# PACE-Net Newsletter

N. 6 – May 2013

Dear readers,

Our successful Conference in Suva marked the end of a wonderful human and scientific adventure that started three years ago: the PACE-Net project or a Pacific-European network. We believe that with PACE-Net, we have been successful in strengthening the bi-regional dialogue on Science and Technology between Europe and the Pacific on global and regional priorities of mutual importance; in identifying potential research partnership projects addressing these priorities; and most of all, in raising awareness of the critical importance of the Pacific region to global sustainability and the vulnerability of its island countries. The project has also allowed a closer collaboration between Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).

We believe that this success relied on the interest and exemplary concern for the Pacific and Pacific islanders of all the key stakeholders involved in the project. So much has been achieved in a spirit of openness, reflective of local realities.

On the basis of those outcomes and encouraged by our European and Pacific partners, IRD has answered the call for projects for a next INCO-Net targeting the region. We are glad to inform you that PACE-Net Plus has been favourably evaluated by the European Commission. As the project coordinator of this project, and on behalf of the ten partners of the PACE-Net Consortium, we would like to thank all those who have taken part in the network and dialogue and who have supported us in one way or another.

It has been a pleasure to coordinate this project. We hope that we will keep stimulating your interest and will expect even more support from you!

*Dr. Claude Payri*
*PACE-Net Scientific coordinator*

**PACE-Net » is an INCO-Net (International Cooperation-Networking) project financed by the European Commission under the** 7th Framework Programmme that aims to achieve the following main objectives:

* reinforce existing dialogues and Networks and promote regional integration for these networks.
* identify S&T international cooperation activities and programmes towards the Pacific region.
* strengthen the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities and programmes carried out by other Community instruments.

For futher information please visit: www.pacenet.eu

## In this ISSUE



PACE-NET
Pacific Europe NETWORK for Science and Technology

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# News from the PACE-Net project

## PACE-Net: The Evolution of a Partnership
## A perspective from the External Advisory Board (EAB)

The role of Thierry Mennesson and I in the EAB was to provide the PACE-Net Consortium Committee with independent, high-level and strategic advice on advancing science, technology and innovation (ST&I) cooperation between Pacific and Europe based on our personal rather than organisational perspectives.

**Uncertain Beginnings**

When the concept of a forming a Pacific-European Science Network, PACE-Net, was first discussed I was amazed at the boldness of the idea. Parts of Europe have 10 centuries of scientific tradition with long established, large research institutes. ST&I are now engrained in the European culture. The Pacific is characterised by great diversity, and science here is much more recent, with some small island counties having no research institutes or capacity at all. Much of Europe is industrialised, with major secondary and tertiary industries driving economies. In the Pacific, primary industry is the principal focus but parts of many island countries are in still in transition from subsistence.

The image that came to mind of PACE-Net was of a vast modern ocean cruise ship trying to refuel a dugout canoe in rough seas. There was an apparent mismatch of scales, capacity, processes and priorities. It is therefore fascinating to chart the evolution of PACE-Net, from its uncertain beginnings to its confident and very successful conclusions, through the advice that the EAB gave to the Consortium Committee over the course of PACE-Net's three years.

**The First Bi-Regional Platform, Brisbane, a Hesitant Start**

The first bi-regional PACE-Net platform in Brisbane, Australia in

July 2011 aimed to identify research capacity in the Pacific, to highlight opportunities in the EC for funding collaborative research and to discuss and recommend specific research areas of significance or research topics of interest in the fields of Health and Environment. Two areas were pursued in particular, public health and biodiversity. Delegates heard that to apply for EC FP7 research grants requires attendance at a 7 day training course. That level of intensity and bureaucracy was mind-blowing to many Pacific island representatives. Looking back on the advice the EAB gave the Consortium Committee, I note we emphasised that research capacity in the Pacific came down to individuals not organisations and that the limited number of individuals are concentrated in a few of the larger Pacific countries. Our challenge to the Committee was whether PACE-Net intended to build on these or to include all Pacific island countries. We suggested there was an opportunity to link more strongly with regional organisations, some of which already had science networks. In addition we pointed out that research priorities identified in Europe were not necessarily the same as those in the Pacific. In particular Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries had been overlooked at this platform.

**The Second Bi-Regional Platform, Brussels, giving the Pacific a Voice**

The second bi-regional platform, held in the heartland of the EC, in Brussels in March 2012, aimed to strengthen bi-regional Sector S&T cooperation between Pacific and Europe through thematic workshops and key stakeholder dialogue platforms. The platform had a much greater representation of Pacific island delegates to interact with European counterparts and policy makers. The thematic workshops focussed on Climate Change: in relation to Water, Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research & Innovation Policies in the Pacific. They involved lively and vigorous facilitated discussion in the development of key messages and thematic policy briefs.

Our EAB summary to the Consortium Committee in Brussels congratulated it for involving regional organisations and small island representatives and giving the Pacific a real voice. We noted that the 2005 Pacific Plan and national sustainable development plans provided pointers to the priority issues in the Pacific. These show that sustainability and the threats by humans to island environments are critical issues and should not be neglected. In addition, we noted that the platform had identified the absence of regional or national ST&I policy and plans and suggested PACE-

Net had an opportunity to assist in the process. The EAB also pointed out that amazing life stories of the Pacific delegates had presented a media opportunity that had been overlooked at the platform.

One of the key stakeholders at the high level policy dialogue challenged PACE-Net by observing that the Pacific region was largely "invisible" to Europe. He maintained it was the responsibility of all scientists engaged in the Pacific to raise awareness of the Pacific's global importance. Another remarked it is difficult for a lay outsider to identify what PACE-Net is about. The EAB therefore recommended that the aims of PACE-Net should be clarified. This resulted in the main goals of PACE-Net being expanded to:

* strengthen bi-regional dialogue and planning on Science, Technology and Innovation between Europe and the Pacific on global and regional priorities of mutual importance;
* identify research partnership projects that will address those priorities; and
* raise awareness of the critical importance of the Pacific region to global sustainability and the vulnerability of its island countries.

