



PACE-Net Newsletter

N. 3 – March 2012

Dear readers,

We are pleased to present the third issue of the **PACE-Net newsletter**. This edition provides information on key events, noticeable articles, and calls for funding opportunities as well as newly added links and documents concerning Research, Development and Innovation about international cooperation activities between Europe and the Pacific area.

In this issue our special focus topic is the **PACE-NET key-stakeholder conference**, Brussels, 20-23 March. This flagship event aims to strengthen Pacific-European Collaboration in Research, Development and Innovation. The thematic focus of the conference is on Climate Change in relation to Water, Agriculture/Forestry, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research, Development and Innovation Policies in the Pacific. Presentation of funding opportunities are followed by interactive workshops and a high-level dialogue platform to discuss research, development and innovation needs and the interaction of corresponding funding frameworks from the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, industry and further actors.

Furthermore, you will find a summary of past PACE-Net project activities. This includes extracts of outcomes from the workshops that were held during our PACE-Net bi-regional platform in Brisbane (Australia) in July 2011.

You are invited to contribute to our Newsletter by sending any information or documentation you would like to share; if it is relevant to the project stakeholders we will be pleased to publish it in one of our next issues.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at

pace-net@apre.it

We hope you'll enjoy this issue of the PACE-Net Newsletter!

The PACE-Net Team

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.

For further information please visit: www.pacenet.eu

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.it

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www.pacenet.eu



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 Key Stakeholder Conference, Brussels, 20th – 23rd March 2012: Strengthening Pacific-European Collaboration in Research, Development, and Innovation

Climate Change: in relation to Water, Agriculture/Forestry, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research, Development & Innovation Policies in the Pacific

The impact of climate change is likely to increase in the near future. The Pacific region is recognized as one of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts in the world. Furthermore, many other drivers linked with human activities deeply affect both the natural environment and the resources, thus subsequently people's well-being in the Pacific. Rapid population growth and increasing impact of international investors such as mining and tourist industries in many of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories will contribute significantly to the global change effects. The overall challenge for Pacific societies is to



European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

learn how best to adapt in order to respond in a sustainable manner.

However, there are still considerable knowledge gaps on how Pacific communities are likely to face the necessary adaptations under global change constraints. Bridging innovative learning pathways with traditional knowledge and behaviour for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries activities as well as with better understanding of the

drivers of natural hazards, is crucial for Pacific peoples' adaptations to the projected changes.

There is no doubt that academic research and innovative technological strategies coupled with sensitive dialogues are needed to implement adaptation measures and to support policies effectively. It means that investments are required at several levels and over long-term time scales to

improve understanding of overall vulnerability, to monitor the projected effects of climate change and other threats, to evaluate the success of adaptation measures, and to support policies. As most of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories have limited technical and human capacity, it is crucial to foster partnerships at the regional level by reinforcing links between ACP countries, OCTs, Australia and New Zealand, and to support continued European commitment in the region. Well negotiated and solid implemented interactions between research, development, and innovation actors are necessary in a “win-win-win” bi-regional process for ensuring sustainable development of the Pacific communities.

The PACE-Net project is contributing to this process by organizing this interactive bi-regional stakeholder conference that is structured in three pillars: On 20/03/2012 funding and networking organizations present their opportunities for the Pacific. This information together with the submitted abstracts and preliminary policy brief drafts serve as input into the workshops (21-22/03/2012). There, the appropriate needs and adjustments for adaptation to the projected global change and identified opportunities how these needs can be funded, are addressed. Specific focus is on identifying interactions between funding strategies for research, development, and innovation. At the high-level dialogue platform (23/03/2012) the outputs from the five thematic workshops will be presented and discussed at the European commission level,

along with the mid-term research, development and innovation needs and suggestions of funding frameworks.

The debates among stakeholders are essential to come up with appropriate adaptation and policy recommendations, and PACE-Net, in partnership with the EU, Pacific, and international delegates, is looking forward to supporting the expected conference outcomes.

As a communication and policy support tool, policy papers are being drafted by writing teams for each of the 5 workshop themes. The preliminary policy paper drafts serve as inputs for the respective workshops and the dialogue platform. The outputs of the conference together with feedback from post-conference consultations will feed into the policy briefs that will be consolidated into white papers during 2012, and presented at the 3rd bi-regional PACE-Net platform in Suva, Fiji in 2013.

