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€1.5 billion of ICT-oriented research into human health, environmental protection, smart cities, resources management, and clean and secure energy.

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-- Posted by [Mário Campolargo](#), Director *CONNECT E, Net Futures*

On the 09 July I went to Lisbon to announce [the last and largest set of calls for proposals for research under the Seventh Framework Programme \(FP7\)](#). [3]

An earmarked **€8.1 billion** is to fund projects and ideas in crucial domains of human health, environment protection, urbanisation (smart cities), resources management, clean and secure energy. A package worth up to €1.2 billion will be given to support SMEs and to help them innovate and grow. ICT alone takes the largest share of the funding receiving €1.5 billion. The funding is open to organisations and businesses in all EU Member States and partner countries.

As a [country Ambassador](#) [4], my going to Lisbon is more than business as usual. It is always a mission back to the roots and the better the news the bigger one's satisfaction.

If "[knowledge is the global currency of today](#) [5]" and "[ICT the new oil for economy](#) [6]" we should be optimistic about the European exit from today's crisis.

[€1 of EU Framework Programme funding leads to an increase in industry added value of between €7 and €14](#). [7] The expected long-term macro-economic impact of the FP7 amounts to *900,000 jobs*, of which 300,000 in research.

The event in Lisbon *was attended by some 80 persons* that would act as multipliers of the news. I believe it is important to use the Commission Representations in the Member States as important relays. This is very often where [the news is truly picked-up and spread to the citizen](#). [8]

It is also a part of a personal satisfaction to know that Commission Representation in Portugal is particularly keen on hosting research-related information sessions.

I had the opportunity to meet [Zeinal Bava, the CEO of PT](#) [9] later when we had a frank debate regarding *regulatory regimes and innovation priorities*.

With the announcement of the [Digital Champion, Mr Antonio Murta](#) [10], I am looking forward to help unlocking the innovative power that exists in Portugal.

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