

INDI NEWS

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As funding via the 5th Framework Programme is coming to an end, it's time to review some quantitative data, e.g., on participation rates.

The second topic takes up an issue currently discussed in several DG's and important in the context of mobility as well as European integration: the ability to speak foreign languages.

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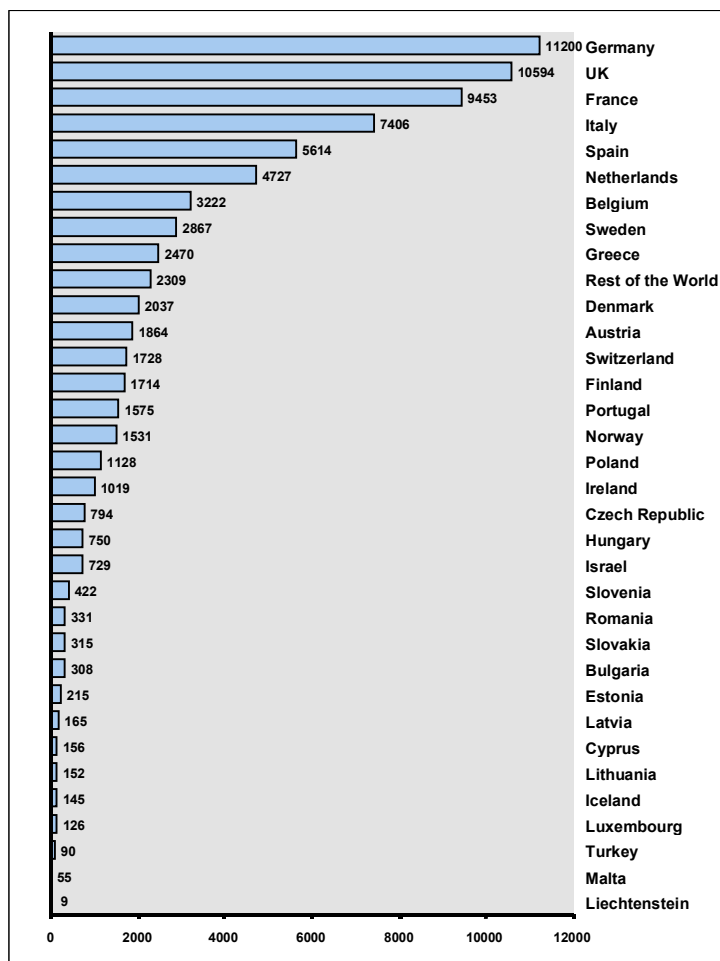
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Co-operation created under FP5

The 5th European Framework Programme (FP) covered the period 1999 to 2002. At the end of 2002 and in early 2003, the last contracts were signed before the Programme formally ceased to exist. It was the first FP in which all Candidate countries participated from the beginning. The EEA countries as well as Israel were fully associated, while Switzerland participated from soon after the start of FP5. Below are some preliminary statistics on co-operation under FP5.

During its lifetime, more than 77 000 participants were involved in international co-operations resulting from FP5. While 85% came from the EU-15 countries, 6.3% were participants from Candidate countries and 5.2% were from EFTA countries. The largest numbers of participants came from Germany and the UK (both, more than 10 000), while the best represented Candidate country was Poland with about 1 100 participants and for EFTA, Switzerland with more than 1 700 participants (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: FP5 number of participations-all project types-total by country