The conference announcement has so far attracted more than 100 participants from the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, USA, India,

and Europe. Among them are high level policy, research, development, and innovation representatives from the European Commission, the European External Action Service, national and regional organizations in the Pacific, industry, and international organizations.

The tentative programme of the conference is available at <http://brussels-conference.pacenet.eu/programme>.

This conference is organized by the International Bureau of the BMBF (Contact: Dr. Gerd Ruecker gerd.ruecker@dlr.de).

We are looking forward to meeting and discussing with key stakeholders engaged in research, development, and innovation with the Pacific.

Claude Payri (IRD)
Project Coordinator PACE-Net

Armand Beuf (EC)
Scientific Officer PACE-Net

Gerd Rücker (IB-BMBF)
Conference Coordinator PACE-Net



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

The Brisbane Platform, organized by the PACE-Net project, brought together experts and representatives of key Pacific and European stakeholder institutions, as well as representatives from the 10 partner institutions of the PACE-Net consortium. The expert thematic workshops focused on the topics of health, ecosystems, climate change, water and energy and the conclusions drawn from these workshops have been presented to the European Commission for their consideration and possible inclusion in the next phase of the scientific programming. The following is an overview of the workshops reports produced by the experts.

BRISBANE WORKSHOP ON HEALTH (Extract)

“Travel, urbanization of human populations and an expanded geographical distribution of the vectors of some pathogens are factors which have contributed to the emergence and re-emergence of many infectious diseases.” European Commission Internet portal (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

According to the European Commission: “Health is a major theme of the specific programme on Cooperation under the Seventh Framework Programme, with a total budget of € 6.1 billion over the duration of FP7”. European-funded health research within FP7 will focus on three pillars: Biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health.

Thousands of exotic infections are introduced into Europe annually with travellers and there have been several recent examples of these pathogens establishing European cycles of transmission e.g. Chikungunya virus in Italy and dengue in France. Changing

climatic conditions are predicted to increase the distribution, around the Mediterranean region, of mosquitoes like *Aedes albopictus* which are an excellent vector for a wide range of arboviruses. By funding health research in the Pacific, the EU is helping to reduce the burden of disease in an impoverished region of the world while, at the same time, reducing the risk of transmission of disease from this region and into Europe.

As for the Pacific region, it is confronted by many chronic, emerging and neglected health-related issues which are responsible for preventable morbidity and mortality. Several factors contribute to the inability of the Pacific Island nation states to contain or reduce the burden of disease among their people, including:

- Social and cultural transition to modern lifestyle (persistence of non communicable diseases)
- Urbanization, industrialization (impact on the environment)
- Insufficient water supply and sanitation (persistence/emergence of communicable



diseases)

- Fragile environment and limited natural resources (sensitive to climate change)
- Lack of workforce skills and resources to prevent and manage these issues

The Health Thematic Workshop therefore attempted to prioritise health issues for which research is required in order to reduce the burden of existing disease or to prevent emerging or re-emerging diseases and for which existing research support is weak or non-existent.

The topics were identified as follows:

- **Water-borne diseases**
- **Vector-borne diseases**
- **Neglected diseases and future threats**
- **Non-communicable diseases**

BRISBANE WORKSHOP ON ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (Extract)

“Biodiversity is the complex web of life on Earth, incorporating humans and our social and economic systems. The number of life-forms on Earth is unknown, but it may be some 20–30 million species, of which only about 1.8 million are known to science.”
European Commission Internet portal (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

The EC considers that research on biodiversity and other natural assets of the OCTs and the Pacific group of ACPs should be the basis for strengthened cooperation between the Pacific and the EU. Benefits from collaboration in S&T for the Pacific could include increased capacities in areas essential for the sustainable development of the region, such as fisheries management and biodiversity.

In terms of natural resources, ACP countries in the region control more than 20 million km² of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the 4 OCTs have a further 7.5 million km². This provides the region with remarkable biodiversity resources, both marine and terrestrial, and a huge challenge for S&T research to contribute to its conservation and sustainability. One of the world's centres of marine biological diversity, the Pacific has immense

potential for human health in terms of biotechnology, and its marine resources are the highest in the world in terms of fishing grounds. Humid and dry forests are other important resources, and large quantities of various minerals and metals are exploited on many islands (let alone ‘promises’ from sea-bed mining). The exploitation of these resources sets specific S&T challenges in terms of sustainable development. Furthermore there is a need for renewable and alternative energies to address current dependencies on imported fossil fuel-based energies. Last but not least, ‘biodiversity’ has become a societal issue involving intertwined questions about local knowledge, intellectual property rights, environmental policy and political sovereignty.

