

WORK PROGRAMME 2012

CAPACITIES

PART 6

SUPPORT FOR THE COHERENT DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH POLICIES

(European Commission C(2011)5023 of 19 July 2011)

6. SUPPORT FOR THE COHERENT DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH POLICIES

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Objectives:

Enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of national and EU research policies and their articulation with other policies, improving the impact of public research and its links with industry, and strengthening public support and its leverage effect on investment by private actors.

I CONTEXT

The Innovation Union initiative underlines that research and innovation are key drivers of competitiveness, jobs, sustainable growth and social progress. The work programme 2012 has been designed to support several of the policy development aspects of implementation of the Innovation Union Initiative.

The new Commission presented its Communication *Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*¹ which recognises the key role of knowledge and innovation for future growth and jobs proposed notably to increase R&D intensity to 3% by 2020 and to build an "Innovation Union" where innovative ideas can more easily be turned into growth-enhancing products and services whilst addressing major societal challenges. The strategy was examined by the Spring Council in March 2010 and was endorsed by the European Council of 17 June 2010.

This reinforces the importance of the activities of this part of the work programme in supporting evidence based policy developments at EU and national levels, including a more integrated approach to the design, coordination, monitoring and assessment of the policies which determine the European research and innovation performance.

Approach for 2012

Activities in 2012 reflect the new policy orientations set out in the *Innovation Union* Flagship Initiative adopted by the Commission in October 2010 and endorsed by the Competitiveness Council of 25-26 November 2010. The Conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011 on Innovation further stressed the importance of innovation as a key driver of growth and called upon the Commission to launch a set of initiatives to support the implementation of Innovation Union, in particular "to quickly develop a single integrated indicator to allow a better monitoring of progress of innovation" and "conduct a mid-term review of the relevant State aid frameworks during 2011".

Given the new policy context and objectives outlined above and the need to focus on the most urgent actions and commitments, activities under this part of the work programme are no longer

¹ COM(2010) 2020

structured along the activity lines² foreseen in the specific programme but are organised on the basis of concrete priorities of the flagship initiative. It must nevertheless be stressed that the new organisation covers all the previous activity lines and is fully consistent with the provisions foreseen in the specific programme.

A. Supporting the development of public policies in research and innovation

A.1 Development of EU and national RDI policies in the context of the ERA

These activities will provide support to the implementation of the ERA framework for which a Commission proposal is expected in 2012. This will include policy-oriented work contributing to the further development and implementation of the ERA framework (through e.g. evaluation activities and the development of supporting measures and guidelines) and the monitoring of progress towards achieving the ERA objectives and fulfilling the ERA 2020 Vision (IU commitment **4**). This will also provide support to the implementation and monitoring of Member States' strategies to train enough researchers to meet their national R&D targets and to promote attractive employment conditions in public research institutions (IU commitments **1**) and of EU and national integrated policies aimed at ensuring that leading academics, researchers and innovators reside and work in Europe (IU commitment **30**).

A.2 Monitoring and analysis of national RDI policies

These activities will aim to strengthen the monitoring and analysis of Member States' research and innovation policies and systems with a view to identifying national key challenges and critical reforms in the context of the assessment of Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes (IU commitment **33**) and providing an increased focus on innovation and smart specialisation in the context of the preparation of the post 2013 Structural Fund programmes (IU commitment **25**). This will include support to the identification and exchange of best practice, RDI policy peer reviews and development of the evidence base for policy-making.

B. Improving the business environment and partnerships in research and innovation

B.1 Improvement of the business environment

These activities will support the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to improve the business environment and make it more innovation-friendly. This will include contributing to the development of EU financial instruments to attract a major increase in

² Activity: 6-1 Monitoring and analysis of research-related public policies and strategies, Areas 6-1-1 Development of an information and intelligence service (ERAWATCH), 6-1-2 Industrial research investment monitoring activity, and 6-1-3 Development and analysis of indicators on research activity and its impact on the economy; Activity: 6-2 Coordination of research policies, Areas 6-2-1 Support to the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination, and 6-2-2 Trans-national cooperation initiatives undertaken at national or regional level - Support to bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions (OMC-NET)

private finance and close the market gaps in investing in research and innovation (IU commitment **10**), monitoring the implementation and impact of the State aid framework for R&D and innovation (IU commitment **13**), and supporting the coordination of national/regional initiatives on innovative public procurement (IU commitment **17**).

