



PACE-Net Newsletter

N. 1 – February 2011

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the first number of PACE-Net (biannual) Newsletter, providing news, articles, events and calls as well as newly added links and documents concerning research technology development and innovation under international cooperation activities between Europe and **Pacific area**¹.

PACE-Net «International CO-operation- Networking» is an INCO-Net project financed by the European Commission under the [7th Framework Programme](#) that aim 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.

In order to achieve project goals, PACE-Net will set up a Key Stakeholders Panel that will be invited to discuss and debate the strategic research policies and through PACENet will be granted access to strategic information on research funding opportunities. To join or to find more information, please see the dedicated section on this newsletter or visit the PACE-Net web site: www.pacenet.eu.

Because of its presence and action in the Pacific area, the [IRD](#) coordinates PACE-Net project via its Center based in Noumea (New Caledonia). The IRD is a unique institution in the landscape of European research for development. Its researchers are working on issues of major global importance today: global warming, emerging diseases, biodiversity, access to water, migration, poverty, world hunger. The teaching and training they provide empower and enable Southern scientific communities.

If you would like to provide inputs for the newsletter or in case of any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at pace-net@apre.eu.

Best regards,
PACE-Net Team

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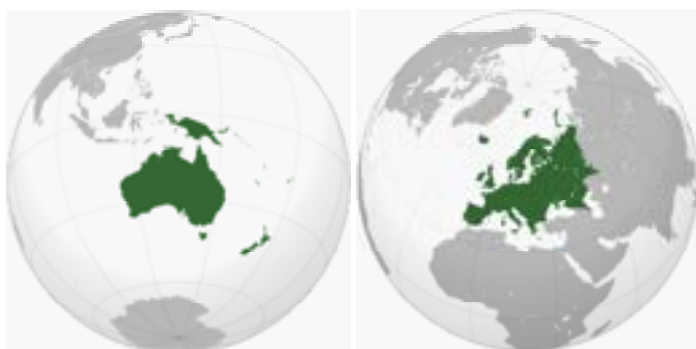
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¹ The countries covered in the Pacific area are: Australia, New Zealand and 15 countries member of the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Group of the Pacific region: Cook Islands, Federate States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, East Timor, Tonga, Tuvalu Vanuatu, Samoa and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in the Pacific region (French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn).



The EU's relations with the Pacific

Commissioner Piebalgs and Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Slade launch a Joint Initiative on Climate Change

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Following the Cancún Climate Change Conference, Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development and Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, launched today a 'Joint Pacific-EU Initiative on Climate Change'.

The **objective is to mobilise EU Member States and international partners to join efforts to reinforce Pacific Countries'** capacity to address the impacts climate change more efficiently. These countries are possibly the most vulnerable to climate change impacts. The initiative aims to ensure that a fair share of international climate change funding goes to Pacific countries. The Commission is leading the EU's efforts to support the Pacific Islands to tackle climate change effects, with a overall dedicated envelope of €90 million

over 2008-2013.

Commissioner Piebalgs said: "The EU confirms its leading role in supporting partners to face climate change, and notably the most vulnerable. We have to prevent millions of people from falling into extreme poverty because of the disastrous effects of climate change. The Joint Initiative is a call for the international community to match EU ambitions and to put high impact aid on climate change into practice in the Pacific."

Secretary General Slade said: "As recognised by Forum Leaders who described climate change as the great challenge of our time, the Forum region remains very vulnerable in terms of threats to livelihoods, security and the overall well-being of the peoples of the Pacific. The Joint Pacific-EU Initiative on Climate Change is an important demonstration of the partnership between the Pacific region and the European Union and it provides practical support for

our member states in addressing the key challenge facing us all. The Forum hopes this joint effort will provide inspiration to others in the international community to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable countries remain at the forefront of global efforts to address the impacts of climate change".



Considering the nature and the scale of the challenges faced by our partners, the Commission and the Pacific Islands Forum have agreed to a Joint Initiative to encourage – and, where appropriate, assist – EU Member States and other international climate change partners to increase the share of international climate change funding for Pacific countries, and to ensure more effective and

coordinated delivery methods.

