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REINFORCING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

International Cooperation BILAT
projects, Call 2009

PROJECT INFORMATION

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REINFORCING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

International Cooperation BILAT
projects, Call 2009

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Bilateral Coordination for the Enhancement and Development of S&T Partnerships between the European Union and the United States of America





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

FP7 International Cooperation addresses three interdependent objectives:

- Supporting European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries¹ in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe;
- Facilitating contacts with partners in third countries with the aim of providing better access to research carried out elsewhere in the world;
- Tackling specific challenges that third countries face, or which have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit (e.g. contributing towards Millennium Development Goals and addressing global climate change, combating biodiversity loss, water and energy scarcity).

Significant changes and improvements have taken place in the approach to international cooperation from the 6th Framework Programme (FP6) to FP7, which integrates international research collaboration and includes both geographical and thematic targeting.

In order to maximise impact, international activities take place across all Specific Programmes of FP7 in a complementary manner. The Cooperation Programme enables research cooperation between different world-wide research partners in collaboration with European researchers. The Capacities Programme supports a range of activities to support S&T cooperation policies and strengthen research capacity in the European scientific community and other regions of the world. The People Programme meets the need to foster both incoming and outgoing international mobility of researchers. The Ideas Programme supports excellence in frontier research and enables individual top international researchers to participate in Europe-led teams.

Within the Capacity Programme the main activities of International Cooperation range from:

- The bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation, including priority setting and the support of the S&T policy dialogue (so-called INCO-NET projects), to
- The bilateral coordination of S&T policies with those countries that signed (or are in the process of signing) an S&T agreement with the European Union (so-called BILAT projects),
- The support for trans-national cooperation among National Contact Points NCPs (INCO-NCP networks)

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

INTRODUCTION

- The re-enforcement of cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the ERA (ERA-WIDE),
- The support of EU access to third country programmes (ACCESS4EU),
- The coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States concerning international S&T cooperation (so-called ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus projects), and soon
- The strengthening of European research facilities in third countries: INCO-LAB activity²).

This booklet presents the activities of six BILAT projects which have been selected following the evaluation of the call for proposals published in June 2009 (FP7-INCO-2009-2).

These projects aim at developing and enhancing S&T partnerships with third countries, which have signed or are in the process of negotiating an EU S&T cooperation agreement. Within the framework of these S&T promotion platforms, priority is given to the development of cooperation activities using FP7 instruments.

The third countries targeted by these projects are: Argentina, Canada³), Egypt, Japan, Jordan, and the USA.

BILAT projects focus on:

- Improving the process of providing information on programs and funding designed to promote cooperation between Europe and the specific third countries;
- Better identifying and demonstrating mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and specific third countries; and
- Sharing best practices via joint fora such as workshops and presenting the state of the art and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.

The actions will aim specifically at support activities which will be implemented to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of organisations from third countries in the priority thematic areas of FP7.

It is expected that these actions will translate into a measurable increase of effective collaborations, as well as improving mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and partner countries with S&T agreements.

M. Minch

Director of International Cooperation
Directorate General for Research

²The INCO-LAB will be introduced in the Work Programme 2011

³ At the point of publishing this brochure the BILAT project targeting Canada (ERA-CAN II) is still under negotiation and will be included in the next issue.

PROJECTS



ARGENTINA

ABEST II

Argentinean Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the European Community in the Science, Technology and Innovation Area. Phase II



WEB SITE
WWW.ABEST.MINCYT.GOV.AR

REFERENCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT
244327

EC CONTRIBUTION
EUR 490.985

STARTING DATE
01 JANUARY 2009

DURATION 36 MONTHS



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Background and objectives

ABEST II was conceived as a natural continuation of the activities developed during the successful ABEST/A-EU project financed within the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). The main objective is to promote the participation of Argentinean scientists and institutions in activities proposed by the Seventh Framework Programme jointly with EU peers. It will be achieved by fostering awareness and information of the Framework Programme, targeting in particular the enhancement of participation in some specific Themes of FP7 and in programmes such as People.

ABEST II will also identify mutual interest areas in S&T cooperation between the EU and Argentina, will promote the sharing of best practices via joint fora and will also promote the participation of Argentinean SMEs in FP7 activities.

