**Editorial**

Welcome to the April 2010 edition of the Lancashire Brussels Office EU Policy and Funding University Newsletter.

In this month’s Policy section you will find out about proposals to improve university-businesses links in Europe and the publication of the EU ‘Innovation Scoreboard’, which shows that more innovation is needed in Europe.   In this issue you will also find consultations in several policy areas including nuclear policy and the intellectual property rights.     Upcoming higher education conferences can be found in the events section, which includes conferences on ethics and values and a meeting on doctoral education.

The Funding section provides you with partner searches and the calendar of open and forthcoming calls for proposals.

For any further details, comments or suggestions, on the content of the newsletter please do not hesitate to contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

Best Regards,

Grete Smith

Assistant European Liaison Officer

***Policy Section***

**Education and Culture**

*Report calls for tighter university-business links*

The Culture and Education Committee of the European Parliament has recently voted on a draft report on ‘University-Business Dialogue: a new partnership for the modernisation of Europe’s universities’. The report is expected to be voted on by the Parliament as a whole in the plenary session at the end of May.

The report proposes changes in several areas of higher education including:

* providing incentives for structured partnerships with the business community
* enhancing interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity
* making the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area more visible and attractive in the world
* ‘activating’ knowledge through interaction with society
* providing the right mix of skills and competencies for the labour market

It is hoped that an enhanced dialogue between universities and businesses will result in greater supply of the type of degrees sought by industry.

Source: European Parliament

*Research cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean*

A Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on research cooperation has recently taken place between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC). The meeting took place within the policy framework for international cooperation of the European Commission Directorate-General for Research (DG Research).

The meeting focused on science and technology (S&T) and served as preparation for a EU-LAC summit scheduled to take place on 18-19 May 2010 in Madrid, the central theme of which will be ‘Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion’.

Among the key proposals discussed for inclusion in the summit’s action plan was the development of Knowledge and Innovation Centres (KIC) in Latin America and the Caribbean. These would be funded by the European Commission Directorate-General for External Relations (DG RELEX), with the aim of increasing uptake of research and innovation. Also discussed was the inclusion of an LAC focus within the 2011 FP7 work programme.

International scientific cooperation constitutes an important pillar of the EU’s research policy framework. Agreements for S&T are in place with major international countries and groups of countries such as Russia, ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), China and Japan.

Source: European Commission

*Report shows improvement still needed in higher education*

The European Commission has recently presented the report ‘Focus on Higher Education in Europe 2010: The impact of the Bologna Process’. The report is based on data provided by 46 countries participating in the Bologna Process and aims to assess the impact of the Process in its tenth year. Initiated 1999, the Bologna Process provides a framework for European cooperation in higher education reform, notably through the harmonisation of degree standards.

The report shows that:

* student mobility is often neglected. The UK, along with Ireland and Poland, is one of three countries not to have outbound mobility target for students. The most ambitious outbound mobility targets are held by Austria and Germany (50% of students to spend at least a semester abroad by 2020).
* higher education funding levels in England have remained constant over the past year. Funding levels increased by over 5% in several countries, including France and Austria, and decreased by that margin in Ireland, Iceland and the Ukraine.

To view the full report please visit:

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/122EN.pdf>

*Media platform on transport research launched*

The European Journalism Centre, in association with the European Commission Directorate-General for Research, has recently launched a website providing information on transport initiatives across the European Union within the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development, as part of the Press4Transport (P4T) project.

The aim of the new platform is to provide journalists specialised in the field of sustainable surface transport (SST) with topics, press releases and information on projects from across Europe, showcasing local projects and innovative SMEs, free of charge. The website intends to give visibility to EU research initiatives and help journalists report on local and regional European transport-related projects. The website will include a bi-monthly newsletter on SST issues and information on relevant events.

The P4T project is run by experts in the field of SST and media specialists, working together to provide journalists with relevant information on European projects. The European Journalism Centre deals with the production and dissemination of material relating to P4T.

Partners in P4T include research centres and universities from Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Hungary and Denmark. Interested organisations, including those who have relevant projects to submit, can contact P4T directly by sending an email to the P4T website: <http://www.press4transport.eu/>.

*First European e-Skills Week held to highlight IT skills and careers*

The first European e-Skills Week has been held to highlight the growing demand for skilled ICT users and professionals. The initiative was led by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry and coordinated by DigitalEurope (European digital technology industry network) and EuropeanSchoolnet (network of national education ministries).

