

# EU Research Trends - February 2017

This month's newsletter provides you with an update on European affairs related to research and innovation as well as a couple of highlights on education. February saw the issues paper for the High Level Group on the mid-term evaluation of Horizon 2020, priorities being set by Estonia for its EU Presidency in the second half of 2017 as well as special attention for Antimicrobial Resistance and of course number of timely briefings, reports and consultations on everything from research infrastructures to gender equality. Be sure also to consult the events calendar attached to the email.

## Trends

### The issues paper for the High Level Group is published

The [High Level Group](#) of experts, chaired by Pascal Lamy, who will advise on how to maximize the impact of the EU's investment in research and innovation and which launched its work in December 2016, has now officially received the issues paper that will direct its' work. The issues paper present a state of play, the socio-political context as well as key facts and figures on 14 issues important to the work of the HLG. The following issues are treated in the paper: (i) Contribution to Juncker priorities and current challenges, (ii) Open innovation, (iii) Open Science, (iv) Open to the World, (v) Defense research, (vi) Industrial competitiveness, (vii) Widening participation, (viii) Mission-oriented vs. investigator-driven R&I, (viii) Simplification, (x) Interim evaluation of FP7, (xi) Ex-post evaluation of FP7, (xii) Alignment with national R&I activities, (xiii) Contribution to achieving the ERA and (xv) Social Sciences and Humanities & Responsible Research and Innovation. For more information, see [here](#). The issues paper prepared for the HLG is attached. The conference where the findings of the HLG will be presented has been rescheduled from 30<sup>th</sup> June till 3<sup>rd</sup> July. More information will follow in future newsletters on this conference.

### Research and Innovation priorities during the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU

During an informal event on for research NCPs on 7<sup>th</sup> February, the Estonian Permanent Representation to the EU and the Estonian Ministry of Research shared the main priorities for research and innovation during its presidency from 1<sup>st</sup> July till 31<sup>st</sup> December. Specific to research and innovation Estonia will (i) follow-up on the mid-term evaluation of H2020, (ii) assist the preparation of the next budget period (MFF), (iii) support the preparation of FP9 and (iv) conduct necessary Brexit negotiations in the Council. Apart from these running tasks Estonia wants to (v) address the *impact and value of research* as well as (vi) look into *increasing the coherence and openness of EU research and innovation partnerships*.

### Open consultation on AMR

Until 28<sup>th</sup> April the Commission is running an open consultation on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). After a positive evaluation of the 2011-2016 EU action plan against the rising threats of

AMR, it has been concluded that the EU can bring added value in the fight against AMR by supporting member states and making the EU a best practice region on AMR. This includes boosting research, development and innovation relevant to the prevention of AMR and shaping the global agenda on the topic. Read more and participate in the consultation [here](#). Note that by mid-2017 a Commission communication on a One Health Action Plan to support member states in the fight against AMR will be published.

#### **Prize of 1 mio EUR to new finger prick test that helps combat overuse of antibiotics**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, Commissioner for Research and Innovation Moedas handed over a 1 mio EUR Horizon Prize for Better Use of Antibiotics. The award ceremony was hosted at KU Leuven. The winner of the 1 mio EUR Horizon Prize is a finger prick test that can diagnose in less than ten minutes if a patient can be treated safely without antibiotics. The test has been developed by P&M Venge AB in Sweden and Philips Electronics in the Netherlands. Read more [here](#).

#### **Prize call open for materials for clean air**

In the Horizon 2020 work programme ‘Nanotechnologies, Advanced materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing’ the Commission has published a call for proposals for an inducement prize for design-driven innovative material solutions to reduce particulate matter air pollution in urban areas. Proposals can be submitted until 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 and the Prize award is 3 mio. EUR. Read more [here](#).

#### **Public stakeholder consultation public-public partnerships under Horizon 2020**

Until 30<sup>st</sup> April a Commission consultation is open on public-public partnerships. The objective is to collect information from a wide audience on different aspects of the design and implementation of article 185 initiatives under Horizon 2020 and FP7. Read and participate in the consultation [here](#).

#### **Science Europe has published a policy briefing on research infrastructures**

The briefing ‘Research Infrastructures in EU Framework Programming’ released by Science Europe is a contribution to the evaluation and development of research infrastructures under Horizon 2020 and highlights their importance for Europe’s global competitiveness. The policy brief is attached to this newsletter.

#### **Monitoring report on integration of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020**

The European Commission has published a new monitoring report on the integration of SSH in Horizon 2020. The goal of this second report is to assess to what extent the calls for proposals under the H2020 parts on Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership have delivered on integration of SSH as a cross-cutting issue. The first report studied projects funded in 2014 and this second report studies projects funded in 2015. According to this second report a slight improvement is seen. In 2015 84 % of the projects funded under flagged calls for proposals had at least one SSH partner (compared to 71 % in 2014).

#### **Practical Guide to Improving Gender Equality in Research Organisations**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Science Europe published a guide to improving gender equality in research organisations. The guide lists recommendations for the implementation of appropriate indicators as well as for measures to avoid bias. The guide is attached to this newsletter.

### **European Research Area Progress Report 2016 is published**

The ERA annual progress report is out and demonstrates that real progress has been made on realizing the European Research Area as an internal market for research and knowledge easing and promoting harmonization, collaboration and mobility for researchers, research institutions and companies. Read more [here](#).

### **2016 MSCA call receives record number of bids**

There will be nearly 1,200 researchers awarded Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs) from the 2016 bid for post-doctoral researchers' funding under MSCA. The Commission has announced that this is the highest number of beneficiaries from one single Horizon 2020 call so far. The Commission has received close to 9,000 bids and the grants total amounts to 218,71 mio. EUR. Read more [here](#)

### **The Quantum (QT) Flagship High-Level expert group publishes first recommendations**

The High-Level Group working on the strategic research agenda for the QT Flagship will deliver its final report in the summer of 2017, however in its intermediate report it has now published the goals it recommends for the QT Flagship's 10 years' lifetime. It suggests that the flagship is structured around four mission-driven research and innovation domains: Communication, Computation, Simulation as well as Sensing and Metrology. These domains should be built on top of a common basic science base with top research institutions and companies spread across Europe. The enabling aspect addressed in each domain belong to one of three categories: Engineering and control; Software and theory as well as Education and training. Read more [here](#).

### **Erasmus+ strategic partnerships**

Erasmus+ is promoting strategic transnational partnerships within education, training and youth. The strategic partnerships offer opportunities for funding projects of varying sizes and of a broad range of activities such as for instance (i) cooperation and networking, (ii) development, testing and implementation of innovative practices and new systems for education, training and youth, (iii) support for learners with special needs, (iv) integration of newly arrived immigrants and raising awareness about the refugee crisis in Europe, (v) promoting entrepreneurship and active citizenship among young people. Read more [here](#). Next deadline is 29<sup>th</sup> March and details are attached to this newsletter. More information can also be obtained with AU, [Ole Henckel](#).

### **Commission launches new Erasmus+ Newsletter**

To mark the 30<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Erasmus+ and to keep up with the requests for information, the Commission has launched a newsletter for Erasmus+. Sign up [here](#).

### **AU Arts on study trip to Brussels**

The Dean's office and heads of schools at AU Arts were in Brussels 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March on a study trip to be updated on latest developments and to tie firm contacts with strategic stakeholders at both Commission and KU Leuven. Direct routes of collaboration are now being explored with KU Leuven as a result of this introduction

## Highlighted events

### **Coordinators day – Grant agreement preparation**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March from 9:30-17:00 the Commission is organising a coordinators day for successful proposals helping them prepare for the grant agreement. *The event can be followed through webstream* (no registration needed to follow the webstream). The purpose of the event is to explain the details on the preparation and signature of grant agreements. More information through [here](#).

### **Secure Societies – Brokerage and information days**

On 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March the Network of Secure Societies National Contact Points (SEREN3) in collaboration with the European Commission organize an information day and brokerage event. Giving details on the calls for proposals which will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 under the societal challenge Secure Societies – Protecting Freedom and Security of Europe and its Citizens. Read more and register [here](#).

### **A vision for Europe? Research, Innovation and the Democratic Deficit**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, [The Guild](#), an association representing research intensive universities in Brussels and of which AU is a member, is organising a 2 hour event on the growth of populism and how universities can help overcome social and political alienation. The event takes place in Brussels. Read more and register [here](#).

### **Event on opportunity for KIC on Urban Mobility**

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, a 1-day awareness event on ‘Opportunities for a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in Urban Mobility’ will take place in Brussels. This event provides information on the preparations to launch a call for proposals for the KIC expected early 2018. Read more and register [here](#).

*In February the following events were attended. Meeting summaries can be obtained by request:*

*2<sup>nd</sup> February: LERU event on Excellent education in research-rich universities*

*2<sup>nd</sup> February: Academic Cooperation Association’s annual outlook event*

*7<sup>th</sup> February: Priorities of Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU (1/7/2017-31/12/2017)*

*14<sup>th</sup> February. ERRIN meeting on Horizon 2020 and cultural heritage*

**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](#)