

EU Research Trends - June 2017

In June Research Trends brings several items on FP9 related documents and events as well as news on EU defense research, the new mobility package and international collaboration to name a few of the main items. Please also consult the highlighted events section at the end of this newsletter as well as the general events calendar attached as the second attachment to the email sending out Research Trends.

Trends

Commissioner Katainen and Director General Smit underline need for modern EU budget

During a Science Business high level event on 27th June Commissioner for Jobs, Growth and Investment Jyrki Kaitainen as well as Director General Robert-Jan Smit from DG Research and Innovation both underlined the need for a modernized EU budget where the EU heads of state in order to bridge the budgetary gap that Brexit will create seriously look at a redistribution of budgets towards future growth generators such as research and innovation. Both the size of the agricultural budget and the structural funds was addressed and both officials expect the next research budget to be well over the current Horizon 2020 budget. Whether or not defense research will be in this budget will be a political decision. Full summary of the event can be obtained by request.

The Council of the European Union adopts revised EU MFF for 2014-2020

20th June, the Council adopted the revised EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020. The MFF takes into account the declared goal of boosting jobs and growth as well as addressing the migration crisis. Horizon 2020 is among the priorities for which resources are increased. 2.08 billion EUR will be put to work to stimulate growth and jobs through a number of programmes such as the youth employment initiative (+1.2 billion EUR), Horizon 2020 (+200 million EUR) and Erasmus+ (+100 million EUR). In addition 2.55 billion EUR will be available to address migration, security and external border control and 1.39 billion euro will be available for tackling the root causes of migration. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Results of Horizon 2020 interim evaluation published

The Commission has published its staff working document on the results of the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation. The report indicates that progress is being made towards delivering on all H2020 objectives, in particular to drive economic growth and create jobs coupling research and innovation with an emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The oversubscription of H2020, with 30,000 proposals submitted per year compared to 20,000 proposals for PF7, has led to very low success rates. EU13 countries have the lowest success rates. To access the staff working document please follow this [link](#). If you would like to read a summary of the report please follow this [link](#).

Commission publishes report on outcome of the study 'Beyond the Horizon: Foresight in support of future EU Research and Innovation Policy' (BOHEMIA)

The BOHEMIA report describes a range of future scenarios that Europe might be facing in the

2030s and suggests ways for research to create conditions for Europe to cope and flourish. The report navigates between megatrends on one side and policy goals and European values on the other side, and aims at illustrating specific ways in which research and innovation can help Europe to realise the positive scenario or at least minimize the harm of the negative scenario. For background and summary please follow this [link](#). The full report is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

High Level Group of Innovators has issued its Statement of Intent

The High Level Group of Innovators for a European Innovation Council (EIC) has issued its Statement of Intent, declaring its readiness to support the Commission in the development of the EIC. The group has been set up to provide a user perspective on potential reforms to Horizon 2020 and to improve the EU's performance in breakthrough and market-creating innovation. To read the statement please follow this [link](#).

Commission launches defense fund

The creation of the EU defense fund was announced already in 2016 by President Juncker. The fund which is now reality is intended to coordinate, supplement and amplify national investments in defence research, in the development of prototypes and in the acquisition of defence equipment and technology. The fund has a research strand and a development strand. With regard to research, the EU will as of 2017 offer grants for collaborative research in innovative defence technologies and products. Projects will focus on priority areas previously agreed by Member States (such as electronics, metamaterials, encrypted software and robotics). 25 mio. EUR has been allocated for 2017 and a total of 90 mio. EUR will be provided until 2019. For the next budgetary cycle after 2020, the EC will propose a dedicated EU defence research programme with an estimated annual budget of 500 mio. EUR. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Brexit delays preparations for the next research programme

During separate events in Brussels, top officials from the Commission has indicated that the preparation of the next framework programme will be delayed due to Brexit and the uncertainties that it brings especially in relation to the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The timetable of FP9 now includes a stakeholder consultation to open in the period January to March 2018, an impact assessment to follow in the Spring of 2018 and the FP9 proposal to follow after the 2018 Summer break. With a tight planning like this, influenced also by elections to the European Parliament in May 2019 and a new Commission in November 2019, real fears begin to immerse on a potential gap in funding from 2020 to 2021. The Brexit negotiations started after much delay officially on 19th June.

Commission adopts mobility package including new strategy on EU investments in transport.

The 'mobility package' adopted 31st May is entitled 'Towards clean, connected and competitive mobility' and it outlines short, medium and long term strategies for research and innovation in the transport sector. For more information please follow this [link](#) and to download the blueprint directly please use this [link](#).

