



ERA OBSERVATORIUM
AUSTRIA

bmwfw

Bundesministerium für
Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft

Austrian Innovation Union Status Report 2014

Stakeholders involved

The report at hand was thankfully enabled by the contributions of representatives of the following Austrian Ministries:

Austrian Federal Chancellery

Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs

Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology

I M P R I N T :



Editor: Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna
Report prepared by: Roman Strauss (roman strauss advisory service - business & innovation)
Vienna, October 2014

List of abbreviations

Recurring abbreviations of Austrian organisations in alphabetical order

aws	Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (the Austrian federal economic development and financing bank) www.awsg.at
BKA	Bundeskanzleramt Federal Chancellery www.bka.gv.at
BMASK	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection www.bmask.gv.at
BMBF	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Frauen Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs www.bmbf.gv.at
BMLFUW	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management www.bmlfuw.gv.at
BMVIT	Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology www.bmvit.gv.at
BMWFW	Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy www.bmwf.w.gv.at
FFG	Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH Austrian Research Promotion Agency www.ffg.at
FWF	Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung Austrian Science Fund www.fwf.ac.at
WKO	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich Austrian Economic Chambers www.wko.at

Report

Content

Preface	5
Commitment 1: <i>Put in place national strategies to train enough researchers</i>	6
Commitment 2: <i>Test feasibility of independent university ranking & Create business-academia Knowledge Alliances</i>	9
Commitment 3: <i>Propose an integrated framework for e-skills</i>	10
Commitment 4: <i>Propose an ERA framework and supporting measures</i>	11
Commitment 5: <i>Construct the priority European research infrastructure</i>	13
Commitment 6: <i>Simplify and focus the future EU R&I programmes on Innovation Union</i>	14
Commitment 7: <i>Ensure stronger involvement of SMEs in future EU R&I programmes</i>	15
Commitment 8: <i>Strengthen the science base for policy making through JRC and create EFFLA</i>	17
Commitment 9: <i>Set out an EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda</i>	18
Commitment 10: <i>Put in place EU level financial instruments to attract private finance</i>	19
Commitment 11: <i>Ensure cross-border operation of venture capital funds</i>	20
Commitment 12: <i>Strengthen cross-border matching of innovative firms with investors</i>	21
Commitment 13: <i>Review State Aid Framework for R&D&I</i>	22
Commitment 14: <i>Deliver the EU Patent</i>	22
Commitment 15 & 18: <i>Screen the regulatory framework in key areas & present an eco-innovation action plan</i>	23
Commitment 16: <i>Speed up and modernise standard-setting</i>	25
Commitment 17: <i>Set aside dedicated national procurement budgets for innovation. Set up an EU level support mechanism and facilitate joint procurement</i>	26
Commitment 19: <i>Establish a European Creative Industries Alliance. Set up a European Design Leadership Board</i>	27
Commitment 20: <i>Promote open access; support smart research information services</i>	29
Commitment 21: <i>Facilitate collaborative research and knowledge transfer</i>	30
Commitment 22: <i>Develop a European knowledge market for patents and licencing</i>	31
Commitment 23: <i>Safeguard against the use of IPRs for anti-competitive purposes</i>	32
Commitment 24 and 25: <i>Improve the use of structural funds for research and innovation</i>	33
Commitment 26: <i>Launch a Social Innovation pilot; promote social innovation in European Social Fund</i>	35
Commitment 27: <i>Support a research programme on public sector and social innovation; pilot a European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard</i>	36
Commitment 29: <i>Pilot and present proposals for European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)</i>	37
Commitment 30: <i>Put in place integrated policies to attract global talent</i>	39
Commitment 31: <i>Propose common EU/Member States priorities and approaches for scientific cooperation with third countries</i>	41
Commitment 32: <i>Roll out global research infrastructures</i>	42
Commitment 33: <i>Member States R&I Systems</i>	43
Commitment 34: <i>Develop an Innovation Headline Indicator and monitor progress using Innovation Union Scoreboard</i>	44
Bibliography & Web-links.....	46

Preface

The headers of each commitment are taken from the European Commission 2014's annual report of the Flagship Initiative 'Innovation Union', the 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014'¹.

The text block underlined and coloured light blue is the text of the Innovation Unions' Commitment itself. Each commitment is cited to establish a relationship to the initial position.

The wordings of the Commitments 10, 11, 14, 29, 30, 31 and 32 differ slightly from the Commission 2010 communication² and the above mentioned 2014 report. The report at hand cites the wording of the above mentioned Commission's report 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014'.

Commitment 28 titled "Consult social partners on interaction between the knowledge economy and market" was not taken up by the European Commission.³

This 'Austrian Innovation Union Status Report 2014' is a condensed compilation of tangible measures, initiatives, processes or opinions which apply to a respective commitment. Policy papers, reports and other documents of overriding importance (e.g. Government programmes), which may cover certain commitments are not mentioned at each possible commitment, but listed in the bibliography at the end of the report, titled 'Comprehensive Position Papers'. Only those policy papers which correspond regarding to a specific commitment or topic are cited explicitly.

The approach of this report is to give a brief overview of Austria's status quo related to the Innovation Union Commitments.

For the sake of completeness this report lists all Commitments - even those addressing exclusively the Commission. On these there are concise excerpts taken from the Commissions' 2014 report 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014' to complete the picture.

¹ European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents: [State of the Innovation Union - Taking stock 2010-2014](#) (2014)

² European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents: [Innovation Union Communication](#) (2010)

³ European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents: [State of the Innovation Union 2011](#) (2011)

Commitment 1: Put in place national strategies to train enough researchers

"By the end of 2011, Member States should have strategies in place to train enough researchers to meet their national R&D targets and to promote attractive employment conditions in public research institutions. Gender and dual career considerations should be fully taken into account in these strategies."

Within the last years, the Austrian Government has put in place a range of programmes and initiatives which aim to achieve the objectives as described in above mentioned Commitment 1:

- training enough researchers
- promoting attractive employment conditions
- addressing gender and dual career aspects.

In addition to comprehensive position papers⁴, dedicated corresponding national strategies are codified in two policy briefs:

- the Austrian 'National Action Plan for Researchers' (2009), intended to make significant progress in⁵
 1. open and competitive recruitment of researchers as well as cross-border portability of research grants
 2. social security and supplementary pension needs of researchers
 3. attractive employment and working conditions of researchers
 4. enhancing the training, skills and experiences of researchers
 5. raising and retaining the interest of pupils and young people in science and research
- the recommendations of the Working Group 1 'Human Potential' (2012), as part of the 'Task Force FTI' (i.e. Austrian RTD Strategy Task Force).

