

EU Research Trends - May 2017

In May Research Trends brings news on the results of the stakeholder consultation on the Horizon 2020 midterm evaluation, new reports and papers on everything from gender equality to more member state position papers on FP9. Also, we share a glimpse of the first education day organised by Aarhus University in Brussels on 23rd May. Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the highlighted events section towards the end of this newsletter as well as the general events calendar attached to the email sending out Research Trends.

Trends

Lykke Friis shares work of Lamy group with Universities Denmark

Lykke Friis attended a meeting on 11th May in Copenhagen with Universities Denmark to share and discuss the current work of the so-called Lamy group which has been tasked to advise the Commission on the future research and innovation approach. Klaus Bock, Vice President in the European Research Council also presented during the meeting. A full account of the meeting is available on request.

Results of stakeholder consultation on the mid-term evaluation of Horizon 2020 is published

The Commission has published a detailed analysis of the feedback received through the open public consultation as part of the Horizon 2020 midterm evaluation. The consultation resulted in close to 3500 responses and received more than 300 position papers. Respondents come from 69 countries. To read more, please follow [this link](#).

The Research Innovation and Science Policy Experts (the RISE group) publishes book on 'Europe's future' calling for focus on people

The RISE group which advises the Commission on research and innovation recommends in its new analysis: 'Europe's future: Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World' recommends the EU to move towards financing individual researchers rather than large-scale projects, drop submission deadlines and award smaller grants to make the EU money do more in the future. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

ERC makes its case for a bigger slice of the cake in FP9

ERC is using their 10-year track record of funding individual researchers in frontier research to argue for a larger part of the EU research funding in the future. For more information on the ERC argumentation for more funding on FP9, please follow this [link](#).

Seal of Excellence certificates awarded to Marie Sklodowska-Curie proposals

The Commission has for the first time awarded 'Seal of Excellence' certificates to more than 2300 applicants to the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships in the 2016 call. The 'Seal of Excellence' was initially only awarded to proposals for the SME-instrument but now it has also been rewarded to the Marie Sklodowska-Curie actions that reached a 85 % score or above in the evaluation process but which were not retained for funding. The seal is a quality label awarded to projects submitted to Horizon 2020 which were deemed worthy of funding but did

not receive it due to budget limits, and the Commission through the seal then recommends these actions to be funded by alternative sources regionally, nationally or internationally. To read more, about the 'Seal of Excellence' please follow this [link](#), and to see which countries currently have support schemes for MSCA please follow this [link](#).

Extension of pilot action to fund FP7 post-grant publications

In order to fund Open Access publications arising from finalized FP7 projects, the OpenAIRE2020 project (financed by the Commission) has developed the EC FP7 post-grant Gold Open Access Pilot aiming to improve access to research results from FP7 projects. The project will run until the funding of 4 mio EUR is exhausted. OpenAIRE has requested the Commission to extend the final deadline until February 28th 2018. For more information, on OpenAIRE2020 please follow this [link](#) as well as this [link](#).

Open Access recommendation from Science Europe

The Working Group on Open Access to Research Publications of Science Europe has published a recommendation on accomplishing the transition to Open Access. The recommendation encourages scientific institutions to disclose payments of Open Access publication fees by participating in the 'Open APC Initiative', in order to help create a more transparent cost structure in the Open Access publication market and to stimulate competition. To read the recommendation, please follow [this link](#).

Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Research

On 3rd May the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Research was held in Valetta, Malta. The meeting focused on Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation collaboration as well as on tackling the European innovation divide. In relation to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in research and innovation, the EU and EFTA ministers discussed the role that R&I can play in fostering stronger collaboration across the Mediterranean region and bringing life to Science Diplomacy. In relation to the EU innovation divide ministers were invited to exchange views on the measures that need to be taken.

New Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) confirmed

[The PRIMA initiative](#) which will develop water provision and agro-food projects in the Mediterranean region under the new Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) has been confirmed. The initiative will pool know-how and financial resources of the EU and participating states. The partnership currently involves 11 EU member states: Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy and Luxembourg as well as 8 non-EU countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon and Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The EU's participation will include a contribution of EUR 220 million from Horizon 2020. Participation in the PRIMA initiative will remain open to any other EU member state as well as to third countries, provided they fulfil the conditions for participating in PRIMA. The initiative is expected to be operational early 2018, after formal adoption by the European Parliament and the Council. For full press release, please follow [this link](#).

Share of people with completed tertiary education rises

According to Eurostat, the share of persons aged 30 to 34 in the EU who have completed tertiary education continued to increase from 23,6 % in 2002 to 39,1 % in 2016. The increase is the most pronounced among women (24,5 % in 2002, 43,9 % in 2016). According to the EU

2020 strategy, the target is that at least 40 % of 30-34 year-olds in the EU should have completed tertiary education by 2020.

European Research Council (ERC) launches new newsletter

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary the ERC has launched a new newsletter. To download the spring issue of the ERC newsletter, please follow [this link](#).

Net4Society factsheet on impact

Spurred by the increased focus on impact, Net4Society has published a factsheet on the topic. To download this factsheet, please follow this [link](#).

Report on gender in research published

New report on 'Gender in the Global Research Landscape' was presented in May by [Elsevier](#) in Brussels. The report analyses research performance from a gender perspective and covers a period of 20 years, 12 geographies and 27 subject areas. The report offers guidance for gender research and gender equality policy for governments, funders and institutions. The Commissioner of research and innovation was present at the launch event and underlined the importance of gender equality in open science and innovation. To download the report, please follow [this link](#).

