EU Research Trends – May 2018

In May, Research Trends brings news on the proposal for the next EU budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework. We also look at news regarding the expected contribution of the European Universities Initiative in supporting the European Education Area, the EU-Brazil agreement on R&I and the evaluation of the first pilot call under the European Innovation Council. Furthermore, we share news on H2020 impact, smart specialization and a call for tenders by the high-performance computer centers in Spain, Italy, Germany and France. Furthermore, you will find open surveys and consultations among others from the FOOD2030 project FIT4FOOD2030.

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

Trends

Commissioner Moedas announces Horizon Europe as the name for FP9
In a blog post on 2nd May, Commissioner Moedas officially announced the name of the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9) – Horizon Europe. He explains that the new name will mark the first step on the road to the future. The new name builds on Horizon 2020 which has achieved a global reputation on excellence and the successor programme should capitalize on the strong brand of 'Horizon'. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework
The Commission has put forward its proposal for a Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2021-2017. The MFF proposal sets up a 97,6 billion EUR budget for Horizon Europe (FP9) and an additional 2,4 billion EUR for Euratom (nuclear research) which was also counted separately in the Horizon 2020 budget. Taking an inflation of 2% per year into account the increase compared to Horizon 2020 is at 12%. The Horizon Europe budget forms part of the overall MFF proposal of 1 trillion EUR, equivalent to 1.11 per cent of the EU27's gross national income. The budget is the first post-Brexit budget and includes reductions to the two largest EU spending programmes, farming and structural funds, down with 5 and 7 per cent respectively. These reductions make room for more spending on research, innovation and defence – when presenting the proposal the Commission is very strongly promoting the new budget as a means to ensure innovation, yielding the full benefits of digitization and artificial intelligence as well as doing more on security.

Several organisations and associations representing the European research community have also issued their first reactions to the new budget. The general tone is positive but like the European Parliament, the research community would like to see an even bigger budget than the 100 billion EUR. Several stakeholders including LERU and The Guild call for a 160 billion EUR budget. Member States seem divided on

the budget and their conflicting opinions appear difficult to bridge. Not all Member States agree that the overall EU spending should increase with the departure of the UK. Germany and France, the two biggest contributors, are both willing to pay more but other Member States including Denmark seem unwilling to see the overall EU budget increase. For more information, please follow this link.

The Netherlands circulate paper calling for prioritisation of R&I in MFF
In a non-paper circulated early May, the Netherlands (NL) calls for prioritising Research and Innovation for Smart Growth in the next Multi Financial Framework (MFF), the EU's budget from 2012 to 2027. NL calls for more focus on (digital) innovation, research, climate and sustainability as these are themes where the EU added value is particularly clear. Some of the principles that the Dutch government asks to be taken into account in the future MFF are: (i) Stronger budget focus on R&I with the next framework programme to continue its focus on excellence and impact. (ii) Keeping, balancing and better connecting the current three-pillar structure. (iii) Involvement and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders of the R&D ecosystem. (iv) Stronger synergies between framework programme, structural funds and other programmes. The pursuit of smart growth should transcend the vast majority of programmes including Erasmus+ and Connecting Europe Facility. The Dutch non-paper is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

Commission presents renewed agenda for research and innovation
Mid-May the Commission presented its contribution to the informal discussion that Heads of State held in Sofia on 16th May. The goal of the 'Renewed European Agenda for Research and Innovation' is to provide a set of concrete actions to deepen Europe's innovation capability. The Commission welcomed the decision to schedule a debate among heads of state on R&I and invited them to discuss and give strategic orientation to: (i) Ensure that regulation and financing are innovation-friendly, (ii) Become a frontrunner in market-creating innovation, (iii) Launch EU-wide research and innovation missions with bold, ambitious goals and strong EU added value in areas to be defined with Member States stakeholders and citizens. For more information, please consult the Commission Communication 'Renewed agenda for Research and Innovation' attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

UK presents ideas on future science pact with the EU
UK has published a paper presenting the British government's idea on a future science pact with the EU, following BREXIT. The paper refers to the recent speech given by Prime Minister May, in which she set out a clear position for research and innovation linked to the UK's ambition for market access in the future economic partnership and refers to the bilateral science and technology agreements the EU has concluded with 20 countries around the world. With regard to Horizon Europe, the UK states it would like to discuss the option of full association with the next Framework Programme. The paper with the UK position on the future relationship with EU in relation to science, research and innovation is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

'European Universities' part of realising the European Education Area
The Commission has launched a set of initiatives that aim to boost the role of youth, education and culture policies. These include work to build a European Education Area by 2025. The package presented by the Commission includes an overarching Communication on 'Building a Stronger Europe: the role of youth, education and culture policies which outlines how the Commission is taking forward the Gothenburg agenda and the Council's mandate. European Universities are envisioned to consist of bottom-up networks of existing universities which will boost cross-border corporation through long-term institutional strategies. They will promote innovation and excellence, increase mobility of students and teachers and facilitate language learning. The Commission expects that this will also help to make European higher education more competitive. Pilot calls will be issued under Eramus+ for 2019 and 2020. For more information, please see here the Commission press release, as well as the website of the European Education Area. The Commission Communication is attached to the email sending out this newsletter.