According to Deloitte's 'Researchers' Report 2014 – Country Profile Austria'⁶, several Austrian Federal Ministries have launched initiatives or have improved existing programmes to attract and train pupils and students to become researchers:

- since 1998 the 'IMST' programme at schools to improve the teaching and learning in mathematics, science, information technology and German studies;
- since 1998 the contest 'Jugend Innovativ', which encourages pupils to make their innovative ideas public;
- since 2005 'Austrian Researchers Night' ('Lange Nacht der Forschung');
- initiatives under the title 'MINT-Programmes' to encourage pupils and students to go for a career in mathematics, IT, natural science or technology - since 2008 'Young Science' programmes, including initiatives like:
 - 'Children's Universities' (since 2001);
 - 'Sparkling Science' (since 2007);
 - 'Studies Checker' ('Studienchecker' since 2008)
 - 'Studies Testing' ('Studieren probieren' since 2010)

⁴ see chapter 'Bibliography' at the end of the report

⁵ National Action Plan for Researchers, BMWF, 2009, p.1

⁶ following listing is an excerpt of the much more detailed report and analysis of [Deloitte's Researchers' Report 2014 - Country Profile Austria](#)

- since 2011 'FIT – Women in Technology' (to inform female pupils on technical studies);
- since 2011 the 'Talents Initiative' for cooperation projects between schools/pupils and re-search institutes and internships for pupils in companies and research institutions.

The Austrian Government has launched a notable number of programmes to increase the quota of women in the fields of research, technology and innovation. The table below provides an overview in note form:

- since 1991 the 'Käthe Leichter Award & Government Prize' for women and gender studies;
- since 1997 the 'Gabriele Possaner Staatspreis' (-Award), which honours gender related scientific achievements;
- since 2005 the 'FWF Career Development Programme for Female Researcher';
- since 2006 the w-fFORTE programme;
- since 2007 the short term fellowship programme for young, excellent female scientists "L'ORÉAL Austria";
- since 2008 the w-fFORTE Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise
- a Media Training Programme for female doctoral candidates and postdocs
- an amendment to the 2002 Universities Act (2009), which requests at least 40% of the staff of universities and members of university boards must be women;
- 'Gender Monitoring' as part of the ongoing university monitoring process 'uni:data';
- 'Gender Budgeting' as part of the federal constitution since 2009 applies on federal, regional and community level, as well as for universities;
- the Austrian Universities' 'Task Force Gender & Diversity';
- since 2011 a legal regulation which dictate a 45% quota for women in academic panels at Universities of Applied Sciences
- a Talents Programme of the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology since 2011, which includes the subprogrammes:
 - FEMtech Traineeship Initiative for female students
 - FEMtech Network
 - FEMtech Female Expert Database
 - FEMtech Female Expert of the Month
 - FEMtech Career
 - FEMtech Research Projects
- the 'University Performance Agreements 2013-2015' includes objectives like the improvement of the support of the work-life-balance for women in responsible positions;
- an Industrial PhD-programme of the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development to support highly qualified women, working in applied research;
- training courses for female members of university boards by the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.

To improve the working conditions in the fields of research and to promote 'dual careers', four key initiatives offer corresponding services:

- the five Styrian universities provide a 'Dual Career Service';
- the universities of Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Vienna offer a joined 'dual career service';
- the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF) offers 'Dual Career Service Support' in close cooperation with the above mentioned universities of Vienna, Lower Austria and Upper Austria;
- the 'Institute of Science and Technology Austria – IST Austria' offers corresponding assistance.

The Talents Programme

aims to encourage the access of women to research positions and improve working conditions in research and technology while motivating women to choose a career in science and technology and enhancing their career prospects. Moreover, it promotes the potential of young female scientists and engineers at the beginning of their career by encouraging close cooperation between businesses and institutes of higher education. As a consequence, companies become more attractive to women and their potential is further deployed to the benefit of the companies and corporate competitiveness.

FEMtech Traineeship Initiative for female students – as part of the Talents programme

In order to meet the future demand for researchers and R&D experts, Talents supports and mentors female students to take up scientific and engineering positions in industry. The measure aims at encouraging young female science and technology graduates to take up a career in research as well as at encouraging companies to integrate women in R&D projects and activities. The internship lasts one to six months. The number of traineeships for female students funded between 2011 and 2014 was 1139. The budget was EUR 7.3 million.

FEMtech Career – as part of the Talents programme

FEMtech Career aims at increasing the number of and equal opportunities for women scientists employed in industrial research –thus increasing the competitiveness of R&D-intensive companies. In order to increase the proportion of women in research and improve their career opportunities, FEMtech Career supports companies and application-oriented non-university research institutions in implementing structural measures which:

- Lead to equal opportunities for women and men (affirmative action plans, flexible working time schemes etc.);
- Increase the proportion of female scientists and engineers in the company;
- Support female scientists and engineers in their professional careers (coaching, mentoring, further education and training etc.); and
- Implement activities which attract women to applied research.

FEMtech Career also supports the development and implementation of relevant measures in companies (industry, SMEs) and research institutions on the basis of the organization's individual situation. These activities include organization and management, human resources, and research and development. The purpose of this effort is to improve the company's structures in the long term, grant women access to higher positions and improve the general working conditions.

w-ffORTE – Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise

In 2009, eight "Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise" were selected to receive funding via an innovative, two-stage selection process. Highly qualified female researchers manage the centres and guarantee the visibility of the excellent results achieved by women in science and industry. The eight 'Laura Bassi Centres of Expertise' have a term of up to seven years with a total funding budget of EUR 15 million. An interim evaluation was carried out in 2013 with positive results.

w-ffORTE – In focus: Career

As part of a series of events, w-ffORTE organises workshops supporting women in science and technology in enhancing their strategic competencies, in areas such as strategy, team leadership and development, dealing with power and work-life balance.

All of these listed programmes and initiatives are still going on.

Contact person: Julia TSCHLAUT, BMWFW

Commitment 2: Test feasibility of independent university ranking & Create business-academia Knowledge Alliances

"In 2011 the Commission will, on the basis of the current preparatory work, support an independent multi-dimensional international ranking system to benchmark university performance. This will allow the best performing European universities to be identified. In 2011 further steps will be proposed in a Communication on the reform and modernisation of higher education.

The Commission will also support business-academia collaborations through the creation of "Knowledge Alliances" between education and business to develop new curricula addressing innovation skills gaps (see also commitment 3 on e-skills). They will help universities to modernise towards inter-disciplinarily, entrepreneurship and stronger business partnerships."