The Memorandum of Understanding is the first step towards a joint integrated strategy to address climate change in the Pacific. The European Commission and the Forum Secretariat will work

together with their respective Member States, institutions, civil society and private sector, on a Joint Plan for Action which will also embrace the Overseas Countries and Territories. This Joint Plan will be submitted to a Regional High

Level Climate Change Conference, during Commissioner Piebalgs' visit to the Pacific in 2011.

Source of information: <http://europa.eu/>
>> [Further information](#)

Brussels, 15 December 2010

Q&A on the EU - Pacific Island Countries relations and EU actions to address climate change in the region

Why is the Pacific important for the EU?

Pacific islands are developing countries, particularly affected by climate change and its impacts.

The European Commission provides development aid to the Pacific, as it does for all developing countries.

The Commission assistance to Pacific amounts €600 million for 2008-2013. It has reached a 60% increase between the 9th European Development Fund (2002-2007) and the 10th EDF (2007-2013).

In addition, the Pacific is of interest for the EU because of a number of reasons:

- Biodiversity for the future of the planet: Pacific is one of the world's centres of marine biological diversity, including the most extensive and diverse reef systems on earth.
- Sustainable access to natural resources: fisheries, timber, oil, minerals and unknown deep-sea resources have to be preserved.
- Cultural exchanges between the EU and an extraordinary rich and unique culture which is part of the world heritage.

• Politically, the Region represents an important number (12) of seats and votes in the UN and international organisations with whom the EU works at UN level.

- Development partnership
- Trade flow between the EU and the 15 Pacific ACP countries are limited: The EU absorbs around 8% of their exports and provides an estimated 3.2% of their imports. Total Pacific ACP - EU trade in 2008 was around €1,012 million. Pacific share of EU imports and exports is very small – around 0.05% and 0.02% respectively

What are the priorities for Pacific-EU cooperation? Which amounts are involved?

Our priorities are based on the Pacific region's own priorities as specified in the Pacific Plan. The Pacific Plan sets out objectives in four pillars:

- economic growth,
- sustainable development,
- good governance,
- security.

Our regional indicative programme (€95m) addresses economic growth and sustainable development



through its two focal sectors:

- regional integration and trade, €45 million;
- and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, €40 million.

Governance is targeted through dialogue as well as through the non-focal sector for 'organisational strengthening and civil society participation' of €10 million. Given the exposure of the region to impacts of Climate Change this priority is also reflected in contributions from the Global Climate Change Alliance (€25m) as well as the Disaster Risk Reduction Facility (approx. €35m foreseen).

Has climate change any actual and

visible impact on Pacific Countries now?

Unfortunately, climate change impact is already visible and affects heavily Pacific people.

Pacific islands are inundated by rising sea levels, increasing erosion occurs from intense storms, and saltwater intrudes into freshwater supplies. These changes are affecting livelihood activities such as hunting and fishing and impacting on island infrastructure, access to water resources, food and housing availability.

In Small Islands States, which are the majority of the Pacific Islands Countries, soil salinity and sea water intrusion are serious threats to agriculture as well as increased intensity and decreasing frequency in rainfall. Phenomena such as saltwater flooding and droughts have further reduced freshwater supplies for the growing population. Moreover, Small Islands States are affected by changes in surface and subsurface ocean temperatures, ocean acidification and coral bleaching, pest infestations, reef fisheries deterioration and increase in communicable diseases. Pacific Small Islands States have limited opportunities for private sector led growth, face structural capacity constraints and are very vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters.

Climate change puts further stress on these already fragile situations, can exacerbate tensions around scarce resources such as land or water, impacts heavily agriculture and hampers progress towards Millennium Development Goals. Also, frequency and intensity of cyclones or tropical storms, which recurrently hit Pacific Island Countries, will increase as a result

of climate change.

It can be anticipated that living conditions will severely deteriorate across the Region. Certain islands and even entire countries (Tuvalu or Kiribati) will even see their own physical existence at risk. Relocation off from sinking islands is no longer the worst case scenario but a reality in the making.



What is the Commission doing now to address climate change in the Pacific?

The Commission is leading the EU effort on development cooperation to address climate change in the Pacific. Together with Pacific partners, the Commission is already very actively engaged also in financial terms, with €90 million in ongoing and already planned development cooperation projects and programmes at country and regional level for the period 2008-2013.

