

EU Research Trends - October 2016

In this version of the Research Trends Newsletter attention is given to the initial thoughts launched by the Commission and others on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and the next research and innovation programme FP9. The Commission has stressed on several occasions that the interim evaluation will feed into the preparation of FP9 and that FP9 will be a product of co-creation. In the first item of this newsletter you can read about this and access the public consultation launched by the Commission on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020. Furthermore, you will be able to read about highlighted policy areas and events. And finally, we call on the readers of this newsletter to respond to the survey on this newsletter and its future development (see last section).

Trends

Commission reveals initial thoughts on FP9

During a conference at Science Business in Brussels on 12th October, the Director-General for DG Research and Innovation Robert-Jan Smit sketched the process and the initial thoughts that will lead up to FP9. A foresight study (BOHEMIA) is underway and a public consultation on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 is now open to prepare the ground for the next framework programme. H2020 is seen by DG Research and Innovation to have done a good job and therefore evolution rather than revolution is to be expected when moving from H2020 to FP9. The Director-General and several of his staff repeated that FP9 will be co-designed with its stakeholders which is why the Commission urges all stakeholders to participate in the consultation. Full account of the conference *Research Strategies 2030* can be provided upon request.

Please do take your time to provide your feedback on what is working well in H2020 and what you would like to see improved. To provide input to the public consultation click [here](#). Should you wish to read more about the consultation and its background you can consult this [link](#).

Deadline for contribution to the public hearing on H2020 is 15. January 2017.

LERU publishes interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

During a public event on Friday 21. October the League of European Research Universities presented its interim evaluation of Horizon 2020. The launch event was well attended by both prominent audience as well as the Commission. LERU's interim evaluation of H2020 holds praise for H2020 but also pinpoints weaknesses and offers suggestions as to address these weaknesses. Main praise points were: Praise for ERC and MSCA, praise for efforts done for simplification as well as for measures relating to collaborative research. Main concerns were related to oversubscription, the problem with widening the EU research as well as the

credibility of evaluation procedures and lack of transparency. The LERU paper can be consulted [here](#).

LERU will in the coming weeks publish several other papers. On 7th November a paper on Citizens' Science will be published on 14. December, a paper on Interdisciplinarity and in 2017 a report will come from LERU on assessing research impact.

The Austrian Government think tank on FP9

The Austrian Government think tank has published a position paper on FP9. The paper calls for simpler rules, more robust evaluation and better access to the framework programme for non-EU researchers. The Austrian FP9 paper can be downloaded [here](#).

The EU budget 2017

The European Parliament Budget Committee reversed all the cuts proposed by the Council on the draft 2017 budget and added additional budget lines to fight youth unemployment and increased spending on research and infrastructure. MEPs also reiterated their demand to negotiate the MFF mid-term revision jointly with the EU's budget for 2017, as the decisions on the former are expected to be integrated into the latter.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Collaboration 'at risk' from data protection laws

Research Europe are reporting that lawyers and researchers are concerned about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that allows member states to make their own decision on how personal data is used in research, which, they say, could undermine collaboration.

The regulation, due to come into force in May 2018, is intended to harmonise EU laws—making it easier for groups including researchers to meet the necessary standards.

But amendments introduced during years of negotiations could in fact result in different rules in different member states, causing problems for research organisations.

“Member states can maintain divergent standards on data pseudonymisation and can also impose diverging safeguards for the processing of health and genetic data,” says Sigrid Achenbach, a lawyer and a member of the Data Protection Working Group of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, a lobby group. “With all these clauses, cross-border research will face a lot of challenges in trying to comply.”

Health research will be particularly affected by the GDPR, *Research Europe* heard, but the social sciences and diverse other fields are also expected to feel its effects. Marie Timmerman, EU legislation and regulatory affairs officer at Science Europe, and Alea Lopez de san Roman, policy officer at the League of European Research Universities, both say they fear the rules will cause problems for projects that span different member states.

