

EU Research Trends - January 2018

In January Research Trends brings news on the public consultation for FP9, the recommendations for the European Innovation Council, the Communication from the Commission on the H2020 interim evaluation, and two new H2020 prizes as well as the Danish participation in the AAL call for 2018 and the recent meeting with AU professor Kim Daasbjerg with the Cabinet of Commissioner Moedas. Furthermore, we are happy to share with you that Aarhus University has a member in the new High-Level Group on fake news and disinformation.

The general events calendar is attached to the email sending out Research Trends.

Trends

Public consultation on FP9

In Summer 2018, the Commission will publish its proposal for the next Framework Programme. Together with a series of consultations on various themes a public consultation on 'EU funds in the area of investments, research and innovation, SME and single market' has been launched. Interested parties are invited to give their opinions and positions until 8th March. The results will be published and can be used for designing both the future budget and framework programme. Calling for a larger EU budget for research is now an important task for stakeholders at universities and research institutions. To access the FP9 consultation, please follow this [link](#). To have a look at all the various themes that the Commission has now launched public consultations on please follow this [link](#).

Commissioner Moedas appoints special advisor for Mission-Driven Science

As off January 2018, Mariana Mazzucato, professor University College London, is officially appointed Special Advisor on Mission-Driven Science and Innovation to the Commissioner for Research. She will help shape the next EU Framework Programme so that it is more mission-oriented which means transforming societal challenges into concrete problems that multiple sectors and different types of public and private actors can work together to solve. For more information on the mission-oriented approach, please follow this [link](#). Mazzucato appeared in an open event organised by the European Parliament Scientific Foresight Unit on 24th January. Full summary of the event can be obtained on request

High-Level Group launch recommendations for a European Innovation Council

With the title 'Europe is back: Accelerating breakthrough innovation' the High-Level Group of innovators outline their recommendations for a European Innovation Council (EIC). The scope is how to fund and nurture breakthrough innovation from start-up to scale-up. More flexible financing matching the individual needs of the innovators and further development of partnerships and networks leveraging the EU ecosystems are

among the recommendations. The report with the recommendation can be downloaded following this [link](#).

Commission communication on H2020 interim evaluation

The Commission has published a Communication to the Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. The Communication summarizes the main evaluation results of the Lamy Group and gives short responses. In the outlook the Commission welcomes the recommendations of the Lamy Group. The Communication can be found together with background information through this [link](#). In relation to this the Commission has now also published a brochure with the key figures of the first three years of H2020. This brochure is available through this [link](#).

EU Commissioners discuss the Multiannual Financial Framework

During its first meeting in 2018, the College of Commissioners discussed the EU priorities for 2018, and held its first orientation debate on the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The Commissioners backed the proposals of Commissioner Oettinger made at the MFF conference on 8th January. Oettinger has proposed among others to exclude the EU's research and innovation programmes as well as Erasmus programmes from cuts and increasing their budgets. (summary of the MFF conference can be obtained by request). For more information about the MFF, please follow this [link](#).

European Parliament wants increased research and innovation budget

Despite shrinking EU funds post-Brexit, research spending should rise to at least 120 million EUR in the 2021-2028 budget according to the European Parliament's Budget Committee which published its preliminary position in January. In addition to more money for research, Parliament is also pitching for a tripling of the 17 billion EUR Erasmus programme. MEPs furthermore suggest to ring-fence cohesion funds and the funds of Common Agriculture Policy on stricter grounds than now. To access the preliminary position of the Budget Committee, please follow this [link](#). The Parliament's Committee for Industry, Technology, Research and Energy has also released its' own detailed set of recommendations. These recommendations will now go to the Budget Committee which leads the file of the EU budget. To access the recommendations from the ITRE Committee, please follow this [link](#).

Denmark partly rejoins the AAL programme

Danish partners will as off 2018 be able to submit proposals and/or be partners in part of the Active and Assisted Living (AAL) programme. AAL is targeted innovative ICT solutions for mature adults. Danish applicants will be eligible under the part of the call on small collaborative projects. Small collaborative projects are defined as projects of 6 months duration and with a budget of 300.000 euro stressing the involvement of end-users (buyers or citizens). The call is a bottom-up call under the heading of 'Smart Solutions for Ageing well'. Deadline 28th May 2018. To access the pre-announcement call text please follow this [link](#). A Danish info-day is held in Aarhus on Monday 5th February. Programme attached to the email sending out this email. For registration please write to lc@centraldenmark.eu

H2020 Prize ‘Blockchain for social good’

The Commission will award 5 prizes of 1 million EUR each to social innovations where innovators use blockchain technology to bring about positive social change, including support of fair trade, allowing transparency in production processes, decentralising data governance and enhancing privacy, enabling accountability and contributing to financial inclusion. The prize encourages development of scalable, efficient and effective solutions using Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), the ground-breaking digital technology supporting decentralised methods of consensus reaching and transactions. The prize is the third of six European Innovation Council prizes. Detailed rules of contest will be available in February 2018. Deadline for applications is 25th June. For more information on the prize please follow this [link](#) and to check out the pilot website of the EIC please follow this [link](#).