After completion, ABEST II will operate as a permanent self-sustained structure consisting of an office within the Argentina's National Directorate for International Relations of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, and a network of research and development institutions in Argentina.

List of partners

- 1 Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation**
MINCyT/ Argentina
- 2 Agency for the Promotion of European Research**
APRE/Italy
- 3 International Cooperation Centre for Research in Development**
CIRAD/France
- 4 Department of Science and Technology**
DST/South Africa

Implementation and dissemination activities

The dissemination activities planned to reach the objectives will be:

- Thematic Information days, presentations, workshops and videoconferences in collaboration with, or in support of, thematic FP7 Contact Points in Argentina.
- Special training workshops for Universities, SMEs, and for further development and support of a national network of FP7 Contact Points.
- The ABEST website (www.abest.mincyt.gov.ar) will be a tool box for presenting information on the opportunities for cooperation providing orientations about calls status, partner search, and other related issues.
- A S,T&I EU-AR Cooperation Observatory will be set up to produce reports, case studies and a living inventory of collaborations showing the mutual benefits associated with cooperation.



"ABEST II is a great opportunity to strengthen bonds between the local community and their European colleagues in the science and technology fields and encourage them to cooperate in the 7th FP".

The management structure will be composed of:

- a) The Project Coordinator and the Technical Project Coordinator;
- b) The Steering Committee;
- c) The Work Package Coordinators; and
- d) The Project Office.

The Project Overall Management will be the responsibility of the Project Coordinator (PC) at MINCYT. The PC will receive the support and guidance from the eleven members of the Steering Committee, which includes two representatives from MINCYT, one from each of the project partner institutions (APRE, CIRAD, and DST), representatives from other key institutions specifically invited to participate in the project as Steering Committee members (the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, CERCAL, ZSI, and MENON), one representative from the European Commission Delegation in Buenos Aires, and one representative of an Argentinean enterprise.

The Steering Committee will produce recommendations on particular work packages, procedures and/or other general aspects related to the project implementation.

The institutions invited to participate exclusively as members of the Steering Committee have strong S&T links with Argentina and have a long experience in the type of activities. Thus they will be able to provide positive inputs and good project guidance.

Expected impact

ABEST II will foster the cooperation between Argentina and the EU. ABEST II will contribute to increasing mutual understanding between researchers and policy makers from Argentina and the EU by improving access to information, identifying priorities of mutual interest and supporting the process of finding partners for Argentina and European Union groups and scientists.

We also expect ABEST II to make an important contribution to enhancing the quality of the bilateral dialogue. This will facilitate the negotiation of mutual interest initiatives that will give political momentum to the bilateral relationship, thereby generating a fertile environment for scientists to participate in joint initiatives.



EGYPT

ShERACA

Shaping Egypt's partnership with the European Research Area and Cooperation Action



WEB SITE
WWW.SHERACA.EG.NET

REFERENCE OF THE CONTRACT
244364

EC CONTRIBUTION
EUR 499,987

STARTING DATE
01 DECEMBER 2009

DURATION 36 MONTHS



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Background and objectives

Out of the conviction of the pivotal role of science and technology as a vehicle towards sustainable economic development, Egypt and the EU signed an Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in June 2005, consolidating their long-standing endeavours in this area.

A Joint EU-Egypt Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) was established with the functions of ensuring, evaluating and reviewing the implementation of the Agreement. The JSTCC also aims to identify potential sectors of cooperation, priorities of research policies, and explore future orientations and prospects for cooperation within the Agreement.

Parallel to the above mentioned efforts, the EU and Egypt signed, in 2007, the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) agreement (MEDA- II millions Euros) to enhance Egypt's economic growth and international competitiveness through improving its research, development and innovation performance.

On the regional front, Egypt is actively pursuing a pivotal role in the EU-MPC cooperation in science and technology. In this context, both Egyptian beneficiaries in the current proposal are actively participating in the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA).

Despite the existence of the above mentioned initiatives to enhance EU-Egypt partnership, coupled with the highly skilled Egyptian researchers' community, Egypt's participation in different ERA activities still has a vast potential for improvement.

