



EU RESEARCH TRENDS

September 2023

In Research Trends for the month of September, we share the decision of Iliana Ivanova to become the new Commissioner for DG RTD, and that Margrethe Vestager is on leave to run as an official candidate for the presidency of EIB. Furthermore, you will find that positioning for the Next Framework programme on R&I has started, and you can read the position from The Guild and EARTO. We also share the news, that the UK is now associated to Horizon Europe and can participate like partners from Member States.

For an overview of research and innovation events, please consult the end of the newsletter.

News

ERC awards 400 new Starting Grants

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced that it is awarding 400 Starting Grants to young scientists and scholars across Europe totalling €628 million. Successful applicants of this call will carry out their projects at universities and research centres in 24 countries in Europe, with the highest number of projects hosted in Germany (87 grants). Denmark will host five grantees, including one at Aarhus University, where [Iza Romanowska](#) will implement "The Model City. Drivers and Mechanisms of Long-term Urban Evolution and Resilience". For more information, please follow [this link](#).

New information packages for MSCA fellows and staff members published

The Commission and the European Research Executive Agency (REA) have published new information packages for researchers and staff members taking part in projects supported by the MSCA. These new publications provide useful, hands-on information and are a reference source for any researcher or staff member taking part in the programme.

The different MSCA fellows (general information)

- [all MSCA fellows](#)
- [early-stage researchers in Doctoral Networks](#)
- [early-stage and postdoctoral researchers in COFUND projects](#)
- [research and innovation staff members in Staff Exchange projects](#)

For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Outlook on potential options for the future of ERICs

The Commission has published the third [Monitoring Report on the European Research Infrastructure Consortium \(ERIC\) Regulation](#). To date, the regulation has enabled the creation of 26 ERICs with at least seven more in the pipeline. The report provides details on progress and statistics. With ERICs now having 14 members on average, an overall growth in membership of older ERICs of 70% has been observed. 60% of infrastructures by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) were created as ERICs. The report stresses that financial and operative sustainability remains a core challenge for ERICs.

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To add to this, the [Tenerife declaration](#) advocates for promoting the ecosystem around research infrastructure, to ensure long-term sustainability of research infrastructures.

Every year, Denmark pays €80 million for Danish participation in nine international research infrastructures. In a new publication, a [new Danish strategy for participation in international research infrastructures](#) has been published. The publication highlights four strategic goals that have been identified with the aim of making sure Danish actors are gaining from their participation in infrastructures.

17 new projects under Soil Deal for Europe

The Commission has announced that 17 new research projects will receive €90 million of funding under the EU Mission A Soil Deal for Europe. The projects gather 314 participants from 32 countries (EU Member States, countries associated to Horizon Europe, and several non-associated countries (United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Switzerland)). The projects include universities, research institutions, SMEs, businesses, NGOs and local authorities. Aarhus University is partner in the project [MARVIC](#) – “Developing and testing a framework for the design of harmonized, context-specific Monitoring, Reporting and Verification systems for soil Carbon and greenhouse gas balances by Agricultural activities”. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Call launch: BIODIVERSA+

BIODIVERSA+ has launched a transnational call with SSH opportunities on “Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change (BiodivNBS)”. This call aims to support research on biodiversity to gain a better understanding of the tipping points and trade-offs and underlying mechanisms affecting Nature-based Solutions. Deadline for pre-proposals is November 10, 2023 and deadline for full proposals is April 9, 2024. To read more about the call, please follow [this link](#).

Call launch: Driving Urban Transitions

The Driving Urban Transitions European Partnership has launched a transnational call on Transition Pathways. The purpose of this call for proposals is to support transnational research and/or innovation projects addressing urban challenges to help cities in their transition towards a more sustainable economy and functioning. Deadline for pre-proposals is November 21, 2023, and the deadline for full proposals is April 30, 2024. To read more about the call, please follow [this link](#).

European Chips Act enters into force

With the official launch of the European Chips Act, aiming to ensure the EU's security of supply, resilience and technological leadership in semiconductor technologies and applications, the former Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking, is now officially [Chips Joint Undertaking](#). Chips JU will start the implementation of the main part of the Chips for Europe Initiative.

