

of whom already have R&D liaison offices in Brussels. Third Countries like Canada, USA and Australia may also be invited. The IGLO members are: the Finnish Liaison Office for EU R&D, CLORA (France), KIWI (Germany), HunOR (Hungary), FURAD (Israel), CNR and ENEA (Italy), NEST (Netherlands), PRELO (Portugal), SBRA (Slovenia), Spain (SOST), the Swedish EU/R&D Council, SwissCore and UKRO.

Framework Program National Contact Points:

A system of National Contact Points (NCPs) exists to improve access to the Framework Programs and the quality of proposals submitted (<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/ncps.htm>). Each Member and Associated State has at least one NCP to cover the 8 specific programmes for FP5. The Networks will be retained and likely refocused to provide FP6 assistance. The European Commission supports the NCP network through regular transnational meetings, training sessions, information activities, brokerage events and workshops in different Member States. Responsibility for monitoring the NCP performance rests with the Member State.

Innovation Relay Centres:

The EC operates Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs) to ensure that R&D results are disseminated and exploited (<http://www.cordis.lu/irc/home.html>). The IRCs have built a European network for transnational technology transfer (TTT). The network now consists of 68 centres, including some 250 organisations in 30 EU, Associated and Candidate countries. The IRCs are set up as independent consulting organisations.

C) S&T ORGANIZATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2002

CORDIS - Community Research and Development Information Service is the website for the Framework Programs and other elements of EU R&D <http://www.cordis.lu/>

European Research Forum (ERF) was established by the European Commission in 1998 to advise on strategy issues linked with the development of Science and Technology policy. <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/erf.html>

EURATOM Supply Agency http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html

The Euratom Supply Agency, operative since 1960, is the body established by the Euratom Treaty to oversee the common supply policy for nuclear material, based on the principle of equal access to sources of supply. Canada and Euratom have several cooperation agreements.

CEN/STAR - STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

<http://www.cenorm.be/sectors/star.htm>

STAR focuses on R&D needed for the standardization process. It interfaces with the European Commission, as well as with other bodies funding research in Europe, in order to ensure that research is used for the benefit of standardization: by linking R&D and Standardization for co-normative research (CNR) and pre-normative research (PNR). It is supported by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

ESA (European Space Agency) <http://www.esrin.esa.it/export/esaCP/index.html>

The European Space Agency (ESA), formed in 1974, has 14 Member States. Canada takes part in some projects under a Cooperation Agreement which was renewed in 2000 and is managed by a Science and Technology Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Paris, reporting to the Canadian Space Agency. Since November, 2000, ESA and the European Union have been discussing development of a common strategy for space.