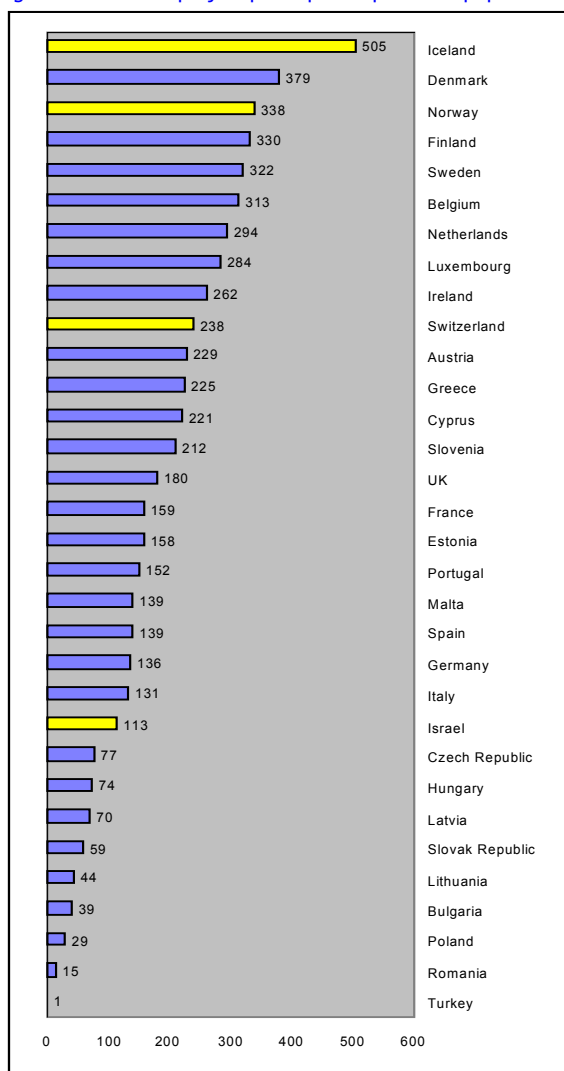
Source: DG-Research

About 2 300 participants (3% of all project participations) came from non-European countries, in particular Israel.

When it comes to the co-operation links created between researchers from different countries, it is evident that the larger countries, such as Germany and the UK, are involved in the highest number of co-operative links and are equally involved in the highest number of research projects.

However, if participation is looked at relative to population, a very different picture emerges (Figure 2). Not only do the small Nordic EFTA countries show a relatively large proportion, but the top 5 group is made entirely of Scandinavian countries. This might indicate that Scandinavian partners are preferred.

Figure 2: FP5 total project participation per 1000 population

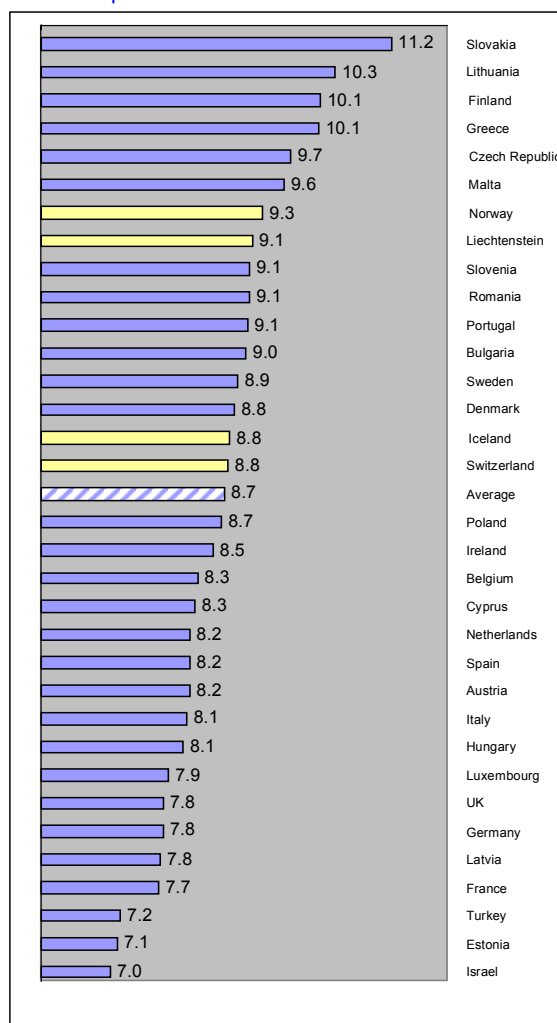


Source: DG-Research

In terms of numbers of participation relative to population, large countries score rather low. Of the large countries, the UK obtains the highest value, followed by France and at some distance by Germany. Regarding the Accession countries, their numbers of participations by country as well as normalised by population suggest that there is more room and opportunities to increase their presence in Community research.