The first European e-Skills Week saw events take place across Europe to inform students, young professionals and SMEs about the vast range of opportunities that ICT-related jobs present and to inform students and young people about the diversity of careers offered by the IT sector.

More events to promote the uptake of e-Skills and IT careers are planned over the next few months organised by a range of actors including public authorities, ICT companies, education institutions and students. The UK contact point for the European e-Skills campaign is Intellect UK - <http://www.intellectuk.org/>.

**Research and Innovation**

*Innovation Scoreboard: More Innovation needed in Europe*

The 2009 European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) shows the economic crisis may be hampering improvements in innovation performance across Europe. Early indications show that the worst hit are member states with lower levels of innovation performance, potentially reversing the convergence process seen in recent years. The latest statistics also show that the EU continues to struggle to catch up with the US in innovation performance, although it still maintains a clear lead over the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, despite rapid improvements in China.

The EIS 2009 includes 29 innovation-related indicators, which are grouped around three categories: enablers (human resources, finance and support), firm activities (firm investments, linkages and entrepreneurship, throughputs) and outputs (innovators, economic effects).

As in previous years, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden and the UK are the ‘innovation leaders’ although, while Germany and Finland are improving their performance the fastest, Denmark and the UK are stagnating.

The 2009 European Innovation Scoreboard can be found at:

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/sites/default/files/page/10/03/I981-DG%20ENTR-Report%20EIS.pdf>

Source: European Commission and the Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)

*Research for the construction sector*

A consortium comprising research and industry partners from Spain, Italy, Sweden and the UK are currently working on a project intended to benefit Europe’s construction industry. The ‘Polymeric nanocomposite profiles for curtain walls’ (FACOMP) project will receive €945,000 in EU funding under the 7th Framework Programme.

The researchers are attempting to develop curtain wall facades, a common construction element, based on nanocomposites, rather than aluminium and steel as is traditional, due to the challenges that sourcing, recycling and the thermal properties of these materials have prompted. The new system proposed by the FACOMP team will have:

* mechanical properties equal to or better than materials currently in use
* more resistance to weather conditions
* improved thermal and acoustic components

as well as being lighter than existing models.

The FACOMP team has completed 50 percent of the project and now aims to create a real scale prototype.

Source: European Commission

*New influenza research projects*

The four projects shortlisted under the €18 million call for proposals for research on influenza have recently been announced. There are 52 research institutes and SMEs from 18 European countries participating in the selected projects which will be joined by international partners from Israel, China and the US.

The aim of the European Commission is to coordinate the veterinary and medical sectors to minimise the damage influenza can cause. The present call for proposals addresses influenza from both human and animal perspective.

The selected projects include:

* European surveillance network for influenza in pigs (ESNIP) 3 – coordinated by Ian Brown  the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (UK)
* New drugs targeting influenza virus polymerase (FLU-PHARM) – coordinated by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (France)
* Development of novel antiviral drugs against Influenza (FLUCURE) – coordinated by VIRONOVA AB (Sweden)

Since 2001 the European Commission has provided over €100 million for research in influenza, making it the largest public funding source for this area in Europe.

Source: European Commission

**Consultations**

*Radioactive waste management*

The European Commission (EC) has opened a public consultation on approaches for a possible EU legislative proposal on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The objective of this consultation is to gather input from a wide variety of stakeholders, based on which a proposal for a Directive on radioactive waste management will be developed, taking into consideration the ‘polluter-pays’ principle.

Contributions to this debate are invited from all interested parties.

The deadline for this consultation is **31 May 2010**.

For further background information and consultation questionnaire please visit

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/consultations/2010_05_31_fuel_waste_en.htm>.

*Review of the European Standardisation System*

The European Commission Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry invites all interested parties to respond to a consultation on the review of the European Standardisation System (ESS). The ESS is the network of institutions, mainly made up of national standardisation bodies that create standards in Europe, including rules on their interrelation. The objective of the current consultation is to gain an understanding of stakeholders’ views on performance of the ESS on the direction possible Commission proposals in this area should take.

The deadline for this consultation is **21 May 2010**.

For further information and for consultation questionnaire please visit

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/public-consultation/>

*Enforcement of intellectual property rights*

The European Commission invites contributions from all interested parties and stakeholders to a consultation on customs action against goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights and the subsequent measures to be taken against goods found to have infringed such rights.

The results of the public consultation will feed into a future proposal for a Regulation to replace the existing Council Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003.

