

NEWSLETTER

2007 | JANUARY | 02

Editorial - By Mr. Mattia Crosetto

Dear Readers,

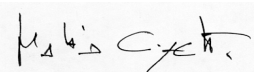
As you surely noticed, with the first edition of this year, we started presenting you in detail the content of the 7th Framework Programme of Research and Innovation. This is the most important financial programme directly managed by the European Commission in Brussels. It targets all the entities involved in R&D, from the small firms to the universities and the public administrations. The Regions too are involved, and the Zlín Region is surely in the forefront in that process, having already 3 projects financed by the European Commission in this field.

For European regional policy, I see the challenge in terms of building a sustainable capacity to innovate. This will be a central element of future regional policy programmes. In a context of rapid globalisation, increasing competition and rapid technological change, innovation – understood in terms of the capacity to convert ideas into material reality – is essential if businesses, regions, countries are to achieve and maintain competitive advantage. It is a precondition for the sustainability of employment.

And we are not starting from zero.

All over Europe, we have many examples of regions and cities successfully coping with rapid economic change and turning it into sustainable growth and jobs. There is a wealth of experience and energy at the regional level which shows why innovation is today a critical regional competence for allowing us to benefit – rather than suffer – from globalisation. We have to work on it, join the best regions and exploit all the existing opportunities.

Mattia Crosetto



Zlín Region in Brussels

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ERAWATCH – a new online information platform on research systems and policies launched by EC

The Commission launched **ERAWATCH**, a new online information platform on research systems and policies within the EU. ERAWATCH supports the ongoing construction of **the European Research Area (ERA)** by providing policy makers and policy analysts working in all Member States of the EU plus selected other countries. It contains information on recent policy documents, research programmes, funding agencies, research performance as well as major indicators such as expenditure, publications and patents.

ERAWATCH offers for the first time, in one single place, comprehensive and timely information on the research systems of all EU Member States, countries associated with the Framework Programme as well as the US, China and Japan. It should allow a better understanding of the research systems and the environment in which they operate, to assist European policy analysts and policy makers in developing more effective research policies. The service is kept up-to-date by a network of national contact organisations which collect and organize the information presented. Within its **"Intelligence service"**, ERAWATCH develops further analysis and reporting activities on research and related policies, as well as on the trends and factors influencing them. ERAWATCH is a user driven service. Its users can access and customize the way information is presented and downloaded. They are also invited to provide feedback so the service can be developed and improved.

Why ERAWATCH?

ERAWATCH has been conceived to support policy making in the research field in Europe. Its objective is to provide knowledge and a better understanding of **national and regional research systems** and of the environment in which they operate. It collects data on national and regional research profiles, organizations, programmes and documents. It organizes and structures the information within its Research Inventory service and it develops further analysis and reporting activities on policies, trends and the factors influencing them within its "Intelligence service."

It is a long term initiative jointly carries out by the European Commission's Directorates-General for Research and Joint Research Centre - Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) based in Seville. The ERAWATCH online service has been developed in collaboration with CORDIS – The Community Research and Development Information service.

The ERAWATCH Research Inventory

The ERAWATCH research inventory service contains a comprehensive and coherent set of information on the policy context, the structure and evolution of the RTD systems in all the EU member States and the States associated to the Community's research framework programmes.

The inventory is built on the systematic collection and classification of five main categories of information at national (and progressively regional) level:

- **Country research profiles**, describing basic characterizations of national and regional systems, main actors, debated issues and foreseen policy developments;
- **Research policy documents**, providing the overall contexts in which policies operate;
- **Research programmes** relevant instruments and schemes being developed and applied, including the role and impact of programme evaluation;
- **Organizations**: policy-making bodies and other organizations with significant influence on policies, funding organizations, and research performers in both the public and private sectors, as well as the interactions between them and the relevant structures in which they operate and interact;
- **Sources of information and data**. Some key indicators are also reproduced in the inventory.

The ERAWATCH Intelligence service

The ERAWATCH Intelligence service aims to provide regular and ongoing analyses of issues relevant to research policy-making. These analyses are in large part based on the inventory. Key feature of the intelligence service is an unique combination of qualitative policy information and quantitative data (including indicators) under a Multi Level Multi Actor (MLMA) perspective, which is the a core characteristic of the ERA.