B.2 Improvement of the links between business and academia

These activities will support the implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the links between business and academia. This will include support to business-academia collaborations and partnerships and the development of new curricula addressing innovation skills' gaps (IU commitment **2**), and initiatives to facilitate effective collaborative research and knowledge transfer within the research Framework Programmes and beyond (IU commitment **21**).

B.3 Support to cross-cutting aspects related to the implementation of EIPs

These activities will contribute to the effective roll-out and implementation of European innovation initiatives (IU commitment **29**) and to the screening of the regulatory framework in key areas (IU commitment **15**) through horizontal support activities such as the development of guidance for the evaluation of EIPs or the organisation of screening exercises.

C. Strengthening the evidence-base and policy coordination in research and innovation

C.1 Strengthening of the evidence base and monitoring of innovation performance

These activities will provide evidence for policy making, support the monitoring of research and innovation performance and assess the impact of innovation on competitiveness and societal challenges. This will include activities to strengthen the evidence base for RDI policy making as well as activities to monitor the overall progress on research and innovation performance through the Innovation Union scoreboard and the development of a new indicator measuring the share of fast-growing innovative companies in the economy (IU commitment **34**).

C.2 Support to Member States' policy coordination and mutual learning activities

These activities will support the coordination of Member States' RDI policies and related mutual learning activities. This will include ensuring that scientific cooperation with third countries is treated as an issue of common concern with the development of common approaches to global societal challenges and the establishment of a level-playing field (IU commitment **31**) and supporting analyses, exchanges of best practice, peer reviews and mutual learning activities on EU and third countries' RDI policies (IU commitment **33**).

C.3 Support to the European Forum on Forward Looking Activities

The "European Forum on Forward Looking Activities" (EFFLA), created in 2011 to implement IU commitment **8**, aims at enhancing collective intelligence and help devise better European policies. Forward Looking Activities can provide a long term perspective that is needed by EU policies, and research & innovation policy in particular. Given the fragmentation of such activities in Europe with many initiatives nationally focused, there is urgency for 'Europeanising' visions in areas of strong EU involvement. The Forum will provide evidence on changes in global research and innovation systems and their socio-economic context, offer advice on the exploitation of this information, and build stakeholder commitment to action.

International cooperation

The development of an international strategy for S&T cooperation with third countries is mainly supported through another part of the 'Capacities' specific programme. The 2012 work programme will complement actions planned in the 2011 Work Programme by implementing a pilot action to monitor and provide an information resource on the international STI activities (policies and their implementation) of Member States.

Dissemination actions

The results of actions developed under this part of the work programme are discussed, validated and disseminated through websites such as http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index_en.htm, <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch> or http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.html, http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm, workshops and conferences, and through publication of the reports of experts groups and studies. They are also discussed in ERAC the 'European Research Area Committee' (former CREST) and specific policy forums, such as the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility, the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation or the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures. In 2012, an 'Innovation convention' will be organised, as well as supporting events under the Cypriot and Irish presidencies. Moreover, in order to better associate stakeholders to EU research policy development and in particular render results more relevant to interested stakeholders, the development of an ERA stakeholders' forum is planned in 2012.

Overall expected impact

The actions to be implemented under this work programme, try to achieve:

- increased integration of innovation and business concerns in the research policy making;
- higher coherence and synergies of research and innovation policies between the EU, national and regional levels and with other policies (notably education, industrial and regional);
- a solid knowledge base to reinforce the EU, national and regional RDI policies.

