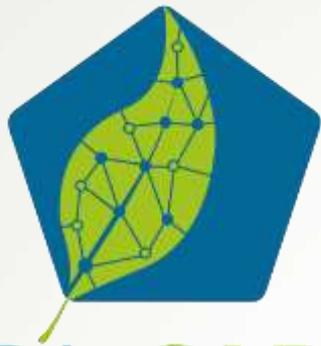


ERA-CAPS

Internationalisation: experience from a long lasting network looking at new collaborations and FP9

Paul Wiley, BBSRC, UK

5th October 2017, Rome
PLATFORM Annual Event 2017



ERA-CAPS

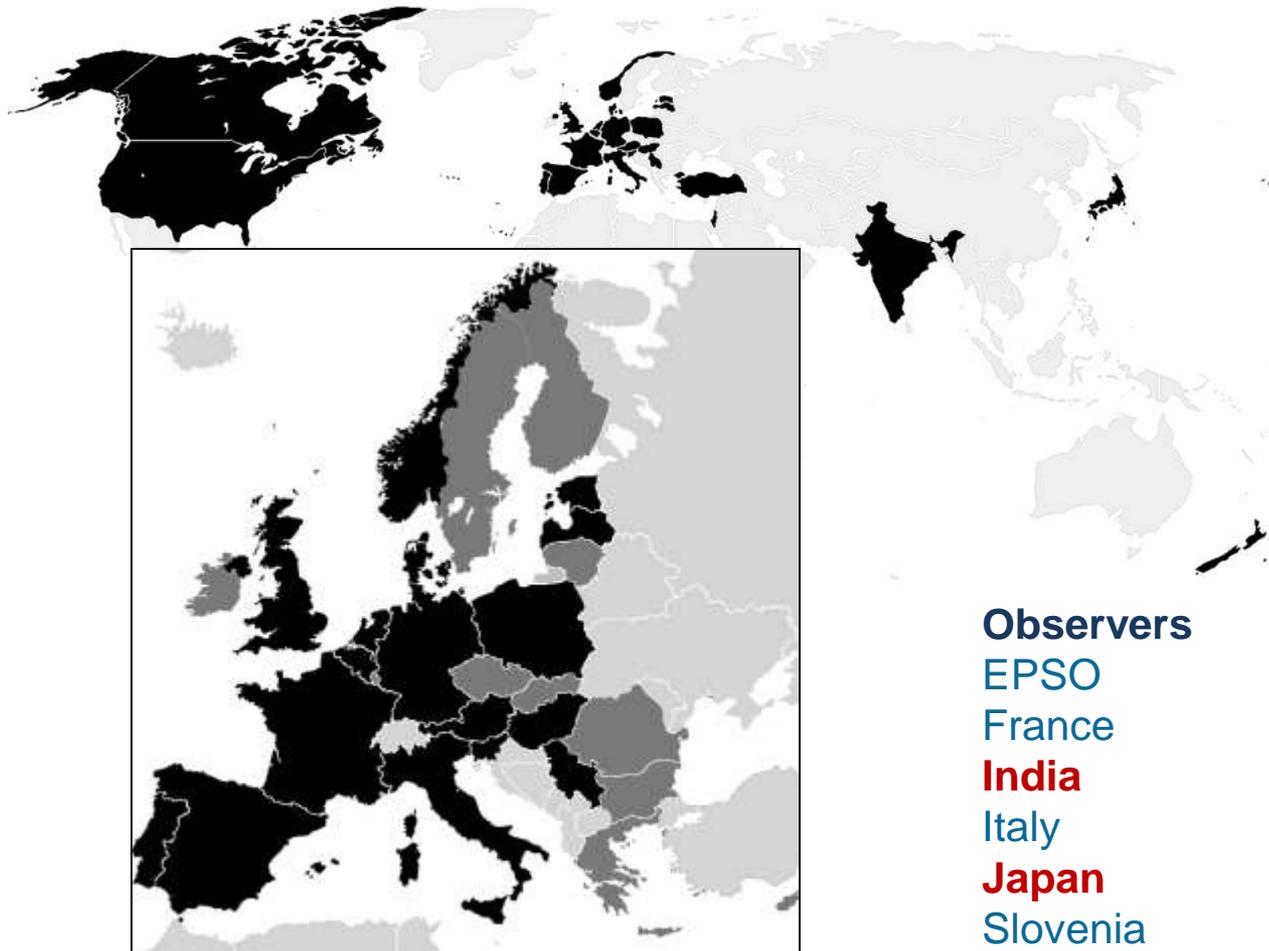
ERA-NET for Coordinating
Action in Plant Sciences