The overall objective of "ShERACA" (an Arabic word meaning "Partnership") is to enhance the participation and involvement of Egyptian R&D stakeholders and key players in the various ERA activities. Such an objective will be carried out in synergy with the regional and bilateral actions currently running; namely the MIRA and the RDI Programme.

List of partners

- 1 **Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**
MHESR (EG)/EGYPT
- 2 **Egyptian National Scientific and Technical Information Network**
ENSTINET (EG)/EGYPT
- 3 **Agency for Communication and Information Technology**
APRE (IT)/ITALY
- 4 **The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey**
TUBITAK (TR)/TURKEY

Implementation and dissemination activities

In pursuing this overall objective, and in line with the INCO BILAT Call, the project aims at:

- Promoting, enhancing and supporting the partnership between EU and Egypt's science, technology and innovation stakeholders;
- Strengthening EU-Egypt research cooperation capacity;
- Increasing the visibility of the Egyptian research capacity in Europe;
- Supporting and reinforcing the Egyptian National Contact Points' (NCPs) structure and capacity;
- Complementing the role of the JSTCC in enhancing the S&T policy dialogue between EU and Egypt.

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

- Capacity building of Egyptian NCPs and thematic advisors;
- Integration of Egyptian NCPs in the NCP thematic networks;
- Development of a Mobility Portal linked to the EU Mobility Portal (EURAXESS);
- Mapping of Egyptian organizations' research capacity;
- Identification of common research priorities;
- Identification and networking opportunities for potential partners;
- Dissemination for awareness and engagement activities;
- Sound management and communication strategy.

Dissemination is a substantial part of the project with the objectives: 1) to raise awareness among Egyptian and European stakeholders about the projects aims and objectives; 2) to ensure all potential cooperation opportunities receive adequate coverage; 3) to update stakeholders with pertinent news and opportunities; 4) to reinforce the bilateral dialogue; 5) to enhance the information flow; facilitate multilevel information exchange.

Expected impact

The main expected impact of the project is to **“Improve S&T cooperation between EU and Egypt”**. This will be accomplished through the following 3 outcomes:

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

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

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

In conclusion, sustainable impact will be accomplished through the project activities and their expected outcomes, aligned with the policy dialogue of the EU-Egypt JSTCC and capitalizing on the synergetic activities with programmes with similar/complementary objectives.

“Where there is cooperation, there is success”.



JAPAN

J-BILAT

BILAT in Japan

WEB SITE
WWW.J-BILAT.EU

REFERENCE OF THE CONTRACT
244310

EC CONTRIBUTION
EUR 500,000

STARTING DATE
01 JANUARY 2010

DURATION
36 MONTHS



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Background and objectives

Background:

S&T are key elements for enhancing economic competitiveness. Both EU and Japan put strong emphasis on policies to promote and support research and innovation. EU-Japan partnerships in the field of S&T are currently underdeveloped but, as global leaders in S&T research, there is a great potential for the EU and Japan to lead world class R&D and build competitiveness by enhancing cooperation. They will benefit from the synergies of collaborative R&D, particularly where large investments are required for the long term, in areas of common interest such as climate change, environmental protection and energy security and efficiency. Furthermore, the EU-Japan Science and Technology Framework Agreement calls for intensifying EU-Japan cooperation in scientific research and innovation.

Objectives:

The project aims at:

- Facilitating EU-Japan cooperation in research and innovation by raising awareness among the S&T research community in Japan about the various tools available in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7);
- Making it easier and faster for the S&T research community in Japan to join FP7 research projects by establishing FP7 information services in Japan; offering a one stop shop to the Japanese research community for finding opportunities to collaborate with the EU research community, thanks to concise information in Japanese and English;
- Promoting participation of EU-Japan collaborative R&D projects in FP7 by organising awareness activities in Japan to share best practices and address the issues affecting the participation of Japanese organisations in FP7.

List of partners

1 EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation EUJCIC/ Japan

Seven Japanese organisations are committed to collaborate at an operational level with the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation in order to achieve the project objectives. These organisations are:

METI
(Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry),

AIST
(National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology),

NIMS
(National Institute for Material Science),

NEDO
(New energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization),

JSPS
(Japan Society for the Promotion of Science),

EUIJ
(EU Institute in Japan, Kansai)

JST
(Japanese Science and Technology Agency).

