

Toward “effective partnerships” through International S&T Cooperation activities

KEY MESSAGE

Advances in S&T determine to a large measure economic growth, quality of life and sustainable development of our planet.

The conduct of science has become increasingly important to address critical issues of global concern. At the same time awareness of the importance of investing in S&T has grown throughout the world. Therefore, **the European Union’s investment in International S&T cooperation needs more than ever to become strategic¹.**



International S&T Cooperation should be a high priority for the EU to:

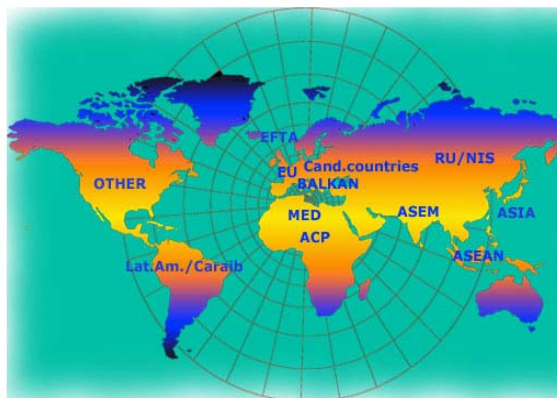
- ✚ **Maintain Europe’s scientific excellence and technological competitiveness in the knowledge-based world society.**
- ✚ **Generate and use scientific and technological knowledge, access information and unleash human creativity to give Europe a competitive edge.**
- ✚ **Contribute to broader global issues through North-North and North-South S&T cooperation and partnerships and to support cooperative strategies in various domains, thus contributing, in the medium to long term, to economic growth, welfare and quality of life.**
- ✚ **Share and disseminate knowledge of EU cultures and values.**

¹ COM (2001) 346 final “The International Dimension of the European Research Area”

Thus, the **main objectives of this Cooperation** aim to:

- ✚ **Reinforce European competitiveness including the creation of strategic partnerships with Third Countries in selected sectors and in particular by attracting the best third country scientists to come to Europe.**
- ✚ **Address common problems that are faced by Third country partners and Europe on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.**
- ✚ **Use S&T cooperation as a vehicle to reinforce relations with third countries and to support the Union's position on an array of common scientific policy issues.**

International S&T cooperation can and must play an important role for the best realisation of the Framework Programme. In order to be effective and visible, this cooperation requires an integrated strategy based upon a number of diversified action lines. This will enable to maintain the European Union's partnerships and leadership position in key fields and disseminate its cultures and values, thus recognizing and addressing the importance of S&T in achieving EU policies and in particular, EU foreign policies.



This **global strategy must build on close coordination with the Member States and a continuous dialogue with our partners.** This means that International Scientific Cooperation actions within the framework programme should be based on a political dialogue with neighbouring partner countries, countries with emerging economies, the developing countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia as well as the industrialised countries.

On this basis, priority setting can be established jointly with Member States and the third country partners, considering mutual interest and benefit.

To **implement this integrated strategy**, the Community will use the following means:

- ✚ **Coordination of national policies with Member States;**
- ✚ **S&T cooperation agreements with appropriate means to respond to needs or opportunities and to make available the participation of EU researchers in third country national S&T programmes (reciprocity);**
- ✚ **Collaborative research in response to priorities set through dialogue with partner countries;**
- ✚ **Targeted opening of FP7 to third countries;**
- ✚ **International mobility of researchers according to needs;**
- ✚ **Multilateral arrangements with Member States and partner third countries.**

It is also important that **Candidate Countries must be fully associated and integrated into the policy process and the Framework Programme** as the principal implementation means. No action will be foreseen within International Scientific Cooperation except for specific activities to facilitate and promote their integration in the Framework Programme.