



# Brussels in Brief



Highlights on EU policies and funding programmes related to the knowledge-based economy

## The “Lisbon Strategy”

FEBRUARY 2007

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## General EU Information

### EU Institutions



#### ❖ Council of the EU

##### **23 February 2007 – Council addresses challenge of an ageing Europe**

Meeting in Brussels on 22 February, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council held an exchange of view on demographic change in Europe.

Ministers looked mainly at the priorities, objectives, targets and working methods for monitoring and exchanging information between EU Member States regarding demographic change.

The Council concluded that the EU can respond politically to the impacts of demographic change by means of the Lisbon agenda and the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social inclusion and social protection.

Ministers invited the Commission to continue to analyse demographic change and to make suggestions for the exchange of good practices. Member States were invited to develop further the potential of an ageing population and to initiate broad discussions on national demographic developments.

Further information: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/lsa/92911.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/lsa/92911.pdf)

#### ❖ European Commission

##### **26 February 2007 – What's the new social reality of Europe? - European Commission broadens debate about social well-being**

The Commission has initiated a public consultation to take stock of present social realities and trends in European societies. The aim is to reach out to different constituencies to discuss what forms Europe's social reality. This exercise will be based on a consultation paper, a Eurobarometer poll and a special website. Insofar as appropriate, results of this exercise may be fed into forthcoming policy initiatives, e.g. the review of the Commission's Social Agenda later this year.

As a starting point for the consultations, the Commission is presenting an interim report to the European Council on 8 and 9 March 2007, backed up by a consultation paper prepared by the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) of the Commission.

At the Hampton Court Summit, Europe's leaders classified challenges faced by the EU under the two broad headings of demography and globalisation. Since then public concerns about questions of social well-being and equity have continued to rise.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/244&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

## ❖ European Parliament

### **6 February 2007 – European Parliament hears calls for coordinated action on Lisbon Goals**

Reaching the ambitious goals laid out in the Lisbon Strategy will require greater coordinated action between EU, national and local authorities, MEPs and members of national parliaments have said. Their comments came at the third joint parliamentary meeting on the Lisbon Strategy, which took place at the European Parliament on 5 February.

When it comes to labour market reforms, changes in tax systems, improving opportunities for education, encouraging greater participation in the workforce of women and older people and many other policies, the EU's role is only to help Member States through coordination, benchmarking and encouragement.

To move forward, Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering said exchanges between European and national parliaments on the Lisbon Goals are crucial. He also underlined the need to reduce bureaucracy and red tape, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises, and called for renewed support for a constitution for the EU.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.simpledocument&N\\_RCN=27081](http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.simpledocument&N_RCN=27081)

## Other bodies

## ❖ European Economic and Social Committee

### **16 February 2007 – EESC urges the European Council to incorporate organised civil society as a more active player in the renewed Lisbon Strategy**

The EESC, in its new resolution on the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy, considers the whole strategy as a dynamic process which requires constant fine-tuning within the Member States, the Council and the Commission. Several issues require immediate attention: At national and regional levels, Member States have to identify more clearly in their national budgets the Lisbon-related priorities. The whole chain of education needs to be scrutinised while addressing the effects of demographic changes on the economy, labour market and health care systems. At European level, timetables and deadlines for agreed priorities, a common energy policy and tackling climate change are urgent priorities.

The EESC urges the European Council to give its full support to this approach and incorporate organised civil society as a more active player in the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy. This summer it will present four reports on: Investment in knowledge and innovation, Business potential, especially of SMEs, Employment of priority categories as well as Energy policy, as a basis for its Summary Report to the 2008 European Council.

Further information: [http://eesc.europa.eu/lisbon\\_strategy/index\\_en.asp](http://eesc.europa.eu/lisbon_strategy/index_en.asp)

## EU policies and funding programmes for Research, Innovation, Training and Competitiveness

### ❖ Research Policy

#### ○ Generalities

#### **2 February 2007 – Commissioner Verheugen calls for pooling of R&D to strengthen European defence industry**

The time has come to create a truly European defence technological and industrial base (DTIB), one which is more than the sum of the separate national industries, Günter Verheugen, Vice President of the European Commission, told delegates at the European Defence Agency (EDA) conference in Brussels on 31 January.

The Commissioner noted the consensus reached by EDA participating Member States on the need for less duplication, more specialisation and more mutual dependence in Europe's defence technological and industrial base. This would meet EU goals both for overall competitiveness and security and defence. 'But the Agency has to progress even faster towards leadership over a real pooling of efforts in the areas of research, technology and procurement. This is necessary if it is to fulfil its potential to put an end to the splintering of national resources and thereby promote the necessary restructuring towards a European DTIB,' urged Mr Verheugen.

Also likely to boost the European defence industry is the increased funding available for security, space and aeronautics under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). For security research alone, funds have increased more than 13 fold since FP6, from €15 million to €200 million.

Further information: <http://www.eda.europa.eu>

#### **12 February 2007 – EU and US boost environmental research cooperation**

The European Commission and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a new agreement that will focus on research addressing common environmental challenges.

The Implementing Arrangement on Environmental Research and Ecoinformatics was negotiated in the framework of the bilateral Science and Technology Agreement between the US and the EU. Ecoinformatics refers to the advanced computer and information technology necessary for environmental research.

Research topics highlighted in the agreement include environmental information systems; the development of environmental and sustainability indicators; decision support tools; sustainable chemistry and materials; and the uses and impacts of nanotechnology.

The agreement is expected to lead to greater direct collaboration between US and European researchers, joint sponsorship of conferences and workshops, coordinated calls for proposals and exchanges of information, methodologies and data. Cooperative activities will be coordinated by a Steering Group made up of representatives from both signatories.

Further information: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/press/2007/pr0902-2en.cfm>

#### **14 February 2007 – Commissioner Potočnik calls for improvements to ethical procedure for stem cell research**

In 2000, the European Group on Ethics (EGE) provided an opinion which formed the basis of strict ethical guidelines set up in the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) to deal with human embryonic stem cell research.

But with FP7 now up and running, Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Research, said it was time to review the procedure and called on the EGE to provide an opinion on the implementing measures required during the ethical review in the framework of the current system.

As in FP6, funding of embryonic stem cell research will continue on a case-by-case basis. Certain areas will not receive any funding under FP7. These include human cloning for reproductive purposes, research intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable, and research intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or the purpose of stem cell procurement.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page\\_en.cfm?id=3172](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3172)

### **18 February 2007 – Commission outlines measures to ensure access to scientific information**

The European Commission has published a communication outlining the actions it intends to undertake at European level to help increase and improve access to and dissemination of scientific information.

The Commission document says that the Commission will take measures to promote better access to the publications resulting from research funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). For example, 'project costs related to publishing, including open access publishing, will be eligible for a Community financial contribution,' reads the communication. Also envisaged is the issuing, within specific programmes such as those programmes managed by the European Research Council (ERC), of specific guidelines on the publication of articles in open repositories after an embargo period. This would be done on a sectoral basis, taking into account the specificity of the different scholarly and scientific disciplines.

The Commission document also highlights the problems related to the preservation of scientific information. While national initiatives exist, it finds that there are currently no clear strategies in place across the EU for the long term preservation and usability of digital scientific information.

Memo:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/57&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

### **19 February 2007 – UK and US to build global science portal**

The UK and the US are to work together to develop a global science portal, making scientific information from many countries available via the internet. The portal is to be known as science.world, and builds on the US portal *science.gov*.