New package of flagship initiatives agreed between EU and China

The EU and China will strengthen their research and innovation cooperation with a new package of flagships initiatives, targeting the areas of food, agriculture, biotechnologies, environment and sustainable urbanization, transport and aviation and health. These flagships

will translate into a number of topics dedicated to cooperation with China under Horizon 2020. For the period 2018-2020, China will reserve an annual budget of plus 25 mio. EUR. In addition to this, the Joint Research Centre and the Chinese Academy of Sciences signed an overarching Research Framework Arrangement which aims to expand the existing collaboration as well. For more information please follow this [link](#).

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) signs Research Framework Agreement with Japan

The JRC has signed the Research Framework Agreement with the Japanese National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). The agreement will open new avenues for scientific exchange and synergies in the fields of nanotechnology, chemicals, metrology, energy and many others. The cooperation which has existed for a number of years between JRC and AIST is thereby formalized. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Commission launches 3 mio. EUR prize for tactile display for visually impaired

The European Commission launches a new Horizon Prize, challenging innovators to develop the most affordable, internet-enabled, full-page tactile display. The 3 million EUR prize will go to the best solution able to convey digital information for blind and visually impaired people. For more information please follow this [link](#)

Commission publishes case studies on international collaboration

The Commission has published a booklet presenting EU-funded projects involving international collaboration. The publication looks at six areas in which FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects have found innovative solutions to societal challenges. The booklet is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

Commission call for experts for the European Innovation Council pilot

As part of the pilot on the European Innovation Council (EIC), Horizon 2020 will support innovation projects of innovators, researchers and companies active in any sector or technology from this autumn. For the evaluation of the applications for EIC funding, the Commission is now looking for a pool of expert evaluators such as entrepreneurs who have started innovative businesses, investors as well as experts involved in the innovation ecosystem such as business schools, universities etc. For more information on the EIC and this call on experts please follow this [link](#).

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) call for experts for Scientific Panels and Committee

EFSA is looking for experts for its ten thematic scientific panels and its scientific committee which renew their membership every three years. The next renewal is in July 2018. The authority is looking for experienced and independent scientists in food safety to carry out scientific assessments and develop related assessment methodologies. The application procedure ends on 8th September 2017. To see the call for experts, please follow this [link](#).

New agenda for Higher Education in Europe

The European Commission has launched its plan to modernize Higher Education in Europe. The aim is to support Member States in improving quality of and data on education and graduates. To read more about the renewed vision for education in the EU please consult this [website](#) or download the roadmap through this [link](#).

Report on advancing research integrity

Science Europe, the Brussels-based association of European Research Funding Organisations

and Research Performing Organisations has published a report on its workshop 'Advancing Research Integrity Practices and Policies: From Recommendation to Implementation'. The workshop which was held already on 22nd February had as purpose to advance implementation of recommendations made back in July 2016 by Science Europe. To access the report please follow this [link](#).

EU Ministers adopts conclusions on streamlining the R&I monitoring and reporting landscape

The EU Ministers of Research met on 29th and 30st May in Brussels and adopted conclusions on streamlining R&I monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, they discussed the economic rationale of public R&I funding and its impact. The Ministers identified a number of measures that could help to speed up the creation and diffusion of innovation. Finally also the prospects of the European Innovation Council was discussed with Commissioner Moedas.

Belgium the 8th country to join the European initiative on High Performance Computing

Belgium is the latest country to join the ranks behind the joint efforts being done to build the next generation of computing and data infrastructures. The other 7 countries behind the newly launched initiative (March this year) are: France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. These Member States will now in coordination with the Commission prepare an implementing roadmap to deploy the European exascale supercomputing infrastructure by end 2017. Other Member States are invited to join. Read more through this [link](#).

Denmark in the top of European Innovation Scoreboard 2017

Again Denmark has been singled out as one of the very best innovators of the EU. Only surpassed by Sweden, Denmark ranks second on the list of most innovative member states in the EU. On a global scale, the EU still lacks behind the US, South Korea and Japan. To read the full report please follow this [link](#).

The European Parliament passes resolution on its assessment of Horizon 2020

Parliament has passed a non-legislative resolution on its assessment of H2020. The main conclusions center around H2020 needing to continue as a primarily grant-based funding mechanism, with a balanced mix of small, medium and large scale projects and that no more cuts must be done in the H2020 budget. The resolution underlines the need for H2020 to continue to focus on excellence and that impact should include economic and social impact as well. Recommendations for FP9 includes an increased budget (120 billion EUR), a two-stage evaluation system, the separation of defense research and civil research and priority to funding climate change and climate data research.

Denmark publishes its FP9 position paper

In its preliminary position paper Denmark pleads for a strong EU framework programme and expects research and innovation to be one of the key priorities of a modernised EU budget. FP9 should generate maximum impact and underpin the EU's political objectives. Denmark stresses that excellence must be the guiding principle in all research and innovation actions. Furthermore, it highlights the need for FP9 to be easy to understand, use and administer. The Danish position paper is in attachment to the email sending out this newsletter.