The expert panel in Brisbane chose to promote and develop a comprehensive framework applicable to various ecosystem

types. No priority was set on a particular ecosystem, as Pacific Island conceptions of environment and territories involve a connected view from mountains to coral reefs, through coastal, freshwater, forest or agricultural ecosystems. However, priorities for research in biodiversity and ecosystem management are likely to be to some extent different for marine, terrestrial and social/cultural systems. For each regional or local setting, one needs consider the relative importance of environment, economics, social and cultural issues and priorities.

The panel also noted that threatened and endangered species issues are of particular significance in the region. Such species are currently the focus of much research but there is need to put this species research into a wider context of ecosystems, social interrelations and processes. The message sent to EU is that EU should concentrate



First bi-regional platform in Brisbane, Australia (July 2011)

efforts where its S&T input can make the greatest difference.

The panel also emphasised involvement of local actors and institutions and mutual social learning as key for the success of a regional research call.

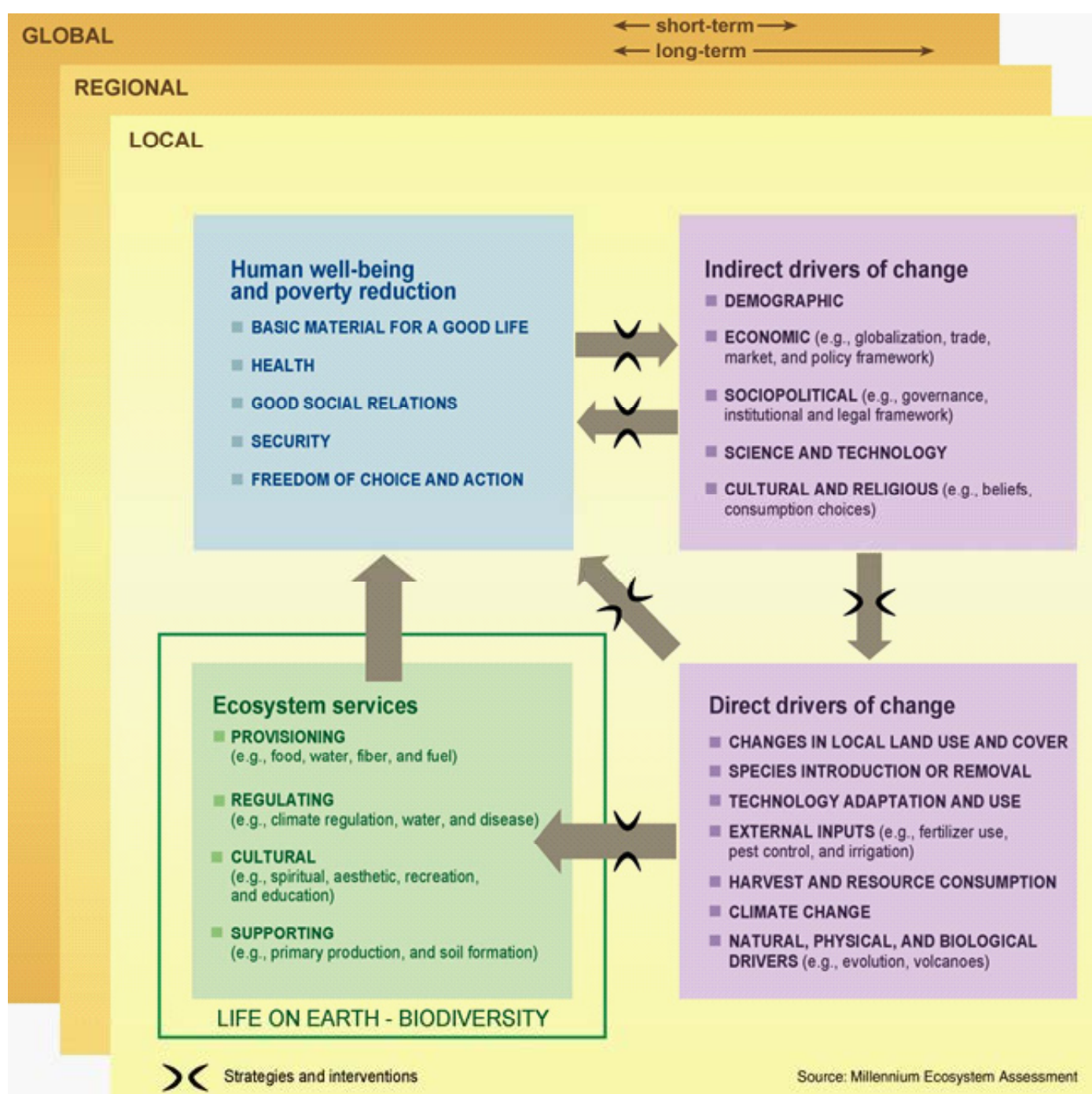
Major research themes emerged from the discussion during the

workshop:

- **Knowledge of ecosystems**
- **Benefits from ecosystems (goods and services)**
- **Ecosystem management**
- **Drivers of environmental change**
- **Figure 1: Conceptual framework from Millennium ecosystem assessment**

The expert panel considered this guideline as the most relevant of the research needs in the Pacific region as regards ecosystem and biodiversity issues.

See <http://www.maweb.org/en/index.aspx>



Participation at the Asia-Pacific Research Ethics Conference (APREC)

One of the tasks for the PACE-NET project is to provide a list of recommendations on ethical aspects in the Pacific. In order to support this task, a member of the PACE-NET consortium will be represented at the Asia Pacific Research Ethics Conference (APREC) which is the only Asia Pacific platform focusing on Human Subject Protection and that brings together the regions'

Institution Review Boards (IRBs); ethics committees; research and academic institutions; top national health authorities; and pharmaceutical industry.

The conference is being held between 7-9 March 2012 in Singapore and will be an opportunity to learn on all the latest policies, critical issues, industry developments and

strategies in ethical standards of research. Furthermore it could provide as a platform for networking and dissemination of the work of PACE-NET.



Participation at the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)

On 22nd November 2011, PACE-Net took part in the PECC seminar, entitled "Oceans at Risk: Protection from the ocean to the coast, sharing marine resources", that was held at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community headquarters in Noumea from the 22nd to the 24th of November 2011.

The PECC (Pacific Economic Cooperation Council) is an international project dedicated to the sustainable management of marine resources. It is a unique tripartite partnership of senior individuals from business and industry, government, academic and other intellectual circles. Its work program aims for better cooperation and policy coordination in areas including trade, investment, and finance.

PACE-Net was presented as a whole to a high level audience, including Mr. Abdoul-Aziz M'Baye,

EU Ambassador to the Pacific – who introduced the EU initiative on climate change in the Pacific – Mr. Henri Boyé, French Ministry of Sustainable Development and Mr. Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister of France.

Then Mr. Christophe Menkes (one of the experts invited to the Brisbane platform in July 2011) presented the main outcomes of the workshop on climate change that was held then, with a focus on climate variability and climate change and their impacts. This focus perfectly

suit the topic of the 1st session on What are the consequences of climate change on the economic development of the Pacific Rim region? Perceived and real impacts.

To read more about this seminar: <http://www.pecc.org/component/eventlist/details/217-pecc-the-oceans-at-risk-what-protection-from-deep-sea-to-coastal-areas>

This was also an occasion to present our next bi-regional conference in Brussels (March 20-23, 2012) on the climate change issue again.





Launched on May 1st 2010, the PACE-Net project (PACific Europe NETwork for science and technology) is dedicated to increasing bi-regional dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the Pacific region. The project aims to increase scientific cooperation and identify priority research areas between the EU and the Pacific, as well as to promote Pacific participation in the 7th Framework Programme of the EU. The main objectives of this project are to:

- reinforce existing dialogues and networks and promote regional integration for these networks,
- identify Science & Technology (S&T) international cooperation

activities and programmes aimed at, or active in, the Pacific region

- strengthen the coordination of S&T cooperation between Europe and the Pacific, and within the Pacific and
- identify and strengthen complementarity between this project and activities and programmes carried out through other European Union Community instruments.

PACE-Net Bi-regional Platform activities

Since one of the PACE-Net project's aims is also to stimulate dialogue

between the EU and the Pacific, the PACE-Net consortium is responsible to organise a series of bi-regional platforms through which this dialogue can be facilitated.

In July 2011 PACE-Net organised its first major bi-regional platform. This was convened simultaneously with Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) info-days in the Pacific (Brisbane, Australia). Participants invited came from ACPs (Africa, Caribbean & Pacific countries), OCTs (Overseas Countries & Territories), Australia and New-Zealand and Europe (80 participants).