**The Third and Final Bi-regional Platform, Suva, Successful Outcomes**

The final PACE-Net bi-regional platform held at USP in Suva brought together 120 delegates from 17 Pacific island and European countries. It aimed to present the results of the three year PACE-Net project and to discuss their implementation and future actions. Delegates heard how CTA, UNESCO together with PACE-Net had assisted the formation of Pacific Islands University Research Network" (PIURN). PACE-Net had also catalysed initiation of a national ST&I policy framework process in Papua New Guinea. They also heard a commitment from the Secretariat of Pacific Island CountriesCommunity that, because of the importance of research for Pacific countries to respond to their many challenges and to improve their development, ST&I policy would be included in the updated Pacific Plan. Additionally one of the very positive outcomes of PACE-Net was that it had brought together in real partnership two groupings in the Pacific, the Pacific Island Countries of the Pacific Forum and the Overseas Countries and Territories, which previously had few formal connections.

The impressive PACE-Net policy briefs were also presented at the platform. These present priority research and development needs in seven thematic areas in the Pacific, Climate Change in relation to:

* Freshwater in the Pacific,;
* Agriculture and Forestry;
* Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Pacific;
* Natural Hazards;
* Biodiversity;
* Ecosystem Management; and Health.

They identify opportunities for bi-regional research partnerships and projects to address priority areas. In Fisheries, one joint project was already being developed. The platform was also challenged by one small island nation who asked how small island nations without research capacity but with significant research needs could be incorporated in the process. In our conclusion to the PACE-Net Outcomes report the EAB noted solutions to the pressing global challenges we face lie in a concerted and collective effort between governments and their needs for research. Collaborative research in equal partnerships is a proof of solidarity in both short and long term. PACE-Net has shown the possibilities and the opportunities for support both academically and financially. Island nations need to seize the opportunities to engage and to build capacities in ST&I at the local and at the global level by building a Pacific research system to contribute constructively to the debate with unique Pacific perspectives and research.

Finally the EAB acknowledged the vision of the EC in initiating the PACE-Net project which has made great progress to achieving its goals. We also acknowledged the great generosity, vision, understanding and exceptional commitment of the PACE-Net Consortium. Despite vast differences in cultures, outlooks and experiences, an amazing spirit of good will and collegiality evolved over the past 3 years. It was a great privilege to participate in the process.

*Ian White, ANU, Fenner School of Environment and Society*
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# PACE-Net Recommendations for a Strategic Plan on Research, Innovation and Development in the Pacific

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Significance of the Pacific

The Pacific is known as a 'sea of islands' (less than 2% land), a constellation of small-scales countries which, in terms of researchas such, can be considered as is an exceptional environmental and societal laboratory of exceptional value. The region could Instead of thinking of the Pacific region as just one of Small Island States, it can also be considered as one of "Large Ocean States", rather than Pacific Island States. This is both anThis is an asset – not only is this region one with a of high diversity of cultures and& knowledge, a reservoir of biological resources with economic potential, making of it a competitive arena for resource extraction and exploitation; but from a scientific point of view it also allows a variety of observing and studying phenomenon to be observed and studied in 'real time' and 'real size'. Yet, However, it is also also constraint: as the population of each country is too small to individually address all of their own individually each research and policy issues and needs.

In the context of growing geostrategic importance of the Pacific-European Union (EU) relationship recently underlined in the EU Communication "Towards a renewed EU-Pacific development Partnership"[1] (Brussels, 23.3.12), PACE-Net is a real opportunity for PICTs[2] and OCTs[3]. PACE-Net aims to facilitate cooperation arounds better addressing the ST&I focal areas that support regional development goals, reinforcing regional research capacities and networks and better participating into bi-regional ST&I networks of global interest - such as the observation of climate change - and, finally, improving the regional cooperation and integration, as encouraged by the Pacific Plan 2005-2015[4].

### 1.2 EU-Pacific Collaboration in Horizon2020[5]

The next EU Framework Programme (Horzion2020) particularly emphasizes that international cooperation in research and innovation will be encouraged to support the following objectives:

* Strengthening the European Union's excellence and attractiveness in research and innovation as well as its economic and industrial competitiveness
* Tackling societal challenges
* Supporting the European Union's external policies

**Societal challenges are global and comparable for all regions of the world even if in the Pacific region, some of them are exacerbated by the regional geographical and socio-economical particularities. In a context of economic challengdifficulties and extreme remoteness, the development of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) is of high importance to Pacific peoples and can provide many opportunities for both European and Pacific researchers and innovators to collaborate. Thus, EU-Pacific ST&I collaboration can support thes EU´s research and innovation excellence and economic competitiveness, as well as supports EU´s external policies.**

### 1.3. Bi-Regional ST&I policy dialogue and Thematic Policy Briefs

In order to achieve an intensified EU-Pacific ST&I collaboration, there

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1. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52012JC0006:EN:HTML
2. Pacific Islands Countries and Territories.
3. Overseas Countries and Territories.
4. http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/Pacific_Plan_Nov_2007_version.pdf
5. http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/press/horizon2020-presentation.pdf

is a strong need for reinforced cooperation and a strengthened bi-regional dialogue in ST&I.

Addressing the lack of a structured forum for a bi-regional ST&I policy dialogue, PACE-Net established three bi-regional platforms, bringing together policy makers, funding agencies, and representatives from research institutions from EU, Pacific, as well as Australia and New Zealand. Researchers in thematic areas considered as scientific priorities for both regions also participated in these platforms, enabling a high level policy dialogue between the EU and the Pacific region.

In this context, thematic policy briefs were produced: these important policy advice tools synthesise the outcomes of several specialists' workshops which are crucial for prioritisation of future research.

PACE-Net´s key stakeholders' priority recommendations how to tackle several societal challenges in Horizon2020 are:

## 2. Priority recommendations in several Horizon2020 societal challenges

### 2.1 EU Priorities – Challenge 1 in Horizon2020: Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing

..the Joint Programming Initiatives, including "Neurodegenerative Disease Research", "A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life", "Antimicrobial resistance" and "More Years, Better Lives" and the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.


