morocco, to set up joint collaboration and networking of technical platforms and research laboratories. MOBILISE will intensify current bilateral initiatives and programs, building on the achievements of M2ERA project (2009-2012).

ACTIVITIES

The project is divided into 5 interactive WP that cover the main objectives listed in the call. The WP 1 has a transversal dimension with constant output to the 4 other WP. In this WP, the new approach added to both the capacity building of NCPs and networking of institutions will accordingly have incidence on the success of clusters and the nature of support that

will benefit them (WP2). The networking of research institutions (WP1), through dedicated brokerage events is in synergy with the first joint workshop of labs networking (WP3) and the mobilization of Moroccan competences (WP4). Mobility for innovative research centers (WP4) will be in mutual exchange and benefits with WP2 achievements. The pilot action plan for scientific Diaspora mobilization planned in WP4 will seek potential synergies with the implementation process of innovation-based clusters through building up joint Research & Innovation Centers. WP5 will assure the coordination of the aforementioned WPs, the monitoring of the timetables for deliverables, set up the management program, supervision bodies and quality procedures.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

MOBILISE will support the policy dialogue through the activities of foresight, the outcome of the overall approach study. Other activities will be implemented as the identification of common research priorities, indicators set, the strengthening of the thematic NCP network, transfer of know-how and best practices will give the adequate inputs to the policy dialogue in the objective of linking and synergizing the strategic agendas for research, development and innovation.

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Shaping Egypt's Association to the ERA and Cooperation Action

Period: 01/12/2009 to 31/05/2013

Total cost: EUR 576 085

Budget from EC: EUR 499 987

Contract number: 244364

Funding scheme: Support actions

Coordinator: MINISTRY OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Website: <http://www.sheraca.eg.net/>

OBJECTIVES

Out of the conviction of the pivotal role of science and technology as a vehicle towards sustainable economic development, Egypt and the EU signed an agreement for scientific and technological cooperation in June 2005, consolidating their longstanding endeavours in this area. A Joint EU–Egypt Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) was established with the functions of ensuring, evaluating and reviewing the implementation of the agreement. The JSTCC also aims to identify potential sectors of cooperation, priorities of research policies, and explore future orientations and prospects for cooperation within the agreement. Parallel to the abovementioned efforts, the EU and Egypt signed, in 2007, the research, development and innovation (RDI) agreement (MEDA — EUR 11 million) to enhance Egypt's economic growth and international competitiveness through improving its research, development and innovation performance. On the regional front, Egypt is actively pursuing a pivotal role in the EU–MPC cooperation in science and technology. In this context, both

Egyptian beneficiaries in the current proposal are actively participating in the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA). Despite the existence of the abovementioned initiatives to enhance EU–Egypt partnership, coupled with the highly skilled Egyptian researchers' community, Egypt's participation in different ERA activities still has a vast potential for improvement. The overall objective of 'ShERACA' (an Arabic word meaning 'partnership') is to enhance the participation and involvement of Egyptian R&D stakeholders and key players in the various ERA activities. Such an objective will be carried out in synergy with the regional and bilateral actions currently running; namely the MIRA and the RDI programme. In pursuing this overall objective, and in line with the INCO BILAT call, the project aims at:

- ▶ promoting, enhancing and supporting the partnership between EU and Egypt's science, technology and innovation stakeholders;
- ▶ strengthening EU–Egypt research cooperation capacity;
- ▶ increasing the visibility of the Egyptian research capacity in Europe;

- ▶ supporting and reinforcing the structure and capacity of the Egyptian national contact points (NCPs);
- ▶ complementing the role of the JSTCC in enhancing the S&T policy dialogue between the EU and Egypt.

DESCRIPTION

ShERACA's objectives are fulfilled through the following core activities:

- ▶ capacity building of Egyptian NCPs and thematic advisors;
- ▶ integration of Egyptian NCPs in the NCP thematic networks;
- ▶ development of a mobility portal linked to the EU mobility portal (EURAXESS);
- ▶ mapping of Egyptian organisations' research capacity;
- ▶ identification of common research priorities;
- ▶ identification and networking opportunities for potential partners;
- ▶ dissemination for awareness and engagement activities;
- ▶ sound management and communication strategy.

In order to raise awareness among Egyptian and European stakeholders of the project's aims and objectives, to ensure that all potential cooperation opportunities receive adequate coverage and to update stakeholders with pertinent news and opportunities, dissemination activities are carried out. The main expected impact of the project is to improve S&T cooperation between the EU

and Egypt. This will be accomplished through the following three outcomes.

▶ *Providing access to information*

The design of the work packages ensures that access to information on ERA activities and on the state and advancement of the scientific and technological collaboration between the EU and Egypt is a sustainable process, extending beyond the lifetime of ShERACA.

▶ *Identifying priorities*

The identification of short, medium and long-term priorities is one of the core activities of ShERACA. It starts nationally with working groups discussing and suggesting topics for cooperation and ends with regional workshops and brokerage events to agree on topics of common interest. This procedure is complementary to the EU–Egypt policy dialogue in the JSTCC, where common priorities are considered during technical meetings with the thematic directorates. It is important to underline here the added value of taking the priority setting one step further by extending the process of identifying priorities to a regional (MPC) level synergising with the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA project).

▶ *Identifying best partners*

Since human capital is the basis of any action, identifying and selecting the best partners, both Egyptian and EU, is a vital impact of this proposal, which has been comprehensively addressed in most work packages.

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CHAPTER 7: NANOTECHNOLOGIES AND NEW MATERIALS

Adm-ERA - Reinforcing Additive Manufacturing research cooperation between the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute and the European Research Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

BELERA – Reinforcing carbon nanotubes and photonics research cooperation between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

BIONEXGEN - Development of the next generation bioreactor system

BY-NANOERA – Institutional development of applied nanoelectromagnetics: Belarus in European research area widening (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

JOCHERA - Jordan Conservation of Cultural Heritage in ERA (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

MOLD-ERA – Preparation for Moldova’s integration into the European research area and into the Community R & D framework programmes on the basis of scientific excellence (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

MOLD-NANONET – Enhancing the capacities of the ELIRI Research Institute in applied research to enable the integration of Moldova into the European research area on the basis of scientific excellence (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

NANOALLOY - Induced electrodeposition of nanostructures as nanowires and nanotubes consisting of cobalt-based multilayers for MEMS applications

Nanotwinning – Increasing opportunities for strategic collaboration in the field of nanotechnology via twinning of the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine with institutions of the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

NAPEP – Nanotechnology platform for electronics and photonics (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

NARNIA - New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies

NASERA - Reinforcing Nanostructured material research cooperation between the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium and the European Research Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

PRIMA-ERA – Promoting and improving Azerbaijani research collaboration with the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

SENS-ERA – Strengthening sensor research links between the Georgian Technical University and the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

START – Boosting EU–Ukraine cooperation in the field of superhard materials (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

SUCCESS – Strengthening Ukraine and EU research cooperation in the field of material sciences (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

Adm-ERA

Reinforcing Additive Manufacturing research cooperation between the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute and the European Research Area

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2013

Total cost: EUR 555.645

Budget from EC: EUR 496.364

Contract number: 295016

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: CENTRAL METALLURGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the AdM-ERA project is to integrate the Central Metallurgical Research and Development Institute (CMRDI) into the European research area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its two strongest material research topics: (a) additive manufacturing of Ti and CoCr alloys based prostheses, and (b) additive manufacturing of biocompatible ceramic materials: HA, PEEK and TCP. These are also research topics highly relevant to the FP7 NMP and FP7 PPP-FoF work programmes. The specific objectives of the project are (i) to develop CMRDI's research partnerships; (ii) to increase CMRDI's scientific visibility; (iii) to increase CMRDI's human potential and (iv) to increase CMRDI's medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

ACTIVITIES

The AdM-ERA project will focus on capacity-building activities in three

research topics that correspond closely with research priorities in the FP7 NMP and FP7 PPP-FoF work programmes:

▶ Research Topic A: additive manufacturing of Ti and CoCr alloys based prostheses.

▶ A1. Design of prostheses based on medical computer tomography images.

▶ A2. Manufacturing of Ti alloys prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.

▶ A3. Manufacturing of CoCr alloys prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.

▶ A4. Evaluating the mechanical and metallurgical properties of Ti and CoCr prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.

▶ Research Topic B: additive manufacturing of biocompatible ceramic materials: HA, PEEK and TCP.

▶ B1. Preparation of biocompatible ceramics for prostheses works.

▶ B2. Manufacturing of bio-ceramic prostheses using additive manufacturing techniques.

► B3. Evaluating the mechanical and metallurgical properties of TCP, HA and

PEEK alloys using additive manufacturing techniques.

