

# The Research Agenda of the E.U. In Brief, Focused on Innovation

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The development of the E.U. became ever more rapid and irreversible during the last thirty years. It is the main aim of the following presentation to measure progress done and to offer a comprehensive sketch of the so much debated about research agenda of the E. U. and its very ambitious programs of reform and innovation. These could only be boosted by tremendous scientific development and technological advancement.

Keywords: reform, change, innovation, participation, renewable energy, renewal

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During the period of consistent change in the formation of the E.U. there was included for the first time a chapter on research in the Single European Act from 1986. This was an important step towards a clear regulation and the scientific improvement that were to shape the future of science in the E.U.

The European Research Framework Program stretches over the period 1984-2020. It is divided in eight time intervals with a particular amount of money allocated. Thus, the first endeavor developed between the years 1984-1987, with 3.3 billion Euros allocated to it. The second emerged between the years 1987-1991 and had a budget of 5.4 billion Euros. The third framework program covers the years of 1990-1994 with a total budget of 6.6 billion Euros. The fourth framework program was set between the years 1994-1998 with a sum of 13.2 billion Euros. The fifth framework program stretched over the period 1998-2002 with a budget of 14.9 billion Euros. The sixth framework program covered the period 2002-2006 with a total sum of 19.3 billion Euros. The seventh framework program lasted from 2007-2013 and was allocated a budget of 55.9 billion Euros. Eventually, the Horizon 2020 program stretches over 2014-2020 with a total budget of 80

billion Euros. In 2000 the Lisbon European Council launched the European Research Area (ERA). However a pivotal moment was to be traced when a decision was taken in the form of the ESPRIT (European Strategic Program on Research and Information Technology) and the “additional budget” was agreed upon.<sup>1</sup>

The first framework program (1984-1987) was adapted for community research, technological development and demonstration activities. It should enhance balanced scientific research and technological development. According to the principle of subsidiarity the research is pursued if it offers advantages over the national endeavor. During the second framework program (1987-1991) the ICT department got 40 percent of the total budget. Industry and materials almost double their part. New programs, such as support for SMEs and international cooperation emerge.

During the unfolding of the third framework program (1990-1994) the share of the ICT decreases by the five percent compared to FP2. Energy funding keeps dropping and the life sciences (health and food) increase in financial contribution. It is subdivided into four thematic programs enabling technologies:

“Management of Natural Resources” (environment,



“A digital Agenda for Europe” is a means for the build up of high speed internet and the worldwide spreading of information and communication technologies.

“A Resource friendly Europe” should contribute to separate economic growth from the consuming of resources. It supports the transit to CO2 poor economy, the introduction of green technologies and of a modern transport system as well as energy efficiency.

“An Industry Policy” for the age of globalization should improve the business environment i.e. via a better access to credits and via a reduction of birocraism. It supports the build up of a strong and resistant industrial basis to innovate on a global level and to affirm itself in the competition.

“An Agenda for new skills and employment possibilities”<sup>5</sup> should modernize the labor markets and help the people to develop their abilities to improve the flexibility and security at the work place. It acts as a bridge between the employer and the job seeker.

“The European Platform for the Fight of Poverty” represents a platform that offers social and territorial cohesion enabling thus the active access of poor people to the labor market and the integration in society.<sup>6</sup>

So far there was registered a full success in the research department, most of all people could thus control their eating habits by being more health conscientious. Moreover, they can speak directly to different doctors via the internet and by asking online direct questions that concern them. Intense cooperation between the public and the private sector in the form of private-public partnerships is sought and promoted: “PPP’s will equally be sought, for research and innovation agendas which are of strategic importance to EU competitiveness and to address societal challenges, including in the bioeconomy. Commission services are exploring the possibilities for establishing a PPP on bio-based industries.”<sup>7</sup>

As the commission plays a crucial role in this endeavor people are determined to trust its commitment to rise up to the expectation.

### Conclusion

The framework programs through their huge financial support prove to boost thus the E.U. economy and to foster innovation. The Union is to become eventually one of the most competitive international organizations in the world among other blooming economies. It is a unique and tremendous chance, its citizens should become aware of, and they should even try to overcome any border mentalities and other kind of limitations and bring their own input at the build up of a greater future based on hard work and solidarity.

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### Notes:

1. see further reference in the “Horizon Magazine 30 years EU Research Framework Programmes 1984-2014.
2. see European Commission, Research Projects and Studies 2011-2008. A Background document for the preparation of the strategic guidelines for road safety up to 2020, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the E.U., 2010, p.8-23.
3. The presentation of the programs is supposed to shed light on the basic opportunities of research at the end of the twentieth century and the onset of the third millennium: SERI. (State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation) article found at the web address <http://www.Sbfi.admin.ch/themen/01370/01683/02092>, accessed on the 13 of October 2015.
4. For further reference see Europa 2020 Europas Wachstumstrategie, p. 3-4
5. Idem
6. n. b. The latest results in food research made people more aware of what they ate and avoid food that caused the spreading of diseases and provoked a major discomfort for them e.g. the development of carcinogenes and acrylamids in overheated and overcooked (toast) bread and potatoes
7. see European Commission, Innovating for Sustainable Growth, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the E.U., 2012, p.24.