The upcoming flagship event will be the conference is the Pacific-European Stakeholder Conference - Strengthening PACE-NET Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) Collaboration to Find Common Solutions on "Climate Change in relation to Water, Agriculture, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research & Innovation Policies in the Pacific" due to take place in Brussels, 21-23 March 2012. (More on the Brussels Conference page 2).

PACE-Net Workshops



Participants at the first bi-regional platform in Brisbane, Australia (July 2011)

To further strengthen the dialogue, PACE-Net also organised three workshops (on Health, Biodiversity and Environment, the latter including climate change, water and energy) and five more workshops are being planned for March 2012 (back to back with the key stakeholders' Conference). The workshops will follow-up on the results of the first workshops identifying research priority topics in the above mentioned research fields for the Pacific and these will be presented to the stakeholders and concerned Directorate-Generals (DG) of the European Union in Brussels in order to highlight the regional research priorities. (More on these workshops page 2).

Barriers to participation in FP7 have also been identified through the work of the Brisbane platform (such as the low success rate, the high costs related to proposal preparation, the difficulty in searching for partners or in matching research interests with the topics of the calls). It also

identified some key cross-cutting issues that have been analysed in the framework of some workshops. These issues (such as the question of ethical issues associated with Pacific research) will be developed during the timeframe of the project. A longer term study will be necessary to help the Pacific countries and territories better define their research strategies.

PACE-Net Capacity Building, Networking and Training activities

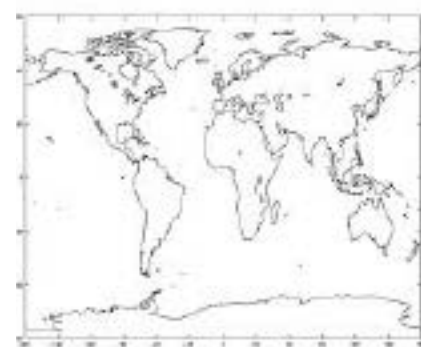


PACE-Net Multipliers from IRD, UFP, USP, UPNG with researchers from Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand

Training was undertaken for multipliers from USP (3 participants), UPNG, SPC, IRD, University of New Caledonia and University of French Polynesia to participate in FP7 capacity building activities. The multiplier programme was arranged (in Auckland, New Zealand on November 14-17 2011) to allow training on the initial aspects identified in the first event, and including case study work, followed by meetings with three universities in Auckland (University of Auckland,

Massey University and Auckland University of Technology), each active in research on and with the Pacific. A networking event was organized to allow researchers/organisations from around New Zealand to be introduced to a number of multipliers from the Pacific. The aim for this event was to strengthen Pacific researchers' access to local New Zealand programmes on and with the Pacific. During the event partnerships were established with the intentions of taking these forward to engage themselves in FP7 calls such as the current call SSH.2012.2.2-4. Climate change uncertainties: policymaking for the Pacific front concerning networking researchers involved in climate change and policy dialogue in the Pacific: leveraging New Zealand contacts in both Europe and the Pacific securing the best engagement of Pacific actors.

PACE-Net Mapping activities



The time-scale of the project foresaw the completion of the fact-

finding activities planned in the work-programme by the partners in the first 18 months (up November 2011). The remaining period is dedicated towards building more concrete relationships between stakeholders from both the EU and the Pacific.

One of the tasks in the beginning of the project included a series of fact-finding activities which fed into a state-of-the-art report on S&T research in the Pacific. Considerable effort has been placed on this task the partners in charge compiled (desktop work and field visits) no less than 136 documents including information on research institutions, partners and projects involving in Science and Technology (S&T) in the Pacific region; on this basis, they produced a situational analysis of the research landscape in the Pacific. This work has laid the foundations for a comprehensive overview of the region's research landscape and is seen as a catalyst for the regional policy makers to as to why they should include research on the agenda for their future meetings.

15 S&T themes emerged as priorities for the Pacific: environment, health, biodiversity, climate change, fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture and forestry, culture, social and human sciences, disaster management, energy, food security, waste and pollution management, water and sanitation, transport,

ICT and mineral resources. Based on this analysis, the R&D sectors that will be most appropriate to the Pacific island region include (1) environment and climate; (2) biology and medicine; (3) social and economic concerns; (4) agriculture and food supply; and (5) energy.

