

PACE-NET PLUS



PACIFIC-EUROPE NETWORK FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Promoting bi-regional partnerships

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The rise of collaboration

- A new world order is emerging of increasingly global science
 - to address our global development challenges,
 - to advance our technological frontiers and
 - to answer fundamental questions about our place in the universe.
- Concomitant rise in technical communication capacity facilitates / drives the new order.
- Corollary is the rise of collaboration, and collaborative nature of research.
- Science is increasingly global, increasingly multipolar and increasingly collaborative.
- Collaboration is implemented through partnerships.

The currency of collaboration

- These building blocks tend to have been overlooked, with policy makers focussing on investments in the science agendas.
- To reinforce and foster collaboration we need to better understand partnership.
- Partnerships under increasing scrutiny as an object of independent study.
- Core principals emerging: equity, transparency and accountability, mutual benefit, and trust.
- Many types of partnership - we are concerned particularly with 2 types:
 - 1) research partnerships between institutions and individuals
 - 2) bi-regional partnerships, formal, institutionalised relationship built around policy dialogue between mandated officials.

Focus on research partnerships

- Awareness raising on funding opportunities
- Think tanks
- Seed funding grants
- Study visits
- Brokerage and matchmaking
- NCP networks
- Conferences
- Online support & tool boxes

Information sessions on funding opportunities

- Framework programme information sessions:
 - Horizon 2020 = EU's current programme for funding research and innovation
 - Open to the world
- Info sessions raise awareness of opportunities for participation, but
 - Must be tailored to audience,
 - Best delivered by experts (e.g. NCPs),
 - Manage expectations viz a viz agenda and openings,
 - Need to be practically oriented – how to participate.
 - Should include programmes other than EU's FP

Identifying researchable topics of common interest

- Early attempts suffered weak links to programme owners
 - High investment
 - Few topics adopted
- lessons learned – in later efforts a broader approach taken
 - Common interests & proposal development
 - Joint activities to foster partnerships
 - Link to seed funding grants

Third country 'National Contact Points'

- NCPs are a component of the internationalization strategy of the EU's FP

Brokerage & matchmaking events

- Allied to info sessions – bring partners together around specific topics / calls
- High cost-benefit ratio

Study tours

- PAC researchers / academics to European conferences / research centres / universities

Focus on capacity

- Scholarships and fellowships
- Reciprocal access schemes – labs and infrastructure
- Proposal writing workshops
- Early career skills and pathways
- Mentoring early researchers
- Networking researchers

Why have a bi-regional policy dialogue on STI collaboration?

- Developing markets and competitiveness,
- Reinforcing broader political and diplomatic relationships
- Encouraging favourable conditions for more and better research partnerships
- Strengthening the wider landscape of research collaboration
- Moving towards more equitable relationship

Policy dialogues functions

- Acknowledging shared interests and challenges.
- Agreeing and addressing joint priorities.
- Mapping existing cooperation & learning lessons.
- Sharing experiences and knowledge e.g. on regional innovation systems
- Removing / lowering the barriers.
- Testing models of collaboration & developing joint financing instruments.

What role for PNP?

- Projects typically have no formal policy mandate but there's much they can do in the policy space:
 - Monitoring, analysis and evaluation of cooperation, of R&I systems,
 - Desk studies
 - Stakeholder consultation - forums & think tanks
 - Fostering policy and programming coherence between member states
 - Joint research programmes
 - Joint funding schemes
 - Bridge the corporate-academic/research divide
 - Design interventions to enhance the quality and quantity of research collaborations.
 -

How to foster a bi-regional policy dialogue?

- There can be hurdles and asymmetries to overcome (conditions for dialogue):
 - Political will & appetite,
 - Mandated institutions,
 - Capacity,
 - Regional science frameworks & strategies,
- An important role of a project is in exploring those hurdles, in assessing the appetite, proposing solution to overcome asymmetries to a point where a policy dialogue can emerge.
- This is where we are in PNP.

Handing over the baton

- Political will exists
- Appetite among stakeholders exists
- Regional institutions exist

- Regional STI framework / strategy??

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Thank you for your attention.

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