"Political priorities and strategic initiatives related to SSH research"

Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Information Day

Directorate for Science, Economy and Society
European Commission / Directorate General for Research

- **The political guidelines from President Barroso**

- **The Europe 2020 Strategy**

- **Innovation Union Flagship initiative**

- **Further developing the European Research Area**

Political guidelines by President Barroso

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / European Research Area

- **Five key challenges confronting Europe today:**

  ▶ 1. Restarting **economic growth** today and ensuring long-term sustainability and **competitiveness** for the future.

  ▶ 2. Fighting **unemployment** and reinforcing our **social cohesion**.

  ▶ 3. Turning the challenge of a **sustainable Europe** to our competitive advantage.

  ▶ 4. Ensuring the **security** of Europeans.

  ▶ 5. Reinforcing EU **citizenship** and **participation**.

Political guidelines by President Barroso

Global Leadership through partnership

New Sources of Growth and Social Cohesion

Knowledge society and Innovation

Rights, prosperity and solidarity for Europeans

Sustainability, Climate and Energy policy

Smart regulation for open markets

The Europe 2020 Strategy

- **On 03/30/2010, the European Commission has launched the Europe 2020 Strategy for the next decade**

  ▶ to get out of the crisis and prepare EU economy;

  ▶ sets out a vision for Europe's social market economy.

- **The key drivers of the EU 2020 Growth Strategy should be thematic, focused on the following priorities:**

  ▶ **SMART** Growth: Creating value by basing growth on **knowledge**

  ▶ **INCLUSIVE** Growth: **Empowering** people in inclusive societies

  ▶ **SUSTAINABLE** Growth: Creating a competitive, connected and **greener** economy

- **The EU2020 Strategy should be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels: "Flagship" approach**

Europe 2020 Strategy Examples

Growth based on knowledge and innovation

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INNOVATION	EDUCATION	DIGITAL SOCIETY
Key facts	**Key facts**	**Key facts**
• R&D spending is below 2%, compared to 2.6% in the US and 3.4% in Japan; our smaller share of high-tech firms explains half of the gap with the US • Google spends more on information and com-munication technologies R&D than the EU FP7 does	• Less than 1 person in 3 aged 25-34 has a university degree, compared to 40% in the US and over 50% in Japan • 1 in 7 young people drop out of school, and 1 in 4 have poor reading skills	• The world market in information and com-munication technologies is worth € 660 billion and employs 1/3 of research workforce: EU firms make up only 23% of this • 56% of households have a broadband connection, but many users have doubts about safety and financial transactions on the internet
Possible EU flagship: **EU Innovation Plan**	Possible EU flagship: **Youth on the Move**	Possible EU flagship: **EU Digital Agenda**

Presentation of J.M. Barroso to the Informal European Council, 11 February 2010

Europe 2020 Strategy Examples

An inclusive high-employment society

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JOBS	SKILLS	FIGHTING POVERTY
Key facts	**Key facts**	**Key facts**
• Despite progress, only 2/3 of our working age population is employed (66%), compared to over 70% in the US and Japan	• About 80 million people have low or basic skills, but lifelong learning benefits mostly the more educated	• 80 million people were at risk of poverty in the EU prior to the crisis; 19 million are children; unemployed are particularly exposed
• Only 46% of our older workers (55-64) are employed compared to over 62% in the US and Japan	• By 2020, 16 million more jobs will require high qualifications, while the demand for low skills will drop by 12 million jobs	• 8% of people in work don't earn enough to make it above the poverty threshold
	Possible EU flagship: **New Skills for New Jobs**	Possible EU flagship: **European Action against Poverty**

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EUROPE 2020

Europe 2020 Strategy Examples

Green growth: a sustainable and competitive economy

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COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE	ENERGY	COMPETITIVENESS
Key facts	**Key facts**	**Key facts**
• Achieving our goals means reducing emissions by twice as quickly in the next decade than in the last decade • Jobs in the eco-industry have increased by 7% every year since 2000; meeting our renewable target would mean 2.8 million jobs in the sector	• Meeting our goals will result in € 60 billion less in oil and gas imports by 2020 • Further progress with the internal market for energy can add 0.6% to 0.8% GDP	• The market for green technologies is forecast to triple by 2030 / Improving resource efficiency by 20% would increase EU growth by around 1 per cent • Using the single market to the full / improved market access and regulatory convergence can boost growth and jobs
Possible EU flagship: *Low-Carbon Strategy*	Possible EU flagship: *Energy Action Plan*	Possible EU flagship: *Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era*

Presentation of J.M. Barroso to the Informal European Council, 11 February 2010

EUROPE 2020

Europe 2020 Implementation

Progress will be measured against 5 headline EU-level targets

▶ **Employment:**
   ◆ 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed.