The deadline for this consultation is **25 May 2010**.

For further information and for the consultation document please visit

<http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/consultations/customs/ipr_2010_03_en.htm>

*Review of the European Company Statute (SE)*

The European Company Statute(SE) gives companies operating in more than one member state the option of being established as a single company under Community law and so able to operate throughout the EU with one set of rules and a unified management and reporting system rather than all the different national laws. The Commission has launched as consultation is to provide input ahead of the Commission report on the application of the Statute. If appropriate, the report will suggest amendments to the legislation.

Contributions from all interested parties are welcome, particularly from legal and academic practitioners with experience or views related to the European Company (SE).

The deadline for this consultation is **23 May 2010**.

For further information and consultation questionnaire please visit

<http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/se_en.htm> .

**Events**

*Seminar on ‘Culture and Development’*

On the 4-5 May the University of Girona, Spain, will host an international seminar on ‘Culture and Development’. The event will look at the role culture can play in development cooperation policies. It is targeted at authorities responsible for development cooperation in partner and donor countries, as well as international organisations, with the aim of highlighting the need to integrate culture into development policies.

The seminar will provide the opportunity for a review of experiences demonstrating that investment in culture is a way to attain different objectives in the fight against poverty, and to highlight best practices in this area.

The event is organised within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the EU, in the city of Girona with the collaboration of the University of Girona, which holds the UNESCO Chair for Cultural Policies and Cooperation.

For further details or for registration to this event please visit

<http://www.culturaydesarrollo2010.es/eng/index.asp>

Source: European Commission

*European Unversity meeting on doctoral education*

The European University Association Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) invites members and stakeholders to its Third Annual Meeting on 4-5 June 2010 at the Free University Berlin, Germany. Delegates will discuss the future of the doctorate in light of the fifth anniversary of the Salzburg Principles. These are a set of 10 basic principles applicable to doctoral training, such as: the universities’ responsibility for doctoral programmes, the diversity of the programmes, the recognition of doctoral candidates, the role of supervision and assessment, increasing mobility and sustainable funding for doctoral programmes.

Discussions at the meeting will focus on lessons learnt by universities from their reforms, and resulting recommendations for the future. These recommendations will provide a basis for a dialogue on the future of doctoral education.

For further information on this event please visit:

<http://www.eua.be/events/third-eua-cde-annual-meeting/home/>.

Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

*Conference: European Opportunities for health in North West of England*

On 29 April 2010 the North West Health Office will hold a conference at the MacDonald Hotel in Manchester entitled ‘Matching European Opportunities to North West Health Priorities’. The aim of the event is to raise awareness amongst health stakeholders on how local and regional actors can maximise European opportunities to improve health in the North West region.

The event is aimed at public health stakeholders, researchers in health and innovation and anyone looking to better engage with policy making and access to funding for health at European level.

Workshops organised as part of the event will include:

* health and wellbeing
* research and innovation
* investment in health
* EU funding for health

For further details on this event and registration, please visit <http://www.makingthelink.eu/>. Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

*Ethics and Values in higher education*

# On 24 - 26 June 2010, the International Association of Universities (IAU) is organising a conference entitled ‘Ethics and Values in Higher Education in the Era of Globalization: What Role for the Disciplines?’. The event will be hosted by Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania. The conference will address questions on the place of ethics and values in higher education.  It will seek to address how different disciplinary approaches can enrich each other and contribute to instilling and promoting value-based and ethical higher education.  The conference aims to provide a forum for exchange of ideas, discussions, new partnerships and networks, with parallel workshops focusing on:

# **challenges of the social sciences, humanities and technology**

# **higher education values across time and culture**

# **values as defining features of the ‘Modern’ University**

# **increasing accessibility in educational opportunities in a competitive world**

# **risks and threats to academic freedom and institutional autonomy**

# **the ethical dimensions of international student recruitment and international research cooperation**

# **For more information on this event please visit:**

# <http://iauconference.home.mruni.eu/?lang=en>**. Alternatively, contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.**

# ***Summer school – developing the Bologna Process***

# **University College Cork, Ireland, invites** policymakers, senior managers, lecturers and those working in development educational in Bologna Process countries to participate in the international summer school ‘Implementing Bologna in your institution’, on 5-9 July 2010.

