



Welcome to the Final RegHealth-RI Newsletter

The European Regions' Network for Health Research and Innovation (RegHealth-RI) is a two-year European project that was finalised in early November 2016.

RegHealth-RI aims to bridge the gap in Research and Innovation (R&I) across European regions, focusing on the health area, by analysing the present situation, identifying common patterns and drivers of differences, proposing new initiatives to reduce differences in R&I performance, and building synergies between Structural Funds and Horizon 2020.

PROJECT NEWS

RegHealth-RI Final Conference in Brussels

On 20 October, after two years of implementation, the European Regions' Network for Health Research and Innovation (RegHealth-RI), celebrated its Final Conference "Bridging the Divide in European Health Research and Innovation" in Brussels. The conference was co-hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Brussels and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU.



During the conference, the findings of the RegHealth-RI project were presented, including the outcomes of the three international workshops, the updated and improved version of the report “State of the Art of Health Research and Innovation (R&I) in EU regions” and a set of policy recommendations building on the project’s results. The event gathered 80 attendees, including project partners, high level representatives and key stakeholders working in the fields of health, research, innovation, and regional development to discuss the gaps in health R&I across Europe.

The main results presented were the following:

- ***Most significant factors hindering participation in Horizon2020 of EU less-performing regions/countries:***
 - Extremely populated scientific field generating a high competition to get funding.
 - Discouragement coming from low success rate.
 - Lack of expertise to prepare consistent proposals.
 - Large and complex topics more suited for the participation of reputed organizations from elite EU regions.
 - Lack of specific support to prepare the proposals.
 - Low expected reward in relation to the effort for preparing and implementing the projects/proposals.

- ***Negative factors hindering health research and innovation progress of in EU less-performing countries/regions:***
 - Brain drain in the field of health research in a region/country.
 - Low understanding of specific research and innovation issues by policy and decision makers.
 - Insufficient knowledge transfer from public research organizations to interested stakeholders.
 - Poor investment in public research and, above all, in private research.
 - Insufficient linkages with excellent organizations, companies, etc., from advanced and leading European regions and countries (international collaboration).

- ***Factors hindering synergies between Horizon2020 and European Structural and Investment Funds:***
 - The very high difficulty in obtaining H2020 funding from EU less performing regions institutions (Public Research Centres, Universities, Hospitals, Industry, etc.) is probably the main trouble for reaching such synergies. It seems obvious that without H2020 funding there is not possibility of synergies.
 - Significant conceptual and strategic differences between H2020 (excellent research) and ESIF (regional capacity building and overcome structural difference) make those synergies also difficult to achieve.
 - There are also important organizational and administrative differences between H2020 and ESIF in terms of timing, different cost definitions and financial management rules, etc., which makes synergies a rather complicated business.

More information about the Final Conference, including the speaker presentations, is available [here](#).

Interested in Health Research and Innovation? Another call to join RHInG-NET!

The RegHealth-RI project has come to an end but its deliverables remain active. One of the project outputs is RHInG-NET, an informal network gathering **over 100 European stakeholders** active in the field of health research and innovation.

RHInG-NET is an official deliverable of the RegHealth-RI project and it aims to engage the members of the project consortium, advisory board, associated partners and other external experts and stakeholders.

The purpose of the network is to promote and enrich the dialogue, exchange of

opinions and experiences regarding health research and innovation. RHInG-NET is projected to provide sustainability to the RegHealth-RI project as it will continue to promote dialogue and exchange of experiences amongst its members after the project is finalised.

Are you interested in health research and innovation, and want to connect with peers and key European experts and stakeholders in this field? Then you should join RHInG-NET [here](#). You can find more information about the network, its blog and online library [here](#).

RELATED NEWS

The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on EU funding

The European Committee of the Regions in Brussels launches its 2nd MOOC for regional and local practitioners. This year's topic is the EU budget: How does it work? How to access funding? What is the difference between EFSI and ESI Funds, what are the MFF and H2020?

The course starts on 31 October and will bring you through an online six-week multimedia programme, with videos, factsheets, infographics and web-streamed live debates. Studying time is about two hours per week. The course material will remain available online until 31 July 2017.

You can register for the course [here](#).

Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

Please have a look at the stakeholder consultation on different aspects of Horizon 2020 implementation. The results of the public consultation will contribute to the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020. The European Commission expects to publish a Staff Working Document, including a summary of the results of the consultation, by mid-2017.

The link to the consultation is available [here](#).

European Union invests €45 million into research to combat the Zika disease

The EU is investing €45 million in research to combat the emerging infections transmitted by mosquitoes, especially the outbreak of the Zika virus disease. The funding from Horizon 2020 and the EU's research and innovation programme will support research on treatments, diagnostics and vaccines, as well as better risk

assessment for Zika.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"This research is an example of how we can mobilise funding quickly to face major new threats, and how we can lead a major research effort on a global scale."*

The funding is mainly distributed among the three consortia: ZikaPLAN (€11 million), coordinated by the Umeå University in Sweden, ZIKAction (€7 million), coordinated by the PENTA Foundation in Italy, and ZikAlliance (€12 million), coordinated by INSERM in France.