EU and Brazil sign cooperation agreement
The Commission and three Brazilian funding agencies have signed an administrative arrangement that will enable European and Brazilian researchers to cooperate more easily on various issues. The agreement will enhance Brazilian participation in Horizon 2020 and foster cooperation between Europe and Brazil. The agreement establishes three different mechanisms for cooperation; (i) it extends the national co-funding of Brazilian participants in projects under Horizon 2020, (ii) it promotes cooperation between parallel projects under coordinated calls for proposals in Brazil and the EU, and (iii) it twins existing projects in areas of common interest. For more information, please follow this link.

LERU suggests more sophisticated approach to impact
LERU has published seventeen concrete suggestions on how to develop a more sophisticated approach to impact and stimulate the impact of projects funded under the next Framework Programme Horizon Europe. LERU calls on the Commission to design a system of indicators which will enable accountability and monitor progress whilst enhancing the environment for creativity and serendipity. Some of LERU's key recommendations are: (i) Develop a clear set of definitions of concepts related to impact, and their interactions – in a debate with stakeholders and with the help of an expert working group, (ii) Develop new mechanisms to increase the impact of FP9 for example by orchestrating 'project clustering and by providing 'follow up funding', (iii) Change the approach to the expected impact statement by focusing on potential outcomes and pathways and (iv) refrain from using a linear model of impact such as the currently used TRLs and refrain from over-engineering impact whilst finding ways of balancing impact assessments by quantitative measurements (using indicators) with qualitative assessments. For more information, please follow this link.

Committee of Regions calls on new Smart Specialisation for innovation and growth
The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) calls on the Commission to consider cities' and regions' Smart Specialisation Strategies more strongly as 'catalysts for innovation policy and growth as CoR sees these strategies as an important factor in the success of the EU's cohesion policy in the next budget period. Future smart

specialization strategies should be based on interregional strategic cooperation and should according to CoR be better incorporated in Horizon Europe. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

New member of the Commission Group of Scientific Advisers
Nicole Grobert, Professor of Nanomaterials at the Department of Materials at the University of Oxford, is appointed new member of the [Group of Chief Scientific Advisers](#). For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Group of Scientific Advisers' opinion examines carbon capture and utilisation
The Commission's Group of Scientific Advisers has issued its fourth Scientific Opinion. This Opinion deals with carbon capture and utilization technologies and how they can contribute to mitigating climate change. The opinion also looks at how we can choose which technologies to invest in. The Opinion was drafted at the request of the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy. The Scientific Advisers recommend: (i) Development of a rigorous cross-sectorial and systemic methodology that includes a simplified Life Cycle Assessment to calculate the climate mitigation potential of various technologies. (ii) Development and agreement of funding criteria for candidate projects requiring them to be feasible and green, as well as superior to existing alternatives. (iii) Development of a EU regulatory and investment framework to enable deployment of relevant technologies. For more information, please follow this [link.](#)

Joint Research Centre work programme for 2018 and 2019
The Commission has adopted the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) work programme for 2018-2019. The JRC is operated under Horizon 2020 and the key orientations are structured in accordance with the political priorities of the Commission. The JRC is developing new work on the resilience of societies, the drivers and impact of fairness, and the impact of new technologies on society. In support of the Commission's objective of improving the way that JRC is managing knowledge, the JRC is setting up Knowledge and Competence Centres. Existing Knowledge Centres include food fraud and quality, territorial policies, disaster risk management, migration and demography, and bioeconomy. Existing Competence Centres include micro-economic evaluation, composite indicators and scoreboards, data and text mining, and modelling. A new Knowledge Centre for global food and nutrition security as well as a new Competence Centre on foresight are included in the new work programme. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

JRC provides scientific support to the Commission's education package
The JRC is to support the Commission's education package through conducting research into various aspects of education policy, focusing on the development of competences and factors linked to digital transition. With regard to the European Universities Initiative which is also mentioned as an element of the package, the JRC's research support has already included designing and conducting a survey to map examples of existing transnational collaborative partnerships between European higher education institutions. According to the JRC the results from this survey confirm the added value of these partnerships, in particular with respect to their education mission. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Call for tender for innovative High Performance Computing solutions
The supercomputing centers in Spain, Italy, Germany and France are inviting interested suppliers to submit offers to their 73 million EUR joint Public Procurement of Innovative solutions for High Performance Computing (PPIHPC). Each of the four centers is buying an innovative high performance supercomputer and/or an innovative high performance storage system to be deployed in 2019-2020. Deadline for submitting is 9th July 2019. For more information, please follow this link.

Poland joins the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking
Poland has announced its intention to join the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, which aims to pool European and national resources to build and deploy supercomputers ranking among the world's top three by 2022-2023. For more information, please follow this link.

EIT Raw Materials hiring: Education Manager
The European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) KIC on Raw Materials is looking for an education manager to be based in Leuven. For more information, please follow this link.