Several European countries already have their own national libraries. Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF) connects research and specialised libraries to provide a network of electronic and other information sources. The French *science.gouv* provides access to scientific and technical information. Users can access a database, external education and research sites, and a directory of scientific resources by topic, resource type and audience type. Germany's Vascoda hosts content from partners' scientific and central technical libraries, as well as libraries with specialised subsections for engineering and natural sciences, medicine and life sciences, economics and social sciences, and religious and cultural sciences.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=15&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1172046412494&RCN=27166](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=15&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1172046412494&RCN=27166)

### **26 February 2007 – Launch of the European Research Council**

The European Research Council, the first pan-European funding organisation to support frontier research across all fields of science and scholarship is now a reality. The formal act of establishment has been adopted by the European Commission and the first call for proposals, focused on researchers early on in their careers, has been launched, offering nearly €300m of direct grants in 2007. By inviting the most original minds to push the boundaries of current knowledge, the ERC can open the way for new discoveries that can help Europe answer its pressing social, environmental and economic challenges. With a total budget of €7.5 billion over the next 7 years, the ERC will support the best research in Europe. A conference was held in Berlin on 27 and 28 February to mark the official inauguration of the ERC.

Further information: <http://erc.europa.eu/>

## ○ Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development

### 1- The 7<sup>th</sup> Framework programme for research and development 2007-2013 (FP7)

#### **Become an expert evaluator for FP7**

The website to register as an expert for research activities has been launched on [CORDIS](#). The call for experts has been launched both for individuals and for organisations.

Further information: <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmp7/index.cfm?fuseaction=wel.welcome>

#### **Confirmation of FP7 workprogrammes and calls for proposals**

On 22 December 2006, 42 calls for proposals under the EC and Euratom 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programmes (FP7) were launched (see OJ C 316, 22.12.2006, p23). These calls related to the provisional FP7 work programmes adopted by the Commission on 21 December 2006.

These provisional work programmes have now been confirmed and have been adopted by the Commission with some adjustments (Decisions C(2007)560, C(2007)561, C(2007)562, C(2007)563, C(2007)564 of 26 February 2007).

The newly adopted work programmes and call fiches are available from the CORDIS website at <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls> Any adjustments to the work programmes and the call fiches, with respect to the provisional work programmes, are clearly shown in the texts and are also summarised on CORDIS.

#### **28 February 2007 – New “People” calls for proposals published!**

Four calls for proposals for Marie Curie actions have been launched on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

They address Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development, International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development, International Incoming Fellowships and Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways.

See our table on page 34.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.PeopleCallsPage&id\\_activity=12](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.PeopleCallsPage&id_activity=12)

#### **Changes in some FP7 energy and transports calls closure dates**

In the Cooperation specific programme:

The deadline for the call **FP7-ENERGY-2007-2-TREN** has been postponed to the 28 June 2007 at 17.00h (Brussels local time) .

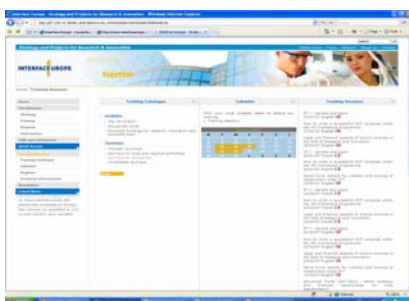
The deadlines for the call **FP7- SST – 2007 – TREN–1** are the following:

- 3 May 2007 at 17.00h (Brussels local time) for the topics SST.2007.2.1.2, SST.2007.2.1.4, SST.2007.2.2.1, SST.2007.2.2.2, SST.2007.2.2.3 and SST.2007.2.2.4.
- 28 June 2007 at 17.00h (Brussels local time) for the topics regarding CIVITAS Plus: SST.2007.3.4.1, SST.2007.3.4.2 and SST.2007.3.4.3.

The deadlines for the calls FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD, FP7-SST-2007-RTD-1, FP7-AAT-2007-RTD-1, FP7-AAT-2007-TREN-1 remain unchanged.

Further information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage>

**Need training on these issues? see our training sessions provided by legal experts on FP contracts:**  
[www.interfaceurope.eu](http://www.interfaceurope.eu)



### **19 February 2007 – FP7 signals new era for humanities research**

Humanities are gaining recognition within FP7 (a total of €623 million is earmarked under the new programme for the 'Social and economic sciences and humanities' thematic priority), given the potential that disciplines such as law, anthropology or history have in solving some of Europe's social and economic problems. These range from security challenges to issues related to multiculturalism and European identity. These 'hot' issues are taken up in the thematic area's first call, which was published on 22 December 2006. To help the Commission to better integrate the humanities in the European Research Area (ERA), and to facilitate their participation in FP7, an expert group with 12 representatives from the humanities was set up in February 2006. The group is currently finalising a report, which will be presented in March in Berlin. Although not directly targeted, some involvement from industry is foreseeable, and particularly from the creative industries, cultural heritage management or information and communication technologies (ICT). However, unlike other thematic areas, the evaluation of project proposals will not be judged by the participation of industry.


Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.htm)

### **2- FP7 Rules for participation**

Rules for participation have been adopted on December 22, together with the launch of the first FP7 call for proposals. The European Commission is currently working on the writing of the FP7 grant agreement to complete these rules for participation.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?ACTION=D&SESSION=&DOC=1&LAN=EN&RCN=8375&CALLER=FP7\\_LIB](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?ACTION=D&SESSION=&DOC=1&LAN=EN&RCN=8375&CALLER=FP7_LIB)



**Need training on these issues? see our training sessions provided by legal experts on FP contracts:**  
[www.interfaceurope.eu](http://www.interfaceurope.eu)

### **3-Upcoming FP7 Events and consultations**

**1-2 March 2007, Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey – FP7 nanosciences thematic conferences**

Further information: <http://www.fp7.org.tr/>

**7 March 2007, Ljubjana, Slovenia – FP7 knowledge for energy policy making**

Further information: <ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/energy-policy.registrationform.doc>

**7 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium – Information day on embedded systems design and computing systems**

Further information: [http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/embedded/news\\_events.htm](http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/embedded/news_events.htm)

**8 March, Düsseldorf, Germany – FP7 “Space” information day**

Further information: [http://www.dlr.de/rd/rp6/Infoday\\_2007/Infoday\\_2007\\_Duesseldorf\\_en.htm](http://www.dlr.de/rd/rp6/Infoday_2007/Infoday_2007_Duesseldorf_en.htm)

**26-27 March 2007, Berlin, Germany – Security research conference**

Further information: <http://www.src07.de>

**21 May 2007, Prague, Czech Republic – FP7 Information day on “ICT for environmental management and energy efficiency”**

Further information: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/events6-20070521\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/events6-20070521_en.html)



**Need support (assistance and/or collaborative platform) and/or training to seize these opportunities and in particular to write a successful proposal? See our specific services provided by our Experts with hands on experience from European Commission, industry and academic sector:**  
[www.interfaceurope.eu](http://www.interfaceurope.eu)

## 4- European Technology Platforms

### February 2007 – Launch of the European Biofuels Technology Platform website

The European Biofuels Technology Platform contributes to:

- the development of cost-competitive, world-class biofuels technology
- the creation of a healthy biofuels industry
- the deployment of biofuels in the European Union through a process of guidance, prioritisation and promotion of research, development and demonstration (RD&D)

Further information: <http://www.biofuelstp.eu>

### February 2007 – European Technology Platform SmartGrids Strategic Research Agenda published

The SmartGrids Technology Platform has developed its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) to be a resource for European and National programmes.

