

INESC BRUSSELS HUB

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Number 2 / March 2020

IMPACT & BUDGET

Impact is the European funding criteria of excellence, from the framework programme for research to structural and cohesion funding. The Commission has announced that work programmes and topics in the next framework programme will start by indicating which impacts they aim to achieve. The EC is also reinforcing impact “prizes”. This relates to the need of visibility, justify spending and tightens the relationship between R&I funding and its policy context. Understanding European budget discussions for R&I is crucial for future success.



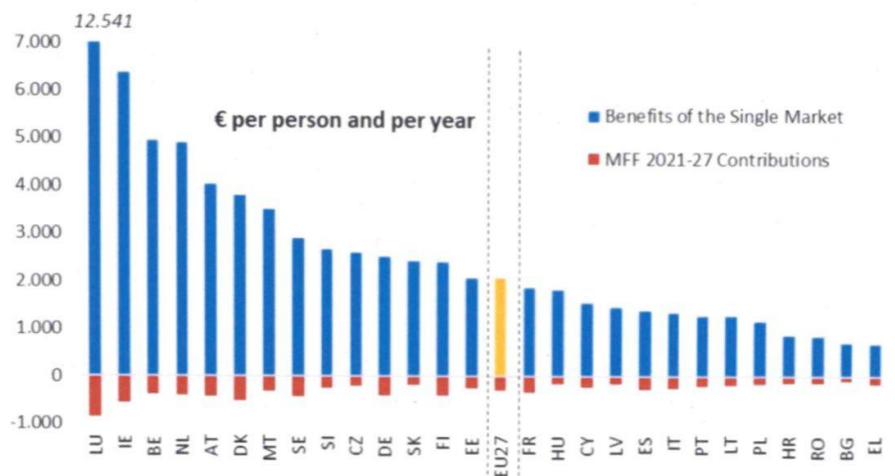
INESC
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“The EU budget is more than arithmetic and a focus on net balances masks the benefits of economic integration”

EUROPEAN BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

The budget negotiations at European level, the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) has led to a no deal situation after the extraordinary Council meeting of February 20-21. Debate centers around net-paying EU Members vs net-receiving EU Members. This is a false question and reflects the populism of some EU leaders and the need they feel to provide simple answers to the perceived rising euro-scepticism in their home countries. Previous centre-right or centre-left leaders have learnt their political lessons from the BREXIT process and from the rising popularity of radical parties. And this leads to more misleading statements and positions: paraphrasing the [Polish Prime Minister’s brilliant opinion article in the Financial Times](#), the EU budget is more than arithmetic and a focus on net balances masks the benefits of economic integration. Moreover, [we are talking about a EU budget representing between 1.03% and 1.3% of the EU Gross National Income](#).

THE BENEFITS OF THE SINGLE MARKET LARGELY OUTWEIGH THE COST OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNION BUDGET



Data: European Commission

What does this mean for Research and Innovation?

It is almost certainly that the framework programme for research and innovation (Horizon Europe) budget will be cut. The proposal the current president of the EU Council took to the 20-21 February meeting was to [limit the cut to €3bn from the Commission proposal of €94,1bn for the next seven years](#). It is uncertain how a cut in budget would affect the different pillars and instruments within Horizon Europe. Moreover, only after the dimension of the cuts to other parts of the MFF are decided, can we start to have an idea of how this will also affect R&I funding through structural and cohesion policy too.

How is the European Commission responding?

The President of the EC launched the Green Deal, the Digital package and is trying to tighten the relationship between European competitiveness, European values and way of life with the need with an ambitious budget. See further detail in the [Policy and Strategy](#) section below

INESCTUTIONAL NEWS

HUB WORK GROUPS ON HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES AND ROBOTICS AND AI FIRST MEETING

The HUB Management Committee approved the creation of two Work Groups (WG) in its last meeting on the 2nd December. The first two WG approved are the WG Health Technologies (WG HT) and Work Group Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (WG RAI). Both Work Groups met for the first time in February and launched their activities. The first mission of these groups is to characterise the existing research and innovation capacity and potential in each of the 5 institutions, synergies, overlaps and complementarities between them and propose recommendations for the future. These recommendations will be both towards institutional organisation (what can we, internally, do better to promote better participation in European programmes) and towards the European Commission, European platforms and networks (the seed for a multi-annual strategy regarding our positioning and participation). First results will be discussed in a meeting the INESC community and final results will be announced and discussed with the European Commission in the HUB Annual event, in June.