On a national level there are several tools illustrating the performance of the universities on various aspects, e.g.:

- the statutory annual "Intellectual Capital Report"
- the multi-annual "University Performance Agreement" (currently effective: 2013-2015)

Furthermore the Austrian universities continuously participate in international rankings, like the Commissions' driven ranking system U-Multirank⁷.

Although the significance of those rankings might be a pretty contentious issue, notwithstanding they are realized as an important factor for making the performance of universities visible. To enable a common approach of the main stakeholder in Austria and a more sophisticated perception of rankings, on behalf of the BMWFW the project "Austrian Universities and University-Rankings" was launched in September 2013. The objectives are:

- to stimulate the public sensitivity for rankings
- to deliver tangible background information to respective rankings
- to develop recommendations and measures.

These recommendations and measures to be developed for single universities, as well as university-overlapping and on a national political level should contribute to improve the position of Austrian universities in corresponding rankings, in due consideration of prevailing strategies and conditions. The results of this project are expected in 2015.

On October 20, 2014 the Commission published the selection results of the Erasmus+ programme "Knowledge Alliances"⁸. In this first call Europe wide 229 projects⁹ were submitted but just 9 have been selected – two of them being from Austria:

- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien):
European Food Studies & Training Alliance
- Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Wien):
Competencies for a sustainable socio economic development

Contact person: Eva ERLINGER-SCHACHERBAUER, BMWFW

⁷ Website: [U-Multirank](#)

⁸ see on EC > EACEA > Erasmus+: [Knowledge Alliances 2014 selection result list](#)

⁹ see OEAD communication: [OEAD: Erasmus+ Wissensallianzen](#)

Commitment 3: Propose an integrated framework for e-skills

"In 2011, the Commission will propose an integrated framework for the development and promotion of e-skills for innovation and competitiveness, based on partnerships with stakeholders. This will be based on supply and demand, pan-European guidelines for new curricula, quality labels for industry-based training and awareness-raising activities."

This commitment addresses the Commission to the effect that, in December 2013 the European e-Competence Framework 3.0¹⁰ (e-CF) was released by the European Standardisation Committee (CEN).

"It constitutes a basis for the development of the ICT profession together with bodies of knowledge, ethics and education and training. It has already been adopted by several countries as a national standard, e.g. Italy and the Netherlands, and should become a European standard in 2015.

Based on the e-CF online self-assessment tools have been developed, e.g. by CEPIS and EXIN, and proposals for quality labels for IT industry training and certification have been released. The proposed labels are based on the e-Competence Framework and EQAVET (the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training) enabling to make it possible to distinguish different types of training and certification referenced against the e-Competence Framework. Leading IT companies have now been able to map their IT training courses and certifications against the e-CF, e.g. as Microsoft, Cisco, CompTIA, HP etc.

In 2013, e-leadership skills have started to become an issue in policy and multi-stakeholder initiatives of 21 of 27 EU Member States. Developments are still in their infancy, though, with the exception of Denmark, Germany, Finland, Malta, the Netherlands and the UK."¹¹

To achieve the goal of raising digital competencies (e-skills) in Austria, the Austrian Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs (BMBWF) runs a set of initiatives, e.g.:

- the 'digi.komp'¹² project (since 2012) defines digital competences for secondary school level and supports faculties with curricula;
- the 'efit21 – digital education'¹³ (since 2011, formerly 'eFit-strategy') concept focuses on the integration and use of new information and communication technologies in the Austrian education facilities;
- the promotion of the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence);
- since September 2013 the 'ECDL in Education Austria'.

Furthermore the BMBWF supports the participation of education facilities in various European initiatives to foster the development of digital competencies, e.g.:

- e-Twinning¹⁴ - the community for schools in Europe
- ITEC¹⁵ - Innovative Technologies for Engaging Classrooms

¹⁰ Website: [European e-Competence Framework](#)

¹¹ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014, p.19

¹² Website: [digi.komp](#)

¹³ Website: [efit21](#)

¹⁴ Website: [e-Twinning](#)

¹⁵ Website: [ITEC](#)

efit21: Digital Education

Learning in a digital world – the shift of information and knowledge society does not stop short of the education system: communicating, teaching and learning are changing noticeably as a consequence of digital and information technologies. The Internet's "publication feature" has been further enhanced by newly developed portals and is becoming interactive. Communicating is moving to the forefront.

"efit21 – digital education" is putting the focus in the integration and use of new information and communication technologies in Austrian education facilities.

In doing so, the following goals are being pursued

- enhancing the quality
- teach digital literacy
- promote labour market success
- increase efficiency
- integrate society

Contact Person: Jürgen SCHICK, BMBF

Commitment 4: Propose an ERA framework and supporting measures

"In 2012, the Commission will propose a European Research Area framework and supporting measures to remove obstacles to mobility and cross-border cooperation, aiming for them to be in force by end 2014. They will notably seek to ensure through a common approach:

- the quality of doctoral training, attractive employment conditions and gender balance in research careers;
- the mobility of researchers across countries and sectors, including through open recruitment in public research institutions and comparable research career structures and by facilitating the creation of European supplementary pension funds;
- the cross-border operation of research performing organisations, funding agencies and foundations, including by ensuring simplicity and mutual coherence of funding rules and procedures, building on the work of stakeholders, funding agencies and their representative organisations;
- dissemination, transfer and use of research results, including through open access to publications and data from publicly funded research;
- opening of Member State operated research infrastructures to the full European user community;
- consistency of EU and national strategies and actions for international cooperation in science and technology."

As scheduled, in 2012 the Commission adopted the Communication 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth' which sets out five priorities: more effective national research and innovation systems, optimal transnational cooperation and competition (including research infrastructures), an open labour market for researchers, gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research and optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge. For each priority, the Communication presents a series of actions to be undertaken by Member States, Stakeholder Organisations and the Commission."¹⁶

¹⁶ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014, p.21

Starting with the approach to reinforce Austria's engagement within ERA as published in Austria's RTI-Strategy in 2011¹⁷, since 2013 the objectives of the European Research Area (revised and renewed in 2012 by the European Commission and the European Member States) have become more important within the Austrian Government.

The corresponding political guidelines are to be found in most of the governmental position papers. Of particular relevance:

- in 2013 ERA measures were included in the 'National Reform Programme 2013'¹⁸;
- in the 'Work programme of the Austrian Federal Government 2013-2018', most of ERA's framework objectives are covered;
- chapter 3.2 of the 'National Reform Programme 2014' addresses the "...measures to complete the European Research Area"¹⁹.

