

Challenges and opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020

18 - 20 June 2012, International Conference, Universitätsclub Bonn, Germany

Report on the 3rd INCO Conference

“Challenges and opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020”

The 3rd INCO Conference “Challenges and opportunities of International Cooperation in Horizon 2020” and the annual meeting of the National Contact Points for International Cooperation (INCO NCPs) meeting took place from 18 – 20 June 2012 in Bonn, Germany. It focused on the future of international cooperation in Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation from 2014 to 2020. The conference was attended by 150 international experts from politics, research and business spanning five continents and 60 different nations. It provided a truly international platform for discussions about the challenges and opportunities of international cooperation under the changing framework conditions of Horizon 2020. The conference was considered a great success by the participants.

The conference on 19 June 2012 was the highlight of the 3-day event which offered a forum to strengthen cooperation between INCO NCPs. Meetings of international cooperation projects as well as an INCO NCP meeting and training complemented the agenda. The activities are part of the project “Incontact – one world”, financed by the European Commission within the Capacities Programme of the 7th EU Research Framework Programme.

After previous events in Athens (2010) and Johannesburg (2011), the 3rd INCO Conference in Bonn had a regional focus on Southeast Asia, analysing the specific chances of international cooperation in research and innovation with the region. The exhibition “Eye of the Sky” (organised in cooperation with the International Bureau of the BMBF) presented satellite images visualizing the human impact on ecosystems in Southeast Asia and Europe. The exhibition, produced by the German Aerospace Center, is the German contribution to the ASEAN-EU Year of Science, Technology and Innovation. All

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images are linked to actual research projects, funded by either the EU FP7 Programme or the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).



Exhibition "Eye of the Sky": Hanoi and Ha Long Bay – Dragons of Vietnam

The conference was organised by the EU Bureau of the BMBF (Project Management Agency of the German Aerospace Center) in close cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission (EC). It was officially opened by Director Klaus Uckel (BMBF), Head of division EU Research Policy and European Research Area, who pointed out the vital role of international cooperation in research and innovation, not only regarding European competitiveness but also to jointly tackle the global societal challenges with its international partners. In his welcome speech, Mr John Claxton, Deputy Head of Unit at the DG Research and Innovation (EC), highlighted the crucial role of the National Contact Points for International Cooperation in promoting the EU Research Framework Programme worldwide. The key note speaker, Prof Donald B. Dingwell, Secretary General of the European Research Council, outlined the importance of international cooperation for ERC's mission to support frontier research and the EU Research Framework Programme in general.

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Various presentations and workshops explored the European Research Area's current state of internationalisation as well as the perspectives and expectations for international cooperation in the three priorities of Horizon 2020. Several topics and cross-cutting issues were discussed, such as the general drivers and obstacles of international S&T cooperation, its role in jointly tackling the global challenges, the relevance of the Strategy Forum for International S&T Cooperation, worldwide standards and guidelines, the effectiveness of different cooperation instruments and the coordination of research policy activities with other policy areas, especially development policy.

The high-ranking panel discussion was chaired by Klaus Uckel, Director at the BMBF, with experts from different backgrounds: Elisabeth Lippiatou (Head of Unit, European Commission), Dr. Riitta Mustonen (Chair, Strategic Forum for international S&T cooperation), Prof. Manfred Horvat (Honorary Professor, Vienna University of Technology), Monica Dietl (Director COST-Office) and Roland Sommer (Director of Public-Private Affairs, AVL List GMBH). The participants emphasised the necessity for an enhanced partnership between the Member States and the European Union as well as a more strategic approach towards international cooperation in research and innovation.



The high-ranking panel discussion chaired by Klaus Uckel (BMBF)

The 4th INCO Conference will be held in 2013 in Marseille, France.

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For additional information regarding the 3rd INCO Conference

- please consult the INCO-Wiki - www.ncp-incontact.eu
- or contact Mr Olaf Ripken, National Contact Point for International Cooperation, EU-Bureau of the BMBF (PT-DLR) - olaf.ripken@dlr.de; +49/ (0)2283821-1963



Group picture of the 3rd INCO Conference in Bonn

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EU-Bureau of the BMBF - Profile

The EU Bureau of the BMBF for the Research Framework Programme (EUB) serves as a first stop for general questions about the EU Research Framework Programme. It furthermore hosts National Contact Points (NCPs) for the “Ideas” and “Capacities” programmes of the EU Research Framework Programme and the Joint Research Center (JRC) and for all “Legal and Finance”-related questions regarding the EU Research Framework Programmes. The NCPs provide free-of-charge advice on the EU Research Framework programme. They also support the responsible departments within the German Ministry of Education and Research in matters related to the EU Research Framework Programme or the European Research Area and accompany the German delegations to the Programme Committee meetings in Brussels which discuss the implementation of the EU research programmes. The Contact Point “Women into EU Research” (FiF) is also located at the EUB. In addition, the EUB also renders support regarding European cooperation in the area of education and provides the German Contact and Coordination Point for the EURYDICE programme, i.e. the European information network on education.

Incontact project

INCONTACT (www.ncp-incontact.eu) is the official project of the FP7 INCO NCPs and will run until December 2013. It is implemented as a Specific Support Action (SSA), funded under the Specific International Scientific Cooperation Activities (INCO) in the 7th Framework Programme for RTD (FP7). The INCONTACT project aims at the development of a platform for stimulating closer cooperation among INCO National Contact Points. Within the framework, INCO NCPs are working together to effect a substantial improvement in the overall quality of NCP services in the field of International Cooperation. The positive effect of these efforts is not limited to the NCP network alone. The international research community ultimately benefits from the heightened level of service offered by the network. Individual researchers profit from higher quality services and information. In addition, the establishment of a more consistent level of NCP services across Europe contributes to greater transparency of the research funding for ICPC (International Cooperation Partner Countries) participants.