



Brussels News Update

December 2011



GENERAL EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS

EuCheMS contribution to ERA consultation and Horizon 2020

The European Commission presented on 30 November its €80-billion research funding programme - Horizon 2020 - with the aim of boosting research, stimulating innovation and simplifying the way scientists and smaller businesses can get funding for EU-backed projects. The Horizon 2020 programme brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single scheme running from 2014 to 2020. The proposal is now being discussed in the Council and will then pass on to the Parliament. In this respect, EuCheMS made its contribution by submitting its position entitled "Areas of untapped potential for the development of the European Research Area (ERA)" as part of the consultation process.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/>; www.euchems.eu

Health for growth – proposal for the 3rd multi-annual programme 2014-2020

A legislative proposal for a new Health for Growth Programme has been recently adopted by the European Commission. The new programme runs from 2014-2020 with a proposed budget of €446 million. This will be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament from December 2011 onwards. The new Regulation should enter into force in 2014.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/health/>

Marie Curie Alumni Portal and Association

The Marie Curie Alumni portal was launched in January 2011 to benefit approximately 50,000 researchers that have so far received funding from the Marie Curie programme. The portal currently offers a number of membership services such as: an automatic alert about new Marie Curie calls for proposals or meetings; a discussion board to promote the exchange of knowledge between alumni on areas of expertise, career opportunities, events and conferences; an events calendar with important meetings and events of interest to alumni is also available and personalised alerts to news and content from the portal can be created. Following on from the launch of the Alumni portal, in 2012 a Marie Curie Alumni Association will be created and will merge with the existing Marie Curie Fellows Association.

Source: <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/web/guest/home>

Energy Efficiency Directive

The proposed Energy Efficiency Directive, which is in the focus of the upcoming Danish EU Presidency, is lacking key details in its current form, one of which is funding. The European Parliament will begin the consultation talks on the proposed directive in the first months of 2012.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/energy-efficiency/>



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Closing of the International Year of Chemistry

The closing ceremony of the International Year of Chemistry took place in Brussels on 1 December 2011. At the closing ceremony high level speakers and young leaders explored and debated how chemistry is vital for solving our most critical global problems including food, water, health, energy, habitat, and more.

Source: <http://iyc2011.conceptum.eu/>

Fifth World Science Forum

The highlight of the 5th WSF closing event took place in Hungary's Parliament Building on 19 November 2011 and endorsed the Declaration on a New Era of Global Science, a document signed for the first time in the Forum's history. The Declaration states that the treasure of scientific knowledge and its underlying research approaches are a common heritage of humankind. The WSF participants believe that in the future the world will be shaped by science more than it ever has been before.

Source: <http://www.sciforum.hu/news/news/declaration.html>

ECHA considers options for nanomaterials under REACH

ECHA is conducting a feasibility study to see if it will be possible to incorporate the results of two of the REACH implementation projects on nanomaterials before its moratorium on new guidance takes effect in December 2012.

Source: <http://chemicalwatch.com/9122/>

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The European Commission has allocated a budget of €2.8 billion in the next financial framework to enable the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to expand and consolidate the development of its existing Knowledge and Innovation Communities KICs which focus on climate change, sustainable energy and ICT. The EIT is to significantly step up its efforts in the period 2014-2010 to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the EU with the creation of six such new cross border innovation hubs.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

FUNDING UPDATE

ERASMUS FOR ALL

The seven-year Erasmus for All programme, which would have a total budget of €19 billion, is due to start in 2014.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>



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FP7 calls

Several calls are open within Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities programmes.

Cooperation

- Information and Communication Technologies / **2** open calls
- Energy / **2** open calls
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology / **1** open call
- General Activities / **1** open call
- Health / **1** open call
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies - NMP / **2** open calls
- Socio-economic sciences and Humanities / **3** open calls
- Transport (including Aeronautics) / **3** open calls

Ideas

- ERC / **5** open calls

People

- Marie-Curie Actions / **6** open calls

Capacities

- Regions of Knowledge / **1** open call
- Research Potential / **1** open call
- Science in Society / **1** open call
- Support for the coherent development of research policies / **1** open call

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/>

CONSULTATIONS

Renewable energy strategy

This public consultation aims at soliciting the view of interested parties to assess how far the orientations of the current policy framework remain valid in the medium term - i.e. until 2030. Interested parties are requested to consider the specific questions addressed in the consultation document. The consultation closes on 7 February 2012.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/>

BUSINESS UPDATE

EC, EIB and EIF launched new scheme to help SMEs get loans for research and innovation

Recently, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group launched a new guarantee facility for innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them access finance from banks. This builds on the success of the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), launched in 2007, that has so far helped 75 companies benefit from over €7 billion in EIB loans to projects enhancing European growth and competitiveness. The new risk-sharing instrument for SMEs will be managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF). In addition, the EIB and the European Commission are to provide extra resources for research infrastructures.

Source: www.eib.org/rsff; www.eif.org; <http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/>; <http://ec.europa.eu/research/>

High-Level conference on challenges and opportunities for EU industry

The European Commission has organised the First Anniversary conference on the Europe 2020 industrial policy flagship initiative, which was hosted by the European Parliament. The conference discussed current challenges and opportunities for EU industry concerning globalisation, industrial innovation, and economic reform.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The science of innovation

Brussels, 28 February 2012

Source: <http://www.esf.org/research-areas/>

Innovation in Healthcare without borders

Brussels, 16 - 17 April 2012

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/>

EUROPE 2020: Towards Innovative and Inclusive Union

Skopje, 17 May 2012

Source: <http://www.uacs.edu.mk/conference>

Season's greetings



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