With a stronger focus on performance issues:

- in 2013 the 'Austrian EU Action Plan' of the Working Group 'Europe' of the RTI-Task Force (ERA as Priority 2 of six)²⁰;
- in 2014 the Ministry for Science, Research and Economy coordinated the development of a position paper 'Austrian priorities' as Austria's share to the upcoming 'ERA Roadmap 2015' at European level;
- in 2014 the 'ERA Observatory' was established to bundle strategic information, advice and coordination under a common roof;
- also in 2014 a high-level advisory board on European research and innovation policies, called 'ERA Council Forum Austria' started its work;
- to enhance coordination among ministries and stakeholders, an 'ERA Policy Forum Austria' has been formed in 2014;
- the Austrian 'Council for Research and Technology Development' got the mandate (2014) to monitor the progress of the strategy's implementation and will report to Parliament on an annual basis.

In 2014 supporting initiatives to implement the objectives of above mentioned position papers have been²¹:

- re. "openness for international cooperation with third countries and regions": establishment of FTI-Attachés and additional Offices of Science and Technology Austria (OSTA);
- re. "interoperability, mutual recognition of evaluation results and other schemes": new scientific clusters launched and evaluation exercise passed in the Danube strategy;
- re. "financial commitments for the construction and operation of ESFRI, national and regional research infrastructures of pan-European interest": the Austrian Governments 'Austrian Research Infrastructure – Action Plan 2014-2020'.

According the 'ERA Progress Report 2014' Austria is one of the four top performing Member States in adopting their policies to the 15 domain activities.

The same report indicates Austria in 6 of these domain activities above the EU average concerning implementation.²²

¹⁷ Austrian Federal Government, Strategy for research, technology and innovation, 2011, p.40

¹⁸ Federal Chancellery, National Reform Programme 2013, p.28f

¹⁹ Federal Chancellery, National Reform Programme 2014, p.17f

²⁰ Working Group 7b „Europe“ of the RTI Task Force, Austrian EU Action Plan, 2013, p.17

²¹ European Commission, ERA Progress Report 2014 Country Fiches: Austria (et al), p.26ff

²² European Commission, ERA Progress Report 2014 Facts & Figures, p.81

Conclusions from the Competitiveness Council of 21 February 2014 referred to the progress report from the Commission on European Research Area (ERA) 2013, which noted the progress in delivering the ERA and called for the development of an ERA roadmap by mid-2015.

The 2015 ERA Roadmap is currently under discussion between Member States and the European Commission. The aim is to refocus the main priorities of ERA according to the most pressing challenges in national research and innovation systems.

A reference point in the debate about the 2015 ERA Roadmap is the 2014 ERA Progress Report that highlights progress in achieving ERA, but also areas where further efforts are needed.

Contact persons:

Christian NACZINSKY, BMWFW

Georg PANHOLZER, BMWFW

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT

Commitment 5: Construct the priority European research infrastructure

“By 2015, Member States together with the Commission should have completed or launched the construction of 60% of the priority European research infrastructures currently identified by the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). The potential for innovation of these (and ICT and other) infrastructures should be increased. The Member States are invited to review their Operational Programmes to facilitate the use of cohesion policy money for this purpose.”

On European level the Commission published on July 22, 2014 a revised Work Programme 2014-2015 for European research infrastructure (including e-infrastructure) under Horizon 2020.²³

In September 2014 the ESFRI Roadmap 2016 update process was launched, and according to the Commissions' website²⁴ “...ESFRI is expecting proposals for new (or major upgrades of) research infrastructures of pan-European interest corresponding to the long term needs of the European research communities, covering all scientific areas. Proposals can be submitted until 31st March 2015.”²⁵

Austria takes part in the development of this ESFRI Roadmap 2016 update process.

In Austria the Working Group 4 of the RTI-Task Force published the 'Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2014-2020' in February 2014²⁶.

²³ see on EC > Research & Innovation > Research infrastructures: [H2020 - Work programme 2014-2015 - Chapt.4 European research infrastructures](#)

²⁴ Website: [European Commission > Research & Innovation > Research infrastructures](#)

²⁵ *ibid.*

²⁶ on the website of the Federal Chancellery: [Österreichischer Forschungsinfrastruktur Aktionsplan 2014-2020](#) (German)

According to this action plan the Austrian Government commits itself to the research infrastructure objectives within the framework of 'Europe 2020' and the Flagship Initiative 'Innovation Union'. This action plan describes the Austrian infrastructures of basic research and application-oriented research and recommends objectives and priorities by deliberating both, the needs of the Austrian scientific community and the strategic targets of the Austrian and European research area.

In particular the Working Group names 19 ESFRI-infrastructures of great importance for the Austrian research community²⁷. Austria is already member of nine and hosts one of these (BBMRI²⁸)²⁹. Addressing a particular strategic focus Austria is participating in all five European research infrastructures in the area 'Social Sciences and Humanities' of the current ESFRI-Roadmap.

Contact person: Daniel WESELKA, BMWFW

Commitment 6: Simplify and focus the future EU R&I programmes on Innovation Union

"Future EU research and innovation programmes will focus on Europe 2020 objectives and particularly the Innovation Union. In 2011, looking ahead to the next financial perspectives, the Commission will set out ways for future programmes to focus more on societal challenges, streamline funding instruments and radically simplify access through a better balance between a control-based and a trust-based system. The role of the ERC in promoting excellence should be strengthened and industry driven priorities reinforced (including industry driven partnerships in areas such as key enabling technologies) in the Research Framework Programme."

This was a task the Commission finalised early 2014:

"Horizon 2020, the new EU programme for research and innovation running from 2014-2020, was proposed by the European Commission in November 2011 and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2013. The first work programme (covering 2014-2015) was adopted by the Commission in December 2013 and agreed by the Member States and EEA EFTA countries in February 2014.

With a budget of nearly €80 billion over seven years, Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU research programme yet, and one of the biggest publicly funded worldwide. ... Built on three pillars - Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges - it will fund all types of activities, from frontier science to close-to-market innovation."³⁰

On European level, the European Commission established programme committees for the different pillars and topics of Horizon 2020.

²⁷ *ibid.*, p.16ff

²⁸ Website of the Austrian node: [BBMRI - Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure](#)

²⁹ Website of the HQ of the [European Research Infrastructure Consortium BBMRI-ERIC](#)

³⁰ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-20143, p.28

Austrian delegates from all relevant ministries actively contribute to the work of these committees, in particular when it comes to the decision on biannual work programmes. The work programme forms the basis for calls for proposals in all areas of Horizon 2020.

