



PRESS RELEASE

Is H2020 the only way for EU-US STI Cooperation in Societal Challenges?

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June 30 2016

Vienna, Austria

On **6-10 June 2016** Representatives of BILAT USA 4.0 have come together with six U.S. federal funding agencies and a non-governmental organization in bilateral meetings in Washington D.C. The purpose of these meetings was to inform organizations about the Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) of Europe and discuss the cooperation possibilities in the future.

The alignment process of the national research policies as well as the underlining features of the JPIs were presented and challenges and opportunities were discussed. U.S. Organizations were very interested to learn more about these Initiatives based on the challenge areas. These meetings were initial steps to bring together the U.S. agencies and JPIs and support JPIs in their outreach activities to U.S.

In collaboration with 2 other H2020 Initiatives targeting Brazil (INCOBRA) and China (Dragon Star Plus), **BILAT USA 4.0** is dedicated to foster multilateral collaborations between European and international funding bodies, especially in the areas of grand challenges as these challenges require a global response.

"Open to the World,, is one of the three goals of the European research and Innovation Policy.

International cooperation is one of the 3 strategic priorities of the European Union. It underlines the Europe being home for excellence in science and technology, increase its attractiveness among the young talents from all over the world, and last but not least, tackling the global challenges such as climate, food, health, water jointly by developing research partnerships with the rest of the world.

As known Horizon 2020 programme is open for participation from across the world. Among all, United States of America has been one of the most long standing cooperation partners in the Framework Programmes. However, has the EU-U.S. cooperation capacity been fully utilized? The answer is unfortunately not. Framework Programme is a very important vehicle for increasing international cooperation of the EU. Nevertheless, in coordination with the EC, the Member states Initiatives such as the Joint Programming Initiative provides complementarities to internationalization of European STI landscape.

About BILAT-USA 4.0

The BILAT USA 4.0 project, funded by the European Union under Horizon 2020 Programme, has started on 1 February 2016. It aims to enhance, support and further develop the research and innovation cooperation between the European Union and the United States of America.

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