



Steering the course to the future: new ideas for the future of research and innovation in Europe

MEMO

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*Research and
Innovation*

Why was the High Level Group on maximising the impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes asked to publish their report? What does the report aim to do?

In the context of the results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 which were presented end of May 2017, the High Level Group was asked to formulate a vision for future EU Research and Innovation and to make strategic recommendations on how the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes can be maximised future in the future.

The High Level Group report sets out how research and innovation matter for our future: in making a big difference to improving productivity and boosting the competitiveness of the European economy, and in inspiring tangible improvements to our quality of life. In the last twenty years, the report highlights, two-thirds of economic growth in industrialised countries is attributed to research and innovation.

It emphasises Europe's status as a global scientific powerhouse: with just 7% of the world's population and 24% of global GDP, it produces around 30% of the world's scientific publications. But compared to other major economies, Europe suffers from a growth deficit. At the heart of this lies an innovation deficit. Put simply, Europe does not capitalise enough on the knowledge it has and produces. The report goes on to illustrate how the EU trails well behind many trading partners when it comes to innovation, for example, spending less than half as much on business research and development as a share of GDP compared to South Korea, and producing three times less quality patent applications than Japan.

What are the main recommendations of the High Level Group?

The rate of technological and economic change and the urgency of global challenges means that Europe's innovation deficit must be addressed now, collectively and through maximising the impact of future EU research and innovation programmes. To achieve this, the High Level Group proposes 11 recommendations and accompanying actions:

1. Prioritise research and innovation in EU and national budgets

Action: double the budget of the post 2020 EU research and innovation programme.

2. Build a true EU innovation policy that creates future markets

Action: Foster ecosystems for researchers, innovators, industries and governments; promote and invest in innovative ideas with rapid scale-up potential through a European Innovation Council.

3. Educate for the future and invest in people who will make the change

Action: modernise, reward and resource the education and training of people for a creative and innovative Europe.

4. Design the EU R&I programme for greater impact

Action: make the future programme's pillars driven by purpose and impact, fine-tune the proposal evaluation system and increase flexibility.

5. Adopt a mission-oriented, impact-focused approach to address global challenges

Action: set research and innovation missions that address global challenges and mobilise researchers, innovators and other stakeholders to realise them.

6. Rationalise the EU funding landscape and achieve synergy with structural funds

Action: cut the number of R&I funding schemes and instruments, make those remaining reinforce each other and make synergy with other programmes work.

7. Simplify further

Action: become the most attractive R&I funder in the world, privileging impact over process.

8. Mobilise and involve citizens

Action: stimulate co-design and co-creation through citizen involvement.

9. Better align EU and national R&I investment

Action: ensure EU and national alignment where it adds value to the EU's R&I ambitions and missions.

10. Make international R&I cooperation a trademark of EU research and innovation

Action: open up the R&I programme to association by the best and participation by all, based on reciprocal co-funding or access to co-funding in the partner country.

11. Capture and better communicate impact

Action: brand EU research and innovation and ensure wide communication of its results and impacts.

What will the Commission do with the proposals of the High Level Group and the results of the Research and Innovation - Shaping Our Future conference?

The Commission will respond to recommendations of the High Level Group in a Communication to be published in October 2017. In this Communication, the Commission will also draw lessons for the future from the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation results and report on the implementation of the recommendations of the ex-post evaluation of the predecessor programme (FP7).

The High Level Group report will set the scene for a public and political debate on research and innovation in the post-2020 EU Multiannual Financial Framework.

The report will be discussed in the informal Competitiveness Council on 24 and 25 July, under the Estonian Presidency. The Estonian Minister of Education and Research, Mailis Reps, is a high-level speaker at today's conference. The European Parliament adopted its report on the 'assessment of Horizon 2020 implementation in view of its interim evaluation and the Framework Programme 9 proposal' in the June 2017 plenary session, and its rapporteur Soledad Cabezon Ruiz MEP is also a high-level speaker at today's conference.

Members of the High Level Group will act as ambassadors for the recommendations during the months ahead.

The results of today's conference will also feed into the discussion on the shape of the successor research and innovation programme to Horizon 2020.

Who are the members of the High Level Group?

The members of the High Level Group are:

- **Chair: Pascal Lamy** – President Emeritus, Jacques Delors Institute
- **Martin Brudermüller** – Vice Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors and Chief Technology Officer, BASF

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- **Mark Ferguson** – Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland
- **Lykke Friis** – Prorector for Education, University of Copenhagen
- **Cristina Garmendia** – Chair, Fundación Cotec
- **Iain Gray** – Director of Aerospace, Cranfield University
- **Jan Gulliksen** – Professor, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
- **Harri Kulmala** – CEO of DIMECC Ltd, Finnish digital industry innovation ecosystem
- **Nevenka Maher** – former dean, Faculty of Business & Management Sciences Novo mesto
- **Maya Plentz Fagundes** – Managing Director, 50More Ventures
- **Lucyna A. Woźniak** – Vice-Rector for Science and International Relations, Medical University of Łódź
- **Milena Žic Fuchs** – Professor, University of Zagreb; Fellow, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Member, Academia Europaea

More information:

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