The Commission approved four programmes through the Global

Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) for €25.4 million in total. Two of them cover specifically Vanuatu and Solomon Islands climate resilience specific needs and the two other have a multi country dimension. One support strategic actions on adaptation in 9 Pacific Small Island states as well as to prepare those countries to absorb efficiently the expected international climate fast

start funds. The second regional project, to be implemented by the University of South Pacific, seeks to strengthen capacity building, community engagement and adaptive actions along with applied research.

In addition, other ongoing and planned interventions focus on "renewable energies and energy efficiency" and "disaster risk reduction", which are integral part of climate change adaptation strategies. Renewable energy is the focal sector for 7 out of 15 Pacific ACP countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru,

Palau, Tonga) **under the 10th European Development Fund, with an amount of €28.3 million.** The objective is to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency that will help reduce dependency on fossil fuels and improve the quality of life in the concerned countries. At regional level, a program to improve energy security and sustainable livelihoods through strengthening the energy sector (€9 million) is under formulation (approval foreseen in 2012). It will look at renewable energy as well as energy efficiency. Finally, €30 million have been earmarked for a Pacific Regional Programme on natural disasters risk reduction.

Another programme includes the Support to the Energy Sector in Five ACP Pacific Island Countries (REP-5). This programme is a multi-country initiative which funds renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in five Pacific Island Countries.

The REP-5 programme aims at reducing these countries' dependence on imported fossil fuel as a means of achieving fiscal balance, as well as increasing the availability of electricity services to their outer island communities. After the successful implementation of REP-5, the same five countries will continue the project. They have been joined by Kiribati and Tonga.

Moreover, the €8 million Solomon Islands Maritime Infrastructure Project II provides for the construction of seven wharfs and the rehabilitation of navigational aids. The construction of six wharfs was finalised in 2008. Indicators show some early benefits of the completed wharfs in terms of the increased frequency of shipping

services and improved economic activities. The supply and installation of an additional 42 navigation lights and other equipment started in 2009.

[What are the next steps after the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding?](#)

The Memorandum of Understanding is not just a strong statement of intent. It is a first step towards a joint integrated strategy to address climate change in the Pacific. The next step is the preparation of a plan of concrete actions. The Commission and Forum Secretariat will work together with their respective Member States, institutions, civil society and private sector on a Joint Plan for Action. This will be submitted to the Regional High Level Climate Change Conference in Vanuatu during my visit to the Pacific in 2011.

[Will European Overseas Countries and Territories in the Pacific benefit from EU support to climate change?](#)

The OCTs are concerned by the issues addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding. This is the reason why I have always supported and encouraged any initiatives towards a better integration of the OCTs in the action of the Pacific Island Forum. Thus, I have proposed to examine the close association of the OCTs in the context of the Action Plan.

[There are quite a few countries that have pledged large sums of money to the Pacific \(US, UAE, etc\) recently, what is the added value of this initiative?](#)

This is one of the main objectives of the initiative, to address donor coordination within this area. We welcome pledges and we must ensure that this money is available to the countries of the region in a sustainable long-term perspective responding to their needs.

Source of information: <http://europa.eu/>
>> [For further information](#)
Brussels, 15 December 2010





7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

The main objectives of FP7: Pacific area can participate

Knowledge lies at the heart of the European Union's [Lisbon Strategy](#) to become the "most dynamic competitive knowledge-based economy in the world". The 'knowledge triangle' - research, education and innovation - is a core factor in European efforts to meet the ambitious Lisbon goals. Numerous programmes, initiatives and support measures are carried out at EU level in support of knowledge.

The funding instrument for scientific research sponsored by the European Union is called a framework programme (FP). The current framework programme, which lasts from 2007 through 2013, is the seventh (FP7).

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: [>> Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities](#).

For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy. All specific programmes work together to promote and encourage the creation of European poles of (scientific) excellence.

Any company, university, research centre, organisation or individual, legally established in any country, may participate in a collaborative project (known as an indirect

action) provided that the minimum conditions laid down in the [Rules for Participation \[PDF\] in FP7 \(RFP\)](#).

There are different categories of country which may have varying eligibility for different specific and work programmes.

In particular Pacific area can be eligible to participate in FP7 because it has an special agreement with EU

as THIRD COUNTRIES, (organisations or individuals established in countries that are not Member States) and as **International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC)**. ICPCs are divided into low-income, low-medium and high-medium income countries ([see the list](#)).

Source of information:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/>
[>> For further information](#)



Useful link

Cordis (official FP7 web site)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/
Cordis (Official FP7 open calls)	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm
International Cooperation portal	http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en
International Cooperation NCP's Network (INCONTACT)	https://www.archimedes.ee/incontact/home

Open Calls for researcher or a research organisation based in a Third country in the People programme (FP7)

The People Programme is made up of several so called 'Marie Curie Actions'.

These are aimed at research training, career development and life-long learning of researchers. Specific attention is also given with regard to the international dimension to increase the quality of European research by providing opportunities for research talent from outside Europe and fostering mutually beneficial research collaboration with researchers from outside Europe.



If you are a researcher or a research organisation based in a Third country the following Marie Curie Actions are foreseen in particular:

IRSES - International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

Marie Curie's International Research Staff Exchange Scheme is aimed at strengthening research partnerships through staff exchanges and networking activities between

European research organisations and organisations from [third countries \(and ICPC Countries\)](#).

This action will provide support to research organisations around the world to establish or reinforce long-term research co-operation through a coordinated joint programme of exchange of researcher staff for short periods.

[>> Further information](#)

Career Integration grants

Marie Curie Career Integration Grants are intended to improve considerably the prospects for the permanent integration of individual researchers (of any nationality) who are offered a stable research post in Europe after a mobility period in a country different from the country where the researcher has been active during the past years (i.e. the researcher has to be mobile but can come from anywhere in the world – moving within Europe or coming from outside Europe).

The duration of these grants is between 2 and 4 years.

[>> Further information](#)

IOF - International Outgoing Fellowships for career

development

This action provides financial support for advanced training, for a period of up to 3 years, for individual projects presented by experienced researchers from Europe, in liaison with a host organisation from a Third Country. The project includes a coherent research programme conducted by the researcher (outgoing phase of between 1 and 2 years) to be spent in a Third Country, and a mandatory reintegration phase of 1 year within the contracting organisation in a Member State or Associated country.

[>> Further information](#)

IIF - International Incoming Fellowships

Top-class researchers from Third Countries are welcome to work on research projects in Europe. This helps to develop research cooperation between Europe and other parts of the world: this action is specially designed to encourage these moves. Researchers of any nationality active in Third Countries are eligible for an IIF. It provides financial support to individual research projects presented by the incoming experienced researchers

in liaison with a legal entity ('host organisation') based in a Member State or an Associated country, as well as possibly the 'return host organisation' if the researcher's country of origin is an International Cooperation Partner Country.

[>> Further information](#)



Timetable of Marie Curie Actions

Action	Call ID	Date of publication of Calls	Call Deadline
CIG Career Integration Grants 1st deadline	FP7-PEO- PLE-2011- CIG	20 Oc- tober 2010	08 March 2011
IRSES International Research Staff Exchange Scheme	FP7-PEO- PLE-2011- IRSES	20 Oc- tober 2010	17 March 2011
CIG Career Integration Grants 2nd deadline	FP7-PEO- PLE-2011- CIG	20 Oc- tober 2010	06 September 2011
IIF International Incoming Fellowships	FP7-PEO- PLE-2011- IIF	16 March 2011	11 August 2011
IOF International Outgoing Fellowship	FP7-PEO- PLE- 2011- IOF	16 March 2011	11 August 2011

Incontact web site: simple way to find open calls in FP7

INCONTACT is the official Network of National Contact Points (NCP) for International Scientific Cooperation Activities (INCO) funded in the 7th Framework Programme of the EU.

INCO NCPs (experts nominated by the competent national authorities) are particularly supporting the execution of the International Cooperation programme of FP7, which aims to enhance participation of third countries (i.e. countries that are not EU Member States or Associated countries) in the 7th Framework Programme.

To support and help users it was

created a specific website where you can find calls that are targeted to a specific country or countries.

Moreover you can be filtered using different search criteria, e.g.: call's open/closed status, countries targeted to, work programme, and

keyword search.

