

Preparing the 'New Renaissance'

A survey on the future of the European Research Area

From March 26 through April 30, the Science|Business news service conducted a survey to gauge support for changes in EU RDI policy urged by the European Research Area Board. The survey was conducted online, and based on eight of the 26 'Milestones' that ERAB has suggested be achieved by 2030. The survey was emailed to 574 opinion-leaders who have been invited to the ERAB/Spanish Presidency conference May 6/7 in Seville. In all, 79 responded, and 60 completed the survey. Key findings:

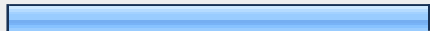
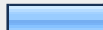

- There is strong support for doubling the European Commission's share of public, non-military research funding to 10% of the EU-wide total. Of the respondents, 82.3% agree this goal should be achieved. When asked about specific means to that end, the two most-supported measures are to devote 50% of Structural Funds to RDI, while not cutting the Cooperation programmes.
- The second most-popular goal (supported by 80.3%) is to optimise the fiscal regime for RDI incentives across the EU. The most popular means to achieve that goal is through creating a pan-European, unified market for cross-national, research-related investments (including risk/venture capital.)
- Other popular goals are to triple the mobility of researchers (70%), devote a third of public research to grand societal challenges (68.2%), earmark 2% of public procurement to innovative technologies (61.9%), and increase risk capital available to early-stage technologies (60.7%.)
- The most controversial proposal among the ERAB 'milestones' included in the survey is to increase the share of EU funding for frontier, high-risk research to 50% of the total budget. While 54.1% agree with that proposal, 32.8% disagreed (and the remainder expressed no opinion.)

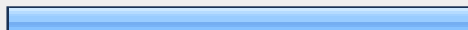


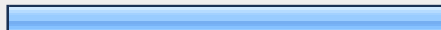
*Full survey results are available from:
Info@sciencebusiness.net*

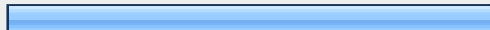


Your challenge: 8 questions about our common future

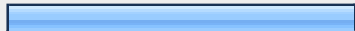
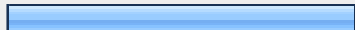

1. 1 The European Commission's share of ERA-wide public, non-military research funding doubles to 10%.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree that this should be achieved		82.3%	65
Disagree		11.4%	9
Neutral or no opinion		6.3%	5
answered question			79
skipped question			0

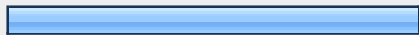

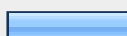
2. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
The overall research budget is increased by adding a tenth of a percentage point to VAT, for the benefit of research into climate change and grand challenges.		33.9%	19
50% of the EU Structural Funds are used for research, development and innovation (RDI).		57.1%	32
10% of the Common Agricultural Programme budget goes specifically to agricultural research dedicated to agri-based issues in food, health and energy.		42.9%	24
The current funding for thematic research programmes is maintained to at least the present levels (Cooperation programme).		57.1%	32
Other (optional)			4
answered question			56
skipped question			23


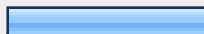
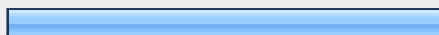
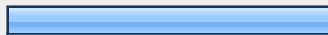
3. 2 Mobility triples, with up to 20% of EU doctoral candidates working outside their home country.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree that this should be achieved		70.0%	49
Disagree		15.7%	11
Neutral or no opinion		14.3%	10
		answered question	70
		skipped question	9

4. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Funding for Marie Curie-type programmes increases to be at least as competitive as other regions of the world.		76.6%	36
English is the standard for MSc and PhD studies whenever possible.		44.7%	21
Legal barriers to the cross-national movement of scientists and families no longer exist and financial incentives are there for researchers willing to be mobile.		66.0%	31
A European research passport/visa for successful researchers exists which enables them to move easily around Europe and which encourages non-Europeans to come to ERA centres of excellence. 30% of all post-doctoral fellows should have such accreditation.		72.3%	34
		Other (optional)	3
		answered question	47
		skipped question	32

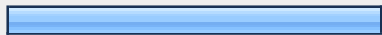

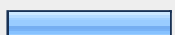
5. 3 The fiscal regime for R&D and innovation incentives is optimised across the EU.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree that this should be achieved		80.3%	53
Disagree		10.6%	7
Neutral or no opinion		9.1%	6
<i>answered question</i>			66
<i>skipped question</i>			13

6. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Harmonise fiscal and social benefits for industries employing significant numbers of researchers.		57.7%	30
The design and implementation of state aid and procurement rules are optimised to have the biggest impact on entrepreneurial activities.		57.7%	30
A pan-European unified market for cross-national, research-related investments (including risk/venture capital) is created.		67.3%	35
Other (optional)			4
<i>answered question</i>			52
<i>skipped question</i>			27