Essential facts

- **ERA-Net for Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences**
- Builds on **ERA-Net in Plant Genomics (FP6 - 2004)**
- ERA-CAPS itself was FP7 (2012), now self-sustained (2015)
- **FP7: 19 Partners plus 7 observers, incl. five international**
- Now a **self-sustained network: 9 partners (incl. USA) + 11 observers (incl. NZ)**
- Coordinated by Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK
- **Three transnational calls: approx. €57M in total**

FP7: Partners & Observers



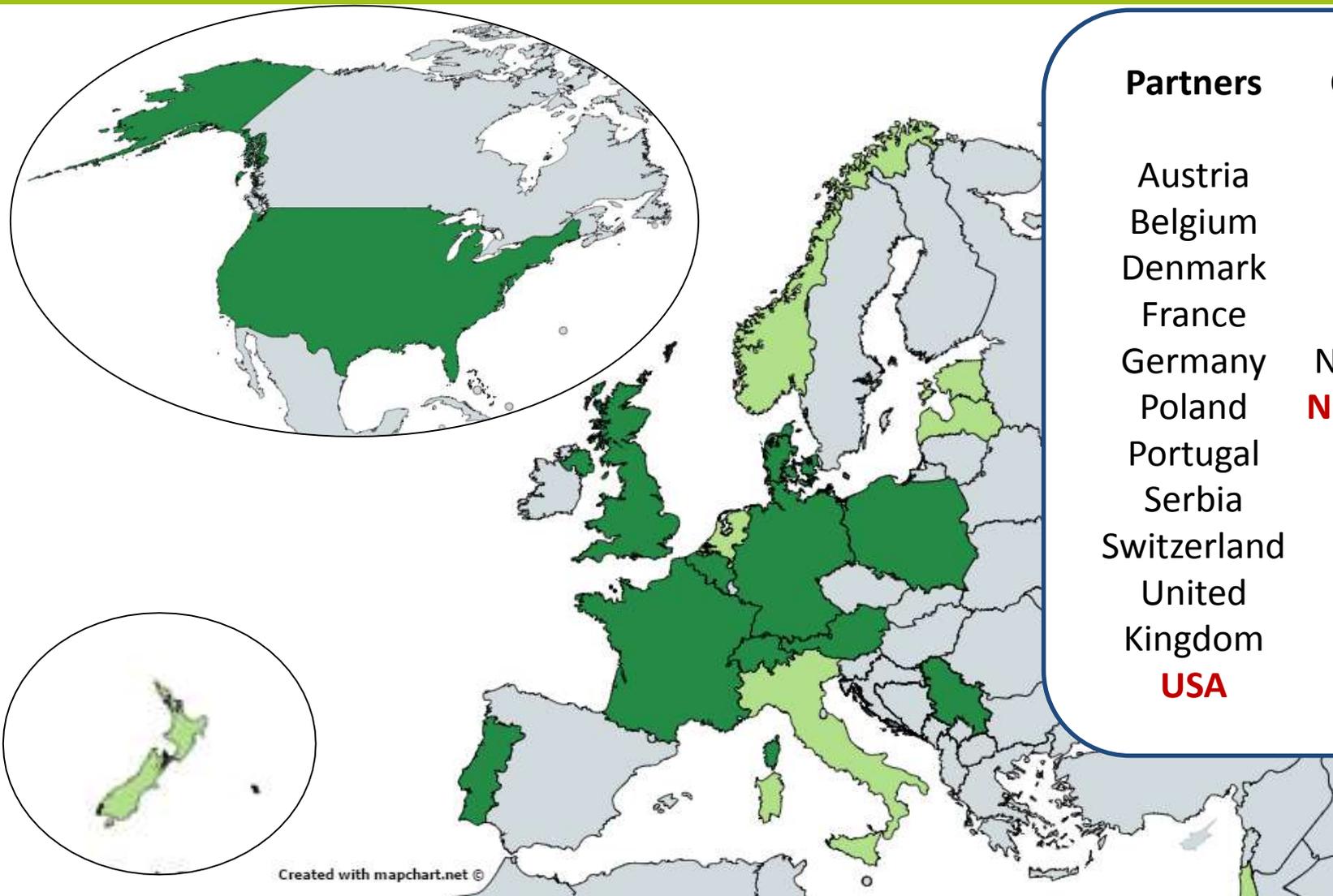
Partners

United Kingdom
 Austria
 Belgium
Canada
 Denmark
 Estonia
 France
 Germany
 Hungary
 Israel
 Italy
 Latvia
 Netherlands
New Zealand
 Norway
 Poland
 Portugal
 Serbia
 Spain