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BELERA

Reinforcing carbon nanotubes and photonics research cooperation between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the European Research Area

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2013

Total cost: EUR 559.556

Budget from EC: EUR 499.696

Contract number: 295043

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: BELARUSSKY

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Website: <http://belera.org/>

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the BELERA project is to integrate the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) into the European research area by reinforcing BSUIR's research cooperation capacities and twinning with European research and innovation organisations in the following carbon nanotube-(CNT) and photonics-related research topics:

- magnetic properties of CNT;
- emission properties of CNT-based cold cathodes;
- nanostructured materials for novel photonic devices.

These are research topics highly relevant to the FP7 NMP and FP7 ICT thematic areas.

DESCRIPTION

The BSUIR is the leading academic institution in Belarus for research in micro- and nanoelectronics, new perspective materials, beam technologies

and techniques and radio engineering devices and systems. Its researchers have published numerous research papers in international, peer-reviewed journals during the past five years (e.g. Journal of Applied Physics).

The BELERA project will build upon BSUIR's existing strengths as a high-quality research institution via twinning and capacity-building activities with the following four excellent European research and innovation organisations: Institut d'Électronique du Solide et des Systèmes Strasbourg (CNRS-InESS), Bergische Universität Wuppertal (BUW), Universidad Politécnica de Valencia — Nanophotonics Technology Centre (UPVLC) and Innoveo Consulting. BSUIR's researchers will make biannual visits to the research centres of the consortium partners CNRS-InESS, BUW and UPVLC. Meanwhile, CNRS-InESS, BUW and UPVLC's researchers will make reciprocal annual visits to the BSUIR.

These meetings enable the following to be carried out.

- Consortium partner introductions: research area and achievements, objectives and capabilities.
- Definition of mutually interesting research areas amongst the research topics:
 - (a) magnetic properties of carbon nanotubes;
 - (b) emission properties of carbon nanotube-based cold cathodes; and
 - (c) nanostructured materials for novel photonic devices.
- Organisation of efficient long-term information exchange in identified mutually interesting research areas: research achievements dissemination, joint publications, organisation of thematic workshops with the involvement of external experts.
- Setting up of joint experiments: objectives and definition of initial conditions, monitoring of the development and implementation of the research plan, discussion of results received and possible definition of the application field.
- Training module development and implementation.
- Production of competitive ideas that correspond to the European industry priorities for further development into beneficial project proposals.
- Joint proposal preparation for participation in European R&D programmes.
- Further development of the collaboration basis (after the BELERA project has ended).

The capacity-building activities involve knowledge-exchange, setting up joint experiments, and training development for BSUIR's researchers focused on the

three research topics and the FP7 programme.

Moreover, they involve mapping and promotion of nanoelectronics and nanophotonics organisations across Belarus. Promotional activities include the development of the BELERA website, production of printed materials and the organisation of workshops and major international scientific conferences at the BSUIR on various aspects of carbon nanotubes and photonics.

In order to augment the research excellence of the BSUIR, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to socioeconomic needs, a strategy has been developed.

Furthermore, a feasibility study for the Belarusian nanoelectronics and nanophotonics technology platform will be prepared.

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BIONEXGEN

Development of the next generation bioreactor system

Period: 01/09/2010 to 28/02/2014
Total cost: EUR 4 433 794
Budget from EC: EUR 3 419 571
Contract number: 246039

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project
Coordinator: HOCHSCHULE KARLSRUHE
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Website: www.bionexgen.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology is regarded as a key element of advanced waste-water reclamation and reuse schemes and can considerably contribute to sustainable water management. MBR technology is used for waste-water treatment and reuse in municipal, agricultural and a variety of industrial sectors in Europe and MENA. The market pull is the increasing demand for clean water complying with the strict European and MENA regulations. The growing European MBR market is dominated by two suppliers from Canada and Japan. Although the European scientific community is strong in R&D, its expertise remains fragmented and lacks organisation and coordination. Despite the fact that the technical feasibility of this technology has been demonstrated through a large number of small- and large-scale applications, membrane fouling is regarded as an important bottleneck for further development. It is the main limitation to the faster development of this process, particularly when it leads to flux losses that cleaning cannot restore. The objective of the BioNexGen project is therefore to develop

a new class of functional low fouling membranes for membrane bioreactor technology with high and constant water flux (25 l/m²/h) and high rejection of organic pollutants with low molecular weight (down to 300 Da).

ACTIVITIES

The consortium consisting of European and MENA partners will develop a novel single-step NF MBR operated with low energy consumption due to less aeration being needed (0.2 Nm³/m²/h). Small footprint, flexible design, and automated operation make it ideal for localised, decentralised waste-water treatment and recycling in the European and MENA countries.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Successful delivery will have a major impact on the competitiveness of the SME partners in the project and the European and MENA MBR market. Furthermore it will significantly contribute to scientific and technological cooperation between European and MENA countries in the provision of safe water.

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Institutional Development of Applied Nanoelectromagnetics: Belarus in ERA Widening

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 1.267.362

Budget from EC: EUR 1.142.433

Contract number: 266529

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: BELARUSIAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Website: <http://nano.bsu.by/>

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of the Institute for Nuclear Problems of the Belarusian State University (INP BSU) in the European research area (ERA) through the institutional development of the new research discipline ‘applied nanoelectromagnetics’.

To achieve this, a set of interrelated tasks will be carried out:

- prove the necessity and promising capability of nanoelectromagnetics in the core objective of FP7 theme 4, nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP), and develop a concept of nanoelectromagnetics (NEM) as a prospective direction in NMP;
- develop the strategy of INP BSU as a focus institution for the evolution of applied nanoelectromagnetics at the national and European level;
- establish a network with research centres in Member States or associated countries in the field of applied nanoelectromagnetics aiming to progress in solving concrete scientific problems and the submission of joint research projects;

- develop training modules to build competency and facilitate the participation in FP7 of INP BSU;
- organise a set of workshops and seminars on nanoelectromagnetics;
- propose the reinforcement scheme developed for INP BSU as a model for the Belarus teams’ incorporation into the ERA.

DESCRIPTION

The main activities can be summarised as follows.

- Framing and supporting INP BSU’s research activities and institutional development in NEM — in the framework of this activity, the prospective areas of NEM implementation in the ERA and a prognosis of the NEM are developed.
- Facilitating INP BSU’s research potential, information exchange and identifying partners — under this heading, a staff visiting programme has been organised as a supporting action aimed at progress in key scientific problems of NEM, as well as a number of international scientific conferences and seminars. Furthermore, training of young researchers in the area of NEM is planned to ensure the high

quality and sustainability of INP BSU's personnel.

- Training in INP BSU's competence building and facilitating its participation in FP7 — the main objective of this activity is to enhance the participation of INP BSU in FP7 via special staff training. The project seeks to build INP BSU staff

competence in the different aspects of FP7 and increase the number of researchers involved in international R & D collaboration.

- The management of the project is expected to optimise the allocation and integrate the inputs necessary to meet predefined project objectives.

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JOCHERA

Jordan Conservation of Cultural Heritage in ERA

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2013

Total cost: EUR 555.645

Budget from EC: EUR 496.364

Contract number: 294975

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the JOCHERA project is the reinforcement of the University of Jordan's (UJ) cooperation capacities for cultural heritage research in the context of the European research area and development of the Conservation Centre of Excellence to respond to Jordan's cultural and socioeconomic needs. Specific objectives of the action have been formulated as follows:

- ▶ to reinforce UJ's cooperation capacities through targeted trainings for research management, IPR issues and FP7 project writing and management;
- ▶ to involve environmental, material and cultural stakeholders in formulating the future cultural heritage strategy;
- ▶ to strengthen UJ for internationalisation and improved coordination between research and business stakeholders;
- ▶ to enhance EU–Jordan S&T partnerships in cultural heritage research and the dissemination of related research results to Jordanian and European audiences;
- ▶ to support Jordan's young researchers in fields of cultural heritage protection research.

Project activities include first of all twinning with research centres in Member States/associated countries, training activities, capacity-building activities and also research centres' strategy activities. JOCHERA will establish and implement a framework to reinforce the cooperation capacities and research activities in Jordan's cultural heritage protection sector by defining cultural heritage research priorities to respond to socioeconomic needs, facilitating participation in European cultural heritage research initiatives and developing a strategy for research centres based on a thorough analysis of the current situation, cooperation patterns, relevant actors, needs and opportunities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

In order to achieve these goals, the project will perform the following activities:

- ▶ Twinning and joint research plans: an overall analysis will make an overview of Jordan's research and innovation priorities, needs and capacities on cultural heritage research.

ACTIVITIES

▶ Training modules development and upgrading infrastructures: realisation of training workshops where the following will be presented: the Framework Programme, the Cooperation and People work programmes, the evaluation, administration and management procedures as well as means and ways to communicate project ideas and research results.