These analyses will include:

- periodic reviews of the status and evolution of research systems and policies and governance structures in EU Member States and beyond;
- emerging themes and trends in the structure, content and evolution of research systems;
- synthesis and overview, at the European level, of Member State progress towards the various objectives of ERA and the Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs.

This content of the Intelligence service is the product of analytical work of the **JRC-IPTS core team** with support of the ERAWATCH Network.

For other information, please visit:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm>

7th Framework Programme: EURAB proposes making open access obligatory for FP7 research



According to the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB), the European Commission should consider mandating all researchers funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) to publish the results of their research in an open access repository within six months of initial publication.

The open access debate has been triggered by the rapid and radical change in science communication brought about by the rise of the internet. There is also a desire to disseminate more widely the results of publicly funded research in order to raise awareness of the benefits of investing in science, and at the same time to bring down the costs of research for public authorities. Public funding bodies are currently paying three times for research, according to EURAB. First they pay for the research itself, then for peer review, and finally for a library subscription to the journal in which the resulting paper is published. Additional author-side fees levied by traditional toll-access journals may be considered a fourth cost.

EURAB says, that the Commission has **three roles** to play in drafting and implementing a policy on open access: as

- a funding body,
- a policy body, and
- a supporting body.

As a funding body, the Commission seeks to increase the visibility of, and improve access to, research funded by the Commission without compromising the freedom of scientists to publish where they feel is most appropriate.

A key recommendation is that the Commission considers instructing those receiving FP7 funding to lodge any publications resulting from their research in an open access repository as soon as possible after publication. The paper should be made openly accessible within six months.

EURAB suggests that the Commission begins the roll out of such a complex policy issue with research funded by the European Research Council (ERC), which came into being with the launch of FP7.

As a supporting body, the Commission should place emphasis on streamlining the process of deposit for researchers, and on standards for supporting interoperability. In this context, the Commission should introduce a specific supporting action in every FP7 thematic priority to facilitate the use of deposit in open access repositories, states the EURAB report.

The Commission's role **as a policy body** should be to encourage all Member States to promote open access publication policies for all of their publicly funded research.

A communication on scientific publishing is expected shortly from the European Commission.



To read the EURAB paper in full, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/pdf/eurab_scipub_report_recomm_dec06_en.pdf

Research, Development and Innovation: a legal perspective

The European Commission has adopted a new Framework to clarify to Member States how best they can give state aid to not only research and development but also innovation projects, without infringing EC Treaty state aid rules. This new Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) Framework will help Member States wishing to use state aid as a complementary instrument to boost R&D&I. The Framework sets out **a series of guidelines** for specific types of state aid measures – such as aid for R&D projects, aid to young innovative enterprises and aid to innovation clusters – that could encourage additional R&D&I investments by private firms, thus stimulating growth and employment and improving Europe's competitiveness.

These guidelines allow individual Member States to tailor aid measures to particular situations, subject to the overall test that the aid must **address a defined market failure**, must **be well designed** and that the identified benefits **must outweigh the distortions** to competition resulting from the aid.

Under the Framework, Member States will still be obliged to notify aid measures to the Commission for verification and authorisation, but if the measures have been drawn up in accordance with the guidelines authorisation will be faster.

The full text of the Framework is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/reform/rdi_en.pdf



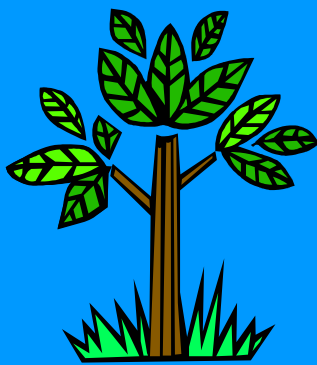
7th FP : Tomorrow's answer starts today

Special section on Innovation: second sheet devoted to the opportunities offered by the new EU programme for research and technological development.

The Seventh Framework Programme is made up of four specific programmes plus a fifth specific programme on nuclear research. Cooperation (Collaborative research) is the programme that finances international cooperation projects across the European Union and beyond in 10 thematic areas, corresponding to major fields in science and research. Research will be supported and strengthened to address European social, economic, environmental, public health and industrial challenges, serve the public good and support developing countries.

