



Financing and budget

Statement on Borealis, Gunilla Herrgård

The EU Framework Programs do not promote innovation. The projects are big and open, with many companies from the same business area participating. As none of the companies want to disclose exactly the targets for their own interest, the scientific research topics conducted is kept on a very general, uncompetitive level. The research is thus neither basic research nor applied, but something in between. The results are not mature to be further developed into innovations.

Funding should be provided for basic research at universities, in order to grow centers of real excellence, which in turn attract businesses. These centers of excellence should be diverse, so that the diverse businesses in EU find their own area of interest. Innovation, that is commercialisation of inventions, is then promoted by funding the university partner in closed university/business two-party projects. In such closed co-operations the know-how of the university in question can be taken to commercialisation.

Statement on innovation journalism, David Nordfors

“The novel concept of 'Innovation journalism' - journalism covering innovation processes and ecosystems - is key for bringing together the innovation economy and the democratic society. It is essential for enabling public discussion on how we innovate, a requirement for heavy decision making in both the public and private sectors. Innovation journalism can offer both publicly funded and commercial journalism an opportunity to be extremely relevant in democratic innovation economies.”

Medicines for the health and wealth of Europe

Statement on EFPIA, Brian Ager

Improved healthcare based on advances in technology and innovation benefit individuals and society. Addressing these priorities in order to develop and implement coherent EU and national strategies to deliver better healthcare, strengthen the EU pharmaceutical research base, and promote the attractiveness of Europe for the pharmaceutical industry sector, will meet the EU goals of enhancing growth, competitiveness and employment.

Energy and Environment

Statement on Bouygues, Paul Cartuyvels

The energy and environment issues are impacted by multiple European legislative proposals recently adopted or still under interinstitutional discussion. Among them can be highlighted the 7th Framework Programme for R&D (7FPRD), the energy efficiency Action Plan, the Energy and Climate package, ... These texts clearly illustrate the EU 's strong commitment to support innovation in the areas of energy and environment as well as their role in the building of a more sustainable and competitive Europe.

The European Commission already showed the way to innovation with its complete new thinking that led to the 7FPRD, giving stakeholders a stronger voice led by industry inside the **Technological Platforms (TP)**. It also encouraged continuity of public support to strategic issues through the development of the **Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI)**. If these Commission's initiatives have rapidly become a natural reference for dialogue between actors themselves and with the Institutions, the learning process to improve their management is still ongoing.

In this context, what could be **strategic drivers** to support in order to boost innovation in the energy and environment sectors?

The prerequisite certainly is a **legislative framework** that guarantees a healthy **competition** between the players and that defines high level **standards** that remain economically sustainable.

Encouraging innovation also requires careful attention to be paid to **intellectual property**, as protecting the investment made by those who choose this strategic path is essential to guarantee a continuous flow of new ideas, materials or techniques...

The Commission also identified in 2006 a series of so called “**lead markets**” considered as those having a high potential impact on the development of a sustainable economy. Often quoted as an example is the **energy efficiency in buildings**, which shows potential not only for a positive impact on environment but also to improve the EU’s security in energy supply by sharply reducing demand.

In terms of **research funding**, a particular attention should be paid to technologies that have a potential high impact on priority issues like climate change. For example, the Energy and Climate legislative package contains not less than two documents relating to the issue of **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**. Nevertheless, no funding is so far available for a planned demonstration programme that should start as soon as possible. Waiting for financial return from the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) from 2013 onwards as it is proposed now cannot be considered a satisfactory answer to a challenge of these dimensions.

One last issue to be highlighted is the strong potential leverage effect of an **efficient Public Procurement policy**. Indeed there are more than 700 billion € spent each year within the EU in works and services public contracts. If the public procurement legislative framework is carved in a way that tenders must include high environmental and energy efficiency standards, it will naturally bring a strong development of innovative and competitive solutions. In this context, the coming proposal of the Commission on **Green Procurement** is expected to be an important stepstone.

The Pact for Knowledge and Innovation has a role to play in bringing together institutional, academic and economical actors into a permanent high level dialogue that will allow a constructive exchange of ideas. This is a key element to ensure that human and financial energies that are committed to innovation are invested in the most efficient way.

ICT for Innovation

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are considered as the major driver of innovation, economic growth and competitiveness of European industry, as well as of improvement of social services and the quality of life of European citizens. ICTs play a dual role for innovation – from one side they are a target for innovation, and at the same time they are a means for innovation in many areas, such as energy, business, health, education, environment, climate change, etc. It is reported that today, businesses in the EU devote 20% of investment to ICTs, and the sector accounts for 26% of overall research expenditure. In addition - 60% of basic public services are now fully available online and more than half of EU citizens use the Internet regularly. Innovations in ICTs and their exploitation not only improve productivity of industry and public sector, but also create large markets of innovative products and services. Innovations in ICTs help preparing businesses and citizens of the information society for the economy based on the next generation networks and Internet.

In order to strengthen the impact of ICTs for innovation at EU level the Knowledge4Innovation (K4I) initiative is proposed to be developed as a ‘horizontal’ European Technology Platform (ETP) dealing with all aspects of innovation across the other ETPs. Thus, K4I could be an instrument, among others, for coordinating and orchestrating some ICT innovation activities, such as:



- development of the European innovation ecosystem based on the knowledge triangle (education, research, innovation);
 - support of innovative SMEs, especially start-ups;
 - development of innovative products and pan-European services;
 - development of the European broadband market (“More high-speed fixed and mobile networks”);
 - transition to next-generation networks (based on IPv6) and extension of the Internet to the ‘Internet of Things’;
 - establishment of a single European market for the digital economy;
 - adoption of European legal framework governing the information society, including intellectual property rights protection (“Less regulations for innovative businesses”);
 - development of e-infrastructures (such as GEANT, Grids);
 - implementation of public-private-partnership, e.g. via Joint Technology Initiatives - JTIs (such as ARTEMIS and ENIAC), ETPs (such as NESSI, Biofuels, IMI, Food for Life, eMobility), and other initiatives and programs.
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