The SRA proposes a framework for a future research programme which can be summarized by the following goals:

- To ensure that Europe's electricity networks develop in such a way that enhances Europe's competitive position while supporting environmental objectives and the commitment to sustainability.
- To capture the benefits of collaboration and co-operation in addressing challenges that are common across all Member States.
- To provide a clear framework, goals and objectives on which the research community can focus, encouraging innovative solutions where this will add value
- To generate the momentum and support necessary to convert good ideas to adopted products and solutions.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/pdf/smartgrids\\_agenda\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/pdf/smartgrids_agenda_en.pdf)

### 8 March 2007 – 5<sup>th</sup> SusChem stakeholder meeting

The European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry will hold a meeting in Brussels that will coincide with the official launch event for FP7 under the German European presidency. It will seek to celebrate the value that the chemical sciences and engineering have brought to society and SusChem's future aspirations. The Provisional Agenda is now available. It will include a review of SusChem achievements and sessions on the role of SMEs in sustainable chemistry research and development and innovation, what makes for successful technology transfer and an insight on project evaluation during FP7.

Further information: <http://www.suschem.org/media.php?mId=5052>

## ❖ Innovation Policy

### 22 February 2007 – Fourth Community Innovation Survey: More than 40% of EU27 enterprises are active in innovation

Among the EU27 Member States the highest proportion of companies with innovation activity in this period was recorded in Germany (65% of enterprises), followed by Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg (52% each). This information, which comes from the fourth Community Innovation Survey, is released on the occasion of the launch by the European Commission of the European Innovation Scoreboard 2006 (EIS). The EIS evaluates and compares the innovation performance of the EU Member States. It was first devised in the year 2000, as a result of the adoption of the Lisbon strategy.

Innovation co-operation stood at 26% of all innovative enterprises in the EU27 in 2002-2004. The highest levels of innovation co-operation were found in Lithuania (56% of all innovative enterprises), Slovenia and Finland, and the lowest levels in Italy and Germany.

Innovative enterprises in the EU27 worked together much less often with universities and other higher education institutes (9%) or government and public research institutes (6%). Private-public co-operation on

innovation was most frequent in Finland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania, while it was least common in Italy, Malta, Romania and Cyprus.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/07/27&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

### **22 February 2007 – The innovation gap with the US keeps narrowing**

The European Innovation Scoreboard measures the innovation performance of a country's economy based on a wide range of indicators, from education to expenditure in Information and Communication Technologies, investment in R&D or number of patents. Countries with a more homogeneous behavior in all aspects of innovation tend to achieve higher overall scores. Practically all EU Member States excel in one or another dimension of innovation, but only a few of them (the innovation leaders: Nordic countries) achieve an overall performance that grants world innovation leadership.

The report suggests that there is a process of convergence in the innovation performance of Member States. That is, catching-up countries are closing the gap with the EU average and both country groups of innovation leaders and followers are experiencing a relative decline in their innovation lead.

While the innovation gap with the US has been decreasing steadily for the last four years, it still exists. This gap can be largely explained by the superior US performance in early-stage venture capital availability, share of population with tertiary education and number of US patents. The gap between the EU and Japan is also decreasing and the factors explaining the remaining gap are similar.

Further information: [http://www.proinno-europe.eu/doc/EIS2006\\_final.pdf](http://www.proinno-europe.eu/doc/EIS2006_final.pdf) and <MEMO/07/74>

## ❖ **Education policy**

### **17 February 2007 – Education Ministers discuss education beyond 2010**

The Education Ministers of the European Union, who gathered on February 16<sup>th</sup>, stressed the importance of education policy in Europe for a successful Lisbon reform process.

The Ministers discussed perspectives of education policy beyond the year 2010. The Presidency emphasised the importance of building on what has already been achieved and the need, among other things, to:

- maintain education and training at the heart of the Lisbon Strategy;
- ensure access to education and training and equal opportunities for all;
- develop a learning culture which appeals, in particular, to young people;
- promote and take increasing note of educational research;
- develop and maintain a lifecycle approach towards education, starting in early childhood and continuing throughout life;
- recognise the role of education and training as a catalyst for social integration and teaching democracy.

Progress on implementation of the "Education and Training 2010" work programme is reported in biennial joint progress reports of the Council and the Commission. The next biennial joint progress report will be prepared in 2007, for adoption in early 2008.

Further information: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/educ/92819.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/educ/92819.pdf)

## ❖ **Regional policy**

### **15 February 2007 – Commissioners Verheugen and Hübner endorse major role for cities and regions in achieving Lisbon objectives**

The involvement of local and regional authorities in the European strategy for jobs and growth is absolutely vital, said Industry Commissioner Günter Verheugen at the Territorial Dialogue held at the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on Wednesday 14 February. The dialogue is an opportunity for EU Regional Ministers and

other local and regional policymakers to meet Commissioners and representatives of the EU's presidency in order to voice their views and concerns over the role of regions and cities in the Lisbon Strategy. President Delebarre recounted the considerable concern that was raised following two surveys carried out by the CoR in 2005 to support the objectives of the revised Lisbon strategy. Both revealed an alarming lack of consideration given to local and regional contributions. As a result, the 2006 Spring European Council invited the CoR to submit a report in 2008 in support of partnership for growth and jobs. The CoR President highlighted the success of the Lisbon Monitoring Platform launched at the CoR's first Territorial Dialogue in March 2006. The LMP facilitates the exchange of information between local and regional policymakers and provides the EU institutions with data.

M. Delebarre declared that the three Lisbon objectives of competition, social and territorial cohesion and the protection of the environment should be met concurrently. He also stressed the importance of sustainability, security of supply and competitiveness, highlighting the vital role of regions and cities in the energy sector. He said the CoR would organise a series of workshops this year on the economic, social and environmental aspects of the Lisbon Strategy.

Further information: [http://www.cor.europa.eu/en/press/press\\_07\\_02033.html](http://www.cor.europa.eu/en/press/press_07_02033.html)



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## ❖ Information society

### **2 February 2007 – Using ICT to improve energy efficiency**

The information and communication technologies (ICT) sector has an important role to play in helping the EU achieve its energy efficiency goals, according to a workshop on applying ICT solutions to energy efficiency challenges, held in Brussels as part of the EU's Sustainable Energy Week. The EU's Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, which forms part of the wide ranging energy package put forward by the European Commission on 10 January, sets the EU the energy efficiency target of saving 20% by 2020. The workshop brought together leading stakeholders from the ICT world and representatives of the EU institutions to discuss how ICT could help the EU to achieve this goal.

On the policy front, there was a broad consensus that public organisations need to do more to promote innovation in the ICT-energy efficiency field, and green procurement would be a good way of doing this. Looking further into the future, a number of people raised the issue of education and training; in many countries fewer and fewer students are choosing to study science and mathematics, and yet people with these skills will be essential if the ICT sector is to contribute fully to helping Europe achieve its energy efficiency goals.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=27066](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=27066)

### **7 February 2007 – Safer Internet Day: educating young people in Europe**

For the second year running, the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) has participated in the Safer Internet Day blogathon, which occurred on the 6th February. The worldwide blogathon was the international highlight of the day. The 2007 theme was "Crossing Borders" and examined user rights and responsibilities on the internet. Events to celebrate this Day took place in 43 countries across the world.

Young people across Europe are in urgent need of education in using mobile and Internet technologies according to a recent Insafe survey of more than 12,000 under 18 year-olds. Social networking tools are particularly problematic: 56% of young people surveyed choose to make their social networking profiles on sites such as MySpace public, and share a great deal of personal details.

To monitor and tackle the issue, the pan-European Insafe network organized on 6 February the fourth edition of Safer Internet Day, once again held under the patronage of Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media.