Website



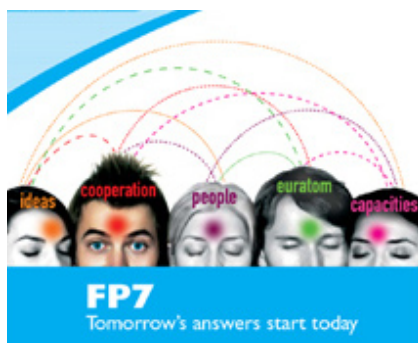
The PACE-Net project has developed its own website (<http://www.pacenet.eu/>) which was launched at the beginning of the year. The website is constantly being updated to offer a clearer interface and to ensure that information within the portal is up-to-date with the current activities in the Pacific and in Europe in areas relevant to the project. The portal includes, among other functionalities, news on S&T research in the Pacific, as well as opportunities for research exchanges and funding, are regularly being updated on the project website. A section within the main website includes all the information about the next flagship event in being planned in Brussels and allows the functionality for

participants to register online

Outreach activities



The Project consortium is dedicated to finding the best possible ways to strengthen the dialogue between Europe and the Pacific. In this regard, the consortium relies heavily on the involvement of the European Commission. It is the consortium's intention to continue meeting with the Commission to identify EC priorities, procedures and work programmes which could be of interest to the Pacific. Among our next appointments: the 3rd INCO Conference (EU-Conference on International Cooperation) and the INCO NCP meeting will take place on 18 - 20 June 2012 in Bonn (Germany). The conference will host the INCO NCPs (National Contact Points for International Cooperation) from Europe and Third countries; more than 100 experts working in the field of international research co-operation from all over the world are expected to participate. This conference will be organised by our partner PT-DLR.



7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

Focus on the IDEAS Programme

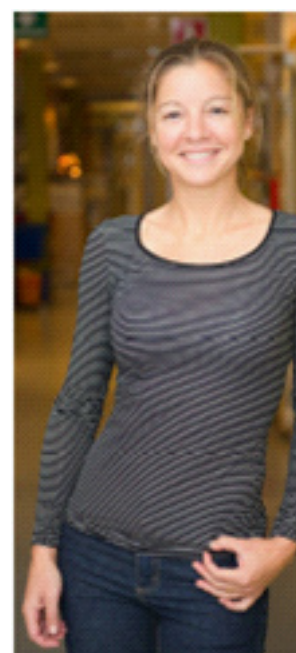
Australian ERC grantee on track to tackle obesity

More than 10% of the world's adult population was obese in 2008 (according to the latest World Health Organisation statistics). Obesity and overweight are major risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders, cardiovascular diseases (mainly heart disease and stroke), and some cancers. Despite this worrying picture, little is known about the mechanisms at the root of obesity. Kirsty Lee Spalding, who was awarded an ERC Starting Grant in 2010, explores this further to understand how the generation and behaviour of fat cells (called adipocytes), and their presence in the human body can lead to obesity.

Until now, it was impossible to mark the exact birth date of human cells in a way that can be detected over many years. In her ERC project, Dr. Spalding has developed a new method, based on the incorporation of radioactive carbon (^{14}C) into DNA, which allows for the analysis of cell and tissue turnover in humans. Contrary to what is done in fossils dating techniques, she is looking at the number of ^{14}C atoms compared to ^{12}C . Because of



the very high number of ^{14}C atoms in the atmosphere since the Cold War's nuclear bomb tests, she can detect changes in levels of ^{14}C in DNA and retroactively establish the birth date of cells and their lineage. She also intends to determine the processes of human adipose tissue maintenance and to investigate the existing differences in the regulation of the fat mass in both lean and obese persons. This will enable her to create a map of cell turnover in the human body in both healthy and pathological individuals. With excess fat tissue (which results in obesity) being considered as one of the most serious threats to human health, in particular in developed countries, her results could shed new light on potential treatments for obesity. Kirsty Lee Spalding, who is Australian, was awarded her PhD degree from



the University of Western Australia, Perth, in 2006. She moved to the Karolinska Institute in Sweden as a postdoc and is now an Assistant Professor in the Cell and Molecular Biology Department.