For your every search query there is a link to a custom RSS feed that can instantly inform you when a call that matches your search criteria is added to the INCONTACT dataset.

[>> Further information](#)





Other funding programmes: open calls

Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme: open call

The intra-ACP academic mobility scheme supports higher education cooperation between countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). The scheme aims to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation by increasing the availability of trained and qualified high-level professional manpower in the ACP countries.

The **first call in the new EU funded program “Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme” has been published.**

The program supports the cooperation between universities in Africa (incl. North Africa) the Caribbean and **the Pacific** and the mobility of students (Masters and PhD students) as well university staff in the ACP region.

In well justified cases a university from an EU member state which is in the possession of an Erasmus University Charter can participate in an ACP project as “technical partner” and receive a contribution of up to 20000 €. The European university should support the ACP universities in the organisation and implementation of the mobility and have a respective expertise in the organisation and execution of academic mobility.

The program is composed of two lots (geographical windows):

- 1) Africa (7 €M)
- 2) **Caribbean and Pacific (2 €M.)**

Project Consortia must consist of at least 3 and maximum of 12 partner

universities. Information of further requirements for the composition of the project consortia, the thematic areas which can be supported per lot and the maximum amounts of the scholarships can be found in the “Call for Proposals”.



ACP universities can apply till May 6, 2011 with the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisuals and Culture (EACEA) in Brussels.

All applications forms and further information can be found at the [EACEA website](http://EACEA.website).

CNRT wants a stronger foreign collaboration teams

For its news calls for projects, the CNRT (Centre National de Recherche Technologique) hopes for a stronger participation of the foreign laboratories in the assembly of the scientific teams. The knowledge fundamental and applied to the behavior of the nickel or to the environmental or societal consequences of the anthropological impacts in environment lateritic, have to be transposed into the territory.

To improve the New Caledonian field of expertise, it is necessary to take advantage of all these experiences transpacific already acquired.

An objective which cannot be made

without a stronger collaboration of the foreign teams to obtain in fine actions of research in a more international context.

[>> Further information](#)



The Key Stakeholder Panel

One of the objectives of the PACE-Net Project is to set-up a Key Stakeholders Panel (KSP) which will be the PACE-Net think tank.

This KSP will be made up of External experts coming from academic, industry, Government, Civil Society and other relevant organisations with particular interest in EU-Pacific relations. These experts will be invited by the

Consortium to discuss the scientific needs and priorities of the Pacific. Furthermore, they will be invited to discuss and debate the strategic research policies and will be granted access to strategic information on research funding opportunities. To join or to find more information, please visit PACE-Net web site:

[>> Application form for key stakeholder](#)

[>> www.pacenet.eu](http://www.pacenet.eu)



FOCUS on the PACE-Net Key Stakeholder Panel members

In every issue of the PACE-Net newsletter there will be a focus on one of the members of the Key Stakeholders Panel. In this issue we would like to present the CNRT (Centre National de Recherche Technologique, CNRT) centre.

CNRT HISTORY

The idea of a “nickel centre” in New Caledonia originated 15 years ago and was initiated by the mining sector. The French Minister of Research, Claude Allègre, adopted the idea in 1999 and offered to provide the necessary scientific support.

In the beginning of 2008, the Public Interest Group (PIG) “CNRT Nickel and its environment” became an operational tool providing support to basic and applied research along three complementary thematic axes: Nickel and Technology, Nickel and Society & Nickel and Natural Environment.

CNRT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the PIG “CNRT Nickel and its Environment” is to pool and manage the resources provided for the implementation of research programmes and technological development with a view to the sustainable exploitation of mining resources that is compatible with the conservation and the enhancement of the natural and human environment of New Caledonia.

In keeping with the tradition of the CRNTs, CNRT Nickel and its Environment is dedicated to

improving the competitiveness of the companies involved by providing better scientific knowledge on the nickel resource and the impact of the nickel mining and metallurgical activities on the populations, the natural environments and on the economic life of New Caledonia. The achievement of this goal necessitates the relevant identification of important or priority issues in the area of basic, applied and technological research so as to enable the definition of shared and consensual scientific programming.

