



**TAF**

TECHNOLOGY  
ACADEMY  
FINLAND

**ERAB'S 2<sup>ND</sup> REPORT  
"REALISING THE NEW RENAISSANCE"**

REQUESTED RESPONSE BY DR. AINOMAIJA HAARLA  
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## TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY FINLAND

### SUPPORTING HUMANE TECHNOLOGY

- Is an independent foundation which works closely together with Finnish enterprises, all five technical science universities of the country, several ministries and research institutes
- Supports scientific research and innovation which are based on humane values and have a positive impact on quality of life of many all over the world
- Promotes Finland as a high-tech country by strengthening and bringing together domestic and international networks and thus pursues to improve Finland's competitiveness
- Awards the biennial Millennium Technology Prize worth 1M € and grants other rewards and scholarships
- Demystifies technology and actively participates in public discussion about its significance
- With youth activities, encourages children and teenagers to study mathematics, natural sciences and technology and helps young people to start a career in these fields
- TAF's actions reflect the principles of social corporate responsibility

## GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE REPORT

- + **Sense of urgency**
  - + **Aim towards more concretism is good , implementation is the key.**
  - + **We need to work with other regions of the world** as they are not only following the development of ERA but **they are advancing quickly** themselves and **are hungry** to reach their own ambitious goals. (I & C)
  - + **Humanistic sciences should be more integrated with technological solutions** – simply to improve the user interface.
  - + All the relevant resources must be mobilised to strengthen the competitiveness of EU; **The focus on young researchers and scientists!**
- BUT**
- ? **Where are the end-users and consumers with their future demands, in and outside Europe?**

## COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (#1-3)

- We need to establish a Europe-wide patent system as soon as possible – it is the precondition for the Open Innovation Charter.  
Q: **WHAT TO DO WITH EXCESS IDEAS? IS THERE ANY PROCESS?**
- Open innovation approach in Europe is challenging: we need some well communicated examples from the industry to promote this approach. (#1)
- There is a large untapped potential in the public sector purchasing to drive innovation indeed – yes, it should be used as stimulus to foster European wide RDI but not on the cost of value creation! (#2)
- Increased focus and concentration of the RDI funding – this is good news, yes, with better focus we can get more force and reach real results. (#3)

## COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE AND MEDIUM TERM ACTIONS (#4-6)

- **How to increase the visibility of science and innovation, gain trust and strengthen the cooperation between various stakeholders? awarding the title** of 'the Europea Capital/Region' of RDI – yes, but this is not enough. **We could start much earlier** by influencing schoolchildren and teenagers through 'joint doings'. (#4)
- **Single market for a European RDI** – has industry been heard? (#5)
- **To create a body that would implement the process for the pre-commercial public procurement of RDI.** (see the issue #2 above). **Could existing bodies** within the EU be used to **take care?** (#6)

## COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (#7-9)

- **Concentrate and streamline all R&D funding: YES** by all measures! Could **results-based funding** be taken into use in other than high risk projects? **High risk projects should be encouraged more. Funds from the common agriculture policy could well be used more** i.e. for water and food related projects. (#7)
- **Foster an acceptable degree of risk-taking (& high impact)** and also excellence in **all the RDI programmes** – I fully support this proposition. We should get out of the mind-set of “peer-reviewed safe science”. (#8)
- **Create a European venture capital fund** capable of investing in early-stage “proof of concept” and business development prior to commercial investment. – **YES!** (#9)

## COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LONGER-TERM ACTIONS (#10)

- Create result and risk oriented funding as a dominant criterion – yes, the sooner the better! (#10)

*It is all about competitiveness.*

*Thank You!*

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