Modalities of implementation

This part of the work programme will be implemented through a call for proposals to establish a network of public procurers and through Coordination and Support Actions (expert groups, public procurement and, grants to named beneficiaries).

II CONTENT OF CALLS

This section describes all the topics for which proposals will be called in this work programme. This concerns only the content of the calls. For all practical modalities related to these calls, please refer to section III 'Implementation of calls'. For actions not implemented through calls for proposals, please refer to section IV 'Other actions'.

The activities listed on the following pages of this work programme will be implemented in the following area:

B. Improving the business environment and partnerships in research and innovation

This line of actions aims at providing the evidence needed, and provide the means, for policy formulation on factors and instruments for private investment in R&I, accrued synergies and freer dynamics in the knowledge triangle, notably knowledge and technology transfer and the links business-academia. It includes monitoring the overall progress on research and innovation.

Activity B.1 Improvement of the business environment

Support to the development and implementation of initiatives aiming at improving the business environment and make it more innovation friendly. This will include the support to the coordination of national/regional initiatives on innovative public procurements (Innovation Union commitment 17³)

Topic: COH-2012-PROCURERS Support to trans-national networks of procurers

The public sector in the EU is facing important societal challenges (such as ageing population, climate change, resource scarcity etc) often technologically demanding where no commercially stable solutions exist yet on the market, and new forward looking public procurement strategies are needed, including the procurement of R&I. Cross border cooperation can help better address issues of common European interest and to find coherent solutions. To achieve the goal, the action will support networking and cooperation between public entities and/or their agencies, to set up transnational networks of procurers (in particular at regional/local level) to explore - through joint public procurements (including pre-commercial)-various alternative solutions that can respond to their needs. Transnational networks of regional and/or local procurers (contracting authorities) will contribute to drive innovation from the demand side, creating favourable conditions for standard settings and improving the quality and effectiveness of public services.

Technical content/scope

The objective of the call is to promote and develop innovation-oriented public procurements notably in domains covered by the European Innovation Partnerships (in complement to CIP⁴)

³ COM(2010) 546 final, Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union , SEC(2010) 1161

⁴ Decision 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013).

activities). The action aims at enhancing the strategic use of public procurement at regional and/or local level in order to stimulate creative responses from the market, uptake of R&D results and develop innovative public services. By supporting the development, cooperation and integration of transnational networks of procurers the action is supposed to stimulate the innovation from the demand side and improve the business environment for European companies. Public authorities (e.g. public purchasers such as national/regional/local governments and/or their agencies, public authorities responsible for R&I programmes such as research councils, R&I funding agencies) wishing to work together in developing innovative procurements (including pre-commercial) are encouraged to test innovative procurement policies.

The expected outcome of the action is a concerted public sector approach to societal challenges leading to:

- Cooperation and networking between stakeholders across public sector departments and/or agencies to develop common answers to societal challenges of common interest;
- Reduced fragmentation of public sector demand by enabling public bodies to collectively implement procurements (including Pre Commercial Procurement (PCP)) strategies and joint actions so to tackle problems in a more efficient way;
- Shared risks and benefits of designing, prototyping and testing a limited number of new products and services with suppliers;
- Increased opportunities for wide commercialisation and uptake of RTD results by the stimulation of research and innovation from the demand side, creating a critical mass of public procurers for the implementation of cross border activities;
- Improved conditions for standardisation by pooling the effort of several procurers in the joint definition of public procurement specifications/solution requirement.

Type of activities/work and their implementation

The funding scheme for this call for proposals is 'Coordination and Support Action' (**Coordinating Action (CSA-CA)**), which will support the development and implementation of common, joint, strategic activities in the sector of innovative public procurements including PCPs.