**Pacific Priorities in Health**

**Pacific context**

* The local populations and economies are too small to undertake the long-term, collaborative research necessary to inform their own evidence based health programs, in view of effective health planning in the region.
* Current (rheumatic heart disease, leptospirosis, dengue, food and water-borne diseases, HIV AIDS) and emerging communicable diseases (influenza, vector-borne viruses and antibiotic-resistant bacteria) pose a threat to the health and productivity of the local people, which they are ill-equipped to manage.
* Almost all CDs threats in the Pacific are likely to be exacerbated by climate change and the effects are likely to vary from one island nation to the next so a single approach to this issue is unlikely to be appropriate for all locations.
* The extensive air links within the Pacific and between the Pacific and major Asian, American and European population centres allows the rapid movement and mixing of almost any pathogen able to infect humans.
* Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) due to westernised diets, lack of activity, alcohol and tobacco are having a significant impact on the health of Pacific Islanders. While these NCDs are the hallmark of poor and vulnerable groups in many societies, the social structures of Pacific societies provide an excellent framework to tackle these diseases.

**Policy priorities**

* It is unlikely that the health budgets of any Pacific Island nation state will ever be able to tackle these problems if the causes go unchecked. Policy makers from all PICTs should share experiences and insights (also with EU experts).
* Policy makers should determine priorities for health research that will not be addressed by countries outside the Pacific.
* Policy makers should prepare a document making a case for external (EU) support for

research in these areas.

**Research, development and innovation priorities**

* There is a need to establish, train and sustain a laboratory diagnostic capacity throughout the Pacific in order to provide comprehensive data which can be used to measure disease trends and to evaluate the effectiveness of any interventions.
* There is a need for operational research in the area of NCDs.
* All research proposals addressing the identified issues should provide clear roadmaps on how the research will contribute to local capacity building, to estimations of the burden of the disease being studied, to identification of environmental and societal drivers, to possible interventions and to the methodology for evaluating any interventions. Links with social sciences are also encouraged.

**Actions**

* Hold a meeting in the Pacific between local advocates for priority areas of health research (above) and 6-8 EU leaders in these areas e.g. President of the Robert Koch Institute, Director of the Pasteur Network, Head of the U.K. Health Protection Agency etc. to shape specific research plans and identify funding opportunities.

**2.2 EU Priorities – Challenge 2 in Horizon2020: European Bioeconomy Challenges: Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry, Marine & Maritime and Inland Water Research**

…the Joint Programming Initiatives, including "Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change", "A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life" and "Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans") and the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'…

**Pacific Priorities in Agriculture-Forestry**

**Pacific context**

* Natural resources underpin economic growth, the livelihoods and cultural identity of Pacific people.
* Agriculture, forestry and fisheries have been vital in sustaining livelihoods of Pacific peoples.
* Agriculture and forestry products make particularly significant contributions to food security, employment, income and foreign exchange earnings in the Pacific

**Policy priorities**

* Policy makers should develop a policy framework that addresses the vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector against global and climate change, integrates the appropriate environmental and so¬cio-economic measures, and makes the necessary changes to adaptation and supporting policies;
* Policy makers should embark on an agricultural and forestry programme of research, devel¬opment and innovation that would both inform and facilitate long-term policy de¬velopment while at the same time produce re¬sults that would have an immediate impact on the management of the region and the communities;
* Policy makers should develop a synergistic relationship between policy and programme that would create a positive spiral of mutually supporting activities.

*Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Head of delegation of the European Union (EU) for the Pacific based in Suva*

**Research, development and innovation priorities**

* Genetic resources & Management: Data base, Resource conservation, exploitation & innovation adaptive management, development & innovation
* Monitoring & Compliance: Methodology development, Data collection, Analysis & Integration
* Traditional Knowledge & Culture: Data & social mapping, Integrating traditional

knowledge and land use practices

* Cross-cutting Issues: Awareness & communication, Database, Monitoring & Evaluation, Implementation and Adoption

**Actions**

* Database building
* Mapping of institutions & multi-level stakeholders
* Integrating traditional knowledge and scientists
* Adaptive management, development & innovation
* Biosecurity programme
* Implementation of appropriate land use
* Innovation on high added value crops

**Pacific Priorities in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

**Policy priorities**

**Tuna (for economic development)**

* Continued investment in stock assessment and good management to secure stocks for the future
* Strategies to capitalise on opportunities to make larger catches in some countries likely to be created by climate change and to minimise the implications of reduced catches in other countries.
* Better modelling of future tuna catches in the face of climate change and alterations to fishing effort
* Improved long-term data collection from industrial fleets to build better models of future tuna distribution and abundance

**Coastal Fisheries (food security and livelihoods)**

* Communication of risks to coastal fisheries production due to degradation of coral reefs
* Raise awareness of emerging gap in fish supply for food security due to population growth and lower coastal fisheries production
* Development of practical 'win-win' adaptations for coastal communities to address the effects of population growth and climate change on fish availability
* Support for monitoring of the effects of climate change on coastal fish habitats and stocks and the effectiveness of adaptations

**Actions**

**Cost-effective data collection and modelling for tuna**

* Expanding the number of global climate models and biogeochemical models used to inform the SEAPODYM model
* Increasing the number of sensors of important physical and biogeochemical variables on existing platforms to validate models
* Greater emphasis on the collection of data on the micronektonic food of tuna and validation of acoustic methods for collecting data on micronekton
* Development of digital systems for assessing species composition and species length-frequency plots onboard industrial fishing vessels

Win-win adaptations for coastal communities

* Improving governance to implement integrated coastal zone management to safeguard coastal fish habitats and stocks
* Expansion of community-based management based on 'primary fisheries management' and an ecosystem approach
* Expanding use of inshore FADs and pond aquaculture to increase access to fish
* Research to increase coastal aquaculture production and build resilience of enterprises to climate change

Communication and matching adaptations to community needs

* Communication network and knowledge exchange to inform communities about the projected effects of climate change and appropriate adaptations
* Training and capacity building to implement priority adaptations
* Monitoring success of adaptations at community level

**Pacific Priorities in Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management**

**Biodiversity: Horizon2020 headline target**

Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services and restoring them, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. Reckon the economic value of biodiversity and the services it

provides that is seldom captured in markets.

