

EU Research Trends - January 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. January has been the month where the Commission came forward with the announcement of the members of the High Level Group that will guide the outlook of the future European Innovation Council, the European Parliament saw the election of the first Italian President in its history and UK struggles to find a roadmap for Brexit. Towards the end of the trends section you will find information about open calls and consultations. Be sure also to consult the events calendar attached to the email.

Trends

Dane in High Level Group for the European Innovation Council

On 20th January, the Commission announced the 15 members of the new High Level Group that will advise the Commission on how to strengthen support for breakthrough innovation in Horizon 2020 and future research and innovation programmes. Copenhagen Business School Professor Jim Hagemann Snabe is among the members that were selected from 469 candidates who responded to a public call for expression of interest. Read more and see the full list of members [here](#).

UK's Supreme Court rules on Brexit

On 24th January, the UK Supreme Court has ruled that the British Government must get parliamentary approval before starting the process of leaving the European Union. This vote against the Government can potentially delay Prime Minister May's plan to trigger negotiations by end of March. Further, the ruling stipulates that Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland do not need to give assent before Brexit. Read more [here](#). The ruling came only a week after Theresa May's much anticipated speech in London where the Prime Minister again stressed that 'Brexit means Brexit' and that there will be no attempt to remain in the EU. May has on several occasions reiterated that the UK wants a clear break from the EU, withdrawing the UK from the Single Market and instead negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with the EU.

New President in the European Parliament

On 17th January the European Parliament elected its new President, the Italian MEP Antonio Tajani from EPP, former Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship under Barroso. MEP Tajani is the first Italian to take up this position. His election indicates a shift to a right rather than centrist Parliament. Tajani is likely to be a lower-key leader than departing President Martin Schultz. Read more [here](#).

Alternations in MEP representation in relevant European Parliament Committees

Mid-term (2014-2019) the European Parliament sees a number of changes in the composition of the Committees. Of particular interest to the Danish scene is that MEP Morten Løkkegaard is now a substitute member of the ITRE Committee whereas MEP Jens Rohde gives up his place as substitute member in ITRE. Read more [here](#).

New Budget Commissioner cuts in announced Horizon 2020 budget increase

Incoming Commissioner for Budget, Gunther Oettinger, previously Commissioner for Energy as well as Digitalization, announced on 12th January in the European Parliament that H2020 will get only half of the 400 million EUR increase in funding that the Commission had proposed in September 2016. Equally a 200 million EUR increase for the Erasmus+ programme will be halved. These cuts come after a strong call by member states to channel more support towards the new youth unemployment initiative. Many interest groups have expressed their deep disappointment with this decision. Especially since the 400 mio EUR was already seen as a very meager compensation for the 2.2 billion EUR cut in H2020 in 2015. Money taken to help finance the Juncker Investment Fund. The European Parliament still has to clear the proposal.

High Level Group on EU Resources has presented its recommendations

On 17th January the recommendations from the High Level Group on 'Own Resources' was presented. The main message is clear: The EU budget needs reform both relating to revenue and expenditure. Chairman Mario Monti stated during the presentation that the EU needs to focus more on common challenges such as securing external borders and climate change as well as new revenue to help the EU more towards a more transparent, fair and accountable system where there is less focus on beneficiaries and contributors. This calls for an overhaul of the EU budget. Possible new resources that will not increase but replace current income structures could be financial transaction taxes, carbon taxes etc. Read more [here](#).

EU's defense R&D support independence of EU arms manufacturers

During a defense hearing in the European Parliament on Wednesday 25th January the Commission confirmed that part of the purpose of the new EU R&D pilot on defense is to support independent and modern arms manufacturing in Europe. Due to the sensitivity of the R&D, the pilot will not offer the usual transparency for experts and MEPs. EU funding will go to drone demonstrations and gadgets for soldiers. The programme will begin in 2017.

KULeuven and UGent confer joint honorary doctorate on Angela Merkel

On Thursday 12th January, KULeuven and UGent conferred a joint honorary doctorate on German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel. She received the doctorate for her diplomatic and political efforts to develop the EU's political strength and for defending the European values. Read more [here](#).

EU Alliance of Life Science Research Institutes (EU-LIFE) releases position paper on FP9

EU-LIFE, an alliance of 13 top research centers in life sciences, released a statement with recommendations for the next EU Frame Work Programme for Research and Innovation. Its key message is to drive European leadership in innovation, boost excellent ground breaking research in combination with professional technology transfer and focus on educating the next generation of top researchers. See more [here](#).

Science associations calls for extension of text and data mining rights

Several science umbrella associations (Science Europe, LIBER Europe, CESAER, EUA and LERU) are calling on the Members of the European Parliament to modify the current EU copyright reform proposal. According to a joint statement by these associations, the proposal does not go far enough if Europe wants to remove barriers for scientific breakthroughs and boost innovation. The associations call for a copyright reform to provide legal certainty around cross-

border research. A key principle in the call is: The right to read is the right to mine. The joint statement is attached to the email with this newsletter.

Commission outlines next steps towards EU data economy and opens consultation

On 10th January, the Commission proposed policy and legal solutions to unleash EU's data economy. For more information, see [here](#). The Commission considering data as an emerging and important economical asset has also build this [fact sheet](#). With this announcement the Commission also launched a public consultation on Building a European data economy. The consultation will feed into the Commission's possible future initiative on the European Data Economy in 2017. Read more and access the consultation [here](#).

Commission launches public consultation for review of the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) On 18th January a consultation on ENISA opened. ENISA was established in 2004, however, the cybersecurity field as evolved immensely and the consultation will assist a possible overhaul of the mandate ENISA. Deadline 12th April. Read more and access the consultation [here](#).

ERC relaunched Synergy Grants

The ERC Scientific Council has decided to take the preliminary steps to reinstate the Synergy Grant Funding Scheme in 2018. This decision is based on evaluation of the ongoing projects funded through the pilot calls in 2012-2013. Synergy Grants bring together top researchers with complementary skills and knowledge, enabling them to jointly address a challenge. During a LERU event in 2016 the Danish ERC Board member Klaus Bock underlined that the ERC had previously witnessed researchers giving up prestigious advanced grants in favor of synergy grants and that the ERC expects a lot of the reintroduction of the synergy grants. The PR on the reinstatement of the synergy grants is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

The Innovative Medicines Initiatives launches new calls

The IMI is a public-private partnership between the European Commission and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). The IMI2 programme has a 3.3 billion EUR budget for the period 2014-2024. Topics relate to diabetes & hypoglycaemia, big data & prostate cancer, pain, paediatric clinical trials, biomanufacturing, genes & disease, the patient perspective, and autism. For information on the IMI2 calls please consult this [link](#).

Launch of STARTS prize 2017: Successful collaboration between technology and arts

The STARTS prize honours projects that demonstrate successful collaboration of science, technology and art contributing to economic and social innovation. The two prize winners will be chosen by an international jury and will each receive 20,000 EUR. The STARTS programme of the European Commission encourages collaboration between researchers and artists in projects funded under Horizon 2020. For more information see this [link](#).

ERASMUS+ call open for Forward-Looking Cooperation Projects (FLCP)

FLCPs are cooperation projects aimed at identifying, testing, developing, assessing new innovative approaches in the fields of education, training and youth. Projects should have the the potential of becoming mainstreamed. The projects should focus on innovation in practices and policies across education and youth fields. For more information, please consult this [link](#).

Open consultation on the midterm evaluation of EU's Third Health Programme

Stakeholders with an interest in health policy, public health and/or healthcare in the EU are

called upon to contribute to the open consultation on the Third Health Programme. The consultation forms part of the mid-term evaluation of the programme (2014-2020) and will be used together with other evidence to inform the mid-term evaluation and to prioritise future actions. Deadline 23rd February. See more and participate in the consultation [here](#).

AU Arts meets project partners at CDEU office in Brussels

10-11 January AU Arts hosted a project partner meeting for the preparation of their proposal to the Horizon 2020 call on [participatory approached and social innovation](#)

Highlighted events

Infoday for project coordinators – available through webstreaming

On 14th February from 8:30-17:00, the European Commission is organising an information session in Brussels for Horizon 2020 project coordinators on legal aspects, business processes and IT tools for project report and grant amendments, with particular attention to the financial aspects and eligibility of costs. For registration please consult this [link](#) and for accessing the live webstream use this [link](#) (can click through to the left) .

Science with and for Society brokage event in Brussels

On 10th March a SwarfS brokage event is being organised in Brussels. The event will provide detailed information on the 2017 calls of the SwafS programme and will be a networking opportunity for researchers, representatives, practitioners, policy makers etc. The 2017 SwafS calls will focus on (i) institutional change in support of responsible research and innovation, (ii) embedding responsible research and innovation in Horizon 2020, (iii) strengthening the Science with and for Society Knowledge-Base (iv) Developing inclusive anticipatory governance for research and innovation. Read more through this [link](#).

Universities of Applied Sciences: Success in H2020 and Beyond – Learn, Network, Lobby!

On 15th March the European network UAS4EUROPE and the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union organise a conference on European funding opportunities especially tailored to the needs of universities of applied sciences. It will look in to the agenda of the Commission for the coming years and give practical tips on how to successfully apply for funding. Parallel sessions are offered in the afternoon on (i) Health and Wellbeing, (ii) Environment, Food and Agriculture, (iii) Living and Working in the 21st Century, (iv) Energy and Climate Change, (v) Enabling and Industrial Technologies, Digitalisation and (vi) Arts and Design. See the programme [here](#) and register [here](#).

CDEU attended the following events in January, summaries can be obtained by request:

Connected Smart Cities 12th January 2017

ESOMA: European Insights Summit, Celebrating the Social Value of Research 24th January 2017

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](#)