Activities will include networking and coordination activities for independent legal entities to cooperate in the innovation of public services through a strategy to be implemented with the following activities:

- Establishing and implementing good practice procedures for transnational innovative public procurements at regional and local level, including awareness raising and exchange of experience on innovative public procurements and PCPs;
- Exchange and collection of best practice, including production of a guidance, on better using structural funds to support and develop innovative public procurement;
- Peer reviews of the procurement practices between participating entities;
- Development of personnel exchange and/or joint training activities on innovative public procurements and PCPs to build capacities and help to support a wider cooperation between public purchasers;

- Establishing specific cooperation agreements or legal arrangements between participants to prepare the ground for further trans-national programmes;
- Definition of a public sector innovation plans through the identification of elements - requiring R&I - that could be jointly procured;
- Definition of strategic action plans related to the introduction of the innovation in public services to prepare the implementation of innovative public procurement activities;
- Training to public bodies to develop innovative procurements and implement PCP strategies;
- Collection of data and development of methodologies for measurement of public procurement of innovative products and services;
- Building cooperation with other stakeholders (e.g. other public purchasers, bodies responsible for R&D and innovation programmes etc);
- Dissemination of results and contribution to standardisation bodies;
- Other activities essential to the preparation, implementation and management of innovative public procurements.

Conditions for participation:

A minimum of 3 independent legal entities from 3 different Member States or Associated Countries. Those entities could be:

- Public purchasers (public bodies and utilities that are contracting authorities as defined in public procurement directives 2004/18/EC⁵ and 2004/17/EC⁶) planning to integrate innovative procurements (including pre-commercial) in their procurement programs;
- Public authorities (e.g. managing R&D&I programs) planning to provide incentives to public purchasers to implement PCPs;

In addition to the minimum number of required legal entities, other stakeholders public or private (e.g. potential suppliers of solutions or private demand side actors) can be involved in the consortia if justified.

Examples of eligible participants are public hospitals, transport operators, ministries (e.g. for health, welfare, transport, environment etc) water or energy utilities, local/regional authorities, police or fire fighters as well as stakeholders like universities or private bodies (e.g. potential suppliers of solutions or private demand side actors).

⁵ OJ L134 of 30.4.2004. p.114.

⁶ OJ L134 of 30.04.2004, p.1

Implementation/management:

The leading role of public purchasers and the active participation of relevant actors are essential to achieve the full impact of the project.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate and prove their ability to mobilise a critical mass of resources for project delivery. Capacity to demonstrate clear financial commitments will be considered during the evaluation. This will be evaluated under the "implementation" and "impact" evaluation criteria.

Duration:

The expected duration of the project will be between 24 and 48 months.

Funding scheme:

Coordination and Support Action (Coordinating Action)

Budget:

The total indicative budget allocated for this action is EUR 1.10 million

Expected impact

Through this action public authorities will be able to develop capacities, test new approaches for the formulation of strategies and implementation of innovation oriented public procurement policies. By pooling the effort of several procurers, they will mobilise a critical mass of resources and will be able to involve relevant communities, stakeholders, and practitioners, sharing risks and benefits of developing new products/services.

By acting as technologically demanding buyers, public procurers will drive innovation from the demand side, improving the quality and effectiveness of public services and creating opportunities for companies to take international leadership in new markets. Developing innovative pre-commercial/procurement, optimum conditions for wide commercialisation and take up of R&D results will be created, notably in the domains covered by the European Innovation Partnerships. The action will provide an important contribution for the improvement of the business environment and the implementation of Innovation Union commitment 17.

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

For description of the topics of the calls, please refer to section II 'Content of calls'

Call title: Support to trans-national networks of procurers

- **Call identifier:** FP7-COH-2012-PROCURERS
- **Date of publication**⁷: 20 July 2011
- **Deadline**⁸: 5 January 2012 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- **Indicative budget**⁹: EUR 1.10 million

The budget for this call is indicative. The final budget of the call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

- **Topics called:**

Activity	Topic	Funding Scheme
6.1 Improvement of the business environment	COH-2012-PROCURERS Support to trans-national networks of procurers Support to trans-national networks of procurers to promote and develop innovation-oriented public procurement	CSA- CA Coordination and Support Action Coordinating Action

- **Eligibility conditions**

- The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions (coordinating action)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no 2 of which are established in the same MS or AC.

- Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

- **Evaluation procedure:** single stage

⁷ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

⁸ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months

⁹ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to the work programme.
 - Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits. The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
 - Experts will carry out the individual evaluation of proposals remotely
 - The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in Annex 2 of the work programme.
- **Indicative timetable:** Evaluation results are estimated to be available within 4 months after the deadline. Grant agreement signature: it is estimated that it should come into force 9 months after the closure date.
 - **Consortia agreements:** Participants are encouraged to conclude a consortium agreement
 - **The forms of grants and maximum reimbursement rates** which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme.
 - **Flat rates to cover subsistence costs:** In accordance with Annex 3 to this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

A. Supporting the development of public policies in research and innovation

This line of actions aims at providing the means for the implementation of the ERA framework and its supporting measures and contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy implementation through the support to and monitoring of Member States' identification of (research and innovation) key challenges and critical reforms to integrate in their National Reform Programmes.

A.1 Development of RDI policies in the context of the ERA

- Support to the development of an **ERA Stakeholder Forum** consisting of a set of consultation and communication activities to improve the interaction and engagement with research stakeholders in ERA policy development through a variety of means. Its main feature will be an interactive web-portal combined with the organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - public procurement¹⁰ through a framework contract to be implemented in 2012 – EUR 0.40 million

- Launch of studies and expert groups in support of the development and implementation of **specific initiatives complementing the ERA Framework** (i.e. guidelines, legislation or communication) and to develop the evaluation, monitoring and assessment of progress towards the completion of ERA.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) - expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.25 million- and public procurement¹⁰ to be implemented in 2012 - EUR 0.25 million

- To support the monitoring of Member States' integrated policies to improve Human Resources in S&T a study on '**Universities as Innovation Centres**' will assess the need and propose measures to improve the management and administration of human resources, competitive funds, and knowledge transfer in line with the overall modernisation of universities.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) – public procurement¹⁰ – open call for tenders or through framework contract to be launched in 2012 - EUR 0.20 million

- A study on '**Skills**' will be launched in order to assess the transformation of skills agenda for researchers on innovation.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) – public procurement¹⁰ – open call for tenders or through framework contract to be launched in 2012 – EUR 0.20 million

A.2 Monitoring and analysis of national RDI policies

- **Extension of the scope and duration of ERAWATCH** for nine more months in order to complete the country reports 2012 and to carry out additional analysis in support of the development and implementation of the ERA Framework and the modernisation of universities, and to support the further development and maintenance of the 'Integrated Information Management System' maintenance.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action), grant to a named beneficiary¹¹ (European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies) – EUR 1.06 million

Expected Impact: The extension of the current administrative agreement will ensure the availability of country reports in time for the preparation of the 2012 Annual Growth Survey and the assessment of National Reform Programmes 2012 updates. It will also facilitate the seamless integration between ERAWATCH and InnoPolicy TrendChart around a common

¹⁰ In accordance with Art 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013)

¹¹ In accordance with Art 14 (a) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and for the dissemination of research results

platform of data collection for research and innovation. The monitoring and analytical work will focus on core issues for the implementation of Innovation Union, providing a significant added value for EU and national policy-makers.

- **Development of the "R&I Observatory" to monitor and analyse research and innovation policies** (follow-up to ERAWATCH and TrendChart for the period 2013-2016) building notably on the "self-assessment tool" provided in (Annex 1 of) the Innovation Union. The management structure will be defined taking into account the results of an evaluation (to be launched in 2011) of the current ERAWATCH. The "R&I Observatory" will support the development of policies conducive to an innovation-intensive economy, through the provision of policy information and expert advice. It will assist in the assessment of national reform programmes and will support the implementation and further development of the ERA framework. It will include web-based tools to promote inter-active dialogue and policy sharing between Member States.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action), public procurement¹⁰ - open call for tenders to be launched in 2012 – EUR 5.00 million

