

**Minutes of the 11th Steering Committee - Meeting of Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
(MESS) and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)
2nd of June 2016, Saclay**

Location: CEA Saclay, 91 191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

Participants:

SLOVENIA:

Mrs Tea Glažar, Head of international and European Affairs Department, MESS

Dr. Meta Dobnikar, Head of Science Division, MESS

Dr. József Györkös, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency

FRANCE:

CEA:

Mrs Dominique Mazière, Deputy Director for European affairs, CEA

Mrs Sophie Avril, European Affairs Officer, CEA

Laboratory tour:

The delegation first had the opportunity to tour 2 labs in the CEA centre of Saclay.

First, they visited the Laboratoire Léon Brillouin (LLB). The LLB is a service-providing laboratory that also develops its own scientific research. One of its roles is the design, construction, and operation of neutron spectrometers installed around the Orphée reactor in Saclay. These are mainly used for the study of condensed matter. The scientific activities of the laboratory can be classified in three fields of equal importance: physical-chemistry, structural and phase transition studies, magnetism and superconductivity. One Slovenian researcher spent some time in the LLB for its studies; thanks to the framework agreement, maybe the exchanges of researchers will increase.

Then, the delegation visited the TAMARIS Platform. TAMARIS is a noble combination of Four Shaking Table (ST) Facilities (Azalée, Tournesol, Mimosa and Vésuve). These ST Facilities are mainly dedicated to modeling and justification of infrastructures under dynamic loadings, deterministic and stochastic dynamics of nonlinear systems and interaction between fluid/soil with various infrastructures by utilizing sophisticated numerical tools within European collaborative research arena. Currently, one proposal for a Euratom project involving both CEA and Slovenian teams is under evaluation; both research teams are excellent in their specific research field and they hope to be funded in order to pursue and enhance their collaboration.

General information:

Mrs Dominique Mazière, the Deputy Director for European affairs at CEA made a welcome speech and then both sides adopted the agenda of the meeting.

Mrs Mazière presented the reaffirmed mission of the CEA: Mission of Defense; valorization Innovation for a sustainable, safe and competitive nuclear energy production; contribution to technological development and transfer of innovation to industry; fundamental research development in its fields of activity. She presented the related strategy and the means related to, including the new structuration of the organization as well as the positioning of the CEA in the European research area (Participate in numerous programmes (one of the main contributor of FP7 with 730 projects) - Develop partnerships with its European counterparts - Help to structure the European research in the energy field).

Ms Tea Glažar explained the general orientation in the field of bilateral scientific cooperation and added that the cooperation with the French republic, especially with CEA, where we are dealing with very important projects will continue also for the next period. She also presented some figures about the current bilateral cooperation. Special attention is given to co-operation with countries outside EU28 and to neighbouring countries. A lot of bilateral cooperation consists mainly in exchange of researchers and the intention is to slowly move in accordance with RISS orientations. The straight

framework will be made also with the Strategy of internationalisation in the field of science which is underway.

Dr. József Györkös, Director of the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS) presented the Slovenian research agency, its mission and means. He also presented some facts and figures about researchers in Slovenia. In particular, he explained that the number of relevant publications per million of inhabitants is very good compared to the EU-27 one; it can be explained by the fact that this was an indicator with high priority in the past years, however they think that quality should still to be stimulated, but the evaluation criteria are to be even *more* more goal and peer-review oriented. On the contrary, the number of patent is not so high. Another indicator that is paid attention to is the number of young researchers that tends to decrease. The funding for the bilateral cooperation had decreased in the past years, but now it is getting back to the level of 2011.

Dr. József Györkös also explained that in order to strengthening multilateral co-operation in the European Research Area they developed an ERC Complementary Scheme. In this scheme, ARRS invites applicants from Slovenian research organizations who were positively evaluated in ERC calls for proposals but were not selected for funding, to submit an adapted project to the ARRS that targets the main aim of the original ERC project but is adapted in objectives and scope of work.

A discussion rose about "Science Europe" Agency. CEA explained that it has been decided to resign because of the unbalanced between what can be expected and the very high amount of annual fees.

Dr. Meta Dobnikar, Head of Science Division at the MESS presented the new organization of the division. She also explained that the success rate of the Slovenian research teams is still increasing in the new European framework programme Horizon 2020. She also explained the latest developments concerning the implementation of Strategy of Smart Specialisation.

Review of Projects in the period 2015-2017 and selection of projects for the period 2016-2018


The Steering Committee has surveyed the seven projects that have been approved for the period 2015-2017 and has positively evaluated their mid-term outputs. The seven projects are running very well, with a lot of exchanges and scientific outputs: several meetings and weekly exchanges, at least 19 communications and publications in peer-review journals are currently published, accepted or submitted and identification of Joint research proposals can already be underlined.

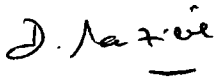
In the joint Call for projects for the period 2016-2018 the Slovenian Research Agency received 15 proposals for joint research projects; CEA received 13 project proposals. Among the latter the Steering Committee approved 6 projects for funding. The projects were selected based on the priority lists of both sides. The projects will run for two years from 1.7.2016 to 30.6.2018.

The total funding by the Slovenian Research Agency is 420.000 EUR for the period 2016-2018. In CEA funding is provided by the own budget of the concerned units.

The results will be published on both sides in the week between the 13th and 17th of June 2016.

A teleconference is to be planned during fall in order to prepare the next call for proposal that would ideally be opened in the beginning of December 2016 with a closing date in the beginning of February 2017. The programming of the next Steering Committee could also be discussed in the same time (place and date).


Ms. Tea Glazar
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Ministry of Education, Science and Sport


Mrs Dominique Mazière
Deputy Director for European affairs
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