And there is also a lack of clarity on how countries will proceed over the next two years—meaning universities are in limbo, says Lopez de san Roman. “The GDPR is so complex, that first we are trying to understand the possible consequences and then we are waiting for the reaction of the member states to see how they legislate at the national level,” she told *Research Europe*. “We're waiting, and the clock is ticking.”

To read the article in full, please follow this [link](#)

Urban agenda

The Commission has launched a new portal for urban stakeholders and cities. This portal is to act as a one-stop-shop and aims to give updated information about EU policies directly relevant to European cities and to provide stakeholders with up-to-date information on available funding. To access the website, please click [here](#).

Similarly, the Urban Data Platform has been set up. This platform is hosted and managed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and provides a single access point to a whole range of indicators and data of 800 urban areas. To access the website, please click [here](#).

New policy report on terrorism

End September the Commission published its new policy report 'Addressing Terrorism'. The report presents current as well as possible future contributions of European research on terrorism and radicalization. For more information please click [here](#). This report comes on the backdrop of a Commission that continues to work hard on this topic. For more general information please look [here](#).

Expert panel being set up for shaping the future European Innovation Council (EIC)

The Commissioner for research and innovation Carlos Moedas is in the process of setting up a 12 member expert panel to drum up ideas for the new EIC. It has been underlined that EU wants to support innovation through start-ups and innovators with potential to scale up. The Commission wants to create better mechanisms and to promote disruptive innovation. Practically the Commission will also be providing a single portal for accessing all relevant EU funding programmes. Applicant to the EIC will be assessed and mentored by teams of serial entrepreneurs, start-ups and business angels. For more information on the EIC please follow this [link](#).

Digital Assembly 2016 launches Scale-up manifesto

The Commissioner for the digital economy Günther Oettinger received a Scale up manifesto from the European community of start-ups at the Digital Assembly in Bratislava in October. The manifesto proposes concrete ways to leverage the strength of the digital single market for EU entrepreneurs. The manifesto is backed by the European Digital Forum, a think tank dedicated to empowering tech entrepreneurs. Please follow this link to read more [here](#).

European Code Week

The EU is in urgent need of more people with ICT skills. In order to promote coding literacy, the EU Code week from 15th-23rd October invited to a wide variety of coding events across the EU. Events have been taking place in 46 countries in and outside of the EU with libraries, schools and universities and tech companies. Please see more [here](#).

Commission proposes first research partnership in the Mediterranean to increase food and water sustainability

The Commission has presented a proposal for a Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area - [PRIMA](#). The first partnership of its kind in the Mediterranean basin aims to develop much-needed [novel solutions for sustainable water management and food production](#).

Carlos Moedas said: "EU research and innovation is open to the world so we can tackle global challenges together. This Euro-Mediterranean partnership is an excellent example of where pooling knowledge and money can make a huge difference. It will bring more clean water and food to the people, boost local economies and create jobs. Through PRIMA, research and innovation will play a crucial role in addressing the root causes of migration."

The Commission's proposal already includes Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. The participation of Germany is currently under negotiation. As the initiative is evolving over time, more participants are expected to follow, both EU and non-EU countries.

Funding for the 400 million EUR partnership will come from the participating countries (currently around 200 million EUR), matched by a 200 million EUR contribution from the EU through H2020. The partnership is scheduled to run for 10 years, starting in 2018.

Based on a [proposal of nine Member States in 2014](#), this partnership will be created under H2020 and based on [Article 185 TFEU](#), which enables the EU to participate in research programmes undertaken jointly by several Member States.

The Commission's proposal will now be sent to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU for political discussion and legislative approval.

