

## 2.8. New Zealand

### 2.8.1. *New Zealand as a partner of the EU*

As 'like-minded' partners, the EU and New Zealand share many common values and interests and see eye-to-eye on key international and global issues in many major international fora, among them the United Nations, the Pacific Islands forum and the OECD, including on climate change, openness of world trade, security and development in the Asia and Pacific regions, and promotion of human rights.

EU and New Zealand have commenced work towards the launch of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement in order to remove existing market access barriers for goods, services, investment and public procurement.

New Zealand and the EU have a productive science and innovation relationship extending back over many years with science and innovation systems that are strongly aligned. The Partnership Agreement for Relations and Cooperation to be signed by the two parties in 2016 clearly identifies science and innovation as a key area for developing relations. Indeed, New Zealand has world-class expertise in areas such as big data, energy, resilient structures, precision agriculture and related technology.

### 2.8.2. *Priorities for S&T cooperation*

At the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) meeting of December 2014 the two sides emphasized the need to deepen, scale and open up cooperation in many areas:

In bio-economy, the potential transformation of the Knowledge-Based Bio-economy Forum (involving Australia, Canada, EU and New Zealand) into a wider International Bio-economy Forum was discussed. This new forum under construction would be built on a programme-level spirit, through joint projects, twinning activities, scientific workshops, and by linking with EU Member States. In parallel, there are also opportunities for connections and collaborations between the New Zealand National Science Challenges (Our Land & Water, The Deep South & Science for Technological Innovation) as well as the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre and the European Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI), with which New Zealand already has some links. In the future New Zealand could take advantage of the existing links via more formal sharing and promotion of JPI activities to organisations from New Zealand, e.g. knowledge hubs, ERA-NETs or applying to Horizon 2020 calls.

Further to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings on the need for a 'whole ocean' strategy, ocean research strategy and governance could be developed in concert with New Zealand. The EU blue growth initiative and the NZ specific national science challenge on sustainable seas<sup>36</sup> offer a strong basis to collaborate on strengthening the blue economy as the two partners are well equipped with strong research capacities in marine and maritime research.

Regarding health research, New Zealand and the EU cooperate in multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing global health challenges. New Zealand is, with the EU, one of the countries contributing to the Human Frontier Science Programme (HFSP). The Commission encourages New Zealand to join the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R).

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<sup>36</sup> <http://sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz/>

The Commission and New Zealand are discussing possibilities to collaborate into two key areas: administrative big data and precision agriculture.

In the domain of research infrastructures, a certain degree of cooperation has been already established in the fields of bio-molecular and agricultural technologies, biodiversity and e-infrastructures (networking, grids, computing). New fields should be explored in the near future, such as ocean monitoring, disaster mitigation, climate modelling and aqua cultures. Potential new opportunities for cooperation emerge from the publication of the 2016 ESFRI Research Infrastructures roadmap<sup>37</sup>.

In the context of COP21, New Zealand decided to become a member of the global geothermal alliance<sup>38</sup> and geothermal energy<sup>39</sup> could be a very promising field for future collaborative actions.

### 2.8.3. *Framework Conditions*

There are no significant barriers to cooperation with New Zealand, which has also been recognised in the last ten years as offering one of the most stable business-friendly environments in the world according to the World Bank (New Zealand ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in 2005 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2015 in the 'Doing Business' index).

New Zealand places high priority on international science connections and Europe is seen as a key partner. Collaboration with international science partners is supported across New Zealand's domestic science funding programmes. The recently reframed Catalyst Fund is a tactical fund which specifically supports activities that initiate, develop and foster international science collaboration. The action-oriented approach taken by the New Zealand funders and research communities towards financially supporting New Zealand researchers' participation in Horizon 2020<sup>40</sup> is facilitating collaboration. Framework conditions for building innovation linkages, including cooperation between SMEs, are also attractive as New Zealand has developed an advanced innovation ecosystem. New Zealand is also a full member of the Enterprise Europe business Network (EEN)<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.esfri.eu/roadmap-2016>

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[http://www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?NTtype=A&mnu=cat&PriMenuID=16&CatID=84&News\\_ID=438](http://www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?NTtype=A&mnu=cat&PriMenuID=16&CatID=84&News_ID=438)

<sup>39</sup> <http://iea-gia.org/about-us/members/>

<sup>40</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/eu\\_nz\\_communique.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/eu_nz_communique.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> <http://een.ec.europa.eu/>