# At the summer school, training will be given in areas such as: quality improvement; quality assurance; university and higher education structures; curriculum design; implementing ECTS and integrating research. Training will also be provided for more specific areas related to teaching and learning, including writing and using learning outcomes and competences; linking learning outcomes, lifelong learning; access and widening participation, and graduate education.

# The conference will be held on the main campus of University College Cork. For further information on this event and registration, please visit:

# <http://www.nairtl.ie/index.php?pageID=27&eventID=77>.

# Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

**Calls for papers**

*Energy and Environmental Policy*

The Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) from the University of Athens, Greece, is hosting the Third International Scientific Conference on Energy and Climate Change on 8-9 October 2010. This event is organised under the auspices of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation (BSEC).

PROMITHEAS Net is a research network coordinated by KEPA, comprising research centres from six countries located around the Black Sea and dealing with sustainable energy development. The scientific committee of PROMITHEAS Net invites scientists, researchers, PhD candidates, policy makers, engineers and trial sectors to participate and contribute in promoting and disseminating scientific knowledge. Participants can submit abstracts relevant to specific themes/ topics or combinations.

The main themes of the conference are:

1. Energy Policy, including conventional fuels, electricity, renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass, tidal wave) and biofuels, as well as energy efficiency in general.

2. Environmental – Climate Change Policy, including climate change and energy efficiency and conservation

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 19 April 2010

For further information and registration please visit

<http://www.kepa.uoa.gr/PROMITHEAS_Conference.htm>. Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

***Funding Section***

**Partner Searches**

*Advanced eco-design and manufacturing processes for batteries and electrical components*

The Institute for Manufacturing Automation and Production Systems (FAPS), Friedrich-Alexander-University, Nuremberg (Germany) is seeking partners for a project for submission under either the Energy or Environment strands of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

This project aims to improve the development of the value chain of batteries and electrical components, including eco-design, assembly and material recycling. The main challenges include achieving cost reduction through design improvements and producing lighter systems with increased power density while taking into account the availability of critical materials and their recycling.

The project will aim to integrate advanced manufacturing tools, methodologies and processes developed within the project into conventional or existing production lines. As such the involvement of industrial partners, including SMEs, components suppliers, electrical vehicles manufacturers and component recyclers, is welcomed, to ensure industrial relevance and impact.

For further information please contact Mr Alireza Esfandyari, Tel. +49 913 1582 8314. Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

*Advanced statistical models*

Actuarial Research Centre from University of Haifa, Israel is seeking partners for a project under the Cooperation strand of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) on ‘**Advanced statistical models, response algorithms, structural equation modelling and computational methods’.**

The project will develop a new algorithm, synthesising data-mining and structural equation modelling, using a methodology that has been successfully used in the past for product innovation. The Haifa team consists of experts on advanced statistical modelling, computational methods, data mining, risk management and statistical models in actuarial science.

If you are interested in this project, please contact Prof. Udi E. Makov, telephone +972 4828 8285. Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

*Efficiency of renewable energies for off-grid applications*

The Advanced Control Group (ACG) of the University of Valladolid, Spain, is seeking partners for a project that could be potentially supported by several strands of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) such as the Cooperation, People and Energy strands. The project will focus on improving the efficiency of renewable energies for off-grid applications.

ACG’s expertise focuses on new energy management strategies to improve efficiency when using local generation of renewable energies (solar, wind) for energy intensive applications (drinkable water production, irrigation, pumping, etc). The strategies developed are based on the use of models and hybrid control ideas and make it possible to compensate variability in production and demand, improving efficiency, extending the life of the components and reducing installation and operation costs. The group members have experience in participating in international R&D projects.

If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Professor Fernando Tadeo, Tel. +34 983 423 162. Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

*Awareness-raising for teachers on violence*

The Association of Colleges in the East of England would like to join a partnership bid under the Daphne III programme focusing on developing teachers’ awareness and capacity to raise awareness with young people in three areas: street and peer violence, media violence, and corporal punishment of children.

The 24-month project will be structured in two phases:

* Phase 1: will be dedicated to researching best practices and best methods of raising awareness to children in the three areas listed above. This will include student and staff visits to other partners to share ideas.
* Phase 2: the focus will shift on the provision of training to raise awareness among teachers who work with children.

The project aims to improve awareness-raising of children of each area and capacity building for teaching staff to ensure long-term dissemination of project outcomes. The Association would welcome partners who are experienced in working with students in the 14-19 age range and have experience of teacher development and working with young people.