The Chips Act aims to create the conditions for the development of a European industrial base in the field of semiconductors, attract investment, promote research and innovation and prepare Europe for any future chip supply crisis. The programme should mobilise €43 billion in public and private investment (€3.3 billion from the EU budget), with the objective of doubling the EU's global market share in semiconductors, from 10% now to at least 20% by 2030. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

New Danish guide on Horizon Partnerships

Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science has published a new web-guide about Horizon partnerships. In this guide information across all partnerships are gathered at one platform. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

53 selected projects for EIC Pathfinder

The European Innovation Council (EIC) has selected 53 projects that will receive a total of €169.5 million to develop cutting-edge technologies. EIC Pathfinder aims to support the

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exploration of bold ideas for radically new technologies by providing grants of up to €3-4 million. In total, the EIC received 783 applications. Two projects from the Technical University of Denmark will receive funding. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

EIT showcases good practices in financial sustainability

The EIT KICs have the ultimate goal of being self-sustaining organisations that no longer need the EIT grant. To that end, they have each devised strategies and programmes best suited to their fields related to climate change, digitalisation, sustainable energy, food, health, raw materials, manufacturing, urban mobility, and the cultural and creative sectors. EIT KIC Financial Sustainability activities are designed to help the KICs achieve autonomy while still accomplishing their missions of driving positive societal change through innovation. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Results of Horizon Europe Space-related Calls

The Commission has presented the results of 2022–2023 space-related research calls for proposals under Horizon Europe. In total, €166 million will support 54 space research projects implemented by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) and the EU Space Programme Agency (EUSPA). Space-related projects are expected to receive close to €1.6 billion in total during Horizon, corresponding to an average of €225 million per year. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

UK Association to Horizon Europe

After years of in-dept discussion between the UK and EU, a final agreement for UK association to Horizon Europe has been reached. The association will begin from 2024, meaning that UK partners can participate like partners from Member State in calls within work programme 2024 and beyond. The UK will be required to contribute financially to the Horizon budget, where it is estimated that the UK will contribute almost €2.6 billion per year on average for its participation in both Horizon Europe and the Copernicus component of the

Space programme. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Iliana Ivanova confirmed new Commissioner for DG RTD

The European Parliament has approved the appointment of Iliana Ivanova (Bulgaria) as Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (DG RTD). 522 MEPs voted in favour, 27 against, 51 abstained. The appointment follows a hearing in the Industry, Research and Energy Committee and the Culture and Education Committee (ITRE) to assess Ivanova's suitability to replace Mariya Gabriel. After the hearing, both committees gave Ivanova a positive evaluation. [The Guild welcomes this appointment](#). For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Vestager on leave

Margrethe Vestager, the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Competition, has announced that she is running as an official candidate for the presidency of the European Investment Bank (EIB). Therefore, Vestager is on unpaid leave from her position as Commissioner. During the period of the temporary withdrawal, the responsibility for 'A Europe Fit for the digital age' has been assigned to Vice-President Věra Jourová, and the portfolio responsibility for Competition to Commissioner Didier Reynders (DG JUST). The next EIB president will take up their role in January 2024, and the choice is expected soon. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

State of the Union by Commission President von der Leyen

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has presented her State of the Union (SOTEU) speech. Main elements related to research and innovation include the following:

- Green Deal is entering a next phase. This includes amongst others, a series of "Clean Transition Dialogues" with industry, a European Wind Power Package, and a continued focus on skills.
- Competitiveness, where labor and skills shortages present a major challenge.

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- The President highlighted the importance of European sovereignty.
- President von der Leyen sees Europe in a leading role in managing the risks of digitalisation, and as the "global pioneer of citizen's rights in the digital world". Therefore, the Commission is planning a "new global framework for AI".
- A new strategic approach towards Africa is envisaged.

For the full speech, please follow [this link](#).

Denmark receives additional seat in the Parliament

The Parliament has approved the Council's decision to increase the number of seats in the Parliament for the next legislative term from 705 to 720. The Council's proposal was based on Parliament's report of June 2023, which started the process and was prompted by demographic changes in the EU since the 2019 elections. This means, that Denmark after the next election (6-9 June 2024) will have 25 seats in the Parliament. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Inputs for FP10

Positioning before the negotiations of the successor of Horizon Europe, the Framework Programme 10 (FP10), has started. [EARTO has published its inputs](#) on FP10 highlighting 6 strategic issues. So has [The Guild](#), in a paper highlighting how a framework programme can best serve the needs of the European scientific community and achieve world-changing scientific breakthroughs to meet today's most pressing societal challenges. In addition to this, [Allea](#) has also published its FP10 position paper which advocates for widening scientific cooperation. AU has contributed to the official Danish FP10 position which will come out later this autumn.

Take part in the public consultation on Erasmus+ evaluation

The Commission has launched a public consultation for the evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme. The consultation seeks input from citizens and organisations on the EU's flagship programme for education, training, youth and sport.

