



FEBRUARY 2014 – N°1

EVENTS IN BRUSSELS

- **10-11 March 2014:** The European Commission is organizing its 2014 Innovation Convention in Brussels ([more](#)). Several fringe sessions will be organized by stakeholders organization on topics related to SMEs, innovation and regional cooperation.
- **3 March 2014:** interactive workshop “opportunities for SMEs under Horizon 2020” organized in Brussels by the European Commission in Brussels ([more](#))
- **20 February 2014:** ACQUEAU event “Water Beyond Europe II event – South Africa” ([more](#))

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

- **Horizon 2020:** This is a giant program that builds on previous FP7, CIP and EIT programs. The budget is about €80 billion over 7 years (2014 to 2020). On 11 December 2014, the European Commission has released the work program for the 2014-2015 period ([more](#)). It covers 65 different topics Deadlines for the first calls are set in Spring 2014.
Amongst these, some are particularly relevant for life sciences: WATER (topic 1); SPIRE (topic 3 – sustainable process industries); STS (topic 8- sustainable food security); Waste (topic 22); FETOPEN (topic 32– novel ideas for radically new technologies); ISIB (topic 35– innovative, sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy); SC5 (topic 53– growing a low carbon, resource efficient economy with a sustainable supply of raw material);
Three types of projects are of particular interest:
 - Research & innovation actions: Action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. (funding rate: 100 % - 2 stages – budget > 1 Mio €)
 - Innovation actions: Action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication (funding rate: 70 % - 2 stages – budget > 1 Mio €).
 - Coordination & support actions: Actions consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries (funding rate: 100 % - one stage – budget < 1 Mio €)
- **Eureka:** EUREKA is an intergovernmental organisation for market-driven industrial R&D. It is a decentralised network facilitating the coordination of national funding on innovation aiming to boost

the productivity & competitiveness of European industries. The network integrates over 40 pan-European economies, but also includes Israel, South Korea, and Canada. The program supports different types of projects:

- individual projects: they are market-oriented international R&D projects supported and funded through EUREKA. Projects in any kind of technology can receive support on the basis of the quality of a business plan. These projects are generally led by small and medium-sized businesses and involve a partnership of at least two EUREKA member countries. Partners can be of any type: SMEs, large companies, research institutions and universities. Building partnerships, accessing new markets and agreeing upon intellectual property rights are all important elements of a partnership within EUREKA individual projects. Together, the partners develop new technologies and/or services with the ultimate goal of reaching the market with their innovation. The call is open during the whole year.
- Cluster projects: they are long-term, strategically significant industrial initiatives. They usually have a large number of participants, and aim to develop generic technologies of key importance for European competitiveness mainly in ICT, energy and more recently in the biotechnology sector. The call that was launched by ACQUEAU, the water cluster, will be closed on 8 April 2014([more](#))
- EUROSTAR projects: for EUROSTAR, the first European funding and support programme to be specifically dedicated to research-performing SMEs. Next deadline to submit an outline proposal is on 13 March 2013 ([more](#)).
- **EuropaId/135-474/DD/ACT/IN**: a 2-stage call for proposals was launched on January 30 is to support the implementation of the Indo-European Partnership for Research and Innovation ([more](#)). It is divided in 6 lots, environment being one of them). Each lot can be allocated one 300.000,00 € grant covering up to 80 % of the eligible costs. Typical actions may provide for:
 - Setting up of EU-India cluster-to-cluster partnerships in the areas of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda with particular focus on sustainable environment and water, bio-economy, agriculture, energy and transport, health, and information and communication technologies.
 - Setting up individual mobility schemes for European researchers and innovators working in research and innovation entities within a cluster in Europe to move from Europe to India. The individual mobility schemes should be an integral component of the cluster-to-cluster partnerships.
 - Supporting visibility, mutual understanding and awareness actions to facilitate EU-India cooperation on research and innovation.

NEWS

- **17 January 2014**: To further enhance its impact and to incentivise the innovations needed to meet new societal challenges, the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) will gradually expand its portfolio of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) from 2014 to 2020. The first two new KICs, to be established in 2014 ([more](#)), will address the thematic fields of:
 - Innovation for healthy living and active ageing; and
 - Raw materials: sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution.
- **9 January 2014**: The new LIFE Regulation has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union ([more](#)). It will provide funding for 3 types of projects:
 - Environment (resource efficiency; nature & biodiversity; governance & information).
 - Climate Action (mitigation; adaptation; governance & information)
 - Integrated projects, which will operate on a large territorial scale