In Austria the implementation of Horizon 2020 started with 21 information events between September 2013 and March 2014.

In October 2013 the Ministry for Science and Research (today: Ministry for Science, Research and Economy / BMWFW) published 'Recommendations for Austrian Horizon 2020 Programme Committee Delegates and Experts'.

In February 2014 the list of Austrian delegates and experts for the Horizon 2020 programme committees was published.

The Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is the entry-point for all potential participants in Horizon 2020 in Austria. FFG offer advice on the funding instruments and mechanisms of the new framework programme, but also on the more strategic development of the European Research Area. Additionally since mid-2014, FFG is in charge of monitoring the Austrian performance in Horizon 2020 and related ERA instruments.

Contact persons:

Christian NACZINSKY, BMWFW

Georg PANHOLZER, BMWFW

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT

Commitment 7: Ensure stronger involvement of SMEs in future EU R&I programmes

"The Commission will design future EU research and innovation programmes to ensure simple access and stronger involvement of SMEs, in particular those with a high growth potential. Further use should be made of partnerships with Member State agencies, building in particular on the experience of the Eureka-Eurostars initiative."

Transnational RTDI-cooperation of SMEs is of crucial importance for Austria.

Austria played an active and supportive role in the preparatory phase for the H2020 SME-related activities:

- the SME-specific instrument/H2020 was clearly and actively supported by Austria;
- the preparation and the Art. 185-process of Eurostars-2 was clearly and actively supported by Austria;
- the integration of SMEs into H2020 was in general (beyond the SME-specific instrument) clearly and actively supported by Austria;

The Austrian RTDI-funding agencies, FFG and aws, offer a quite complete funding/financing portfolio for SMEs. Fostering transnational cooperation of SMEs is for Austria of central importance within

that context. The funding system is very open to transnational cooperation in general. H2020, EUREKA and Eurostars are important cornerstones of the SME-related funding portfolio. Within that context, FFG has, in addition, developed a dedicated "high end" support to fast growing and very promising SMEs with ambitions to succeed in H2020 and ERA-related activities.

The Austrian BMWFV has established a working group on 'SME/H2020' with regular meetings (2-3x/year) in connection with the corresponding H2020-programme committee, in order to guarantee regular discussions/feedback loops with the relevant stakeholders (in both directions) concerning the developments of SME-related activities in H2020 (participation of all programme committee experts and the relevant stakeholders of the Austrian system). This includes a close connection to another working group having been established for "Access to Risk Finance/H2020/CoSME".

Eurostars-2 (national funding element) is being funded by the Austrian BMWFV (the programme itself being administered by FFG).

The funding conditions for Austrian EUREKA project participations (usually effected via FFG Basic Programme) have been significantly improved in summer 2014 (EUREKA is being considered as an important element of ERA). Therefore the attractiveness of EUREKA for SMEs and enterprises in general has been improved.

Awareness activities:

- Country wide H2020 awareness tour in autumn/winter 2013/14 in nearly all regional capitals with a special emphasis on SME related programs and instruments (including Eurostars and EUREKA);
- H2020 kick-off-event in Vienna (with Commissioner Gheoghean-Quinn) in January 2014, with one particular session dedicated to "Innovation in SMEs";
- Business related information event in Vienna for all SME-related programs and instruments (January 2014);
- Fast-track-to-innovation / H2020 kick-off event in Vienna (October 2014);
- Eurostars-2 joint info event (DE/CH/AT) co-organised (in Weingarten/Germany) in June 2014;
- EUREKA-ITEA 3 information day in Vienna in April 2014.

Training:

- FFG H2020 project management trainings in March and November 2014;
- FFG SME instrument proposers trainings in April and September 2014;
- Ongoing Webinar activities on various SME-related topics (including EUREKA-activities).

Consulting and direct support:

- FFG: approx. 850 advisory contacts with possible proposers for SME-/enterprise related activities/H2020/ERA;
- Detailed consultancy and proposal pre-checks for proposers as a regular FFG-service (for H2020, EUREKA, Eurostars...);
- SME-specific instrument/H2020: selective and strategic advice/support strategy by FFG: success to be measured not by number of applications, but by number of successful proposals;

In September 2014 the European Commission announced the first wave of beneficiaries of the new SME instrument, launched under Horizon 2020. In total, 155 SMEs from 21 countries will each receive € 50.000,- to fund feasibility studies to develop their innovation strategies – thereof four Austrian companies (AT ranking second in success rate).³¹

Contact persons:

Georg PANHOLZER, BMWFW

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT

Commitment 8: Strengthen the science base for policy making through JRC and create EFFLA

"The Commission will strengthen the science base for policy making through its Joint Research Centre. The Commission will also create a "European Forum on Forward Looking Activities" bringing together existing studies and data and involving public and private stakeholders to improve the evidence base of policies."

This Commitment addresses exclusively the Commission.

In 2014 the Commission reports in 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010 – 2014':

"Over the past years, the Joint Research Centre (JRC)³² has taken a number of initiatives to strengthen connections between its science and the Commission's policy agenda and meet the goal of becoming a major player in transforming science into policy advice. The new JRC Work Programme for 2014-15 identifies how the JRC's science supports different EU policies. ...

... So far, it has completed one foresight study on the Future of Standards and Standardisation. A JRC foresight study on Food and Health is also nearing completion. Two further studies on the Future of Eco-Industries and Global Food Security will be completed by June 2014. ...

... The European Forum on Forward Looking Activities (EFFLA)³³ was established in 2011. It delivered 17 policy briefs on issues ranging from institutionalising foresight in Research and Innovation policy to societal challenge addressed by Horizon 2020."³⁴

Contact person: Daniel WESELKA, BMWFW

³¹ European Commission > EASME: [Horizon 2020 SME Instrument beneficiaries](#)

³² EC > JRC Science Hub: [Joint Research Centre](#)

³³ EC > Research & Innovation > ERA > EFFLA: [The European Forum on Forward Looking Activities](#)

³⁴ *ibid.*, p.30

Commitment 9: Set out an EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda

"By mid-2011 , the EIT should set out a Strategic Innovation Agenda (note: "SIA") to expand its activities as a showcase for Innovation in Europe. This should map out its long term development within the Innovation Union, including the creation of new Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), close links with the private sector and a stronger role in entrepreneurship. It should also build on the EIT Foundation being set up in 2010 and on the introduction in 2011 of the "EIT Degree" as an internationally recognised label of excellence."

