Brussels, 10 June 2014

State of the Innovation Union - Taking stock 2010 – 2014

The European Commission today publishes a new Communication on "Research and Innovation as sources of renewed growth". It is underpinned by the 2014 State of the Innovation Union report that details the steps taken since 2010 to implement the Innovation Union flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 growth strategy.

The following table summarises progress in the delivery of the actions that were put in place to fulfil the Innovation Union commitments, as well as examples of how these actions are being implemented. More details can be found in the report itself.

COMMITMENT	ACTIONS DELIVERED	EXAMPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION
1 Put in place national strategies to train enough researchers	• Most countries have put in place strategies; • Commission has put in place tools to favour this process. Remaining gaps (deadline 2011): • Some Member States still have to put in place such strategies.	✔ • New innovative doctoral training opportunities available in some Member States; • EURAXESS available to researchers.
2.2 Test feasibility of independent university ranking	• Feasibility of the ranking tested.	✔ • U-Multirank launched in 2014; • 500 Higher Education Institutions participated in this ranking. Tool available for students and researchers to compare universities in new ways.
2.1 Create business-academia "Knowledge Alliances"	• Knowledge Alliances piloted and scaled up in Erasmus+. Follow-up: • +150 new Knowledge Alliances foreseen in the programming period 2014-2020.	✔ • Higher Education Institutions and businesses took part in the first Knowledge Alliances. New Knowledge Alliances are being launched in 2014; • Results of the first Knowledge Alliances pilots available.

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3	Propose an integrated framework for e-skills	• Grand coalition for digital jobs; • E-competence framework 3.0 released; • Roadmap for the promotion of ICT professionalism and e-leadership 2014-2020 released.	✔ • E-competence framework adopted as a standard by some Member States.
4	Propose an ERA framework and supporting measures	• ERA Proposed in 2012; • ERA measures under implementation; • European Framework for Research Careers created; • Principles for Innovative doctoral training defined, disseminated, verified and supported; • Pan-European Pension fund, consortium established, funding foreseen in H2020. Remaining gaps (deadlines: proposal in 2012, measures to be in place by 2014): • Some Member States still have to align their systems to ERA principles;	✔ • European Framework for Research Careers widely used for recruitment by universities, companies, etc.; • Joint Programming Initiatives.
5	Construct the priority European Research Infrastructures	• 56% under implementation. Remaining gaps: • goal: 60% by 2015.	✔ • 14 infrastructures provide services to their users.
6	Simplify and focus future EU research and innovation programmes on Innovation Union	• Horizon 2020 launched with focus on the Innovation Union.	✔ • First calls of Horizon 2020 launched.
7	Ensure stronger involvement of SME in future EU R&I programmes	• SME instrument within Horizon 2020.	✔ • SME instrument ready to be used in Horizon 2020.
8	Strengthen the science base for policy making through JRC and create EFFLA	• Better connections with JRC developed; • European Forum for Forward Looking Activities established.	✔ • Work of the JRC and of EFFLA influencing Commission policy making and strategic programming.
9	Set out EIT strategic agenda	• Strategic Innovation Agenda set and under implementation; • New Knowledge and Innovation Communities launched; • Activities of the EIT foundation expanded.	✔ • 35 master courses with EIT label; • More than 1,000 students enrolled in EIT courses; • More than 100 start-ups created; • More than 400 ideas incubated; • 90 new products and services launched.

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10	Put in place EU-level financial instruments to attract private finance	· 'Access to Risk finance' under Horizon 2020; · First calls for expression of interest by financial intermediaries expected to take place in the third quarter of 2014.	✔	
11	Ensure cross border operation of venture capital funds	· The European Venture Capital Regulation entered into force in July 2013.	✔	· At least 2 applications presented to MS.
12	Strengthen cross border matching of innovative firms with investors	· Expert group delivered recommendations to the Commission.	✔	· These recommendations have been taken into account in the delivery of the financial instruments within Horizon 2020.
13	Review State Aid Framework for R&D&I	· State Aid Framework for R&D&I reviewed.	✔	· State Aid Modernisation rules ready to be used as of July 2014.
14	Deliver the EU Patent	· 'Unitary patent package' agreed; · Machine translations available since 2013. Remaining gaps (deadline 2014): · Implementing rules to be defined by the Select Committee by the end of 2014; · 13 Member States have to ratify the Unitary Patent Court agreement for it to enter into force (2 ratifications so far); · Implementing rules for the Unitary Patent Court are being discussed within the Preparatory Committee. It is expected to start working in 2015.	✔	
15	Screen the regulatory framework in key areas	· Regulatory Screening methodology developed and applied to regulations relating to eco-innovation and European Innovation Partnerships.	✔	· Methodology applied to water directive and regulation on raw materials.
16	Speed-up and modernise standard-setting	· Communication adopted in 2011. · Implementing regulation in 2012.	✔	· Quicker (37%) standardisation process.
17.1	Set aside national procurement budgets for innovation	· Commitment not taken up by the Council.	✖	· Some Member States have introduced measures to use public procurement as an instrument for innovation policy (e.g. Spain, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, etc.).