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It aims to gather feedback on programme novelties, inclusion measures, simplification progress, and ideas for future development. This consultation is a crucial step in assessing the programme's overall performance based on five key criteria. The consultation is available until 8 December. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

The Guild publishes Insight Paper on The Twin Transition Century

The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities has published an Insight Paper on 'The Twin Transition Century', authored by Morten Dæhlen from the University of Oslo. The paper offers clear directions for policymakers, research funders, and higher education institutions to navigate towards a successful twin transition, and making use of the potential synergies between the digital and the green transition. The main messages of the Insight Paper are:

- Recommendations for the higher education sector
- Recommendations for policymakers
- Recommendations for funders

For more information, please follow [this link](#).

New European supercomputer inaugurated in Portugal

The Commission and the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU), together with the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, inaugurated "Deucalion", the latest EuroHPC supercomputer. "Deucalion" is located at the Azurém Campus, Guimarães, Portugal. This new supercomputer will be used to advance research and development in domains such as energy efficient technologies, weather forecasts, and sea and oceanic research. It will also help develop industrial applications in drug discovery, new materials design, neuroscience, climate-friendly energy systems, and other areas. Deucalion, the seventh EuroHPC supercomputer installed in EU. For more information, please follow [this link](#).



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New thematic section on Eurostat on climate change

A new thematic section, presenting a wide range of statistics and data on climate change is available on the Eurostat website. The new section provides information on topics related to climate change such as the human activities that cause climate emergency, also known as drivers, greenhouse gas emissions, the various impacts of climate change, as well as mitigation activities and adaptation measures. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

List of actions by Member States to support New European Innovation Agenda

The Commission has published a list of actions that Member States and Associated Countries to Horizon Europe are implementing in support of the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA). Public authorities and bodies in charge of innovation policies and programmes, were asked to provide brief descriptions of the main actions they are undertaking or planning to undertake in support of one or more of the [five flagships](#) of the NEIA. From Denmark, following actions has been listed:

- Flagship 1 – [Funding Scape-Ups](#): **InnoBooster**
- Flagship 2 – [Enabling innovation through experimentation spaces and public procurement](#): **Strategy for green public procurement: Green procurement for a green future**
- Flagship 3 – [Accelerating and strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems across the EU and addressing the innovation divide](#): **Cluster programme, Regional business lighthouses, Innomissions**
- Flagship 4 – [Fostering, attracting and retaining talents](#): **Industrial Ph.D and postdocs, Innoexplorer and InnoFounder**
- Flagship 5 – [Improving policy making tools](#): **Datadriven Innovation, National Strategy for Quantum Technology and National strategy for investments in green research, technology, and innovation**

For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Publication: Strategic Approaches to Regional Transformation of Digital Education

The Commission JRC has developed several frameworks and tools that scientifically define relevant aspects and processes related to the digital transformation of education. These resources aim to achieve more systemic and complex visions of these processes in education that allow the agents involved to understand new constructs and to situate their reality in these proposals. The main goal of this study is to explore and understand the role of these frameworks and self-reflection tools in the development of regional political approaches. To access the publication, please follow [this link](#).

Publication: JRC Annual Report 2022

The [JRC's Annual Report 2022](#) gives a summary of the activities and resources related to the JRC's work carried out in 2022. The report features a structure in two parts - the 1st covers a selected few key areas of activities and the 2nd gives examples of concrete science-for-policy achievements contributing to the Commission priorities - taking the reader through the activities of the year and giving an insight into the strategic dimension of the JRC's work.

CORDIS Results Pack on the European Year of Skills

The Commission has published a new thematic collection of innovative EU-funded research results. This results pack showcases the work of 13 research projects funded under Horizon 2020 working within the context of the European Year of Skills. The aim of the pack is to contribute to an evidence-based debate on the challenges associated with skills development, such as ensuring that skills are relevant to societal needs, matching the aspirations and skill sets of job seekers to opportunities in the labour market, assessing the impact of new technologies and increasing the attractiveness of the EU market to workers from abroad. To access the publication, please follow [this link](#).

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Highlighted events

Horizon Europe information days

The European Commission is organising Horizon Europe Info Days on the 2024 calls for proposals of [cluster 2](#), [cluster 4](#), [cluster 5](#) and [cluster 6](#). To support applications the networks of NCP's, Greenet and Care4Bio is hosting a brokerage event to support matchmaking. The brokerage for [Cluster 5 will take place online 18 October](#), whereas the brokerage event for [Cluster 6 will take place in-person in Brussels 26 September](#).

National Space Conference 2023

The National Space Conference will take place at the University of Southern Denmark 9-10 November. The conference will be a unique opportunity to explore some of the most exciting and pressing topics in the field of space. For registration, please follow [this link](#).

