

# EU Research Trends - August 2016

**August is a quiet month in Brussels with the biggest part of both Commission and stakeholders having fled the city for their Summer holidays. However, there are some news on the updated Horizon 2020 programme for 2016-2017 as well as other open calls and of course the latest news in relation to Brexit, published European Research Area National Action Plans and relevant events etc.**

## Trends

### EU calls

End July the Commission published the updated Horizon 2020 work programme for 2016-2017. The programme can be consulted [here](#). The update includes 50 calls worth EUR 8.5 billion spent on projects for food security, smart cities, migration studies and much more. The calls put emphasis on jobs and growth and two new items can be found on open science and migration. A total of EUR 11 million has been earmarked for migration.

The update also includes the European Research Council (ERC) which has announced its grant competitions for 2017 with a total budget of EUR 1.8 billion. This is the highest grant budget since the inception of the ERC 2007. The budget has also earmarked record allocation for young researchers with 2-7 years of post PhD experience (starting grants). The ERC work programme can be consulted [here](#).

In addition to the programmes above, the Commission also in July opened ad call for a study of the European Fintech Industry. To see the call please click [here](#).

### Brexit continued

The UK Chancellor Philip Hammond has reassured the British entities participating in EU projects will continue to receive financing already granted even after the UK leaves the EU. The guarantees promised apply to projects of the European Structural and Investment Funds signed before this year's Autumn Statement and to EU programmes where participants bid directly to the European Commission such as Horizon 2020 projects starting before the UK leaves the EU. British coordinators and partners will thus receive funding for the project costs by British Government. Read the full statement of the UK Chancellor [here](#).

### New investigation from European Research Council (ERC)

An ERC evaluation of almost 200 EU funded research projects have found that almost three-quarters have resulted in a scientific breakthrough or major advance. The evaluators also

judged that almost 10 per cent of projects have already had a large impact on the economy. Based on the evaluation, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC President, commented that 'betting on ambitious high-risk/high-gains frontier research pays off'. The ERC report is attached to this Newsletter.

#### **New Commission Expert Group to provide recommendations on Quantum Technology**

Early August the Commission announced that its' Expert Group on Quantum Technology is now formally set-up. The Expert Group counts 13 very high level academic members that will provide recommendations on the preparation of the Quantum Technology Flagship. Prof. Eugene Simon Polzik from Niels Bohr Institute is part of the Expert Group. The first meeting is to take place in the second half of September 2016. Read more about DG Connect's Quantum Technology Expert Group [here](#).

#### **European Research Area (ERA) National Actions Plans**

Early August the Commission was presented with 20 ERA National Actions Plans. The countries having submitted their plans and having made these plans public are among the EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands and among the Associated EU Member States Switzerland and Norway. We are happy to help you access these ERA plans upon request.

## Highlighted events

**Attached to the email sending out this email is a comprehensive list of relevant events. In this section a few of these events are highlighted.**

#### **ERRIN on University and Higher Education Response to the Migrant and Refugee Crisis**

On 13 September ERRIN and CreoDK are hosting an event on the response of Universities and Higher Education on the recent migration and refugee crisis. This morning seminar will open for a dialogue with the European Commission on this. The programme is attached.

#### **Addressing Radical Ideologies and Violent Extremism: The Role of Research Addressing Terrorism: European Research in social sciences and the humanities in support to policies for inclusion and security**

To mark the completion of a policy review called 'Addressing Terrorism: European Research in social sciences and the humanities in support of policies for inclusion and security', the Commission is organising a conference on 26<sup>th</sup> September in Brussels. For more information click [here](#).

### **Research Strategies EU 2030 and the next Framework Programme**

On 12<sup>th</sup> October a high-level conference organized by ScienceBusiness will take off in Brussels. The conference will look closer at what is to be expected in terms of policy options and the next Framework Programme. CDEU will join this conference and will report back on this conference in the October EU Research Trends Newsletter. For more information on the conference and registration please follow this [link](#).

### **European Open week. Smart Cities and Regions**

The 14<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities will focus on the challenges currently facing Europe's regions and cities. The week takes place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October and includes numerous events in several EU Institutions and Representations. The full programme can be found [here](#).

### **Conference on gender equality in academic and research organisations**

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Commission's DG for Research and Innovation are together hosting a high level conference in Brussels on 20<sup>th</sup> October on 'Mainstreaming gender equality into academic and research organisations'. The conference aims to bring together around 170 decision-makers, experts and practitioners responsible for gender mainstreaming in the research sector. The conference will take stock of current gender equality strategies and encourage institutional change through gender equality plans. To strengthen and promote such change, EIGE will launch a new tool: Gender Equality in Academic and Research organisations (GEAR). Information and registration through this [link](#)

### **The Innovation Radar Prize 2016**

The Innovation Radar (IR) is a European Commission initiative to identify high potential innovations and innovators in EU-funded research and innovation ICT projects. 40 of the best EU-funded innovators from 17 countries have been identified to compete with the EU-funded innovation for the Innovation Radar Prize 2016. Votes can be cast in August and the winner will be announced end of September. The categories are: (i) ICT for Society – recognising digital technologies impacting society and citizens, (ii) Excellent Science – the cutting-edge of science underpinning tomorrow's digital advances, (iii) Industrial & Enabling technologies – the next generation of tech and components supporting the digitalisation of industry, (iv) Horizon 2020 ICT Innovator – innovative excellence in Horizon 2020's digital research and innovation projects. The winner will be announced during the ICT Proposers Day on 26<sup>th</sup> September in Bratislava. See more about the Innovation Radar Prize [here](#)

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

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