

The strategic investment in a Europe of Knowledge and Innovation: challenges for the new Framework Programme Horizon 2020

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Abstract

In 2014 starts a new funding cycle for research and innovation in Europe, the Horizon 2020 which succeeds to the 7 Framework Programme (FP7, 2007-2013). The FP7 for research and technological development (RTD) still remains the EU' main instrument for funding research in Europe till end of 2013 (budget of 53.3 billion euros). The FP7 supports research actions in priority thematic areas from which Medicine, Food, Agriculture, Nanotechnology, Manufacturing Technologies, ICT, Regions of Knowledge and Research for the benefit of SMEs can be highlighted.

The Horizon 2020 brings together all the current EU funding in the domain of Research and Innovation, including the Research Framework Programme (FP), innovation aspects of Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and EU contribution to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). It will have a budget of around 86 billion euros. In addition, the Horizon 2020 will concentrate the resources in three distinct mutually reinforced priorities: Scientific Excellence, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges.

RTD and innovation activities are considered to be the key pillar of the EU' strategy in order to create sustainable, inclusive growth and prosperity of its members. In this sense, the focus on RTD investments for each member state it is crucial to enable the economic growth, to boost industrial competitiveness and to further empower the development of EU' regions.

Under the scope of H2020 it will be invested nearly €6 billion for the development of European Industrial capabilities in Key Enabling Technologies (that include: photonics and micro- and nanoelectronics; nanotechnologies; advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing; and biotechnology).

In this talk it will be highlighted the main challenges in the Next Framework Programme from the perspective of research institutes and SME with focus on Key Enabling Technologies, in particular nanotechnology and related areas.

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