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Simplification Process of FP7 EU Research Programmes

On April 29, the European Commission published a Communication on Simplifying the Implementation of the Research Framework Programmes. It summarizes the conclusions of a survey conducted in 2009 in the scientific community and the industry. The suggestions for simplification aim at a comprehensive standardization of procedures and rules for the proposal and grant management. As particularly innovative appears the suggestion to introduce a **“result-based instead of a cost-based funding”** implying the institution of lump sum budgets and the removal of the intrinsic bureaucratic cost checking in the future 8th Framework Programme.

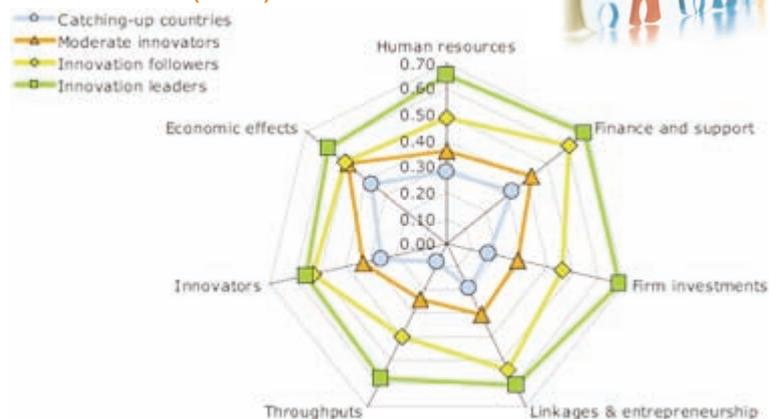
More info :

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7>

EU general informations

European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2009

Most EU Member States until 2008 were steadily improving their innovation performance. The economic crisis may, however, be hampering this progress, according to the 2009 European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) published today. Early indications show that the worst hit are Member States with lower levels of innovation performance, potentially reversing the convergence process witnessed over recent years. Meanwhile, the latest statistics show that the EU is having difficulty in catching up with the US in innovation performance, although it maintains a clear lead over the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, despite rapid improvements in China. The European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) and the Innobarometer. The EIS attempts to benchmark, on a yearly basis, the innovation performance of Member States, drawing on statistics from a variety of sources, primarily the



Community Innovation Survey.

The EIS 2009 data show that the region's five top innovation performers are once again Denmark, Germany, Finland, Sweden and the UK. A breakdown shows that Germany and Finland reported the quickest improved performances, while Denmark and the UK lagged

behind.

The 'Innovation followers' for 2009 are Belgium, Estonia, Ireland, France, Cyprus, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Slovenia, while the 'Moderate innovators' are the Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia.

<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/page/european-innovation-scoreboard-2009>

Forthcoming events

**The 2nd Annual
“Internet of Things”
Europe 2010,**

Brussels, June 1st & 2nd

This high level conference, run with the support of the European Commission will explore the development of the Internet of Things and discuss the opportunities and challenges ahead. It will explore and discuss the future of the Internet of Things with existing and potential application scenarios and the dimension of new services. It will look at how such smart connected objects and indeed cities may evolve in the future, and how application providers can anticipate real-life needs. It will be of interest to businesses to explore the risks and discover the opportunities for the future...

more info : <http://www.eu-ems.com/summary>

**EU Open Health
Forum, Brussel,
June 29th & 30th**

This conference aims to contribute and increase the profile of health in all policies through discussion between EU policy makers and stakeholders on pressing public health issues and their impacts on the Community. Working groups will be focused on Innovation in Health, integration of Public Health with Common Agricultural Policy and the role of non-state actors in the implementation of “Health in all policies”

more info : <http://ec.europa.eu/health>



The Digital Agenda is Europe's strategy in terms of policies and actions to maximise the benefit of the Digital Revolution for all. To achieve these goals, the Commission will work closely with national governments. An annual Digital Assembly will bring stakeholders together to assess progress and emerging challenges.

The Digital Agenda for Europe is one of the flagships of Europe 2020, the Commission's strategy for recovering from the financial and economic crisis and lifting up the EU economy in the next decade.