INESC BRUSSELS HUB PRESENTED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR COHESION AND REFORMS

INESC Brussels HUB was granted a short meeting with the EU Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira, on the 6 February, where the HUB Chairman and the Head of Office presented the HUB, its goals and strategy. The Commissioner praised the initiative and demonstrated its openness to a continuous collaboration along the next programming period (2021-2027).

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON “A ROBUST INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE”

The HUB was invited to participate in closed meeting about the future programme on innovation ecosystems, organised on the European Committee of Regions Headquarters, on the 18th February. [The full meeting can be visualised here](#). It counted with the participation of Eduardo Maldonado, President of the National Innovation Agency and was opened by Marya Gabriel, the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.



INESC TEC AND EDP TEST INNOVATIVE SMART GRID TECHNOLOGIES IN HOMES AND COMPANIES

A total of 175 residential and business participants are testing new solutions aimed to improve the functioning of the electricity network, developed under the InteGrid project – coordinated by EDP Distribuição, with INESC TEC in charge of the technical coordination. The [InteGrid project](#) brings together 14 European partners and is funded by the H2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation at around €15M.

INOV INESC HOSTS SPARTA PROJECT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER SPARTA MEETINGS @ INESC BRUSSELS HUB

INOV INESC hosted the [SPARTA project](#) General Assembly, Board and other project related meetings between the 24 and 27 February at the INESC Brussels HUB. SPARTA aims to develop and implement top-tier research and innovation actions in cybersecurity. Strongly guided by concrete challenges forming an ambitious Cybersecurity Research & Innovation Roadmap, SPARTA will tackle hard innovation challenges, leading the way in building transformative capabilities and forming a world-leading cybersecurity competence network across the EU.



INESC ID: PRODUCTIVITY AT EXASCALE – PROJECT EPEEC

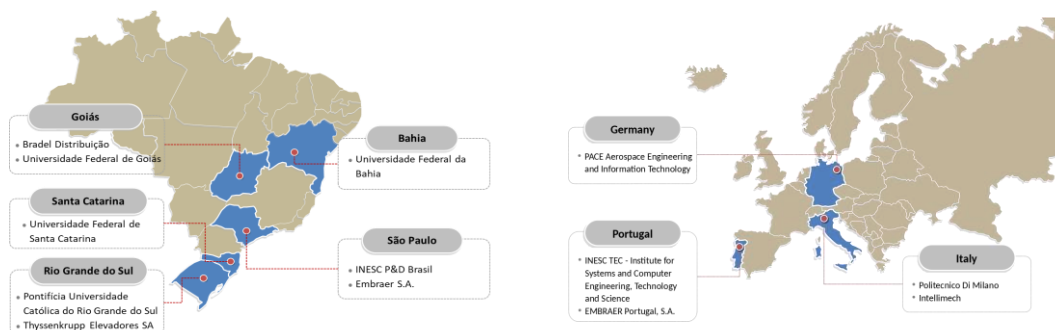
INESC-ID is one of the 10 European research institutions and companies that participate in the project EPEEC: European Programming Environment for Programming Productivity of Heterogeneous Supercomputers. This project, coordinated by Barcelona Supercomputing Center – Centro Nacional de Supercomputacion, runs from 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2021, with a €3,9 million budget. With partners from Germany, Portugal, France, Italy, Belgium and Sweden, the project goal is to “develop and deploy a production-ready parallel programming environment that turns upcoming overwhelmingly-heterogeneous exascale supercomputers into manageable platforms for domain application developers”. [You can find more information about this project here.](#)



FASTEN MANUFACTURING PROJECT MEETING HOSTED BY INESC TEC @ INESC BRUSSELS HUB

The Horizon 2020 [FASTEN Manufacturing](#) intermediary project meeting was hosted by INESC TEC at the INESC Brussels HUB on the 3rd February. FASTEN mission is to develop, demonstrate, validate, and disseminate an integrated and modular framework for efficiently producing custom-designed products. More specifically, FASTEN will demonstrate an open and standardized framework to produce and deliver tailored-designed products, capable to run autonomously and deliver fast and low-cost additive manufactured products. This meeting

brought participants from both Europe and Latin America as it has partners on both sides of the Atlantic:



INESC MN PARTNERS IN H2020 PROJECT FOCUSED ON INNOVATIVE ANALYTICAL DEVICES

INESC MN is a partner in the Horizon 2020 project IPANEMA, officially launched on the 31st of January 2020. The consortium gathers researchers and entrepreneurs from 12 countries, including US, Israel, Russia and China, with the goal of developing affordable, and easy to use analytical devices to tackle important challenges such as the detection of water toxins, the detection of food-contaminating pathogens and the development of novel organ-on-chip systems to accelerate drug discovery. Besides its technical goals, the project aims to train a new generation of young researchers with both technical and soft skills, thus improving their competences.



we look a little harder



ARE YOU AN INESC RESEARCHER LOOKING FOR A PROJECT PARTNER OR FOR A CONSORTIUM IN THE MAKING?

The best PRO tip for any researcher looking for project partners is: look in your own network or, even if you don't know directly the right person you know who are the best fitted

institutions and people in your scientific and technological domain. If you don't, something is wrong and it is not a partner search tool that will help you. However... sometimes, we exhaust all possibilities and need support. The HUB has created a partner search tool dedicated exclusively to two specific cases:

- 1) You are coordinating a project proposal and you are missing a specific partner(s) in a field that is often not your expertise or part of your network;
- 2) You have identified a specific topic in an European work programme and you know you know exactly how you can contribute to a consortium (i.e. you can objectively describe your added-value to an existing consortium).

If you fit in one of the above two cases, please let us know and we will do everything in our reach to help. Contact your HUB focal point and ask for the HUB partner search template, complete it and send it to us. We will make use of the network of established offices in Brussels to disseminate it and bridge potential contacts when and if the right organisations, researchers and projects are identified.

EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENT



This section presents the list of the future events organised or hosted by the HUB as well as other relevant events you may want to follow online, be present or just ask for more information to your local HUB focal point (see list of focal points contacts at the end of this newsletter).

WORKSHOP ON THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL: LESSONS FROM PILOT CALLS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE – 31 MARCH, INESC BRUSSELS HUB

The European Commission and INESC Brussels HUB are co-organising an exclusive event in Brussels, on the 31st March, counting with the presence of the Director of the EIC, Jean-David Malo, the Heads of Unit for the Pathfinder, Accelerator, Innovation Ecosystems and Financial Instruments, as well as stakeholders that have participated in the pilot calls during 2019 and beginning of 2020. The goal is to learn from the pilot calls and discuss with the EC what will be the structure and key messages for the EIC in 2021-2027. Final agenda will be made available soon and streaming of the event will be available.

ANNUAL EVENT, 2 AND 3 JUNE, INESC BRUSSELS HUB

The first edition of the Annual Event of the INESC Brussels HUB is scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd June 2020, in Brussels. We will have a high-level conference dedicated to the Industry, Digital and Space research and innovation policy and instruments of the European Commission and training workshops dedicated to the next Framework Programme, Horizon Europe, prepared by the Work Group Funding. The final agenda will be made available soon.

POLITICO AI SUMMIT

Taking place on March 16-17, 2020, POLITICO's AI Summit returns to Brussels to tackle key questions about the future of AI global regulation and the technology's implementation. [More information here.](#)

HORIZON 2020 SECURE SOCIETIES EUROPEAN INFO DAY AND BROKERAGE EVENT

The event is taking place on the 11 and 12 March and is organized by the Network of Secure Societies National Contact Points – SEREN4, in collaboration with the European Commission. This information day and brokerage event gives details on the 2020 calls for proposals to be published mid March 2020 under the Societal Challenge 7 "Secure Societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens". [More information here.](#)

SMART SPECIALISATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The workshop 'Smart Specialisation for Sustainable Development Goals', organised on the 5 and 6 March in Brussels by JRC, is linked to the works of the Global Pilot Programme of the UN Inter-Agency Task Team on STI Roadmaps for SDGs. [More information here.](#)

DATA PROTECTION OFFICER (DPO) CERTIFICATION 2020

This complete one-week certification training gives you the "do's and don'ts" and the most effective methodology to comply with GDPR requirements and perform effectively the role and tasks of a DPO. [More information here.](#)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