[>> Further information](#)



PACE-Net: survey on S&T research organisations and description of their mandate, science focal areas and expertise

One of the PACE-Net objectives is to obtain a clear picture on major organisations involved in S&T in the 15 Pacific ACP countries and 4 Pacific OCTs via survey of S&T research organisations and description of their mandate, science focal areas and expertise.

The PACE-Net survey comprises three questionnaires:

- * PACE-Net Questionnaire on Science and Technology Research, Cooperation and Strategies of Organisations in the Pacific involved in Research (# 1);
- * PACE-Net Questionnaire on Science and Technology Research, Cooperation and Strategies of Australian and New Zealand Organisations involved in Research in the Pacific region (# 2); and
- * PACE-Net Questionnaire on Science and Technology Research, Cooperation and Strategies of Governmental Institutions in the Pacific (# 3)

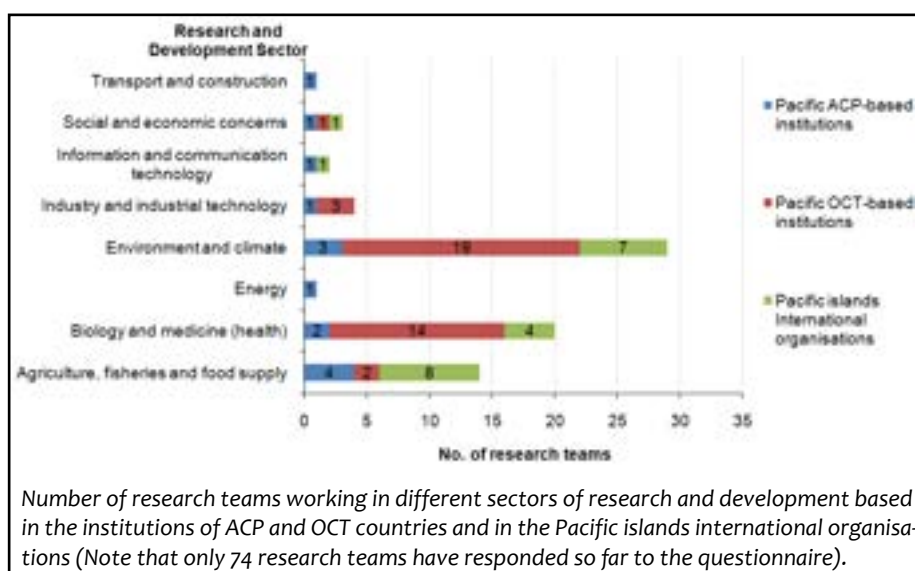
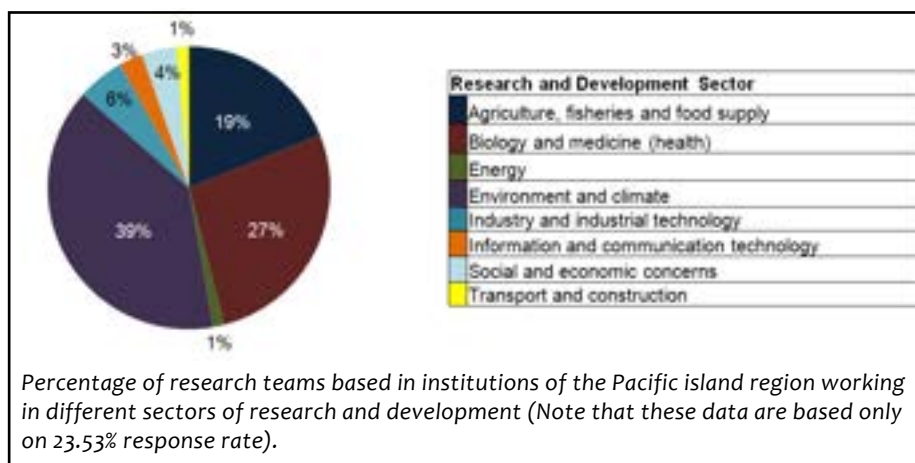
The questionnaire #1 launched in mid-September targets the organisations involved in research activities based in the Pacific group of the Asia, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). In total, 85 organisations or bodies (see note 1), including research institutes, development

organizations, ministries, government departments and private countries, from within the Pacific island region were contacted to participate. Twenty of these organisations have responded to the questionnaire (23.53% response rate).