Observers

EPSO
 France
India
 Italy
Japan
 Slovenia
United States

Self-sustained ERA-CAPS network



Partners	Observers
Austria	Estonia
Belgium	Israel
Denmark	Italy
France	Latvia
Germany	Netherlands
Poland	New Zealand
Portugal	Norway
Serbia	
Switzerland	EPSO
United Kingdom	
USA	

International participants

FP7 Partners:

- **Canada: National Research Council**
- **New Zealand: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (now observers)**



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

FP7 Observers:

- **USA: National Science Foundation (now partners)**
- **India: Department of Biotechnology**
- **Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency**



Varying levels of engagement

Active participation

- **USA and New Zealand:** participation in all aspects of the programme including joint calls; reasons for involvement much the same as European partners, but also gateway to European collaborations

Less active/no participation

- **Canada:** NRC restructuring meant no place for ERA-CAPS
- **India and Japan:** observers, so no requirement to participate

New Zealand's participation

- **Full partner in FP7 phase; very active - participated in first two calls**
- **Unfortunately, funded no projects in the calls – very competitive calls, an issue of numbers rather than quality**
- **Decided **Observer status** would be more appropriate in self-sustained phase**
- **Keeping in close touch with the network**

USA participation

“Active observer” in FP7 phase – observer, as no signature on GA, but in all other respects, a full partner

Call participation needed creative thinking:

1st Call: parallel calls between ERA-CAPS and USA (quickest way to get engagement)

- Facilitated by MOU between BBSRC and NSF
- NSF co-funded two out of 14 ERA-CAPS projects

2nd Call: integrated process, single review process

- Facilitated by 2nd MOU between BBSRC and NSF
- NSF co-funded six out of 12 ERA-CAPS projects

USA participation

3rd Call (self-sustained): same integrated process as 2nd call

- Facilitated by full MOU between all funding partners (took a long time to finalise, but didn't delay progress)
- Call currently in final stages, but USA involved in majority of projects likely to be funded

Between calls:

Joint ERA-CAPS workshop, co-funded between BBSRC and NSF to gather plant science data experts together – held in San Diego, USA



Future of ERA-CAPS – new collaborations

- ERA-CAPS self-sustained phase comprised our 3rd joint call: MOU binds partners to the end of the projects
- Allows scope for working on the future of ERA-CAPS, but not the implementation
- **ERA-CAPS is working closely with SusCrop** – early stages of discussion, but a joint (non co-funded) call is a serious option
- Overlap between the networks in terms of funders, but also potential for **new collaborations**
- **Canada has interest in SusCrop** – could re-new involvement in ERA-CAPS

Looking to FP9

- **From an ERA-CAPS perspective:**
 - Ensure that **basic research** is appropriately covered by FP9, for example, plant science underpins the more applied “mission-led” challenges
 - **Coordination money** helps to bring partners together more easily – countries can often fund research, but more challenging to fund shared administrative roles. **Consider a CSA-only option.**
- **From an international cooperation perspective:**
 - **Make it easy** for international partners to participate, ERA-CAPS worked well because it was “admin-light”
 - Development of **case studies** to show successes



Thank you

Website:

www.era-caps.org

E-mail:

Paul.Wiley@bbsrc.ac.uk

A- A+ | CONTACT

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ERA-CAPS

ERA-CAPS
Promote sustainable collaboration in plant sciences through coordinating and funding excellent transnational research.

NEWS AND EVENTS

The Third ERA-CAPS call for proposals is closed
The Call is entitled: "Europe-USA Call strengthening transnational research in the Molecular Plant Sciences". [Read more](#)

The Third ERA-CAPS call for proposals has been launched on 28 June 2016

PARTNERS