

EU Research Trends - September 2017

In September Research Trends has tough news on the EU budget for 2018 which seems set to cut H2020 further but also good news on the Innovation Capital Award as well as the Open and Agile Smart Cities. Several interesting publications have been released on topics such as research infrastructures, blue sky research and transport electrification. Also, the Commission continues to support a digitized EU with a number of new initiatives on cybersecurity and non-personal data flows. And if you are or know a female innovator - then the EU prize for women innovators is open!

Please also consult the highlighted events section at the end of this newsletter as well as the general events calendar attached to the email sending out Research Trends. Please note that many of the info days on the H2020 2018-2020 work programmes are now open for registration.

Trends

State of the Union address

On 13th September European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker gave his State of the Union address. The President presented his priorities for the year ahead and outlined his vision for how the EU could evolve by 2025. He presented a vision of a more united, stronger and more democratic EU. The President did not explicitly mention research but referred to innovation by saying ‘.....making our industry stronger and more competitive.....in the new Industrial Policy Strategy...will help our industries stay and become the world leader in innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation’. To see the full speech of President Juncker, please follow this [link](#).

Council position on EU budget for 2018

Early September, the Council agreed on its position on the EU budget for 2018. The 2018 budget should mainly focus on growth and jobs, security and handling of the migration crisis. The position foresees budget cuts in several policy areas, actions and programmes including Horizon 2020 compared to the draft budget as presented by the Commission. For Horizon 2020 a cut of 500 mio. EUR has been proposed. The European Parliament can still adopt amendments to the Council position. A joint position by both institutions is expected by 20th November this year. For more information please follow this [link](#). After this position was published several voices have called on member state governments to reverse their recommendation, among the strongest of these voices have been Budget Commissioner Günther Oettinger.

French President Macron calls for a new EU agency for disruptive innovation

In the much bespoken ‘major Macron’ speech on the EU at the Sorbonne University in Paris, President Macron urged the EU to establish a new EU funding agency for disruptive innovation to further encourage and boost digital technological innovation.

Macron calls for this agency to be established within the next two years to support a stronger EU base in education, science and technology. Macron's ambition is to let EU become a global reference model for digital, artificial intelligence and biotech and let EU get out of the shade of China and US when it comes to the pace of technological discoveries. In an article by Science Business Commissioner Moedas warmly welcomes the line of Macron and states in this connection that the proposal will be discussed further with the G7 science ministers early October. It is reported by different Brussels sources that an agency on disruptive technologies could be a strong vehicle in the proposed European Innovation Council. [Link](#) to full Science Business Europe article.

European Parliament resolution on Erasmus+

The European Parliament has called for more resources to fund the Erasmus+ programme. In an adopted resolution, MEPs effectively stated that citizen's expectations could only effectively be met by a significant increase in funding. The MEP in charge of this resolution (rapporteur) is the German [S&D MEP Petra Kammerevert](#). The resolution is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

BREXIT: British policy paper on future collaboration on science and innovation

In September the British government published a policy paper on the future collaboration with the EU in the areas of science and innovation. The paper outlines the government's vision of a uniquely close partnership after leaving the EU. To access the policy paper please follow this [link](#).

Aarhus in the race to become European Innovation Capital 2017

The European Commission has announced the 10 cities that have reached the final stage of the European Capital of Innovation Award 2017. The award is given for using the most innovative ideas to improve quality of life and involvement of citizens. 32 cities from 17 countries had applied for this year's competition. The winners in 2014 and 2016 were Barcelona and Amsterdam respectively. Competing with Aarhus is Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Nice, Paris, Tallinn, Tampere, Tel Aviv and Toulouse. The winner takes 1 mio. EUR earmarked to scale up innovation activities furthermore two runners-up will be allocated 100.000 EUR each. The winners will be announced on 7th November. For more information please consult this [link](#).

Open and Agile Smart Cities (OASC) awarded Excellence Award for impact

During an event in Yinchuan, China, OASC was awarded the [TM Forum Smart Cities Excellence Award](#) for impact of an (inter)national organisation. The ultimate goal of the cities participating in OASC is to create a global smart city market based on the needs of cities. AU Professor Martin Brynskov chairs OASC.

Commission launches fifth edition of EU Prize for Women Innovators

The EU Prize for Women Innovators will be awarded to female entrepreneurs who successfully brought their outstanding innovations to market. The first prize is 100.000 EUR whilst second and third prizes will be awarded 50.000 EUR. The contest is open to women across the EU and from countries associated to H2020. Deadline is 15th November. To read more about the prize, please follow this [link](#).

