

### 3. Expected impact

The project activities will impact upon the aim of increasing EU-NZ science and technology cooperation by identifying opportunities for European researchers to participate in NZ-based research initiatives. Through addressing the information and connection needs of European researchers, it is expected that the project will have a positive effect on both the number and strength of EU-NZ research collaborations.

The focus will be on building opportunities for researchers to increase their collaboration through a series of meetings, developing research synergies and participation within existing funding initiatives. Additionally, base line and review research will be combined with policy recommendations and be made available for policy makers in the hope that it offers support for increased funding programmes.

#### List of Partners

- **University of Canterbury – UC (NCRE) – New Zealand**
- **Royal Society of New Zealand – RSNZ – New Zealand**
- **International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre – DLR – Germany**
- **Sigma Orionis – SIGMA – France**



Opportunities for access of European Researchers to the New Zealand Research System – ACCESS4EU:NZ

Website: [www.access4eu.org.nz](http://www.access4eu.org.nz)

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

#### 1. Background and objectives

There is a long history of cooperation between researchers from Europe and NZ. A survey by the NZ Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) in 2003 found that over half of all NZ based researchers have at least one significant, and active, European collaboration. However, this collaboration has traditionally been bilateral activity between NZ and the major research powerhouses of the UK, Germany and France. Evidence, through data on co-authoring of academic outputs, suggests that collaboration over the last decade between NZ and Europe has been increasing, though there is little understanding of the exact mechanisms of how this collaboration is supported, or initiated. With the signing of the Science and Technology Cooperation (STC) Agreement between the European Community and the Government of NZ in July 2008, and the establishment of formal bilateral planning activities through the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation (JSTC) meetings, there has been a renewed impetus for closer EU-NZ cooperation. This has been led by the EC and MoRST with initiatives to facilitate greater collaborations between Europe and NZ, mostly through stimulating the participation of NZ researchers in FP7.



ACCESS4EU:NZ seeks to improve understanding and, if necessary, redress the balance in the EU-NZ scientific relationship, by highlighting opportunities for European researchers and facilitating access to NZ's research and innovation programmes.

ACCESS4EU:NZ will establish a platform to increase the awareness and dissemination, within Europe, of opportunities for European researchers and research organisations to participate in NZ's publicly-funded research and innovation programmes. This platform aims to reduce or remove impediments to European researchers seeking to participate in NZ's research and innovation programmes, through improving the provision of information on the opportunities available to Europe within NZ's schemes, and the identification of prospective NZ partners for collaboration.

## 2. Implementation and dissemination activities

The project will implement a series of four integrated work-packages (WP). WP1 provides an overview of NZ funding schemes that can be accessed by researchers from EU Member States, as well as identifying prospective NZ partners. WP2 disseminates this information to the broadest possible European audience, through a website and the development of training materials for information multipliers. WP3 builds EU-NZ researcher connections, through workshops and networking events. In WP4, surveys of the number of collaborations and the process/policy environment within which

*It is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the research relationship between Europe and New Zealand, and it perfectly complements the FRENZ initiative.*

these collaborations were developed will be carried out. Their outcome and the conclusions drawn will feed the policy dialogue between NZ and the EC.

To ensure an increase in effective collaborations, it will be necessary for European researchers to strengthen their connections with the NZ research community. To facilitate the development of researcher-researcher connections that are both 'deep' and 'wide', the project will bring European and NZ researchers together, through workshops and networking events, in order that the personal relationships which underpin successful collaborations can be fostered. Through sustained contact (over three days) the workshop relationships should be deep. Further, through exposure of over 100 European researchers to each NZ researcher, connections should also be wide.

In order to identify and disseminate accessible opportunities for European researchers, the project will:

- outline the scope of NZ's publicly-funded research and innovation programmes, and their rules for European participation, with a view to making information on these programmes more accessible to a European audience;
- develop a picture of NZ's capability landscape, with a view to helping European researchers identify synergistic opportunities for EU-NZ collaboration in NZ's schemes;
- provide a Europe-focused web interface to allow researchers to have free and simple access to the information on programmes and opportunities in NZ;
- present NZ's programmes, and opportunities for collaboration, to a wide audience of European researchers through various fora, including through the preparation of standard training materials for presentation to – and by – information multipliers and other relevant, interested parties.