



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

20 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Telephone: 01-727 8090

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COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Registration of congenital abnormalities

A British scientist, Dr Josephine Weatherall, has been seconded from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to lead a joint EEC research project on the registration of congenital abnormalities. Dr Weatherall will be based at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, where she will be Visiting Professor in the Epidemiology Department in the School of Public Health.

The aim of the project is to study the methods for registering congenital abnormalities and twins within each country of the European Community, so helping to monitor how babies may be affected by environmental hazards. One of the first tasks of the project team lead by Dr Weatherall will be to visit selected centres in each member country to see that abnormalities in all babies born there are being recorded.

The cost of the project is 2m EUA (about £1.3m). The Commission will finance the work of co-ordination, while national research funds will be available for the national studies under a concerted programme.

Finance for UK research projects

The Commission has recently approved 11 research contracts and five study contracts to which it is contributing under the Community's research programmes. They are as follows:

Beneficiary: University of Reading, Reading

Project: Investigation of the potential use of photosynthetic production of vegetable matter (e.g. bracken, fruit-tree prunings) as an energy feedstock.

Total cost: £15,470. Commission contribution: £7,270.

Beneficiary: Imperial College of Science and Technology, London

Project: Determination of heat flow and heat production from 100 metre boreholes in Dartmoor, St Austell and Land's End granite and a 700 metre borehole in Somerset.

Total cost: £90,300. Commission contribution: £57,792.

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Beneficiary: Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford, Herts

Project: Heat pumps for individual rooms. The contract is directed to the development of a heat pump specially suited for individual room heating and particularly for heating rooms which are used only intermittently.

Total cost: £36,225. Commission contribution: £18,112.

Beneficiary: National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex

Project: Direct surface temperature measurement from an analysis of the polarization of emitted and reflected infra-red radiation.

Total cost: £38,269. Commission contribution: £19,134.

Beneficiary: Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd, London

Project: Multilayer models of photosynthetic membranes.

Total cost: £33,200. Commission contribution: £16,600.

Beneficiary: Fisheries Laboratory, Burnham on Crouch, Essex

Project: Evaluation of the impact of Chlordane, DDT (DDD, DDE), Heptachlore and Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclohexane on the aquatic environment.

Commission contribution 100%: £19,000.

Beneficiary: Environmental Resources Limited, London

Project: Synthesis report establishing a common procedure throughout the Community for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water.

Commission contribution 100%: £28,500.

Beneficiary: United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Culcheth, Warrington, Lancs.

Project: Studies with the aim of assessing and improving the analysis of nuclear accidents, with special reference to fast reactors.

Total cost: £17,000. Commission contribution: £12,750.

Beneficiary: Environmental Resources Ltd, London

Project: Study of possible uses for construction and demolition waste.

Commission contribution 100%: £12,500.

Beneficiary: ERL, London

Project: Elaboration of global method of control and evaluation of pollution.

Commission contribution 100%: £22,000.

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Beneficiary: Ove Arup & Partners, London

Project: Study and evaluation of latent cooling potential of chemical dehumidifiers with solar collectors supplying the power - the collector system to be used for heating hot water when no cooling is required.

Total cost: £22,178. Commission contribution: £11,089.

Beneficiary: Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford

Project: To establish the basic characteristics for low-cost detached and terraced houses in order to reduce the energy consumption for heating.

Total cost: £28,174. Commission contribution: £14,078.

Beneficiary: United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), Harwell, Oxford.

Project: To provide data for an engineering appraisal of the pyrolysis process as applied to plutonium contaminated combustible solid waste and for the design of an inactive pilot plant.

Total cost: £250,000. Commission contribution: £100,000.

Beneficiary: United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell, Oxfordshire

Project: An experimental study of the critical factors in the recovery of plutonium from wastes by incineration and pyrolysis.

Total cost: £230,000. Commission contribution: £103,330.

Beneficiary: University College, Cardiff

Project: Study of test facilities and test results for the EEC solar energy programme and preparation of a document containing test procedures recommended by EEC participants.

Commission contribution 100%: £25,405.

Beneficiary: University College, Cardiff

Project: Design, manufacture and test of a phase-change thermal storage unit.

Total cost: £27,122. Commission contribution: £13,561.

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