**Pacific context**

* Exceptional biodiversity (hot spot): more rare and endangered species per capita than anywhere else on earth. They are microcosms of our world, dramatically highlighting the interdependence of living species with land, freshwater, and marine environments
* Also: ordinary biodiversity (cold spot) basis for livelihood

**Policy priorities**

* Policy makers should craft adapted regulatory frameworks building up on context-specific knowledge (integrating scientific and local knowledge) and indicators on biodiversity
* Protect biodiversity and manage competing uses of nature (implement large sustainable protected areas network for biodiversity conservation)
* Secure livelihood (for the current and future generations)

**Research priorities**

* Identify and study the drivers and consequences of environmental changes (invasive species, climate change, natural resources exploitation, etc.) (e.g. by setting up long term observatories and data banks on biodiversity, marine and terrestrial ecosystems)
* Develop models and tools for restoration of biodiversity modified by global change for sustainable uses and services

**2.3 EU Priorities – Challenge 5 in Horizon2020: Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials**

…These actions shall, when appropriate, interface with relevant European Innovation Partnerships and Joint Programming Initiatives…

**Pacific Priorities in Fresh Water**

**Pacific context**

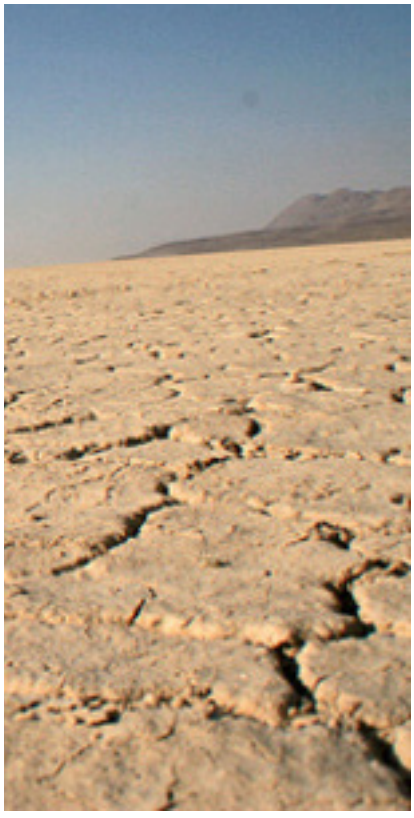
* Wide diversity in water resources between large and small island countries, high and low island countries, as well as within countries
* Access to and the availability of safe freshwater and appropriate sanitation is a continuing, highest priority concern for communities and industries.
* Frequent, severe ENSO-related droughts, floods, as well as major cyclones disrupt safe freshwater supplies.
* Population growth, increasing urbanisation and changed land use are increasingly impacting on freshwater supplies particularly in islands with limited land area.
* Water governance is generally poor and the capacity and resources available restrict their ability to respond to current challenges.
* Island communities have remarkable local strengths for form a strong basis for change.

**Policy Priorities**

* Development of national policy processes which recognise of the unique hydrogeological character, vulnerability to changes in atmosphere-ocean interactions and human-induced changes, of water resources and which build on the unique strengths of island communities;
* Improve water quality and maintain it as a viable , necessary resource;
* Building policies, laws and plans that based on knowledge of national water resources, their variability and the communities which rely on them;
* Constructing policies, laws and plans that promote resilience in the face of global change.

**Research Priorities**

* Improving access to safe and adequate supplies of water and sanitation especially during frequent ENSO-related droughts, floods and cyclones



and in urban areas;
* Monitoring water quality
* Decreasing tragically high preventable water-borne illnesses and deaths;
* Providing adequate water supplies for development;
* Impact of aquaculture on water quality and coastal areas
* Decreasing heavy reliance on fossil fuels in water production, treatment and distribution systems;
* Decreasing the threats to sustainability and safety of water supplies from growing demand, development, urbanisation and land use changes;
* Strengthening governance and monitoring in the sector; and
* Increasing community participation.

**Pacific Priorities in Natural Hazards**

**Pacific context**

* Wide range of natural hazards impacting island countries – volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, island and coastal inundation, coastal erosion, cyclones, floods, landslides and droughts.
* Frequency of natural hazards and particularly those tied to ENSO events
* Disproportionate impacts of natural hazards on small island countries
* Sea level rise, principally affecting low countries

**Policy Priorities**

* Inclusion of island-specific knowledge in disaster management policies, laws and regulations and plans
* Incorporating expected global change in disaster management policies, laws and regulations and plans
* Developing Disaster Management Plans which promote community resilience

**Research Priorities**

* Understand climate variability and its influence on natural hazards such as sea level rise, tidal and storm surges, coastal erosion, cyclones, floods, landslides and droughts. Plus install widespread monitoring system
* Improve physical and societal models for impact assessment of climate change-related natural hazards:

- to Identify communities already at risk
- to include model outputs in local Disaster Risk Management plans

Develop capacity building in the region

- to analyse and disseminate scientific information
- to Integrate traditional and historical knowledge and expertise
- to sustain and develop monitoring systems (e.g., coastal in-situ stations and ship time)
- to train local people to support data collection and monitoring

* Establish regional data centres in the Pacific
* Educate and train local communities towards natural hazard adaptation
* Connect with the global network of monitoring hazards for warning against earthquakes, tsunamis and cyclones, and make sure the warning system is rapid and efficient

**2.4 EU Priorities – Challenge 3 in Horizon2020: Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy**

(...) Reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint through smart and sustainable usage; Low-cost, low-carbon electricity supply; Alternative fuels and mobile energy sources; A single, smart European electricity grid; New knowledge and technologies; Robust decision making and public engagement; Market uptake of energy innovation, empowering markets and consumers (...)

**Pacific Priorities in Energy**

* Explore linkages between the lack of access to energy and other development indicators, including those of the MDGs (e.g. energy & gender, energy & health; and energy & water)
* Energy access as support of the overall sustainable development of the Pacific communities.
* Data centres on renewable energy (for the South Pacific) to help develop local solutions for energy access, knowledge of available resources.

**2.5 EU Priorities – Challenge 6 in Horizon2020: Inclusive, Innovative and Secure Societies**

(...) It will interface, as and when appropriate, with Joint Programming Initiatives, including "Cultural Heritage", "More Years, Better Lives" and "Urban Europe"

and coordination with the Joint Research Centre direct actions will be pursued (...)