As promised on the part of the Commission, "the Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) of the EIT was presented in 2011. It outlines the consolidation and further development of the three existing KICs - on climate change (Climate-KIC), sustainable energy (KIC InnoEnergy) and the future information and communication society (EIT ICT Labs) – and the creation of five new ones in the areas of innovation for healthy living and active ageing, food for future, raw materials, added value manufacturing, and urban mobility. ... Based on the SIA, the call for KICs in the areas of 'Innovation for Healthy Living and Active Ageing' and 'Raw Materials' was launched in February 2014."³⁵

Austria supported the idea of the establishment of KICs. Austria is convinced that this new framework of systematic cooperation in the triangle 'education-research-innovation' will be a relevant tool which leads to more innovation in Europe.

The Austrian Government supports the Austrian RTI community actively to participate on EIT-KIC calls:

- the Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG in cooperation with the Ministries have arranged information days for KICs in 2014;
- to facilitate the Austrian candidates, who need a minimum of financial resources to get started immediately (even for the very first steps), the Austrian Ministries support these initial activities financially with as less bureaucracy as possible.

In Austria the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF) gave resource political consultation and support to the application of the 'University of Leoben' for the 'KIC on Raw Material'.

For the calls 2016 ('Food4Future' and 'Added-Value Manufacturing') the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF) organises an expression of interest. Currently no Austrian organization is participating in one of the three already existing KICs.

Contact person: Johanna RINGHOFER, BMWFW

³⁵ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014, p.32

Commitment 10: Put in place EU level financial instruments to attract private finance

"By 2014: on the basis of Commission proposals, the EU should put in place financial instruments to attract a major increase in private finance and close the market gaps in investing in growth and innovation. Contributions from the EU budget should create a major leverage effect and expand on the success of current programmes. The Commission will work with the European Investment Bank Group, national financial intermediaries and private investors to develop proposals addressing the following critical gaps: (i) investment in early stages of firm development, including knowledge transfer and start-ups; (ii) venture capital for fast growing firms expanding on EU and global markets; (iii) risk sharing finance for investments in R&D and innovation projects and (iv) loans for innovative fast growing SMEs. The proposed instruments will have a high leverage effect, an efficient management and simple access for businesses."

This commitment was addressed to the EU and other stakeholder of financial instruments on EU-level. As reported in 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014', "Horizon 2020 includes, for the first time in a framework programme, a specific section on 'Access to Risk Finance'. This covers a set of debt and equity financial instrument facilities and a range of accompanying measures that scale up and refine the debt financial instruments The first work-programme (covering 2014-2015) was agreed by the Member States and EEA EFTA countries in February 2014. The budget for 2014-2020 in current prices is €2,842 million."³⁶

For being of particular importance for the Austrian enterprises, the Austrian Government picked up the measures by directed information of the Austrian target groups as well as by enhancement of the cooperation of national stakeholder with EIB/EIF.

The measures of targeted information about the possibilities for access to risk finance of 'Horizon 2020' and 'CoSME' via financial intermediaries and enterprises have been:

- inclusion of 'new accesses to risk finance' at any events of FFG and aws about promotions via Horizon 2020 and CoSME;
- consultations of enterprises about current and upcoming 'EU venture capital instruments';
- in spring 2014 a 'banks round table' by FFG (in cooperation with aws and BMWF) to forward detailed information about the options for commercial banks within the frameworks of Horizon 2020 and CoSME;
- in September 2014 a workshop 'EU Financial Instruments 2014-2020' for banks and promotion agencies (in the course of the EU-roadshow of EIB/EIF/EC);
- nomination of experts of aws and FFG for the programme committee 'SME and Risk Finance – H2020' with BMWF as a delegate; furthermore FFG as an expert in the programme committee CoSME with BMWF as a delegate; last not least, FFG as NCP (initial information) for risk finance and aws for detailed information;
- establishment of an accompanying working group 'Risk Finance – H2020 – CoSME' including FFG, aws, Federal Ministry of Finance, AVCO³⁷ and AAIA³⁸ to ensure ongoing communication (meetings at least twice per year);
- a strengthened and systematic cooperation of FFG and aws to guarantee an end-to-end financing.

The cooperation of national stakeholders with EIB / EIF was pursued and deepened by:

- a 'Memorandum of Understanding' between aws and EIB/EIF in 2012;

³⁶ *ibid.*, p.35

³⁷ Website: [Austrian Private Equity and Venture Capital Organisation](#)

³⁸ Website: [austrian angels investors association](#)

- aws as a shareholder of EIF since 2013, just as the commercial banks 'Unicredit Bank Austria AG', 'Raiffeisen Bank International AG' and 'ERSTE Group'.

Former, current and intended EIF-contracts with Austrian stakeholders:

- aws:
 - two counterliability-contracts (signed 2009 and 2012);
 - RSI-Pilot signed 2013;
 - Equity-Business-Angels Fonds;
- Unicredit Bank Austria AG:
 - RSI-Pilot signed 2012 – the Europe-wide first one;
- application of aws for risk sharing facilities in Horizon 2020 and CoSME intended to safeguard a seamless continuation of existing contracts.

As of end of 2013, of the entire European RSI-portfolio 12,1% applied on Austria (rank 4 after ES, PT and CZ), realized by the RSI-engagements of Unicredit Bank Austria AG and aws.

Contact person: Georg PANHOLZER, BMWFW

Commitment 11: Ensure cross-border operation of venture capital funds

"By the end of 2011, the Commission will present a proposal for a new legislative regime to ensure that Venture Capital funds established in any Member State can function and invest freely in the EU."

The 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014' records:

"The European Venture Capital Regulation (EuVECA) entered into force in July 2013. The new regulation makes it easier for venture capitalists to raise funds across Europe for the benefit of start-ups. The approach is simple: once a set of requirements is met, all qualifying fund managers can raise capital under the designation 'European Venture Capital Fund' across the EU. They will therefore no longer need to meet requirements which are different in every Member State."³⁹

'EuVECA' is effective as a regulation instantaneous in all EU Member States with July 22, 2013⁴⁰. To transfer it into national legislation was not necessary.

Contact person: Florian EICHBERGER, BMWFW

³⁹ *ibid.*, p.36

⁴⁰ see on EUR-Lex: [Regulation \(EU\) N° 345/2013](#)

Commitment 12: Strengthen cross-border matching of innovative firms with investors

"The Commission will strengthen cross-border matching of innovative firms with suitable investors. It will appoint a leading figure to lead the process. In addition, in the context of the SME Finance Forum, the Commission will focus inter alia on the particular financing problems faced by small, innovative companies."

