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show Europe how it's done – p6

CSA Time for a rethink? – p5, 8

Budget Shortfalls could hike long-term
costs of Horizon 2020 projects – p5

Spain set to get research portfolio

Parliamentary grilling awaits controversial candidate

MIGUEL ARIAS CAÑETE, A FORMER law professor and conservative Spanish politician, looks set to become the next commissioner for research, innovation and science, according to sources in Spain and Brussels.

Cañete, who until this spring served as Spain's agriculture minister, was allocated the slot in an outline of the European Commission being planned by its president-elect, Jean-Claude Juncker, that was leaked to the media over the weekend.

Spain had hoped for a more prestigious slot on the Commission, such as agriculture, but looks unlikely to obtain one. In a carefully worded statement issued on 8 September, after the plan was leaked, Mariano Rajoy, Spain's prime minister, said that he would "keep working to secure an important post" for the country's nominee. The list of designated candidates and their portfolios was due to be published on 10 September.

During the European elections earlier this year, Cañete attracted Europe-wide prominence after making some ill-judged comments following a debate with a female opponent. He was quoted as saying that, when debating with women, "If you abuse your intellectual superiority, you end up looking like a male chauvinist who is cornering a defenceless woman."

He apologised 6 days later, but the incident seems likely to come up if Cañete is nominated and faces confirmation hearings in the European Parliament, as nominees must do before they take up their 5-year posts in November. A spokeswoman for the Spanish socialist party said that she expected the Parliament to be "very hard" on him. Some MEPs have already expressed disquiet at the gender balance of the proposed Juncker Commission, which looks set to comprise nine women and 19 men.

Born in Madrid in 1950, Cañete has land and family connections in Andalusia where he taught law at the University of Jerez de la Frontera, in Cadiz, before entering politics as a member of the state parliament in 1982. Later, in Madrid, he served twice as agriculture minister in different, conservative governments. He has also had two stints in the European Parliament, lasting 16 years in total, and was top of his party's list

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in May's European elections.

Elsewhere in Juncker's plan, a new directorate for Transport and Space was assigned to Vera Jourová, a liberal from the Czech Republic. Jonathan Hill, the former public-relations consultant nominated as the UK commissioner, would get Energy and Climate Change.

It has been suggested that Juncker intends to give an enhanced role in his Commission to half-a-dozen vice-presidents, who will oversee 'clusters' of individual commissioners. For example, Valdis Dombrovskis, a Latvian conservative, was down to be vice-president for Energy, and Slovenian prime minister Alenka Bratušek had responsibility for Digital and Innovation, including Cañete's portfolio.

Research lobbyists will be disappointed that Cañete has had no direct involvement with science, engineering or health. However they will draw comfort from the fact that he's worked at a university. And they'll expect him to have clout because Spain—despite its struggling economy—is still one of the half-dozen major powers in the EU.

Lobby groups declined to comment specifically on unofficial reports of Cañete's nomination. But Kurt Deketelaere, secretary-general of the League of European Research Universities, said that the proposed clustering of all of the DGs related to research would be a positive development.

Peter Tindemans, secretary-general of Euroscience, had earlier said that if the nominee had a background in science, "in the broadest sense of the word", it would help them adapt more quickly to the job. But Lidia Borrell-Damián, head of research at the European Universities Association, said this wouldn't matter if the commissioner was surrounded by the right officials.

Once Juncker's list of nominations is published, Parliamentary committees are expected to hold hearings with each nominee, before a single vote on whether to accept the list.

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Layers of sovereignty

How independent can a nation now be?

"All classical accounts see England as the original and model nation state of modern times," writes Tom Nairn, the Scottish nationalist and political theorist, in this week's *London Review of Books*. "One way of looking at the 18 September vote is that it's a sign of the end of this model."

On 18 September, the people of Scotland will vote on the question: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" As the electorate there well knows, after 2 years of intense and multi-faceted debate, this seemingly simple question contains many layers of complexity.

In the world in which we now live, no country—not Scotland, not the UK, not even the United States—is truly "independent". In many ways, the history of how the European Coal and Steel Community became the EU is the story of the unravelling of the 'nation state' as the dominant or even the principal delineation of where 'sovereignty' resides.

Seen from within, especially at the height of the euro crisis 2 years ago, it has sometimes been difficult to recognise the EU for what it is: the world's largest and most influential model of how nations will organise themselves in an era when the influence of the nation state is in retreat.

Viewed from outside, however, there is no question that this is exactly what the EU is. Other regions of the world, such as Africa, South America and east Asia, look on with envy at the level of cooperation now in place between formerly bitter rivals inside Europe. Each of these regions is seeking EU-like deals on trade, research and other areas of cooperation.

Leaders in these regions are savvy enough to know the choice they face: either cooperate more closely, or face growing rivalry and, eventually, rancorous conflict. This is particularly true in Asia, where some commentators see potentially dreadful consequences if major nations fail to find better mechanisms for cooperation.

The challenges of making the EU model work are, of course, immense. And there is an alternative narrative to Tom Nairn's, which holds that fiercely independent nation states are set to re-emerge in Europe, in reaction against the allegedly stifling influence of the EU. Yet despite the euro crisis, there is little real sign of the project unravelling. There may be an EU membership referendum in the UK at some stage, for domestic political reasons. But there is no sign of any nation in mainland Europe giving up on the European project.

What we will have instead is a cacophony of nations and territories coexisting peacefully, inside and outside the EU, the eurozone, the Schengen area, Horizon 2020 or dozens of other, collaborative arrangements. Some may despair at the untidiness of all of this. But it would be more constructive to accept the complexity of these layers of sovereignty, and just get on with adapting and evolving them in the interests of more democracy and better governance.

Seen in this context, events in Scotland may be viewed as part of a wider global realignment. A Scotland that is independent, or one in which most of the population aged less than 60 has expressed their intention to become so, will be just another component of a wider mosaic of self-governing territories that will unfold as ambiguous identities and globalisation continue to erode the importance of the nation state.

elsewhere

"There is one obvious difference, which is that you are much more in the spotlight so you have to be more careful about what you say."

Fields Medal winner *Martin Hairer* discovers what it is like to suddenly become an ambassador for his research field. *Horizon Magazine*, 25/8/14.

"Taking control of the agriculture post would be a major coup for Ireland."

Outgoing research commissioner *Máire Geoghegan-Quinn* knows her home country has its eyes set on a more prestigious post. *Irish Independent*, 2/9/14.

"The CSA position does not help and cannot fulfil this purpose because of the fundamental flaws of the role itself."

Jorgo Riss, director of Greenpeace Europe, takes a clear stance on the question of whether the post of chief scientific adviser to the European Commission's president should be continued. *EurActiv*, 19/8/14.

"We are prepared for major clashes."

Rebecca Harms and *Philippe Lamberts*, the co-presidents of the European Parliament's Greens and European Free Alliance group, react to the appointment of climate change sceptic Donald Tusk as president of the European Council. *The Parliament*, 1/9/14.

"It's turning procurement on its head."

Citymart chief executive *Sascha Haselmayer* says Barcelona's decision to solve the city's innovation problems by awarding €1 million through a competition is a novel way of funding public innovation. *Science Business*, 3/9/14.

"Budget cuts are often blamed for our problems, but they are only part of the picture."

Patrick Monfort, secretary-general of the SNCS-FSU, France's national trade union of scientific researchers, says that a shift in public funding towards innovation and applied research has damaged blue-sky research. *Nature*, 3/9/14.

decade

"I expect this discussion will open up a much larger debate."

Frank Heemskerk, president of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators, says a UK threat to abandon Framework 7 could lead to a Pan-European review of full costing.

Research Europe, 9 September 2004

what's going on

Swiss deal on the horizon

The European Commission could strike a deal on Switzerland's participation in Horizon 2020 in September, but this may not grant the country full access to the programme, *Research Europe* has learned. Technical discussions on an agreement for partial participation have been completed and are likely to be signed off, Commission sources say. Swiss researchers have been awaiting an agreement since negotiations were frozen in February over immigration issues.

Commission finds gender progress too slow

Gender equality in European research is advancing too slowly and remains fragmented between countries, the European Commission has said. A study published on 3 September found that only 18 out of 31 countries have attempted to introduce quotas and targets for women in research. Gender analysis has so far been included in six national research programmes, while only four countries offer gender studies as a graduate course.

ERC alters date for grant availability

The European Research Council has changed the way it calculates the duration of a grantee's research experience for its latest work programme. In 2015, the length of Starting and Consolidator grant candidates' research experience will be calculated from 1 January 2015, rather than the opening date of the call. Starting grants are available to those with 2 to 7 years' experience post-PhD, while Consolidator grants are for those with 7 to 12 years' experience.

Universities call for more tenure track

National governments and the European Commission should do more to foster tenure track programmes by removing legal barriers and granting universities more support, the League of European Research Universities has said. In a briefing paper on 2 September, Leru said that the number of tenure track positions was growing too slowly, and countries including France, Spain and the UK still lag behind Sweden, Switzerland and Germany in offering such positions.

Switzerland tops global competitiveness index

Switzerland is the world's most competitive country for the sixth year in a row, according to the World Economic Forum's innovation index. The forum praises the country's high spending on research and innovation and its strong collaboration between academia and business. Two EU countries, Finland and Germany, are in the top five, along with Singapore and the United States.

Council promises boost for research and education

The Italian presidency of the EU Council has set out the priorities it would like to see tackled in the European Parliament by the end of 2014, which include the promotion of dual education and training systems, and improved conditions for start-ups. Other priorities include a better improved partnership in research with the Mediterranean area, and more flexibility in the use of funds from the Erasmus+ programme to promote mobility.

Agencies unite against Ebola

Medicines regulators have pledged to enhance cooperation with the World Health Organization to fight the Ebola virus in an agreement signed on 4 September. The International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities, which includes the European Medicines Agency, will work to accelerate access to potential treatments, and enhance data collection and analysis.

europe

Galileo costs spiral as ESA admits misfired satellites cannot be recovered

The European Space Agency is this week trying to find new use for two expensive Galileo satellites, which it launched into the wrong orbits on 22 August.

The satellites ended up on an incorrect trajectory after the third stage of their Russian-built Soyuz ST rocket failed to direct them as planned, following their launch from Kourou, French Guiana.

Arianespace, the French company responsible for the launch, said that the incident might have involved the upper stage of the launcher, the so-called Fregat space tug, developed by Russia. More specifically, the Russian newspaper *Izvestia* reported that a software error may have caused the upper stage to receive the wrong flight assignments for the satellites.

The ESA had previously said that an inquiry panel chaired by Peter Dubock, consultant and former inspector general of the space agency, would investigate the incident and release a preliminary report on 8 September. However, on that date, it said the report wasn't ready.

The Galileo system, which will eventually involve 30 satellites, is designed to yield more accurate data for agriculture, transport and weather mapping as an alternative to the US-run global positioning system.

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In 2010, the programme's total cost was estimated at €7.7 billion, but that figure has now increased to about €20bn. Defending the programme, the Commission claims that it will generate economic benefits worth €90bn.

Both satellites are now in a stable orbit and have displayed their solar panels without problems, but it is unclear if they would be useful for Galileo, an ESA spokeswoman said, since they have been placed more than 2,735 kilometres away from their planned orbit.

Moving them to their correct orbit would be impossible, since they don't have enough fuel. Sending another mission to provide the satellites with extra fuel "could only happen in science fiction", the spokeswoman said, adding that the satellites may instead end up being used for other missions.

On 29 August, Jean-Yves Le Gall, president of France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales, admitted that neither satellite would be recoverable for use in Galileo. "Their orbit is not circular as it should have been, and therefore, they are not in a good situation in the orbital plane," he told the French business and technology magazine *Usine Nouvelle*.

Horizon 2020 leaves humanities out in the cold

Horizon 2020 has failed to fully integrate the humanities into its work programmes, according to a report published by Science Europe on 4 September.

The paper, *The Human Factor in the 2014-2015 Work Programme of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenges*, found that more than 90 per cent of Horizon 2020's research topics do not have any provision for humanities, while only limited expertise is required in the remaining 10 per cent.

Science Europe, a group that represents research organisations, was also critical of the way humanities often act as "translators" of hard science research, rather than being seen as valuable in their own right. "This is not a deficiency for humanities as such, but it is a huge deficiency for the programmes," says Kirsten Drotner, co-author of the report.

Although social sciences and humanities now have their own societal challenge in Horizon 2020, the budget for this challenge is the smallest of all, just 1.7 per cent of the total €70.2 billion.

A range of solutions is offered to improve future work programmes, such as including more scholars of humanities in the advisory groups. Ioana Galleron, former vice president at the University of South Brittany, thinks

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that this would be helpful because she says humanities experts were asked to apply for Horizon 2020 advisory panels but their applications were rejected without feedback.

The report also suggests that the field should be better integrated into the assessment of research proposals. These measures will be too late for 2014-2015 work programmes, says Drotner, but they could be implemented in subsequent years.

"What is needed is a clearer vision on what the humanities can actually contribute," says Thomas König, a former scientific adviser at the European Research Council. He says this would remove misunderstandings between humanities researchers and Commission bureaucrats, who struggle to measure the impact of social sciences and humanities research results.

But König warns that humanities researchers have been "late to the game" of lobbying the Commission compared with other science fields, which have connections in many research ministries within member states. Galleron says the battle is on for humanities in the next research Framework programme.

Backlog of payments adds to agony of proposed EU cuts

Ongoing budget problems caused by the EU committing more money than it can spend could make research and innovation more costly in the long-term, the European Parliament has warned.

In its first meeting since the elections, the Parliament's committee on industry, research and energy discussed cuts to the 2015 budget for Horizon 2020. The Council of Ministers is proposing to slash the European Commission's research budget for next year by around 10 per cent from the figure proposed to tackle the economic crisis.

MEPs backed the Commission in its criticism of the way the proposed cuts would affect its ability to fulfil contractual obligations and to pay its beneficiaries. "We are actually building up a substantial backlog of commitments which we're not able to honour," says a Commission representative. Twenty per cent of Horizon 2020 will have no proper payment coverage by the end of the programme, she says.

Christian Ehler, a German MEP on the Itre committee, warns that ongoing underfunding makes projects more expensive, as they take longer to complete and contracts are broken, so incurring further expenses. Ehler's views are echoed by Kurt Deketelaere, secretary-gen-

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eral of the League of European Research Universities, who describes the gap between commitments and payments as a "vicious circle". Deketelaere says that funding for some Horizon 2020 projects has already been delayed because the money was used to cover commitments for Framework 7 projects. There is now a shortfall of around €800 million in the EU research budget, he says. These unpaid expenditures are likely to top €1 billion in 2015, and sooner or later, "this bomb is going to explode".

The situation looks unlikely to be addressed in the Council's 2015 budget proposal. The commitments for "competitiveness for growth and jobs", which includes research, stand at €17.1bn while the payments are just €14.2bn. The problem is exacerbated by European governments cutting national research budgets and encouraging academics to seek European funding instead, says Thomas Estermann, director of funding at the European University Association. He worries that the ongoing shortages will have "an effect on infrastructure, and on the competitiveness of European research facilities".

CSA needs more cash to be effective, Juncker told

The next chief scientific adviser to the president of the European Commission needs more money to do the job properly, say science organisations.

Extra funding could ensure the CSA's role is integrated better into other scientific advisory structures such as the Commission's Joint Research Centre, according to Euroscience, the European Academies Science Advisory Council and the UK's Royal Society in separate letters to Jean-Claude Juncker, the president-elect. The Commission should also back up its policy proposals with a section on scientific evidence, they say.

Debate around the CSA post, held by Scotland's Anne Glover in the Barroso Commission, has intensified over the last month, as Juncker is yet to make clear whether he will continue the position. A number of environmental and health NGOs have called on Juncker to scrap the post, which they claim "lacks transparency and objectivity". Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and Alliance for Cancer Prevention, said in a letter on 19 August that it is impossible for a single person to give competent advice on a wide range of topics. They proposed that the

by Jenny Maukola

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Commission's president should instead rely on a variety of committees and individuals.

But Peter Tindemans, secretary general of EuroScience, says that this argument is based on a misunderstanding of the CSA's role. The job is more about "organising the science input and bringing science into policymaking than just having all the facts and figures of science in that one person". He says the next CSA needs more staff, as Glover was "forced to work with three or four people, which is impossible".

Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, secretary-general of the Human Frontier Science Program, agrees. He says that more cash would also enable the CSA to attend more scientific meetings and raise the CSA's profile.

Juncker is thought to back this position, according to MEPs. But a Commission spokesman said that until the situation had been clarified the Commission would get its advice from "expert groups, external consultants and in-house expertise".

interview marja makarow

Good neighbours

The European Research Area could learn a lot from how the Nordic countries collaborate, Nordforsk's Marja Makarow tells **Jenny Maukola**.

Marja Makarow gives a straightforward account of how she became chairwoman of the board for the Nordic research funder Nordforsk in June. It was simply Finland's turn to provide a chairperson, she says. Nordforsk approached her and "I said yes".

Her candour might stem from her other roles: Makarow has been vice-president for research at the Academy of Finland since 2012, before which she was the first female president of the European Science Foundation. She has learned how to fight an organisation's corner when it comes to adapting research systems or engaging in international collaboration.

Nordforsk promotes research collaboration and runs large-scale programmes between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It manages a common pot of money provided by the national research councils, which is used for competitive funding.

At the ESF, which was structured in a similar way, Makarow had to bring together the research interests of 29 countries. Dealing with just five countries makes the collaborative aspect a lot easier. "We have overlapping historical events and all of us are welfare states, so the social structures and values are similar," she says.

The amount of funding available for Nordforsk, however, is small compared with the amount each country spends. In 2013, Nordforsk's grant from the Nordic Council of Ministers was about 120 million Norwegian kroner (€14.4m), whereas, for instance, the Academy of Finland has an annual research budget of €320m.

There is no guarantee that a country will get back the money it puts into the common pot, but Makarow says the

system works well for Nordic countries because of their confidence in the research that they do. All of the countries involved are at a similar level of quality and competitiveness, so there is a consensus that the system of pooled funding pays off.

But even with the similarities, it takes time to ensure that national programmes are compatible. Makarow explains that when she was the vice-rector for research at the University of Helsinki between 2003 and 2007, a joint PhD programme in biomedicine with the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm was estab-

lished. It took a year of struggling to align the two PhD programmes and make the system work. "It was a surprise to me that there was so much work to be done, and this was a very concrete, down-to-earth exercise between only two Nordic countries," she says. "It takes a common vision and a common will to harmonise programmes so that they can succeed, and this doesn't just happen overnight."

This harmonisation is much tougher when it comes to Europe as a whole, where the 28 member states and associated countries must compete for access to common funding. "Outside the Framework programme it has been extremely difficult to convince the EU member states to design research programmes with a common pot," Makarow says. "In that respect, the Nordic countries are far ahead of the entire European area."

Nordforsk uses its success to help promote the European Research Area by being part of the ERA in Partnership association. This initiative, set up by research commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, is intended to speed up the realisation of the ERA by pushing for more Pan-EU collaboration, pooled funding and the sharing of results in line with ERA requirements.

Makarow says that Nordforsk can promote the ERA by setting the example that "it is possible to have full mutual trust and understand that collaboration is of mutual benefit". Early-career researchers in the Nordic countries can also use the smaller-scale Nordic system as a "piloting area" for forming networks and consortia, after which they can "approach the much larger, more challenging European context", says Makarow.

A major problem in Europe is the increasing innovation gap between northern and southern countries. This makes collaboration between Nordforsk partners and other EU countries more difficult.

"My personal view is that if your home is not in order, concerning political decisions, implementation and budgets, it is very difficult for anybody such as Nordforsk to go and say you must do this and that," she says. "The responsibility primarily lies at the national level to set priorities and put the basic elements in place."

As Nordforsk has a limited mandate, its member states are looking to Brussels to address these issues. Makarow's hopes lie with the next research Framework programme as a tool to overcome regional innovation difficulties. "I would say that the EU and Horizon 2020 will be the facilitators to close the gap," she says.

More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com

Marja Makarow

- * **2014** Chairwoman of the board, Nordforsk
- * **2012-present** Vice-president for research, Academy of Finland
- * **2007-2011** Director-general, European Science Foundation
- * **2007** Chairwoman of the board, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland
- * **2003-2007** Vice-rector for research, training and innovation, University of Helsinki
- * **1978** PhD in chemistry, University of Helsinki

francesco sylos labini **view from the top**

The ERC must take risks to make the most of Europe's scientists

In research policy it is difficult to know which exploratory path will be more fruitful or which researchers will make a breakthrough. Before 2004, for example, the publication and citation records of Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov gave no hint that they were about to discover graphene, resulting in thousands of citations a year and a Nobel prize. Many breakthroughs cannot be predicted and come from researchers who do not have an exceptional record.

Handling risk is an important task for funding agencies. They must decide whether it is more effective to give large grants to a few elite researchers or small grants to many researchers. The evidence, including a study based on data from the national research council of Canada, shows no correlation between grant size and citation impact, suggesting that larger grants do not lead to larger discoveries and that funders might therefore do better to target diversity rather than narrowly defined excellence.

However, the principal EU-level funder of basic research, the European Research Council, takes the opposite route, funding only 5 to 10 per cent of applicants. This creates several problems.

First, when there are so few winners, applications become risk averse and aim for consensus between reviewers. But innovative projects should explore subjects away from the mainstream and provoke discussion. It is unlikely that the projects that yielded graphene would have scored in the top 5 per cent in review.

Second, only researchers with very high bibliometric scores—well-established researchers—can hope to have their projects selected. This creates a Matthew effect: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Third, now that writing, reviewing and administering grants absorbs so much of researchers' efforts, a punitive rejection rate results in a huge waste of resources.

Fourth, at the European level, a highly competitive funding strategy favours those (northern European) countries with well-established research policy. Yet in Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy, where national sources of research funding have almost disappeared and most university and research budgets go on salaries and infrastructure, the ERC is the only funder to which researchers can turn for curiosity-driven work.

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Given the situation in their countries, any southern European researcher who wins ERC funding has a strong incentive to move. Eighty per cent of Italian holders of ERC grants, for example, are working abroad. The ERC grant system has become a mechanism for transferring money and talent from southern to northern Europe, increasing scientific, economic and social divisions.

Young southern European researchers unable to get an ERC grant may end up part of a lost generation, forced into low-quality employment. EU policymakers must ask themselves whether such educated people should be in that position, and whether various member states should really be forced to abandon all hope of becoming technologically competitive.

The real question in science policy is how to fund the innovative ideas lurking among the large corpus of professional scientists. To do this, funders must understand that there are different kinds of scientific quality, and that the pursuit of one idea of 'excellence' results from an ideological and unrealistic dogma. The search for creative and innovative research projects must acknowledge that science is a social process.

One way for the ERC to reduce the bias towards mainstream, flagship research programmes and create space for bottom-up, curiosity-driven research would be to relax its selection procedure—raising its success rate to, say, 30 per cent, with average grants becoming smaller. It might even introduce an element of randomness, which the British philosopher of science Donald Gillies has argued would lead to better funding decisions.

Other, more immediate measures could boost research policy and funding at the national and EU levels, and help young scientists in southern European countries. These include finding a regional balance for funding distribution among member states and encouraging R&D spending by removing it from deficit calculation.

Scientists in EU member states must also get involved in the debate about EU policy on research funding and its distribution. They have every incentive to raise their voices and do everything they can to prevent history from repeating itself. The fact that fiscal consolidation is written into the constitutions of Italy, Spain and Greece, whereas the target of spending 3 per cent of GDP on R&D remains an empty aspiration, tells us a lot about the place of research in the continent's political priorities.

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'ERC grants increase scientific, economic and social divisions.'

Parting shot

By lifting the lid on her time in office, Anne Glover has shown that the role of EU chief scientist must be rethought if it is to be continued, says **John Whitfield**.