FOOD2030 project is investigating in current trends
To identify trends, cases and potential breakthroughs, FIT4FOOD2030 has developed an online survey to collect input from stakeholders in the European food systems in order to future-proof ecosystem. To access the online survey, please follow this link.

CESAER network publishes paper on Human Resources Strategy for Researchers
The Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER) has published a white paper on the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers, sharing the experience of four member institutions: Delft University of Technology (NL), Ghent University (BE), Politecnico di Torino (IT) and University of Strathclyde (UK). The background is the 2005 European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers as well as the 2008 Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) which was launched to support implementation of the Charter and Code. For more information on the Human Resources Strategy, please follow this link.

Evaluation of recent EIC pilot
The Commission has published an overview of the most recent evaluation results of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot call under the SME Instrument of H2020. The phase II call under the work programme closed on 14th March this year and received 1,280 proposals. After step 1, the number of above-threshold proposals was 509. Out of these, 135 proposals were selected for step 2 of the evaluation process. The number of projects proposed for funding after step 2 is 64. The total budget requested by these 64 proposals is 110 million EUR. Among them Unisense from Aarhus. The information sheet on these results is attached to this email.

EUA proposes broad design for EIC
The European University Association (EUA) has issued a statement on the European Innovation Council (EIC). According to the EUA statement, the EIC's main mission in Horizon Europe should be the enhancement of Europe's societal welfare and competitiveness through research-based knowledge. The EIC should be open to beneficiaries from all sectors and should consider the strong relation between investment in innovation derived from research, investment in the development of highly-skilled human talent and the resulting economic and social innovation. Education and training should be integral to European innovation policies. EUA highlights four key elements (i) reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals, (ii) educating and training the next generation of entrepreneurs and highly-skilled citizens, (iii) increasing the number of start-ups and spin-offs at universities, and (iv) exploring innovative and responsible monitoring mechanisms. For more information, please follow this link.

FOOD2030 project launches consultation
FIT4FOOD2030 is a project linking up to FOOD2030 , the project aims to support the transformation of research and innovation on Food and Nutrition Security in Europe. The transformation is according to DG Research needed to future-proof the European food systems making them more sustainable and resilient. FIT4FOOD2030 intends to create a multiactor platform which will (i) act as a think tank and contribute to FOOD2030, (ii) act as a forum discussion and collection of national and regional R&I policies, (iii) develop activities targeted towards consumers and students, as well as (iv) become a forum where trends, examples and potential breakthroughs can be presented. It is in relation to the last point that FIT4FOOD2030 now launches a survey on food trends. To access the survey, please follow this link.

Consultation on the future of Europe
The Commission is increasing its citizen outreach with a view to the parliamentary elections in 2019 and the election of a new Commission also in 2019. Part of the outrearch includes a 12 questions consultation for citizens and stakeholders to provide ideas for the future of Europe. To access the consultation, please follow this link

PhD positions at TU Munich
The doctoral program in Operations Research with focus on 'Advanced Optimization in a Networked Economy' offers several positions for PhD students at TU Munich. For more information, please follow this link.

Highlighted events

Info-day and matchmaking on Societal Challenge 2
On 25th and 26th June in Brussels, the Commission hosts an info-day and matchmaking on Societal Challenge 2 (Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, maritime and maritime inland water research and bioeconomy) call 2019. The event will consist of two parts: 25th June will be a dedicated info-day and 26thJune will be a

matchmaking day dedicated to supporting partners in finding each other future joint proposals. The info-day will be livestreamed as well. To register, please follow this link.

SAVE-THE-DATE Brokerage event Societal Challenge 1
On 3rd – 4th September 2018 in Oslo, the Network of National Contact Points for Societal Challenge 1 is together with the Research Council of Norway and Innovation Norway organising an international brokerage event on SC1 'Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing' 2019 topics. Registration is to open on 15th June on this link.

SAVE-THE-DATE Info-day and matchmaking on Societal Challenge Societal Challenge 5
On 11th and 12th September in Brussels, the Commission hosts an info-day and matchmaking on Societal Challenge 5 (Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency & Raw Materials). Keep an eye on this link to register.

SAVE-THE-DATE – ERC event on Artificial Intelligence
25th-26th October this year, the ERC will take stock of relevant research supported by ERC on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and provide a forum for networking between scientiests leading ERC funded projects. The conference will look at the foundations for AI, AI and the brain, AI and ethical challenges, applied AI for vision, speech, language, robotics and games as well as AI and society. For more information, please follow this link.

Events attended in May. Summaries can be obtained by request
3rd May – Gender in H2020 – Brussels NCP event
17th May – Science and Innovation – Open to the World – European Parliament event
22nd May – MEP Water Group on Nature-based solutions – European Parliament event
24th May – The rise of European Universities – The Guild event
25th May – Integration of SSH in FP9 – CPH EU Office event
28th May – Ethics in ERC – UniLion event
30th May – Austrian EU Presidency and the MFF – UniLion event

Comments or questions should be directed to Rikke Edsjö or Lina Christensen