More information [Question & Answer on PRIMA The PRIMA initiative](#)

Open Science and modernization of EU copyright rules

Three members of the European Commission joined the ERRIN working group meeting on Opening Science to detail further upon open access and the modernisation of the EU copyright rules. Ron Dekker from DG Research and Innovation, a seconded national expert from the Netherlands, explained the Commission priorities on open science as established by the Regulation for H2020 Open Science. The EC priorities center around (i) Reward systems (ii) Measuring quality and impact: altmetrics (get rid of the publish or perish culture) (iii) Changing business models for publishing (iv) FAIR* open data (v) Open Science Cloud (vi) Research integrity (vii) Citizen Science (viii) Open education and skills. Mr. Dekker underlined that open access is not the same as global access; the point will be to make as much research available as possible to peers. Foundations such as the Wellcome Trust and the Bill Gates Foundation have already proven that funders are in a unique position to redirect research towards open models and these examples have inspired the ambitions of the EC. The EC plans to include data management plans to be a compulsory element of future proposals. The plans must outline what data will be collected, what data will be open for others and what data will not be accessible. The data management part of the proposals will be fully eligible.

Anneli Andresson and Emmanuelle Du Chalard, policy officers from DG CONNECT presented the main elements of the modernisation of the EU copyright rules. The copyright package adopted on 14th September 2016 is a large package with both regulation, directive and

positions. The main objectives of the package are to (i) Modernise the rules on key exceptions mainly in relation to teaching, text and data mining as well as preservation of cultural heritage. (ii) Facilitate licenses in order to ensure access and (iii) Ensure fairer rules for a better functioning of the copyright market place.

*FAIR stands for Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable.

Full account of the ERRIN meeting is obtained upon request to [Lina Christensen](#)

Commission Work Programme: Parliament debates EU priorities for 2017

The European Commission presented its Work Programme for the coming year in Strasbourg 25th October. Along with the presentation of 21 new key initiatives, the Commission Vice-President Frans Timmerman emphasised that in the coming year there will be focus on implementation and enforcement of the priorities of the Work Programme 2017.

During the plenary session, the MEPs got the chance to voice and discuss the aims and priorities of the Work Programme. The concerns and issues highlighted by the MEPs included subjects of social dimensions of EU policies, investment, trade, migration and security as well as urgent political challenges of BREXIT and CETA.

As a new initiative, the agreement between the Commission, Parliament and Council of next year's Work Programme will be written down in a joint declaration.

You can watch the video recording of the Commission Work Programme Debate via this [link](#).

Upcoming consultations:

DG Connect launches later in Q4 a consultation for promoting policy dialogue and international cooperation on eHealth globally (eHealth Action Plan).

Future perspectives for RIs Advanced Communities

14. November 2016, Brussels

The Workshop aims at identifying the needs and expectations of the Research Infrastructures communities that have been supported with three or more integrating activities under Horizon 2020 or earlier programmes and have therefore reached a significant level of integration.

[Further information](#)

Long term sustainability of Research Infrastructures, Exploring RI's full potential

25. November 2016, Brussels

The objective of the workshop is to present and discuss with experts/stakeholders the main challenges identified in the online Stakeholder consultation on Research Infrastructures long-term sustainability launched in December 2015 and to collect suggestions and comments for the development of an Action Plan on Research Infrastructures long term sustainability approach.

[Further information](#)

[Report on the Consultation on Long Term Sustainability of Research Infrastructures](#)

Science Café with Mary O'Connell

22. November 2016, Brussels

Science Café with Mary O'Connell is an unconventional open discussion on research in the field of the Human Immunity and Science Mobility.

Our guest is renowned molecular biologist who studies nucleic acid modification in connection with diseases of the immune system. She has previously worked at the Medical Research Council (UK). Currently she holds the position of ERA Chair at the Central European Institute of Technology Masaryk University (CEITEC MU).

Science Café is a forum for discussion of current work and interesting scientific issues. It aims to be informal and accessible. Anyone can participate; speaker is there to be questioned and to talk about her work.

Further information [More information and registration](#)

Science Café with Jiří Grygar

7. November 2016, Brussels

Science Café with Jiří Grygar is an unconventional open discussion on research in the field of the Wide open windows of the Universe ("Okna vesmíru dokořán") with one of the Czech Republic's most eminent specialists and science popularizer.

