



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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RECH 452

NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Delegations

Subject: Results of research-related Presidency conferences and ministerial meetings
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find, in annex, a note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned topic.



INNOVAHEALTH Conference: Creating an Open Innovation Strategy for Healthcare 2020

11-13th October 2012, Larnaca

Number of participants: 120

Conference objective: the purpose of the conference was to discuss the strategy document prepared by the iINNOVAHEALTH task force and endorse the recommendations made in the document. The iINNOVAHEALTH strategy was developed to provide an Open Innovation roadmap for creating an integrated and interdependent environment (ecosystem), where companies, scientists, policymakers, governments, patients and other organisations can interact productively to promote radical change and innovation in healthcare, supported by new developments in information and communication technologies (ICT). The overarching aim is to create sustainable, affordable, citizen centric healthcare systems, which leverage new technologies, whilst at the same time stimulating the EU economy and creating new employment opportunities.

Conference Outcomes and Recommendations: The EU needs to build an open innovation ecosystem for Europe in healthcare to incentivise an Open Innovation culture and environment that will promote economic growth, increase employment and reduce healthcare costs. The key recommendations of the conference are:

- To establish a new Public-Private Partnership under Horizon 2020 focused on common industry and public health needs, building on the achievements and lessons learned from the Innovative Medicines Initiative;
- Create a cross directorate task force within the European Commission to address the barriers to the establishment of this Open Innovation healthcare ecosystem through a partnership centred approach;
- To create a European Health Institute aiming at integrating the different actions from multiple stakeholders that are needed to empowering citizens to be at the heart of healthcare across the European Union;
- Use the upcoming industrial policies (as announced in the Commission Update of the Industrial Policy flagship initiative – “A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery”, 10th October 2012) to develop the concept of “lead markets” for life science innovation.

For more information about the conference please visit www.innovahealth.ws

PEOPLE 2012 Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions in Horizon 2020

5-6 November 2012, University of Cyprus, Nicosia

Number of participants: 210

Conference objective: The objective of the Conference was to highlight the importance of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, assess their impact in the fulfilment of the Europe 2020 strategy, while addressing environmental, cultural and social regional issues. The Euro-Mediterranean collaboration and mobility, the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship and new policies and ideas - crucial to the improvement of the quality within Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, were also addressed. Furthermore, the **Awards Ceremony** of the Marie Curie Prize was also held during the Conference.

Conference Outcomes and Recommendations: Special attention was given on the need for adequate research infrastructures in small EU member states in order to be able to attract and retain top scientific talents, as well as on exploiting possible synergies between the structural funds and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Action in this respect. It was recognised that the new European strategy must stimulate young people to embark on research careers, while being able to provide them with world class training and to activate future employers of all sectors to promote researchers' mobility. Additionally, it was underlined that there is direct correlation between national spending on R&D and the ability of a country to attract researchers, indicating that there is a real danger to suffer from brain drain for countries that are not investing enough in R&D. The participants asked the European Union to strengthen its support for young researchers in order to create a strong ground for research talent in which excellence can flourish. The key recommendations of the conference are:

- Research funding at European level needs to be strengthened including the funding for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.
- Simplification of the design of the new Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon 2020, based on fewer and more flexible instruments and rules of participation.
- Organise a continuous dialogue with stakeholders from the research community (e.g., LERU, ISE) in order to involve them in the design of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Horizon 2020.
- The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions can act as a tool to modernise doctoral education and to enhance mobility during the early career of researchers.
- Provide incentives to employers and funders of the researchers (e.g. universities and research organisations etc.) for the adoption and implementation of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers ('Charter & Code').
- Enhance and strengthen the international cooperation dimension. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions must welcome researchers of all nationalities as well as research organisations beyond the EU, create international networks of the highest order that make sure that the best research worldwide can flow into the European Research Area.
- Further strengthen the role of women in science and innovation by providing incentives to increase women participation (e.g. promote early stage mobility, introduce quota of women in each research activity funded by an EU grant and provide special grants only for women scientists, better schooling system services, better support for families, day care facilities in every host institution, dual career opportunities).
- Promoting the collaboration between SMEs and universities, providing training in both research and business skills in order to turn ideas into marketable innovations.
- Policies and practices regarding IPR should specify what rights belong to researchers and/or, where applicable, to their employers or other parties, including external commercial or industrial organisations and be provided under specific collaboration agreements or other types of agreement.