**Pacific Priorities in inclusive, innovative and secure societies**

* Ensure healthy and clean resources (access to water, fish, crops) and genetic resources
* Match the research to the communities
* Develop practice in capacity-building (especially on how to make it effective)
* Highlight the importance of monitoring in all themes
* Use and develop knowledge
* Understand the importance of the use of models
* Involve all stakeholders from the beginning of projects (taking into consideration the community needs; also the women)
* Develop use of ICTs, databases and all existing data (plus analyse the currency of the data).

These thematic issues are of vital importance for the populations of the South Pacific and the EU. They were developed by the experts in the workshops in the hope that they will be addressed, specifically by the institutional players in the region. The range of recommendations for enhancing the use of research in policy formulation have been discussed in-depth and enriched in situ by the approximately 120 delegates from about 17 countries and territories from the Pacific and from Europe who participated in our last conference in Suva, hosted at the University of South Pacific, Fiji (12-14 March 2013).

**3. Strategic Policy Priorities**

**Need for a strategic research and innovation agenda**

* Public policy based on scientific evidence and linked to development policy
* Address the specific needs/ concerns of PICTs that don't have innovation/research systems
* Research to contribute to the local economy and traditional Pacific culture
* Benefit from knowledge sharing in biodiversity & other common fields
* Thematic task forces to develop regional plans driven by national aspirations
* Closer link between needs and available funding and needs of the Pacific
* Need commitment to both long & short term objectives
* Need aligned funding for ACP-OCT collaboration
* Consider Horizon 2020 perspective in revised Pacific Plan
* Identify and promote thematic areas of excellence

**Need for Pan-Pacific Research Governance**

* Need for a regional mechanism to coordinate & monitor research, and align it with development and innovation

**Need for Better Science Communication**

* Raising awareness of research
* Capacity building for south-south, and EU cooperation
* Innovation can be organisational
* Need for Pan-Pacific dialogue
* Open access to Pacific research
* Use Pacific Island Forum agenda to optimise dissemination and gather feedback from stakeholders
* Use Pacific Island Forum agenda to optimise dissemination and gather feedback from stakeholders

* Need for Systematic Capacity Building
* Use Horizon2020 to achieve Pacific research priorities
* Development of a National Contact Point (NCP) system

**4. Strategic Action Priorities**

**Immediate Actions**

* Scientific evidence should contribute to the revised Pacific Plan (Pacific Island Forum)
* Wide dissemination of outcomes of the PACE-Net project to catalyse the development of national & regional research policy frameworks
* Creation of regional thematic task forces for research coordination
* Mid-term Actions
* Creation of a regional research authority
* Encourage development of multidisc. research teams
* Share Papua-New Guinea (and other) experience of use of indigenous knowledge and resources.

# Submission to the Pacific Plan Review Team

The Pacific Plan for Regional Integration and Cooperation (http://www.pacificplanreview.org/pacific-plan/) is the master strategy for strengthening regional cooperation and integration in the Pacific. It provides a high-level framework that guides the work of national governments, regional agencies and development partners in support of the aspirations of Forum Member countries and our people. The Plan was endorsed by Forum Leaders at their annual meeting in Madang in October 2005.

Oversight of the Pacific Plan is provided by the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC). This Committee comprises representatives from each member and associate member states of the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as Executives of each of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies. The role of PPAC is to review implementation of the Pacific Plan and provide high-level advice to Leaders on strengthening regional cooperation and integration.

The Pacific Plan was designed as a 'living document' so that it can adapt to the changing landscape of Pacific regionalism. It has been reviewed once, in 2009, and now Leaders have decided it is time for the Plan to undergo another, more comprehensive, Review.

PACE-Net submitted the following contribution to the Pacific Plan Review Team.

### Submission from PACE-Net

PACE-Net (http://pacenet.eu/) is the European Commission-supported Pacific-EU Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Network with members drawn from across the Pacific and European regions.

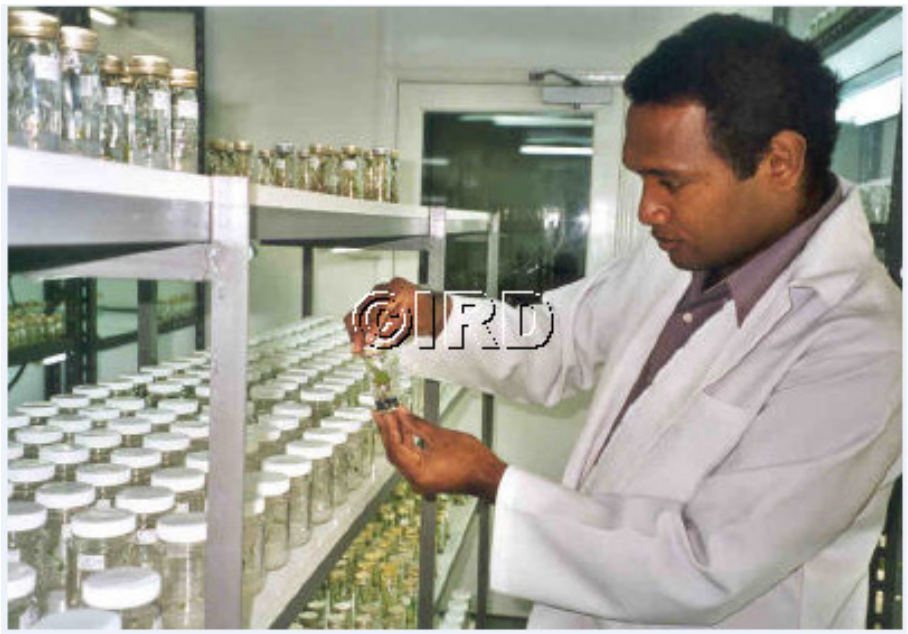
PACE-Net's goals are to: strengthen bi-regional dialogue and planning on Science, Technology and Innovation between the Pacific and Europe (EU) on global and regional priorities of mutual importance; identify research partnership projects that will address those priorities; and raise awareness of the critical importance of the Pacific region to global sustainability and the vulnerability of its island countries.

Three PACE-Net bi-regional dialogues and accompanying thematic workshops since 2011 have brought together policy makers, funding agencies, and representatives from research, innovation and development institutions from the Pacific and EU. These produced policy briefs in thematic areas of high priority to both regions including: health; biodiversity and ecosystem management; climate change in relation to: water; agriculture and forestry; fisheries and agriculture; and natural hazards. These policy briefs identify knowledge gaps which are crucial for prioritisation of future research in order to develop robust, knowledge-based policy and plans.