Jiří Grygar is a Czech astrophysicist, significant popularizer of science and UNESCO Kalinga Prize laureate. The scientific work of Jiří Grygar is focused on meteors, comets, eclipsing variable stars, novae, chemically peculiar stars, and cosmic rays.

Jiří Grygar holds scientific position at the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences in the Department of Astroparticle Physics.

Science Café is a forum for discussion of current work and interesting scientific issues. It aims to be informal and accessible.

Anyone can participate; speaker is there to be questioned and to talk about his work.

[More information](#)

Factories of the Future – Making Innovation Happen

1. December 2016, Brussels

Since its launch in 2010, the EU's Factories of the Future partnership has been responsible for the launch of 248 pre-competitive projects which are transforming manufacturing.

The event is focused on the successful industrial exploitation of results from these projects.

This event will include 'Pitch' sessions which will focus on providing short and to-the-point presentations ('pitches') about innovative manufacturing technologies and approaches by projects.

Factories of the Future - Making Innovation Happen is also an excellent opportunity for interested organisations to connect with some of Europe's leading industrial companies and research organisations.

[More information and registration](#)

European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing

5.-8. December the European Summit for Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing will gather stakeholders in Brussels. The event builds on the achievements of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, past and current research and innovation in H2020 as well as the EIT-KIC on healthy living and active ageing. It intends to mobilise relevant stakeholders around scaling-up innovation. For more information click [here](#).

The Human Brain Project: Young researcher's conference on Transdisciplinary Research Linking Neuroscience, Brain Medicine and Computer Science

In Vienna from 8.-10. February an open forum is held to exchange new ideas among young researchers working across various aspects of neuroscience, brain medicine and computer science relevant to the [Human Brain Project](#). See more about the conference [here](#).

eHealth Week 2017:

eHealth Week 2017 is organized by the Maltese Ministry of Health as part of their Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and HIMSS Europe. eHealth Week 2017 will gather stakeholders from across the globe to address international topics related to healthcare IT including 'Cross-border exchange of personal health data: from policy to practice' and 'European Reference Networks: how digital health helps'. The Week will be organised on 10.-12. May 2017. For more information please consult this [link](#) (please notice that registration only opens in December 2016):

AcademiaPharma 2017 - Developing Pharma Partnerships Summit

22.-23. February 2017, Cambridge

Academic institutions have always been at the forefront of innovation. Big pharma is facing major patent cliffs and slashing internal R and D budgets, whilst academia is finding it tougher to gain funding for research projects.

This means that it is more important than ever for the two groups to establish meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships. Academia Pharma: Development Partnerships successfully creates a unique environment for leading industry professionals to share novel case studies, develop future strategies and most importantly create mutual partnerships to support drug development.

The event will bring together an international community of experts from academia, biopharma, healthcare and research institutions and councils to share best practice in collaborative research and development.

Topics of discussion include: Start-up to IPO: capitalising on scientific discovery; Influence of IT and Big Data on the laboratory; Drug Discovery; Funding Science in an increasingly risk-averse market; Scientific and real-world benefits of collaboration; Penetrating new markets: traditional technology firms and healthcare.

[More information and registration](#)

Attached to the email sending out this newsletter is a comprehensive list of relevant events.

During the month of October, the following five conferences/information sessions were covered and a full summary of these conference can be obtained upon request:

10th October Conference on Work, Welfare and Inequality

11th October Commission information day on Societal Challenge 6's work programme for 2017

12th October Conference on Research Strategies 2030 and the next Framework Programme

18th October Conference on 10 enabling University-Tech Clusters

21st October Official presentation of the LERU Advice Paper on the Horizon 2020 mid-term evaluation.

Rethinking this newsletter:

Your input needed for the modernisation of the newsletter Research Trends

In an aim to modernise this newsletter and adapt it to the needs of its readers we seek your input and therefore encourage you to respond to this [survey](#). The survey consists of only 7 questions and should not take more than a couple of minutes of your time. Many thanks in advance!

To encourage participation, we will draw a Belgian box of chocolate among responders.

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