▶ Strategic development of UJ and enhancing innovation by (a) developing the UJ strategy for internationalisation of the research centre, and (b) improving research and development performance in Jordan's cultural heritage sector through the creation of a framework for mobilising innovation resources and engaging cultural stakeholders while fostering links between the research and private sectors, national incubators and business angels networks and Enterprise Europe Network.

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MOLD-ERA

Preparation for Moldova's integration into the European Research Area and into the Community R&D Framework Programs on the basis of scientific excellence

Period: 01/11/2010 to 30/04/2013

Total cost: EUR 1.678.504

Budget from EC: EUR 1.496.666

Contract number: 266515

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: Institute of Electronic Engineering and Nanotechnologies

Website: <http://mold-era.eu/>

OBJECTIVES

The objective of MOLD-ERA is to assist the Institute of Electronic Engineering and Nano-technologies (IEEN) to develop and implement a research strategy, expanding its activities and increasing its level of excellence so that it can compete and collaborate with leading research institutions in Europe.

This will be achieved by the creation of a technological infrastructure, training courses in nanobiotechnology and the preparation of projects for FP7, the implementation of a high-tech culture and integration into the European research area by developing close collaboration and networking with excellent European research centres and industrial companies.

The project focuses on a new research and training programme for young researchers building capacities at the intersection of fields related to nanotechnologies and biomedical engineering. MOLD-ERA training activities will be opened up and integrated with

activities in other relevant research institutions in Moldova to increase the project impact.

DESCRIPTION

The MOLD-ERA activities include the following:

- Theoretical and practical courses organised in the fields of biocompatibility of electronic and photonic materials; transformation of bio-signals into electrical signals and vice-versa; extra and intracellular bio-electric signalling; bio-toxicity and related disciplines. Online courses and two summer schools are also organised.
- Further development of the nanotechnology infrastructure in the IEEN by the acquisition of a plasma etching system and a multi-gas incubator bio-station to extend the research area towards nanobio related fields.
- Researchers and staff from IEEN, ASM, TUM and other research institutions in Moldova receiving training in FP7 including FP7 rules and regulations, joining consortia, writing proposals, etc.

- Increasing MOLD-ERA's network of regional, national and European contacts, based on activities of mutual interest and new collaborative links.

MOLD-ERA consolidates the role of IEEN in Moldova as the linking unit between universities, research institutions, technology parks and small and medium-sized enterprises in the area of nanobiotechnology. It is expected to have a great deal of influence with regard to educating Moldovan society about nanobiotechnology, improving technology transfer to industry and transferring scientific results related to nanobioengineering into economic benefits.

MOLD-ERA improves the quality of training and equipment in nanotechnologies. This will result in increased job opportunities in Moldova for young scientists as well as better career opportunities, better work conditions and improved access to research infrastructures. The successful realisation of the MOLD-ERA project will increase the number of high-quality graduates, collaboration and business opportunities and, thereby, increase the generation of

wealth in Moldova. Stronger links will be created between scientific communities in the EU and Moldova, including educational institutions and networks, contributing to the development of business matchmaking in the context of trade support.

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MOLD-NANONET

Enhancing the capacities of the ELIRI Research Institute in applied research to enable the integration of Moldova in the European Research Area on the basis of scientific excellence

Period: 01/12/2011 to 31/05/2014

Total cost: EUR 1.065.420

Budget from EC: EUR 949.999

Contract number: 294953

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: ELIRI Research Institute

Website: <http://mold-nanonet.eu/>

OBJECTIVES

The objective of MOLD-NANONET is to assist the Institutul de Cercetări Științifice (ELIRI) to develop and implement a research strategy that will expand its activities and increase its level of excellence in the areas of micro-nanoelectronics related to the development of intelligent systems, nanomulticomponent systems, microsensors, microactuators, nanostructures for fuel cell and energy storage applications, etc. so that it can compete and collaborate with leading research institutions in Europe. MOLD-NANONET is expected to increase the number of high-quality graduates, employment opportunities, collaboration and business opportunities and, thereby, increase the generation of wealth in the region. Emphasis is put on a training programme for young researchers that will result in the creation of a leading European infrastructure at ELIRI in the field of micro-nanoelectronics related to the development of intelligent systems. Another important element is training on technology transfer and intellectual

property, which will stimulate the creation of a bridge between applied research and innovative business.

A further objective of MOLD-NANONET is to strengthen the cooperative links between the R & D institutions in the capital city of Chisinau and those from the city of Balti (BELTI), the so-called north capital of Moldova, and to create a unified interdisciplinary infrastructure in Moldova combining nanotechnology, nanoelectronics and fine micromechanical and intelligent systems.

MOLD-NANONET facilitates:

- further consolidation of human potential and technological infrastructure;
- promotion of the link connecting nanotechnology and nanoelectronics to fine mechanics, and their integration into new product design;
- creation and consolidation of bridges between the Moldovan national nanonetwork and EU partners;
- creation of capacities for broader participation in the future of Moldovan research groups in the FP7 and FP8 programmes.

DESCRIPTION

ELIRI is one of the leading institutions in the field of manufacturing microwires from metals, alloys, semimetals, semiconductors, sensing elements and devices, as well as technological equipment for manufacturing microwires and devices on their basis. However, there is a lack of high-performance characterisation equipment for the investigation of nanostructures.

Successful realisation of the MOLD-NANONET project will stimulate the creation of a bridge between applied research and innovative business, re-establish the high-tech traditions in Moldova, implement a new technological culture, attract new investment and create new jobs.

MOLD-NANONET will consolidate the role of ELIRI in Moldova as a key institution in the network of research institutions, universities, technology parks and small and medium-sized enterprises, and will integrate the Alecu Russo State University of Balti (BELTI) into this research and production network. The integration of BELTI in this network is very important from the point of view of strengthening research and development links between the central and northern areas of Moldova. This will significantly enhance the capability of Moldovan institutions to join the framework programme activities. It will have a great deal of influence with regard to educating Moldovan society about nanoscale science, nanoelectronics and fine mechanics, translating crossover of these sciences into economic benefits

and improving technology transfer to industry as the basis for end-products such as intelligent systems, nanomulticomponent systems, micro-sensors, micro-actuators, nanostructures for fuel cell and energy storage applications, etc.

MOLD-NANONET will improve competitiveness, innovation and collaborative opportunities for Moldovan research institutions and it will increase the number of high-quality graduates, employment opportunities and collaboration and business opportunities.

MOLD-NANONET activities include the following.

- Theoretical courses for PhD and master's students in the fields of nanotechnology, nanoelectronics, fine mechanics, micro- and nanoelectromechanical systems (MEMS and NEMS), algorithm of inventive problem solving (AIPS), intellectual property (IP) protection in the field of applied sciences and technology transfer. Training courses will be given by experts from the partner organisations, including ELIRI, BELTI and IMT (Romania), as well as from other relevant institutions in Moldova, for instance the Technical University of Moldova and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova.
- Practical training for young researchers from ELIRI and BELTI at IMT, CAU (Germany) and UAVR (Portugal) in areas including microwires, nanowires and filiform structures, micro- and nanoelectromechanical systems, fine mechanics, product design, etc.

- In addition to the training of young researchers, the exchange of researchers is promoted within the consortium (visiting scientists from ELIRI receive training at IMT and CAU. The main focus will be on providing training in nanotechnologies, nanoelectronics and technology transfer, and improving the training courses for students in IP protection in the field of applied sciences and technology transfer.

- Expert staff visits to ELIRI and BELTI from IMT, CAU and UAVR. BELTI assists in pre-paring coursework and presenting courses, training in new techniques and methodologies and reviewing and assessing coursework produced in the project. The involvement of BELTI in the project enhances the benefits of MOLD-NANONET to the whole of Moldova, emphasising the regional coverage requested by the call text.

- Specific courses related to magnetic, thermo-electrical, optical and photonic properties of nanostructures, design of micromechanical, integrated optoelectronic, photonic and intelligent systems, as well as intellectual property protection and technology transfer, will be

given by professors and researchers from IMT, CAU and UAVR during a summer school organised in Chisinau. A major scientific focus on nanotechnologies, nanoelectronics and micro-electromechanical systems at a regional level has been organised and linked to this summer's school. In addition to the above courses, online courses are also organised as part of the researcher training programme.

- Activities to support collaboration with leading European research institutions, including the dissemination of scientific information, and identifying potential partners for collaboration and setting up joint experiments.

- Activities to encourage participation in FP project proposals, including training in writing proposals and FP rules and regulations.

- Purchasing new equipment considered essential to provide the level of research and training required at a leading excellent European research institution working in the field of micro-nanotechnology.

