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European Committee of the Regions in a nutshell

The European Committee of the Regions is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union.

350 members - regional and locally elected representatives from the 28 EU countries.

6 commissions covering competences in the following policy areas based on the EU Treaties:

Economic and social cohesion,
Employment, vocational training,
social policy, health,
Education and culture,
Environment, climate change, energy,
Transport and trans-European networks,
Civil protection and services
of general interests.



European Committee
of the Regions



European Committee
of the Regions

SEDEC

Opinion on H2020 and the New FP9 for Research & Innovation

55
Rapporteur:
Christophe CLERGEAU



SEDEC-VI/026

This CoR opinions' key message suggests ensuring that the next Framework Programme for Research & Innovation includes regional development, to narrow the innovation gap in Europe, with some practical hints of implementation based on the outcome of evaluation findings of H2020.



Presentation of the Rapporteur

Christophe CLERGEAU (FR/PES)

Member of the Pays-de-la-Loire Regional Council
Political group: Party of European Socialists (PES)

Commissions:

- 6th term of office - Commission for Natural Resources (NAT)
- 6th Mandate - Commission for Social policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC)

Main objectives of the Opinion

- Calls for a return to R&I as one of the top priorities in the debate on the future of Europe and for the EU's overall fiscal effort in the area of R&I to be stepped up within the current and the next MFF, in order to at least maintain the growth momentum of the current framework programme.

- Points to the differences in participation at regional and local level and underlines the need to make the framework programme work throughout EU cities and regions.

- Considers it necessary to clarify the debate on synergies and proposes five operational principles - coherence, compatibility, complementarity, co-construction and ecosystems - to be shared between the EU, the Member States, the regions and cities.

- Calls for a new collective ambition that focuses not only on scientific excellence in Europe but also on scientific excellence and the innovation capacity of Europe as a whole, by tapping into the full potential of all its cities and regions. Suggests that, in order to help promote excellence in all its forms, cities and regions be given a greater role in the future framework programme.

- Expects the new framework programme to do more to strengthen regional innovation hubs and ecosystems, with more support for technology transfer networks, and for a new "territorial connections" action to be set up to recognise and fund regional excellence networks through the framework programme.

Quotation from the Rapporteur

"Robust R&I can offer resilience, high added value and long-term competitiveness to the EU, which is particularly necessary in the context of a globalisation process whose effects are not yet harnessed, especially at local and regional level".

"The European added value of the Framework Programme is primarily based on its collective and collaborative dimension and on its contribution to creating a network of researchers and innovation ecosystems".

"We must encourage a greater diversity of projects through wider, more open calls for proposals, simplified procedures, greater interdisciplinarity, more accountability at all stages of the evaluation and selection of projects as well as allocation of funding, and last but not least, an incentive to include more new entrants".

"The future framework programme must promote an excellence-based approach that is firmly rooted in the cities and regions".

"Beyond their scientific impact, projects should be assessed on their impact on regional innovation ecosystems and their three pillars (research – education – innovation), and on cities and regions and their inhabitants, in particular on employment and well-being".

"We need an integrated approach to the "stairway to excellence", based on a coordination plan for each country and region so that action is taken on the necessary reforms, building centres of excellence that are open to all, combating the brain drain and participating fully in European research networks".

Rapporteur contact details

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