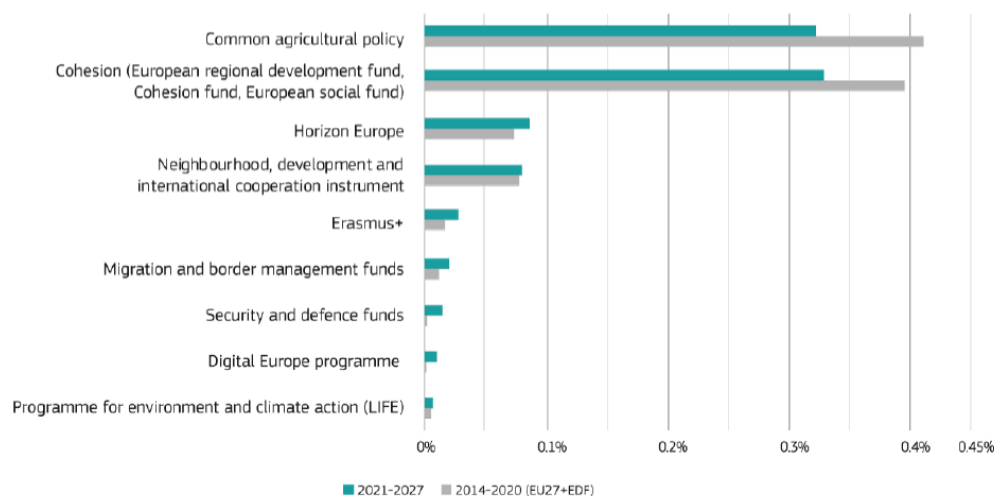
RELATIONS WITH INDIA TO BE KEY IN PORTUGUESE EU PRESIDENCY

Relations between the EU and India will be the central point of the next Portuguese EU presidency, said Portugal's president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa after meeting the Indian PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The president added that an EU-India summit would be held "in a few months" and that relations would be "deepened" during his country's EU presidency, which begins in the first half of 2021. [Read the full story by LUSA](#) and some further reading in EURACTIV article "[EU, India dust off promise for a trade deal](#)".

EU BUDGET 2021-2027: WHY THINKING ABOUT NET CONTRIBUTIONS IS FLAWED

If you really want to understand how your country benefits from EU membership, a simple rationale of "My country contributes with X amount and receives Y amount" is flawed. This was the argument made on the editorial of this newsletter and is based on diverse academic papers and technical reports. [Our recommended summary about this issue can be found here](#). The image below is a caption from the Technical Briefing prepared by the EC on the EU budget and provides a summarized perspective on the proposed budget distribution in 2021-2027 as compared to 2014-2020.

Financing for new and long-standing priorities (in % GNI EU27)



Source: European Commission

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESENTED THE PACKAGE "EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE"

The package "[Europe fit for the Digital Age](#)" was presented on the 19th February by the European Commission as one of its main policies for the next programming period (2021-2027). It is part of the European Commission's tech policy for the same period. This entails cross-cutting policies on Artificial Intelligence, Data, Platforms, Fintech, Green ICT, Taxation, 5G/Telecoms, Cybersecurity and other cross-sectoral measures. The best summary can be found on the [FleishmanHillard](#) Public Relations and Government consultancy website.

The "Europe fit for the Digital Age" package includes the communications "[Shaping Europe's Digital Future](#)", "[A European Strategy for Data](#)" and "[Artificial Intelligence: a European approach to excellence and trust](#)". The European Strategy for Data and the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence are now open for public consultation until mid-May 2020. The HUB Work Group on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence will produce a response on behalf of the 5 INESC institutions and your comments and contributions are very important. Please contact your HUB focal point (see list at the end of this newsletter) if you wish to contribute.

ESFRI CLUSTER PROJECTS - POSITION PAPERS ON EXPECTATIONS AND PLANNED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EOSC (EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD)

Through its cluster projects, [ESCAPE](#) (European Science Cluster of Astronomy and Particle Physics), [ENVRI-FAIR](#) (Cluster of environmental Research Infrastructures), [SSHOC](#) (Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud), [PaNOSC](#) (Photon and Neutron Open Science Cloud) and [EOSC-Life](#) (Biological and Medical Research Infrastructures), the [European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures](#) (ESFRI) steers the integration and consolidation of thematic e-infrastructure platforms in preparation for connecting them to [EOSC](#). The need to leverage domain expertise and better drive the innovation which research communities require can be found in these position papers reflecting current views and expectations about EOSC and the contributions of ESFRI to the European data infrastructure. An executive summary and overview table provide insights into the views of some of the most important research infrastructures in Europe on the future EOSC. [You can read the collection of the five position papers on this link.](#)