- Close cooperation of the activities of ELIRI with the Technological Park in Nanotechnologies and Microelectronics.

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NANOALLOY

Induced electrodeposition of nanostructures as nanowires and nanotubes consisting of cobalt-based multilayers for MEMS applications

Period: 01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014

Total cost: 15.000

Budget from EC: 15.000

Contract number: 909407

Funding scheme: MC

Coordinator: INSTITUTE OF APPLIED

PHYSICS OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OF MOLDOVA

DESCRIPTION

This project is focused on the synthesis by induced electrodeposition of nanowires and nanotubes as multilayered structures consisting of cobalt alloys with refractory metals like Mo and W. Hereto the superfilling of nanopores present as arrays in anodized aluminium oxide (AAO), will be investigated in-depth. First proofs of principles have been recently achieved by the applicant. The background of the host institution on electrodeposition in micro-pores (e.g. vias used in microelectronics) and its modelling is a most important support to this project.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To develop at the host institution the scientific insight required for the lab demonstration of the technological feasibility of the novel concept of producing nanostructures (nanotubes, nanopores) with different aspect ratios in AAO by a low cost electrodeposition from environmental-friendly aqueous electrolytes,
- To transfer the scientific knowledge to a third country with the objective of nurturing present collaboration and to explore the possibility of further collaboration between researchers and industry inside and outside EU,

- To train an experienced researcher from a developing country by a European specialist on electrodeposition and tribological testing.

EXPTECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

- The electrodeposition of cobalt-based homogeneous and multilayered nanotubes and nanowires engulfed in anodized aluminium, and as free-standing products after release from anodized aluminium.
- Scientific insight on the role of electrochemical parameters on structural and functional properties of electrodeposited nanotubes and nanowires either engulfed or released from anodized aluminium.
- Mapping of the functionality of nanotubes and nanowires made of compositionally modulated layers in view of future applications in MEMs and NEMs technology as wear resistant and/or electro-magnetic materials."

COORDINATOR

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NANOTWINNING

Increase in opportunities for strategic collaboration in the field of nanotechnology via twinning of IOP with institutions of European Research Area

Period: 01/12/2011 to 31/03/2014

Total cost: EUR 554.211

Budget from EC: EUR 498.696

Contract number: 294952

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

Website: <http://www.iop.kiev.ua/~nanotwinning/>

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to increase opportunities for collaboration in the field of nanotechnology via twinning of the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (IOP) with institutions of the European research area.

This will help the IOP to:

- adopt the good practices of the leading European R & D centres to improve the strategic management system of the IOP based on the new sustainability policy five-year action plan (5Y-AP);
- adopt European practice on creation, expertise and transfer of nanotechnology for Ukraine;
- stimulate development of nanotechnologies as a priority development area for ensuring the IOP's regional leadership while Ukraine is moving towards the development of an intelligence-based economy;

- maintain a flexible and adequate portfolio of R & D activities;
- improve scientific staff competences in the preparation of and application for grants under FP7;
- enhance significantly the level of co-operation with industry and businesses in the area of intellectual property commercialisation;
- establish strategic alliances with R & D institutes and universities at the national and international level to increase the IOP's scientific capacity;
- involve young scientists in the priority areas of science from both the IOP and the partner institutions;
- disseminate information and share experience gained in the course of the Nanotwinning project with Ukrainian institutes.

DESCRIPTION

The project is structured into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Coordination, includes preparing the documentation and reporting on the project, preparing and post-processing EC reviews from the consortium including support in the implementation of recommendations from the EC and setting up of meetings of the Advisory Group and the Steering Group, liaison with other partners on a day-to-day basis, formulating the overall work programmes and plans for IOP, their integration with the work to be performed by the remaining partners and supervising the remaining WPs of the IOP.
- WP2, Science cooperation, aims to enhance cooperation with European institutes and universities and to identify new opportunities and directions in the field of nanotechnology.

- WP3, Young scientist, aims to involve young people in contributing to the future direction of nanoscience, help to develop independent careers and make the transition from working under a supervisor to being independent researchers in their own right.
- WP4, Innovation and technology cooperation, will help to move the IOP to delineate areas where research and development are needed to provide new technologies and innovative practices. The existing worldwide partnerships with the research community could be extended to identify potential breakthrough areas.
- WP5, Five-year action plan, aims to improve the IOP strategic management system based on the new sustainability policy (5Y-AP) and the experience and knowledge obtained during this project.

COORDINATOR

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NAPEP

Nanotechnology platform for electronics and photonics

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 558.866

Budget from EC: EUR 498.323

Contract number: 266600

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY

Website: <http://napep.net/>

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this project is to create a nanotechnology research platform in the area of nanocomposites for electronics and photonics through the collaboration of organisations from EU Member States and Azerbaijan. In order to develop such an environment, the project will create a permanent professional knowledge network (the platform) where EU research centres experienced in EU framework programmes and research groups from the Baku State University will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, transfer knowledge and be exposed to new technologies, research results and best practices. The platform will also help to identify the collaboration projects and will contribute to the policy development.

The specific goals of the NAPEP project are to:

- increase the number of highly qualified Azerbaijani scientists (by training research groups);
- strengthen the complex research and development infrastructure comprised of universities, technology centres, research networks, laboratories and libraries;

- coordinate the actions of nanotechnology research groups, the scientific community and the private sector in Azerbaijan.

The primary output of the project will be the development of the strategy to integrate the well-established research group 'Nanocentre of the Baku State University' into the European research area (ERA) and the participation of this group in future FP7 projects.

DESCRIPTION

Most of the scientists and technologists in the world today believe that nanotechnology is leading to a new industrial revolution, and it is projected to profoundly impact all aspects of fundamental sciences, industry and manufacturing. The main goal of nanoscience and nanotechnology is the creation of useful/functional materials, devices and systems through the control of matter at the nanometer scale and the exploitation of novel phenomena and properties (physical, chemical and biological) at that scale. Examples of the practical application of nanocomposites

include nanoelectronics, sensorics and photonics, all of which have a huge development potential and require the cooperation of all players in the innovation chain from university researchers to commercial manufacturers and end-users. Therefore, they can serve as a driving force and catalyst to transform the Azerbaijani economy from a raw material (oil)-based into a knowledge-based modern structure that will establish the country as a regional leader of innovation in the Caucasus region.

It is on this basis that the current project is launched with the direct aim of strengthening the integration of the Nanocentre of Baku State University (a leading nanotechnology research centre in Azerbaijan) into the ERA and supporting the participation of this particular group in the seventh framework programme FP7. In a broader context, the NAPEP project helps the development of nanotechnology research in Azerbaijan in general by creating links between researchers, businessmen and decision-makers in Azerbaijan and Europe. Finally, the training offered in the NAPEP project educates future leaders (young researchers and university students) on contemporary nanotechnology practices, project management and result exploitation.

Six work packages (WP) related to the project's objectives are as follows.

- WP1, Management and coordination activities, guarantees that the project objectives are met within the allocated budget and timescale.

- WP2, Research groups assessment, provides qualitative and quantitative information on past initiatives undertaken in the participants' countries, as well as on national priority settings for nanoscience development. The information is collected via desk research by the project's contact persons, individual and group interviews with researchers and persons active in the research and technological development (RTD) systems of the countries through the completion of a structured questionnaire specifically designed for the purpose.

- WP3, Networking, aims at the development of a website that serves as a 'virtual nanomaterial market place' (i.e. a cooperation platform focusing on nanoresearch that will bring together researchers from the partner countries). The researchers are members of the scientific community, universities and other public bodies, civil society and private companies and various other stakeholders. The platform will allow these researchers to meet and build networks, identify common areas of research, provide access to new sources of information and allow the top researchers in the participating countries to have access to more publicity outside of their respective countries. Concerning joint experiment plans and the research strategies of groups, WP3 identifies the common research interests of partners and defines a plan for the joint future and strategy of groups for participation in FP7 projects. The subjects selected for the joint experiment plans include the research interests of all partners.

- WP4, Brokerage events, will organise five brokerage events during the course

of the project. They will help to: link institutions and actors from European research centres and the BSU Nanocentre active in the area of nanotechnology; facilitate the transfer of European countries' experience on nanotechnology policy and nanomaterials market transformation; network between partner universities in the areas of nanoscience and nanotechnology; facilitate cross-border cooperation on nanotechnology by partner countries; and attract the attention of the general public to nanotechnology development.

- WP5, Training, provides training for partner countries' researchers, with a focus on young (early stage) researchers and female professionals in EU nanotechnology research trends, nanotechnology best practices, nanoscience policy developments, funding

schemes available internationally, project development and project management issues. The participants learn about the main priorities of nanotechnology policies, regional and national cooperation possibilities in nanotechnology research and methods for identifying the financial resources available to partner countries. Training is also offered in nanoscience cooperative research projects (i.e. how to develop a successful nanotechnology project, how to manage it and how to exploit the results).

