

Executive Summary

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Goal of the Informal Panel

Propose informal, but concrete high-impacting ideas for EU initiatives that will boost innovation in Europe with the aim of bringing this to the attention of EC Commissioner Mrs. Geoghegan-Quinn. The initiatives should be ambitious and ground-breaking but implementable at European level by the EC and the European institutions.

12 Impactful Innovation Ideas

12 impactful ideas have been worked out in short papers. A short summary of each is set out below:

- What main challenge is to be addressed?
- What is the action proposed?
- What impact can be expected?

1. ***Launch 4i Funds (funds for international institutional investment into innovation)***

- Institutional investors cannot invest in our future growth as venture capital remains fragmented
- Launch large specialized funds with EC and EIB/EIF backing to attract long-term private capital
- Leverage existing venture capital initiatives to back the best companies to grow into global leaders

2. ***Fast-Track Smaller Companies into the Research Programmes***

- The target of 15% of Framework Programme Funding is below the innovation potential of SMEs
- Set a much higher target for FP8 and ensure that access conditions are fit for SMEs
- Get more innovation, prototypes and jobs out of the FP funding by increased SME participation

3. ***Open smarter Research Information systems***

- Knowledge transfer is weak as data on publicly-funded research results is poor and closed
- Programme the best solutions for making research information systems more open and smart
- Get more excellence and knowledge transfer out of the already funded research across Europe

4. ***Network for Open Innovation in Europe***

- Open innovation remains too much of a concept and not enough of a practice in Europe
- Develop a roadmap for more and better open innovation practices
- Foster more collaboration and knowledge transfer across stakeholders

5. Encourage the Innovation Strategy of SMEs

- Not enough SMEs are deploying sound strategies for future innovation
- Incite ERDF and Cohesion funds to co-invest in the innovation plans of small businesses
- The potential of job creation is enhanced by backing the future business of SMEs

6. Bring together a public sector innovation leadership academy

- As innovation is high on the agenda, the weight rests on the shoulders of public sector leaders
- Bring together a learning experience and network for public sector innovation leadership
- Allow public sector innovation leaders to be more effective as inspired by better practices

7. Incite better innovation partnerships for ERDF and cohesion funds

- The Structural and Cohesion funds earmarked for innovation fall short of their investment targets
- Consider a “RSFF-type” partnership between ERDF and the EIB to roll out innovation investments
- Increase the effectiveness of structural funds in contributing to innovation cohesion and growth

8. Stimulate universities and higher-education to innovate

- European universities and higher education do not contribute enough to innovation and growth
- Assess how the governance and funding of these education systems can incite innovation
- More diversity, accountability and private funding will lead to a more effective societal contribution

9. Market Intellectual Property vigorously

- While the EU patent will help, Intellectual Property attitudes and practices must improve
- Launch a programme to bring together actors, knowledge and IP with industry and SMEs
- Increase IP asset creation and take up dramatically, also of FP results

10. Make space for social innovation collaboration

- The public or social sector and civic society are under great pressure to do “more with less”
- Create physical & virtual spaces where new models, projects & enterprises can be piloted
- Offer a range of tested solutions to unlock the innovation potential of the public sector at large

11. Inject innovation into public procurement

- As public procurement amounts to 17-18% of EU GDP, its innovation potential is great
- Develop a common European procurement policy for innovation and a “SBRI-type” system
- Procuring more innovation can rapidly and massively lead to better citizen solutions and more jobs

12. Invest now in the smart infrastructure of the future

- Europe is still investing in bricks & mortar and not enough in the infrastructure of the future
- Assess how MS can invest more with the EIB in high speed fiber networks and smart grids
- Raise jobs and productivity in the short-term and competitiveness and well-being in the mid-term

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idea 3

Open smarter Research Information systems



- Knowledge transfer is weak as data on publicly-funded research results is poor and closed
- Programme the best solutions for making research information systems more open and smart
- Get more excellence and knowledge transfer out of the already funded research across Europe