Digital skills award launched

For the second time the Commission has launched the European Digital Skills Awards. Companies and other organisations can submit projects they have implemented to improve digital skills in Europe for the awards. The best 5 projects designed for improving digital skills of citizens, the labour force, ICT professionals and in education as well as women and girls will be awarded. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

The Commission preparing framework for non-personal data flow

In order to accelerate the EU data economy, the Commission is proposing a new set of rules to govern the free flow of non-personal data in the EU. This will enable the storage and processing of non-personal data across the Union and will thereby boost the competitiveness of EU businesses and public services. The ambition is to double the data economy's value to 4 % of GDP by 2020. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Cybersecurity agency and cybersecurity certification framework

The European Commission continues to step up its efforts on cybersecurity and has now launched a proposal for a new EU agency on cybersecurity as well as a cybersecurity certification framework. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Commission has set up a High-Level Strategy Group on Industrial Technologies

In the context of the new [EU industrial policy](#) into which the initiatives on flow of non-personal data as well as cybersecurity all form part, the Commission has also establish a new High-Level Group on industrial technologies. The group will make strategic recommendations to the Commission on which industrial technologies to prioritise in European research and innovation, in order to strengthen EU's innovation capacity and leadership. Members of the group have been selected in their personal capacities. Denmark has no members of the group. For the short news item please follow this [link](#).

Report on research careers acknowledges open science practices

The recently published report of the expert working group Rewards/Recognition under Open Science (OS Rewards WG) provides recommendations on both a political and a practical level for encouraging and rewarding Open Science. The document outlines a number of developments including an Open Science Career Assessment Matrix. In its conclusions, the report recommends Open Science to be considered an evaluation criterion at all career levels. The OS Rewards WG is one of eight independent expert working groups dealing with different issues relevant to Open Science. Their work will be included in the Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP). To download the report please follow this [link](#).

New EC expert report on transport electrification

DG Research and Innovation has published a new expert group report on transport electrification 'Electrification of the Transport System'. The report outlines trends and developments in the sector as well as future research needs in the process of

electrifying the various transport sectors. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Commission launches new platform on transport research and innovation

The Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) has launched the Transport Research and Innovation Monitoring and Information System (TRIMIS), a new online platform for research and innovation in the areas of transport. TRIMIS will be a source of information on various issues of SC4 'Smart, green and integrated transport' by building on a large database of EU and national research projects and programmes. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Science Europe releases report on research infrastructures

The Brussels-based association of European Research Funding Organisations and Research Performing Organisations has released its latest workshop report on 'Cross-border Collaboration and Portfolio Management of Research Infrastructures'. The report explores challenges for research funding and performing organisations when designing and managing research infrastructure portfolios and cross-border collaborations. The aim with the workshop and report has been to identify lessons learned and possible ways forward. To access the report please follow this [link](#).

JRC MARS Explorer launches real-time weather and crop conditions

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) MARS Explorer launches a pioneering e-service where web users can view weather and crop conditions almost real time. The service gives users access to a much larger set of data than previously through quick access to high-resolution maps and graphs. Data is updated three times a month. Images can be downloaded and reused by users. Weather information is based on observations from several thousand meteorological stations across Europe, while simulations are made using a computer model. For more information please follow this [link](#).

EIT publishes online webinars

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has published the two interactive webinars that it held early September to be watched online. One webinar on the 2018 Call for Proposals for EIT Urban Mobility and one webinar on the Call for EIT Manufacturing. During each webinar, EIT is introduced and questions received on the call at hand are answered. To access the webinars please follow this [link](#).

ERA-LEARN on aligning national research strategies and programmes

ERA-LEARN has presented a new publication on 'case studies of novel modalities for aligning national research strategies, programmes and activities'. The case studies do not constitute in-depth evaluations of ongoing practices. Instead they aim to illustrate how selected approaches have been used to promote alignment. For more information please follow this [link](#).

ERC publishes independent study on impact of blue sky research

The European Research Council (ERC) has mid-September presented an independent study which finds that the ERC blue sky research continues to make an impact. Analyzing the outputs of ERC projects, the report finds that 73 % of projects

evaluated have made breakthroughs or major scientific advances. The report found that the ERC is achieving its goal of funding high-risk/high-gain projects and interdisciplinary frontier research. For more information about this study please follow this [link](#).