- WP6, Dissemination and promotion, aims at the dissemination of information about NAPEP among partners and other interested parties; support for the participation of SMEs; investigation of market needs for the NAPEP system and information on NAPEP outcomes.

COORDINATOR

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NARNIA

New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies

Period: 01/12/2010 to 30/11/2014

Total cost: EUR 4 610 223

Budget from EC: EUR 4 610 223

Contract number: 265010

Funding scheme: MC

Coordinator: UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

Website: <http://narnia-itn.eu/>

CONTEXT

The New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to ancient material studies in the eastern Mediterranean (NARNIA) is an innovative endeavour to establish a competent and highly-specialised research network for the study of ancient materials and techniques from the eastern Mediterranean. NARNIA partners firmly believe that the most significant and comprehensive ancient material studies are those which employ techniques coming from the field of natural sciences in the recording of the morphological, micro-structural and compositional characteristics of ancient artefacts under study. However, it is also well known that while there may be the need and good will for such interdisciplinary analytical studies of ancient material remains, the cost of acquiring and maintaining analytical equipment and reimbursing scientific staff to use and support them are prohibitive for many institutions. Therefore, NARNIA's raison d'être is to establish a broad partnership of research institutions and private enterprises which eliminates such infrastructural and

financial barriers and which creates a systematic and integrated analytical approach for the study of the rich archaeological record of the eastern Mediterranean region.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ High-quality and multidisciplinary training of young researchers for skills and research development.
- ▶ The interdisciplinary study of ancient materials contributing to historical and cultural knowledge of the eastern Mediterranean region.
- ▶ Application of techniques coming both from the soft and hard sciences and testing of their suitability and complementarity for the study of ancient materials.
- ▶ The dissemination of research results and outreach actions.
- ▶ Research and methodology outlines for future research and educational collaborative programmes, taking into account the requirement of complementarity and interoperability between different European and regional institutions for the implementation of best practices.

► Recommendations for future research collaboration and access to physical and virtual research infrastructures, particularly for users from the eastern Mediterranean region, for the

development of research in the region on holistic and multidisciplinary grounds.

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NASERA

Reinforcing Nanostructured material research cooperation between the Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium and the European Research Area

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2014

Total cost: EUR 716 955

Budget from EC: EUR 498 394

Contract number: 295000

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: UNITÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DU SILICIUM

Website: www.udts.dz

OBJECTIVES

The Unité de Développement de la Technologie du Silicium (UDTS) is a major R&D entity under the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Algeria with a high potential for integration into ERA. Since its establishment in 1988, UDTS' main mission was to conduct scientific research activities and technological innovation in silicon material and semiconductor science and technology: photovoltaic, functional nanostructures, measurement and detection systems, optoelectronics, photonics. In 2010, UDTS has evolved into a National Research Centre and is planned to set up, with the support of local universities and research entities, a technology Cluster in material science with a sufficient research capability to reach International norms and standards. The overall aim of the NaS-ERA project is to integrate UDTS into the European Research Area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its 3 strongest research topics: i) Production of functional

nanostructures, ii) Development of new detection methods, and iii) Design and development of new sensors.

ACTIVITIES

The NaS-ERA project will build upon UDTS's existing strengths as a high-quality research institution via capacity building activities with the following 4 excellent European research and innovation organisations: 1) CNRS – Laboratoire de Physique de la Matière Condensée, 2) National Institute of Metrological Research, 3) Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials, and 4) Intelligentsia Consultants. The capacity building activities will involve twinning and training development for UDTS researchers focused on the Production of functional nanostructures, the Development of new detection methods, the Design and development of new sensors, and the FP7 programme. Also, it will involve dissemination and strategy development to support the UDTS organisation.

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PRIMA-ERA

Promoting and Improving Azerbaijan Research Collaboration with European Research Area

Period: 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2014

Total cost: EUR 567.488

Budget from EC: EUR 498.621

Contract number: 294965

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INSTITUTE OF
PHYSICS

Website: [http://www.prima-
era.gov.az/act.html](http://www.prima-
era.gov.az/act.html)

OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of this project is to reinforce cooperation between Azerbaijani and European researchers and to provide successful integration of the Institute of Physics at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IPA) into the European research area (ERA). PRIMA-ERA project activities are performed in accordance with the general objectives which are described below:

- develop strategic research partnerships with European research institutions for IPA's integration into the ERA;
- improve IPA's regional scope and its responses to socioeconomic needs;
- improve IPA's human potential;
- increase job opportunities for young scientists in the country;
- increase IPA's scientific visibility;
- improve IPA's cooperation capacities.

DESCRIPTION

The collaboration between the consortium participants within the PRIMA-ERA project is concentrated on increasing the

cooperation capacity and establishment of a collaboration platform in specific research topics for future participation in FP7 projects. The research topics are of mutual interest and are covered by the energy, nanosciences and nanotechnologies, materials and production of new technologies (NMP) areas.

The action plan of the PRIMA-ERA project includes the following activities.

- For the successful implementation of the project, effective project management and decision-making mechanisms are used through the organisation of managerial meetings, coordination of activities and events in accordance with the detailed work plan developed for the project activities.
- Twinning between the IPA and the project participants provides mutual benefits such as exchange of experiences and knowledge through direct communication, implementation of best practices in research organisation,

complementarity in research projects, opportunities to keep abreast of research frontiers and identify scientific challenges, the establishment of long-term and structural working relationships, professional networking, training and improving professional capacity. This provides excellent possibilities for interaction between the participants and for the coordination of their research collaboration. Study tours, including discussions, will be organised at both institutions.

- Developing joint research plans and setting up joint experiments to establish a platform for future participation in FP7 programmes as complementary consortium members. Doctoral students and young researchers from both IPA and CNRS-IRDEP are mostly involved in these activities.

- Improving professional capacities to provide opportunities for researchers and students to acquire up-to-date knowledge and information on research topics of interest. These activities include the organisation of a workshop and a summer school at the IPA.

- Disseminating scientific knowledge and increasing visibility of the IPA's research and research capabilities to increase its potential for integration into the European

research area. Production and dissemination of printed, as well as the design and update of web-based, information.

- Developing training modules and organising training to deepen the knowledge of Azerbaijani scientists and managers on FP7 programmes. The training events are open to any audience concerned. In addition, IPA's young researchers and students benefit from on-site professional training at the participants' laboratories.

- Promoting innovation in research and developing targeted research strategies to increase the scope of the IPA in the country and in the region of the Caucasus and Caspian Sea and to provide effective scientific support for industries. Seminars on innovations in research and entrepreneurship for scientists and engineers are organised at the IPA, which are also open to audiences from other countries of the region. External experts are involved in the event as well as in peer-reviewing the IPA's strategy. The strategy will be developed based on the evaluation of the adequacy of the research activities of the IPA with regard to the current socioeconomic needs of the country and foresight analysis in the long-term outlook.

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SENS-ERA

Strengthening sensor research links between the Georgian Technical University and the European Research Area

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/11/2013

Total cost: EUR 522.541

Budget from EC: 466.907

Contract number: 294299

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: GEORGIAN TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the SENS-ERA project is to strengthen sensor research links between the Georgian Technical University (GTU) and the European research area (ERA), by developing cooperation with European research and innovation organisations in its three strongest sensor research topics:

- semiconductor-based materials for optical sensors;
- radiation sensor elements based on A4, A3B5 and rare earth semiconductors;
- novel smart sensory systems for environmental monitoring.

In order for GTU to achieve its overall aim of being integrated into the ERA, the SENS-ERA project is divided into four objectives implemented through work packages (WP) to:

- develop GTU's research partnerships;
- increase GTU's scientific visibility amongst European research organisations;
- increase GTU's human potential;
- increase GTU's medium- to long-term research quality and capability.

DESCRIPTION

The project activities are divided into five work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, describes how SENS-ERA is managed by the project coordinator and individual work package leaders to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the support action and to ensure optimised outcomes from involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as synergy across the consortium.
- WP2, Twinning, describes the twinning activities with European research centres in order to exchange scientific information, identify partners and set up joint experiments. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, via twinning with Cranfield with respect to research topic A: semiconductor-based materials for optical sensors. Secondly, via twinning with Cranfield and TEIPIR with respect to research topic B: radiation sensor elements based on A4, A3B5 and rare earth semiconductors. Thirdly, via twinning with TEIPIR with respect to research topic C: novel smart sensor systems for environmental monitoring.

Fourthly, via networking with other European research centres with respect to FP7 ICT, NMP, security and environment research priorities with the support of Intelligentsia.