### Issue Addressed by this Submission

*The lack of recognition in the current 2005 Pacific Plan (modified in 2008) of the fundamental importance of science, technology and innovation in the sustainable development of Pacific island countries and the betterment of its peoples.*

Pacific Island Nations face many complex and challenging problems in the sustainable development of their countries and vast maritime regions in the face of global change. Making wise decisions in addressing these problems requires a solid and reliable knowledge base. In many cases, particularly those connected with managing our



unique natural resources and the impacts of global change on them, our knowledge base is inadequate. Despite this, the current 2005 Pacific Plan (modified in 2008) does not recognise the importance of increasing the knowledge base and capacity of the Pacific by investing in regionally appropriate science, technology, innovation and research and building capacity in them. The absence of an ST&I goal is also mirrored in the absence of ST&I policies in many Pacific island states. Without that goal and those policies, the Pacific is in sharp contrast to other regions in the world and gives the appearance of being unaware of the fundamental importance of ST&I to the future.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Pacific Plan includes the goals to:

**Invest in and develop appropriate science, technology and innovation to underpin the sustainable development and improved planning and management of the Pacific region and the betterment of its people in the face of global change.**

**Increase regional capacity in relevant science, technology and innovation to better inform policy development, improved planning and management, augment development opportunities and improve adaptation to global change within the Pacific region.**

As a strategy for achieving these goals, it is recommended that a task force from regional bodies including SPC, SPREP, Pacific Islands University Regional Network, the Pacific Science Association, research organisations within the region, as well as bi-regional and international agencies and aid donors be established to build on the thematic priorities already identified in PACE-Net and elsewhere. Based on the established priorities, the task force will develop short and long term priorities in ST&I relevant to the sustainable development and improved planning and management in the Pacific and strategies to address these priorities and increase regional ST&I capacity. It is recommended that this task force also identify funding opportunities to support ST&I priority strategies and capacity building and develop mechanisms for monitoring ST&I progress.

### Planned Outcomes

Planned outcomes resulting from the recommended ST&I goals are:

* Improved knowledge-based policies for the sustainable development of the region
* Improved planning, management and use of the vast ecosystems and invaluable natural resources within the region
* Increased capacity and training in ST&I
* Improved resilience in adapting to global change
* Increased development opportunities
* Augmented opportunities for funding soundly-based development proposals
* Improved health within the region
* Improved agricultural, forestry, aquacultural and fisheries productivity
* Enhanced use of renewable energy

* Improved ability to cope with natural hazards
* Improved communications

### Concluding Commitment

PACE-Net and its successor PACE-Net+ recognise both the critical importance of the Pacific region to global sustainability and the vulnerability of its island countries. We are committed to strengthening the regional dialogue and planing on ST&I between Europe and the Pacific on global and regional priorities of mutual importance and to increasing capacity and opportunities. Our aim is to assist the region and especially those small island countries with very limited ST&I capacity to achieve the goals recommended above. We are dedicated to assisting the Pacific community in achieving its full potential in ST&I and in achieving the sustainable development, planning and management of this globally critical region to the betterment of its peoples.

Submitted on behalf of PACE-Net Partners by:
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# PACE-Net Multipliers training in French Polynesia , 10-12 April 2013

As part of PACE-Net's Capacity Building activity, a group of Pacific research organisation representatives has been receiving training on various aspects of the EC's Framework Programme for Research.

From 10-12 April 2013, this group of 'information multipliers' undertook their final training in French Polynesia, thanks to the superb organisation of Phila Raharivelomanana (UPF).

Day one, hosted by IRD in Papeete, saw a review of the Marie Curie Actions, and an opportunity for each multiplier to practice their own presentation with the group. A practical session followed, with a real-life proposal, to discuss the key elements to consider in proposal development.

Day two, hosted by the CRIOBE in Moorea, allowed networking of the multipliers at this world-class, European research facility. The visit included a presentation by Patricia Wecker, a German Marie Curie Fellow currently located at the CRIOBE. This provided a researcher perspective to the training, highlighting some of the practical issues faced by fellows, both at the proposal stage and in implementation.

On the morning of day three, our group received a very practical overview of Horizon 2020, highlighting similarities to the current Framework Programme, and outlining the new dimensions. The group also took the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes to the National Contact Point (NCP) structure and role in Horizon 2020, reflecting on their own activities, and their future training and support needs.

Finally, a networking session was held at the University of French Polynesia, providing an opportunity to connect our Pacific representatives with local researchers, and the Bureau of European Affairs in Polynesia. Of particular interest were the opportunity for closer connection between the OCTs and other Pacific Islands through use of the Marie Curie Fellowships; and the need for clarity in the status of the OCTs in Horizon 2020.

Multipliers: Phila Raharivelomanana (UPF); Fadhila Le Meur (IRD); Fanny Pascual (UNC); Olivier Auguin (SPC); Joyce Rayel and Boe Lahui-Ako (UPNG); Izzal Azid and Bibhya Sharma (USP)

Trainers: Carole Glynn (Euro Research Support Ltd) and Ian Gauci-Borda (MCST)

This meeting was reported by the local media at:
http://www.lesnouvelles.pf/actu/rencontre-avec-la-pacific-europe-network-a-lupf.

# Call for strengthening the science collaboration with developing countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, Latin America and the Caribbean

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has published a call for fostering the collaboration in science and innovation with developing countries including ACP-countries of the Pacific.

The thematic areas of the call are:

* health (e.g. epidemiology)
* biotechnology including biodiversity
* environmental research with emphasis on environmental technologies, energy, water, climate and marine research
* engineering (e.g. manufacturing, architecture, logistics)
* information and communication technologies
* The call could fund:
* exchange of scientific staff and experts (from Germany to ACP-countries of the Pacific and from ACP-countries of the Pacific to Germany)
* workshops
* consumables

Eligible applicants are German research institutes, universities and enterprises, specifically small and medium sized enterprises. In addition to the German applicant, at least one scientific institute or SME from the ACP-countries of the Pacific need to participate.

