

ARMS ACT 6 September 2012

Supporting International Collaboration

International collaboration is not about funding. FEAST's survey of FP7 participants shows that main reasons are:

- To do nice academic research
- To build professional networks
- To expose research capability (inc. industry)

Don't expect overseas entities to provide funding (it is their taxpayer money).

Europe is diverse and complex.

Lots of useful programs at Member State level (e.g. Germany, UK), but most programs in most countries are closed to external participation.

Pan-EU programs (e.g. FP7 & Horizon 2020) are explicitly open for external participation, but normally restricted in funding.

Lots of helpful programs for building collaborations (IRSES, Marie Curie, COST, DAAD, etc). This is Europe's big strength. See www.feast.org.

Europe is suffering.

Huge cuts in national research budgets. Will likely flow on to EU (Horizon 2020).

Weak Euro is both good and bad: good when using AUD, bad when using EUR. This has impacts on mobility.

The Irish recovery.

Like most small nations, Ireland is able to focus its efforts (ie national priorities) without causing offence.

Domestic funds are scarce. Enterprise Ireland has a 2-pronged approach:

1. Support early-career researchers
2. Leverage external funds (especially EU)

ECR's typically find it difficult to enter the big game, due to lack of experience. EI is therefore helping them lead their own consortia in EU projects.

Science Foundation Ireland is overtly attracting talent into Ireland, plus highly ranks proposals that can demonstrate prior success in international funding.