- WP3, Dissemination and promotion, describes the tasks to increase the visibility of GTU. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, by designing and implementing a SENS-ERA website and regularly updating it with relevant R & D news, events and newsletters. Secondly, by designing and producing promotional material for GTU. Thirdly, by promoting GTU, SENS-ERA and FP7 during local work-shops and an international conference on novel materials for sensor applications. Fourthly, by means of related technology-based science and engineering.

- WP4, Training development, describes the training development needed to build competency in research topics A, B and C and facilitate the participation of GTU in FP7 ICT, NMP, security and environment. This will be achieved through four tasks. Firstly, training development will be organised between GTU and Cranfield relevant to research topic A. Secondly, training development will be organised between GTU and Cranfield and TEIPIR relevant to research topic B. Thirdly, training development will be organised between GTU and TEIPIR relevant to

research topic C. Fourthly, training development will be organised between GTU and Intelligentsia relevant to FP7 ICT, NMP, security and environment.

- WP5, Strategy development, describes how a strategy will be developed for GTU in order to augment its research excellence, increase its regional coverage and improve its response to national socioeconomic needs. Firstly, a set of evaluation performance indicators will be defined for GTU and then a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by a team of international experts documented in a SENS-ERA evaluation report. Secondly, the SENS-ERA evaluation report will be presented during a workshop with representatives from the Georgian government and industry. It is also planned that an international conference on nanosensors and quantum nanosensory systems will be organised. Based on the discussions, GTU will create a SENS-ERA strategy report with defined goals for the next 5+ years including preparation of European research projects dedicated to highly innovative directions of novel sensory materials, systems and networks. Thirdly, the performance of GTU will be monitored during the project with respect to the evaluation performance indicators and the goals defined in the SENS-ERA strategy report.

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START

Boosting EU-Ukraine cooperation in the field of Superhard Materials

Period: 01/11/2011 to 30/04/2014

Total cost: EUR 554.370

Budget from EC: EUR 499.945

Contract number: 295003

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: V.N. BAKUL INSTITUTE FOR
SUPERHARD MATERIALS OF THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OBJECTIVES

To meet its vision, START set up the following objectives.

- To analyse the research competencies of the V.N. Bakul Institute for Superhard Materials of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (ISM), review the scientific and technological developments and examine the EU-Ukraine's collaboration frame-work in order to develop ISM's long-term research strategy and position the institute in the international research arena.
- To set up a consultation, assessment and validation mechanism in a collaborative perspective with EU research actors to monitor the implementation of ISM's research strategy.
- To organise a variety of training activities adjusted to the institute's support needs, building on ISM's competencies towards its participation in future FP7 collaborative research activities.
- To deploy a set of diversified twinning activities, to significantly increase ISM's networking level and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good

practices and, thus, prepare the ground for setting out joint research plans with leading EU research centres.

- To initiate the implementation of joint research activities between ISM and leading EU research centres in the field of superhard materials (e.g. experiments, lectures and courses, FP7 proposals, etc.).
- To facilitate the exchange of research staff between ISM and EU research centres, enabling them to carry out joint experiments and, thus, laying the foundations for long-term collaboration.

DESCRIPTION

START is an ambitious support project aiming to reinforce the cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the field of superhard materials and its application areas in the various thematic priorities of FP7. Thus, the START project vision is to strengthen the collaboration capacity of Ukraine's leading research institute in the field of superhard materials, namely ISM, with leading EU research centres, advancing its participation in collaborative research activities under FP7 and

facilitating the initiation of joint experiments.

Overall, START deploys a wide range of diversified activities in order to transform ISM into a 'flagship institute' in international cooperation for Ukraine as well as for the broader region of eastern Europe and South Caucasus (EESC), so it: (a) generates both fundamental knowledge of relevance to many industries and applied knowledge that is directly and immediately relevant to local industries; (b) transfers and applies knowledge generated elsewhere, nationally or internationally, and develops it further to meet specific local needs; and (c) transmits know-ledge at national and regional level through education and training.

To achieve the objectives of the START project, a wide range of activities have been implemented, namely:

- development of the institute's medium- to long-term research strategy (including a concrete action plan for the next 2–3 years) by assessing the research competencies and networking level of ISM (its research strengths and weaknesses), as well as the existing international collaboration frame-work between the EU and Ukraine (emerging opportunities and threats);
- design and organisation of a number of well-focused FP7 training activities in order to advance the institute's competitiveness towards its participation in EU-funded research activities under FP7 and, eventually, under FP8 (expected to be launched during the project's lifetime);
- implementation of twinning with EU research centres' activities (networking, exchange of knowledge, best practices

and scientific staff) to increase the ISM's visibility among EU-leading research actors, agree and set up joint experiments with EU actors and facilitate discussion on scientific developments and industrial application areas in the field of superhard materials — the overall objective is to boost the production of scientific knowledge and have a positive influence on the global S &T agenda, while addressing the emerging socioeconomic needs and challenges of Ukraine, eastern Europe and the South Caucasus region.

A 30-month work plan has been designed based on five closely interrelated work packages (WP).

- WP1, Project management, has the objectives of ensuring the efficient implementation of the support action within the time and budget constraints, guaranteeing optimised results from the involved partners in their areas of expertise as well as effective collaboration across the consortium and creating synergies with similar initiatives maximising the impact of the project activities.
- WP2, Formulation of the ISM research strategy, has the objective of designing the institute's research strategy with a time frame of eight years, while describing concrete, short-term courses of action to address emerging opportunities and contribute to ISM's transformation as a 'flag-ship institute' for international cooperation and, thus, contribute to Ukraine's integration into the European research area. To do so, the institute's strengths and weaknesses will be highlighted; the emerging opportunities and potential threats, as well as Ukraine's

international collaboration framework and development needs that influence the Institute's scientific operation, will be examined. Finally, a consultation, assessment and validation mechanism will be set up, in a collaborative perspective with EU research actors, to monitor and identify emerging scientific and socio-economic developments and trends at national, regional (eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus region) and EU level in the area of superhard materials that could be addressed through collaboration with EU R & D actors.

- WP3, Activities to build ISM competencies towards its participation in FP7 collaborative research activities, has the objective of enhancing ISM's collaboration capacity towards its participation in FP7 research activities. A number of training activities have been implemented, namely FP7 training workshops and intensive FP7 training courses in Ukraine as well as on-the-job FP7 training at the premises of the EU research partners (i.e. CNRS-PPRIME and UNIPRESS).
- WP4, Establish collaborations, initiate joint research activities and scientific training, has the objective of increasing ISM's visibility to the EU research community and enhancing its networking

capacity towards establishing close collaboration with leading EU research actors while facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge. This will be achieved through: promoting ISM's research competencies, organising 'delegation tours' in the EU and Ukraine (facilitating direct discussions among researchers from ISM and leading EU actors in the form of round-tables and demonstrations); organising scientific knowledge-transfer activities in the form of 'research intern-ships' in France, Poland and Ukraine (allowing researchers from ISM, CNRS-PRIME and UNIPRESS to carry out joint experiments); and 'scientific seminars' in Ukraine to enable discussions on methodologies, tools, developments, etc.

- WP5, Dissemination and exploitation, has the objective of maximising the visibility of the project activities and outcomes as well as EU-Ukraine collaboration potential, a carefully designed publicity campaign, the organisation of awareness-raising events in Ukraine and the EU and the organisation of a major dissemination conference in Ukraine. Finally, a 'post-project exploitation plan' focusing on how the project findings may be exploited beyond the project life-time will be produced and implemented.

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SUCCESS

Strengthening Ukraine and EU research cooperation in the field of Material Sciences

Period: 01/11/2010 to 31/10/2013

Total cost: EUR 1.201.403

Budget from EC: EUR 997.744

Contract number: 266531

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: INSTITUTE FOR
SCINTILLATION MATERIALS OF NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF UKRAINE

Website:

<http://www.success.kharkov.ua/home/>

OBJECTIVES

The SUCCESS project aims at stimulating win-win cooperation and strategic partnership between Europe and Ukraine in the thematic priority 'Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP)', in particular in the field of material sciences. The project also aims to integrate Ukraine into the European research area, in order to:

- support the European leading position and competitiveness in material sciences through strategic partnerships with Ukraine by engaging the best Ukrainian scientists to work in and with Europe;
- enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts within Ukraine, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;

- address specific, relevant problems that Ukraine faces or which have a global character on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Consequently, the project aims to develop cooperation capacities between Ukraine and the European Union in the field of NMP and — through twinning, capacity-building and networking — to support joint Ukrainian– European research activities relevant to the priorities identified in the FP7 work programme NMP 2010, in particular in the field of material sciences.

In order to stimulate the cooperation, the SUCCESS project mission is threefold.

