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Elke Bippus

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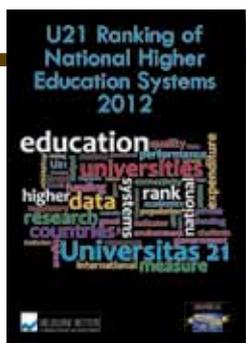
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ESNA's news section provides an easy-to-use format to learn about the latest developments in European Higher Education. The news are selected by our team from thousands of sources and drafted to provide you with the most comprehensive overview of events.

news

EU: NEW PROJECT PROMOTES OPEN ACCESS

Against the background of international debates on open access, which has seen journals form a monopoly on access to scientific research by making it increasingly expensive, the EC has stepped up with its new OpenAIRE project (Open access infrastructure for research in Europe). The aim is to make it easier for EU-funded projects to make their findings public and will provide a single access point to all open access publications produced by FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects.

It will be a repository network based on technology which trawls through institutional open access journals to identify and index any publications related to FP7-funded projects. It will also be linked to CERN's open access repository for 'orphan' publications – FP7 participants without access to an institution can submit open access publications to CERN.

OpenAIRE has a budget of 4.2 million Euros.

This follows a boycott of academic publisher Elsevier in February and a commitment by The Wellcome Trust to create its own free online publication to increase free access (see *ESNA Bulletin N°123 and N°131*).



Press release, Cordis, 04-05-2012
cordis.europa.eu/

AUSTRIA: TUITION FEES ARE STILL A BONE OF CONTENTION

Three Austrian universities have decided to introduce or reintroduce tuition fees. The University of Vienna, the Vienna University of Economy and Business (WU) and the Technical University of Graz will apply the 'light' version of €363.36 per semester. This however only applies to non-EU citizens and students who end up studying for more than one year more than the average length of study.

Nine other universities have decided against fees. This is because they lack legal security as the ministry has granted them autonomy without a precise definition of their right to charge fees. For now, fees cannot be spent freely, but they need to be kept in reserve in case they have to be paid back.

In order to achieve a binding decision, an appeal to the Constitutional Court (VfGH) has been announced by several of the parties involved. Although Science Minister Karlheinz Töchterle has consulted a constitutional expert who confirms that tuition fees charged individually by the universities are legal, the opposition has presented a scientific report which claims the contrary.

Press release of the
University of Vienna, 26-04-2012
medienportal.univie.ac.at/



Natalia Dianiskova (Photo: UNSA)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: €1.5 MILLION EARMARKED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM

The EU is to provide almost 1.5 million Euros for the reform of higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the country tries to implement the Bologna Process.

Funds have been provided to the EU candidate country through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA 2009) to realise the two year programme 'Higher Education Financing Reform in BiH'. Project team manager Trevear Penrose said that the funds had been allocated to the country because financing of higher education in BiH is below the accepted European level.

Criticism has been levied against the plan, as the money is not to be spent on badly-needed facilities and resources, but on higher education reform. On behalf of the EU delegation in BiH, Natalia Dianiskova questioned the reforms, when universities are struggling to provide salaries for their employees and are having to teach students with outdated equipment.

CROATIA: STRATEGY 'CROATIA 2020' FOR SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES

Education minister Željko Jovanović, together with the president of the Academy of Science and Art, Zvonko Kusić, presented new guidelines for training, education, science and technology last week. The academic community, non-profit organisations and businessmen, who have been inspired by the EU 2020 Strategy, have been involved in drafting these guidelines. The strategy 'Croatia 2020', following the guidelines, foresees the involvement of a great number of experts and a gradual and reasonable implementation of changes.

Education should produce professionals for the labour market, "not for the dole queue", the minister said. He once again warned that Croatian education standards are lagging behind the European average and that the country still doesn't have a knowledge-based economy. 'Croatia 2020' therefore aims to create a framework to bring Croatia closer to the European Union and to make its education more inclusive.

Only 18 percent of Croatia's workers are highly educated, while less than one percent of the GDP is allocated to science and research.

Press release by the ministry,
09-05-2012 (in Croatian)

mzos.hr/



Petr Fiala
(Photo: Research Europe)

CZECH REPUBLIC: NEW EDUCATION MINISTER APPOINTED

The Czech Republic has finally appointed its fourth education minister in four years after the resignation of scandal-hit Josef Dobeš at the end of March.

Petr Fiala was officially named as the new Minister of Education, Youth and Sports by President Vaclav Klaus at the end of April. As former chancellor of the Republic's second largest university, Masaryk University in Brno, he was credited with doubling his institutions's budget and increasing the value of its property by seven billion Crowns (€275m). He also increased the number of students attending the university from 30,000 to 45,000.

The Czech Republic is currently facing severe difficulties, including budget cuts, EU funding under threat due to alleged mismanagement, and continued protests since the announcement of tuition fees.

Fiala, a political scientist and historian, considers the reforms implemented by his predecessor were, for the most part, headed in the right direction. "I would be the last person to think that I can resolve all of these problems," he told Radio Prague. "I will be dealing with all of these issues very soon," he promised.

CV of Petr Fiala,
Masaryk University

muni.cz/

FRANCE: NEW COURSE WITH PRESIDENT HOLLANDE?

Although Nicolas Sarkozy put the competitiveness of French universities on an international level at the forefront of his programme, it is not central to the education policy of François Hollande, the new President of France.

The recently elected socialist pledges to reform the Liberties and Responsibilities of Universities law – also called the law on the autonomy of universities - aimed at reorganising the higher education system for more democratic governance in universities. He also wants to develop the quality of research & innovation harmoniously throughout universities across the country.

Efforts will be reinforced with the acceleration of the *Grand Emprunt*, the State loan issued in 2010. Two further priorities include restoring the quality level of university degrees, which have recently come under question, and the repeal of the controversial *Guéant bill* that made the delivery of work permits for foreign students more selective.

François Hollande's official
presidential project,
30-01-2012 (in French)

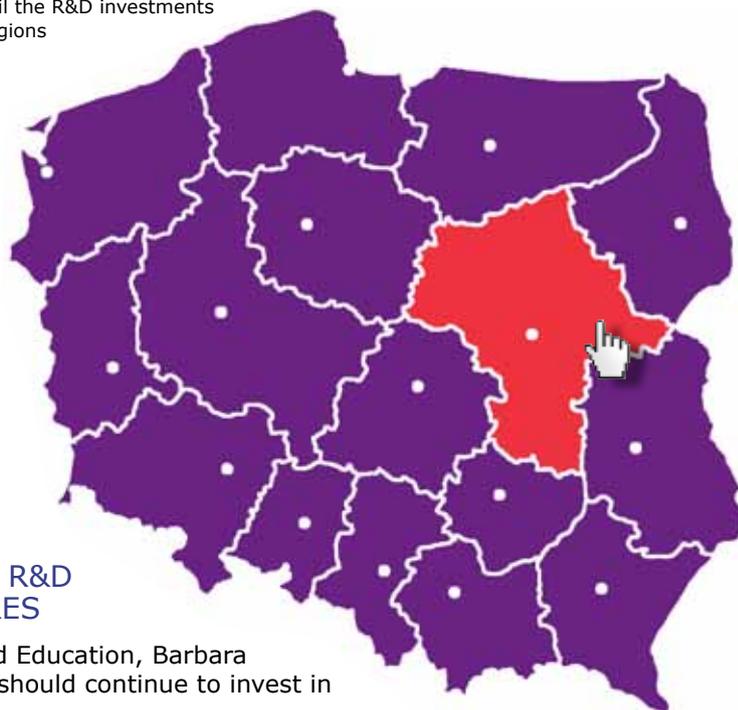
fh2012.francoishollande.fr/

daily Europe's higher education online



www.esna.tv

An interactive maps shows in detail the R&D investments in the different Polish cities and regions



POLAND INVESTS IN R&D AND INFRASTRUCTURES

The Minister of Science and Education, Barbara Kudrycka said that Poland should continue to invest in research and development.