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| TOPIC | Description |
|------------------|---|
| CHALLENGE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability, data management and accessibility of information on completed, ongoing or upcoming research activities across Europe's countries and regions, including the EU Framework Programmes can be improved. • The legacy and functionality of existing research information systems is such that research data are not very open, linked or inter-operable. As a consequence, the knowledge developed by our public research organizations is insufficiently made available or transferred to those needing access. • Even the maintenance of current research information systems is very costly as the architectures are typically closed enterprise systems or proprietary portals. • The EU Framework Programmes also have a poor record, figuratively and literally, of transferring research into knowledge or innovation. • As "open innovation" depends on the availability of research knowledge, the poor architecture of research information systems severely hampers the productivity of research activities and obviously also the transfer of knowledge to different stakeholders, sectors or regions. • Publication of research knowledge is too much a domain reserved to proprietary scientific channels where the knowledge is not sufficiently open, even to those producing it, let alone to the wide business community and the small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. |
| ACTION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need public research data systems that are more open. This is part of a general trend to make better use of available public data and digital libraries. Obviously, this is particularly important for the knowledge development by public research organizations and programmes and the EU Framework Programmes in particular. • Good availability and accessibility of research information is essential for the entrepreneur, policy maker, research funder and obviously the researcher. For this, it is critical to make research knowledge smarter, by a willingness to use advanced technologies such as digital identifiers and semantic technologies <p>There are great examples which demonstrate that an initiative by the EC could push developments over a tipping point towards better and smarter research knowledge across Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWI, the Flemish government Economy, Science and Innovation department is developing a Research Information architecture according to the principles and strategy outlined in the FRIS, Flanders Research Information Space. See www.Researchportal.be for information on 18,000!! (thousands) research projects, 18,000 researchers from 3,400 research units across Flanders. The major driver behind the FRIS programme is the need for the creation of adequate infrastructure that will support actors and processes in a Knowledge Society and allow for the transformation to an Open Innovation system. • Ten years ago the EEC supported a initiative which resulted in the CERIF recommendation to member states and the establishment of euroCRIS (www.eurocris.org) to develop, promote and maintain it. CERIF is now used widely in many European countries and its coordinated development would benefit greatly from another injection of EC support and funding. CERIF already incorporates technology to handle consistently unique identifiers and semantics. • The European Integrated Project OKKAM, led by Trento University and euroCRIS projects such IST-World and Cistrana provide clear initial directions for this. The required outcome will link existing open data available via the web or from digital libraries utilizing the formal bases of CERIF so as to provide a better knowledge picture on specific research projects, research groups or specialized knowledge areas throughout Europe. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The further development of research information systems in a European wide context using CERIF has been recommended by euroHORCS, as a requirement of the current tender for the ERC administration and is being pursued actively in most EU member states. Without a European mandate and support for coordination, possible diversification at the national level would precluded a European consistent view of research activity. • The Dutch government as well as important UK and Italian university networks are already known to be interested in such an approach. <p>In summary, there is evidently a clear opportunity to launch concrete and efficient actions assisting regional, national and EU research programmes and research information system initiatives allowing their research knowledge to be more open and smart.</p> |
| IMPLEMENTATION | <p>The European Commissions' Research Directorate should call for and fund an ambitious programme (EUR 50-75 Million over 3 years) for an "open and smarter public research information space", with the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a platform for exchange of better practice of those representatives of regional, national and EU wide initiatives seeking solutions together with specialists and solutions providers and strengthen the euroCRIS platform; • Makes recommendations to EU-based research information systems managers how digital identifiers, enhanced standards, system inter-operability and semantic technologies can enhance existing or new data systems with smarter and more open system specifications; • Supports a number of advanced pilot projects linking research information systems at cross-border level and opening data systems with added functionality, involving users, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); • Compiles and offers selected open-source web-based systems and tools (video and presentation publication tools, citation referencing,...) which public researchers and their public organizations can use to enhance their publication and dissemination efforts; • Promotes better practice amongst researchers for the publication and dissemination of their research activities and results. |
| IMPACT | <p>The programme would have the following impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vastly improving the publication and dissemination of EU Framework Programme's research project activities and results (and research activities in the EU at large) and this without increasing existing budgets ; • As more results will be published, citations and referencing of existing research results will equally increase, accelerating the availability and dissemination of research knowledge; • Finally, the productivity as well as the excellence of research activities would increase by avoiding duplication of specific research actions and results |

APPENDICES

Document references

<http://www.researchportal.be/en/index.html>

www.okkam.org

<http://www.driver-repository.eu/>

<http://www.cineca.it/en/index.htm>