

EBC External Environmental Report

Week of 10 February

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Education, research and innovation are inextricably linked. We often talk about the knowledge triangle, but our big goal is to make it a square of knowledge, incorporating the benefits to society.

Achieving this goal requires an ambitious political agreement on the next multiannual financial framework, especially with regard to programs that reflect our priorities for the future: Horizon Europe, Erasmus + Creative Europe, European Solidarity Corps."

Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, shared her views on the next Multiannual Financial Framework in a recent interview.

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Horizon Impact Award (*European Commission*)

The uptake of R&I results created under the Framework Programme is important for the programme's success and is instrumental in contributing towards transformative impacts on the economy, society and policymaking. To illustrate the wider socio-economic benefits of the EU investment in R&I and to encourage project beneficiaries to best manage and utilise their research results, the Commission awards on an annual basis a recognition prize for rewarding beneficiaries that have successfully demonstrated effective exploitation and uptake of their projects' R&I results.

Research and cohesion camps clash in Parliament debate ahead of budget summit (*Science|Business*)

MEPs want a bigger EU budget for 2021-2027 but can't agree whether the extra cash should go to research or to protecting traditional programmes such as the common agriculture policy and cohesion. In a plenary session in Strasbourg on Wednesday, MEPs debated the next multiannual budget of the EU, which is to be agreed on by member states next Thursday. They worry about the hole in the EU budget after 2021 when the UK is no longer contributing, and urge member states to commit to putting 1.3 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) into the EU coffers, a figure significantly higher than European Commission's proposed 1.1 per cent.

Budget 2021 – 2027: mixed funding is needed to promote innovation (*Science|Business*)

Representatives of the EU's regions want to see more integration between the many and disparate EU programmes that are intended to support the growth of innovation clusters and promote regional development, in the 2021 – 27 budget. At a recent meeting organised by the Science|Business Network,, there were calls for funding streams, including Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Structural Funds and the Single Market Programme, to be more systematically applied to create interregional clusters and value chains, with simpler rules and less red tape.

EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel: The future of Europe is everyone's future (*TheMayor.EU*)

Mrs. Gabriel, first of all, congratulations on your new appointment and best of luck at your new job. Your portfolio as Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth has undergone several changes and has increased significantly since initially proposed. What are your expectations for your new position and how do you plan to combine so many different sectors?

Health minister: This time Belgium could mine healthcare data instead of coal (*EurActiv*)

Belgium has an enormous wealth of digital data, which could help it become a new "mining" country. "We could mine data instead of coal", Belgian Health Minister told EURACTIV.com in an interview.

Researchers stimulate areas vital to consciousness in monkeys' brains -- and it wakes them up (*ScienceDaily*)

One of the central questions in neuroscience is clarifying where in the brain consciousness, which is the ability to experience internal and external sensations, arises. Researchers report that a specific area in the brain, the central lateral thalamus, appears to play a key role. In monkeys under anesthesia, stimulating this area was enough to wake the animals and elicit normal waking behaviors.

Association of a Reproducible Epigenetic Risk Profile for Schizophrenia With Brain Methylation and Function (*JAMA Psychiatry*)

Schizophrenia is a severe brain disorder thought to be caused by a complex interplay of genetic predisposition and environmental exposure. In the context of gene-environment interplay and developmental programming, epigenetic mechanisms, such as DNA methylation, have received substantial attention in schizophrenia and other neuropsychiatric disorders. As epigenetic mechanisms may account for heritability not captured by other current methods, such as polygenic risk scores (PRSs), potential interactions between genetic susceptibility and epigenetic changes are of particular interest.

SURVEYS AND CONSULTATIONS

Keep the EU and UK collaboration in Science #DEALFORSCIENCE - ongoing (*Wellcome Trust*)

Researchers need certainty on scientific collaboration between the UK and EU. Science has been a key success of the EU and must remain a priority to keep Europe competitive. International collaboration makes science stronger and we should not let Brexit disrupt this. Researchers need a long-term solution to allow them to continue working together on the big challenges our societies face, transforming peoples' lives for the better. It's essential that politicians quickly find a way to keep this collaboration as easy as possible.

Sign the petition - Horizon Europe - ongoing (*Initiative for Science in Europe*)

We invite Researchers, Students, Research Organisations, and the Civil Society to sign the petition to their representatives in local governments and to the European Council, asking for a more ambitious budget allocation to the next Research Framework Programme, Horizon Europe. Below, you can read the original letter in English and the letters to the ministries of the some Member States in their official language.

FOR YOUR AGENDA

EBC Meetings:

18 March 2020 - Brain & Cancer: exploring the mysteries of their connection, Brussels

18 - 19 May 2020 - **Board Meeting and General Assembly**, Brussels

24 May 2020 - Special Session at the EAN Congress: Severe patients in neurological and psychiatric disorders, Paris

24 May 2020 - EBRA and RethinkingMS - Scientific Theatre, Paris

25 May 2020 - **6th Academy Meeting of National Brain Councils**, Paris

14 July 2020 - EBC Special Interest Event: Global Research Collaboration at FENS Forum 2020, Glasgow

23 - 24 September 2020 - **Board Meeting and Strategic Workshop**, Brussels

Events of Interest:

3 March 2020 - Webinar: Ultrasound diagnostics for cervical dystonia

16 - 22 March 2020 - Brain Awareness Week

17 March 2020 - Digital Transformation of Health in the EU: What impact for those living with brain, mind and pain disorders? Brussels

17 March 2020 - Webinar: X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy

26 - 28 March 2020 - EANS Annual Meeting & Research Course of Young Neurosurgeons, Zurich

28 - 31 March 2020 - 28th European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid

14 April 2020 - Webinar: Recognizing atypical Parkinsonism

21 April 2020 - Webinar: Hypomyelination

4 - 5 May 2020 - EU Health Summit, Brussels

12 May 2020 - [Webinar: Paroxysmal dyskinesias: an update on clinical and genetic aspects](#)

23 - 26 May 2020 - [6th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology](#), Paris

26 - 28 May 2020 - [HIMSS & Health 2.0 European Conference](#), Helsinki

13 - 18 June 2020 - [8th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference](#), Dubrovnik

11 - 15 July 2020 - [12th FENS Forum of Neuroscience](#), Glasgow

12 - 15 September 2020 - [33rd ECNP Congress](#), Vienna

22 - 24 September 2020 - European Research and Innovation Days 2020, Brussels

18 - 22 October 2020 - [EANS2020](#), Belgrade



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