Speaking at the European Economic Congress in Katowice, she also put forward ideas for improvement in the area and outlined plans for more funding. In 2010 Poland reached the EU average for public spending on R&D, by spending 18.6 billion Złoty (4.3 billion Euros) and investing in new research facilities.

Last week, the ministry presented an interactive map of investments in science and higher education that allows to see investments carried out currently and in recent years in each province in 25 areas of science, such as humanities, science, natural science, technical, medical science.

It is hoped that new measures implemented by the government, such as introducing an obligatory maths exam before enrolment at university, will lead to greater developments in science. Improvements can be seen in the number of patent applications submitted by Polish institutions of higher education, which nearly doubled between 2007 and 2011.

Press release by the ministry,
07-05-2012 (in English)

nauka.gov.pl/

The Map (in Polish)

nauka.gov.pl/



Ján Richter (Photo: JR)

SLOVAKIA: NEW MINISTER UNDER FIRE FOR FAKE DEGREE

Ján Richter, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, is defending his doctor title just one month after taking up the post in April.

It is alleged that his Bachelor degree in law was awarded in January 2002, five months before the former rector of the Matej Bel University, Milan Murgaš, publicly claimed that it is a non-accredited study programme. Former Dean of the University, Paul Kandráč, also says that diplomas are not issued in January. The Minister's theses are not to be found in the University library, but he claims to have written an 86-page work on property rights. Thanks to his Bachelor's degree, Richter was able to go on and achieve a Master's and a law degree.

Richter is general manager of the biggest social democratic party of Slovakia SMER-SD of which rector Milan Murgaš was a loyal member. In his defence, Richter says that he does not remember the topic of his dissertation as it was written more than ten years ago.

Recently, the Hungarian President Pál Schmitt was forced to resign after it emerged that he copied large parts of his doctoral thesis, while the education ministers of Germany and Romania are facing fresh scandals that they too have plagiarised their dissertations.



Public exposure of "evil student leaders" by the Spanish newspaper *La Razón*, 09-05-2012

SPAIN: STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST CUTS AND FEES

The confrontation between the Spanish government and its students is intensifying as the media begins a journalistic campaign against students. One of Spain's biggest newspapers *La Razón* printed pictures and personal details of five national student leaders, in what appeared to be an attempt to ridicule them. This came after national protests at government austerity measures began again across Spain, under the banner of 'the indignants'.

Last year, Spanish protesters pitched tents and occupied town and city squares across Spain for weeks, and in 2009 protests turned violent. According to official figures, 72,000 took part this year, but protesters claimed the turn-out was higher. 18 people were arrested in Madrid, where at least 30,000 protested.

Students themselves were protesting at an increase of 66 percent in their tuition fees and the elimination of student loans and international grants. The government has not officially informed student representative about its education reforms and they were not consulted on the matter.

Javier Colilla, a 27-year old university student, took part in the protests in Madrid. He lives with his parents, sees no prospect of getting a job after graduation. "Right now I'm thinking my best option will be to go to Germany where I can wash dishes, make a little money and learn German," he told *AP*. "The prospects of getting a job in Spain are practically inexistent."

The rate of unemployment stands at almost 25 percent, Spaniards under 25 have been worst hit, with one in every two out of work.

Press release by the European Students' Union, 11-05-2012
esu-online.org/

UK: LOOPHOLE FOR NORTHERN IRISH STUDENTS

Northern Irish students are scrambling to take advantage of a loophole that will allow them to study free of charge in Scotland, while English and Welsh students will be forced to pay the new £9,000 tuition fees.

Scottish students will continue to receive free higher education, while students from the rest of the UK heading north of the border will pay up to £9,000 from September, up from a capped fee of £1,820 currently. This could lead to fees of up to £36,000 over four years, as Scottish degrees typically last one year longer than in the rest of the UK. EU law stipulates that EU students must be treated like home students and thus will also be eligible for the tuition fee waiver.

Dundee, with the Universities of Dundee and Abertay, is a particularly popular choice for Northern Irish students, who make up more than five percent of the city's student population.