- To map and assess the strengths, weaknesses and collaboration potential of one of the leading Ukrainian Institutes, ISMA, and prepare ISMA for the next step in its strategic development, developing a vision and objectives, and orienting its work towards national, regional and European needs.
- To set up and implement an ambitious twinning programme between ISMA and

its European partner, the University of Lyon UCBL (France), aimed at fostering academic research, gaining new research capacities, improving relations with practical applications, providing better work opportunities for young scientists, sharing methods and strategies and preparing ISMA for FP7 opportunities and for larger network development. A part of this work is to analyse the feasibility of setting up a joint laboratory which will allow the implementation of joint research and produce great research progress in the field of material sciences, ensuring the basis for long-term sustainable collaboration after the end of the project.

- To develop ISMA's networking at the larger European level, significantly increasing its international cooperation capacities and participation in international workshops and strengthening ISMA's FP7 skills to increase participation in the seventh (and future) framework programmes.

DESCRIPTION

The SUCCESS project is based on a twinning approach between one of the leading Ukrainian scientific and educational organisations, the Institute for Scintillation Materials of the Academy of Science of Ukraine (ISMA), and their long-term partner, the University Claude Bernard of Lyon (UCBL). The project gives Ukraine the opportunity to improve the research activities of the highest quality in the FP7 thematic priority 'Nano-sciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP)', in particular in the field of material sciences.

The two twinning partners, ISMA and UCBL, the main scientific and R & D centres and world leaders in this field, have long-term collaboration experience. Maximum synergy from mutual studies and R & D could be obtained on the basis of regular and planned activities, for the benefit of both organisations. Merging both centres' facilities, which might become possible under the SUCCESS project, could create a large experimental platform for joint R & D and set up positions to upscale and extend existing cooperation.

The project acts as a catalyst for gaining access to knowledge and for capacity-building at ISMA. The creation of synergies between the two twinning partners will allow for sustain-ability of the collaboration and, thus, provide a durable impact on ISMA development. The creation of a long-term base will open access for ISMA scientists to large EC scientific facilities. In-depth research collaboration with both USBL and other European organisations will accelerate the pace of new technology developments. The complementarity of two organisations is the principal advantage of the twinning programme and the creation of a joint virtual laboratory is the best way to improve both scientific results and the ability to transfer the main results to the industrial partners and the market.

A series of exchange visits, mutual workshops and conferences is organised to finalise the topics, equipment and other resources that should be transferred for mutual use, which allow for a practical exchange of data and knowledge-sharing between researchers. The twinning

programme allows for extra scientific exchange of personnel (in the frame of complementary studies and mutual projects) and will create an opportunity for researchers and PhD students to integrate with the twinning university for short-term scientific secondments as well as to conduct joint experiments in different EU locations.

In order to increase ISMA visibility and competitiveness and to strengthen ISMA cooperation links with Europe, SUCCESS undertakes several groups of activities:

- organisation of several international scientific events in NMP fields;
- organisation of a series of FP7 awareness-raising training courses and workshops;
- introduction of ISMA to economic transformation programmes and European professional networks.

SUCCESS serves as a bridge between European and Ukrainian research and is an opportunity to increase European competitiveness in the NMP field, which represents strategic importance for Europe:

- the project beneficiaries (NMP teams) contribute to knowledge cross-fertilising; the European NMP research community will benefit from the scientific and technological potential of Ukraine;
- the project has an impact on strengthening business cooperation and extension of the EU commercial opportunities in NMP fields;
- the possibility to deliver, via the SUCCESS project, some NMP solutions and systems with new functionality or improved quality in domains such as industry, the environment, nuclear science

and space instrumentation and security applications;

- the project contributes to increasing the FP7 international collaboration project rate;
- the creation of a joint virtual laboratory is a concrete step towards the convergence of the NMP priorities between Europe and Ukraine

For ISMA, the twinning and ‘merger’ with the UCBL team gives access to unique European facilities. For UCBL, this is a chance to use the advances and experience of ISMA’s background and unique technologies in crystal growth, forging, new material search methodology, etc. For other Ukrainian research organisations, it helps to increase their limited contact with foreign scientific centres, companies and markets — and so create positive technological and socio-economic impacts.

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CHAPTER 8: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

MEDPRO - Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean region

SHEMERA - Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro-Mediterranean Research Area

SIERA - Integrating Sina Institute into the European Research Area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

MEDPRO

Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean region

Period: 01/03/2010 to 28/02/2013

Total cost: EUR 3 550 937

Budget from EC: EUR 2 647 330

Contract number: 244578

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN
POLICY STUDIES

Website: <http://www.medpro-foresight.eu/>

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

MEDPRO project undertakes a deep foresight analysis of the development issues in eleven countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean participating in the Barcelona process and in the Union for the Mediterranean. The project undertakes an analysis of the current state and prospective development in the main areas of socioeconomic development: geopolitics and governance; demography, ageing, migration, health and gender issues; sustainable development, management of resources, adaptation to global warming; energy and climate change mitigation; economic development, trade and investment; and financial services and capital markets and human capital, education and development of skills.

ACTIVITIES

The project brings the partial foresight analyses in these areas into a broader framework of quantitative general equilibrium modelling, and is completed with qualitative scenarios for regional and broader integration within the region and

with the EU and policy conclusions for the EU approach. Given the broad scope of the research to be undertaken, the consortium has been composed with the aim of ensuring three equally important qualities: scientific excellence, multidisciplinary structure and deep insight into Mediterranean affairs. The coordinating institute is therefore collaborating closely with three other institutes with deep insight in Mediterranean affairs and the European neighbourhood policy.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Whereas the main objective is to provide targeted scientific support to the future development of the relations between the EU and the Mediterranean region, the impact of this project will be underpinned by an exceptional effort of dissemination in both the EU and the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries.

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SHEMERA

Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE Euro-Mediterranean Research Area

Period: 01/05/2011 to 30/04/2014

Total cost: EUR 2 372 195

Budget from EC: EUR 1 991 838

Contract number: 266633

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project

Coordinator: FUNDACIO CENTRE

D'INICIATIVES I RECERQUES EUROPEES

A LA MEDITERRANIA - CIREM

Website: www.shemera.eu

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this project is to enhance research cooperation on gender and science between the European Union and Mediterranean countries. Research cooperation is aimed at better understanding the roots of gender inequality in science in the area, taking into account cultural diversities and traditions, and analysing how the Mediterranean countries are addressing this issue. It will deal with gender equality from a twofold perspective: the representation of women in scientific research and technological development, and the integration of the gender dimension in research policy.

ACTIVITIES

The project will provide a state-of-the-art description, data collection and relevant comparative analysis on gender and science in all the Mediterranean countries, focusing on three key themes: statistics on women in science, gender equality policies and research on gender inequalities in science careers.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

These results will be made accessible to the research community and policymakers via an online database, publishable reports and workshops. With the overall purpose of enhancing networking and steering policy-making on gender and science in the years to come, the project will finally develop recommendations for policymakers aimed at enhancing the presence of women in scientific research and technological development at all levels, and ensuring a better integration of the gender dimension in research policy. The Mediterranean countries included in the project are the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs), i.e. the Mediterranean countries included in the list of international cooperation partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-administered areas, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

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Integrating Sina Institute into the European Research Area

Period: 01/10/2011 to 30/09/2014

Total cost: EUR 609 535

Budget from EC: EUR 550 515

Contract number: 295006

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to encourage closer scientific cooperation between EU and Palestinian scientists in the field of multilingual and multicultural knowledge-sharing technologies. This objective is attained through integrating Birzeit University Sina Institute (BZU Sina Institute), which is the largest ICT research centre in Palestine and among few in the Arab world in this field, into the European research area. BZU Sina Institute will twin with four leading European research institutions that are pioneers in the area of multilingual knowledge sharing and have an excellent profile in research cooperation at the European and international levels. This collective expertise and scientific excellence will be utilised to help BZU Sina Institute enhance its research cooperation capacity.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project is expected to:

- ▶ Widen the R&D strategy of BZU Sina Institute to account for the needs of the Arab and EU societies in knowledge-sharing technologies.

- ▶ Set up joint research and cooperation; in addition, it will facilitate exchanging knowledge and enhancing the cooperation capacity of BZU Sina Institute.

- ▶ Facilitate co-supervision of PhD students, which is a concrete and sustainable venue of scientific cooperation between Birzeit University and the EU partner universities. This will also enhance the capacity of BZU professors in co-supervision cooperation, especially with EU universities, as well as facilitate future joint diplomas. Students will also benefit by being able to carry out further research in the area and become a focal point for continued collaboration between partners.

- ▶ Organise joint summer courses to facilitate direct dissemination and exchange of knowledge. These courses will address topics related to the above issues and technologies, and will be attended by college students, PhD students, researchers, faculty members, and industry practitioners, and also serve as networking venues between participants.

