

FACT SHEET

ON INCREASED SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION IN WP 2013

Facts & figures

Almost all Member States have improved their innovation performance according to the latest Innovation Union Scoreboard. However, the EU is not closing the persistent gap with global innovation leaders US, Japan and South Korea. The EU still maintains a clear lead over the emerging economies of China, Brazil, India, Russia, and South Africa. However, China is improving its innovation performance and is catching up progressively.

The EU is slowly advancing towards its target of investing 3% of GDP in R&D but the gap with leading competitors is widening notably due to weaker business R&D investment. The latest EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard shows that R&D investment by top EU companies recovered in 2010, with a 6% rise. However, EU companies as a whole are lagging behind major competitors from the US and some Asian economies on R&D growth.

Why is WP 2013 providing increasing innovation support?

To address the significant innovation gap the EU is facing, WP 2013 embraces a much larger part of the innovation cycle than ever before. The aim is to better ensure that the fruits of research can be exploited, and to help place new products and services on the market. In this way WP 2013 is also preparing for a smooth transition towards Horizon 2020 with its ambition for more support for innovation and activities close to the market.

What innovation measures are included in WP 2013?

All WP 2013 themes place increasing emphasis on support to activities such as demonstration, validation, and transfer of results from the lab to the market. This includes, for instance, significant systems integration, testing, demonstration and up-scaling activities in NMP and ICT, notably in the context of Public Private Partnerships, as well as clinical trials in Health, demonstration of biotechnological applications in KBBE, and large-scale demonstrations in Energy, Transport and Environment, as well as in Security and Space. Five themes (Health, KBBE, NMP, Environment and Transport) include specific support for the transfer of promising research results towards innovative applications, products and services. The SME part of the Capacities programme is also expanding its activity supporting exploitation of EU funded research results.

Demand-driven innovation is encouraged in several ways. Five themes (ICT, Security, KBBE, Transport and Environment) provide support to pre-commercial procurement, both for co-financing actual joint procurements and for supporting preparatory work. There is

also more funding for standardisation activities, as well as support to analysis of regulatory needs (e.g. in the Health, KBBE, ICT, NMP, Environment and Energy themes).

Actions relevant to European Innovation Partnerships, bringing together demand and supply across sectors and the innovation cycle, have also increased both in numbers and in scope. The Health and ICT themes contribute to the aims of the Active and Healthy Ageing EIP; KBBE contributes to the Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability EIP; Environment to the Water EIP; and NMP and Environment to the proposed EIP on Raw Materials.

Finally, WP 2013 provides more opportunities for non-technological innovation, notably support for social innovation (e.g. in SSH, Health, KBBE, Environment and Transport), public sector innovation and service innovation, including process and organisational innovation (e.g. in ICT, Environment and Space).