



## **Estonian Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2017 Research and Innovation**

The main topic during the Estonian Presidency will be the **interim evaluation of Horizon 2020**, including European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) and Euratom. We are preparing our presidency priorities as the focus points for political level discussions based on Horizon 2020 interim evaluation results in the lead up to the preparation of the proposals for the next MFF and the 9th Framework Programme.

Estonia has two priorities that will also be the main topics for discussion during the informal meeting of research ministers in Tallinn on 25 July 2017:

### **1) Impact and value of research: providing rationale for investing in research and innovation**

In the midst of the debate of the future of EU, the Estonian Presidency aims to build a case for supporting ambitious investments in excellent and high-risk R&I. To achieve this, we want to build a stronger narrative on the broad impact and societal value of European excellent research that would speak to a wider audience at EU and national level. The results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 as well as a wide array of recent studies on impact will enable the Council to promote policies that support increased trust and impact between excellent research, innovation and society.

This will be also the focus of the Estonian Presidency Conference *European Research Excellence - Impact and Value for Society* on 12 October 2017 in Tallinn. At the Conference the Tallinn Call for Action will be presented that provides steps for concerted actions of key stakeholders to move towards increased impact and societal value of European research.

### **2) Increased coherence and openness of EU research and innovation partnerships**

We aim to take forward the discussions of the next Framework Programme and contribute to creating a more coherent and accessible funding programme. In particular, we wish to focus on the role of partnering approach in the Framework Programme as we have witnessed increasing complexity of partnering instruments and initiatives in Horizon 2020. By partnering instruments we mean Public-Public Partnerships (P2Ps), such as ERA-NETs, Article 185 programmes and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), contractual Public-Private Partnerships (cPPP), Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of European Institute of Innovation and Technology and FET Flagships. Based on these instruments, many new thematic initiatives have been launched in Horizon 2020. This has made the landscape difficult to navigate for Member States as well as participants, especially newcomers. Estonian Presidency will start a debate on how to apply the partnering approach more successfully and rationalize the landscape, including possibilities for a more strategic approach to coordinating long-term and large scale initiatives with a view of the FP9 and ERA governance review.





At the Council research working party we are planning in-depth discussions on several other key topics related to the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation, e.g. the ones specified in the H2020 regulation.

As the **main output of our presidency** we foresee Council conclusions on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and future orientations for FP9.

**Key dates for work in Council:**

1. Informal meeting of Research Ministers, 25 July, Tallinn
2. RWP/ERAC meeting, 21-22 September, Tartu
3. COMPET Council (research), 1 December, Brussels

**Key Presidency events:**

1. European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS), 22-27 September, Tallinn
2. Conference *European Research Excellence - Impact and Value for Society*, 12 October, Tallinn. In addition to the official conference programme, side events will be hosted by European Research Council on Widening Participation on 11 October and SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) on Science for Policy on 13 October.
3. Manufuture 2017, 24-25 October, Tallinn
4. Conference *Nature-based solutions: From Innovation to Common-use*, 24-26 October, Tallinn
5. Conference *Embedding digital into societal challenges*, 7 December (tbc), Brussels