- An expert group on '**evaluation of research intensive clusters as potential vehicles for smart specialisation in the European Regions**' will examine the portfolio of ongoing Regions of Knowledge projects in order to explore the potential of the clusters involved to promote smart specialisation of their parent regions from a sectoral point of view. It will take into account different types of clusters in terms of maturity and innovation capability.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action), expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.20 million

B. Improving the business environment and partnerships in research and innovation

This line of actions aims at providing the evidence needed, and provide the means, for policy formulation on factors and instruments for private investment in R&I, accrued synergies and freer dynamics in the knowledge triangle, notably knowledge and technology transfer and the links business-academia. It includes monitoring the overall progress on research and innovation.

B.1 Improvement of the business environment

- Studies and measures for **leveraging greater private sector R&I investment**, based on input from the high level Economic Policy Expert Group I4G (see section C.1).

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) - public procurement¹⁰ – call for tenders to be launched in 2012 - EUR 0.40 million

- Study of the factors allowing enterprises to be and remain **fast growing innovators** and analysis of their policy implications. The analysis will focus on the best performing countries and economic sectors selected on the basis of the preliminary results of the new innovation

¹² In accordance with Articles 14c, 17 and 27(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

headline indicator being developed in cooperation with the OECD.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - public procurement¹⁰ to be implemented through a framework contract in 2012 – EUR 0.40 million

B.2 Improvement of the links between business and academia

- Support to the development and implementation of **Innovation Union commitment 21 on Knowledge Transfer by** a) investigating model (consortium) agreements at national and international level; b) delivering on that basis a set of model (consortium) agreements which can be used by participants in the research framework programmes and beyond; c) analysing the legal regimes in the Member States and investigating the feasibility of a EU legal instrument on knowledge transfer model (consortium) agreements; d) building networks and platforms to strengthen matchmaking between academia and business, for instance through trans-national cooperation between Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTOs) in specific sectors.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) - public procurement through a call for tender¹⁰ to be implemented in 2012 – EUR 0.50 million

B.3 Support to cross-cutting aspects related to the implementation of European Innovation Partnerships

- Stakeholder involvement and overall coherence across innovation partnerships will be crucial to ensure maximum impact. Therefore, a common information and communication platform needs to be launched providing easy access, up to date overviews on progress under the various partnerships and related actions at EU, national and regional level. The platform should also provide tools and support for expert advice and meetings on specific questions that may arise during the preparation and implementation of the innovation partnerships.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - public procurement by using existing framework contracts¹⁰ to be implemented in 2012 – EUR 0.50 million

- Regulatory framework conditions are an important factor influencing the innovation performance. They could be barriers to the creation of a single European market for innovation but they could also have a positive impact on innovative activities. Up to two studies will be launched for the **screening of regulatory frameworks**. This activity will help to review the existing regulatory framework and to identify appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of regulations as catalysts of innovative behaviours. Its objective is to identify the regulations that need to be improved or updated and/or new regulatory frameworks that need to be implemented in order to provide sufficient and continuous incentives to drive innovation in key areas starting from eco-innovation and topics related to European Innovation Partnerships (notably healthy ageing). This action is linked to Innovation Union commitment 15 and will be implemented by using existing framework contracts.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action), public procurement¹⁰ to be implemented in 2012 using existing framework contracts – EUR 0.35 million

- In addition to the studies, an expert group will be established to screen the results of the studies and develop a set of **recommendations** for the revision of the regulatory framework.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action), expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.05 million

C. Strengthening the evidence-base and policy coordination in research and innovation

This line of actions aims at strengthening the science base for policy making, including forward looking inputs and new indicators, to identify key challenges and critical reforms needed at both the EU and Member States' level and treat scientific cooperation with third countries under common approaches.