Judging from the reports, Anne Glover's frank and thoughtful keynote speech at the Global Science Advice meeting held in Auckland last month may well prove to have been one of her most useful public acts in her time as chief scientific adviser to José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission.

Perhaps feeling demob-happy, Glover laid out the problems she has faced, such as the indifference of Barroso and the active hostility of many MEPs; and the lessons she has learned, including that EU policies are much more technical than national ones and that the available expertise is not always put to good use.

Glover's speech was well timed, because the question of whether her role will continue when Jean-Claude Juncker replaces Barroso this autumn got a lot more interesting over the summer. Non-governmental organisations are campaigning to scrap the post, with 27 of them, including Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, having sent two open letters to Juncker arguing that the CSA role "concentrates too much influence in one person", thus making it easier for lobbyists to influence policy. There should be "more objective and diverse expertise available to policymakers than any single adviser could reasonably be expected to provide," they said.

Business Europe and the UK's Royal Society, meanwhile, have sent open letters in favour of giving the post life beyond Glover, and the UK's Wellcome Trust and the European Genetic Alliances Network are among the research charities taking a pro-CSA stance.

The NGOs have done us all a service by giving the debate a higher profile. But their main objection seems to be that they don't like some of Glover's public statements, particularly on genetically modified organisms.

Given what she said in New Zealand about the difficulties she has faced, Glover might struggle to recognise herself as someone pulling strings from the shadows. The lobbying issue also seems like a red herring. In the absence of a CSA, lobbyists will not pack up and go home. It's more likely that they will find a better-hidden route to policymakers, through a less knowledgeable intermediary.

'Does the CSA post fit the tasks and structures of the Commission and the wider EU?'

The most important question isn't whether Glover has done a good job, or whether Barroso was lukewarm about her. What really needs to be considered is whether the post of a CSA reporting directly to the Commission president is a good fit for the tasks and decision-making structures of the Commission and the wider EU.

National CSAs have three main tasks. First, they help guide the response to science-related crises, such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters. In this capacity, an adviser's job is not

so much to say what he or she thinks as to marshal other sources of expertise and make sure their advice gets to the right people. The analogous component of Glover's job would seem to be understanding and reconciling complex and sometimes opposing positions around issues of regulation and harmonisation. In New Zealand, she gave the science around the environmental effects of endocrine disruptors as an example. This type of work, however, is best done quietly and carefully—it's not crisis-mode policy-making, and it doesn't need a figurehead.

Second, CSAs can be a voice for the long term, making leaders aware of possible changes and problems that they ought to be preparing for. Here, the case for a CSA-type figure in the Commission seems strong, as the Commission ought to be able to think on a larger and longer scale than national governments. Here, Glover's choice to nail her colours to GM crops looks like a tactical misstep and a wasted opportunity—it's an issue that belongs to the past decade, not the next one, and it's one on which she had little chance of making a difference.

Finally, a CSA is a kind of unofficial laureate: the independent voice of (one form of) reason. Glover has embraced this role, but it's one that does not sit easily with the Commission's way of doing things. It seems to have made Barroso uncomfortable—and perhaps reduced Glover's influence.

The argument for retaining a CSA to the Commission president, then, is relatively weak. Or perhaps, as the scientists' group EuroScience argued in July, there is a strong argument for rethinking and beefing up the post, making it a Commission-wide role and linking it better to other sources of advice such as the Joint Research Centre and the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment panel.

Early reports are that Juncker is minded to retain a CSA. Whether he has the appetite for a less public but more influential colleague, and whether he is willing to combine an appointment at the top with reform throughout the Commission, to create a cohesive and transparent structure for providing evidence for policy, remains to be seen. Glover would probably never say it, but her message seems to be: if you're going to do it, next time do it properly.

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highlights

EU epilepsy study

The Directorate-General for Health and Consumers invites proposals on the burden and care of epilepsy. The budget is approximately €1.23 million [4].

EU drugs policy

The Directorate-General for Justice invites grant applications for transnational projects on EU drugs policy. Grants are worth at least €75,000 [34].

EU ICT for agriculture

ERA-Net ICT-Agri 2, together with SmartAgriFood2, invites proposals on services and applications for smart agriculture. Up to €100,000 per project is available [47].

Spinal muscular atrophy

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Europe invites proposals for its 7th call for research. Operating grants do not usually exceed €150,000 [64].

Wellcome fellowships

The Wellcome Trust, Science Foundation Ireland and the Health Research Board invite applications for their research career development fellowships in basic biomedical science. Fellowships are available for up to five years [97].

deadlines

Opportunities from previous issues of *Research Europe*, listed by closing date. European Commission and associated funders marked EU.

Each entry is followed by a Web id

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19 EU Directorate-General for Trade evaluation of council regulation to avoid trade diversion into the European Union of certain key medicines 1180642

EU EUREKA Eurogia2020 funding call 1161448

EU European Defence Agency European reference open architecture standard for a modern integrated electronic mission system in military land vehicles – Lavosar II 1180869

EU European Food Safety Authority scientific substantiation of health claims made on food 1180685

EU European Food Safety Authority transformation and further development of the compendium of botanicals used in food and food supplements 1180790

TR Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey brain circulation scheme 1173905

UK Society for Applied Microbiology public engagement grant 1179374

23 LU National Research Fund Luxembourg aides à la Formation-Recherche PhD grants 1159901

24 EU Directorate-General for Education and Culture fostering European integration through culture by providing new subtitled versions of selected TV programmes across all Europe 1180867

CA Government of Canada Banting postdoctoral fellowships 1160792

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – BIOTEC-5a-2014-1 SME-boosting biotechnology-based industrial processes driving competitiveness and sustainability 1176611

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – DRS-17-2014-1 critical infrastructure protection topic 7: protection of urban soft targets and urban critical infrastructures 1176926

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – ICT-37-2014-1 SME instrument open disruptive innovation scheme 1176597

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership

SME instrument phase one – IT-1-2014-1 small business innovation research for transport 1176922

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – NMP-25-2014 accelerating the uptake of nanotechnologies of advanced materials by SMEs 1176605

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – SC5-20-2014-1 boosting the potential of small businesses for eco-innovation and a sustainable supply of raw materials 1176924

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – SFS-08-2014-1 resource-efficient eco-innovative food production and processing 1176904

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – SIE-01-2014-1 stimulating the innovation potential of SMEs for a low carbon energy system 1176919

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one – Space-SME-2014-1 1176613

EU H2020: Industrial Leadership SME instrument phase one BG-12-2014-1 supporting SMEs efforts for the development – deployment and market replication of innovative solutions for blue growth 1176713

EU H2020: Industrial leadership SME instrument phase one PHC-12-2014-1 clinical validation of biomarkers or diagnostic medical devices 1176902

UK Medical Research Council senior non-clinical fellowship 252375

FR National Consultative Commission on Human Rights French republican human rights prize 1159889

25 EU Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency HP-PJ-2014 proposals for projects 2014 1180093

EU Directorate-General for Home Affairs pilot project on victims of torture 1175412

EU Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport study on the implementation of labour supplying responsibilities pursuant to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 within and outside the EU 1173875

EU ERA.Net RUS Plus joint call for science and technology projects 1179737

UK Institution of Civil Engineers QUEST travel awards 1169776

UK Science and Technology Facilities Council Ernest Rutherford fellowships 1163158

SE Stockholm Water Foundation Stockholm water prize 203789

26 EU Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefit scheme 1180899

EU ERA-Net CORNET transnational call 1158495

EU ERA-Net EraSME 15h transnational call 1173221

UK Instruct call for proposals utilising Instruct-funded structural biology techniques 1177717

UK Royal Society of Chemistry research fund 256368

29 EU Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology study on future trends and business models in communications services and their regulatory impact 1180912

30 DE academics.com young researcher of the year 1174931

KR Academy of Korean Studies thesis grant 1178229

CA Canadian National Institute for the Blind Hochhausen research award 1164798

UK Centre for Economic Policy Research exploratory grants 1165770

EU Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology study on identification and quantification of key socio-economic data for the strategic planning of 5G introduction in Europe 1180201

FR European Society of Cardiology research grants 255349

EU European Food Safety Authority monitoring evidence supporting preparatory work for evidence-based scientific assessment in EFSA 1180319

EU European Investment Bank university research sponsorship programme 1173955

CH European League Against Rheumatism scientific training bursaries 254719

FR Informatics and Mathematics Alain Bensoussan fellowships 254572

BE European Society of Surgical Oncology international career development exchange programme 1180826

IT European University Institute Fernand Braudel senior fellowships 207344

BE National Fund for Scientific Research InBev-Baillet Latour Health prize 253842

DE Forum Vergabe international public procurement award 1163747

CH Frick Foundation for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis grants 1160237

EU H2020: Excellent Science H2020-FETOPEN-2014-2015-1 novel ideas for radically new technologies 1176564

EU H2020: Excellent Science H2020-FETOPEN-2014-2015-2 call on novel ideas for radically new technologies 1176571

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-REFLECTIVE-7-2014 reflective societies – advanced 3D modelling for cultural heritage and European identities 1176791

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Austrian fellowships

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society invites applications for its fellowship programme. This promotes interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society, as well as technology assessment and research into the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. Fellows receive €940 per month and access to research infrastructure, guest lectures and workshops.

Web id: 205208

Email: ias-sts@aa.u.at

Deadline: 31 December 2014 [1]

EU technology projects

EUReKA invites proposals for its individual projects. These support market-oriented international R&D projects in any kind of technology.

Web id: 1173379

Email: info@eurekanetwork.org

No deadline [2]

EU financial surveying

The Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs invites tenders for an EU wide monthly business survey in the financial services sector. The tenderer will set up the necessary infrastructure to carry out the survey, attend the kick-off meeting in Brussels, deliver the statistical data in accordance with the specifications and report in a timely manner, and implement any agreed adjustment to the survey. The estimated value of the contract is €202,500.

Web id: 1181415

Email: ecfin-bcs-fina-call2014@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 25 September 2014 [3]

EU epilepsy study

The Directorate-General for Health and Consumers invites applications for a European study on the burden and care of epilepsy. The aim is to provide the necessary data for allocation of adequate resources for a high quality epilepsy care equal in all EU countries. The total budget is estimated at €1.23 million.

Web id: 1181107

Email: sancopa-epilepsy@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 25 September 2014 [4]

EU victims of torture

The Directorate-General for Home Affairs invites proposals for its pilot project on victims of torture. The aim is to create a line of funding for the final benefit of victims of torture. Grants are worth up to €750,000 and the total budget is €3 million.

Web id: 1175412

Email: home-vot-pp@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 25 September 2014 [5]

EU ICT studies 1

The Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology invites tenders for the following studies:

- ICT for work – digital skills in the workplace, worth €300,000. **Web id:** 1181190

- synergies between the civilian and the defence cybersecurity markets, worth €200,000. **Web id:** 1181493

Email: cnect-f4@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 26 September 2014 [6]

EU higher education

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture invites tenders for designing and evaluating structural reform in higher education. The contract is worth €350,000.

Web id: 1181316

Email: eac-unite-c1@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 29 September 2014 [8]

EU hydrocarbon study

The Directorate-General for the Environment invites tenders for assessment and management of environmental impact and risks resulting from the exploration and production of hydrocarbons. The tenderer will conduct a study to provide the Commission with the necessary knowledge basis to assess the need for possible further policy action. The contract is worth up to €150,000.

Web id: 1181229

Email: env-tenders@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 29 September 2014 [11]

EU ICT studies 2

The Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology invites proposals for the following:

- pilot project on connected for health: well-being and healthcare solutions in open access fiber to the home networks, worth €1 million. **Web id:** 1181093

- monitoring methodologies for web accessibility in the European Union, worth up to €250,000. **Web id:** 1181536

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [12]

EU commercial law

The Directorate-General for Justice invites tenders for a study on the law applicable to companies with the aim of a possible harmonisation of conflict of law rules. The tenderer will conduct a comparative analysis on the provisions of private international law, and, where relevant for the purpose of the study, substantive law related to companies in the 28 Member States. The value of the contract is €350,000.