A spokesman from Universities Scotland told the press: "Universities Scotland is taking advice on this issue, but based on the most recent statistics available there has not been a rise in applicants holding an Irish passport."

INTERNATIONAL: NEW RANKING FOR COUNTRY PERFORMANCE

Higher education has been ranked by country rather than individual institution in a new ranking system compiled by Universitas 21, a global network of 24 universities.

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research carried out the research, which saw the USA come top, followed by Sweden, Canada, Finland and Denmark. The results were announced on May 11 at an event at Lund University in Sweden, one of the members of Universitas 21. While the United States and United Kingdom have the world's top institutions in rankings, the depth of world class higher education institutions per head of population is best in Switzerland, Sweden, Israel and Denmark.

Taking in account other criteria, the positions change. The highest participation rates in higher education are in Korea, Finland, Greece, United States, Canada and Slovenia. The most inclusive countries with the largest proportion of workers with a higher level of education are Russia, Canada, Israel, United States, Ukraine, Taiwan and Australia.

20 different measures were used to compare countries, under four umbrella headings: resources, output, connectivity and environment. Population size was also taken in to consideration when compiling the results.



Press release by Universitas21,
11-05-2012
universitas21.com/

U21 Rankings of National Higher Education Systems 2012
[Download](#)

In the book review section of your Bulletin, the ESNA newsroom will share with you its reviews and announcements of the latest publications on higher education policy, management and debate.

out now

THE ART OF RESEARCH THE PRACTICE OF AESTHETIC THINKING

In the course of the linking of economy and research, science has come under pressure to act entrepreneurially and to produce output- and application-oriented knowledge – at the expense of adventure and critical reflection. Could the interplay between art and (natural) science revive the ideal of 'free and unrestricted' science and knowledge? What would the specifics of artistic and aesthetic research techniques and forms of knowledge be?

The contributions move a type of 'art of research' into view, that pursues an individual blend of theoretically and culturally scientific research and which works equally in the sensory and conceptual fields and blends them aesthetically with epistemic practices. Such an activity of exploration attracts a political component, while they contribute to the preparation and widening of another type of thinking about responsibility. Current divisions of art and science and of theory and practice are put into question.

Elke Bippus (ed.)
Original title: "Kunst des Forschens"
Diaphanes | May 2012
ISBN: 978-3-03734-080-6
German 272 pages brochure €24.90

Order



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION IN SECOND TIER REGIONS

Second tier high-tech regions are taking a different path than their well-known counterparts such as Silicon Valley or Route 128 around Boston. They may lack many prerequisites of growth such as a world-class research university or high levels of venture capital funding. Often, however, they can successfully leverage anchor firms and entrepreneurial spinoffs. This book explores the evolution of these regions in the United States. The author critically examines how they evolved as knowledge-based economies, how they leveraged entrepreneurship and innovation, and ultimately how they employed public policy to support economic growth.

Heike Mayer
Edward Elgar | 2011
ISBN: 978-1-84720-359-5
English 272 pages hardback £70.00

Order

CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. STRATEGIES AND ISSUES

This book looks beyond student and faculty exchanges to examine the myriad ways international colleges and universities work together as institutions. These partnerships have involved the creation of branch campuses, joint research and technology initiatives, collaboration in strengthening institutional management, testing, faculty development efforts, collaboration in quality assurance, and sharing of technology. Cross-national collaborations are a growing financial and informational resource for universities, and non-Western schools are increasingly taking part.

The volume provides an overview of the purposes and types of cross-border collaborations, an analysis of the benefits, and an examination of issues arising from these efforts. A cross-cutting goal is to provide a critical look at the models being employed, the challenges encountered, and the unintended consequences of such collaboration, both positive and negative. The book is intended for scholars and students of international higher education, higher education leaders and practitioners who are charting a course toward greater cross-border collaboration, and leaders in international development assistance organizations that are often asked to support such initiatives.