C.1 Strengthening of the evidence base and monitoring of innovation performance

- Up to 4 studies and/or expert groups on issues such as framework conditions for research-base innovation and business cooperation in research and innovation. *Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - public procurement¹⁰ to be implemented through a framework contract in 2012 – EUR 0.25 million- and expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.25 million*
- A high level Economic Policy Expert Group '**Innovation for Growth**' (I4G), to give global advice on the economic impact of RDI policies in relation to the implementation of the *Innovation Union* initiative will be created.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) - expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.23 million

- Studies in support of the Innovation for Growth Expert Group group

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) - public procurement¹⁰ – call for tenders to be launched in 2012 – EUR 0.08 million

- **Support to ERAC** in the application of the Open Method of Coordination and its work in the context of the Ljubljana process.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.27 million

C.2 Support to Member States' policy coordination and mutual learning activities

- Support to **ERAC peer-reviews and mutual learning**

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.30 million

- Study to support the **monitoring of international STI cooperation policy and its implementation** (including data issues such as gaps, indicators, compatibility, etc.). Building on the outcome of earlier study which will propose "recommendations for developing the core data sets for monitoring international Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation actions and a cost effective methodology for future data collection", to undertake a pilot phase for this data collection (which would include international STI cooperation policy development, implementation and trends) covering the years 2013 and 2014. This action would include piloting any proposals for a dedicated data/policy/information surveys and liaison with national data collection agencies and EUROSTAT.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) – public procurement¹⁰ through open call for tenders or framework contract to be launched in 2012 – EUR 0.50 million

- Support for **Cypriot Presidency** of the Council (second half 2012)

A Cypriot Presidency Conference will bring together all stakeholders relevant for ERA, those being, research organizations, universities, industry or ministries, to try to ease the way to a smooth kick off of discussions and subsequent approval of the ERA Framework package within the EU institutions. The final outcome of the conference could be in the form of a paper summarizing the discussions and opinions expressed during the conference. This paper might later feed into the discussions of the Council, thus facilitating the negotiations, possibly with a presentation at the Competitiveness Council during the Cypriot Presidency.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - Grant to a Named Beneficiary¹¹: Research Promotion Foundation, 123 Strovolos Avenue, 2042 Nicosia, Cyprus – EUR 0.20 million

- Support for **Irish Presidency** of the Council (first half 2013)

A core element of completing the ERA by 2014, as called for by the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, is strengthening the capacity of the Member States to attract and train young people to become researchers, and to offer internationally competitive research careers to keep them in Europe and attract the best from abroad (cf. Innovation Union Commitments 1, 4, and 30). An Irish Presidency Conference on this theme will assess progress and map out the outstanding issues. In particular, it is envisaged that the event will address the role of the European Framework for Research Careers and make final recommendations for doctoral training in the context of EU Research and Innovation Funding beyond 2014.

Coordination and Support Action (Support Action) - Grant to a Named Beneficiary¹¹: Irish Universities Association, 48 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland – EUR 0.20 million

Expected Impact: Both events organised by the Cypriot and Irish Presidencies aim to improve the coordination and coherence of policy initiatives and actions at EU and national levels and thereby will contribute to advance the realisation of the objectives of the Innovation Union initiative, including ERA.

C.3 Support to the European Forum on Forward Looking Activities

- The "European Forum on Forward Looking Activities" (EFFLA) will help design better policies by providing a long term strategic perspective that is needed by EU policies, and research & innovation policy in particular. High-level experts, decision-makers and stakeholders will debate and analyse existing studies and provide evidence on changes in global research and innovation systems and their socio-economic context, offer advice on the exploitation of this information, and build stakeholder commitment to action.

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) – expert contracts¹² – EUR 0.23 million

- Studies in support of the European Forum on Forward Looking Activities

Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action) – public procurement¹⁰ – call for tenders to be launched in 2012 – EUR 0.05 million

Indicative budget

The budget allocated to 'Support to the coherent development of research policies' is **EUR 13.47 million** for the 2012 budget¹³.