SELECTED EUROPEAN JOB OPPORTUNITIES

INESC BRUSSELS HUB HIRING AN ASSISTANT POLICY & COMMUNICATION OFFICER

The work will be developed in the INESC Brussels HUB office, located in the heart of the European Quarter, in Brussels, in a small team but interacting daily with other EU representations, researchers and research managers from all over Europe and European institutions, as well as with over 1500 researchers and technical support staff across 5 INESC institutes in Portugal and beyond.

We are looking for a dynamic, pro-active and motivated colleague with excellent planning, organisational and communication skills. The position requires discretion, team spirit, initiative, flexibility and reliability. We seek a candidate who pays attention to detail and has the ability to adjust to fast-changing priorities, is not scared of engaging in multi-tasking and is willing to contribute and learn. The role will include diversified tasks, from administrative support and organisation of events to communication and R&I advisory support duties, in a broad range of thematic areas.

Crucial pre-requisites are a BA/BSc in any discipline, excellent spoken and written english and desirable pre-requisites are communication and design skills as well as knowledge of European research and innovation policy processes and management.

We offer a full-time contract, health insurance and a competitive salary compatible with experience and role in Brussels. Applications should be sent to the Head of INESC Brussels HUB, Ricardo Migueis, until 30th March (ricardo.migueis@inesc.pt).

EUA IS LOOKING FOR A RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DIRECTOR

The European University Association(EUA) is looking for a Research and Innovation Director to contribute to diverse areas such as the Framework Programmes Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, Higher Education, Open Science, Innovation Ecosystems, Energy and Environment, Doctoral Education and others. See [more information directly in EUA site](#).

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN LOOKING FOR A HEAD OF BRUSSELS OFFICE

The University of Bergen (UiB), in Norway, considers international collaboration, specifically via European research and innovation, essential to achieve their goals. To this end, the university is are working strategically to increase UiB's visibility and impact at the European level as well as participation in European research and innovation programmes in priority areas. UiB opened its Brussels Office in 2015. [More information here.](#)

BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES JOINT-UNDERTAKING LOOKING FOR A NEW HEAD OF PROGRAMME (DIRECTOR)

The Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) is a € 3.7 billion public-private partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). It is an autonomous EU body operating under Horizon 2020 rules and procedures, dedicated to investing in research and innovation projects. BBI JU is now looking for a new Head of Programme, a very senior level position (equivalent to AD11 in the European Commission). [More information here](#).

COST ASSOCIATION HEAD OF SCIENCE OPERATIONS

COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology is looking for a new Head of Science Operations. COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe’s capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges. There are three strategic priorities: Promoting and spreading excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science, and empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators. COST implements its mission by funding bottom-up, excellence-driven, open and inclusive networks for peaceful purposes in all areas of science and technology. [More information here](#).

PHD PERVASIVE STANDARDS AND THEIR IMPACT ON STANDARDIZATION ECOSYSTEM & SOCIETY

The Department of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences (IE&IS) of the Eindhoven University of Technology is opening a 4-year, fully funded Ph.D. position. The position is designed to foster research on the project “Pervasive standards and their impact on the standardization ecosystem and society.” [More information here](#).



THE HUB IS YOURS, WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT

The HUB is yours. For any enquiries about services available, your main contact is your institutional contact point in the the HUB's Policy and Operations Board (POB). The list of institutional contact points per institution is:

- INESC Coimbra: [Luís Neves](#)
- INESC ID: [Filipa Borrego](#)
- INESC INOV: [Elisabete Carreira](#)
- INESC MN: [Virgínia Chu](#)
- INESC TEC: [Marta Barbas](#)

Contact Us

INESC Brussels HUB

Rue du Luxembourg, 3

1000 Brussels

+32 (0) 496 08 19 57

+351 92 444 03 51

ricardo.migueis@inesc.pt

Are you a partner or coordinate a European project?

If yes, you can now be the host of your project's events in the heart of Europe, providing you and INESC with increased centrality and relevance. You have access to a free meeting room, equipped with state-of-the-art video-conferencing facilities, which holds meetings in "u" shape of up to 30 people. Bigger rooms are available in the same building for rent.