Web id: 1181266

Email: just-a4-cft@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [14]

EU fisheries and aquaculture

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries invites tenders for the following:

- the European market observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products, worth €4.75 million. **Web id:** 1181386

- a study on approaches to management for data-poor stocks in mixed fisheries, worth €1 million. **Web id:** 1181373

Email: mare-tenders@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [15]

EU aviation policy

The Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport invites tenders for a service provision towards the development of a public European environmental modelling suite for aviation. The service has a dual purpose: to assist policy makers in the development of the relevant EU policies, and to heighten the European profile in international fora. The contract is worth €2 million.

Web id: 1181633

Email: move-eu-aviation-environmental-model-suite-for-aviation@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [17]

EU environmental studies

The Directorate-General for the Environment invites tenders for the following:

- development of a best available techniques reference document on hydrocarbon exploration and extraction. The contract is worth up to €1 million over three years. **Web id:** 1181282

- a study on the environmental implications of the increased reliance of the EU on biomass for energy imported from North America. The contract is worth up to €150,000. **Web id:** 1181285

Email: env-tenders@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [19]

EU employment services

The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion invites tenders for a service contract on measures to enhance cooperation between public employment services, in particular services to implement a benchmarking concept within the network of PES. The budget is approximately €3.4 million.

Web id: 1181236

Email: empl-vt-2014-061@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 1 October 2014 [20]

EU defence systems

The European Defence Agency invites tenders for a concept study. The tenderer will elaborate a concept for non-lethal systems comprising optical and acoustic devices which can be fielded or further developed and accepted for operational use in land and maritime environments. The contract is worth €200,000.

Web id: 1181465

Email: procurement@eda.europa.eu

Deadline: 3 October 2014 [21]

EU disability policy

The Directorate-General for Justice invites tenders for a European network of academic experts in the field of disability. The tenderer will provide independent scientific advice, analysis and information to the Commission that serves as input and supports its policy-making in the disability field. The contract is worth €3.2 million.

Web id: 1181397

Email: just-a4-cft@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 6 October 2014 [22]

EU fisheries management

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries invites tenders for a study on evaluation tools for multi-stock management plan. This study is intended to ensure that scientists have access to appropriate tools. The contract is worth €100,000.

Web id: 1181375

Email: mare-tenders@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 6 October 2014 [23]

EU air traffic management

The Single European Sky ATM Joint Undertaking invites entries for its young scientist award. This recognises young scientists with high potential contributing to any SESAR activity which supports the scientific development of air traffic management and enabling technologies and provides opportunities for further personal development. The award includes €5,000.

Web id: 1175742

Email: youngscientist@sesarju.eu

Deadline: 6 October 2014 [24]

EU satellite navigation

The Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry invites tenders for a framework contract for activities in support of international cooperation on satellite navigation. The budget is €3.2 million.

Web id: 1181490

Deadline: 7 October 2014 [25]

EU defence industry materials

The European Defence Agency invites tenders for a study. The tenderer will support the European Defence Agency in assessing the criticality of raw materials for defence technologies. The contract is worth up to €200,000.

Web id: 1181707

Email: procurement@eda.europa.eu

Deadline: 9 October 2014 [26]

EU insurance law

The Directorate-General for Justice invites tenders for a study on law applicable to insurance contracts. The tenderer will collect the necessary information on the application of article 7 of the Rome I Regulation in the member states with a view to drafting the report referred to in article 27 of the regulation. The value of the contract is €120,000.

Web id: 1181271

Email: just-a4-cft@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 10 October 2014 [27]

EU defence technology 1

The European Defence Agency invites tenders for a technology watch pilot study. The tenderer will produce an adapted horizon scanning methodology, which could be based on existing methodologies, and should exploit activities that have already taken place in the agency's member states. The contract is worth €150,000.

Web id: 1181616

Email: procurement@eda.europa.eu

Deadline: 10 October 2014 [28]

EU territorial cooperation

The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy invites tenders for an ex-post evaluation of cohesion policy programmes 2007–2013: European territorial cooperation. The tenderer will assess what results have been achieved via cooperation programmes across Europe, with particular focus on cooperation in the fields of research, technology and innovation, environmental protection and enhancement, and capacity building. The contract is worth €500,000.

Web id: 1181514

Email: regio-b2-head-of-unit@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 13 October 2014 [29]

EU marine spatial planning

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries invites tenders for technical studies on marine spatial planning to support EU member states on the implementation of MSP. The contract is worth an estimated €1.33 million.

Web id: 1181377

Email: mare-tenders@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 15 October 2014 [30]

EU defence technology 2

The European Defence Agency invites tenders for a study on resource management for multifunction radio frequency sensors. The tenderer will explore and

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assess the architectures and techniques of the resource management module implementation. The contract is worth €300,000.

Web id: 1181162

Email: procurement@eda.europa.eu

Deadline: 16 October 2014 [31]

EU criminal justice

The Directorate-General for Justice invites applications for its action grants. These support national and trans-national projects that contribute to enhancing the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime. The budget is €2 million and grants cannot be lower than €75,000.

Web id: 1181435

Email: ec-justice-calls@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 October 2014 [32]

EU data link analysis

The Single European Sky ATM Joint Undertaking invites tenders for very high frequency digital link mode 2 measurement, analysis and simulation. The tenderer will collect and analyse data from avionics and ground systems to determine the levels of radio frequency interference and very high frequency digital link 2 channel occupancy as well as identify issues affecting the end to end performance of the VDL/2 data link.

Web id: 1181554

Email: procurement@sesarju.eu

Deadline: 30 October 2014 [33]

EU drugs policy

The Directorate-General for Justice invites applications for action grants to support transnational projects in the area of EU drugs policy. Projects shall support initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects closely linked to the general objective of the Justice programme. The budget is approximately €2.51 million and the minimum grant is worth €75,000.

Web id: 1181346

Email: ec-justice-calls@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 5 November 2014 [34]

EU intolerance grants

The Directorate-General for Justice invites applications for projects to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance. Proposals shall also focus on monitoring and reporting hate crime and online hate speech. The budget is €5.35 million.

Web id: 1181345

Email: ec-rec-calls@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 12 November 2014 [35]

EU marine environment

The Directorate-General for the Environment invites applications for its call on best practices for action plans to develop integrated, regional monitoring programmes, coordinated programmes of measures and addressing data and knowledge gaps in coastal and marine waters. Grants are worth up to €1 million. The budget is €2.46 million.

Web id: 1181623

Email: env-marine-environment@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 17 November 2014 [36]

EU coastal mapping

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries invites tenders for

the following:

- coastal mapping, worth €1.33 million over three years.

Web id: 1181391

- sea basin checkpoints, worth €4.35m over three years.

Web id: 1181394

Email: mare-tenders@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 24 November 2014 [37]

Osteoporosis prize

The European Society on Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, together with the International Osteoporosis Foundation and Servier, invites applications for the Pierre Delmas prize. This recognises an individual for outstanding contributions to the study of bone and mineral diseases. The prize is worth €40,000.

Web id: 255555

Email: esceoasbl@skynet.be

Deadline: 15 December 2014 [39]

Reproductive health

The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health invites applications for the following:

- grants for courses. **Web id:** 1170016

- project grants. **Web id:** 1170015

Email: info@eschr.eu

Deadline: 31 December 2014 [40]

Danish postdoctoral grants 1

The Danish Council for Independent Research | Medical Sciences invites applications for its individual postdoctoral grants. These aim to maintain and develop the research competencies of researchers who are in the beginning of their careers, consolidate their individual research profile and develop their scientific network. Funding is available to cover own salary, equipment and operating expenses.

Web id: 253657

Email: dff-opslag@fi.dk

Deadline: 23 October 2014 [42]

Danish postdoctoral grants 2

The Danish Council for Independent Research | Technology and Production invites applications for its individual postdoctoral grants. These aim to maintain and develop the research competencies of researchers who are in the beginning of their careers, consolidate their individual research profile and develop their scientific network. Funding is available to cover own salary, equipment and operating expenses.

Web id: 253679

Email: dff-opslag@fi.dk

Deadline: 27 October 2014 [43]

Danish postdoctoral grants 3

The Danish Council for Independent Research | Natural Sciences invites applications for its individual postdoctoral grants. These aim to maintain and develop the research competencies of researchers who are in the beginning of their careers, consolidate their individual research profile and develop their scientific network. Funding is available to cover own salary, equipment and operating expenses.

Web id: 253675

Email: dff-opslag@fi.dk

Deadline: 28 October 2014 [44]

Danish postdoctoral grants 4

The Danish Council for Independent Research | Humanities invites appli-

cations for its individual postdoctoral grants. These aim to maintain and develop the research competencies of researchers who are in the beginning of their careers, consolidate their individual research profile and develop their scientific network. Funding is available to cover own salary, equipment and operating expenses.

Web id: 253711

Email: dff-opslag@fi.dk

Deadline: 29 October 2014 [45]

Danish postdoctoral grants 5

The Danish Council for Independent Research | Social Sciences invites applications for its individual postdoctoral grants. These aim to maintain and develop the research competencies of researchers who are in the beginning of their careers, consolidate their individual research profile and develop their scientific network. Funding is available to cover own salary, equipment and operating expenses.

Web id: 253694

Email: dff-opslag@fi.dk

Deadline: 30 October 2014 [46]

EU ICT for agriculture

ERA-Net ICT-Agri 2, together with SmartAgriFood2, invites proposals for its call for services and applications for smart agriculture. This aims to provide farmers and agricultural producers throughout Europe with new FI-WARE enabled ICT products ready for immediate use through an open and easily accessible online marketplace called FIspace. grants are worth up to €100,000 per project over three stages of development.

Web id: 1179733

Deadline: 31 October 2014 [47]

Finnish Government research

The Finnish Government invites tenders for its analysis and research projects. These should generate data to support the Finnish Government in its decision making. Funding may be used for analysis, assessment and research projects to be commissioned and for the payment of expenses incurred as a result.

Web id: 1181650

Email: tula@vnk.fi

Deadline: 17 October 2014 [48]

Doctoral grants

Institut Pasteur International Division invites applications for its doctoral grants. These support the completion of doctoral theses within the Institut Pasteur international network. The topic can be related to any theme developed in laboratories within the International Network Institutes. Funding is available for three years.

Web id: 1173797

Email: boursesriip@pasteur.fr

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [49]

Skin research award

Chanel Research and Technology invites applications for the Chanel-Ceries research award. This honours a researcher in dermatology and encourages their continued work. The award is worth €40,000.

Web id: 212822

Email: rt.award@chanel-corp.com

Deadline: 31 October 2014 [50]

Terminal illness care award

The MAPI Research Trust invites applications for the Catherine Pouget award.

This supports projects that improve the quality of care received by patients with terminal illness. The award is worth up to US\$10,000 (€7,700).

Web id: 1168160

Email: tgauchon@mapigroup.com

Deadline: 31 October 2014 [51]

Ecosystem research award

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization invites applications for its young scientists awards through its man and the biosphere programme. These support young scientists conducting interdisciplinary research on ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity. Awards are worth up to US\$5,000 (€3,900) each.

Web id: 200034

Email: mab.awards@unesco.org

Deadline: 31 October 2014 [52]

Nutrition award

The Louis Bonduelle Foundation invites applications for the Louis Bonduelle research award. This helps the awardee to cover a part of his or her personal financial needs while finishing work or a thesis on nutrition or food behaviours in a unit, hospital department or research laboratory. The award is worth €10,000.

Web id: 1176217

Email: fondationlouisbonduelle@bonduelle.com

Deadline: 7 November 2014 [53]

Risk research chairs

The AXA Research Fund invites applications for its chairs programme. This aims to create an academic full time position in the host institution and at fostering a step change in the career of the appointed AXA professor. The grant for the AXA chair position is worth up to €120,000 per year and the successional chair grant is worth up to €90,000 per year.