In this special section, we describe the main aims and content of the four specific programmes of the 7FP. The first sheet has been published in the edition n.01 of January 2007.

FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (Budget: €1.9 billion)



The advancement of knowledge in the sustainable management, production and use of biological resources (microbial, plant and animal) will provide the basis for safer, eco-efficient and competitive products and services for agriculture, fisheries, feed, food, health, forest-based and related industries. Important contributions to the implementation of existing and prospective policies and regulations in the area of public, animal and plant health and consumer protection are anticipated. New renewable energy sources will be supported under the concept of a European knowledge-based bio-economy.

Research will be carried out on the safety of food and feed chains, diet-related diseases, consumer food choices and the impact of food and nutrition on health.

European-funded health research will focus on:

- Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments: enabling research on sustainable production systems; plant and animal production and health; animal welfare; fisheries and aquaculture, including exploitation and sustainable use of their biodiversity.
- Tools to implement relevant strategies, policies and legislation supporting the European knowledge based bio-economy.
- The integrity and control of the food chain ("fork to farm") will be subject to research, addressing food, health and well-being.
- Life sciences and biotechnology for sustainable non-food products and processes will develop improved crops and forest resources, feed-stocks, marine products and biomass technologies for energy, environment, and high added value products such as materials and chemicals.

Several European Technology Platforms contribute to setting common research priorities in various fields, like food technologies and processes, plant genomics, forestry and forest-based industries, global animal health, and animal farm breeding.

What's the benefit for industry and SMEs:

The creation of a European Bio-Economy is expected to open the way for innovations and effective technology transfer, aiming to include all industries and economic sectors that produce, manage and otherwise exploit biological resources as well as related services from the supply or consumer industries. These activities are in line with the European strategy on life sciences and biotechnology and is expected to promote competitiveness of European agriculture and biotechnology, seed and food companies and in particular high-tech SMEs, while improving social welfare and well-being.

Science, industry and society will come together to address the social, economic and environmental challenges of sustainable management of biological resources. They will also exploit advances in microbial, plant and animal biotechnologies to develop new, healthier, ecoefficient and competitive products and services. Rural and coastal development will be addressed by boosting local economies whilst preserving our heritage and variety of cultures.



JASPERS Regional Office opened in Warsaw

Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, together with Philippe Maystadt, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), and Horst Reichenbach, Secretary General at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), **opened the new regional office for the JASPERS facility in Warsaw**. JASPERS ('Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions') is a new partnership between the European Commission and the two Banks **to assist the central and eastern European Member States** to develop high quality projects which will receive support from the EU's Structural and Cohesion Funds.

The JASPERS regional office in Warsaw will accommodate experts from different disciplines - engineers, economists and financial specialists together with support staff. The team will be strengthened by experts from the European Commission, the EIB and the EBRD. The experts in the Warsaw office have already begun work on action plans agreed with the national authorities covering a wide range of investments including road and rail projects, environmental protection, urban public transport and energy projects. The expert team will also provide advice on financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships.

Assistance from JASPERS will be provided free of charge to the beneficiaries and is based on the contribution of staff resources from the EIB and the EBRD combined with the financial resources from the technical assistance budget of the European Commission.

Media pluralism: EC stresses need for transparency, freedom and diversity in Europe's media landscape

Responding to continuing concerns from the European Parliament and non-governmental organisations about media concentration, and its possible effects on pluralism and freedom of expression, Commissioner Viviane Reding and Vice-President Margot Wallström presented to fellow Commissioners **three-steps on media pluralism in the European Union**:

1. A **Commission Staff Working Paper on Media Pluralism**: It outlines efforts to promote pluralism by third parties and organisations, notably the essential work undertaken by the Council of Europe, and has a concise first survey of Member States' audiovisual and print media markets. This baseline analysis also includes information on national media ownership regulations and the very diverse regulatory models of the 27 Member States.
2. An **independent study on media pluralism in EU Member States** to define and test concrete and objective indicators for assessing media pluralism in the EU Member States (in 2007).
3. A **Commission Communication on the indicators for media pluralism in the EU Member States** (in 2008), on which a broad public consultation will take place. This could lead to an evaluation of the opportunity for applying the media pluralism indicators, for example through a further study.