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The XXI ISPIM Conference



The XXI ISPIM Conference - The Dynamics of Innovation - will be held in Bilbao, Spain on 6-9 June 2010. Organised by ISPIM and hosted by Innobasque, the Basque Innovation Agency, this conference will bring together academics, business leaders, consultants and other professionals involved in innovation management.

ACTIF Europe will coordinate a special interest group on: **Participating in EU-Funded Projects in Innovation Management**



EYE ON IT



European SMEs trends

From May 25th to June 1st 2010

European SME Week 2010 aims to:

- **provide information** on what the EU and national, regional and local authorities are offering as support to micro, small and medium-sized businesses;
- **promote entrepreneurship** so that more people, and in particular younger ones, seriously consider becoming an entrepreneur as a career option;
- **give recognition to entrepreneurs** for their contribution to Europe's welfare, jobs, innovation and competitiveness

<http://ec.europa.eu/small-business>



This year, the largest annual conference on European environment policy turns the spotlight on biodiversity. Over some 30 sessions, the conference will address the state of biodiversity and nature in Europe and the world, the benefits they bring, present-day pressures on them, and possible solutions to the current rates of loss.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/>

SOFTWARE

Quaterly Picks

How **MIND MAPPING software** contribute to **Team Building and efficiency**. A common use of mind maps in business is to manage complex projects. But much less common is using it to **capture the team's learnings and practices** – what went well, what needed improvement, and what the team will do differently during the next project. By capturing this information, a project team can ensure that it doesn't repeat the same mistakes. This is the first step towards a successful project.

Let's read that excellent blog :

<http://mindmappingsoftwareblog.com/>

Focus on successful project : www.hermes-OSR.eu

The HERMES-OSR project developed a training solution for trainers, future auditors and operational staff of enterprises on CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility and on OSR - Organisation Social Responsibility.

With the support of FLA, the Fair Labor Association, the HERMES OSR designed a labelling process of training solution in Social Responsibility.



ACTIF-Europe supported the HERMES OSR project on its way to success by providing collaborative environments and tools at European level.

At the ISPIM Conference 2009 in Vienna, HERMES OSR made a presentation on "Social Responsibility and Innovation". It opened the way for networking and future collaboration on the place and the role of ethics, deontology, and social responsibility in innovation and creative processes.

Forthcoming calls

FP7 Energy Research Information Day - 2011 calls, Brussels, Belgium



This event will inform multipliers and potential applicants about the content of energy-related calls for proposals under FP7 are planned to **be published on 30 July 2010**. the political context of the energy theme's work pro-

gramme will be provided (Food, Biotechnology, Environment, and Transport. Concerned domains are Nanosciences, **Nanotechnologies**, Materials and new Production Technologies on **innovative photovoltaic cell processes and architectures**,

Eco-Innovation Projects in Europe

Achieving competitive growth and environmental sustainability is possible. This initiative is addressed mainly to organisations that have developed an environmental product, service, management practice or process which has a proven track record, yet is not fully marketed due to residual risks. The Eco-



innovation initiative is intended to overcome those barriers to further market penetration and turn these products and processes into Europe's future eco-innovation successes! Applications from SMEs are particularly encouraged.

The Call for proposals 2010 is open. **Deadline for submission is 9 September, 17:00 (Brussels local time)**

Tools: WebConference = Team building & Efficiency

How a Webconference tool can leverage efficiency for international projects ?

The next best thing to face-to-face working session is a phone or video conference, as these media provide rich, interactive, and multiple parallel channels of communication that usual documents even emails cannot deliver. However, all the people taking part have to be present at the same time, and must (if well-mannered) be prepared to remain silent for long periods while other people have the floor.



Web conferences can be used in four ways:

- 1 - A web conference is held to prepare partnership meeting a few weeks in advance to speed up decisions and provide room for collaborative working sessions at face to face meetings.
- 2 - When issues or major deviations from schedule are identified, partners can meet virtually and deal with it at any time without any delay.
- 3 - Hands-on training and support actions.