

FEAST/FEED/AUS-ACCESS4EU/SECAS/ projects – Rado Faletic

Rado Faletič (RF), Executive Director of FEAST. Rado's involvement with the *Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation* (FEAST)¹ stems from his interest in promoting, encouraging and highlighting science and new ideas, along with the personal satisfaction he receives from facilitating individual collaborations. He has previously held a number of research, teaching and IT positions at The Australian National University, including appointments at the Research School of Chemistry, the Research School of Earth Sciences, the Research School of Humanities, the Research School of Social Sciences and the Australian National Institute for Public Policy. At ANU, Rado has also completed a PhD in shock tunnel tomography (rocket science!). His other research projects have included the spatial modelling of water flow in de-forested landscapes, and seismic tomography.

1. How does your project contribute to International cooperation and trust and security?

Within the panel, Rado Faletič represented a number of projects.

FEED (www.feast.org) The *FEAST Extension, Enhancement and Demonstration project* (FEED) project is the third iteration of the BILAT with Australia (2008-2012). The explicit objective of the BILAT projects is to highlight and facilitate R&D collaboration between Europe and the target third countries (in this case... Australia). We operate a support helpdesk for all research fields, act as NCP's for Australia, and provide information and support to the government-government JSTCC meeting between the EU and Australia. The ICT meeting as a part of the most recent JSTCC (in 2010) identified trust and security as a priority area of collaboration between Europe and Australia. We have conducted bibliometric studies on EU-Australian collaborations, though there is a poor coverage of ICT publications. We also conducted an extensive stock take of Australian involvement in FP7.

AUS-ACCESS4EU (www.aus-access4.eu) *Supporting EU Access to Australian Research Programmes* (AUS-ACCESS4EU) catalogues and promotes Australian funding opportunities available to European researchers, and conducts studies on Australian research strengths and the openness of Australia's funding programmes.

SECAS (www.secas.eu) *Strategies for European ICT RTD Collaboration for Australia and Singapore* (SECAS) is a sister project to EURASIAPAC. It identified ICT thematic capabilities and areas of potential synergy, performed policy analysis and has made strategic recommendations for improved cooperation policies. This project performed the first lab-level systematic analysis of ICT research groups in Australia, thematic strengths etc, which has delivered results that are now ready to be used. Trust and security topics are clearly identified in the final report, which is now available online.

2. What are the benefits and expected impact of your project brought on by international cooperation?

Both FEED and AUS-ACCESS4EU have greatly contributed to the flow of information between Europe and Australia regarding overall funding modalities available for international collaboration, but more importantly have identified and developed strategies on how to most successfully use these mechanisms (including

¹ <http://www.feast.org/>

FP7, COST², ARC³ and NHMRC⁴). SECAS has produced a concrete set of strategic recommendations, which are available in the final public report online.

3. *International cooperation is not an easy task and required a lot of patience and time. What are the issues encountered and how did you address them?*

One of the issues of most importance has been the persistent lack of understanding, particularly in Europe, regarding how to include third country partners on FP7 proposals. FEED and AUS-ACCESS4EU have been working actively (through email alerts, but more affectively through targeted seminars and direct communication) to education both Australian and European researchers on *the facts* as well as *the realities* of including Australian partners on FP7 projects. This includes issues of funding support. SECAS has identified issues ranging from abstract political ones (e.g. that policies need to be concrete, should also include technical content, and need follow-up actions) to practical ones at the researcher level (e.g. how to best work over long distances, the benefits of setting up joint labs, the challenges of researcher exchange, etc.).

4. *In the opening session, it was mentioned by the Commission that INCO projects should go further than just identifying stakeholders and who the counterparts are in the countries and topics of cooperation. What are your projects plans to take this approach for a longer term strategy and is there anything that BIC can do to help you with this strategy.*

The issue of sustainability has been a very important one especially within the FEED/BILAT projects where they have started working already with what they call 'multipliers' to impart their knowledge and key ideas around Australia. For other projects, it is an issue. What can projects do during their lifetime so the work can continue? BIC can talk to the SECAS project to see if there is anything BIC can do to help create this value.

The BILAT project, one of which just finished are putting together significant workshops on specific topics. BIC can help develop the content and identify the individuals who can contribute to this workshop. This can lead to more lasting co-operations.

5. *What are your recommendations for improving effectiveness?*

We have noticed a lack of coordination and information-sharing between the variety of INCO activities across FP7. We propose that consideration be given to this issue in future INCO calls, and recommend that activities be developed to facilitate the integration of activities amongst all INCO projects, particularly so that findings can be directly implemented into ongoing projects (rather than waiting for final reports, which in any case are rarely read by other INCO actors).

² <http://www.cost.eu/>

³ <http://www.arc.gov.au/>

⁴ <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>