The following figures present the key preliminary findings of the PACE-Net questionnaire #1

on the thematic areas in which the organizations surveyed in the region support research in. It demonstrates the importance of research in the Pacific islands in science and technology sectors of environment and climate, biology and medicine, and agriculture, fisheries and food supply.

It is also indicative of the research capacity in the region, though complementary data is required.



¹ USP, SPC, IRD, SROS, SPREP, Dept. of Energy Samoa, SRIF, UniFiji, Bluecham, CREDO, CNRT, GOPS, IFREMER NC, IFREMER PF, ILM, IRSN, Meteo France and FP, UNC, UPF, ASCC, SOPAC, FFA, Dept of Marine and Wildlife (A Samoa), ASEPA, ASO, FBNMS, CRAG, Cook Is. - Nat. Environment Service, Min. of Agriculture, Min of Marine Resources, CMS, CIRA, CWREC, CCRC, CIRU, FNU, Douglas Pharm, FMS, Fiji Museum, Fiji - Min of Primary Industries, Min of health, Min Mineral Resources, Dept of Energy Fiji, Vatukola Gold mine, CEAARD, KMO, CMI, MMIMRA Marshal and FSM, NAC, COM, NMS, PICRC, CRRF, Palau Com Coll, Belau National Museum, SMD, NUS, Samoa Min of Agriculture, Western Province Research Station, TMS, Sopa Mariculture Center, Tuvalu, MS, VMS, CCT, CNRS, IAC, Institut d'archéologie, Musée NC, Institut Pasteur, Géophysical, ADEME, AFD, DIMENQ, Biocenose, DASS, ISEE, GI Oceanide, CRIOBE, Tetiaroa Society, gouv, IRSN, CEA-LDG Pamatai, AAMP PF, Service Equip. PF, Service Periculture PF, Service pecher PF, GUMP Moorea, tahiti fa'ahotu



PACE-Net EVENTS

PACE-Net will promote Pacific participation in FP7 and other S&T funding opportunities through explicit opening to Pacific partners: it will work towards identifying Specific International Cooperation Activities (SICAs) in terms of

topics of mutual interest and benefit between the EU and Pacific countries.

In order to achieve this goal, PACE-Net will organise several workshops and dialogue platforms to bring Pacific and EU scientists together to

share latest findings, approaches, etc. in priority focal science areas and explore collaborative opportunities (including the possibility to create innovative research SMEs).

PACE-Net 1st Bi-regional Platform and Thematic Workshops (Health and Environment) 4-8 July, 2011 – Brisbane (Australia)

Coordinated by the Australian National University (ANU, Australia), the Institute de la Recherche pour le Développement (IRD, New Caledonia) and the International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and research (IB of BMBF, Germany), we are pleased to invite you to the first bi-regional platform to be held between 4th and 8th July 2011 in Brisbane, Australia.

The platform is an open forum to which institutions and individuals interested in science and technology (S&T) research in the Pacific can come together and discuss specific issues of mutual interest. The profile of such organizations and individuals who may participate on the platform include: public and private research and development organisations; funding institutions; ministries of research and S&T; experts and researchers; public sector employees; industries; NGOs; and businesses.

The first platform of this kind will focus on two main objectives:

1/ What are the key S&T research

priorities in the Pacific?

What is the extent of collective and individual knowledge on the S&T research landscape and priorities across the Pacific?

Identify and discuss the main priorities of S&T research across the Pacific from a Pacific and European Commission (EC) perspective.

2/ What measures should be in place to ensure effective capacity building to work towards these priorities?

What funding instruments are available?

What networks and partnerships already exist in this domain?

What are the barriers to capacity building and how to overcome them?

How can we develop and implement our research projects to focus on these priorities?

Sessions will be interactive including: debate and discussions with representatives from the EC, and presentations and question and answer sessions on different funding instruments and with coordinators of networks.

The platform will be held back-to-



back with the two first thematic workshops on Health and Environment. Experts will be invited to identify relevant topics of interest on each theme and these will be discussed in a workshop setting amongst Pacific and EU researchers with the aim to develop potential collaborative projects. The insights and ideas developed through these sessions will be presented to platform participants whereby potential funding mechanisms and networks to aid the effective development of these projects will be explored.