Further information: [www.saferinternet.org](http://www.saferinternet.org).

### **21 February 2007 – Commission acts towards a single market for next generation wireless devices**

The Commission has adopted a Decision on allowing the use of the radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-wideband technology in a harmonised manner in the Community. It outlines the mandatory conditions for using ultra-wideband (UWB) technology in next generation wireless devices all across the European Union.

With UWB, many electronic devices so far linked by cable, will have a wireless alternative offering the same data rates (up to 480 Mbit/s or the speed of USB wired connections available today). Devices will therefore be able to seamlessly "speak" to each other whenever in range. UWB will provide this ease-of-use to users while operating in the existing spectrum, which is currently a scarce and often very expensive resource.

The technical conditions in this Decision, which must be applied within the next six months throughout the EU's 27 Member States, were developed following extensive compatibility studies between UWB and all other spectrum users that could potentially have been affected. The studies were done by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) for the Commission.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/radio\\_spectrum/ref\\_documents/](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/radio_spectrum/ref_documents/) and [MEMO/07/72](#)

## **Other EU Policies and funding programmes supporting the Lisbon Strategy**

### **❖ Employment and social affairs**

### **23 February 2007 – EU reform strategy delivering jobs, says Joint Employment Report**

Unemployment is down and employment on the rise according to the Joint Employment Report, adopted by employment Ministers on 22 February. The Commission report - which assesses Member States' implementation of their national reform programmes in the area of employment – also underlines the need for more rigorous reforms, in particular to better balance flexibility with security in the job market.

Along with the report, the Employment and Social Affairs Council on 22 February also endorsed country-specific recommendations on economic and employment policies.

While investment in education and skills is on the up, policies to improve adaptability – a priority in the European Employment Strategy - are seriously lagging behind.

The poor take-up of policies to improve the adaptability of workers is especially worrying. Reforms of legislation relating to contracts would allow easier job transitions and provide more opportunities for workers to progress, as would higher investments in training. But as the report highlights, efforts in this area have been weak. Undeclared work also remains a major problem in many Member States. The report stresses the need for a more comprehensive approach combining active labour market policies, flexible contractual arrangements, lifelong learning and social protection.

Many Member States are developing policies to raise investment in education, but often in a piecemeal manner. Adult participation rate in lifelong learning is still too low at just over 10% and in 20 out of 25 Member States this rate has failed to rise or has even dropped.

The forthcoming Commission communication on flexicurity – planned for summer 2007 – will set out a range of options to help Member States find the right policy mix for their labour markets.

On 22 February the Commission also presented the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion to the Employment and Social Affairs Council. This report complements the assessments in the Joint Employment Report and has an important role to play in delivering jobs and growth. It highlights the need for progress in the areas of child poverty, active inclusion, the modernisation of pension provision and access to healthcare and long-term care.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/employment\\_strategy/employ\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/employ_en.htm)

## ❖ Competition

### **15 February 2007 – Commissioner Kroes presents results of energy sector inquiry to Energy Council**

European Commissioner for Competition Neelie Kroes presented to the EU's Council of Energy Ministers in Brussels on 15th February the final report on the energy sector competition inquiry, which was published in January 2007. Commissioner Kroes informed the Council that the report has confirmed that European energy markets are not functioning properly despite two waves of liberalisation Directives. To enter a market, and provide real competition, new players need access to energy supplies, to the network and to customers. Commissioner Kroes explained to the Council that other options than full ownership unbundling, such as reinforced legal unbundling or Independent System Operator (ISO) model would not do enough to address the problems of conflicts of interest, intrinsic incentives to distort third party access and distorted investment incentives.

The Council, in its conclusions, invited the Commission to ensure "effective separation of supply and production activities from network operations" and "guarantee equal and open access to transport infrastructures" to new energy suppliers.

Further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/antitrust/others/sector\\_inquiries/energy](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/antitrust/others/sector_inquiries/energy)

### **26 February 2007 – Commission endorses state aid for French R&D urban transport programme**

The European Commission has cleared a EUR 26.5 million grant by the French Government to NeoVal, a research and development (R&D) programme promoting environmentally friendly transport.


The aim of the programme is to develop a new generation of metro train, carrying road technology over to trains and combining several other innovative functions such as power optimisation, on-board power supply, modularity and automatic control mechanisms.

Following an analysis of the activities involved, the eligible costs, and aid intensity, the Commission concluded that the aid issued to the programme by the French Industrial Innovation Agency was in line with the new Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) Community Framework for state aid.

The decision to approve aid to the NeoVal programme is the first individual aid measure decision taken by the Commission on the basis of the new R&D&I Framework for state aid.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=27208](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=27208)



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## ❖ Internal Market

### **21 February 2007 – Commission plans to modernize single market**

The European Commission has presented its vision for the single market of the 21st century. In an interim report to the Spring European Council, the Commission reviews the achievements of the last twenty years and sets out the way ahead to deliver further benefits for citizens and business, and contribute to a more competitive and sustainable Europe.

The report therefore highlights new approaches to be explored in order to make the single market:

- more impact-driven and result-oriented
- more effective
- more decentralised and network-based
- more responsive to the global context
- more accessible and better communicated: a lot can be done to improve communication and publicise the opportunities offered by the single market, for instance through hands-on problem-solving mechanisms such as SOLVIT (problem solving system in the internal market: [http://europa.eu.int/solvit/site/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/solvit/site/index_en.htm))

This interim report will be followed this autumn by a final report containing concrete proposals for action.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/214&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## ❖ Environment

### **7 February 2007 – Commission plans legislative framework to ensure the EU meets its target for cutting CO2 emissions from cars**

The main measures it is proposing in the revised strategy are as follows:

- A legislative framework to reduce CO2 emissions from new cars and vans will be proposed by the Commission by the end of this year or at the latest by mid 2008.
- Average emissions from new cars sold in the EU-27 would be required to reach the 120g CO2/km target by 2012.
- For vans, the fleet average emission targets would be 175g by 2012 and 160g by 2015, compared with 201g in 2002.
- Support for research efforts aimed at further reducing emissions from new cars to an average of 95g CO2/km by 2020.
- Measures to promote the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles, notably through improved labelling and by encouraging Member States that levy car taxes to base them on cars' CO2 emissions.
- An EU code of good practice on car marketing and advertising to promote more sustainable consumption patterns. The Commission is inviting car manufacturers to sign up to this by mid-2007.

The Commission's proposal for a revised strategy, set out in a Communication, represents one of the first concrete actions to implement the 2006 Energy Efficiency Action Plan. It is also a direct follow-up to the Communication on combating climate change to 2020 and beyond presented by the Commission as part of the energy and climate change package of measures launched on 10 January.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/46&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

### **9 February 2007 – Commission strengthens environmental protection through criminal law, abolishing "safe havens" of environmental crime**

The European Commission has proposed a directive that obliges Member States to treat serious offences against the environment as criminal acts and to ensure that they are effectively sanctioned. It also sets minimum sanctions for environmental crimes across the Member States.

Member States will be required to ensure that a range of activities (e.g. illegal shipment of waste and unlawful trade in endangered species or in ozone-depleting substances) already prohibited by EU or national legislation are considered criminal offences, when committed intentionally or with serious negligence. Member states have to ensure that particularly serious environmental crimes are punishable by a maximum of at least 5 years imprisonment and fines for companies of at least €750 000 . These cases would include crimes that have resulted in death or serious injury of a person or a substantial damage to air, soil, water, animals or plants or when the offence has been committed by a criminal organisation.

