



Contribution of provinces to the Canada/EU collaboration Example from Québec

Hasna Rouighi, coordinator Europe- USA
Division of international partnerships
Science and innovation sector

OVERVIEW

- **The Division of international partnerships and the Ministry's mandate**
- **Québec-EU collaborations in science and innovation**
- **Priorities for future partnerships**
- **Key resources and contacts**

Our Ministry



New minister since January 28th 2016: Ms. Dominique Anglade.

The Ministry's mission is to support business growth, entrepreneurship, science, innovation, export trade and investment. The MESI is coordinating the elaboration and the implementation of the digital strategy.

Several research and innovation organizations fall under our Minister's responsibility:

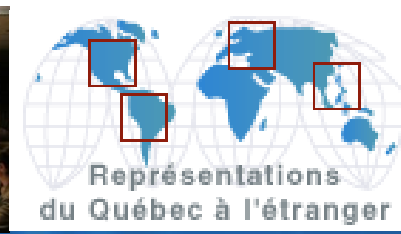
- Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec (CRIQ)**
- Commission de l'éthique en science et technologie**
- Fonds de recherche du Québec: Health, Nature and technologies, Society culture and the Quebec Chief scientist**
- Investissement Québec**

Recent strategies and action plans



Division of international partnerships

- Support QuebecInnove members in their international partnerships (Ex.: CRIAQ- Pôle Skywin in Wallonia, CQDM-ICIP Program of MLSC etc.);
- Help companies and research centers to benefit from the opportunities offered by global-scale networks such as Horizon 2020 (Ex.: DPI acts as regional contact point for Horizon 2020);
- Take advantage from research and innovation agreements with priority countries and regions (Ex.: Call for proposals with Flanders and with Mexico);
- Organize meetings with strategic partners (Ex: Eureka clusters, VP Technology of major industry players, etc.);
- Organize networking sessions in Quebec and abroad;
- Organize outward and inward missions;
- Access to funding for international collaborative projects.





Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

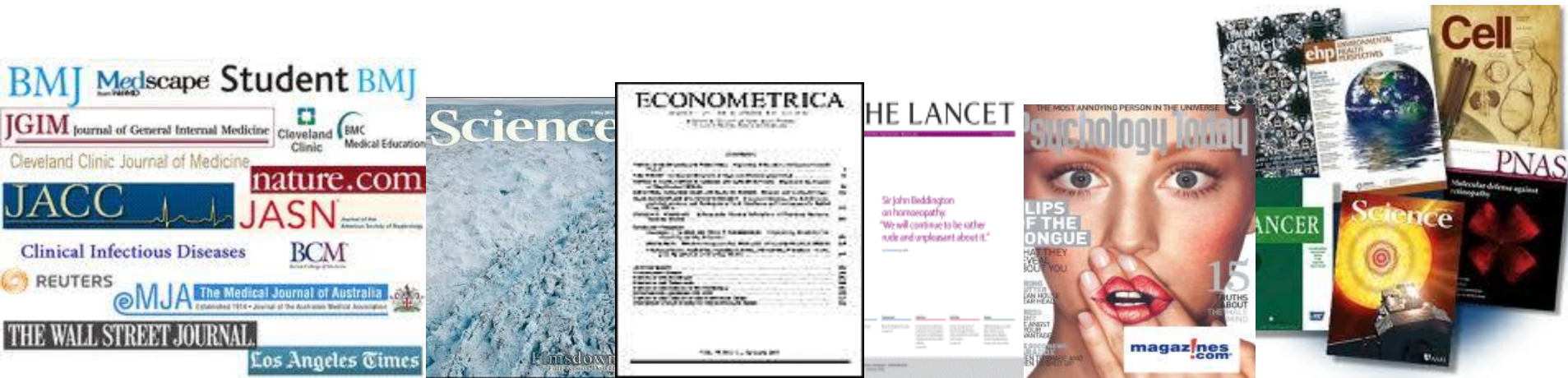
Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

- Scientific level
- Gouvernement level discussions
- Funding and programmes.
- Outreach to the research and innovation community.

Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

➤ Scientific level

- With the USA, European Union is the main partner of Québec researchers at the international level.
- Since 2005, Quebec produces consistently more scientific publications in collaboration with the countries of the European Union than the USA. The number of publications grow steadily.



Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

➤ Gouvernement level discussions

- 34 active bilateral and multilateral agreements with EU regions and member states.
- Involvement as an observer in the discussions around the JSTCC for Canada-EU cooperation.
- Collaborations with federal agencies to create synergies.
- High level meetings between officials on both Québec and EU sides.
- Opportunity to benchmark our programs and learn about best practices.

Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

➤ Funding and programmes

- Ministry's dedicated funding for H2020: PSR-SIIRI
- Era-Nets and JPIs
- Other initiatives

Research Support Program (PSR), Component 4: Support for the International Research and Innovation Initiatives (SIIRI)

- **Financial support for the Québec portion of a collaborative research project 50% of eligible expenses**
- *Maximum amount:*
 - \$150 000 / three years for a bilateral project (one non-Québec partner)
 - \$250 000 / three years for a multilateral project (at least two non-Québec partners from different countries)
 - **\$1 500 000 / three years for a H2020 type project**
- **Details:**
 - Eligible expenses are costs related to research projects incurred in Québec.
 - Foreign partners must show that they have obtained funding.
 - At least one Québec firm must be a partner in the project.
 - The assistance is subject to a minimum contribution of 20% from the end-user.
 - Last call for proposal launched on May 17th, closed- July 22nd 2016.