The maximum possible funding amount is 40.000 € per project for two years.

Deadline for application is: July 31st 2013.

The call is published (in German) at http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/21884.php

For further information please contact PACE-Net partner

Dr. Gerd Ruecker

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# Establishment of the Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN) in November 2012

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), UNESCO, the Europe-Pacific Network for Science and Technology (PACE-Net) and the universities in the Pacific Islands have been working together in recent years to find an opportunity for a formal gathering of researchers and academics from the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to discuss the establishment of an entity that promotes a networking of researchers from the universities in the PICs. The core driving force behind the effort is the belief that such an entity can aid in solving some of the difficult regional problems that are best tackled by systematic and scientific research conducted by researchers in the region, and by building local research capacity.

The opportunity presented itself in November, 2012. Between the 5th and 7th November 2012, a gathering of representatives from 10 universities across the Pacific, regional and international organisations, and regional governments was held at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, Fiji. It was a very successful gathering to explore the potential for increased research and development cooperation. It was agreed that a research network be established to facilitate R&D collaboration in science, technology and innovation to better serve the needs and aspirations of Pacific communities.

A communiqué was prepared and signed by the representatives of all the universities present. Associate Professor Dr. Jito Vanualailai, Director of Research at USP was appointed as the Interim Coordinator of the network and Ms Anne Rouault, Head of Administration, University of New Caledonia was appointed as the Assistant Interim Coordinator. The network secretariat will be hosted by USP for three years in the first instance.

A PIURN working group has been formed to prepare the terms of reference and operational structure for the network in partnership with relevant national, regional and international organizations. The ten prospective network institutions will be represented on the working group. The goal is for the working party to report to universities within six months so that the network can be formalised by mid 2013.

*Dr. Jito Vanualailai (USP)*
*PIURN Interim Coordinator*

*Dr. Jito Vanualailai (University of the South Pacific)*

# News from Europe

## Regional cooperation of EC-funded projects in the Pacific

Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands face several similar societal challenges including global and climate change, sustainable cities, clean energy, health, etc. but with different settings and framework conditions. However, given the complexity of these problems and the regional, as well as global dimension, all regions need to develop a critical mass of researchers/SMEs and could pool their competences in order to better tackle these issues. In response to the challenge, the project coordinators of the three major EC-funded projects in the Pacific, which strengthen the collaboration between Europe and Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands in science, technology and innovation, agreed to regional collaboration in the Pacific and joint collaboration with Europe. These are the projects:

- EU-Australia: Connecting Australian and European Science and Innovation Excellence (CAESIE): http://caesie.org/
- EU-New Zealand: Facilitating Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and New Zealand (FRIENZ): http://frienz.onorcas.co.nz
- EU-Pacific Islands: Pacific Europe Network for Science and Technology (PACE-Net): http://www.pacenet.eu

As a first step, each of the project coordinators will establish links to the other project websites on their own websites. Over the course of the projects, the coordinators will exchange information on their projects and communicate with each other with the aim of developing synergies in their project activities or organising joint activities.

# Blue Growth: Commission presents prospects for sustainable growth from marine and maritime sectors

To make it through the crisis, Europe needs the contribution of all sectors of its economy. In a Communication on 'Blue Growth' adopted today, the European Commission presents promising indications for economic growth and employment prospects in the marine and maritime economy to help Europe's economic recovery. These economic sectors provide jobs for 5.4 million people and contribute a total gross value added of around 500 billion euros. By 2020, these should increase to 7 million and nearly 600 billion euros respectively. To realise this potential, the Commission establishes that obstacles hindering growth have to be removed and smart solutions to boost new sectors need to be implemented. By promoting marine research and innovation, by supporting innovative SMEs, by addressing skills needs and by encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment. Traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism will gain in competitiveness. Growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology, can become a key to creating more jobs, cleaner energy, and more products and services.

Today's Communication launches a process which will place the blue economy firmly on the agenda of Member States, regions, enterprise and civil society. It describes how Member States and EU policies are already supporting the blue economy. It then identifies five specific areas with a particular potential for growth where targeted action could provide an additional stimulus: i) maritime, coastal and cruise tourism, ii) Blue energy, iii) marine mineral resources, iv) aquaculture and v) blue biotechnology.

A set of Commission initiatives will be launched in the near future to explore and develop the growth potential in these areas, including Communications on coastal and maritime tourism, ocean energy, blue biotechnology and marine mineral mining, as well as strategic guidelines on aquaculture. All initiatives will be undertaken in consultation with Member states and relevant stakeholders.

Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, said: "All parts of Europe's economy are essential in lifting us through this difficult period. The 'blue economy' presents opportunities for sustainable economic growth both in established and emerging marine and maritime sectors. Innovation, enterprise and dynamism characterise these sectors of Europe's economy. Blue Growth is about getting everybody – starting from the institutions and Member States, to regions and SMEs – to work towards ensuring that we overcome existing challenges to ensure the most productive and sustainable use of what our seas and coasts offer."


Background

Blue Growth is the contribution of the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Based on its Blue Growth Study, the Commission has built a comprehensive picture of the economic size and employment of marine and maritime sectors in Europe, and has also looked at where these sectors could realistically be heading in the coming years and where there is a particular potential for innovation and new jobs.

The study found that coastal and maritime tourism is the biggest maritime sector in terms of gross value added and employment and is expected to grow by 2 to 3% by 2020, while cruise tourism is ex-

pected to create 100,000 new jobs by 2020 compared to 2010. As the worldwide ocean energy installed capacity is expected to double yearly in the near future, the commercialisation of wave and tidal technologies will be enhanced through a reduction in technology costs. According to estimates, the global annual turnover of marine mineral mining is expected to grow from virtually nothing to €5 billion in the next 10 years and up to €10 billion by 2030. EU aquaculture could contribute to a healthy diet if the growth rate outside the EU could be matched. In the next decade or so, the blue biotechnology sector should become a provider of mass product markets, including cosmetics, food products, pharmaceutics, chemicals and biofuels.

The Blue Growth communication will feature as one of the main issues for discussion during the Cyprus Ministerial Conference on the Integrated Maritime Policy being held in Limassol on 8 October 2012.