“日欧の 研究協力 促進の 要となります” J-BILAT

Implementation and dissemination activities

The J-BILAT project is based on the creation and development of **information support mechanisms** for the research community in Japan through:

Internet tools:

- A **webpage** in Japanese and English to facilitate the quick understanding of key information about S&T in the EU, funding schemes, guidelines, information sources, success stories, existing EU-Japan collaboration in R&D and other information on the thematic areas supported by the FP7 “Cooperation” Specific Programme;
- **E-Newsletters** and targeted **Email alerts** with useful topical information for the research community in Japan;
- An **inquiry Helpdesk** with a specialised staff able to answer in Japanese to queries from Japanese researchers about FP7, collaborative R&D projects, etc.
- A Frequently Asked Questions Database available online.



“BILAT in Japan
For future cooperation
A new venture starts”

A series of important **awareness events** and **promotion activities** will provide the necessary visibility to the project for the scientific community, the policy makers and stakeholders. Among these activities:

- EU policy and FP7 Information **Seminars** on the thematic areas addressed by the FP7 and on funding possibilities to facilitate the cooperation of Japan in FP7;
- EU-Japan **Best Practices Sharing Workshops** to identify and promote best practices, address issues affecting the participation of Japanese organisations in FP7, identify S&T priorities of mutual interest, and set up contacts for partnerships. Seminars and workshops will provide wide geographic dissemination coverage across areas with the largest concentrations of S&T communities in Japan: around Tokyo, in Kyoto/Osaka/Kobe, in Sendai/Fukushima, in Fukuoka/Hakata/Kita Kyushu and around Nagoya.
- Development of media reports and press releases to highlight past and present success stories of EU-Japan collaboration in R&D. The aim is to convey the message that FP7 “is possible” and represents a unique opportunity for a lab / group of laboratories to open up to European cooperation projects.

Expected impact

The project will essentially contribute to set up new partnerships between EU and Japanese research communities, exploiting FP7 opportunities for developing collaborative R&D projects. With respect to its operational objectives, the project should result in:

- A stronger visibility of FP7 in Japan;
- An increased awareness among the S&T research community in Japan about the various tools available in FP7 which support the development of research partnerships between EU and Japanese research organisations;
- An improved understanding of the most effective strategies to further enhance EU-Japan scientific cooperation.
- An increased awareness among Japanese policy makers of the potential positive impact of S&T cooperation with the EU and of respective policy needs.



JORDAN

EU-JordanNet

Enhancement of Jordan-European S&T Partnerships

WEB SITE
WWW.EU-JORDANNET.EU

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244082

EC CONTRIBUTION
EUR 499048

STARTING DATE
01 DECEMBER 2009

DURATION
30 MONTHS



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Background and objectives

Jordan has been well served with numerous Framework Programme (FP) awareness actions over recent years which have also created an institutional framework in the country for providing assistance and information on the FP7 Programme. However, there is still a somewhat scattered picture with respect to FP awareness, since many activities were one-time events, inadequately co-ordinated amongst themselves, and often not very thematic-oriented. Furthermore, little is known in Jordan about the PEOPLE Programme, which would be highly interesting to Jordanian stakeholders.

EUJordanNet, which is coordinated by the Jordanian NCP, aims at enhancing and developing the S&T Partnership - in close cooperation with the SRTD Project - through the following objectives:

Capacity Building. Support the Jordanian NCP and the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres by enhancing the understanding of the structure and the procedures of the FP7 Co-operation and People Programmes, and through training in management of international contracts in the research area.

S&T Awareness and Co-operation. Improve science and technology co-operation between Jordan and Europe by creating awareness about the thematic areas of FP7 among the Jordanian researchers and private industry through specialised thematic workshops, training Jordanians on how to write FP7 proposals, and promoting the policy dialogue with the relevant policy makers in Jordan.

