

## **EU-funding for European initiatives for research and clinical cooperation (Mrs. Schade, University Berlin)**

Protocol: Joern von Wietersheim

Mrs. Schade is the administrator of the University of Berlin for EU-funding. She gave us a lot of information, especially on the sixth framework program of the EU. The seventh framework program is in development. Most information can be found under [www.cordis.lu/fp6](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6). In this protocol, some main information is copied from the internet.

Most EU-funding is top-down: By the EU a research theme is defined and a call for projects is send out. Most research funding is very economic oriented, very goal and application oriented. So in medicine, genome research is on top.

There are several instruments for funding, which you can find in the attached pdf-file (or on the net: [ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp6/docs/synoptic\\_instruments.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp6/docs/synoptic_instruments.pdf)).

The main problem is that you have to wait for a call which fits you research interest. There is the possibility to try to influence the research directions by lobbying; this can be done via the national contact points. Especially the eastern European countries might have here some influence, so that a conjoint action might be interesting. The national contact points can also be found on the net. It is important, if there is a call, to meet every point in the call in your application for funding.

Another perhaps more promising way of funding is the Marie-Curie-Activities. There are some possibilities ([www.cordis.lu/mariecurie-actions/rtn/home.html](http://www.cordis.lu/mariecurie-actions/rtn/home.html)). There are host-driven actions (intra-european, outgoing and incoming international fellowships), individual-driven actions (co-operation with member states and associated countries), excellence promotion and recognition (excellence grants, excellence awards, chairs). Details can be found in the internet. In these activities, there is a bottom-up approach, so that applies for funding are not depending on a special call.

The seventh framework program is in preparation. Probably, there will be not many changes. Older proposal cannot be read, they are not published, but often there are links to the homepage of the projects. The vocabulary of proposals should meet European standards; this might be a problem, because psychosomatics is perhaps not a European standard.

A further possibility for funding is the Sokrates-Erasmus-Program:

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/erasmus/erasmus\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/erasmus/erasmus_en.html)

\* It seeks to enhance the quality and reinforce the European dimension of higher education by encouraging transnational cooperation between universities, boosting European mobility and improving the transparency and full academic recognition of studies and qualifications throughout the Union.

\* ERASMUS consists of many different activities; student and teacher exchanges, joint development of study programmes (Curriculum Development), international intensive programmes, thematic networks between departments and faculties across Europe, language courses (EILC), European credit transfer system (ECTS).

\* ERASMUS action is targeted at higher education institutions and their students and staff in all 25 Member States of the European Union, the three countries of the

European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), the three candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey).

In the frame of the Erasmus program, a transnational approach for education in psychosomatic medicine for undergraduates or graduate students might be interesting.

For the German colleges: At the moment, there is a BMBF-call to support applies for EU-funding.

In total, there were two ideas in the direction of possible EU-funding. One was to discuss and develop a common research project, e.g. on somatoform disorders or eating disorders (obesity?). The other one was to develop a project on education and training in psychosomatic medicine.