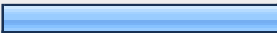
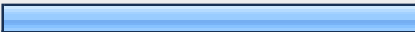
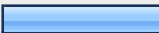
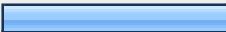

7. 4 A third of public, non-military research is geared to grand societal challenges, with multi- and transdisciplinary approaches.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree that this should be achieved		68.2%	45
Disagree		12.1%	8
Neutral or no opinion		19.7%	13
answered question			66
skipped question			13

8. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
The proposed increase in EC RDI funding is applied to this purpose.		62.8%	27
Europe has at least a "man/woman on the moon" project for each Grand Challenge it wants to address and gears all its instruments, including PPP, to that end.		32.6%	14
Multi- and trans-disciplinary funding has priority for Grand Challenges research.		72.1%	31
Training to manage multi- and trans-disciplinary projects as well as in engaging the public are standard parts of research education.		53.5%	23
Other (optional)			1
answered question			43
skipped question			36

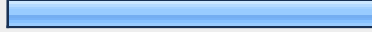

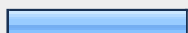
9. 5 2% of public procurement ERA-wide is earmarked for innovative and pre-commercial technologies, and is open to European-wide competition.


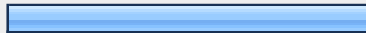
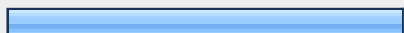
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree that this should be achieved		61.9%	39
Disagree		11.1%	7
Neutral or no opinion		27.0%	17
		<i>answered question</i>	63
		<i>skipped question</i>	16

10. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Expand the EU Lead Markets Initiative (also addressing societal challenges) and stimulate Member States to participate more actively, while developing similar initiatives at national level. Develop metrics to monitor public procurement of innovative technologies that are commercially viable and do not require further R&D, and systematically gather data on public procurement of R&D.		45.7%	16
Explicitly make public procurement a policy vehicle to promote R&D and innovation, comparable to the Green Public Procurement approach. Encourage governments to bundle public procurement in order to create more interesting markets. Specify functional performance rather than technical details in procurement tenders.		68.6%	24
Complement the use of Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) with the introduction of an SBIR scheme at European level, fully open to participation by procurers and suppliers across the EU.		25.7%	9
Pre-Commercial Procurement of R&D at national, regional and local levels is mainstreamed and public procurers have tools for managing rather than avoiding risks.		37.1%	13
Make (part of) EU co-funding in the context of the Structural Funds conditional on procurement of innovative technologies and R&D. This is also a means of gearing cohesion policy more towards stimulating R&D and innovation.		51.4%	18
		Other (optional)	0
		answered question	35

		<i>skipped question</i>	44
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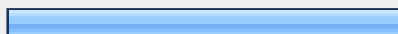


11. 6 Risk capital available for early-stage technology rises up to 0.15% of GDP.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree		60.7%	37
Disagree		9.8%	6
Neutral or no opinion		29.5%	18
		<i>answered question</i>	61
		<i>skipped question</i>	18

12. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Large pan-European venture capital funds, co-financed by the private sector, are active, and funding of the EIF is expanded to match other continents (taking into account increased support from the European Commission, EIB and other public funding sources).		54.3%	19
Fiscal, regulatory and bureaucratic obstacles to cross-border risk capital investments are non-existent.		60.0%	21
In addition to the EIB a seed capital fund supports proof of concept and early stage development.		65.7%	23
		Other (optional)	0
		<i>answered question</i>	35
		<i>skipped question</i>	44


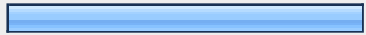
13. 7 50% of EC research funding is going to frontier, high-risk research and development.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree		54.1%	33
Disagree		32.8%	20
Neutral or no opinion		13.1%	8
<i>answered question</i>			61
<i>skipped question</i>			18

14. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
The new legal possibilities of the Lisbon Treaty are used to reach the 50% target across all research and innovation support programmes.		57.6%	19
By 2015, a pan-European training programme helps reviewers and prospective researchers to identify promising high risk/high impact research.		66.7%	22
ASAP a protocol stipulating a level of acceptable failure in research is agreed on and applied to research performance-related auditing processes.		45.5%	15
Other (optional)			0
<i>answered question</i>			33
<i>skipped question</i>			46

15. 8 At least 30% of the Structural Funds are used exclusively for RTD (including fostering partnerships, supporting pre-commercial procurement and investing in large-scale research infrastructures where needed) – double the current allocation.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree		65.0%	39
Disagree		18.3%	11
Neutral or no opinion		16.7%	10
		answered question	60
		skipped question	19

16. If you agree with that goal, what specific measures should be taken? (multiple choices possible)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Cost-benefit analysis fully takes into account the significant contribution of intangible assets of research efforts.		79.4%	27
This objective is be achieved by 2015.		58.8%	20
		Other (optional)	2
		answered question	34
		skipped question	45