Web id: 1157917

Email: chairs@axa.com

Deadline: 5 December 2014 [54]

EU hypergravity testing

The European Space Agency invites proposals from teams of undergraduate and postgraduate students in ESA member and cooperating states for its Spin Your Thesis programme. This enables students to carry out experiments in hypergravity using the large diameter centrifuge in the ESA's space research and technology centre in the Netherlands. ESA will provide funding to cover travel, accommodation or hardware expenses.

Web id: 259707

Email: spinyourthesis@esa.int

Deadline: 7 December 2014 [55]

EMBO fellowships

The European Molecular Biology Organisation invites applications for its short-term fellowships. These enable scientists to visit laboratories in order to facilitate valuable collaborations with research groups applying techniques that are unavailable in the applicant's laboratory. Fellowships cover travel plus subsistence for visits of one week to three months.

Web id: 201670

No deadline [56]

Historical humanities 1

The Gerda Henkel Foundation invites proposals for the following opportunities:

- smaller research project grants, worth up to €15,000. **Web id: 1181526**

- research scholarships, worth up to €15,000. **Web id: 1181531**

No deadline [58]

EU collaboration grants

Connecting Australian-European Science and Innovation Excellence invites applications for its priming grants. These support the establishment of science and technology collaboration and partnership between small to medium enterprises and researchers in Europe and Australia. Projects must be in one of the following areas: clean energy, healthy ageing through enabling technologies, sustainable cities. A grant worth €4,800 over six months will be made to support initial meetings and discussions.

Web id: 1173866

Deadline: 26 September 2014 [59]

Bi-regional relations

The European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Foundation invites proposals for its open call. This aims to support research projects concerning the bi-regional relationship or bi-regional cooperation between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean. Grants are worth up to €30,000.

Web id: 1175265

Email: info@eulacfoundation.org

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [60]

Animal welfare award

The Felix Wankel Foundation, through the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, invites nominations for its animal welfare research award. This recognises experimental and innovative scientific papers on the reduction or replacement of animal testing, the general fostering of the idea of animal protection, ensuring the health and appropriate housing of laboratory animals, pets and livestock, or supporting core research on animal protection. The prize is worth up to €30,000.

Web id: 1159524

Email: felix.wankel@tierhyg.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [61]

Diabetes treatment

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes, in association with Sanofi, invites applications for its European research programme. This is intended to accelerate European research focusing on innovative approaches to treat type 1 and type 2 diabetes through increased understanding of the underlying pathophysiological processes. Funding is worth up to €100,000.

Web id: 1173871

Email: foundation@easod.org

Deadline: 15 October 2014 [62]

Fellowships in Germany

The Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies invites applications for its individual fellowships. These support innovative research across existing boundaries, between disciplines, different cultures and countries, established and younger researchers and engages in activities that opens the research community to society and politics.

Web id: 1176705

Email: fcfp-fellowships@frias.uni-freiburg.de

Deadline: 15 October 2014 [63]

Spinal muscular atrophy

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Europe invites proposals for its 7th call for research. This aims to find a therapy for Spinal Muscular Atrophy or elucidate the basic pathophysiological processes of the disease. Operating grants have no specific limitation but usually do not exceed €150,000.

Web id: 1181631

Email: vanessa@sma-europe.eu

Deadline: 16 October 2014 [64]

Research award

The Helmholtz Association invites nominations for the Helmholtz international fellow award. This aims to intensify existing cooperation between Helmholtz centres and international research institutes and to further strengthen the links between Helmholtz researchers and colleagues abroad. The award is worth €20,000.

Web id: 1178621

Email: marianne.feldmann@helmholtz.de

Deadline: 21 October 2014 [65]

Diabetes research

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes, supported by an educational grant from AstraZeneca, invites applications for the following:

- clinical diabetes research programme in macrovascular complications of diabetes, worth up to €300,000.

Web id: 1175400

- European diabetes research programme in cellular plasticity underlying the pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes, worth up to €100,000. **Web id: 1175401**

Email: foundation@easod.org

Deadline: 1 November 2014 [66]

Neurosciences professorship

The Hertie Foundation invites applications for the Hertie senior professorship in neuroscience. This supports senior neuroscience researchers who wish to dedicate the final years of their career solely on research. The professorship is worth €1 million over eight years.

Web id: 1160767

Email: hennig@ghst.de

Deadline: 1 November 2014 [68]

Molecular biology

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory invites applications for its international PhD programme. This supports thesis supervision, a predoctoral course in molecular biology, or the opportunity to study for the EMBL international PhD. **Web id: 257408**

Email: predocs@embl.de

Deadline: 10 November 2014 [69]

Historical humanities 2

The Gerda Henkel Foundation invites proposals for the following opportunities:

- research project grants, including a monthly scholarship, a family grant and a monthly endowment for scholarships abroad. **Web id: 1166541**

- research scholarships, worth €2,000 per month for PhD scholars and €2,700 per month for scholars after postdoctoral lecture qualification. **Web id: 1166545**

Deadline: 1 December 2014 [71]

EU labour market 1

Cedefop invites tenders for real time labour market information on skill

requirements. The tenderer will implement a feasibility study and working prototype of a system for collecting real time labour market information using online sources. The contract is worth €200,000.

Web id: 1181031

Email: c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [72]

EU labour market 2

Cedefop invites tenders supporting Cedefop in providing data analysis and intelligence on skills and labour markets, primarily for the EU skills panorama. The value of the contract is €1 million.

Web id: 1181351

Email: c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu

Deadline: 10 October 2014 [73]

EU genotoxicity study

The European Food Safety Authority invites applications to compile a database specific for the pesticide active substances and their metabolites, comprising the different genotoxicity endpoints, which will represent a practical tool to complement the in-silico tools for prediction and indication of the genotoxicity hazard. The grant is worth up to €200,000.

Web id: 1181189

Email: repro.procurement@efsa.europa.eu

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [74]

EU chemical risk assessment

The European Food Safety Authority invites tenders for an integrating toxicokinetics in chemical risk assessment. The tenderer will develop tools and models to integrate toxicokinetics data and predict toxicokinetics parameters for human health, animal health and environmental risk assessment of single and multiple chemicals. The contract is worth up to €450,000.

Web id: 1181642

Deadline: 20 October 2014 [75]

Modern European history

The European University Institute invites applications for the Marc Bloch prize. This recognises the best new master's thesis in early modern or modern European history and in the history of Europe in the world. The prize is worth €3,000.

Web id: 1181561

Email: mblochprize@eui.eu

Deadline: 1 November 2014 [76]

NWO Vidi research grants

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) invites applications for the Vidi grants under its innovational research incentives scheme. These allow researchers who have already spent several years doing postdoctoral research to develop their own innovative lines of research, and to appoint one or more researchers. Vidi grants are worth up to €800,000 each for a period of five years, and may be used towards direct staff and non-staff costs. Projects must be carried out at a research institution in the Netherlands.

Web id: 260544

Email: vi@nwo.nl

Deadline: 2 October 2014 [79]

EU antenatal screening

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control invites tenders for the development of guidance for antenatal

screening for HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis and rubella susceptibility in the EU and the EEA. The tenderer will develop ECDC guidance for antenatal screening for HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis and rubella susceptibility addressing populations most vulnerable to mother-to-child transmission and the challenges for effective antenatal screening identified through the ECDC 2013 antenatal screening survey. The contract is worth €58,500.

Web id: 1181672

Email: procurement@ecdc.europa.eu
Deadline: 30 September 2014 [81]

Clinical microbiology

The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases invites applications for its research grants. These foster young and excellent investigators and promote outstanding research in the fields of clinical microbiology or infectious diseases. The award is worth up to €20,000 over a maximum of two years.

Web id: 204172

Email: info@escmid.org
Deadline: 14 October 2014 [82]

Respiratory fellowships

The European Respiratory Society invites applications for the ERS/EU RESPIRE 2 Marie Curie postdoctoral research fellowships. These enable scientists and clinicians in the field of respiratory medicine and science to visit a host unit in a different country in order to conduct advanced projects. Each fellowship is worth up to €64,600 per year over a maximum of two years. Funding covers living, mobility and career development costs.

Web id: 259856

Email: fellowships@ersnet.org
Deadline: 31 October 2014 [83]

Rheumatism education

The European League Against Rheumatism invites applications for its knowledge transfer programme. This is designed for patient organisations who wish to improve their skills by learning from the experience of other organisations in the EULAR network. The budget for this call is €15,000.

Web id: 187035

Email: florian.klett@eular.org
Deadline: 31 December 2014 [84]

Alzheimer's awards

Alzheimer's Research UK invites applications for the following grants:

- pilot project grants, worth up to £50,000 (€63,200). **Web id: 257030**

- preparatory clinical research fellowship, which includes up to £15,000.

Web id: 1158580

Email: research@alzheimersresearchuk.org
Deadline: 10 October 2014 [85]

Innovate UK city innovation

Innovate UK's IC tomorrow invites proposals for its connected cities innovation contest. This competition encourages innovation around the changing urban landscape across the themes of digitally connected buildings, communities, environment and services. Grants are worth up to €35,000 (€44,300) each. The total budget is worth up to €210,000.

Web id: 1181662

Email: support@innovateuk.org
Deadline: 14 October 2014 [87]

EU ESF material science

The European Science Foundation invites applications for workshops, small conferences, hands-on tutorials and summer schools under the research networking programme: advanced concepts in ab-initio simulations of materials. The programme aims to go beyond present state-of-the-art density functional methods and to maintain and enhance the European lead in the ab-initio field. Workshops and meetings held in 2015 will approach the field of electronic-structure theory and calculations. Funding should be principally used to cover the travel and accommodation costs of speakers and participants.

Web id: 250826

Email: psik-coord@dl.ac.uk
Deadline: 17 October 2014 [88]

Leukaemia fellowships

The Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund invites applications for its junior research fellowships. These support individuals wanting to pursue research into haematological malignancies. Fellows will be remunerated at a level determined by the host institution. The fund will allocate up to £17,000 (€21,500) to contribute to the cost of laboratory consumables and a further £1,000 to cover the costs of travel to meetings. Three fellowships are available.

Web id: 172146

Email: info@kklf.org.uk
Deadline: 24 October 2014 [89]

Maritime research

The National Maritime Museum invites applications for the Caird senior research fellowship. This supports high-quality research on the museum's collections or in any field of British naval and maritime history. The award is worth £20,000 (€25,300).

Web id: 205772

Email: research@rmg.co.uk
Deadline: 24 October 2014 [90]

Surgical research

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh invites applications for its small research grants. These support pump-priming projects in surgical translational research, surgical health services research, research into surgical aspects of patient safety, simulation and non-operative technical skills and cancer research of demonstrable direct clinical relevance to the management of solid tumours. Grants are worth up to £10,000 (€12,600).

Web id: 255235

Email: c.mccartney@rcsed.ac.uk
Deadline: 24 October 2014 [91]

Oncology nursing grant

The European Oncology Nursing Society invites applications for its research grant. This enables a European oncology nurse researcher to undertake a substantial research project of relevance to oncology nursing. The grant is worth €30,000 over two years.

Web id: 213904

Email: eons.secretariat@cancernurse.eu
Deadline: 31 October 2014 [92]

Chemotherapy research

The British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy invites applications for its overseas scholarships. These enable

research workers from other countries to work in UK departments for up to six months. Successful candidates will be paid a monthly grant of £1,000 (€1,300) and the host department will receive a monthly consumables grant of £200 for a duration of up to six months. The society will also reimburse the cost of return air fares and travel.

Web id: 209808

Email: dfoster@bsac.org.uk
Deadline: 1 November 2014 [93]

Scottish humanities visits

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, in partnership with the Caledonian Research Foundation, invites applications for its European visiting research fellowships. These support research within the arts and humanities and social sciences in Scotland with the aim to establish a two-way flow of scholars between Scotland and Europe. Grants of up to £6,000 (€7,600) are available for visits of up to six months. Funding may cover travel, subsistence and relevant study costs.