AU rector speaking at the Guild inauguration event and launching FP9 position

During a high profile event in Brussels with participation of the Commission, the newest university association for research intensive universities The Guild launched its

recommendations for FP9. AU is part of this network of 19 universities and the AU rector opened the event. If you would like to learn more about the Guild and access the position paper, please follow this [link](#).

LERU presents its position paper on FP9

At a high profile event in Brussels with participation of the Commission, the prestigious university association of 23 research intensive universities LERU launched its position paper on FP9. The paper (a 30 page document) is the longest and most detailed position paper on FP9 so far. The paper stresses key principles – all centering around excellence and world-class research – provides concrete advice for the Commission. During the event it was stressed that in order to achieve an ambitious FP9 budget, we must start building a narrative that can contain and promote what research brings to society and how research helps to scale up the positive consequences of research and innovation. To access the LERU position paper please follow this [link](#).

EuroTech publishes its position paper on FP9

EuroTech, an alliance of four leading European science and technology universities including DTU, has published its position paper on the next framework programme. The paper is called ‘From Excellent Research to Excellent Innovation’ and will be officially launched in Brussels on 20th September during an event with DG RTD Director-General Robert-Jan Smit. The position paper is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) publishes its position paper on FP9

The COST Committee of Senior Officials has published its FP9 position paper in which the importance of multidisciplinary, bottom-up, open and inclusive networks is one of the key points. The COST FP9 position paper can be accessed through this [link](#).

The Czech Republic, Finland and Lithuania present national positions on Interim evaluation of H2020 and on FP9

All countries stress excellence, EU-added value, further simplification and the need for the next framework programme to allow for a large degree of bottom-up research. Finland stresses more than the others the need for multilateral collaboration and impact. All the papers are attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

Committee of Regions (CoR) publishes report on smart specialisation

CoR has published a report on the impact of smart specialisation. The report was drawn up earlier this year as part of an EU programme aiming to guarantee effectiveness of cohesion, investment and territorial development policies. It precedes the upcoming publication of the Commission on the future of smart specialisation strategies. To access the report please follow this [link](#).

Highlighted events

Research & Innovation – shaping our future

On 3rd July the Commission is hosting a large scale (700 stakeholder) event where the Commissioner together with the chair of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of European research and innovation, Pascal Lamy, will present the vision and recommendations for the future. The conference will discuss these recommendations, debate ‘game-changing

ideas' and launch the stakeholder consultation for FP9. No new registrations will be accepted but the event can be followed through this [link](#) via webstream.

Aarhus University co-organises brokerage event in Brussels on SC6 2018 calls.

On Thursday 6th July Aarhus University together with 9 other universities organises a matchmaking event for researchers interested in the SC6 2018 calls. The event is organised to give the researchers a head start on the basis of the second draft, allowing for network and consortia to be ready for the publication of the calls this autumn. Should you want to hear more about this event please contact Lina Christensen lc@centraldenmark.eu.

European University Association hosts webinar on consequences of Brexit

In the beginning of June, the European University Association hosted a webinar on the consequences of Brexit. The webstream can be still be seen via this [link](#).

Food2030 Research and Innovation (save the date)

On 16th October, DG Research and Innovation will host a science policy dialogue on research and innovation in the fields of sustainable and healthy nutrition, climate resilience and environmental sustainability, circular economy and food system innovation and empowerment.

Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) info week (save the date)

On 14th to 17th November, The Research Executive Agency (REA), DG RTD and DG AGRI are co-organising an info week on SC2 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and inland water research and the bioeconomy'. For further information please follow this [link](#).

9th European Innovation Summit (Save the date)

27th November till 1st December the 9th European Innovation Summit will be held in the European Parliament in Brussels. Several research and innovation parallel sessions will be held on everything from FP9 to entrepreneurship. For further information please follow this [link](#).

Events covered in June – summaries to be obtained on request

1th June – IGLO Summer reception

6th June – European Parliament Scientific Foresight Unit event on future health systems

7th June – EUA event on 'Brexit – what will it mean for universities'

8th June – European Parliament's Scientific Foresight Unit event on 'Future Health care systems'

20th June – LERU FP9 position paper launch event

22nd June – European Brain Council launch event of White Paper on the 'Value of Treatment'

27th June – Science Europe Event 'Shaping the Next Framework Programme'

27th June – European Parliament, AMR event.

Attached to the email sending out this newsletter is a comprehensive list of relevant events.

Comments or questions should be directed to [Rikke Edsjö](#) or [Lina Christensen](#)