In addition, the directive foresees supplementary or alternative sanctions, such as the obligation to clean up/reinstate the environment or the possibility of stopping businesses from operating.

The proposed measures will ensure that criminals cannot exploit the significant differences which currently exist between the Member States. Safe-havens for environmental crime should therefore no longer exist within the European Union.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/50&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

## ❖ Health

### **1 February 2007 – Report outlines vision for nanomedicine in Europe**

Recognising the potential and the leading role played by Europe in nanotechnology, the European Commission launched a European Technology Platform on nanomedicine, with the goal of defining a European Strategic Research Agenda on nanomedicine.

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) takes into consideration education and training, ethical requirements, the benefit/risk assessment, public acceptance, the regulatory framework and intellectual property issues, for the benefit of regulatory bodies in EU Member States, candidate countries and associated states.

The Strategic Research Agenda sets disease-oriented priorities setting using such parameters as mortality rate, the level of suffering that an illness imposes on a patient, the burden on society, the prevalence of the disease and the impact that nanotechnology might have to diagnose and overcome certain illnesses. These criteria led to the following priority list: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, musculoskeletal disorders, neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatric conditions, diabetes and bacterial and viral infectious diseases. The Commission is now preparing to channel some €100 million into nanomedicine projects annually under its Seventh Framework Programme for research (2007-2013).

Further information:

[ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/nanotechnology/docs/nanomedicine\\_bat\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/nanotechnology/docs/nanomedicine_bat_en.pdf)

## ❖ Transport

### **2 February 2007 – Commission takes first step towards improving critical infrastructure protection**

The European Commission has adopted a Communication on the protection of critical infrastructure in energy and transport setting out criteria which can be used to identify European infrastructure in this area.

The Communication presents the results of the initial consultation exercise with Member States' representatives and stakeholders at European level. It sets out a number of criteria with which European critical infrastructure in these two sectors – where it exists – can be identified. Precise criteria will make identification easier and ensure that it is harmonised across the Member States, and thus eliminate any weaknesses that could be exploited by criminals or terrorists.

The Communication is the first sector-based contribution towards implementing the recently adopted European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection. Once the proposal for a Directive on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructure aimed at improving its protection has been adopted by the Council, the criteria laid down in the Communication can be applied.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport/security/infrastructure/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/security/infrastructure/index_en.htm)

### **7 February 2007 – New Commission strategy for long term viability of European car industry**

The European Commission agreed upon a comprehensive strategy for the European car industry, to keep the manufacturing of motorcars viable on a long term basis, at prices affordable to consumers. The strategy encompasses a variety of areas, such as reduction of administrative burdens, environmental sustainability, road safety, trade and overseas markets and research. The automotive industry is a major pillar of the European economy, representing 3% of the European GDP and 7% of employment in the manufacturing sector. The Communication outlines to the European Parliament and Council the direction in which the Commission intends to steer future automotive policy and lists the following priorities: reduction of administrative burdens, reduction of CO2 emissions, road safety, trade, research and development. The Commission will together with all relevant stakeholders, conduct a mid-term review of the recommendations proposed by CARS 21 in the course of 2009 to monitor progress made by individual stakeholders.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/157&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

### **19 February 2007 – R&D key to creating sustainable transport system, says Competitiveness Council**

The European transport industry is an important economic sector in itself, accounting for 7% of European GDP. In light of its potential contribution to Europe's Lisbon Goals, the Council agreed that an EU sustainable transport policy must be developed to ensure the efficient use of different modes of transport. At the same time, the development of more environmentally-friendly transport must still be pursued, Ministers said. Playing an important part in this process will be innovation and R&D, which the Council described as 'essential for strengthening the competitiveness and effectiveness of transport and for helping to offset the adverse effects of the increase in traffic in Europe.'

Ministers pointed to several EU transport R&D initiatives where they would like to see further progress: On GALILEO, the European satellite navigation system, they emphasised the need to bring the concession contract negotiations with the private consortium to a successful conclusion. Also crucial to Europe's transport system is the launch of the Joint Undertaking to prepare SESAR, a programme that aims at modernising the infrastructure of air navigation systems. Finally, the Council called for the further development and uptake of intelligent transport systems, paying particular attention to their interoperability.

Further information: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/92842.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/92842.pdf)

## **❖ Agriculture**

### **13 February 2007 – More research needed to make CAP work, finds EU project**

A long term research and policy agenda is needed to ensure the future success of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), according to the outcomes of the EU-funded SASSPO project (Agriculture for Sustainable Development: A dialogue on societal demand, pressures and options for policy). The aim of the project was to assess the research priorities needed to support agricultural policy making in the EU, and so help Europe move towards a more integrated and sustainable approach to agriculture and rural development. SASSPO organised policy dialogues which brought together key stakeholders including representatives of the EU Member States, the European Commission, environmentalists, farmers' organisations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

A key driver of agricultural change is technological development, and the project recommends research into the impacts of new technologies on the economy, nature, producers and consumers.

Agriculture is also expected to make a contribution to combating climate change through the production of energy crops; the EU has set itself targets to substantially increase the use of biofuels. The project proposes research into the costs and benefits of different forms of biofuels, including the impact of biofuels

on world commodity prices. The SASSPO team also suggests research to identify different regional potentials for producing biofuels, and their social, environmental and economic impacts on rural areas.

Further information: <http://www.mtt.fi/sasspo/>

## ❖ Energy

### **February 2007 – Success of EU Sustainable Energy Week**

The European Commission led an informal coalition of 44 stakeholders as more than 5,000 experts and decision makers attended a multitude of events held in Belgium, Austria, France and Spain during the First EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), which took place from 29 January to 2 February 2007.

Its major aim was to promote understanding and contribute to the implementation of the actions necessary to achieve objectives concerning two of the pillars of the proposed new Energy Policy, namely to accelerate the shift to a low carbon future and to improve energy efficiency.

The EUSEW is a central element of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign and energy efficiency and renewable energy issues ranging from policy, legislation, technology, behaviour and communication were discussed at the various events throughout the week.

Further information: <http://www.eusew.eu/>

### **European Renewable Energy Policy Conference**

EREC - European Renewable Energy Council - co-organised the 2007 European Renewable Energy Policy Conference together with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in the frame of the German Presidency of the EU.

Further information: <http://www.erec-renewables.org/events/2007PolicyConference/presentations.htm>

### **1 February 2007 – Study examines state and prospects of European energy research**

'The state and prospects of European energy research' compares the non-nuclear energy research portfolio of the EU and several large Member States with those of Europe's main competitors: Japan and the US.

According to the study, Europe collectively invests more of its public funds in energy research, particularly in wind energy, fuel cells and hydrogen research, carbon capture and storage, and concentrated solar thermal power.

The study also looks at the areas covered in each of the R&D portfolios. One of the key characteristics of the Japanese and US portfolios is that they tend to feature clearly defined and specific sets of objectives.

By comparison, the study finds that the objectives of the EU research programme tend to be more general. This can be explained by the fact that the EU R&D portfolio has to take into account the various priorities and objectives of stakeholders when formulating European research objectives. This keeps objectives at a general level to facilitate consensus.

The study recommends creating a more direct link between energy, climate and competition objectives and related R&D; defining precise milestones needed for technology transfer such as time frames, cost reductions and technical performance; and increased and continued monitoring and evaluation of progress in order to adjust the portfolio when necessary.

The study also calls for a greater alignment between EU research and Member State research priorities.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/pdf/portfolios\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/pdf/portfolios_report_en.pdf)

## ❖ Culture

### **12 February 2007 – MEDIA 2007: €755 million boost for Europe's film industry**

The EU's newly launched MEDIA 2007 programme will provide a €755 million boost to Europe's film industry over the next seven years. MEDIA 2007 provides easier access to finance – in particular for SMEs – and increases the use of digital technologies, making Europe's audiovisual sector more competitive.

MEDIA, the European Union's audiovisual support programme, has been developing and strengthening Europe's film industry for 16 years. On 1 January 2007, Rumania became the 31st member of the MEDIA programme (EU27 + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and soon Switzerland). Through MEDIA I, II, Plus and Training the previous programmes have supported the development and distribution of thousands of films; as well as training activities, festivals and promotion projects throughout the continent. Under MEDIA Plus and MEDIA Training (2001-2006) alone, more than half a billion euros were injected into 8000 projects. Every year 300 new European film projects are funded by the European Commission, and half of the European films watched in cinemas are shown with the support of the Commission. Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/media>

## ❖ External relations – Enlargement

### **1 February 2007 – African Union adopts biotechnology plan**

African Heads of State have endorsed a 20-year biotechnology action plan for the African Union, but held off committing to a science and innovation fund.

The biotechnology strategy will bolster cooperation between African nations in specific regions according to regional strengths. Eastern and northern Africa will focus on improving malaria control and managing HIV/AIDS, while North Africa will share its experience on drug manufacturing. Eastern Africa will share its expertise in livestock research technology, while western Africa will concentrate on agricultural biotechnology and central Africa on biodiversity.

Countries will be grouped into regional economic bodies in order to implement the goals outlined in the strategy. They will then report back to the African Union.

Proposals for an African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF) were however rejected. The impasse is due to concern that creating a new institution could swallow a large proportion of available funds and increase operational costs.

The summit agreed instead to link a fund to a wider plan intended to finance the Union's Consolidated Plan of Action.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=27061](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=27061)

## Research, Innovation, Training and Competitiveness related EU events

### ❖ Announcements

**6 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium – First European Innovation Dialogue Interest Group meeting**

Further information:

[http://www.innovationdialogue.org/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=118&lang=eng](http://www.innovationdialogue.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=118&lang=eng)

**7-8 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium – “Regions for economic change” conference**

Further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/competitiveness/index\\_en.cfm?nmenu=2](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/competitiveness/index_en.cfm?nmenu=2)

**9 Mars 2007, Stockholm, Sweden – Science Forum 2007 – “Frontiers in influenza research”**

Further information: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/>

**14 March 2007, Vienna, Austria – Viennano’07: Micro- and nano-technology conference**

Further information: <http://www.oetg.at/nano07>

**15-16 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium – 5<sup>th</sup> European Business Summit – “Road to perform: Europe is our business”**

Further information: [www.ebsummit.org](http://www.ebsummit.org)

**21-24 March 2007, Sevilla, Spain – Fifth European conference on sustainable cities and towns**

Further information: [www.sevilla2007.org](http://www.sevilla2007.org)

**28-29 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium – Salon “Entreprendre 2007, le rendez-vous des PME »**

Further information: <http://www.entreprendre2007.be/>

**2-6 April 2007, Grenoble, France – “Science on Stage 2” Science teaching festival**

Further information: [http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Science\\_on\\_Stage/index.html](http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Science_on_Stage/index.html)

**3-5 April 2007, Paris, France – “Capital-Week” La semaine du financement de l’innovation**

Capital-Workshop: [www.capital-workshop.com](http://www.capital-workshop.com)

Capital-Angels: [www.capital-angels.com](http://www.capital-angels.com)

Capital-IT: [www.capital-it.com](http://www.capital-it.com)

**3-5 April 2007, Paris, France – JEC Composites Show 2007: “Together, composing the future of composites”**

Further information: <http://www.jecomposites.com/press-releases/2779/JEC-COMPOSITES-SHOW.html>

**16 April 2007, Berlin, Germany – eHealth week Berlin 2007**

Further information: <http://www.ehealth2007.org>

**17-18 April 2007, Brussels, Belgium – Conference “Perspectives for FOOD 2030”**

Further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/biosociety/news\\_events/news\\_perspectives\\_food2030\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/biosociety/news_events/news_perspectives_food2030_en.htm)

**25-26 April 2007, Sofia, Bulgaria – International bioenergy forum for South-East Europe**

Further information: <http://www.bioenergy.viaexpo.com/>

**5-9 May 2007, Boston, USA – BIO 2007 Annual International Convention**

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/press/2007/eu\\_bio\\_2007\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/press/2007/eu_bio_2007_en.cfm)

**7-10 May 2007, Milan, Italy – European Wind Energy Conference “Powering change towards a new energy future”**

Further information: <http://www.ewec2007.info/>

**7-11 May 2007, Berlin, Germany – 15<sup>th</sup> European biomass conference and exhibition**

Further information: [Biomass conference website](http://www.conference-biomass.com/Biomass_2007/welcome.asp)

[http://www.conference-biomass.com/Biomass\\_2007/welcome.asp](http://www.conference-biomass.com/Biomass_2007/welcome.asp)

**8-10 May 2007, Växjö, Sweden - Sustainable Regions and Municipalities 2007**

Further information: <http://www.transporteko-so.se/pages/cgi>

[bin/PUB\\_View\\_File.exe?pagelD=167&versionId=1&linkId=1&objId=11&objType=2](http://www.transporteko-so.se/pages/cgi/bin/PUB_View_File.exe?pagelD=167&versionId=1&linkId=1&objId=11&objType=2)

**8-10 May 2007, Leipzig, Germany - 'Sustainable Neighbourhood - from Lisbon to Leipzig through Research (L2L)' Conference**

Further information: [Call for presentations, CORDIS website](http://www.fona.de/de/3_akteure/forum_2007/pdf/L2L_Call.pdf)

[http://www.fona.de/de/3\\_akteure/forum\\_2007/pdf/L2L\\_Call.pdf](http://www.fona.de/de/3_akteure/forum_2007/pdf/L2L_Call.pdf)

**11-12 May 2007, Bamberg, Germany – Japan-Germany symposium “A universal challenge: climate change”**

Information available at: <http://www.jsps-bonn.de/>

**24-25 May 2007, Shannon, Ireland – Innovative Regions in Europe plenary conference**

Further information: <http://www.innovating-regions.org/schemes/index.cfm>

**30 May – 1 June 2007, Cologne, Germany – European Bioperspectives 2007 “En route to a Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy”**

Further information: <http://www.bioperspectives.org/>

**7-9 June 2007, Paris, France – 3<sup>e</sup> Salon Européen de la Recherche et de l’Innovation**

Further information: <http://www.european-research-exhibition.com/index.php>

**19-21 June 2007, Düsseldorf, Germany – EuroNanoforum 2007**

Further information: <http://www.euronanoforum2007.de>

**26-28 June 2007, Paris, France – Nano toxicity conference 2007: potential effects on health and environment**

Further information: <http://www.upsideside.fr/nanotoxicity2007/nanotoxicity2007intro.htm>

**25 August – 2 September, Prague, Czech Republic – 2007 Research and Innovation Management Summer School**

**Interface Europe**, in cooperation with **Cedars** – Sinai Medical Center (USA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the **Faculty of Military Health Sciences** (University of Defense, Czech Republic), organizes a summer school composed of two modules:

- Module 1: Innovation Management three days training (27-28-29 August)
- Module 2: FP7 related activities two days training (30-31 August)

The tuition fees amount to €1,200 for the first module and €950 for the second module. Get 5% off for an early registration, and 20% off for registration to both events. Registration will be possible from 19<sup>th</sup> March onwards.