To participate in the 1st Bi-regional Platform and/or thematic workshops, please contact fanny.pascual@ird.fr before the 15 May 2011.

For more information on the project and the event, please visit: www.pacenet.eu



Other News

The European Commission approves 13 programmes supporting Intra-ACP cooperation

The European Commission has formally approved the Annual Action Programme 2010 for Intra-ACP cooperation which comprises of 13 programmes, for which the EU is making available a total amount of €445.3 million from the 10th European Development Fund.

The Annual Action Programme 2010 is part of a cooperation agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and **Pacific Countries** (ACP) Group which amounts to a total of €2.7 billion. This agreement, signed in March 2009, identifies three clusters of action for Intra-ACP cooperation for 2008-2013:

1/ measures helping ACP states to protect themselves against international threats by participating in "global initiatives" in the area of health,

2/ "All-ACP initiatives", aiming at helping ACP states to protect themselves against exogenous shocks in the area of climate change and environmental pressure and aiming at integrating the ACP states among themselves and in the world economy,

3/ "Pan-African Initiatives" by means of peace-building activities, institutional capacity-building for the African Union and assistance to develop strategies to address specific common challenges.

In addition to these three clusters of action, the Intra-ACP cooperation Strategy Paper foresees institutional and support expenditure to cover the funding of the joint institutions (Centre for the Development of Enterprises, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU and Joint Parliamentary Assembly), partial funding of the ACP Secretariat and the funding of intra-ACP Technical Cooperation Facility.

The Annual Action Programme 2010 will fund thirteen actions for a total of € 445.3 million in the fields of health, climate change (environment and disaster

risk reduction), education and culture, trade and private sector development, agriculture and rural development and sanitary services. The envelope will include contributions to the following projects:

- * Contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria - € 150 000 000
- * Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) - € 20 000 000
- * ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme - € 60 000 000
- * EDULINK II - ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Higher Education - € 20 000 000
- * Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Schemes - € 40 000 000
- * EU-ACP support programme for the cultural sector - € 30 000 000



- * Increasing access to new and under-used vaccines in least developed ACP countries - €20 000 000
- * TerrAfrica - €10 000 000
- * Reinforcing Veterinary governance in Africa - €30 000 000
- * Support to the Centre for the Development of Enterprises (CDE) - €18 000 000
- * Work Programme 2011 for the

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) - €16 000 000

- * Institutional Support to the ACP Secretariat 2011-2014 - €30 000 000
- * African Economic Outlook VI - €1300 000

For more information please contact:

Sophie Autie
Programme Manager
EuropeAid Cooperation Office
Centralised Operations for ACP countries

Phone: +32 2 295- 1171

sophie.autie@ec.europa.eu

Source of information:

<http://ec.europa.eu>

[>> Further information](#)

Bruxelles 22 December 2010

ACP and EU exchange views on EU's Green Paper

The ACP Committee of Ambassadors and the European Commission exchanged views on EU's Green Paper on the Future of Budget Support to Third Countries.

In a special meeting held on 11 January 2011, members of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors were given the opportunity to express their opinions on the Green Paper and sought clarification on certain parts of the paper from the Commission.

The purpose of the Green Paper is to gather views from stakeholders regarding the objectives and use of EU budget support, building on the joint experience of the last ten years, while recognising differences in the context and nature of EU cooperation which different regions and countries.

Meanwhile, the specific objectives

of the Green Paper are to identify opportunities and challenges, to raise specific questions on how these opportunities can be exploited and challenges addressed, to collect views and evidence that will improve EU's support to budget support.

ACP states are major recipients of EU budget support.

The Commission also presented the Millennium Development Goal

(MDG) Initiative, which is a proposal under the 10th EDF.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors and Ambassador of Guyana, H.E Mr. Patrick I. Gomes.

Source of information:

www.acpsec.org

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11 January 2011



PACE-Net Partners



PACE-Net Coordinator

IRD (New Caledonia)

Claude PAYRI - claude.payri@ird.fr

Fanny PASCUAL - fanny.pascual@ird.fr

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APRE - Agency for the Promotion of European Research (Italy)

Caterina Buonocore

Emanuela Dané

Manuela Schisani

e-mail: pace-net@apre.it



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