For more information please contact: Debbie Dear, email: Debbie.dear@acer.ac.uk, Tel: +44 (0)1480 468198. Alternatively, please contact the Lancashire Brussels Office.

**Funding Calendar**

*Currently open calls (non-FP7)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Programme | Date of publication | Deadline date |
| Culture  | Media 2007 - support for production companies to access loans from financial institutions. | 11 November 2009 | 5 February 2010 and 7 July 2010 |
| Media 2007 – support for transnational distribution of European films | 16 February 2010 | 30 April 2010 |
| Culture Programme – Cooperation with Third Countries | 7 December 2009 | 1 May 2010 |
| Media 2007 – Support for the Promotion/Access to the Market | 7 October 2009 | 30 June 2010 |
| Media 2007 - support for production companies to access loans from financial institutions. | 11 November 2009 | 7 July 2010 |
| **NEW** Media 2007 - Support for the implementation of Pilot Projects | 23 March 2010 | 14 June 2010 |
| **NEW** Media 2007 - Support to Video on Demand and Digital Cinema Distribution | 23 March 2010 | 21 June 2010 |
| Education | Lifelong Learning Programme - General call 2010 | 15 October 2009 | 15 January 2010 to 15 October 2010 |
|  Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes, Partnerships and Higher Education | 3 December 2009 | 30 April 2010 |
|  EU-US Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training | 31 December 2009 | 8 August 2010 |
| **NEW** Lifelong Learning Programme - Support for European Cooperation in Education and Training | 23 March 2010 | 16 July 2010 |
| **NEW** Lifelong Learning Programme – Support for testing and developing the credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) ort Learning Programme | 31 March 2010 | 16 July 2010 |
| **NEW** Lifelong Learning Programme – Support for improving the quality assurance of vocational education and training (VET) systems | 31 March 2010 | 16 July 2010 |
| E-Europe and Information Society | Community Programme – Safer Internet | 26 February 2010 | 27 May 2010 |
| ICT Policy Support Programme | 21 January 2010 | 1 June 2010 |
| Environment | **NEW** Intelligent Energy Europe Programme | 27 March 2010 | 24 June 2010 |
| Justice and Home Affairs | Fundamental Rights and Citizenship – Action Grants | 25 February 2010 | 29 April 2010 |
| Drugs Prevention and Information Programme | 3 March 2010 | 28 April 2010 |
| Daphne (Preventing and combating violence against children, young people and women) | 3 March 2010 | 30 April 2010 |
| **NEW** Civil Protection Mechanism | 11 March 2010 | 31 May 2010 |
| Research | **NEW** Research grants for under the work programme of the joint European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) | 1 April 2010 | 7 May 2010 |
| **NEW** Technological Development and Demonstration Activities - Intra-European Fellowships | 17 March 2010 | 17 August 2010 |
| **NEW** International Incoming Fellowships | 17 March 2010 | 17 August 2010 |
| **NEW** Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development | 17 March 2010 | 17 August 2010 |
| Social affairs |  Youth in Action - General call | 23 December 2008 | Various from 1 February - 1 November 2010 |
| Europe for Citizens - General call | Rolling calls | Various from 1 February 2010 - 1 September 2010 |
| **NEW** Youth in Action -[Youth in the world: cooperation with countries other than the neighbouring countries of the EU 2010](http://euroalert.net/en/calls.aspx?idc=1899)  | 16 March 2010 | 17 May 2010 |
| Transport | Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) | 16 February 2010 | 30 April 2010 |
| **NEW** Marco Polo Programme | 17 March 2010 | 18 May 2010 |

*FP7 calls for proposals*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Programme | Date of publication | Deadline date |
| People | Marie Curie Reintegration Grants | 9 October 2009 | 7 September 2010 |
| Capacities | Science in Society FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2010-NCP | 30 July 2009 | 29 April 2010 |

*Forthcoming calls*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Programme | Expected date of publication |
| Environment | Life + | Expected May 2010 with the deadline in September 2010 |
| Justice and Home Affairs | Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism | A targeted call expected April 2010 |
| Prevention of and fight against crime fund | A targeted call expected April 2010.  A general call expected in July 2010 |
| INTERREG IVB Atlantic Area | Expected early 2010, however it is possible that it will be postponed until 2011 |
| INTERREG IVC | A third call date to be confirmed. |
| Social  | Progress  | Varies with calls and work programme |

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LANCASHIRE BRUSSELS OFFICE

EU Policy and Funding Newsletter

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**The LBO is the partnership office representing:**

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