**3 September 2007, Milano, Italy - 22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition**

Further information: <http://www.photovoltaiac-conference.com>

**17-21 September 2007, Sophia-Antipolis, France – “Smart Event”**

Further information: <http://www.strategiestm.com/conferences/esmart/07/calls.htm>

**26 September 2007, Lille, France – EuroBIO 2007, 11e édition du Carrefour européen des biotechnologies**

Further information: <http://www.eurobio-event.com>

**11-15 November 2007, Rome, Italy - 20th World Energy Congress “The energy future in an interdependent world”**

The deadline for submission of papers and posters for the 20th World Energy Congress will expire on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

Further information: [www.rome2007.it](http://www.rome2007.it)

**18-22 July 2008, Barcelona, Spain – Euroscience Open Forum**

Further information: <http://www.esof2008.org/#>

**5-9 October 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina – 24<sup>th</sup> World Gas Conference**

Further information: <http://www.wgc2009.com>

❖ **List of opened calls for proposals launched by the European Commission**

*(FP7 calls: launched 22 December 2006)*

Political area	Call title	Deadline for submission
<b>Education and Culture (Lifelong Learning Programme)</b>	<b>Erasmus Mundus</b>	2007-04-30 2007-05-31 2008-02-28
	<b>Jean Monnet</b>	2007-03-15
	<b>Comenius</b>	2007-03-30
	<b>Grundtvig</b>	2007-03-30
	<b>Leonardo da Vinci</b>	2007-03-30
<b>Cooperation Office – EuropeAid</b>	<b>ASIA Invest II</b>	2007-03-09
<b>Enterprises, Industry, Social Affairs</b>	<b>Information, Consultation and Participation of representatives of undertakings</b>	2007-03-12
	<b>Information and training measures for workers' organisations</b>	2007-04-30
	<b>Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue</b>	2007-03-01
	<b>Competitiveness and Innovation Programme - Services in support of business and innovation</b>	2007-04-02
<b>Transversal</b>	<b>PHARE - Improving infrastructure, access to education and training, SME support and environmental protection in Romania</b>	2007-03-30
	<b>Neighbourhood Programme Romania – Moldova 2004 - 2006</b>	2007-03-12
<b>Information society</b>	<b>e-Ten 2006/1</b>	2009-05-19
	<b>Call for independent experts for e-Content plus and Safer Internet programme 2005-2008</b>	2009-06-30
	<b>Stockholm Challenge Award 2008 (ICT for better living conditions)</b>	2007-12-31
<b>Regional policy</b>	<b>Competition of doctoral theses Local and regional authorities in the European Union</b>	2007-05-07

Political area	Call title	Theme	Deadline for submission
7 <sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Development: COOPERATION	<b>Support European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research</b>		2007-03-30
	<b>Call for individuals to establish database of FP7 experts</b>		2013-07-31
	<b>FP7- AERONAUTICS and AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) - 2007- RTD-1</b>	Transports (including aeronautics)	2007-05-03
	<b>FP7- AERONAUTICS and AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) - 2007- TREN-1</b>	Transports (including aeronautics)	2007-05-03
	<b>Energy Call Part 1</b> FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD	Energy	2007-05-03
	<b>Energy Call Part 2</b> FP7-ENERGY-2007-2-TREN	Energy	<b>2007-06-28</b>
	<b>FP7-ENV-2007-1</b>	Environment (including climate change)	2007-05-02
	<b>ERA-NET / ERA-NET Plus Call 2007</b>	All FP7 themes	2007-07-31
	<b>Coordination and cooperation in context of ERA</b>	FP7 General Activities	2007-05-31
	<b>FP7-HEALTH-2007-A</b>	Health	2007-04-19
	<b>ICT Call 1</b> FP7-ICT-2007-1	Information and Communication Technologies	2007-05-08
	<b>FET Open scheme (future and emerging technologies)</b> FP7-ICT-2007-C	Information and Communication Technologies	2008-12-31
	<b>Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology General Call 1</b> FP7-KBBE-2007-1	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	2007-05-02
	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-CSA-1	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2007-06-05

Political area	Call title	Theme	Deadline for submission
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Development: COOPERATION</b>	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-LARGE-1	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2007-05-04
	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-SMALL-1	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2007-05-04
	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-SME-1	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2007-05-04
	<b>Security Research Call 1</b> FP7-SEC-2007-1	Security	2007-05-31
	<b>Space Call 1</b> FP7-SPACE -2007-1	Space	2007-06-19
	<b>Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities</b> FP7-SSH-2007-1	Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities	2007-05-10 and 2007-11-29
	<b>FP7-SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST)-2007-RTD-1</b>	Transports (including aeronautics)	2007-05-03
	<b>FP7-SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST) -2007-TREN-1</b>	Transports (including aeronautics)	<b>2007-05-03</b> and <b>2007-06-28</b> for CIVITAS Plus
	<b>FP7-TRANSPORT (TPT)-2007-RTD-1</b>	Transports (including aeronautics)	2007-05-03
<b>FP7: IDEAS</b>	<b>Call for proposals for ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant</b> ERC-2007-StG	European Research Council	2007-04-25 and 2007-09-17

Political area	Call title	Theme	Deadline for submission
FP7: CAPACITIES	Activities of International Cooperation INCO-NET FP7-INCO-2007-1	Activities of International Cooperation	2007-05-02
	Trans-national co-operation among NCPs FP7-INCO-2007-4	Activities of International Cooperation	2007-05-02
	FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-1	Research Infrastructures	2007-05-02
	Regions of Knowledge: Analysis, mentoring and integration of research actors FP7-REGIONS-2007-1	Regions of Knowledge	2007-04-24
	Regions of Knowledge: Facilitating the emergence of new clusters and mutual information FP7-REGIONS-2007-2	Regions of Knowledge	2007-04-24
	Regions of Knowledge: Trans-national co-operation among NCPs FP7-REGIONS-2007-3	Regions of Knowledge	2007-04-24
	Research Potential: Unlocking and developing the research potential in the EU 's convergence regions and outermost regions FP7-REGPOT-2007-1	Research Potential	2007-04-24
	Research Potential: Providing evaluation facilities for research organisation in the EU 's convergence regions and outermost regions FP7-REGPOT-2007-2	Research Potential	2007-04-24
	Research Potential: International Co-operation FP7-REGPOT-2007-3	Research Potential	2007-04-24
	Research Potential: Trans-national co-operation among NCPs FP7-REGPOT-2007-4	Research Potential	2007-04-24
	Science in Society FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2007-1	Science in Society	2007-05-23
	Research for SMEs Call 1 FP7-SME-2007-1	Research for the Benefit of SMEs	2007-09-04
	Research for SME Associations Call 1 FP7-SME-2007-2	Research for the Benefit of SMEs	2007-06-01 and 2007-11-28
	Coordination and Support Actions Call 1 FP7-SME-2007-3	Research for the Benefit of SMEs	2007-05-10
FP7: EURATOM	Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection FP7-Fission-2007	Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection	2007-05-02

Political area	Call title	Theme	Deadline for submission
<b>FP7: PEOPLE</b>	<b>Marie Curie Initial Training Networks</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-1-1-ITN	People	2007-05-07 and 2007-09-25
	<b>European Reintegration Grants</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-2-ERG	People	2007-04-25 and 2007-10-17
	<b>International Reintegration Grants</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-4-3-IRG	People	2007-04-25 and 2007-10-17
	<b>Researchers' night</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-1-1-NIGHT	People	2007-04-03
	<b>Marie Curie Awards</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-2-AWARDS	People	2007-04-26
	<b>Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-1-IEF	People	<b>2007-08-14</b>
	<b>International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-4-1-IOF	People	<b>2007-08-14</b>
	<b>International Incoming Fellowships</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-4-2-IIF	People	<b>2007-08-14</b>
	<b>Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-3-1-IAPP	People	<b>2007-08-14</b>