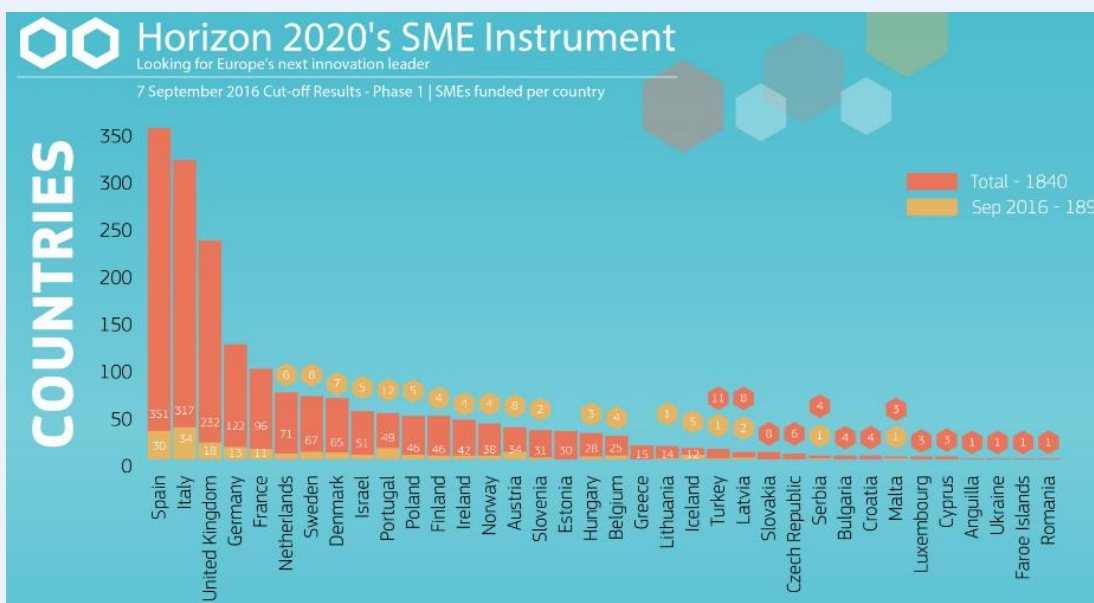
The researchers will aim to set up a Latin Americana and Caribbean network for emerging infectious diseases preparedness and response. The involvement of local researchers is an absolute necessity and reflects participation of Brazilian researchers reflects the need for international effort to combat these infections.

More about Zika virus and other details about the consortia can be found [here](#).

European Commission to invest € 9.1 million in 189 innovative businesses

189 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from 24 countries have been selected for funding in the latest round of the Horizon2020 SME Instrument.

The funding is provided under Phase 1 of the instrument, resulting in € 50,000 per project to finance feasibility studies for innovative products that can create a new market.



34 SMEs from Italy were accepted for funding; this number was the highest among the countries. Italy was followed by Spanish firms (30) and SMEs from the United Kingdom (18). Most of the projects selected will be in ICT (29), followed by transport and low-carbon energy systems (both 24).

The Executive Agency for SMEs, EASME, this year received 1,938 project proposals from 40 countries during the third cut-off of the SME Instrument Phase 1. Under this programme, launched in January 2014, 1840 SMEs have been selected for funding.

The next cut-off for Phase 1 is 9 November 2016.

RELATED EVENTS

14 - 17 November, 8th European Innovation Summit

This year's debates cover a great variety of hot topics such as:

- The mid-term review and post 2020 discussions: Next Framework Programme, European Innovation Council, Structural Funds, etc.
- People: STEM education, next generation innovators and entrepreneurs
- Disruptive technologies and business models
- Circular economy
- The effect of digitization on society
- Bi-annual INPACT meeting - Pact for Innovation initial working groups

For more information about the event, please visit [knowledge 4 innovation website](#).

23 November, the international conference "Spreading Excellence and Crossing the Innovation Divide"

An important outcome of the conference will be a final paper on recommendations and suggestions on how to increase the innovation potential and excellence of low-performing states in the field of science and research. Also, insights and results from the conference sessions can serve as a supporting material for the Horizon 2020 interim evaluation.

Main topics:

- Lowering barriers for better integration of pan-European scientific potential
- First experiences with widening instruments under Horizon 2020
- Beyond the Horizons

Parallel sessions:

- Positioning excellence in the innovation ecosystem
- Research mobility and brain circulation – Gain, train, retain
- National instruments realising a balanced ERA

You can find the registration link [here](#).

5-8 December, European Summit on Digital Innovation on Active and Healthy Ageing

The event will build on the achievements on the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy ageing (EIP AHA), past and current research & innovation in Horizon 2020, the Active and Assisted Living Joint Programme with Member States and the EIT-KIC on healthy living and active ageing. It intends to mobilise the relevant stakeholders around a common vision for scaling up innovation in Health and Active Ageing, the agenda for jobs and growth, strengthening the co-creation across national and regional authorities, civil society, and industry on creating scalable market opportunities within Europe and Globally. In particular high growth-potential areas such as ICT supported independent living and age-friendly smart homes, social robotics, digitally supported integrated health and social care services will be targeted.

You can find the registration link [here](#).

7 - 10 December, 7th European Innovation Summit

The 7th European Innovation Summit (7th EIS) is Knowledge4Innovation's annual flagship event taking place in the European Parliament in Brussels. The 7th EIS is taking place under the framework of the K4I Forum of the European Parliament which includes more than 30 MEPs.

The Forum is chaired by Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP. Other members include Jerzy Buzek MEP, Vice-Chair, Chair of the ITRE Committee and former President of the European Parliament, and Vicky Ford MEP, Chair of the IMCO Committee. The 7th EIS will bring together more than 1000 innovation stakeholders from Europe.

You can find the event's programme [here](#).

Interested in Joining RHInG-Net?

Are you interested in connecting with colleagues from all over Europe to exchange experiences on health research and innovation? Are you interested in the exclusive opportunity to join the upcoming RegHealth-RI workshops and Final Conference? Then you should join RHInG-Net! All you have to do is to fill in the Membership Form [here](#).



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