Project acronym: HUFATREG

Project's title: Adipose tissue mass regulation in lean and obese individuals

Host institution: Karolinska Institute, Sweden

ERC funding: € 1.5 million

<http://erc.europa.eu>



Focus on International Cooperation

Preliminary information on the INCO Conference 2012

3-Day International Conference Programme

"Challenges and opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020" (working title)

The 3rd INCO Conference "*Challenges and opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020*" and the annual NCP meeting will take place on 18 – 20 June 2012 in Bonn, Germany. The main topic of the conference will be the future of international cooperation in Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation from 2014 to 2020. Furthermore, a regional focus on South East Asia will provide a particular insight into international cooperation in Science and Technology.

Objectives of the conference:

- share information on international S&T cooperation
- examine experiences of international S&T partnerships

- collect the views of third countries towards international cooperation
- discuss chances and challenges of international cooperation in Horizon 2020
- outline the frame for international cooperation in Horizon 2020

Conference Schedule 19/06/2012

The INCO Conference will be divided into 4 main sessions.

First, different presentations will allow an overview on the current state of the internationalisation of the European Research Area.

In the second session, perspectives and expectations for international cooperation in Horizon 2020 will be analysed. The conference participants will be divided into breakout groups, dealing more closely with the proposed priorities in the programme. By focusing on "Excellent Science", "Industrial Leadership" or "Societal Challenges", it will be discussed how international cooperation should be promoted efficiently within these priorities, which specific themes should be tackled and which mechanisms should be further developed.

The third part is a poster session about good practices of international cooperation in Science and Technology with South

East Asia. It will be organised in cooperation with the INCO-Net SEA-EU-Net.

In the final session, a panel discussion will provide answers on challenges and opportunities of international cooperation in Horizon 2020. Thereby, it will also be examined to what extent it can contribute to solving global problems.

More information:

http://www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/index.php?title=3rd_INCO_Conference_%22Challenges_and_opportunities_of_International_Cooperation_in_Horizon_2020%22,_Bonn,_18-20_June_2012

STRUCTURING INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION, INCO-NET projects

A new publication presents the activities of all INCO-NET projects which have been selected following the evaluation of the FP7 calls for proposals published in 2006, 2009 and 2010. These projects cover different regions of the world, i.e. Western Balkan Countries, Mediterranean Partner Countries, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, South East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean and Pacific region, Arab Gulf Countries, Latin and Central America.

[More information and download of the publication](#)

Focus on Horizon 2020



Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the [Innovation Union](#), a [Europe 2020](#) flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with an €80 billion budget, the EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe.

Horizon 2020 provides major simplification through a single set of rules. It will combine all research and innovation funding currently provided through the [Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development](#), the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme ([CIP](#)) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ([EIT](#)).

The proposed support for research and innovation under Horizon 2020

will:

- o Strengthen the EU's position in science with a dedicated budget of €24 598 million. This will provide a boost to top-level research in Europe, including an increase in funding of 77% for the very successful European Research Council ([ERC](#)).
- o Strengthen industrial leadership in innovation € 17 938 million. This includes major investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs.
- o Provide €31 748 million to help address major concerns shared by all Europeans such as climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring food safety and security, or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

Horizon 2020 will tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed.

Horizon 2020 will be complemented by further measures to complete and further develop the [European Research Area](#) by 2014. These measures will aim at breaking down barriers to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020

Watch the [presentation on Horizon 2020](#).

International cooperation in Horizon 2020

International cooperation is crucial to address many Horizon 2020 objectives.

Principle of general openness: third countries can participate in Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 shall be open to the association of: acceding countries, candidate countries and potential

candidates and selected third countries Extract of the Commission proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) on the international cooperation with third countries

and international organizations (Art. 21)

Download here the factsheet International Cooperation in H2020:

http://www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/images/2/2b/Factsheet_international.pdf



Events In the Pacific



10th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography - 23 to 27 April 2012 - Nouméa, New Caledonia

This 10th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography is run under the auspices of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), in collaboration with the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) and Météo-France.

Since its advent, the ICSHMO has provided a unique contribution to ocean and atmosphere sciences that are specific to the Southern Hemisphere. The objective of the 2012 conference, the 10th of the series, is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for presentations of our current

state of knowledge, as well as motivating new research and applications within the variety of disciplines related to weather and climate of the ocean and atmosphere.

More information:

<http://www.colloque.ird.fr/icshmo-2012/>

Call for abstracts, 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, 9-13 July 2012, Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Every four years the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) sanctions a major international scientific conference which provides the latest knowledge and leading edge technologies about coral reefs worldwide. In July 2012, the world's leading natural scientists, resource managers, conservationists, economists, educators and graduate students will meet together in Cairns to progress coral reef science, management and conservation. We welcome the return of this event to Australia for the first time since Bicentennial year 1988.