The Commission as well as the Austrian authorities took up this subject and launched a whole slew of initiatives.

On the part of Austria several activities have been undertaken to foster matching of young innovative enterprises and/or start-ups with investors (those activities also included cross-border-matching aspects). These activities have been undertaken by aws (the Austrian national promotional bank), either on behalf of the Ministry (BMWF), or in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders.

Via the 'Austrian Business Angel Network' (ABAN) the aws bundles all national business angel initiatives, e.g.:

- 'i2 Business Angels'⁴¹ (i2) is a matching platform that connects start-up companies with investors, founded by aws in 1997. Internationally i2 is a founding member of the European Business Angels Network and since 2013 full member of the Business Angels Europe.
- 'Equity Finder'⁴² is a free online service for start-ups and young entrepreneurs, providing access to alternative funding by bringing this target group together with investors and facilitating the access to finance in a very early stage.

Further supportive activities and initiatives:

- Pitching Days in London (16. / 17.10.2014)
For the first time aws organises together with 'Junge Wirtschaft'⁴³ and 'Aussenwirtschaft Austria'⁴⁴ Pitching Days in London, offering up to 10 Austrian Start-Ups a promising chance to meet London's Top Business Angels and to 'pitch'. The target group covers young, innovative start-ups interested in entering the British market with the support of a British Business Angel.
- Pioneers Festival
The leading platform for Entrepreneurship and Innovative Future Technologies and Europe's most important start-up festival received support from aws promotional schemes. This year aws, FFG, Junge Wirtschaft, Aussenwirtschaft Austria sponsor the 'Pioneers Festival'⁴⁵ and enable innovative start-ups the opportunity to present their products/ ideas to the international Start-up-scene. Pioneers start-ups have received more than EUR 55 Mio. in funding since 2011.

Contact person: Georg PANHOLZER, BMWFW

⁴¹ aws-weblink: [i2 Business Angels](#)

⁴² aws-weblink: [aws equity finder](#)

⁴³ Website : [Junge Wirtschaft](#)

⁴⁴ Weblink: Department [Foreign Trade](#) of the 'Austrian Chamber of Commerce'

⁴⁵ Website: [Pioneers Festival 2014](#)

Commitment 13: Review State Aid Framework for R&D&I

"In 2011 the Commission will conduct a mid-term review of the State aid Framework on research, development and innovation clarifying which forms of innovation can be properly supported, including for key enabling technologies and innovations addressing major societal challenges, and their best use by Member States... ."

On May 21, 2014 the Commission adopted the R&D&I state aid Framework and the new General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). These rules will help Member States reach the targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Both sets of rules entered into force on July 1, 2014.

Most of the Austrian aid schemes will be covered by the new General Block Exemption. In order to implement the new rules Austria will adapt its guidelines for funding research, technology and innovation until December 31, 2014. The new guidelines are planned to gain the key features of the new state aid rules such as greater flexibility for implementing R&D&I measures by applying the GBER, absorbing new funding instruments and simplifying the conditions.

Contact persons:

Sibylle SUMMER, BMWFW

Margit HARJUNG, BMVIT

Commitment 14: Deliver the EU Patent

"The European Parliament and Council should take the necessary steps to adopt the proposals on the EU patent (at present European patent with unitary effect or unitary patent), its linguistic regime and the unified system of dispute settlement."

After the adoption of the two Regulations concerning the Unitary Patent as well as the signing of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court in early 2013, the Member States are called on to conduct as quickly as possible the necessary territorial procedures in order to let the Unitary Patent enter into force and let the Unified Patent Court become operational.

The objective is that the new patent system can be used by the end of 2015 or beginning of 2016.

The two EU-Regulations concerning the Unitary Patent were adopted in December 2012 by the European Parliament and the Council, namely within enhanced cooperation between all EU Member States except preliminarily Italy, Spain and Croatia. In February 2013 the International Agreement on a Unified Patent Court was signed by 25 Member States (all EU Member States except preliminarily Spain, Poland and Croatia). For the entry into force of this 'patent package', it is required that at least 13 Member States – among them Germany, France and the United Kingdom – ratify the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court.

Austria completed its national ratification procedures very efficiently in summer 2013 and has therefore been the first Member State that has ratified the Agreement. So far, the Agreement has, besides Austria, been ratified by France, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark.

At once work on the implementation of the Unitary Patent started before summer 2013. For this reason a Select Committee of the Administrative Council at the European Patent Organisation (EPO) in Munich, as well as a Preparatory Committee of the participating Member States of the Unified Patent Court Agreement have been constituted. The main tasks of these Committees will be the negotiation and determination of issues such as administrative tasks of the EPO, annual fees, installation of the Court, judges, Court fees etc.

Currently, the Preparatory Committee on the Unified Patent Court is inter alia working on the Rules of Procedure, recruiting and afterwards training of future judges. In March 2014 the Training Centre for judges in Budapest was inaugurated.

The Select Committee on the Unitary Patent has so far inter alia adopted the rules for a compensation scheme (concerning temporarily mandatory translations) and is currently discussing the sensitive issue of renewal fees.

Contact persons:

Helga MIELING, BMVIT

Ines ORNIG, Austrian Patent Office

Commitment 15 & 18: Screen the regulatory framework in key areas & present an eco-innovation action plan

"Starting in 2011 EU and Member States should undertake a screening of the regulatory framework in key areas, starting with those linked to eco-innovation and to the European Innovation Partnerships. This will identify the rules that need to be improved or updated and/or new rules that need to be implemented in order to provide sufficient and continuous incentives to drive innovation. The Commission will provide guidance on how best to organise this screening exercise."

"By early 2011 the Commission will present an eco-innovation action plan building on the Innovation Union and focusing on the specific bottlenecks, challenges and opportunities for achieving environmental objectives through innovation."

The Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) finances the participation in an ERA-Net project about Eco-Innovation. The administration unit for the national environmental subsidies, the 'Kommunalkredit Public Consulting' (KPC), participated in several workshops and provided the national funding of international innovation projects.

Eco-Innovations, i. e. 'green' technologies, processes, products and services have an increasing impact on the global competitiveness of European industry. To reach a worldwide leading position, it needs to boost the implementation of Eco-Innovations in industry, especially in SMEs.

Therefore ECO-INNOVERA has supported research and dissemination in the field of Eco-Innovations. The success of Eco-Innovations is determined by criteria which were promoted through multi-level and systemic approach, considering the social, economic, political and technological context.

