

Cefic views on Horizon2020

The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in the EU

At a time of multiple societal challenges, Europe has set a series of high expectations on research and innovation potential to deliver on the objectives of Europe 2020. Cefic supports the proposal of the European Commission for a streamlined and output-focused research and innovation programme.

In particular Cefic fully supports the following measures of Horizon2020:

- The intention of streamlining the various funding instruments and the increased funding volume that only reflects the current pressing needs of Europe.
- The focus on excellence and output.
- The recognition of the vital importance of the close-to-market phase (i.e. scale-up, demonstration projects) of the innovation cycle which carries the research results to the market. This phase, a weakness in Europe, is the one actually creating economic opportunities and bringing back value for every euro invested.
- The application of the innovation cycle approach to the policy priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy. Cefic trusts that the activities of the European Innovation Partnerships will bring the stakeholder dialogue up to the next level; a level where the relevant partners along the respective value chains (from material provider to the end-user solution) are stimulated simultaneously and work together for sustainable innovations.

In order to deliver on its objectives, the proposed framework has to ensure an effective implementation. Therefore Cefic requests that Horizon2020 more explicitly addresses the following issues:

- **Strong incentives for cooperation**
The one-stop shop cannot limit itself to a “dispatch office”; therefore:
 - the activities within the three pillars should be coordinated
 - stronger incentives for cooperation between public and private should be put in place and
 - policies supporting innovation should be coordinated for concrete outputs.
- **Connecting the pillars of Horizon2020**
Bridging actions are needed especially between the societal challenges and industrial leadership.
- **Stronger network between SMEs and large companies**
The strong dedicated support for innovative SMEs needs to be complemented by an equally firm support for strengthening the cooperation between SMEs and bigger companies; this network of small and large companies is one of the strengths of Europe. Rules for participation should be adjusted accordingly.
- **Greater support for risk-taking**
A reinforced support for risk financing and risk taking attitude also on the public authorities side would contribute to the European catching-up on the commercialisation of innovative ideas.
- **Fitness check of instruments**
Research and innovation follow different drivers; the instruments that helped develop and strengthen the research capacity in the past programmes are not necessarily adapted to innovation; a fitness check is key for effective results.

- **A new role for Technology Platforms in innovation**
EU Technology Platforms which have innovation and partnership collaboration in their remit should be continued in their advisory function for shaping strategic research agendas, but also be called upon to contribute to the overall strategic planning and implementation of the Innovation Union.
- **Contractual PPPs as preferred option**
A novel approach to industry-driven Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) is crucial for innovation. While the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI's) may have some value for research, contractual PPPs (as set up under the EU Economic Recovery Plan of 2009) would be the best instruments to reach the innovation objectives
- **A better role for industry in "Excellent Science"**
The 'Excellent Science' pillar will definitely continue to ensure European lead in creating new ideas. It would benefit even more from an increased profile for industry as a way to bring a more practical perspective into how these ideas can develop into actual innovative European applications.

Cefic currently contributes and provides its strong support to:

- **the instrument of Public-Private Partnership (with dedicated innovation agendas)**
- **the development of Strategic Research & Innovation agendas on topics of relevance for tackling the societal challenges, and**
- **the development of criteria for effectively covering the value chain towards the delivery of targeted innovations.**