H2020 Prize ‘Low-cost space launchers’

The Commission has launched a 10 million EUR prize for the development of low-cost space launchers. The prize will be funded within the European Innovation Council Pilot and the challenge is to develop a European technologically non-dependent solution for launching light satellites into Low-Earth Orbit. The solution needs to be innovative, implementable, affordable in development and exploitation phases and commercially viable. Applicants are required to take a holistic approach and produce results that move beyond existing solutions. Deadline to submit applications will be the fourth quarter of 2020. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Progress report and upcoming call on the Security Union

The 13th progress report on the Security Union presents measures which the Commission has taken or is planning to take in order to build a European Security Union. The Security Union is part of the European Security Agenda which the Commission announced in 2016. An impact assessment is currently being carried out with the aim of establishing a ‘Network of Cybersecurity Competence Centres’, this will include a ‘European Cybersecurity Research and Competence Centre’. Within H2020, the Commission is planning to launch a pilot project to support the establishment of this network of Cybersecurity Competence Centres. This will require an amendment to the 2018-2020 work programme. The call with a budget of 50 million EUR is to be published in the first quarter of 2018. To access the report please follow this [link](#). Furthermore, the Commission has prepared a fact sheet on the Security Union which can be found [here](#).

Commission appoints High-Level Group on fake news

The Commission has appointed a new multi-stakeholder High-Level Group on fake news and online disinformation. The group will support the development of an EU strategy on how to tackle fake news. Anja Bechmann from Aarhus University is part of the High-Level Group. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Commission publishes booklets on H2020 focus areas

For the last three years of its duration, H2020 focuses on fewer topics with bigger budgets, directly supporting the political priorities of the Commission. These four Focus Areas for 2018-2020 are now supported by dedicated booklets presenting the areas and the contributions made to them from various programme parts. The four

areas are: (i) [Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future](#), (ii) [Connecting economic and environmental gains - the Circular Economy](#), (iii) [Digitising and transforming European industry and services](#) and (iv) [Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union](#).

Research and innovation key for EU strategy on plastics

The Commission has adopted the EU strategy on plastics which is part of the transition towards a more circular economy. The goal of the strategy is to protect the environment from plastic pollution whilst fostering growth and innovation. According to the Commission, there is a strong business case for transforming the way products are designed, produced and recycled in the EU. Reaching most of the objectives will require research and innovation in several areas. So far, H2020 has provided more than 250 million EUR to finance research in areas of direct relevance to the strategy. Until 2020 an additional 100 million EUR will be devoted to financing activities under this strategy. To access the full press release, please follow this [link](#).

Proposal for Regulation: Joint Undertaking High Performance Computing

The Commission has published its proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertaking ‘High Performance Computing’ (HPC JU). Members of the JU shall be as public partners the Union and the countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland as well as private partners the European Associations: The European Technology Platform High Performance Computing (ETP4HPC) and the Big Data Value Association (BDVA). To access the proposal for regulation, please follow this [link](#). The Czech Republic is the latest country to join the initiative behind this proposal to read more please follow this [link](#).

Commission suggests framework for assessment of regional innovation impact of universities

The Joint Research Centre has prepared a report ‘Regional Innovation Impact Assessment Framework for Universities’ which provides a framework to assess the impact of universities on their regional innovation ecosystem. In the context of a renewed EU agenda for higher education which argues that universities do not attain their full potential and on the backdrop of the Lamy High-Level Group which called for additional funding to support universities to modernize and increase their innovation potential. The report proposes a system of case studies supported by indicators through which evidence of university contribution to regional innovation can be demonstrated. The report identifies four impact categories and identifies associated indicators. The report is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

Commission publishes study on research, innovation and economic growth

On the Commission Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO), a study is published which DG Research and Innovation has commissioned Deloitte and RAND Europe to undertake. The aim of the study is to better understand the impact of public policy on innovation. The report consists of several publications looking at: (i) R&D policy reforms and strategies, (ii) skill accumulation, (iii) technology diffusion and (iv) knowledge production function and R&D investments. An executive summary is

provided in a separate document. Access the documents through the RIO library by following this [link](#).