List of partners

- 1 **Higher Council of Science and Technology**
HCST/Jordan
- 2 **Princess Sumaya University for Technology**
PSUT/Jordan
- 3 **Royal Scientific Society**
RSS/Jordan
- 4 **Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation**
JE/Jordan
- 5 **IT Consult GmbH**
ITC/Germany
- 7 **Agence universitaire de la Francophonie**
AUF/Belgium

"EU-JordanNet will carry out a major S&T Awareness and Co-operation campaign on FP7 in Jordan addressing Jordanian researchers and the private industry".

Information and Partner Service. Development of information facilities to provide a wide range of services to the Jordanian research community, as well as the research administrators of the information points.

Promote the PEOPLE Programme in Jordan to increase the exchange of Jordanian researchers with their European counterparts through awareness meetings in Jordan addressing the research community, and training of administrative staff on the specific procedures of the Marie Curie Actions.

Create an S&T Observatory on Jordanian Research and Technology co-operation, based on a set of indicators it aims at comparing the changing profiles and positions of R&D actors.

The SRTD project. Develop synergies and complementarities with the SRTD project and support the process of implementing the S&T Agreement between Jordan and the EU.



"EU-JordanNet will enhance S&T cooperation between Europe and Jordan through providing access to information and by identifying priorities and the best partners for research".

Implementation and dissemination activities

EUJordanNet will organise six 'Thematic Partner Days' events in Jordan on specific FP7 thematic areas. Each of these 3-day events will focus on Awareness Creation (understanding FP7 and the principle of collaborative projects), Training on proposal writing (with concrete examples), and Creating Partnerships (brokerage events with European participants). In addition specific awareness activities for the PEOPLE programme will take place, as well as training events targeting research administrators.

Furthermore, EUJordanNet will develop an S&T observatory on EU-Jordan cooperation.

EU-JordanNet, by its very nature, is strongly focused on dissemination and apart from the Partner Days will keep all stakeholders regularly informed through:

- The project's web-site and in particular JoRDIS as a platform to promote the Science and Technology agreement between Jordan and the European Union.
- E-newsletters that will be published on a bi-annual basis and disseminated to all Jordanian stakeholders, and to the NCP networks across the EU. These newsletters will highlight the achievements of the project, announce events, and all news from Jordan relevant for the selected Thematic Areas.
- Press releases that will be issued for all public events organised by the project.
- National coverage of the project achievements is expected through radio and TV stations.

Expected impact

The expected impact is an improved S&T cooperation between Europe and Jordan through providing access to information and by identifying priorities and the best partners for research. It is expected that this will translate into a measurable increase of effective collaborations, as well as less readily measurable improvement in mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and Jordan.

EU-JordanNet will achieve this impact by:

- Strengthening the cooperation between Europe and Jordan through a significant increase in S&T cooperation.
- Improving the mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and Jordan through increasing researchers' mobility in the Marie Curie Action of the People Programme.
- A clear identification of the research priorities for Jordan in the fields of Health, ICT and Environment, to help the Jordanian government formulate and implement national Research Strategies.
- Support of the network of information focal points in the universities and research centres by providing specialized training on different aspects of FP7.

USA

BILAT-USA

Bilateral Coordination for the Enhancement and Development of S&T Partnerships between the European Union and the United States of America

WEB SITE

WWW.EUUSSCIENCETECHNOLOGY.EU

REFERENCE OF THE CONTRACT

244434

EC CONTRIBUTION

EUR 499.903

STARTING DATE

01 OCTOBER 2009

DURATION

36 MONTHS

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Background and objectives

International cooperation plays an increasingly important role in tackling major European and global challenges. The 7th Framework Programme (FP7) strongly emphasises international cooperation, increasing international collaboration by targeting Third Countries and fostering strategic Science & Technology (S&T) cooperation with key Third Countries such as the United States.

The BILAT-USA project will support a sustainable, knowledge based, bilateral dialogue between S&T key players, as well as stakeholders from the EU-Member States and FP7 associated countries on one hand, and from the U.S on the other. The project will strengthen S&T policies based on common interest and aiming at mutual benefit in order to strengthen the cooperation between EU and U.S.

The project will particularly focus on contributing to the implementation of the EU Framework Programme objectives by increasing participation of U.S. researchers in the FP through a comprehensive approach in awareness raising, good practice sharing and effective dissemination activities. At the same time, it will establish synergies with other ongoing projects and initiatives, in order to identify complementary opportunities and to contribute to the further development of the Science and Technology cooperation between the EU and U.S.

