

European Science, Engineering and Technology Highlights¹ AUGUST 2014

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1 EU Commission announces €100 million (\$133.9 million) Fast Track to Innovation and five innovation prizes



The European Commission today presents details of a new €100 million (\$133.9 million) "Fast Track to Innovation" (FTI) pilot action and five innovation prizes under Horizon 2020, the European Union's research and innovation program. The FTI aims to support Europe's economy by offering innovative businesses and organizations grants to give a final push to get great ideas to market. The prizes offer a reward for technological breakthroughs of high societal relevance. The initiatives underscore the drive to support innovation in Europe as part of the first, two-year Horizon 2020 work program.

Full article available at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/commission-announces-%E2%82%AC100-million-fast-track-innovation-and-five-innovation-prizes>

Additional information available at:

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-14-492_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-492_en.htm?locale=en)



¹ Note: If you would like additional information or background, please feel free to contact either Carine Polliotti at cpolliot@nsf.gov

2 EUREKA 2020, a roadmap for transnational collaboration in research funding



EUREKA 2020 is the EUREKA Network's strategy for the coming years. The new Strategic Roadmap adopted during the EUREKA Network's meetings in Bergen, Norway, offers a renewed vision of its mission in Europe and the world, as a platform for transnational industrial R&D&I cooperation, fostering competitiveness, growth and job creation. The new roadmap is the result of reflections and debates involving the whole EUREKA Network and provides guidelines for the future of the organization.

Full article available at:

http://www.eurekanetwork.org/about/-/journal_content/56/10137/4237855?refererPlid=10195



3 Europe needs a research leader who will lead



The next research commissioner for the European Union will need the drive and confidence to clear a daunting in-tray.

Nations are now scrambling to pick and send to Brussels one commissioner each, to provide a pool of 28 from which the research head and others will be plucked. Research commissioner is not the most prestigious appointment for some of these people. But it is a crucial one for Europe's researchers, many of whom are spending rather too much time grumpily pondering career prospects — their own, and others' — in the United States or Asia.

Full article available at:

<http://www.nature.com/news/europe-needs-a-research-leader-who-will-lead-1.15670>



4 EU chief scientist should stay in the shadows



Anne Glover, the EU's Chief Scientific Advisor, has said that her opinions to the European Commission should remain independent from politics and therefore "not transparent" and immune from public scrutiny. The incoming Commission chief, Jean-Claude Juncker, is considering to maintain her position after Barroso leaves.

Full article available at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/science-policymaking/glover-eu-chief-scientist-should-stay-shadows-307768>



5 When science meets politics: the EU's impact assessment review



Photo: Shutterstock

The European Commission is reviewing its impact assessment guidelines amid accusations that science is becoming increasingly politicized and scientists manipulated by policymakers and powerful interest groups.

Full article available at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/science-policy/when-science-meets-politics-eu-impact-assessment-review-307765>



6 Germany issues 1st national strategy for a European Research Area



The Federal cabinet of Germany adopted the Strategy of the Federal government on the European Research Area (ERA) on July 16th, 2014, which makes Germany the first EU Member State to produce its own strategy on the further development of European research policy. The publication of the document comes at a time when the

ERA is back in top of the EU's political agenda, with the EU Commission planning to present its second progress report on the ERA in September and the European Council expected to release in December the conclusions of a policy debate based on the document.

Full article available at:

http://www.eurekanetwork.org/about/-/journal_content/56/10137/4265699?refererPlid=10195



7 Moldova associated to Horizon 2020



The Republic of Moldova and the European Union signed the association agreement for the new seven year research and innovation program, Horizon 2020 on 1 July 2014. The association agreement will apply retroactively as from 1 January 2014.

Full article available at:

http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/information/country_pages/md/highlights/highlight_0017

Additional information available at:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-746_en.htm?locale=en



8 Russia in EUREKA, the Russian viewpoint on transnational collaboration in innovation

Today and more than ever before, EUREKA (a European intergovernmental association for market-driven R&D) looks into balancing the full involvement of its member countries with a strategy for international expansion. Both actions are complementary, not alternative: market opportunities must be opened to innovative companies, wherever they are and if countries such as Russia or Poland represent huge market potentials for western innovative entrepreneurs, the contrary is also true.



Full article available at:

http://www.eurekanetwork.org/showarticle?p_r_p_564233524_articleId=4245063