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17.2 Set up an EU level support mechanism and facilitate joint procurement	• Financial support to transnational cooperation provided by the Commission; • Revised Public Procurement directives facilitating the procurement of innovation adopted by Parliament and Council in 2014; • Guidance and awareness raising activities carried out by the Commission. Remaining gaps: • Member States to transpose directives.	✓ • Joint procurement under FP7 calls.
18 Present an eco-innovation action plan	• Action Plan adopted in 2011.	✓ • Strategic Implementation Plan agreed in 2012 and currently under implementation.
19.1 Establish a European Creative Industries Alliance	• European Creative Industries Alliance established in 2011.	✓ • More than €45 million mobilised on top of a €6.75 million EU support for the European Creative Industries Alliance; • Influence on the national schemes, including the National Creative Voucher scheme in Austria; • More than 3500 SMEs benefited from the activities of the European Creative Industries Alliance and an additional 2460 stakeholders participated in its activities.
19.2 Set up a European Design Leadership Board	• European Design Leadership Board established. It delivered proposals on how to enhance the role of design in innovation.	✓ • Staff Working Document 'Implementing an Action Plan for design driven innovation' published in 2013; • European Design Innovation Platform established; • European Design Innovation Initiative call.
20 Promote open access; support smart research information services	• Communication 'Towards better access to scientific information: boosting the benefits of public investments in research', including recommendations to Member States; • Open access in Horizon 2020; • Search tools developed.	✓ • ODIN project.

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21	**Facilitate collaborative research and knowledge transfer**	· Clear and easy participation rules for Horizon 2020; · Analysis of impact on innovation of consortium agreements carried out; · Guidance on the use of consortium agreements produced and integrated into the Horizon 2020 online grants manual; · Analysis of knowledge transfer and open innovation.	✔	· European Technology Transfer Offices circle.
22	**Develop a European knowledge market for patents and licensing**	· Staff Working Document 'Towards enhanced patent valorisation for growth and jobs' published in 2012.	✔	· Expert groups on Intellectual Property valuation and on Patent valorisation established; · Pilot project will deliver results at the end of 2014; · Results of the expert group on patent valorisation to be delivered.
23	**Safeguard against the use of IPRs for anti-competitive purposes**	· Guidelines on horizontal agreements adopted in 2010.	✔	· These rules now apply to national competition authorities, the Commission; companies and national courts.
24 & 25	**Improve the use of Structural Funds for research and innovation**	· Research and Innovation strategies for Smart Specialisation introduced in the strategic planning of Member States and regions; · Smart specialisation strategies introduced as an ex-ante conditionality to access European Regional Development Fund funding for research, technological development and innovation; · Commission support to Member States an regions; · Smart Specialisation Platform launched in 2012.	✔	· National and regional smart specialisation strategies defined in most Member States/regions.
26	**Launch a Social Innovation pilot; promote social innovation in European Social Fund**	· Social Innovation Europe platform launched in 2011; · Bigger role for social innovation in the European Social Fund.	✔	· European Social Innovation Competition; · Support to networks of incubators for social innovation.

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27	Support a research programme on public sector and social innovation; pilot a European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard	• Social and public sector innovation included in Horizon 2020 topics; • European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard piloted.	✓	• European Prize for Innovation in Public; • Expert group on public sector innovation; • iCapital.
28	Consult social partners on interaction between the knowledge economy and market	• EU social partners contacted and first consultations took place in 2013. Follow-up: • Further consultations planned in 2014 and beyond.	✓	• European Workplace Innovation Network.
29	Pilot and present proposals for European Innovation Partnerships	• European Innovation Partnerships launched, piloted and evaluated.	✓	• More than 700 commitments for action; • Reference sites for sharing lessons and replicating transferable results; • Web-based marketplaces with well over 1000 registered users for each; • First results emerging: collections of good practices and toolkits for their replication, compilations of evidence on impacts etc.
30	Put in place integrated policies to attract global talent	• National measures being deployed to foster researchers' mobility; • Scientific Visa; • Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions; • Destination Europe Events. Remaining gaps: • New Scientific Visa to take effect in 2016, after transposition by Member States.	✓	• EURAXESS and EURAXESS Links.
31	Propose common EU / Member States priorities and approaches for scientific cooperation with third countries	• Communication on enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation adopted in 2012. Remaining gaps: • On-going work of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation to identify common priorities and implement joint actions. Roadmaps to be completed by the end of 2014; • Ongoing dialogues with third countries and world regions.	✓	• Strategic Forum for International Cooperation initiatives targeting China, Brazil, India and the USA.

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32	Roll-out global research infrastructures	• New framework for cooperation agreed in 2013 at G8 level. Remaining gaps (deadline 2012): • Report on list of existing infrastructures and priorities expected in 2015.	✔
33	Self-assess national research and innovation systems and identify challenges and reforms	• Commission support made available to Member States; • 5/28 Member States have requested peer reviewing; • Progress monitored through European Semester, leading to Country Specific Recommendations; • 3 countries confirmed use of Self-Assessment Tool. Follow-up: • New tool launched under Horizon 2020.	✔ • Peer reviews carried out for Belgium, Estonia, Denmark, Spain and Iceland.
34.1	Develop an innovation headline indicator	• Communication 'Measuring innovation output in Europe: towards a new indicator' adopted in 2013.	✔ • Indicator used for Country Specific Recommendations in 2014.
34.2	Monitor progress using Innovation Union Scoreboard	• Innovation Union Scoreboard updated in 2010.	✔ • Innovation Union Scoreboard published yearly. Latest available issue in 2014.