Web id: 204134

Email: resfells@royalsoced.org.uk
Deadline: 3 November 2014 [94]

MOD synthetic biology

The Ministry of Defence's Centre for Defence Enterprise invites proposals for its synthetic biology applications in defence call. This aims to reach out to all sectors for highly innovative synthetic biology approaches relevant to defence and security, involving cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research through the applications of existing synthetic biology tools and techniques, but using novel research approaches. There is no cap on the value of proposals, but it is more likely that a larger number of lower-value proposals, such as up to £100,000 (€124,902), will be funded, than a small number of higher-value awards. The budget is £1 million.

Web id: 1179547

Email: cde@dstl.gov.uk
Deadline: 6 November 2014 [95]

NC3R/TSB animals in research

The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research, in collaboration with the Technology Strategy Board, invites applications for its CRACK IT challenges. These aim to fund collaborations between industry, academics and SMEs, minimise the use of animals in research, and support the development of marketable products or improved business processes. Grants are worth between £100,000 (€124,902) and £1 million for projects lasting from one to three years.

Web id: 1164486

Email: crackitenquiries@nc3rs.org.uk
Deadline: 12 November 2014 [96]

Wellcome fellowships

The Wellcome Trust, Science Foundation Ireland and the Health Research Board invite applications for their research career development fellowships in basic biomedical science. These enable postdoctoral scientists to become independent research scientists and undertake research at an institution in the Republic of Ireland. Fellowships are tenable for five years and provide a basic salary, research expenses, overseas allowances, travel and subsistence costs, and provision for

public engagement costs.

Web id: 253970

Email: sciencegrants@wellcome.ac.uk
Deadline: 21 November 2014 [97]

British Academy awards

The British Academy invites applications for the following awards:

- the Neil Ker Memorial Fund, worth up to £2,000 (€2,500). **Web id: 182097**

- the Stein-Arnold exploration fund, worth £2,500. **Web id: 182064**

Deadline: 3 December 2014 [98]

Calcified tissue award

The European Calcified Tissue Society, with support from Amgen, invites nominations for the Steven Boonen clinical research award. This recognises medical doctors who have made significant progress and contributed to the field of bone and clinical bone disease research. The award includes €10,000 and the opportunity to give a lecture at the annual meeting.

Web id: 1181543

Email: ectcs@ectsoc.org
Deadline: 8 December 2014 [100]

rest of world

Cystic fibrosis fellowships

Cystic Fibrosis Canada invites applications for the following awards:

- research fellowships, worth CA\$35,000 (€25,000). **Web id: 1173664**

- research studentships, worth up to CA\$15,000. **Web id: 1173594**

Email: info@cysticfibrosis.ca
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [101]

Korea research

The Korea Foundation invites applications for its policy-oriented research on Korea grants. These support in-depth analyses and policy recommendations on Korea, including political, social and economic issues. Personnel expenses and other costs directly related to the research activities are subsidised.

Web id: 189435

Email: publicdiplomacy@kf.or.kr
Deadline: 30 September 2014 [103]

Nutrition research

The Nutricia Research Foundation invites applications for the following awards:

- international training fellowships, worth up to €25,000. **Web id: 155438**

- research grants, worth up to €50,000.

Web id: 1170612

Email: jacques.bindels@danone.com

Deadline: 30 September 2014 [104]

Chinese studies databases

The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange invites applications for its database grants. These support the collection and processing of database research materials related to Chinese studies in humanities and social sciences that will be made available to the scholarly community. Grants are worth up to €120,000.

Web id: 1181479

Email: maggielin@ckkf.org.tw
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [106]

tenders

Damage tolerance ESA*

The European Space Agency invites tenders to develop an advanced damage tolerance assessment methodology for composite structures, relating to Expro Plus. The tenderer will select and verify existing methods that will save significant testing effort, and which will distinguish insensitive hardware. Tenders are worth up to €500,000. Ref: 14.133.04. Deadline: 9 October 2014

Adaptable wheels ESA*

The European Space Agency invites tenders to research, define and test adaptable wheels for exploration, as part of Expro Plus. The tenderer will perform a search into published concepts, define requirements and test situations for lunar pole scenarios, compare concepts to select the best, prototype a set of adaptable wheels and a set of conventional wheels, and test the wheels on a rover platform. Tenders are worth up to €500,000. Ref: 14.129.10. Deadline: 10 October 2014

Modelling integration ESA*

The European Space Agency invites tenders to provide new modelling methods for simulation, verification and validation, relating to Expro Plus. The tenderer will establish a list of modelling methods for incorporation into system simulation facilities, conduct an alignment of different methods, identify possible extensions to the use-case of existing facilities and identify the problem areas in the multi-disciplinary integration process. Funding is worth up to €500,000. Ref: 14.132.05. Deadline: 13 October 2014

Early system modelling ESA*

The European Space Agency invites applications for the integration of early system modelling into the concurrent design process. The tenderer will establish a coherent set of open standards for the integration and interoperability of early functional modelling at system level into phase 0, A or B concurrent engineering. Activities are restricted to non-prime contractors, including small and medium-sized enterprises. Funding is worth up to €500,000. Ref: 11.138.01. Deadline: 17 October 2014

Avionics test bed ESA*

The European Space Agency invites tenders to create a new generation launcher and space transportation advanced avionics test bed. The tenderer will create a reference implementation that can be re-used across the SD4 mission domain spectrum. Funding is worth at least €500,000. Ref: 14.132.01. Deadline: 28 October 2014

Helium latch design ESA*

The European Space Agency invites tenders to provide a helium latch and venting valve for end-of-life passivation. The tenderer will develop a full European solution for helium tank passivation for current telecommunication platforms. Funding is worth up to €300,000. Ref: 14.1TT.13. Deadline: 12 November 2014

*ESA is at: <http://emits.esa.int>

usa

Microsoft Corporation EMEA PhD scholarship programme

Web id: 186668
Deadline: 26 September 2014 [113]

American Council of Learned Societies comparative perspectives on Chinese culture and society programme

Web id: 185220
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [114]

American Philosophy Society Franklin research grants

Web id: 207594
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [115]

Autism Speaks Dennis Weatherstone predoctoral fellowships

Web id: 200442
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [116]

International Association for Dental Research regional development programme

Web id: 192328
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [117]

National Academy of Sciences Arctowski medal

Web id: 185067
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [118]

National Academy of Sciences award for chemistry in service to society

Web id: 138150
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [119]

National Academy of Sciences award for scientific reviewing

Web id: 185043
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [120]

National Academy of Science award in chemical sciences

Web id: 185044
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [121]

National Academies Selman A Waksman award in microbiology

Web id: 138144
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [122]

National Academy of Sciences Troland research awards

Web id: 185045
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [123]

Department of Energy frontier observatory for research in geothermal energy

Web id: 1181017
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [124]

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Wenner-Gren symposia grants

Web id: 1161303
Deadline: 1 October 2014 [125]

International Association for Dental Research John Gray fellowship

Web id: 204790
Deadline: 7 October 2014 [126]

International Association for Dental Research's Periodontal Research Group presidents' travel award

Web id: 171237
Deadline: 7 October 2014 [127]

International Association for Dental Research Toshio Nakao fellowship

Web id: 171161
Deadline: 7 October 2014 [128]

Society of Toxicology/AstraZeneca/International Union of Toxicology travel award

Web id: 169068
Deadline: 9 October 2014 [129]

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International studies relevant to the discovery and development of antigen spe-

cific therapies for human type 1 diabetes

Web id: 1171101
Deadline: 10 October 2014 [130]

Foundation for the National Institutes of Health Lurie prize

Web id: 1168123
Deadline: 14 October 2014 [131]

Parkinson's Disease Foundation student travel award

Web id: 1181697
Deadline: 14 October 2014 [132]

Cystinosis Research Foundation postdoctoral fellowships

Web id: 213566
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [133]

Cystinosis Research Foundation research grants

Web id: 213563
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [134]

Getty Foundation library research grants

Web id: 185409
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [135]

Google faculty research awards programme

Web id: 1158036
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [136]

Hereditary Disease Foundation research grants

Web id: 254331
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [137]

Department of Defense clinical and rehabilitative medicine research programme: reconstructive transplantation research

Web id: 1180432
Deadline: 15 October 2014 [138]

American Academy of Neurology Shelia Essey award for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research

Web id: 205224
Deadline: 23 October 2014 [139]

Institute for Aegean Prehistory petrography internship at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete

Web id: 1169650
Deadline: 1 November 2014 [140]

Institute for Aegean Prehistory postdoctoral fellowship

Web id: 205420
Deadline: 1 November 2014 [141]

Institute for Aegean Prehistory research grants

Web id: 207823
Deadline: 1 November 2014 [142]

The Getty Foundation Getty scholar grants

Web id: 185403
Deadline: 3 November 2014 [143]

Getty Foundation pre- and postdoctoral fellowships

Web id: 185406
Deadline: 3 November 2014 [144]

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention postdoctoral research fellowships

Web id: 255073
Deadline: 15 November 2014 [145]

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention standard research grants

Web id: 213780
Deadline: 15 November 2014 [146]

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention young investigator grants

Web id: 213779
Deadline: 15 November 2014 [147]

Zonta International Foundation Amelia Earhart fellowship

Web id: 204099
Deadline: 15 November 2014 [148]

policy diary

September

15 3rd International Space Research Conference, Rome, Italy. To 17. <http://rsrch.co/1nN8vGI>

18 Institutional Evaluation Programme 20th Anniversary Event, Brussels, Belgium. <http://rsrch.co/UccITg>

• ERC Workshop on Research Data Management and Sharing, Brussels, Belgium. To 19. <http://rsrch.co/1qrTOS>

22 RDA Fourth Plenary Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. To 24. <http://rsrch.co/1pBEw6q>

24 The Evolving Landscape of Research Infrastructures in Europe, Trieste, Italy. To 25. <http://rsrch.co/1vphCqm>

25 Science, Media and Democracy: Citizen-Centred Approaches to Science, Brussels, Belgium. To 26. <http://rsrch.co/1uvRqtC>

29 Leading Enabling Technologies for Societal Challenges, Bologna, Italy. To 1. <http://rsrch.co/1s1Lju9>

• Good Practice Event on Entrepreneurial Universities, Madrid, Spain. To 1. <http://rsrch.co/1rbuLhD>

30 IMI2 Open Day, Brussels, Belgium. <http://rsrch.co/1pmisQm>

October

1 Horizon 2020 Partnering event, Bologna, Italy. <http://rsrch.co/1nsswLj>

2 The Stairways to Excellence: Combining Cohesion and Research Funds, Prague, Czech Republic. To 3. <http://rsrch.co/UQ70AL>

3 International Conference on Antimicrobial Research, Madrid, Spain. To 5. <http://rsrch.co/1mRuBJA>

5 Science and Technology in Society Forum Annual Meeting, Kyoto, Japan. To 7. <http://rsrch.co/1t2J9tG>

6 The Future of Europe is Science, Lisbon, Portugal. To 7. <http://rsrch.co/1xrxVRO>

7 The Science Business Innovation Connection, Berlin, Germany. <http://rsrch.co/1yqyWdz>

• Leru Open Seminar: Innovative Doctoral Training, Brussels, Belgium. <http://rsrch.co/1vxJB8f>

9 Improving Undergraduate Education in Europe: Liberal Arts and Science Colleges, Brussels, Belgium. <http://rsrch.co/11qrHiv>

• 2nd EUA Funding Forum, Bergamo, Italy. To 10. <http://rsrch.co/OAW6MA>

Charity begins at home

Shrinking public research budgets are pushing universities to find philanthropic funding but, as **Cristina Gallardo** discovers, that's easier said than done.

Philanthropic funding—including gifts for buildings or projects, competitive grants issued by charities and general bequests—is an increasingly important source of university funding globally. Yet the idea of asking for money, be it from wealthy patrons, alumni or generous strangers, is still alien to many European universities.

A survey carried out by the European Commission in 2011 revealed that only 10 of the 164 participating institutions were raising more than €10 million a year to pay for research activities, and almost half raised less than €1m. The biggest donation ever made to a university in Europe, €200m, was made by the Jacobs Foundation in 2006 to Bremen University in Germany.