**Progress report on IMP**

In a separate report adopted by the Commission today, the Commission takes stock of progress in implementing the 2007 Integrated Maritime Policy and lists all Commission initiatives taken to support sustainable maritime growth. Since its creation, the Integrated Maritime Policy seeks to enhance the sustainable development of the European maritime economy by facilitating the cooperation of all maritime players across sectors and across borders.

**For more information:**

**Dedicated webpage in Maritime Affairs website:**
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/index_en.htm

**Link to progress report on IMP:** http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/index_en.htm

**See also:** http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/news/press_releases/items/20120913_en.htm


## Horizon 2020 timeline

* **From 30/11:** Parliament and Council negotiations on the basis of the Commission proposals
* **Ongoing:** Parliament and Council negotiations on EU budget 2014-20 (including overall budget for Horizon 2020)
* **Mid 2012:** Final calls under 7th Framework Programme for Research to bridge gap towards Horizon 2020
* **By end 2013:** Adoption of legislative acts by Parliament and Council on Horizon 2020
* **1st January 2014:** Horizon 2020 starts; launch of first calls
* **Horizon 2020 will be adopted using the "ordinary legislative procedure" (formerly known as "co-decision").**

# Marie Curie Fellowships Presentation in Suva

During the PACE-Net Key Stakeholder Conference hosted by the University of the SouthPacific (Fiji, 12th-14th of March 2013) Angelo D'Agostino, Italian PEOPLE National Contact Point from APRE, presented the Marie Curie Actions opportunities for research mobility.
Marie Curie Fellowships are European research grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality and field of research. Researchers have the possibility to gain experience abroad and in the private sector, and to complete their training with competences or disciplines useful for their careers.
The last calls of Marie Curie Research Fellowships are open from 14th March until 14th August 2013.
Participants at the Suva Conference were presented with practical information on each of the Marie Curie Actions including guidance on how to apply for funding and in particular on the International Incoming Fellowships (IIF) - Marie Curie Actions. This action reinforces the incoming top-class researchers active in a Third Country to conduct a project research in a European institute, with a view to developing a mutually-beneficial research co-operation between Europe and a Third Country. The fellowship has a duration of 12-24 months, with a possible return phase for researchers from International Cooperation Partnership Countries.
The Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development (IOF) enhances the international dimension of European researchers' careers by financing research projects carried out in two different countries. For the first phase, the researcher will be hosted in a host organization based in a Third Country and for the second phase, in a European institute. The fellowship has a duration of 24 to 36 months. Projects shall be between 24 and 36 months full-time equivalent in total, of which the final 12 months shall be a mandatory reintegration phase to the return host organisation
All Marie Curie Actions have a bottom-up approach, i.e. all fields of research of interest to the European Union are eligible for funding (except areas of research covered by the Euratom Treaty). So the research topic is freely chosen by the researchers in collaboration with the scientific supervisor of the host organisation.

**"EURAXESS - Researchers in Motion"** is a web portal providing access to a complete range of information and support services for European and non-European researchers wishing to pursue research careers in Europe. EURAXESS assists researchers in advancing their careers in Europe

and supports research organisations in their search for outstanding research talent. EURAXESS provides a single access point to information from all countries including a network of walk-in centres offering personalised assistance to researchers moving to another country.

EURAXESS is a key initiative supporting the European Union's commitment to removing barriers to the free movement of knowledge within Europe, to strengthening cross-border mobility of researchers, students, scientists and academic staff and to providing researchers with better career structures.

**The presentations are available on PACE-Net website:** http://suva-conference.pacenet.eu/node/1823

**For further details concerning these calls please see the Participant Portal website:**
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/appmanager/participants/portal?_nfpb=true&_windowLabel=portletInstance_60&portletInstance_60_actionOverride=%2Fportlets%2Fcall%2Ffp7CallMenu%2Fgo2People&_pageLabel=call_FP7#wlp_portletInstance_60

**The new EURAXESS site is** http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/

## Marie Curie calls for proposals

Are you an ambitious researcher looking to expand their horizons and work with the best in your field,wherever they are in the world?

Want to explore a different industry, acquire new skills and learn new ways of working?

Perhaps you live outside the European Union and want to come Europe to pursue your career here? The Marie Curie Actions then do it for you!

Since 1996, these actions have supported thousands of researchers.

of all ages, nationalities and fields, in order to develop their careers and realize their expectations in research.

On March 14, were launched calls for these actions, and in particular:

FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IEF (Intra european fellowship)

FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IOF (International outgoing fellwoship)

FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IIF (international incoming fellowship).

**For further information:** http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/

## Statistics on Marie Curie Actions research fellowships with International Cooperation countries

European Commission has published statistics on research fellowships funded under FP7 People Programme.

For each Marie Curie Action, detailed data organized by country are provided, focusing on:

- Number of researchers funded
- EU budget allocated to local organizations
- Number of organization participating in Marie Curie actions

**Specific pdf fact sheets both for EU and Non -EU countries are available at the following link:**
http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/funded-projects/statistics/index_en.htm

# European Research Council to issue schedule for first Horizon 2020 calls

26/04/2013

The European Research Council has said it is working on a detailed plan for the calls it will hold in 2014, the first year of Horizon 2020.

The ERC plans to publish a provisional schedule for the 2014 calls late in 2013. It expects that the opening and submission deadlines for its Starting Grants will take place in the first and second quarters of 2014, while the opening and submission deadlines for Consolidator Grants will be in the second quarter of 2014. The opening and submission deadlines for Advanced Grants will be in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The council emphasises that it is awaiting the conclusion of negotiations on Horizon 2020, the EU's research programme for 2014-2020, before it finalises the calendar for its calls.

# Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn's Presents New Strategy for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation at the European Parliament

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn delivered a keynote speech at the conference 'EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration', co-organised by the European Parliament and the Irish Presidency of the

Council. The conference was held on 4-8 March and brought together policy makers, scientists and industry representatives to discuss how the Union's research and innovation policy can contribute to an international response to global challenges. In her speech, the Commissioner presented the new strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation. Further information on the conference can be found on the website. In particular, for International Cooperation countries statistics can be downloaded by selecting the country of interest

from the drop-down list there provided.

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*The top image was kindly provided by IRD (New Caledonia).*


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