Commission re-appoints Jean-Pierre Bourguignon as President of the ERC

The Commission has re-appointed Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon as President of the European Research Council (ERC). After nearly four years in this role, his mandate will be extended for an additional two years till the end of 2019. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Ireland publishes its position paper for FP9

The Irish input paper sets out Ireland's preliminary views on the design and implementation of Framework Programme 9 (FP9). Ireland favors strong continuity between H2020 and FP9. In terms of challenges that to be addressed better in FP9 than in H2020, Ireland identifies the issues of underfunding, complexity, participation of companies, gender equality, SSH and inter-disciplinary research collaboration. In terms of defense research, Ireland favors entire separation between EU defense research and FP9. The Irish position paper is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

Highlighted events

Societal Challenge 2 (Bio economy)

The Commission devotes 4 days to Societal Challenge 2 'Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bio economy'. 14th November will be dedicated to an info-day on the work programme 2018-2020, 15th November to a brokerage event for the 2018 calls, 16th November to a bio economy policy day and 17th November to digitising agriculture and the food value chain as well as blue growth, and research and innovation. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Societal Challenge 3 (Energy) Info-day and brokerage event

On 23rd, 24th and 25th October a 3-day event will take place in Brussels on the energy work programme 2018-2020. Day 1 will introduce the overall policy background, whilst day 2 will present smart cities and communities. Day 3 will focus on smart and efficient energy. Two brokerage events are foreseen. For more information and registration please follow this [link](#).

Societal Challenge 5 (Climate action) Info-day and brokerage event

On 8th-9th November there is an info-day and brokerage event organised for the 2018 calls under societal challenge 5 'Climate Action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials'. The event is held in Brussels. For more information and registration please follow this [link](#).

Raising perspectives for researcher

On 24th October, the Commission hosts the event ‘Raising perspectives for talented researchers by institutions implementing the Human Resource Strategy (HRS4R) and complying with article 32 of the H2020 multi-beneficiary grant agreement’. This event addresses all beneficiaries and potential applicants of H2020 projects who need to comply with article 32 stipulating the need to take measures to implement the European Charter and Code for the benefit of all researchers and their institutions. For more information and registration please follow this [link](#).

Cities of the Future: Info day & brokerage event ‘Cities of the Future 2017’

In Brussels on 26th-27th October, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) invites to info day and brokerage event on ‘cities of the future 2017’. The event is targeted a number of specific H2020 calls: (i) ‘Smart, sustainable and resilient cities’ and ‘Energy efficient buildings’ (ii) ‘Circular economy’ and (iii) ‘Mobility for Growth’; ‘Automated Road Transport’ and ‘The European Green Vehicles Initiative’ (iv) ‘Smart Energy Systems and Consumers’. For more information and registration please follow this [link](#). Please note that the Turkish representation has H2020 funds to cover travel and accommodation expenses for participants presenting project ideas.

EU Space info-day and brokerage event

3rd till 6th November in Tallinn and 21st till 23rd in Rome, COSMOS2020 is offering you international info-days with details and specialist advice on EU space calls and dedicated brokerage sessions for bilateral meetings as well as networking. For more information, please follow this [link](#) (note that some of the webpage is outdated, but this is the main source).

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund info-day

On 9th November in Brussels, the Commission organises an info-day on the new ‘sustainable blue economy call’. A call with a +14 mio. EUR budget. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

ICT proposers’ info-day and brokerage event

On 9th and 10th November in Budapest, a joint programme between the Commission and the Hungarian Ministry of National Development will focus on calls for proposals of the H2020 work programme in the field of ICT and FET. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Security Research, Innovation and Education event

14th-15th November in Tallinn, the European Commission together with Estonia hosts an event on EU Security Research, Innovation and Education. The conference will focus on how to close the gap between research and the market. For more information and registration, please follow this [link](#).

EUA-EARMA seminar: ‘Higher education contribution to cooperation for development and sustainable development goals: meeting global and regional challenges’

On 18th October in Brussels, the European University Association (EUA) and the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) organise a seminar on the essential contribution that the higher education sector and research institutes make in terms of capacity building and human resources development. The seminar will offer African, German, Dutch and Belgian examples of how higher education and research make a difference in the cooperation for development agenda. For more information and registration please follow this [link](#).

Events attended in September. Summaries can be obtained by request

- 5th September - IGLO lunch meeting with DG RTD on focus areas 2018-2020
- 6th September - Science Business: Innovation Matters
- 7th September - European Public Health Alliance annual meeting
- 8th September - IGLO lunch meeting with DG REGIO on smart specialisation
- 20th September - EuroTech Annual Event - Looking towards FP9
- 25th September - The Future of EU Finances
- 26th September - Digital Transformation of Health and Care
- 28th September - Open Science Policy Symposium ‘Digital Open Science: solving the societal and sustainability challenges of the 21st century’.

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