Commission publishes study on state aid support schemes for RDI

The Commission has published a study on 'State aid support schemes for RDI in the EU's international competitors in the fields of Science, Research and Innovation'. The study was carried out in 2015 and evaluates the appropriateness and effectiveness of the regulatory framework for state aid to RDI in the EU. To read more, please follow [this link](#).

Scientific Opinion on Cybersecurity in the European Digital Single Market

The Scientific Advisory Mechanism High Level Group (SAM) has delivered a scientific opinion on cybersecurity in the EU. The opinion will support the Commission's revision of the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy. To read more about SAM's work, please follow [this link](#).

Annual report from the Future and Emerging Technologies Flagship on Graphene

The FET Flagship on Graphene has released its annual report on the main scientific and technological achievements of the past year. Among others the first Core Project launched in April which will have as its main objective to take graphene from the laboratory to the market. To read more, please follow [this link](#).

Explanatory Note on 'New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology' published

The High Level Group of the Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) has published an independent note on new techniques in agricultural biotechnology. Following the request of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, the scientific advisers provide a detailed scientific description of agricultural breeding techniques used in plants, animals and microorganisms. The note will be used by Commissioners to support a public debate with stakeholders including a high-level conference on modern biotechnologies in agriculture organised by the Commission in September 2017. To read more, please follow [this link](#).

KU Leuven is Europe's most innovative university according to Reuters

KU Leuven has been selected the most innovative university in Europe for the second consecutive year by Reuters. Apart from KU Leuven, the list counts a lot of tech hub universities from the UK as well as Germany. To read more, please follow [this link](#).

Commission fact sheet on state of play of European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)

The Commission has published per country fact sheets regarding the state-of-play for EFSI. EFSI is one of the Commission initiatives to spur the European economic recovery. The fact sheets provide information on financing volume and which activities have been funded per country. To access the fact sheet for Denmark, please follow this [link](#).

European University Association (EUA) publishes position paper on FP9

EUA has presented its position paper on FP9. Calling for ambitious and sustainable funding for EU research and innovation. To download the position paper, please follow [this link](#).

Belgium presents position paper on FP9

Belgium has put forward its position paper on FP9. The paper is based on consultations on the interim evaluation of H2020 at federal and regional levels, with ministers, funding agencies, universities, research centers, SMEs and various other stakeholders. The document is structured in three parts with 5 guiding principles and 12 implementing principles. To download the document, please follow [this link](#).

Poland presents position paper on FP9

The Polish position paper is built on ideas, opinions and experiences of selected representatives of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, NCPs, Permanent Representation as well as Polish funding agencies, regional authorities and stakeholders from academia and industry. To read more, please follow [this link](#).

Portugal presents position paper on FP9

Also Portugal has now official presented its paper for FP9. The paper stresses that after a decade hit by recession and economic and budgetary problems, the EU must take into account how knowledge-based cohesion platforms can promote opportunities. The Portuguese position paper is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

AU hosts education day for Danish universities in Brussels

On 23rd May, AU hosted an education day in Brussels for research support staff from the Danish universities. The education day was dedicated to evaluation, impact and stakeholder engagement. 24 people from 6 Danish universities were present and speakers gave both very practical guidance and tips as well as possible scenarios for the future framework programme. A meeting report and presentations are available upon request.

Highlighted events

Brexit – what will it mean for universities?

Although nobody can answer how Brexit will affect the universities yet, the European University Association organises a webinar on possible scenarios on 7th June. If you would like to read more about this webinar and/or register, please follow this [link](#).

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) launches health capacity programme

EIT Health will in mid-June at the Karolinska Institute run a capacity programme destined at women in health. The target group is women scientists, researchers, PhD students, entrepreneurs or project leaders who would like to know more about health innovation and entrepreneurship. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Research & Innovation – shaping our future

On 3rd July the Commission is hosting a large scale (700 stakeholder) event where the Commissioner together with the chair of the High Level Group on maximising the impact of European research and innovation, Pascal Lamy, will present the vision and recommendations for the future. The conference will discuss these recommendations, debate ‘game-changing ideas’ and launch the stakeholder consultation for FP9. To register for the event please follow this [link](#). There is a good chance that the event will be oversubscribed and therefore the Commission will select participants among the registrations, so do not book flights before you have received confirmation. Normally the event will also be web streamed.

FOOD2030 high level conference (Save the date)

On 16th October, the Commission organises the second FOOD2030 conference. A conference dedicated to science and research relevant for sustainable food production, safe food and nutrition as well as circular economy. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) info week (Save the date)

On 14th to 17th November, The Research Executive Agency (REA), DG RTD and DG AGRI are co-organising an info week on SC2 ‘Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and inland water research and the bioeconomy’. For further information please follow this [link](#).

9th European Innovation Summit (Save the date)

27th November till 1st December the 9th European Innovation Summit will be held in the European Parliament in Brussels. Several research and innovation parallel sessions will be held on everything from FP9 to entrepreneurship. For further information please follow this [link](#).

Events covered in May – summaries to be obtained on request

10th May – The Guild on Big Data: Risks and Scientific Opportunities

11th May – FP9 discussion with Lykke Friis and Klaus Bock, Universities Denmark

18th-19th – Innovation in Care

22nd May – Vision2020 – Opening Energy Horizons

23rd May – AU education day in Brussels on Evaluation, Impact and Stakeholder Engagement.

24th May – London Higher Europe – eHealth panel debate

30st May – How technology keeps us moving in congested cities

31st May – FOOD2030 event

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](#)