¹³ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority

V **BUDGET**

Priority	Description of actions	2012¹⁴	Funding scheme
Call FP7-COH-2012-PROCURERS	Support to transnational network of procurers	EUR 1,1 million	Coordination and Support Action
	Evaluators for the Evaluation of proposals	EUR 0.05 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
<i>A.1 Development of RDI policies in the context of the ERA</i>	Support to the development of an ERA Stakeholder Forum	EUR 0.40 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders
	Expert groups in support of the development and implementation of ERA Framework	EUR 0.25 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
	Studies in support of the development and implementation of ERA Framework	EUR 0.25 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders or framework contract
	Study on 'Universities as Innovation Centres'	EUR 0.20 million	Coordination and Support Action – public procurement – call for tenders or framework contract
	Study on Skills: Assess transformation of skills agenda for researchers on innovation	EUR 0.20 million	Coordination and Support Action – public procurement – call for tenders or framework contract

¹⁴ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority

Priority	Description of actions	2012 ¹⁴	Funding scheme
A.2 Monitoring and analysis of national RDI policies	Extension of the scope and duration of ERAWATCH	EUR 1.06 million	Coordination and Support Action, grant to a named beneficiary (European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies)
	Development of the "R&I Observatory" (follow-up to ERAWATCH and TrendChart for the period 2013-2016)	EUR 5.00 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders
	Expert group on evaluation of research intensive clusters as potential vehicles for smart specialisation in the European Regions.	EUR 0.20 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
B.1 Improvement of the business environment	Studies and measures for leveraging greater private sector R&I investment	EUR 0.40 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – framework contract
	Study of the factors allowing enterprises to be and remain fast growing innovators and analysis of their policy implications	EUR 0.40 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – framework contract
B.2 Improvement of the links between business and academia	Support to the trans-national cooperation of knowledge transfer professionals, incl. development of model consortium agreements	EUR 0.50 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders

Priority	Description of actions	2012¹⁴	Funding scheme
<i>B.3 Support to cross-cutting aspects related to the implementation of EIPs</i>	Information & communication platform for EIPs	EUR 0.50 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – framework contract
	Support to the screening of regulatory frameworks	EUR 0.35 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – framework contract
	Expert group to develop recommendations on the regulatory framework	EUR 0.05 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
<i>C.1 Strengthening of the evidence base and monitoring of innovation performance</i>	Expert groups on issues such as framework conditions for research-base innovation and business cooperation in research and innovation	EUR 0.25 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
	Studies on issues such as framework conditions for research-base innovation and business cooperation in research and innovation	EUR 0.25 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – framework contract
	Economic Policy Expert Group 'Innovation for Growth' (I4G) and supporting studies	EUR 0.23 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
	Studies in support of the economic policy expert group (I4G)	EUR 0.08 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders
	Support to ERAC OMC activities in the context of the Ljubljana process	EUR 0.27 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
<i>C.2 Support to Member States' policy coordination and mutual learning activities</i>	Support to ERAC peer-reviews and mutual learning	EUR 0.30 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
	Study to support the monitoring of international STI cooperation policy and its implementation	EUR 0.50 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders or framework contract

Priority	Description of actions	2012¹⁴	Funding scheme
	Support for Cypriot Presidency event	EUR 0.20 million	Coordination and Support Action, Grant to a named beneficiary
	Support for Irish Presidency event	EUR 0.20 million	Coordination and Support Action, Grant to a named beneficiary
<i>C.3 Support to the European Forum on Forward Looking Activities</i>	European Forum on Forward Looking Activities	EUR 0.23 million	Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts
	Studies in support of the European Forum on Forward Looking Activities	EUR 0.05 million	Coordination and Support Action, public procurement – call for tenders
ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION		EUR 13.47 million	

Budget Figures in this Work Programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Following the evaluation of proposals, the final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary:

- by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call, and
- Any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20% of the indicated budgets for these actions. The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the indicated budgets for these actions.