Robin Sakamoto, David Chapman
Routledge | March 2012
ISBN: 978-0-415-53026-2
English 299 pages paperback £26.00

Order

Each copy of your ESNA bulletin will provide information on studies which have captured our attention as pieces that may contribute to our common understanding of higher education. Our priority is to keep ESNA readers at the forefront of the knowledge pool on higher education and provide an arena for the issues raised in these studies to be heard.

new studies

OECD SKILLS STRATEGY

This report analyses current economical problems and gives possible solutions in improving skills in order to boost unemployment. OECD proposes building National skills strategies in every country and by this document they tried to help each country to understand how different policies interact and how can they be aligned. One of the recommendations is fostering peer learning between countries and building of the strategic partnerships between stakeholders to implement effective skills policy. Government should build strong skill systems and effective partnerships with key stakeholders to find sustainable approaches to who should pay for what, when and where.

OECD | February 2012
English

[Presentation](#)

EUROPEAN AREA OF RECOGNITION MANUAL. PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR FAIR RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

This study is funded by European Commission under the Lifelong learning program and the report is a result of the European Area of Recognition (EAR) project coordinated by NUFFIC. The manual makes the recognition procedures transparent to all stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in recognition: credential evaluators, HE institutions, students and policy officers. It also aims to create more clarity regarding recognition practices in all European countries and to contribute to a joint recognition area, in which all countries practice a similar methodology in the recognition of qualifications, based on commonly agreed standards and guidelines.

NUFFIC | January 2012
English

[Download](#)

THE ERASMUS PROGRAM IN 2010-11

The European Commission has published report on Erasmus mobility and figures of the students, teachers and other staff in higher education who benefited from the Erasmus program in the 2010-11 academic year. In the report every country participating in Erasmus has been surveyed through different fields such as number of students coming on studying of vocational training as also outgoing students, job placements, language classes, university cooperations, monthly grants, teaching improvements etc.

EC | April 2012
English

[Download](#)

WP4 REPORT - NURTURING AN INNOVATIVE BUSINESS CULTURE AND REACHING ISOLATED GROUPS

The report, written by partners at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland, presents the experiences of a project which included members from all seven UNICREDS regions and shows in which ways are universities and the public sector working with businesses and communities. By analysing cooperation between these sectors it shows why is it necessary to work together and what that move can bring to society and economy.

UNICREDS | February 2012
English

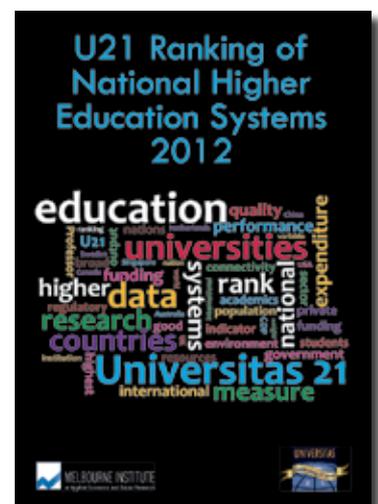
[Download](#)

U21 RANKINGS OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM 2012

This report has as an aim to rate national systems of higher education among 48 countries, which are in different stages of economic development. Countries were examined in higher education system by output variables such as research performance, participation rates and employment. The measures that were observed are Resources, Environment, Connectivity and Output. Resources included investments by government and private sectors, output included research and its impact, as well as the production of an educated workforce which meets labour market needs, connectivity concerned international networks and collaboration which protects a system against insularity, while environment means investigating government policy and regulation.

University of Melbourne
May 2012 | English

[Download](#)



All European Higher Ed Conferences



upcoming events



Belgrade
18-19 may

5TH BELGRADE INTERNATIONAL OPEN ACCESS CONFERENCE

This conference has on agenda exploring state of the art of journal publishing in developing and transition countries in order to understand the best strategies and practices for their development. The aim is also to analyse applicability of up-to-date technologies in "small" journal publishing. The conference is equally open to the researchers, professionals, OA activists, teachers and students of various profiles.