This 5 day event will bring together

2,500 people from some 80 countries, to communicate their science and hear the latest advances from the international experts in coral reef science. Their research and findings are fundamental in informing international and national policies and protocols in the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.

James Cook University and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies are proud to host the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS 2012) in Cairns, Australia from 9 – 13 July 2012.

ICRS 2012 is important because it provides the international science

community with a platform to:

Increase global knowledge and interest in coral reefs, including sustainable use and conservation strategies;

Showcase successful science, conservation and management efforts;

Develop collaborations and partnerships to increase international capacity to address coral reef issues; and Increase global awareness of reef degradation and possible solutions by extensive promotion in the media.

Call for abstracts open now at:

<http://www.icrs2012.com/AbstractSubmission.htm>

Registrations Open, Practical Responses to Climate Change Conference, 1-3 May, Canberra, Australia

The 2nd 'Practical Responses to Climate Change' conference will be held in Canberra, Australia, at the National Convention Centre from 1 to 3 May 2012. The theme for 2012 is 'Water and Climate: Policy Implementation Challenges'.

The conference will provide a forum for presenting strategies for managing a variable and changing climate through the lens of the water sector. It will be an opportunity for policy makers, engineers, scientists,

planners and academics to present, hear and debate the latest research and practice on water and climate policy implementation challenges in urban, catchment and coastal environments. High profile national and international speakers will be brought together with delegates from around Australia and the world for a series of plenary lectures and contributed papers that will ensure a vibrant and interesting program. Workshops will be included to allow a forum for debate of key issues and



also presentation and discussion of the most recent thinking.

Further information on the conference and registrations can be found at:

www.climatechange2012.org



CALLS for proposals

A new Call for Proposals under the intra-ACP academic mobility scheme has been launched

The intra-ACP academic mobility scheme promotes higher education cooperation between countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP).

It funds partnerships between higher education institutions (HEIs) from different countries within the

se regions, and grants scholarships for students and academics to carry out studies, research or teaching in another country covered by the programme.

Applications must be sent by post and e-mail by 10 May 2012.

For more information: [<<link>>](#)





Events In Europe



6th World Water Forum - Marseille (France) 12th – 17th March 2012

Every three years since 1997, the World Water Forum mobilises creativity, innovation, competence and know-how in favour of water. It gathers all stakeholders around today's local, regional and global issues that cannot be undertaken without all stakeholders into a common framework of goals and concrete targets to reach.

The goal of the 6th World Water Forum is to tackle the challenges our world is facing and to bring water high on all political agendas. There will be no sustainable development while the water issues remain unsolved. Everywhere on the planet, for all and everyone, the Right to Water (recognised by 189

states at the UN one year ago) must be guaranteed and implemented. The 6th World Water Forum innovates with:

- A [Platform of solutions](#), to last beyond 2012, for all to consult and contribute to.
- A roadmap to achieve concrete commitments, involving experts and decision-makers from different sectors and regions of the world.
- A new commission, "[Grassroots & Citizenship](#)", to involve and mobilise civil society.
- A strengthening of the [political process](#) especially through significant contributions and commitments from

parliamentarians and local and regional authorities from around the world.

- Debates on sensitive issues.

More information

<http://www.worldwaterforum6.org>



International conference on waste management – Sofia (Bulgaria) 24th-26th April 2012

The Waste Management & Recycling Conference supports the know-how transfer of good practices in waste management and high level environmental technologies which could help the ecological development of Bulgaria. The conference is visited by environmental specialists from different parts of the world.

Some of the conference topics

are: Advanced waste treatment technologies; Landfills - design, construction and monitoring; Composting; Waste management - Laws and regulations; Construction and demolition waste; Electrical waste;

Trends in Recycling Technologies; Packaging Recycling. Parallel to the conference there will be an exhibition for waste management

and recycling technologies.

Read more:

http://www.envimpact.eu/index.cfm?action=article&publication_id=779

More events at

<http://www.pacenet.eu/events>

PACE-Net Partners



PACE-Net Coordinator

IRD (New Caledonia)

Claude Payri - claud.payri@ird.fr

Fadhila Le Meur - fadhila.lemeur@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



PACE-Net is Funded by European Commission in the "Capacities" Programme, GA FP7 244514