AI in Horizon Europe Proposals and Evaluations

EARMA is hosting a one-day event focusing on AI in proposal writing and evaluation, including a reflection towards ethics. The Commission will present their input. This event will take place in Bruxelles 10 November. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

FOOD 2030 and EU AGRI-FOOD Days

First week of December will be dedicated to food and agriculture in Brussels! DG RTD will 4-5 December host [FOOD 2030: Green and resilient food systems](#), and 6-7 December DG AGRI will host [EU Agri-Food Days](#). Both events can be followed online.

Events 2023

4 - 6 October 2023 // Malaga

EU Industry Days

Find information: [Here](#)

5 October 2023 // online

Finding opportunities and submitting a proposal

Find information: [Here](#)

10 October 2023 // online

EU Agricultural Soils - Advancing Conservation, Regenerative Agriculture and Soil Health

Find information: [Here](#)

10-11 October 2023 // Brussels

Science for Policy in Europe Conference

Find information: [Here](#)

11 October 2023 // Brussels

EARTO Policy Event

Find information: [Here](#)

11 – 12 October 2023 // Online

Cluster 4 Info Day

Find information: [Here](#)

17 October 2023 // online

Grant Agreement Preparation

Find information: [Here](#)

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17 October 2023 // online

Cluster 5 Info Day

Find information: [Here](#)

18 October 2023 // online

Cluster 5 brokerage event

Find information: [Here](#)

17 - 19 October 2023 // Brussels

Water Knowledge Europe networking and brokerage event

Find information: [Here](#)

18 October 2023 // online

Cluster 2 Info Day

Find information: [Here](#)

19 October 2023 // Brussels

Territories as leaders in responsible R&I

Find information: [Here](#)

19-20 October 2023 // Antwerp

EU CAP Network Brokerage event

Find information: [Here](#)

19-20 October 2023 // online

Science Activism – going beyond informing policy and society

Find information: [Here](#)

24 October 2023 // Brussels

Circle U. National Conference in Brussels - Creating Now the University of Tomorrow: Looking Back to Move Ahead with Circle U. and the Alliances

Find information: [Here](#)

24 October 2023 // online

Grant Management

Find information: [Here](#)

24 October 2023 // online

Green transition: Digitalisation as an enabler for citizen participation

Find information [here](#)

24 – 25 October 2023 // Rotterdam

European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology and the Bioeconomy

Find information: [Here](#)

24 – 25 October 2023 // Brussels

Security Research Event

Find information: [Here](#)

26 October 2023 // Brussels

Making research results work for society

Find information: [Here](#)

26 October 2023 // Brussels

Academic Freedom: an essential value for progress and prosperity

Find information: [Here](#)

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29 October - 2 November 2023 // Cairo

Cairo Water Week

Find information: [Here](#)

9-10 November 2023 // Odense

The National Space Conference

Find information: [Here](#)

13 – 14 November 2023 // Barcelona

Energy Research & Innovation for a competitive Europe

Find information [here](#)

14-15 November 2023 // Toledo

MSCA Spanish Presidency conference

Find information: [Here](#)

21 – 23 November 2023 // Brno

CZEDUCON 2023: Conference on Internationalisation of Higher Education

Find information [here](#)

21 – 23 November 2023 // Madrid

EU Mission Soil Week

Find information [here](#)

22 - 23 November 2023 // Brussels

Chips JU Launch Event

Find information: TBC

23-25 November 2023 // Aveiro

2023 European Quality Assurance Forum

Find information: [Here](#)

23-24 November 2023 // Barcelona

Regulating the Future of Food Conference!

Find information: [Here](#)

4-5 December 2023 // hybrid

FOOD 2030

Find information: [Here](#)

6-7 December 2023 // hybrid

EU Agri-Food Days

Find information: [Here](#)

5-6 December 2023 // Brussels

European Partnership Stakeholder Forum

Find information: TBC

6-7 December 2023 // Brussels

CBE JE Stakeholder Forum 2023

Find information: [Here](#)

7 December 2023 // Brussels

ChatGPT and other AI: to be cheered or feared ?

Find information: [Here](#)

18 - 19 December 2023 // Spain

Science Diplomacy

Find information: [Here](#)

6 – 7 March 2024 // Online

Second European Mission Forum

Find information: TBC

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13 February 2024 / / Brussels and online

What's on the Horizon? Framing the next 40 years of European R&D

Find information [here](#)

April 2024 // Brussels

New European Bauhaus Festival

Find information: TBC

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