Evaluation experts for the European Innovation Council have been selected

With the creation of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot launched, the SME instrument evaluations will undergo a change. Starting from the first cut-off on 10th January, companies that pass to the second phase will have to pitch their innovation projects in front of a jury of investment and innovation experts. The list of experts has now been published - 87 in total - of which two Danish experts: Christine Bosse and Kirsten Drejer. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

First project grant agreement under the European Defense Fund signed

The first European Defence Fund research project signed its grant agreement end of 2017. The project will focus on strategic technology foresight and aims to identify key trends in the fast-evolving world of innovative technologies. The outcomes will be key to shaping the future EU-funded defence research. Under the European Defence Fund, the Commission proposed to allocate 90 million EUR from the EU budget 2017-2019 to fund defence research in areas previously agreed with member states. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

AU presents its Open Science initiative to the Commission

On 18th January Professor Kim Daasbjerg and Jacob Ramsay met the cabinet of Commissioner Moedas to share with the Commission how AU is working with Open Science at the faculty of Science and Technology. The initiative at AU is unique in the sense that it allows for research communities and industries to come together from the very first stages of ideation and involves a process based on trust and exploration - all without patents - that seems to be unique. The 'AU model' is praised for its agility and speed of discovery. However, despite the obvious advantages, the model does not - yet - fit into traditional funding streams. To read more about the initiative, please follow this [link](#).

4th thematic report on Open Science

The Commission's Policy Support Facility (PSF) has published the 4th thematic report of the Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on Open Science on its Research and Innovation Observatory (RIO) website. The report proposes a National Roadmap for the implementation of Open Science, listing the steps involved in the transition to a national research governance policy that is supportive of Open Science activities. The report outlines key priorities underpinning the implementation of Open Science and reviews existing experiences. To access the report please follow this [link](#).

CESAER contribution to the European Open Science Cloud

CESAER, the conference of European schools for advanced engineering, has published a paper in relation to the ongoing shaping of the EOSC. According to the paper, the EOSC should build upon existing bottom-up science-driven communities and structures to ensure tangible and non-bureaucratic services to researchers and S&T professionals. Governance should be a transparent non-profit set-up and EOSC infrastructure should be understood as both technical and organisational. To access the CESAER press release please follow this [link](#).

Science Europe publishes guidance on data management

Science Europe has put together ‘Guidance Document Presenting a Framework for Discipline-specific Research Data Management’. The background is the increased demand for data management plans but in a situation where there is currently no common standard format for these plans, they can be difficult to compare and evaluate. This is the reason why Science Europe now comes forward with its guidance. The guidance document can be found through this [link](#).

LERU launches paper on gender

During a high-level event LERU launched a new advise paper on gender ‘Implicit bias in Academia’. The paper looks at the role of implicit bias as a mechanism behind the gender gap and a potential threat to academic meritocracy. In the paper working conditions, recruitment and career advancement processes are examined and examples of action at LERU universities are given. Nine recommendations are given. To download the paper please follow this [link](#).

Commission publishes report from stakeholder workshop on simplification

The Commission held a workshop on further simplification in Brussels in the autumn of 2017 with multiple stakeholders. The report concluding on this workshop has now been published. Although Horizon 2020 has had simplification at its core, it is clear from the recent interim evaluation that the simplification process must be continued. To download the report, please follow this [link](#).

France has published preliminary position paper on FP9

France published in December its preliminary position paper on FP9 in French. Attached to the email sending out this email is a summary of the position paper in English. France calls for the framework programme to be consolidated on the existing principles of excellence, impact, cooperation and EU added-value. France is of the opinion that the framework of H2020 broadly can be maintained and supports an exploration of the possibilities to refocus R&I actions through missions. Furthermore, France holds the position that the next framework programme must be as inclusive and open as possible.

15 PhD positions open within H2020 ITN-ANTHUSIA project

The Marie Curie project [ANTHUSIA ‘Antropology of Human Security in Africa’](#) is run by a consortium of four universities in Aarhus (Denmark), Edinburgh (United Kingdom), Leuven (Belgium) and Oslo (Norway) and cooperates with numerous partner organizations in Africa. ANTHUSIA invites applications for 15 joint fully-funded, three-year fellowships to begin September 1, 2018. Each available fellowship is hosted by one of the universities in Aarhus, Edinburgh, Leuven and Oslo. ANTHUSIA is a joint degree program, which means that the PhD fellow will also spend 6 months at one of the other universities. The program also includes one year of fieldwork in Africa, with a 2-3 months period of secondment to a non-academic partner organization and annual summer/winter schools. Application deadline 15th March. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Highlighted events

EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility: Information day

On 13th February 2018, The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is organising an information day in relation to the two open calls for Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) on ‘Added Value Manufacturing’ and ‘Urban Mobility: smart, green and integrated transport’. To access the registration site, please follow this [link](#). The specific calls for proposals can be found on this [site](#). Deadline for submission of proposals is 12th July 2018. Selection expected in December 2018. A KIC is a highly integrated public-private partnership that brings together outstanding businesses, universities and research institutes in centres of excellence, to so-called ‘Co-location Centres’. The EIT provides the KICs with a maximum of 25% of their overall budget. 75% of the costs are to be covered by the partners of the KIC.

Events attended in January. Summaries can be obtained by request

8th-9th January The Next Multi-Financial Framework

18th January LERU event on Implicit Bias

24th January European Parliament event on Mission-Driven Research and Innovation

25th January DG EAC European Education Summit

30st January Science Europe Research Data Management conference

31st January Info-day on the programme Active and Assisted Living

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