“Fundraising is a source that until now has been underutilised,” says Kurt Deketelaere, secretary-general of the League of European Research Universities.

By contrast, universities in the United States can often attract many millions of dollars a year for research activities, he says. “Philanthropy is not an alternative to government funding for research, but it can be a nice top-up for universities to develop specific activities that would be impossible without it.”

The leading countries in Europe for pursuing this sort of funding are the UK, Sweden and Denmark, thanks to consolidated structures to raise philanthropic funds and an established network of foundations such as the UK's Wellcome Trust.

Universities in Norway, Finland and Austria are also obtaining good results from fundraising-focused activities. But philanthropic funding for research is not so well established in eastern and southern Europe, where many universities have no track record of active fundraising. For many European universities, years of groundwork would be required before any substantial funds could be raised from charities, says Deketelaere. “This is not something that can be done in two months.”

In 2007, the Commission announced plans to boost Europe's “culture of giving”. But this has not yet extended very far into education and research, as most people prefer to give to development and aid charities, and to projects that support local causes. This penchant for local spending could present an opportunity for universities to gain support for the maintenance of buildings and the purchase of research infrastructure. With enough philanthropic support, projects that narrowly fail to win competitive funding could proceed and eventually win more funding from governments or other sources.

There are, however, barriers to philanthropic funding in the way it is declared, administered and taxed. The regulatory framework in Europe has not evolved as fast as that in the US and must be streamlined, Leru says. In a report published last month, Leru recommended the establishment of a “right of philanthropic transfer” in the EU, to foster cross-border donations for research.

From the universities' point of view, an advantage of philanthropic funding is that it often comes with fewer strings attached than public funding, giving institutions greater freedom in how they spend their money.

Some nations are passing laws that make it easier for universities to apply for such funds. A law passed in Finland this month, for example, allows universities to raise money from the public. Until this change, Finland's universities were allowed to accept donations but prohibited from actively seeking them. And in Spain, the government has announced that it is finalising a Patronage Act to increase tax breaks for people and companies that donate money to not-for-profit organisations and non-commercial cultural events.

In its report, Leru urges universities to be active and put fundraising teams in place, responsible for managing contributions and organising events to meet prospective donors. But smaller universities struggle financially to carry out these activities, says Thomas Estermann, head of policy at the European University Association. He says universities should be able to create legal entities that can act as fundraising agents and enable them to attract donations without the bureaucracy attached to conventional research funding. “They need to have the financial autonomy to act in that respect, and we still have countries where this is not the case,” he says.

In the negotiation phase, universities should establish a set of guidelines to safeguard a reasonable level of independence, Estermann says. And this is where researchers should step up by talking to their university leaders to ensure that sufficient independence is maintained, as well as showing donors how their support is being used and making them feel involved in the science. “Researchers can best explain their projects so donors know what the institutions are doing with their money,” Estermann says.

Something to add? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com

‘Smaller universities struggle to put fundraising teams in place.’

uk & ireland

Medical charities create open-access fund

Six medical charities are setting up a joint fund to help their researchers publish their work with open access.

The £12-million (€15m) Charity Open Access Fund is a project of the Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK, the Breast Cancer Campaign, Arthritis Research UK, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and the British Heart Foundation.

Researchers at institutions with funding from the charities can apply to the fund to cover the costs they incur when publishing papers with immediate, unrestricted open access.

The fund signals a change in some of the charities' open-access policies. Matthew Kaiser, head of research at Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, wrote in a blog: "From next month, we'll ask our researchers, wherever they can, to publish their work so that it's freely available as soon as it is published." Cancer Research UK is understood to be rewriting its open-access policy this autumn.

The Association of Medical Research Charities, which helped to set up the fund, published a position statement on open access on 3 September, saying that charities need to be aware that money spent on open access is not money spent directly on research. Those charities that see publishing costs as "legitimate research expendi-

by Adam Smith

asnews@ResearchResearch.com

ture", the AMRC said must ensure that they can justify spending the money.

Pressure on charities to support open-access publishing has been growing. Many patient advocates and lay members on grant panels are concerned about limited access to research outputs, according to sources from two different charities. "One of the biggest, strongest pushes for open access has been from the patient community," says Michael Eisen, a biologist and prominent open-access advocate. "That can be a very powerful thing."

It is hoped that the joint fund will make life easier for university staff responsible for ensuring that their academics comply with funders' open-access policies. "Standardising policies for open access can really help those of us communicating those policies to academics," says Chris Banks, director of library services at Imperial College London. She adds that a joint fund will streamline the processes of libraries that manage the payment of article processing charges. "A merged open-access fund should certainly reduce the effort for libraries," she says.

The six partners will run the fund as a pilot for 2 years, and other charities will be able to join after the first year.

uk & i in brief

Temporary reprieve for Kew

Deputy prime minister Nick Clegg has announced a temporary reprieve from government funding cuts for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Public funding for Kew will remain at the same level for the rest of the 2014-15 financial year, with £1.5 million (€1.9m) having been set aside. Kew has faced successive years of cuts since 2009-10, and was facing a £5m budget shortfall this year. More than 50 staff have already lost their jobs.

Byrne hints at reform under Labour

A Labour government would reform research funding to provide longer-term support to a "star alliance" of the world's best scientists, and adjust the relationship between universities and colleges to reflect the community college system in the United States, a pamphlet produced by shadow science minister Liam Byrne says. Labour would also expand university enterprise zones to better link universities to regional growth, it says.

UCL in row over Qatar workers

University College London has been criticised for the treatment of migrant workers on its branch campus in Qatar. A visit by the International Trade Union Confederation found examples of low-pay contracts and forced labour on the Qatari campuses of UCL and several American and French universities. UCL says it has no influence over the

employment conditions of the workers, who are hired by subcontractors of the Qatar Foundation.

MPs attack plan for shared system with Scotland

Distributing research funds fairly between an independent Scotland and the remaining UK would cost more than existing arrangements, the House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Committee has said. The joint research funding system proposed by the Scottish government would require detailed negotiation and a complex formula, the MPs said.

Funders of Lawson's climate foundation revealed

The identities of two people funding climate change denier Nigel Lawson's organisation, the Global Warming Policy Foundation, have been revealed by investigative blog Desmog UK. They are Neil Record, founding chairman of the currency management company Record, and Conservative peer Nigel Vinson, an industrialist and Institute of Economic Affairs trustee. The IEA has been criticised for taking money from fossil fuel companies.

MPs open inquiry into mitochondrial donation

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee is to hold an evidence session on mitochondrial donation on 22 October. The government is intending to legalise a technique to use mitochondria from donor eggs to prevent certain debilitating genetic diseases.

French research minister promises to listen to university presidents

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, who took over as France's minister for research and education in August, has promised the country's university presidents that she will pay special attention to the budget for universities and research.

Vallaud-Belkacem met the heads of France's higher education institutions on 28 August in Paris.

As well as reassuring them that the budget was a priority, she underlined the importance of a good strategy at university level to improve conditions, reduce inequalities and reinforce the application of science in society. The minister will also focus on improving teacher training and reducing discrimination in education.

Her promise to focus on the budget for universities and research follows the government's announcement, earlier this year, that €50 billion will be cut from its overall budget over the next 3 years. The SNESUP, a higher education union, denounced the government's austerity policies on 28 August, saying that they would have "devastating consequences".

The 36-year-old research minister succeeds Benoît Hamon, who resigned having been an outspoken critic

by Safya Khan-Ruf

sknews@ResearchResearch.com

of president François Hollande's economic policies. Vallaud-Belkacem was previously head of women's affairs, youth and sport, and has also worked as a spokeswoman for Hollande. She was appointed research minister just a week before the start of the academic year, when 12 million students and some 840,000 teachers returned to their institutions.

Geneviève Fioraso, the secretary of state for higher education and research and a former research minister, said she was "very happy to work with Vallaud-Belkacem".

But other political leaders have criticised the appointment. Christine Boutin, president of France's PCD party of Christian democrats, described it as "provocative". Vallaud-Belkacem is a divisive figure because of her strong support for the ABCD of Equality programme, which was introduced in schools last year. The programme is aimed at combating sexism and ensuring equal rights for homosexual people. This caused some parents to organise a boycott and withdraw their children from classes.

nations in brief

Germany presents framework for social sciences

The German government has launched a framework intended

to help connect research in the social sciences to technological advances and innovation. The framework is meant to help inform decision-making about societal challenges, encourage the adoption of technologies by society and ensure that the field's research results receive due attention, the government said.

Foresight results to shape German science policy

The development of products to improve wellbeing, the hi-tech industry and the internationalisation of innovation is a priority for German research, according to the government. These focus areas were identified in the research ministry's foresight exercise, which aims to identify the most important up-and-coming issues in science and technology. The exercise is intended to support planning in research policy until 2030.

Latvia aims to streamline research activities

The education ministry in Latvia is planning to reduce the administrative burden faced by research institutions, in order to help the country win more EU funding. The ministry said it would use €9 million in structural funds received from the EU to improve how the country's institutions are managed. The aim is to make activities less

fragmented and create stronger institutions through mergers, the government said.

Spain increases spending on doctoral positions

The government of Spain has announced that it is to invest €8.7 million in 94 doctoral research positions at the country's 18 Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence. Carmen Vela, Spain's secretary of state for research and innovation, said that the doctoral programme would receive €2m more this year than it did last year.

French academics petition against lack of funds...

Early-career researchers have started a petition to raise awareness of funding shortages and poor career prospects in France. The petition, organised by the CNRS, France's largest public research funder, calls for the creation of thousands of permanent jobs in academic research. The CNRS says that the lack of jobs is a waste of human resources and contributes to gender inequality.

...but government data show a funding increase

R&D spending in France is growing slowly despite the country's economic difficulties, according to data released by the education ministry. The data show that R&D spending rose by 3 per cent to €48.4 billion between 2011 and 2012. Industrial R&D spending grew by 4 per cent to €28.8bn, but public spending by local administrations nearly flatlined, increasing by just 1.4 per cent.

nordic

Finland's researchers fear future funding cuts despite promise of €8m top-up

Researchers in Finland have called on the government to devise a long-term plan to ensure that universities will not have their basic funding cut after 2015.

The government's budget proposal for next year, published on 29 August, includes an €8-million top-up for universities from 2014 spending levels. However, the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers is not satisfied with the announcement, saying that the government has previously not increased funding by the amounts promised. This has made it difficult for universities to plan their spending, the union says.

Riku Matilainen, a senior adviser at the union, calls the 2015 budget an "election-year budget" and says that the union fears funding cuts in 2016 and 2017 "when we don't have the election year to support us".

As part of the pre-election budget proposal, the government decided to withdraw plans to cut the university index in 2015, thus saving €22m for universities.

The index was introduced in 2011 to ensure that money paid to institutions keeps up with actual costs. It calculates the budget by combining the consumer price index, the index for wage and salary earnings and the wholesale price index. However, it has already

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been cut twice by the government, in 2012 and in 2013. According to an estimate made by the University of Helsinki, these cuts have led to universities losing out on about €200m.

Jukka Kola, rector of the University of Helsinki, said on 25 August that although the index cuts may appear to be one-off reductions, in reality they also affect future funding. In an unexpected move, the government decided during budget negotiations in August that €21.5m out of the €70m in extra funding earmarked for Aalto University this year, originally intended to help it develop its activities, would instead be opened for competition between all Finnish universities.

The researcher union says its members want to see a more lasting commitment from the government to pay universities, instead of "bouncing" the funding amounts and decisions year by year.

"The university index should be kept in place and commitments respected," says Matilainen. "This was the political promise that was given when the university reform was carried out in 2010."

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Swedish parties agree to agree

Sweden is to hold a general election on 14 September, and it has already become clear that research policy is not a source of discord.

Parties on both the left and the right agree that Sweden should invest well in reinforcing its status as a knowledge-based society.

To make best use of this rare consensus, the opposition party, the social democratic SAP, has suggested that a 10-year research plan be agreed between all parties to guarantee stability. The liberal Folkpartiet, part of the centre-right Alliance coalition that is in power, has also called for a long-term strategy to create better conditions for research.