❖ **List of open consultations**

<b>Title and description</b>	<b>Political activity</b>	<b>Targeted Group</b>	<b>Closing date</b>
<b>Units of measurement</b>	Enterprise	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/01</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/prepack/unitmeas/units_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/prepack/unitmeas/units_en.htm</a>			
<b>Public consultation on the revision of the EU Ecolabel Regulation EC No 1980/2000</b>	Environment	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/02</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/consultation_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/consultation_en.htm</a>			
<b>Additional options to combat illegal logging</b>	Environment / Development	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/05</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=IllegalLogOptions">http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=IllegalLogOptions</a>			
<b>Consultation on the initiatives envisaged by the Commission to improve the fight of the European Community against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing</b>	Fisheries	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/12</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/governance/consultations/consultation_150107_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/governance/consultations/consultation_150107_en.htm</a>			
<b>GLOBAL EUROPE - Europe's trade defence instruments in a changing global economy - A Green Paper for public consultation</b>	Trade	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/31</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/comu061206_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/comu061206_en.htm</a>			
<b>European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training</b>	Education	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/31</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/education/ecvt/index_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/education/ecvt/index_en.html</a>			
<b>Green Paper: "Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century"</b>	Employment & social affairs	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/31</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=labourlaw&amp;lang=en">http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=labourlaw&amp;lang=en</a>			
<b>Planned White Paper on Sport</b>	Sport	Stakeholders	<b>2007/04/03</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=OnlineConsult2007&amp;lang=en">http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=OnlineConsult2007&amp;lang=en</a>			
<b>GALILEO Green Paper on Satellite Navigation Applications</b>	Energy and transport, aerospace	Stakeholders	<b>2007/04/06</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/green-paper/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/green-paper/index_en.htm</a>			
<b>Capturing and storing CO2 underground</b>	Environment	Stakeholders / Public	<b>2007/04/16</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/ccs/consult_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/ccs/consult_en.htm</a>			
<b>A Maritime Policy for the European Union</b>	Maritime policy	public	<b>2007/06/30</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html</a>			

For more information, contact us: [Landry.cochard@interfaceurope.eu](mailto:Landry.cochard@interfaceurope.eu)

## Get prepared in 2007

### Trainings' news and offers on new EU funding programmes.

#### ❖ Training News



##### - The 2007 Catalogue of training courses On-Line (available in FR and EN)

The catalogue presents all of our training formula, the content of courses and any practical information you would need to choose your training courses.

You can consult or download it in FR or EN from our new website from now on.

There will be a possibility to register on-line for all modules of our catalogue from our revamped website

#### ❖ Next sessions planned in Brussels (given in English or French)

##### \* “EU Journey” – Discover EU institutions and mechanisms whilst acquiring knowledge on FP7.

A Two-day training which combined the module on FP 7 (how to anticipate your participation and raise your chances of success under FP 7) with visits of the European institutions and meeting with officials.

Available dates:

- 21st/22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007: Course in English

##### \* “FP7: The Seventh Framework Programme: How to anticipate your participation and raise your chance of success? Presentation of the new priorities and orientations.”

Available date:

- 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007 : Course in English

##### \* “How to write a successful proposal under FP7?” – tips and methodology to set up a qualitative project to be more positively assessed and properly fill in the application form with a view to enhance your chances of success.

Available dates :

- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 : Course in English
- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007: Course in English

##### \* “Legal and financial aspects of European contracts for Research.”

Available dates:

- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007: Course in English
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007 : Course in English

##### \* “Mobility of Researchers – Marie Curie actions”

Available date:

- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007 : Course in English
- If you would be interested in attending a course in French, please register on our [waiting list](#)

To register or to consult our training sessions planned during the second semester, go on “Calendar of sessions” in the training department’s page of our website. <http://www.interfaceurope.net/news.php?p=news&lang=fr>  
You can also register on-line.

## ❖ Next sessions planned in Paris

\* “Le 7<sup>ème</sup> programme cadre de recherche de l’Union européenne : Comment anticiper et augmenter vos chances de succès ? – Présentation détaillée des nouvelles orientations et opportunités - Au delà de la lecture des textes, adoptez une démarche stratégique, clé de votre succès pour le 7<sup>ème</sup> PCRD.

•Date disponible/available date : 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – Course in French

\* “Le montage de projets européens de recherche”. The module will focus on a methodology especially designed to set-up a RTDI project and write a successful application under FP7.

•Date disponible/available date : 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – Course in French

\* “Les aspects juridiques et financiers d’un contrat de financement communautaire – Module d’approfondissement.

•Date disponible/available date : 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – Course in French

## ❖ Other sessions ~~NEW~~

### \*Research and Innovation Management Workshop in Ukraine

On 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Interface Europe**, in cooperation with **Cedars** – Sinai Medical Center (USA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**), organizes a two-day workshop on innovation management and FP7 opportunities in international cooperation and for neighbouring countries.

Further information will be soon available.

### \*2007 Research and Innovation Management Summer School in Prague, Czech Republic

From 25<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007

**Interface Europe**, in cooperation with **Cedars** – Sinai Medical Center (USA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**), and the **Faculty of Military Health Sciences** (University of Defense, Czech Republic), organizes a summer school composed of two modules:

- Module 1: Innovation Management three days training (27-28-29 August)
- Module 2: FP7 related activities two days training (30-31 August)

The tuition fees amount to €1,200 for the first module and €950 for the second module. Get 5% off for an early registration, and 20% off for registration to both events. Registration will be possible from 19<sup>th</sup> March onwards.

### \*Research and Innovation Management Workshop in Pecs, Hungary

On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Interface Europe**, in cooperation with **Cedars** - Sinai Medical Center (USA), RECOOP HST, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**), organizes a two-day workshop for the Hungarian Higher Education and for the Neighbouring Countries (Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia and Romania).

The session of 8<sup>th</sup> October will be dedicated to an Innovation Management course, while the session of 9<sup>th</sup> October will target FP7 instruments and opportunities for universities (Marie Curie, structural funds, EIB loans).

Contact us for further information!

*To register or to consult our training sessions planned during the second semester, go on Calendar of sessions in the training department’s page of our website: [www.interfaceurope.eu](http://www.interfaceurope.eu) Quick access and registration on line : click on “training sessions” You can also register on-line.*

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New website: [www.interfaceurope.eu](http://www.interfaceurope.eu)

## Make your way through the EU funding opportunities for Research, Innovation and Training

- > The list of the open calls for proposals
- > Our services sorted by clients/funding programmes/activities....
  - > Read the newsletter on line
- > Direct access to training registration on-line

The screenshot displays the 'Interface Europe' website, which is a platform for research and innovation funding. The page is titled 'Strategy and Projects for Research & Innovation' and features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Home', 'Our Services', 'Strategy', 'Projects', 'Information', 'Calls and anticipation', 'Quick Access', 'Training Sessions', 'Training Catalogue', 'Calendar', 'Register', and 'Practical Informations'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Training Catalogue', 'Calendar', and 'Training Sessions'. The 'Training Catalogue' column lists various training modules and journeys. The 'Calendar' column shows a monthly calendar with dates for training sessions. The 'Training Sessions' column provides detailed information about specific training events, including dates, languages, and topics.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Month																																	