For more on the 'Reding-Wallström' approach and the ongoing Commission work on media pluralism, see: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media_taskforce/pluralism/

Cohesion policy 2007-2013: "Innovation in the national strategic reference frameworks", working document available on line



Innovation features as an important priority in the member states' strategic plans for the new Cohesion policy 2007-2013 - this is the conclusion of the working document prepared by the European Commission directorate general for Regional policy, on the basis of the draft national strategic reference frameworks which it has examined. As programming is at an early stage, the Commission services have undertaken to discuss certain issues with Member States and regions, in particular, regional innovation strategies, governance and partnership for innovation, along with risk taking and experimentation.

The working document is available only in English:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/innovation/2007/innovation_n_srf.pdf

Calls' Agenda

Audiovisual and Media	Deadline	Link
Information notice for applications concerning the appointment of operators charged with providing the universal electronic communications service	To be defined	OJ/2007/C 009
Media 2007 Development, distribution and promotion Call for proposals — EACEA No 16/06 Support for the development of production projects (MEDIA New Talent, single projects and slate funding)	12.02.2007 16.04.2007	OJ C2006 320
Media 2007 Development, distribution promotion and training Call for proposals — EACEA No 18/06 — Training	09.03.2007	OJ C2006 320
Research	Deadline	Link
7FP : Calls for proposals for the four Programmes		
Programme Cooperation	Various	FP7-AAT-2007-RTD-1 , FP7-AAT-2007-TREN-1 , FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD , FP7-ENERGY-2007-2-TREN , FP7-ENV-2007-1 , FP7-ERANET-2007-RTD , FP7-ERARESORG-2007-1-RTD , FP7-HEALTH-2007-A , FP7-ICT-2007-1 , FP7-ICT-2007-C , FP7-KBBE-2007-1 , FP7-NMP-2007-CSA-1 , FP7-NMP-2007-LARGE-1 , FP7-NMP-2007-SMALL-1 , FP7-NMP-2007-SME-1 , FP7-SEC-2007-1 , FP7-SPACE-2007-1 , FP7-SSH-2007-1 , FP7-SST-2007-RTD-1 , FP7-SST-2007-TREN-1 , FP7-TPT-2007-RTD-1
Programme Ideas	Various	ERC-2007-StG
Programme People	Various	FP7-PEOPLE-2007-1-1-ITN , FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-2-ERG , FP7-PEOPLE-2007-4-3-IRG , FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-1-1-NIGHT , FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-2-AWARDS
Programme Capacities	Various	FP7-INCO-2007-1 , FP7-INCO-2007-4 , FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-1 , FP7-REGIONS-2007-1 , FP7-REGIONS-2007-2 , FP7-REGIONS-2007-3 , FP7-REGPOT-2007-1 , FP7-REGPOT-2007-2 , FP7-REGPOT-2007-3 , FP7-REGPOT-2007-4 , FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2007-1 , FP7-SME-2007-1 , FP7-SME-2007-2
Education and Culture	Deadline	Link
Culture programme (2007–2013) Organisation and implementation of an annual EU prize scheme in the field of cultural heritage Conditional Call for proposals — DG EAC No 55/06	28.02.2007	OJ C270.06
New calls		

Events of the Months

Workshops	Exhibitions	Conferences
07-08.02.07 Brussels	10.02.07 Brussels	01.02.07 Brussels
		
European Mobility Week A change for Better Workshop 2007 CoR – Brussels	EU Students Guide 2007 Meeting students and companies 750 students meeting 50 Top EU Universities Crown Plaza Hotel – Brussels	Social Housing and EU Structural Funds Conference about the new opportunities provided by the EU financing in 2007-13 CoR – Brussels

Job Vacancies

**European
Railway
Agency**

Finance Manager
Deadline: 9 February 2007
Place: Valenciennes
Ref. no: ERA/A/2007/001

**European
Chemistry
Bank**

HR Operations Administration Manager
Human Resources and Administration VP
Deadline: 18 January 2007
Place: London, UK
Ref. No:60009004

Edition closed in Brussels on January 29, 2007

What's on in the Next Number

Ongoing cycle within the 7th Framework Programme.



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