Priorities

Sectors

- Aerospace
- Biotechnologies and biofood
- Greenhouse gas savings
- Renewable energies, transportation electrification, and clean technologies
- Advanced materials and aluminum
- Life sciences, medical technologies, personalized healthcare
- Information and communications technologies, creative industries
- The Plan Nord and Québec's maritime strategy

Countries

- Italy
- Benelux countries
- France
- Germany
- Nordic countries
- Spain
- United Kingdom

Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

- In total, since 2007, 27 projects were funded for a total of **15,2 M\$** (H2020).
- Also, a total of 311 bilateral and multilateral projects funded involved european partners for a total of **22,79 M\$**.
- They included joint research projects, strategic networking and project building initiatives.
- Italy, France, Germany and the UK are the most active partners.

Examples of projects recently funded

- 1,5M\$ for Prof. Jacques Simard, Laval University, **project BRIDGES** (*Breast Cancer Risk after Diagnostic Gene Sequencing*), a large study funded by the European Commission with the participation of 17 research groups from 10 countries (UK, Spain, Sweden, United States etc.);
- 1,184M\$ for Prof. Luc Fréchette, Sherbrooke University, for the **project STREAMS** and the participation to the european project ExaNoDe in the field of computing. Partners from France, Spain and Germany;
- 1,125M\$ from Prof. Dominique Drouin, Sherbrooke University for the **project EXASCALE**, Exascale processor memory node design, an important european network. Large number of partners from France, Germany, Switzerland, UK etc.

At the canadian level, **Québec receives 30%** of the funds given by EC to Canada (2nd rank after Ontario).

Tax holiday for foreign experts and researchers



Candidates benefiting from this measures are entitled to a provincial tax holiday for a maximum period of 5 years.

- Since 2010, 94 experts and 318 researchers were admitted.
- For both categories, areas of expertise are: ICT, Aeronautics, Phamaceuticals and Biotechnology.
- They mostly come from France, the UK and Germany.

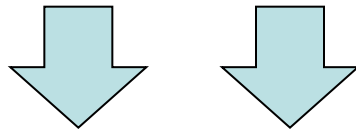
Involvement in ERA-Nets and JPIs

ERA-NET NEURON

ERA-AGE 2 & 3

ERA-Rare 2 & 3

**Joint Program in neurodegeneration
(JPND)**



An approximate amount of 3,41 M\$
of engagements.



**Fonds de recherche
du Québec**

- Fonds de recherche du Québec Nature et technologies (FRQNT) member of Chist-ERA since 2015.
- 2 projects are funded for almost 1M\$:
 - ✓ M. Yoshua Bengio, University of Montreal. Title « Multimodal Multilingual Continuous Representation for Human Language Understanding (M2CR) ».
 - ✓ M. Jean Rouat, Sherbrooke University, Title « Interactive Grounded Language Understanding (IGLU) ».

Collaborations with NRC- EUREKA! EUROSTARS



Objective: increase the number of EUREKA! and Eurostars projects realised in Québec.

Actions:

- Contribute to EUREKA trade missions in Europe and hosting visiting delegations in Canada.
- Raise awareness around the opportunities available on these platform of collaborations.
- Enlarge the participation of Québec research and innovation organisations, companies, researchers in EUREKA clusters.

Recent examples of collaborations

- Partnerships agreement between Prompt and Eureka cluster, [Celtic Plus](#)
- Centre de Collaboration MiQro Electronique du Québec (C2Mi) on the executive board of Eureka cluster, [Euripides2](#)
- Participation at Eureka Innovation week, April 2016
- Info session around the visit of a delegation of the Netherlands, May 2016
- Info session around the visit of the Chairwoman of the EUREKA cluster ITEA3, August 2016

Other initiatives

- Associated member of the Collective Research Networking (CORNET)
- Member of European Regions Research Network
- Regional Leaders Summit Scientific Network

Québec- EU collaborations in science and innovation

- Outreach and dissemination of information
- Very strong collaboration with ERA-CAN+ since 2013 (also ERA-CAN 1, 2, and Access2Canada).
- Several sessions of informations and webinars organised with ERA-CAN+.

Example of past actions

- January 2014: Info session around the launch of Horizon 2020 (130 attendees).
- April 2014: Presentation at the Annual conference of the quebec university research administrators (60 attendees)
- Juin 2014: Canada Day in Brussels
- September 2014: Conference for the visit Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science (180 attendees)
- February 2015: Marine and arctic thematic workshop (60 attendees)
- Webinar on the programmes available on the Québec side
- Contribution to different ERA-CAN + guides

Regional contact point (RCP) role

- Since February 2015, MÉSI accepted to play an RCP role.
- List of RCPs:

Name	Title	Sector/focus
Hasna Rouighi	Coordinator Europe-USA	RCPs coordination, marine and arctic
Magdalenta Planeta	Coordinator strategic partnerships	ICT- Digital infrastructure
Rosalie Readman	International affairs advisor	Forestry
Émilie Tremblay	International affairs advisor	Health, demographic change, and wellbeing
Inji Yaghmour	International affairs advisor	Space



Opportunities for future collaborations

Challenges faced

- No more ERA-CAN+
- Aligment of funding, calendars and priorities
- Securing up-to-date information for the research and innovation community in Québec
- Having a global view of opportunities
- Maintain an active network with european partners

Our priorities with Europe for the next years

- Facilitate the dissemination of opportunities of collaborations with Europe to the research and innovation community in Quebec.
- Offer direct co-funding for international research projects involving european partners and work with the ecosystem to extend our offer to researchers and companies.
- Enlarge the participation of quebec organisations to Era-nets, JPIs and other initiatives.
- Organise outward and inward missions and contribute to the creation of strategic partnerships.
- Contribute to the attraction of investments in Québec.



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Update liste of RCPs soon on line.

Questions / Comments



Thank you!

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