In summary, the BILAT-USA objectives can be summarised as follows:

- 1 Reinforce the implementation of the EU-U.S. S&T Agreement by increasing the transatlantic dialogue.
- 2 Strengthen the participation of U.S. research organisations in FP7.
- 3 Provide easy access to information by setting up effective dissemination channels.
- 4 Identify and promote best practices and raise awareness on cooperation opportunities.
- 5 Create synergies with other existing projects and initiatives.

List of partners

- 1 **Austrian Research Promotion Agency**
FFG/AUSTRIA
- 2 **American Association for the Advancement of Science**
AAAS/USA
- 3 **Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea**
APRE/Italy
- 4 **Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation**
TETALAP/Hungary
- 5 **INTRASOFT International S.A**
INTRASOFT/Luxembourg

Implementation and dissemination activities

The BILAT-USA project was set up to implement the objectives as a:

- supporter of the transatlantic dialogue, addressing global issues by bringing together all relevant stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic;
- driving force for providing and disseminating information on S&T cooperation between the EU and the U.S., and for facilitating the establishment of new partnerships towards the FP through various activities;
- promoter of excellence in research, through the organisation of science meetings at the policy level, symposia on cross-cutting multidisciplinary issues at the horizontal level, and workshops and linked brokerage events at the thematic level;
- facilitator of networking, through the creation of synergies with other existing projects and initiatives;
- network of five partners – four European and one U.S. – who are among the key actors in the fields of research and technology.

"As a project manager, it is fascinating to be involved in and part of such a dynamic project which will not only improve the dialogue and mutual understanding between leading scientific communities, but will also create awareness in cooperation opportunities which hopefully will have a positive impact on the quality of our lives".

Berna Windischbaur

Having been identified as a major hurdle, communication and dissemination activities will play an important role in the implementation of the project. Thus, the BILAT-USA project will establish and maintain a comprehensive web site and common tools for sharing information on FP7, including calls for research proposals, S&T news from the EU and the U.S., project related information, contact database, and a virtual help desk.

Expected impact

In strategic terms, the main impact of the BILAT-USA will be the strengthening of the S&T dialogue and cooperation between the EU and U.S. research communities, thus contributing to the effective implementation of the European Commission international S&T strategy and ultimately of the European Research Area. Most importantly, the BILAT-USA will contribute to developing mutual trust, understanding and visibility of the S&T systems in the EU and the U.S., thereby supporting the S&T driven development of their respective economy and society.

With respect to the scientific communities, BILAT-USA aims to establish a platform, a reference and information point, providing easy access to EU-U.S. cooperation opportunities and key players in the various thematic fields. The project will deepen the mutual knowledge in priority themes of common interest and will provide new momentum to the bilateral EU-U.S. cooperation by identifying the key players and stakeholders and by fostering tangible collaborations and new partnerships. Such an extensive platform on EU-U.S. S&T cooperation will be established for the first time through BILAT-USA.

Finally, the BILAT-USA project will create synergies with other relevant programmes and initiatives in order to benefit from each other's experiences and to increase the impact. BILAT-USA will establish very close cooperation, in particular, with the ACCESS4EU project "Link2US", which concentrates on the identification of US programs open to European scientists or research organisations. BILAT-USA acknowledges the efforts of other groups, networks, initiatives as well as organizations working with similar objectives, and will strive to collect their experiences and know-how and provide them with the opportunity to extend their collaborations through BILAT-USA for the benefit of the S&T cooperation between the European Union and the United States of America.



"Representing app. 60% of global GDP, the EU and U.S. have a joint responsibility to respond to the global challenges. With BILAT-USA I am thrilled to contribute to building bridges and developing joint Science & Technology approaches between the EU and the U.S."

Sabine Herlitschka

European Commission

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- via one of the sales agents of the Publications Office of the European Union (http://publications.europa.eu/others/agents/index_en.htm).

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

This booklet presents the activities of five BILAT projects which aim at developing and enhancing S&T Partnerships with third countries, which have signed or are in the process of negotiating an EC S&T cooperation agreement. The third countries targeted by these projects are: Argentina, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, and the USA.

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