



**PACE-Net: Pacific Europe network for Science and Technology**

**Project no.: 244510**

**Publishable Summary**

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**Website: <http://www.pacenet.eu/>**

## Pacific Europe network for Science and Technology

Launched on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, PACE-Net is the 10<sup>th</sup> INCO-Net project financed by the European “Capacity” programme, within the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development – FP7. This PACific Europe NETwork for science and technology is dedicated to the bi-regional dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the Pacific region. The project aims to increase scientific cooperation and establish priority research areas between the EU and the Pacific, as well as to promote Pacific participation in FP7.

The PACE-Net Consortium includes the following 10 partners:

- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) - *France* - [www.ird.fr](http://www.ird.fr)
- *Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea* (APRE) - *Italy* - [www.apre.it](http://www.apre.it)
- International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (IB of the IBMF) - *Germany* - [www.pt-dlr.de/pt](http://www.pt-dlr.de/pt)
- Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) - *Malta* - [www.mcst.gov.mt](http://www.mcst.gov.mt)
- Australian National University (ANU) - *Australia* – [www.anu.edu.au](http://www.anu.edu.au)
- Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI) – *New Zealand* - [www.msi.govt.nz](http://www.msi.govt.nz)
- University of South Pacific (USP) - *Fiji* - [www.usp.ac.fj](http://www.usp.ac.fj)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) – *New Caledonia* - [www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int)
- University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) - *Papua New Guinea* - [www.upng.ac.pg](http://www.upng.ac.pg)
- Euro Research Support Limited (CGC) - *New Zealand* - [www.frenz.org.nz](http://www.frenz.org.nz)

IRD coordinates the PACE-Net project via its Centre based in Noumea (New Caledonia).

The main objectives of the project are to:

- reinforce existing dialogues and networks and promote regional integration for these networks,
- identify Science & Technology (S&T) international cooperation activities and programmes aimed at, or active in, the Pacific region
- strengthen the coordination of S&T cooperation between Europe and the Pacific, and within the Pacific and
- identify and strengthen complementarity between this project and activities and programmes carried out through other European Union Community instruments.

Over the three years of the PACE-Net project, the partners will carry out the following activities:

- Establish, (*via surveys*), a ‘state of the art’ report on S&T research in, or of, the Pacific
- Hold six thematic workshops to identify priorities for S&T in the Pacific region
- Organise 3 (EU-Pacific) bi-regional dialogue platforms based on the results of the state of the art analysis and the thematic workshops. These large meetings will reinforce the dialogue and networking activities between the two regions, focusing particularly on identified priorities
- Manage Info days and training on FP7 and implementation of National Contact Points in the Pacific (NCPs)
- Communicate and disseminate information on the project and its results.

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### Kick off meeting in Noumea, July 2010

Considerable work has been done to compile (desktop work and visits on field) no less than 136 documents on research institutions, partners and projects involving in Science and Technology (S&T) in the Pacific region. Based on this, the partners have produced a situational analysis of the research landscape in the Pacific. During a first consortium meeting in Suva (Fiji) in November 2010 they drafted a questionnaire and launched a large scale survey. In spite of the difficulties faced (low response rate, partial data etc.) this survey has laid the foundations for a comprehensive overview of the region's research landscape. This work should help inform regional policy makers as to why they should include research on the agenda for their future meetings.

15 S&T themes emerged as priorities for the Pacific: environment, health, biodiversity, climate change, fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture and forestry, culture, social and human sciences, disaster management, energy, food security, waste and pollution management, water and sanitation, transport, ICT and mineral resources. Based on our analysis, the R&D sectors that will be most appropriate to the Pacific island region include (1) environment and climate; (2) biology and medicine; (3) social and economic concerns; (4) agriculture and food supply; and (5) energy.

In July 2011 we held our first major bi-regional platform combined with FP7 info days in the Pacific (Brisbane, Australia) with participants from ACPs (Africa, Caribbean & Pacific countries), OCTs (Overseas Countries & Territories), Australia and New-Zealand and Europe (80 participants). Our next flagship event will be the conference that will take place in Brussels, 21-23 March 2012 and which is called: Pacific-European Stakeholder Conference -

Strengthening PACE-NET Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) Collaboration to Find Common Solutions on "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Relation to Water, Agriculture, Natural Hazards, Fisheries, and Mid-Term Research & Innovation Policies in the Pacific".

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At month 18 of the project, we have already held three workshops (on Health, Biodiversity and Environment, the latter including climate change, water and energy) and are planning five more workshops to be held in March 2012 (back to back with the key stakeholders' Conference). Reports identifying research priority topics in these three research fields for the Pacific with some of their potential modalities) were written after the first workshops. These will be conveyed to the Commission - first to Mr. Beuf, our Project officer, then to the concerned Directorate-Generals (DG) - to advocate for regional research priorities.

Barriers to participation in FP7 have also been identified in the framework of this work package (such as the low success rate, the high costs related to proposal preparation, the difficulty in searching for partners or in matching research interests with the topics of the calls). We have also recognised some key cross-cutting issues that have been analysed in the framework of some workshops. These issues (such as the question of ethical issues associated with Pacific research) will be developed during the timeframe of the project. A longer term study will be necessary to help the Pacific countries and territories better define their research strategies.



### **PACE-Net first bi-regional Platform in Brisbane (Australia) July 4-7, 2011**

Planning was undertaken for multipliers from USP (3 participants), UPNG, SPC, IRD, University of New Caledonia and University of French Polynesia to participate in FP7 capacity building activities. The multiplier programme was arranged (in Auckland, New Zealand on November 14-17 2011) to allow training on the initial aspects identified in the first event, and including case study work, followed by meetings with three universities in Auckland (University of Auckland, Massey University and Auckland University of Technology), each active in research on and with the Pacific. A networking event was planned to allow researchers/organisations from around New Zealand to present themselves, and have presentations from, the Pacific multipliers. This was also anticipated to strengthen Pacific researchers' access to local New Zealand programmes on and with the Pacific. It was planned that a



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particular focus be given to the possibility to engage in the current call *SSH.2012.2.2-4. Climate change uncertainties: policymaking for the Pacific front* concerning networking researchers involved in climate change and policy dialogue in the Pacific: leveraging New Zealand contacts in both Europe and the Pacific to ensure the best engagement of Pacific actors.

The tools created (website, newsletters) provide a window on PACE-Net activities and on the region's S&T community. They will also allow us to disseminate the results of the project to a wide group of stakeholders. The website (<http://www.pacenet.eu/>) was launched at the beginning of the year and has already been revamped so as to offer a clearer interface and greater user-friendly functionalities. A mini-site integrated to the main website will display the information about our next flagship event in Brussels and allow participants to register online. News on S&T research in the Pacific, as well as opportunities for research exchanges and funding, are regularly being updated on the project website. Two Newsletters have already been issued and a third one is in preparation.

On the European Commission side, Mr A. Beuf (Project officer) has been very supportive in all aspects of the project (attending all important meetings, providing essential information and guiding the partners during their visits to the various DG in the EC). Further visits will allow us to identify EC priorities, procedures and work programmes to improve congruence between our INCO-Net project and EU research themes.

A change of project manager occurred in March 2011. Another significant change was the replacement, at the outset of the project, of CSIRO (the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) by the ANU (Australian National University).

In summary, the PACE-Net partners have completed most of the due deliverables (activities, organisation of events and/or reports, information dissemination). Furthermore, the project, to date, has been successfully delivered within the budget allocated.