▶ **Research:**
   ◆ 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D.

▶ **Climate Change:**
   ◆ The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met.

▶ **Education & Training:**
   ◆ The share of early school leavers should be under 10%
   ◆ At least 40% of the younger generation should have a diploma.

▶ **Poverty:**
   ◆ 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.

Member States will need to translate this into national targets

Focus on Innovation

European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009)

"Europe 2020: Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth",
in particular the proposed Flagship initiative "Innovation Union" including a Plan for European Research and Innovation

Council Conclusion 26/05/2010 on "Creating an innovative Europe"
"Research and innovation policy has moved up in terms of EU policy priorities and become widely recognised as a key enabler of competitiveness, productivity growth and sustainability and to tackle global and societal challenges"

New focus in SSH programme: Social innovation / Social entrepreneurship
Social innovation seeks answers to social problems by identifying/delivering new forms of organisations, interactions and services that improve quality of life of individuals and communities. Social entrepreneurs in this context work
at the crossroad of market, state and civil society.

Innovation Union

- **Innovation – main solution to the growing societal challenges**
- **Key elements of the Innovation Union:**
- **Nurturing the knowledge base** (advancing with ERA, focusing more on societal challenges, better dissemination and exploitation of results)
- **Enabling access to finance** (review of EU instruments and state aid framework, venture capital funds)
- **Creating a single innovation market** (EU patent, new regulatory framework, standard setting, interoperability, public procurement for innovative products and services)
- **Innovation Partnerships** to address specific challenges bringing together all key actors
- Stepping up **international cooperation** (attracting best brains and companies to Europe, tackling global challenges together)

European Research Area

Specific initiatives to support the ERA

Researchers
This initiative intends to create a **European Partnership for Researchers** for mobility and career development. The European Commission adopted a communication to launch the initiative on 23 May 2008.

Research Infrastructures
This initiative will consider providing a legal framework to assist Member States to develop and fund pan-European research infrastructures which their national legal instruments might not be able to facilitate. The Commission adopted a **Council Regulation on the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure** on 25 July 2009.

Knowledge Sharing
On 9 April 2008 the Commission adopted a **Recommendation on the management of Intellectual Property Rights** in knowledge transfer activities and a Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations.

Joint Programming

Currently, most of research in Europe is implemented independently by national or regional programmes. This leads to unwanted duplications and opportunities lost, to achieve critical mass. Therefore, on 15th July 2008 the **Commission adopted a Communication on Joint Programming** between EU Member States of their public research programmes.

A number of topics have been identified for JP initiatives e.g.

Agriculture, food security and climate change;
A healthy diet for a healthy life;
Cultural heritage & global change
Urban Europe; Climate Knowledge for Europe; More years, better lives; Antimicrobial resistance
Water challenges; Healthy & productive seas and oceans

International Science & Technology Cooperation

The Commission adopted a **Communication on a strategic European Framework for International Science and Technology Cooperation** on 24th September 2008.

Council Conclusions on the social dimension of the European Research Area: role of science in working for social cohesion and combating poverty and exclusion

The SSH Programme and the Directorate support these political priorities in various ways

► Launch of a limited number of Challenges focusing on grand and pressing long-term societal issues

► Identification and launch of specific research topics in order to generate new knowledge on the one side and to support policy making on the other.

► Studies, Foresight activities, expert groups etc. related to the development of the European Research Area

► Workshops and international networking activities e.g. in the area of innovation and social innovation / entrepreneurship

► Dedicated dissemination activities of project results, compilation of policy briefs, open access pilot etc.

► Strategic input to policy documents, monitoring of the socio-economic dimension in other Cooperation Programme parts

SSH contribution examples

I. Exit from the crisis, economy and innovation

SSH.2011.1.1-1   Lifelong learning in Europe: appropriate skills for sustaining better jobs

SSH.2011.1.2-1.   Europe moving towards a new path of economic growth and social development

SSH.2011.1.2-2   Social platform on innovative social services

SSH.2011.1.3-1   New innovation processes including Social innovation

II. Fight against poverty

SSH.2011.2.1-1. Economic, social and political conditions for satisfying the world food needs

SSH.2011.2.1-2. Combating poverty in Europe: a key question of human dignity and social cohesion

SSH.2011.2.2-1. Addressing cohesion issues in Central and Eastern Europe

III. Forward looking activities and impact assessment

SSH.2011.6.2-1 Beyond GDP Measuring economic performance + social progress

SSH.2011.6.4-1 Impact assessment of EU policies

SSH.2011.7.1-1 Forward visions of the European Research Area

Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.htm
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh/