

EU Research Trends - August 2017

In August Research Trends bears witness to the Summer break that has characterized Brussels for the past 4 weeks but still we report to you on the latest ministerial conference, a new partner search feature on the Participants Portal, the latest developments in relation to the UK affiliation with Horizon 2020 and a few calls and consultations.

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.

Trends

Research ministers discuss impact and value of EU research

End of July, the EU research ministers met in Tallinn to discuss how to increase the impact and value of EU research and innovation. The ministers acknowledged that research and innovation investments must be seen as a necessity for the EU. The Estonian Minister for Education and Research, Mailis Reps, said that it is clear that ‘we cannot continue with business as usual if we want to stay competitive’, she continued, ‘to achieve a budget jump in research and innovation we have to show people, companies and our colleagues the strong positive impact that excellent research has on the economy and society’. The European Commissioner, Carlos Moedas, was quoted for saying ‘we have been concentrating on the process of research and innovation, and have not been looking enough at the person, the innovators. We should look more at people and get them engaged around ideas and missions understand and relate to’. Presentations and interventions from this Council meeting can in part be found on the Estonian EU Presidencies [website](#).

New feature for partner search in the Participant Portal

The Commission has launched a new feature for searching partners on the Participant Portal. By entering search criteria such as for instance organisation type, geographical location, topics and calls, it is now possible to identify successful beneficiaries in a targeted manner as well as to contact them directly via the portal. The search results are retrieved from the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) database. To access the feature please follow [this link](#).

The European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) opens call for expression of interest for the EIT Governing Board

EIT has launched a call for expressions of interest for the selection of five members of the EIT Governing Board. The EIT Governing Board is entrusted with providing strategic leadership of the EIT. The board is independent and autonomous in its decision-making and is responsible for the selection, designation and evaluation of the EIT’s Innovation Communities. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Consultation open on High Performance Computing

Until 5th September stakeholders (see [specification](#)) are invited to participate in the consultation on the High Performance Computing Initiative. The Commission wants to gather stakeholders' opinions on the key areas of the future EU-wide initiative on HPC that will support the development of the next generation of computing and data infrastructure. To read more, please follow this [link](#).

UK Government publishes Q&A on the Horizon 2020 guarantee

The UK Government has published a short Q&A on the Horizon 2020 guarantee. This follows from a speech recently given by the UK Science Minister Jo Johnson in which the continued importance of research collaboration with the EU was highlighted. The UK Government has committed to underwrite the funding for all successful bids for competitive EU funding made by UK participants that are submitted before the UK leaves the EU. The main aspects of this guarantee include:

- Submission of proposal must have taken place before UK exits the EU. This principle also includes two-stage processes. Here the rule applies that the first stage application must have been submitted before the UK leaves the EU.
- The guarantee covers schemes administered in non-standard ways such as for example Joint Technology Initiatives, Joint Programming Initiatives and ERA-NETs.

To access the short Q&A as well as the speech by Jo Johnson, please follow [this link](#).

Foresight study, BOHEMIA, publishes intermediary analysis from recent survey

The BOHEMIA project was launched in 2016 as a foresight study feeding into the preparations of the successor of Horizon 2020. As part of the project, a survey - the Delphi survey - was launched in spring 2017. The purpose of the survey was to provide a list of individual topics which can be relevant for the future European R&I policy to take into account as well as providing insight into scientific and technological challenges, needs and opportunities for the EU in a global context, and contributing to drawing a picture of possible futures for the EU. The intermediate 452 page analysis is the intermediary result of the survey going out to 15,500 people of which 10 % from third countries. 1488 registered to answer the survey and 820 registrants completed the survey. The survey was build into two major classes: Science and technology developments as well as research and innovation. Further the survey was subclassified into fields of knowledge in the following strands: (i) Economy: Sharing, Growth, Sustainability; (ii) Education and skills; (iii) Longevity & the Health System; (iv) Natural Environment, Climate Change & Oceans; (v) Society, Culture, Digitalisation & Governance; (vi) R&I Practices; (vii) Working conditions. At the end the two initial classes spread over the eight strands were segmented into four categories of scenarios determining the likelihood and timespan of the issue at hand. The BOHEMIA project is expected to publish its final report this autumn. The intermediate analysis is attached to this newsletter.

Switzerland presents its' FP9 paper and reacts to the Lamy report

Switzerland has submitted its' position paper on FP9 and reacts in its submission also the report presented on 3rd July by the High Level Group on the future of EU research

and innovation lead by Pascal Lamy. The Swiss position paper is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

Karl-Heinz Lambertz is new President of the European Committee of the Regions
Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Belgian socialist and long-time leader of the German-speaking Community in Belgium, has taken office as President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). The CoR is the voice of regional and local authorities across the EU. Lambertz will lead the CoR for the next two and half years, and he succeeds President Markku Markkula with whom AU has close working relations under the Smart Cities agenda. Markku Markkula has now become the First Vice-President of the CoR. For more information please follow [this link](#).

Highlighted events

Registration open for FOOD2030

Earlier this year we send out a save-the-date for the Commission's (DG RTD) FOOD2030 conference on 16th October. The conference will provide a platform for science policy dialogues to assess the current state of European research, innovation and investment and to explore what the future needs in relation to food vis-à-vis sustainability, climate, circularity and health. Registration via [this link](#).

Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) Stakeholder Forum (save-the-date)

18th-19th October, IMI organises a Stakeholder Forum in Brussels. The first day is dedicated to open innovation and the second day runs two parallel tracks on patient involvement and microbiome research respectively. Registration opens soon on [this link](#).

Net4Society conference 'Democracy and Europe' in Lisbon

From 30th to 31st October this year, Net4Society will organise the conference 'Democracy and Europe' in Lisbon. Net4Society is the network of National Contact Points for Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 6. The conference is open for researchers as well as companies and policy makers. For more information and registration please use [this link](#).

First EU Education Summit (save-the-date)

On 25th January 2018, Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education will host the first EU Education Summit. The summit will focus on basic skills of young people across Europe, the urgent need to address inequalities in education systems and better investment in education. The [2015 PISA survey](#) showed that 20 % of pupils in the EU underachieve in reading, science and maths, and that the trend is worse than in 2012 and it severely affects the prospects of a large number of EU youngsters who more than ever needs to be apt for future of digitisation and competition. The event will take place in The Square, Place du Mont Des Art, 1000 Brussels. Registration will open in the autumn.

No events attended in August

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