London
12 june

DISTINCTIVENESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

This conference is organised by the HEFCE in association with CASE Europe will discuss on the cases for change, how to establish distinctiveness, the leadership role, how to use distinctiveness to guide internal decisions and to communicate identity publicly. This event is ideal for vice-chancellors, directors of marketing and communications, directors of strategic planning and senior management teams.



Horsens, Denmark
18 june

CONFERENCE ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The subject of the conference is education in entrepreneurship and creativity with focus on methods of learning and learning outcome. As a point of departure the conference will be directed at all educational levels. Focus of the conference is the frames and the tools that teachers have to ensure good learning outcomes, develop pupils' and students' entrepreneurial skills and competences. Among participants there will be representatives of national authorities and school leaders from various educational levels. Organizer of this conference is Danish Ministry of education and children.



Münster, Germany
12-15 sept.

CONGRESS: GIFTEDNESS ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN – GIFTED EDUCATION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD TO OLD AGE

The University of Münster is hosting the largest German aptitude congress. The conference will gather around 800 educators, scientists, politicians and parents from around the world. The participants from 42 countries will have the choice between more than 350 lectures, symposium and workshops. The focus of the debates and contributions will be early childhood, school and professional talent promotion. Another focus will be the question of how to encourage people who are older than 60 years, even after their careers and how their knowledge can be transferred optimally to younger people.



Stockholm
22-23 sept

EUA DOCTORAL WEEK: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, FUNDING OF DOCTORAL EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

This conference has as an aim discussing among different stake holders and experts, three highly relevant issues for doctoral education: global trends, funding and quality assurance. In three separate but connected events, participants will have the chance to deepen their understanding of different aspects of doctoral education, from discussions about global developments to implementing local reforms in individual universities.

It will present and critically examine different models of investment in doctoral education, illustrate the interplay between excellence and capacity building, and explore the internal costing of doctoral schools and programs. The meeting will aim to provide a platform for dialogue between universities, funding organizations and other stakeholders.

calls for proposals

Deadlines ▶ **LINKS**

PILOT PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIPS

The current call for proposals builds on the success of the pilot project launched in 2011 which provides direct support for the implementation of Knowledge Alliances. These pilot projects are a first, tangible move towards ever greater trans-European cooperation. This call and the selected projects will also contribute to the preparations for the implementation of the forthcoming Erasmus for All programme with a view to a much greater scope for Knowledge Alliances partnerships in future.

28 June 2012 ▶ **EAC/S03/2012**

EUCARINET 2012 TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME

The aim of the scheme is to promote exchange between Caribbean and European researchers as well as to encourage contacts between research institutions so that they may explore possibilities for joint participation in the FP7 for Research and Technological Development.

The Travel Grant consists of two components: The participation of Caribbean researchers at 2012 info-days and brokerage events, and visits to specific research centres/institutions with existing contacts or acquaintance between the grantee and European or Caribbean researcher or research group. The travel grant works as a mechanism to facilitate further networking or even joint proposal writing.

20 July 2012 ▶ **CORDIS**

EDULINK II – ACP-EU COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN HIGHER EDUCATION

This call for proposals was launched on March 19 on the EuropeAid website. EDULINK II is open to public or private higher educational institutions, networks of and regional institutions of higher education. It is designed to continue fostering co-operation between the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the European Union. The Programme aims at promoting innovation in the ACP group of States member countries and, hence, at ensuring their competitiveness in the global environment. The two main priority thematic areas are: Energy access and efficiency, and Agriculture and food security. The specific objectives are to increase the capacity of ACP higher education institutions at the management/administration and the academic level. Proposals will aim at helping to create new and upgrade existing curricula and teaching methods, reinforce links between teaching, modern technologies, lifelong learning and research, as well as strengthening their management and administration capacity. The budget is €23.3m

30 July 2012 ▶ **EDULINK**

still open

MARIE CURIE INTRA-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS (IEF) FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

16 August 2012 ▶ **EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL INCOMING FELLOWSHIPS (IIF)

16 August 2012 ▶ **EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL OUTGOING FELLOWSHIPS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (IOF)

16 August 2012 ▶ **EC RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