- ▶ Build competency and facilitate the participation of BZU Sina Institute in FP7 (and future Framework Programmes). The concrete research cooperation between

the EU partners and BZU Sina Institute, which will be set up in this project, will certainly facilitate the Institute's future participation in FP7. This is because the scientific challenges addressed in this project are in line with the FP7 thematic priorities, and they build on successful FP7 projects and culture. Not only will two workshops on writing FP7 proposals be organised but, more concretely, two FP7 proposals will be prepared and submitted as part of the deliverables of this project.

► Increase the visibility and impact of BZU Sina Institute at the regional and

international levels. This goal will be achieved indirectly through all activities in the project, and directly by organising industrial and academic conferences. In addition, the project is designed to allow project associates to contribute to the project goals. This helps BZU Sina Institute cooperate and network with other knowledge providers and up-takers in the field. The project associates may provide certain knowhow, realistic use cases, and disseminate and apply knowledge and tools developed at BZU Sina Institute.

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CHAPTER 9: TRANSPORT

INCRIS – Improving international cooperation and R & D road infrastructure strategy for Ukraine (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

KhAI-ERA – Integrating the National Aerospace University 'KhAI' into the European research area (*Activities of International Cooperation*)

INCRIS

Improving International Cooperation and R&D Road Infrastructure Strategy for Ukraine

Period: 01/12/2011 to 31/05/2014

Total cost: EUR 702.262

Budget from EC: EUR 498.957

Contract number: 294960

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: STATE ENTERPRISE STATE
ROAD SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NAMED AFTER M. P. SHULGIN

Website: <http://incris.fehrl.org/>

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the INCRIS coordinating action is to ensure that the cooperation capacities of Shulgin State Road Research Institute (DNDI) are reinforced in order for it to foster its integration into the European research area (ERA). The main objectives of the project are to:

- build a research strategy for DNDI in order to increase its scope and regional coverage in Ukraine as well as to improve its responses to the socioeconomic needs of Ukraine;
- establish strategic partnerships between research centres;
- strengthen the ability of Ukrainian researchers to take part in future FP7 research projects;
- facilitate the sharing, dissemination and exploitation of knowledge between DNDI and research institutes in Member States.

DESCRIPTION

While the objectives of road research activities are similar around the world, the lack of cooperation between research institutes leads to ineffective use of R & D capacities and also their duplication. The integration of DNDI, the most important road research organisation in Ukraine, into the ERA would lead to a more optimal use of research capacities on a European scale and strengthen the research competencies and competitiveness of Europe while promoting knowledge transfer between the parties and, thus, helping the dissemination and utilisation of European research results in Ukraine.

In order to strengthen the institute's capacities and capabilities to take part in major European research projects and better respond to changing socioeconomic and transport circumstances, a long-term strategy of how research activities should be developed and how the scope and regional coverage of DNDI could be expanded should be created.

To this end, an overview of the current

research and development strategy of DNDI and comparison with the strategies of other European institutes will be carried out. Furthermore, a new strategy based on Ukrainian national and EU objectives considering the socioeconomic situation in Ukraine to accelerate implementation of modern materials and technologies of construction and repair of roads and bridges, as well as to alleviate the shortcomings of the national road network, will be drafted. A short-term action plan has also been devised to enable the swift implementation of the strategy starting with the most important steps.

Experts from the partner institutes, internally well-established independent researchers, external peer-reviewers and stakeholders (Road Administration, Ministry of Transport, NGOs, road construction industry) are all involved in forming the strategy. Peer reviewers with experience in strategy building will be invited from KTI Institute for Transport Sciences Non-profit Ltd. (KTI), Road and Bridge Research Institute (IBDiM) and Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI).

The strategy will address how the problems of Ukrainian road network development, construction and maintenance can be alleviated through research and development.

The aim is to improve the efficiency, security and safety of transport operations and to develop intermodality. The expansion of the regional scope of DNDI will be based on its regional departments in the Poltava and Dnepropetrovsk regions, and its regional scientific and technical centre in Lvov.

Researchers from these departments are also involved in the project.

To help facilitate the sharing of knowledge and joint participation in EU research programmes, cooperation among DNDI and EU research centres needs to be established.

The project will help DNDI to identify and develop partnerships as well as to set up joint experiments and research programmes both within and outside FEHRL (Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories) through networking events such as workshops, conferences and study visits. Existing examples of such partnerships are the Joint Transport Research Centre of the OECD and the ITF (Inter-national Transport Forum), of which DNDI is a member.

In order to facilitate the participation of DNDI in future FP7 projects, the competencies of researchers at DNDI must be improved: an over-view of FP7 programmes needs to be given to researchers potentially participating in these projects and an introduction to project management is necessary for aspiring leaders of collaborative projects on how to prepare and manage EU projects. To this end, four training sessions will be organised. Course materials will be prepared and experienced project managers from FEHRL and other research and industrial organisations will be invited to train the participants. The training will be complemented by secondment of DNDI staff to the Brussels office of FEHRL to gain hands-on experience of European project management.

The sharing of knowledge accumulated at DNDI and the other partner institutes is a

major objective in creating effective cooperation between the institutes. Very often, the dissemination of research results is hindered due to a lack of communication channels and proficiency in English. To overcome these barriers, translations of scientific and research results at DNDI will be made from Ukrainian into English, and information about these results will be published on the project website, in project newsletters, on local websites of the project partners and in national professional periodicals. The results of this project, as well as scientific information, will be disseminated via a dedicated website in English and Ukrainian. Furthermore, a project brochure will be designed and produced along with other dissemination and publicity materials. This will serve to raise awareness of the importance and relevance of the project. The sharing of research results will be supported by presentations given by DNDI researchers at workshops and conferences organised by the partner institutions.

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KHAI-ERA

Integrating the National Aerospace University "KhAI" into ERA

Period: 01/12/2011 to 30/11/2014

Total cost: EUR 551.265

Budget from EC: EUR 499.439

Contract number: 294311

Funding scheme: CSA

Coordinator: NATIONAL AEROSPACE

UNIVERSITY KHARKIV AVIATION INSTITUTE

NAMED BY N ZUKOVSKIY

Website: <http://khai-era.khai.edu/>

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the KhAI-ERA project is to integrate the National Aerospace University (KhAI) into the European research area (ERA) by developing cooperation, setting up joint pilot research and, finally, twinning with European research and innovation organisations in its three strongest aerospace and IT research topics:

- composite materials;
- advanced manufacturing for aircraft assembly;
- dependable embedded systems.

These are also research topics highly relevant to the FP7 transport, space, ICT and research for SMEs work programmes.

DESCRIPTION

KhAI is the only university in Ukraine providing the full cycle of higher education in aero-space science. It has over 1 146 researchers, 700 teachers and 12 000 students. Its researchers regularly publish international papers and present at international conferences in these research topics. KhAI is a major research

centre with huge potential for integration into the ERA as demonstrated by its participation in many national and international projects.

The KhAI-ERA project will build upon KhAI's existing strengths as a high-quality research institution via twinning and capacity-building activities with four excellent European research and innovation organisations: Institute of Aerospace Engineering, Brno University of Technology (IAE-BUT); Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation (Fraunhofer-IFF); Centre for Integrated Electronic Systems and Biomedical Engineering, Tallinn University of Technology (CEBE-TUT); and Intelligentsia Consultants (Intelligentsia).

The capacity-building activities involve know-ledge-exchange, setting up joint experiments and training development for KhAI researchers focused on composite materials, advanced manufacturing for aircraft assembly, dependable embedded systems and the FP7 programme. It also involves dissemination and strategy development to support the KhAI organisation. In order to promote the KhAI-ERA project, KhAI and FP7 within Ukraine, workshops and a major scientific

conference will be organised. This task will raise awareness of the KhAI-ERA project and its benefits amongst Ukrainian scientists, researchers and engineers working and studying in public or private organisations based outside of KhAI.

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The development of a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space (CKIS) linked to the EU 2020 smart growth pillar and its Innovation Agenda flagship initiative is one of the main priorities spelled out by the EU's new Neighbourhood Policy strategy of May 2011. The CKIS is meant to cover policy dialogue, national and regional capacity-building, cooperation in research and innovation, as well as increased mobility opportunities for students, researchers and academics. This booklet presents a selection of Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) projects, which, among all those involving partners from the Mediterranean Partner Countries or the Eastern Partnership countries, directly contribute to the achievement of the CKIS. It is noteworthy that a majority of these projects are Activities of International Cooperation, a priority of the FP7 'Capacities' programme which supports international science and technology (S & T) cooperation policies and reinforces scientific relations with third countries. The projects are organised in nine thematic chapters, and for each project a short description and a list of all participating organisations and contact persons are provided.

Project information