For more information about the conference please visit <http://www.people2012.eu>

EIT Stakeholders Conference – Addressing Societal Challenges through the EIT

8-9 November 2012, Larnaca

Number of participants: 200

Conference objective: The objective of the conference was to bring together the European innovation community to discuss the future of EIT through the contribution of its Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs) to tackling the societal challenges identified in Horizon 2020. As such, the Conference aimed at bringing together established and potential stakeholders to examine the role of the three current KICs, as well as the proposed KICs for 2014 and 2018 in addressing societal challenges in their respective thematic area. Furthermore, the conference aimed at providing a platform for sharing the creation and establishment experiences of the first wave of KICs.

Conference Outcomes and Recommendations: The conference successfully enabled the education, research, business and policy communities to discuss on how to address new challenges, share solutions, and discuss the future direction of EIT in Horizon 2020. During this two-day conference the discussions focused on:

- The **inclusion of the EIT** within the new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation **Horizon 2020**. It was concluded that the EIT had a unique way of approaching Societal Challenges **and a clear added value to Horizon 2020**. Its focus on integrating the Knowledge Triangle through long-term partnerships developing activities in all areas (education, entrepreneurship, business creation and innovation) was deemed a crucial addition to the EU's policy toolbox.
- Discussions on the **three existing EIT KICs** (Climate-KIC, KIC InnoEnergy, and EIT ICT Labs) emphasised on their **already strong contribution** to overcoming the societal challenges identified in Horizon 2020 and to meeting EU policy objectives, building on synergies with other EU, national and regional instruments and initiatives. Additionally, special consideration was given on the **governance structure, long-term partnership and co-location model and operations, monitoring, and the EIT education label**.
- The **six new EIT KICs** that have been proposed by the Commission are attractive to the stakeholders community:
 - i. Participants agreed on the **added value of establishing a KIC** in the identified themes from the perspective of all three sectors: **higher education, research and business**.
 - ii. The propose future KICs should contribute in addressing the **major societal and economic challenges** identified in Horizon 2020.
 - iii. The new KICs should contribute to **enhancing EIT's capacity** by expanding its operations. With a larger KIC portfolio, the EIT will reach a wider audience to boost Europe's innovation capacity and competitiveness.

For more information about the conference please visit [EIT Stakeholders Conference – Addressing Societal Challenges through the EIT](#)

Completing the European Research Area in the Context of the Innovation Union – Boarding Time

14 November 2012, Nicosia

Number of Participants: 160

Conference objective: The Conference aspired to be an important milestone in the ongoing policy implementation for the accomplishment of ERA by 2014. The objective of the conference was to offer the opportunity to a wide range of stakeholders, research organizations, universities, private enterprises and public authorities to elaborate on the concept of the European Research Area, and to analyse the factors and preconditions which are required for its realisation. The Commission Communication on “A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth” and the measures contained therein were at the centre of the discussions.

Conference Outcomes and Recommendations: The Conference acknowledged the need to join forces and work together to achieve the objectives set in the ERA Communication and there was overall support to the process described by the European Commission. It has been accepted by all that the functioning of the ERA will yield multiple benefits to the European research in its totality, and that the reaping of benefits can only start if well orchestrated measures are introduced by EU member states, by the Commission and by the stakeholder organisations. The opening up of national research programmes, cross-border cooperation, the portability of grants, the achievement of homogeneity in researchers careers and the gender issues are elements that need firm commitment and dedicated work. Participants also supported the need of more competition in research, based on international peer reviews. Other important outcomes of the conference are:

- **Cross-border cooperation** is indispensable for the achievement of ERA.
- Member States should open up their national systems to attract best brains from all over the world, and remove barriers to recruitment, retention and career progress of female researchers.
- Developing synergies between different national and EU funding sources, including by **linking national Research Infrastructure roadmaps to ESFRI Roadmap and Structural Funds** and prioritization of research infrastructures included in the ESFRI roadmap.
- Improving **knowledge transfer** between universities, public research organizations and industry is essential. Public-private mobility is crucial for knowledge transfer and open innovation.
- Supportive to the principles of **open access** to publicly funded research, emphasizing that achieving European progress requires collaboration, coordination, follow-up and sharing of experience between government and stakeholder organizations.
- Europe needs to join forces globally to tackle global challenges efficiently, and make sure to get access to the best research teams.
- The proposed **ERA Monitoring Mechanism** will identify the state of play on the proposed ERA actions needed for policy steering, but also contribute to increased transparency, trust, interaction and mutual learning between research actors and national and regional governments. In this line the Indicators for all MS should be comparable.
- Experiences with ERAWATCH and by organisations such as the OECD should be taken into account in the designing and developing of a **Research and Innovation Observatory**.

For more information about the conference please visit [Presidency Conference: "Completing the European Research Area in the Context of the Innovation Union – Boarding Time"](#)