When comparing the number of participants and the number of linkages created (Figure 3), several small countries from the EU-15, the Acceding and EFTA countries are participating in projects with a larger number of participants. Thus, creating on average more links with partners than participants from the bigger EU Member States.

Figure 3: Average number of links created per project partner in FP5



Source: DG-Research

Greeks, Hungarians, Swedes: which languages do they speak? Foreign Languages in Europe at school

The propensity to co-operate with colleagues from abroad - also in FP projects - is very dependent on the ability of the researchers to communicate in foreign languages. As no data on the language capabilities of researchers is available, we use as proxy as indicator on the capabilities for future co-operation the number of students learning foreign languages and the shares of these languages learnt in upper secondary education, i.e. between the ages of 15 and 18.

English is by far the most frequently taught second language in nearly all European countries (Figure 4). In the EU-15 the share at 64% is slightly higher than in the EU-25 or all countries taken together. For the EU-15 French is second, 15%, and German third, 4%. If the remaining countries are taken into account, German is second with 18.4%, followed by French, 15.6%.

Spanish, Russian and Italian follow but way behind. Russian is still significant in the Eastern European countries, followed by German at a similar or even higher level, while French is preferred in the Mediterranean region and Romania.

It is interesting to see that also country specific particularities can be observed in bi- and trilingual countries such as Luxembourg, Finland and Belgium, but also Italy, Malta or Iceland have distinctive patterns thanks to historical or political links. These cultural peculiarities foster the spread of less frequently spoken languages abroad.

In areas, where the study of two foreign languages is compulsory for all pupils, e.g. Scandinavia, the average number of foreign languages learnt is higher than in other countries such as Germany and Ireland. However, there are weaknesses in the data as the different countries 'count' the students' and the number of languages learnt in different ways (see note Figure 4).

Figure 4: Number of pupils learning modern foreign languages in upper secondary education (ISCED 3) and shares of pupils per language in %, 2001

	Average number of foreign languages spoken (ISCED 3)	EN	DE	FR	ES	RU	IT	NL	SE	FI	DA	PO	GR
Belgium	1.2	50.8	13.1	33.5	2.2	0.0	0.3	18.9	0.0			0.0	0.0
Denmark	1.5	80.8	43.7	10.4	8.6	8.6	0.5						0.1
Germany	0.7	54.2		12.2	4.2	1.0	0.5						
Greece	1.0	88.9	2.4	12.9									
Spain	0.8	64.9	1.0	16.1		0.0	0.2				0.0	0.0	0.0
France	1.4	79.9	18.7		31.9	0.4	4.3	0.0				0.2	
Ireland	0.9		18.3	63.3	5.4		1.1	0.0					
Italy	1.2	79.6	7.4	27.9	1.6								
Luxembourg	2.3	68.3	70.1	77.5	8.5		3.9	0.4				0.1	
Netherlands (1)	0.4	27.2	8.9	7.4									
Finland (2)	2.8	99.5	43.3	22.2	7.0	6.8	3.3		93.1	5.9			
Sweden (3)	0.2	12.5	4.2	2.1	2.3	0.1	0.4	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EU-15 (4)	1.0	64.3	8.9	14.8	8.7	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	1.6	90.7	2.2	61.8	0.0	0.1	0.6						
Czech Rep.	1.3	60.6	60.3	4.9	1.3	1.4	0.2						
Estonia	2.2	84.0	40.2	3.2	0.3	54.5			0.8	2.9	0.0		
Hungary	1.2	58.1	51.2	6.1	0.8	1.1	2.5						
Lithuania	1.6	64.2	33.1	7.2	0.1	51.3	0.2		0.1	0.0	0.0		
Latvia (2)	1.9	89.2	51.8	4.0	0.4	40.7	0.0		0.9	0.1	0.1		
Malta	0.8	56.9	0.6	5.7	0.4		14.4						
Poland	1.2	51.2	41.3	7.4	0.2	20.1	0.3						
Slovenia	1.4	80.8	53.8	2.4	0.5	0.1	7.2						
Slovakia	1.4	59.4	60.7	5.3	0.8	4.7	0.5						
EU-25 (1)	1.1	62.0	18.8	12.7	6.5	4.6	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.1		0.0	0.0
Bulgaria	1.4	62.0	29.3	17.0	3.4	29.9	1.3						
Romania	1.4	61.4	6.3	65.4	0.3	3.2	0.5					0.0	0.0
Iceland	1.3	54.8	24.3	11.8	5.2	0.0	0.2		0.3		32.4		
all countries	1.1	62.0	18.4	15.6	6.1	5.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: DG Research