"We can gain a lot from having a long-term plan, as there really isn't a lot of disagreement," says Anna Nilsson Vindefjärd, secretary-general of Research!Sweden, a non-governmental organisation for the life sciences. "Politicians recognise that researchers in academia and in companies want to see a long-term strategy that follows the timeline of research itself."

As *Research Europe* went to press, the SAP was in the lead with 30 per cent, according to a poll published by Sifo, a company specialising in social research. The Moderate party is second, with 23 per cent. This suggests that the government coalition consisting of

**nordic
outlook**

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the Moderates, Folkpartiet, the Centre party and the Christian democrats is likely to lose out to the red-green opposition made up of the SAP, the Greens and the Left party.

Mats Benner, professor of research policy at Lund University, says there are no major issues splitting the government and opposition. "The incumbents stress that they have successfully increased resources for research by 30 per cent in slightly less than 10 years," he says. "The opposition has not countered that claim, but has added that it will focus more on research embraced by industry."

This extra focus would take the form of an innovation council overseen by the prime minister. The proposed council would consist of representatives from politics, industry and academia and, together with an innovation fund, would work to increase Sweden's competitiveness.

Both the SAP and Folkpartiet have said that they wish to create better working conditions for early-career scientists, including better wages and career opportunities. They also agree that basic funding for universities should be increased.

None of the parties, however, has provided more details on how it would realise its plans, leaving the specifics to be hammered out after the election.

nordic in brief

Work on ESS begins

Construction of the European Spallation Source, a neutron-based particle accelerator in

Lund, Sweden, has begun. A ceremony to mark the occasion took place on 2 September, with the Swedish research minister Jan Björklund and his Danish counterpart Sofie Carsten Nielsen in attendance. The start had been delayed for more than a year because of difficulties in securing funding from participating countries.

Research council gets head of humanities

The Swedish government has appointed Ulf Bjereld as the head of the council for humanities and social sciences at Vetenskapsrådet, the national research council. Bjereld is a political scientist at the University of Gothenburg. His research focuses on Swedish foreign and security policy, gender and the impact of digital technologies on democracy.

Report finds obstacles to infrastructure access

Norwegian research institutions experience problems in managing, buying and using large research infra-

structure, a report has found. The report, published on 2 September by several Norwegian education groups, highlights incompatible ways in which different research equipment is taxed by the state.

Finland joins Elixir

Krista Kiuru, Finland's research minister, has signed an agreement to ratify the country's membership of the European biological information database Elixir. The agreement, making Finland the 11th member country, was signed on 1 September. Elixir brings together data from life sciences centres in different countries, storing large quantities of biological information and making it available to scientists in all disciplines.

Denmark and South Korea sign innovation deal

An agreement has been signed between Denmark and South Korea to increase their cooperation on technology transfer. The deal was made between the Danish and South Korean higher education ministries on 1 September. As part of the agreement, Denmark will help South Korea devise a better strategy for cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises and academia.

usa

Biologists angry at NIH grant change

Planned changes to the “biosketch” component of National Institutes of Health grant applications could inadvertently favour more established researchers, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology has said.

The biosketch provides peer reviewers with background on an applicant’s training, prior research and ongoing projects. In May, the NIH announced plans for various modifications to the sketch. These will be implemented in January 2015.

The federation welcomes one change, which will allow researchers to link to a complete list of their published work on public databases. But the proposed format will rely heavily on the applicant’s description of the “scientific impact” of their previous work, which the association says could put young investigators at a disadvantage.

“Although intended to provide a forum through which investigators could describe the context of their individual efforts within larger projects, FASEB is concerned that the new biosketch format may lead to increased emphasis on an investigator’s past accomplishments, rather than the merits of the current proposal,” said the

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federation’s president, Joseph Haywood.

The federation also raised concerns about a proposed funding stream at the NIH’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences that would provide funding for a researcher’s entire research programme rather than for individual projects. As with the biosketch reforms, the federation said the programme could favour established researchers. It also expressed concern about the risks of concentrating funding among a smaller number of researchers and institutions, and said it would be difficult to determine how much money would be needed to adequately support each programme.

“We appreciate the institute’s efforts to consider funding models that would reduce the time principal investigators spend writing grants and increase their ability to perform cutting-edge, basic biological research,” said Haywood. “However, we feel that it is important for the institute to conduct a rigorous assessment of the pilot programme prior to making a major commitment of funding to the proposed Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award mechanism.”

usa in brief

NASA without rocket until 2018

The heavy-lift rocket known as the Space Launch System will not go into space until November 2018, nearly a year later than originally planned, following a review of the programme by NASA. The delay will be seen as a blow to the American space agency, which is dependent on Russia for heavy-duty space launches.

State-of-the-art Earth systems project launched

The Accelerated Climate Modeling for Energy project brings together the expertise of eight Department of Energy labs, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, four universities and one firm. They will make use of emerging software and high-performance computing to bring together existing models of different aspects of the Earth’s climate, initially focusing on three drivers: the water cycle, biogeochemistry, and cryosphere systems.

Labs pledge biosafety action

Biosafety scares at federal research laboratories have prompted the US government to push researchers across the country to step up their safety practices. The National Institutes of Health has declared September to be National Biosafety Stewardship month, during which NIH labs will re-examine their biosafety policies and practices, conduct inventories of infectious agents and reinforce biosafety training for staff. Other NIH-funded researchers are also expected to focus on biosafety.

International student admissions soar

Offers of admission to international students from US universities rose for the fourth consecutive year—up 9 per cent in 2014, according to the Council of Graduate Schools. Although Chinese students account for 37 per cent of offers, the number of applications from and offers to Chinese students remained flat in 2014. In contrast, offers to Indian students rose by 25 per cent, on top of a 27 per cent increase in 2013.

Cell-tracking prize up for grabs

The National Institutes of Health is offering \$500,000 in cash prizes to researchers who can track the health of a single cell in a complex tissue. The Follow that Cell challenge is looking for ways to observe a cell as it becomes cancerous, succumbs to a virus or reacts to treatment.

Space station projects chosen

NASA has selected 26 space biology projects to be conducted on the International Space Station. The projects will study how microbes, plants and animals respond to changes in gravity and, in particular, how DNA and RNA function to regulate health, repair injury and sustain growth during adaptation to microgravity.

Genomic data-sharing policy updated

The National Institutes of Health has published a revised policy for the sharing of genomic data in biomedical research for applications made after 25 January 2015.

First global summit on science advice highlights variety of CSA responsibilities

Government science advisers ended their first world conference in Auckland, New Zealand, on 30 August with a pledge to create a formal network, work towards common principles and compare notes again in 2 years' time.

The 2-day meeting was organised in part by the International Council for Science and hosted by Peter Gluckman, chief scientific adviser to New Zealand's prime minister John Key. Many of the discussions centred on the emergence of what has come to be known as the Anglo-Saxon model of science advice, a concept that first appeared 50 years ago.

However, some of the larger developed countries, as well as countries of the Commonwealth of Nations, have a different model. Their chief scientists are often in more senior positions and are able to influence or help deliver policy, whether in the prime minister's office or in individual ministries. Their roles can include helping to shape science and innovation policy, bringing an expert voice to crises or emergencies, and overseeing departmental research budgets.

The next country to adopt the Anglo-Saxon model is likely to be Finland, according to Kari Raivio, a former chancellor of the University of Helsinki. In September, Raivio said, he will submit a report to prime minister Alexander Stubb recommending a UK-style CSA system.

by Ehsan Masood

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Gluckman said in his opening remarks that the CSA role is likely to evolve as science undergoes "disruptive change". The impact agenda, open access, citizen science, the collapse of peer review and public concerns about emerging technologies are making the work of CSAs more important, but also more complex, than ever, speakers agreed.

Delegates discussed the extent to which CSAs can truly be independent of the governments they serve. Anne Glover, CSA to the European Commission's president, spoke of her open disagreements with the Commission, but said that she would not have taken the job had her independence not been guaranteed.

Gluckman said that advisers need to think carefully before going into battle with their government. Such clashes could be "catastrophic", he said, as they could lead policymakers and politicians to avoid engaging with advisers. But he made it clear to delegates that, whichever model is used, scientists should leave actual policy-making to those whose job it is to make policy. "We should not be advocates," he said.

A 2016 conference is likely to be held in the UK, and Japan has offered to host a further meeting in 2018.

world in brief

Russia works out details of science institution audits

More than 100 academics are due to attend the last in a series of meetings to discuss the criteria for auditing Russia's science institutions. At the gathering, which will be held on 16 September, discussions will centre on the terms of reference to be used by the expert groups charged with assessing whether institutions are sufficiently productive. Academics will also have their say on the structure and qualifications of the expert groups.

ICSU calls for metric changes

For open access to succeed, researchers should be involved in designing the criteria used to assess their productivity, according to a report by ICSU, the International Council for Science. A document published by ICSU says that metrics such as citation counts, h-index and impact factors "promote intense competition at the expense of openness and sharing".

New Zealand and US target invasive species

A 2-year plan has been developed by New Zealand and the United States to extend their collaborative research and focus on invasive species. The action plan will

involve the partners providing joint funding for research on invasive species for the first time. In the next month, the partners will fine-tune the plan and decide how much should be invested in its implementation, according to New Zealand's research ministry.

Australia and China plan dementia research centre

China's Institute of Biophysics and Australia's University of Queensland have agreed to create a dementia research centre. The joint centre will be open to researchers worldwide to study the disease's causes and potential treatments, according to Perry Bartlett, director of the Queensland Brain Institute. The brain institute will lead the partnership.

Mali and the Gambia to test Ebola vaccine

Eighty healthy volunteers in Mali and the Gambia are to test a candidate Ebola vaccine as part of a series of safety trials intended to curb the disease that has killed more than 1,500 people in west Africa this year. The vaccine has been developed by the National Institutes of Health in the United States and pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline. A team led by Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute at the University of Oxford, will carry out the tests in Mali, the Gambia and the UK.

MOCKED-UP The serious speculations about the next European commissioners and their portfolios were lightened up somewhat by the distribution of an invented organigram mocking the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. According to this table, Spain's candidate would become commissioner for Homeopathy and Germany's Günther Oettinger would head the portfolio for Communicable Diseases. Other portfolios would be Wildfowl Policy, Deciduous Forestry, Catering, and Labelling Policy. But there was no DG for Policy Jargon, which we think should be a vice-presidential post.

AWAY FROM DESK Last week, two satellites launched for the EU navigation programme Galileo were accidentally put into the wrong orbit. Trying to contact Arianespace, the French company responsible for the launch, turned out to be equally unsuccessful. After many attempts the staff started picking up the phone, only to hang up immediately when they heard the word "press". Were they reluctant to talk about the blunder or just swamped with post-holiday work? Either way, calling the satellites themselves might have been easier.

PROBLEM SOLVED Schrödinger's cat paradox involves a hypothetical cat in a box being both dead and alive, until the box is opened to establish whether a poison has been released into the box. This month a team at the

Austrian Academy of Sciences managed to see the cat without "looking" at it. They used the pathways of light particles to visualise the image of a cat without the light actually touching the cat. While the sketchy drawing might not rock the cat-loving internet, many a quantum physics researcher will now sleep more peacefully.

MAKING IMPACT Denmark's reputation for energy efficiency and environmental awareness is to get another boost, as a team of British designers have proposed a 12-storey-high solar-panelled duck be floated in Copenhagen harbour to win a prize to make renewable energy "beautiful". The giant bird would collect energy during the day and light up the harbour during the night. But some maybe concerned that a gigantic sparkling duck might somewhat upstage a certain mermaid.

AS YOU WIN, YOU LOSE Building innovative start-ups is easy to talk about but difficult to do, as was demonstrated in France last week. Two young entrepreneurs presented their proposal for a start-up, using computer technology in the driving school business to match teachers and students across France and offer better rates. But older, more traditional driving schools responded by suing them, saying their innovation violated a series of long-established bureaucratic rules. The lesson: be innovative, as long as you don't break with tradition.



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