Data: Eurostat NewCronos database

Notes: (1) without vocational programmes (2) only general programmes, this leads to relative overestimation. (3) Figures underestimated (4) Shares for EU-15, EU-25 do not include PT, AT, UK.: official language in the country regarded.

Miscellaneous

WIPO/OECD workshop & conference on the importance on patent statistics, Geneva 15-18.09.03

This one-day conference, followed by a two days workshop brought together an interesting mix of people from the various institutions. Patent data producers such as EPO, USPTO, data processors like OECD and Eurostat, and a number of users such as policy people (like DG-Research), patent attorneys, IPR specialists from industry and a number of researchers working in the field were in attendance.

It is interesting to note that most of the important methodological work (patent families, patent value, concordance schemes etc) is/was funded by DG-Research.

The main wish (or vision) of the users is the 100% database: covering all patent data world-wide, in a comparable way, and at low cost with easy access.

Forthcoming Workshops & Conferences

PATINNOVA & EPIDOS Annual Conference '03, Luxembourg, Nov. 10-12.

While EPIDOS addresses for example the latest developments on retrieval of patent information and, PATINNOVA focuses on the value of patents. For more information see @ www.european-patent-office.org/epidos/conf/eac2003/index.php

International Workshop *Empirical Studies on Innovation in Europe*, to be held at the University of Urbino, 1-2 Dec. For more information see @ www.econ.uniurb.it/siepi/siepi.htm

A related workshop on *Innovation, Employment, and Economic Growth* will be held at the University of Bologna, 28-29 Nov. For further information see @ [www.dse.unibo.it/santarel/Santarelli Works_hop_2003.pdf](http://www.dse.unibo.it/santarel/Santarelli_Works_hop_2003.pdf)

A workshop on S&T Indicators and Statistics for S&T Policy Making in South East European Countries (SEEC) will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 15-18 Dec. For further information contact::

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New Publications

The Key Figures 2003/2004 edition will be available from early November. To get your free copy, contact us or look at on our website.

Other information

ASSIST: calls for tenders

A call for tenders, ASSIST-2003-01, for the three following studies:

- Regular Collection of bibliometric indicators
- Database of S&T data on Europe's leading research universities
- Analysis of university and public research institutions' patenting activity

was published on 8/7/2003 in the OJ under reference 2003/S 128-114416 with a closure date of 14/10/2003. The official opening session for these lots took place on 28/10/2003 at 10h00.

It is planned that two more ASSIST calls for tenders, each for several studies, will be published: one before the end of 2003 and the other during the first quarter of 2004.

K123-EX: call for expressions of interest

It is now more than three months since this call was published in the OJ under reference 20032/S 128-114412 so the envelopes received so far will be opened in the near future. The eligibility of the organisations and individuals who have submitted expressions of interest will be checked, the first versions of the sub-lists will be constructed and the organisations and individuals involved will be informed.