ECO-INNOVERA has

- provided best practice for research planning and funding on Eco-Innovation,
- established a networking platform for information exchange on Eco-Innovation in Europe,
- assessed potentials and challenges of research on Eco-Innovation and has developed measures to address them and
- developed target-group specific dissemination strategies to support the diffusion of Eco-Innovation along the whole value chain.

ECO-INNOVERA has been supported by 25 partners from 20 countries and regions all over Europe. Researchers have profited from facilitated access to transnational research. Activities for a better Eco-Innovation transfer from research to industry and market have been performed: e. g. assessing the role of information technology and of integrated concepts like 'green technology parks'. The public awareness of the ERA-Net and Eco-Innovations have been promoted via target-group selected tools and active interaction with stakeholders and/or expert networks.

Via the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) Austria is actively participating in the EIP on 'Smart Cities and Communities' (see Commitment 29) and is represented in the High Level Group (the leading body) of this EIP as the only representative of a member state. The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC) brings together cities, industry and citizens to improve urban life through more sustainable integrated solutions. This includes applied innovation, better planning, a more participatory approach, higher energy efficiency, better transport solutions, intelligent use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), etc. Corresponding activities of the BMVIT at a national level include research funding and involving key players, like the City of Vienna. There is also a close link to the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe, which is chaired by Austria, represented by BMVIT and the new ERA-NET Start Cities, that is coordinated by BMVIT and FFG.

Aside the BMVIT funds research and technology development by industry and by researchers in its eco-innovation programmes e.g. 'Haus Stadt der Zukunft' and 'Smart Grids', and is participating Active in the SET-Plan Priorities 'Smart City' and Smart grids.

Austria (represented by BMVIT and FFG) has very recently been invited to coordinate the ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus with a total budget of over 45 Mio. EURO.

It is an initiative of more than 20 European countries and regions. The common goal is effective collaboration on the level of Smart Grids. The main actors are Programme Managers responsible for enabling the right technologies, market designs and customer adoption to enable the Smart Grids vision and goals of Europe: an electric power system based energy system integrating renewable energies, flexible consumer technologies and a modern grid with high security of supply, very low greenhouse gas emissions at affordable price.

ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus will promote applied research, piloting and demonstration in the field of Smart Grids, with a focus on validation, scaling-up and replication, integrating the layers “technology”, “marketplace” and “adoption”

Above all, and on a more general level, the BMVIT is offering advice, service and support in innovative and sustainable economic management via the website www.nachhaltigwirtschaften.at .

Contact persons:

Gottfried LAMERS, BMLFUW

Andreas TSCHULIK, BMLFUW

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT (Commitment 18)

Commitment 16: Speed up and modernise standard-setting

“In early 2011, as a first step, the Commission will present a Communication accompanied by a legislative proposal on standardisation, which will inter alia cover the ICT sector, in order to speed up and modernise standard-setting to enable interoperability and foster innovation in fast-moving global markets. This will be combined with a multi-annual programme to anticipate new standardisation needs and integration of standards into R&D projects in the research Framework Programme. The Communication will also examine options for ensuring in a longer term perspective that the standardisation system is able to adapt to the quickly evolving environment and to contribute to Europe’s strategic internal and external objectives (relating, among others, to innovation and technological development), including through the launch of an independent review.”

Regulation (EU) No. 1025/2012⁴⁶ aims at modernising and improving the European standardisation and entered into force on January 1, 2013. Article 9 regulates that

“the Commission’s research facilities shall contribute to the preparation of the annual Union work programme for European standardisation referred to in Article 8 and provide European standardisation organisations with scientific input, in their areas of expertise, to ensure that European standards take into account economic competitiveness and societal needs such as environmental sustainability and safety and security concerns.”

The basis for the European standardisation reform was put forward in the Commission communication ‘A strategic vision for European standards’ KOM (2011)311 dated June 1, 2011, which is inter alia the basis of an independent review of the European Standardisation System.

At the national level

the Council of Ministers adopted a provisional standardisation strategy on August 26, 2014, which aims inter alia to improve competitiveness by establishing an early and stronger network relation between research and standardisation.

⁴⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) No 1025/2012](#) (p.22) of the European Parliament and of the Council on [EUR-Lex](#)

Schedule:

Independent review and national standardization strategy to be finalised 2015.

Current Status:

The EC Services commissioned Ernst& Young to perform the independent review.

The national standardisation strategy is under scrutiny and discussion among stakeholders.

Contact persons:

Gerald FREISTETTER, BMWFW

Josef KARNER, BMWFW

Commitment 17: Set aside dedicated national procurement budgets for innovation. Set up an EU level support mechanism and facilitate joint procurement.

"From 2011, Member States and regions should set aside dedicated budgets for pre-commercial procurements and public procurements of innovative products and services (including those defined by the Innovation Partnerships). This should create procurement markets across the EU starting from at least €10 billion a year for innovations that improve the efficiency and quality of public services, while addressing the major societal challenges. The aim should be to achieve innovative procurement markets equivalent to those in the US. The Commission will provide guidance and set up a (financial) support mechanism to help contracting authorities to implement these procurements in a non-discriminatory and open manner, to pool demand, to draw up common specifications, and to promote SME access.

In addition, the Commission will offer guidance on implementing joint procurements between contracting entities under the current public procurement directives and use the ongoing general evaluation of the current directives to examine the opportunity to introduce additional rules to make cross border joint procurement easier."

In September 2012 the Austrian Federal Government adopted the 'Austrian Action Plan on Public Procurement Promoting Innovation' (PPPI). Its aim in exploiting the large procurement volumes (about 40 billion Euro p.a. in Austria) is twofold: to encourage industry to deliver innovative goods and services on the one hand, and to supply public bodies and citizens with advanced and (eco)efficient goods and services on the other hand. The responsibility for the ongoing implementation of the PPPI Action Plan lies with the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) and the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT).

In July 2013 the Austrian public procurement law (BVerG) has been amended by inserting innovation as a secondary procurement objective (§§ 19 and §§ 187).

In September 2013 a 'PPPI Service Center'⁴⁷ was established within the Federal Procurement Agency (BBG), initiated and financed by the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) and

⁴⁷ Website: [PPPI Service Center](#) of BBG – Bundesbeschaffung GmbH / Federal Procurement Agency

the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT). It acts as point of single contact for PPPI issues in Austria, initiates and conducts PPPI pilot projects and offers services in the fields of further education & training as well as a PPPI online platform.

The PPPI Service Center at the Federal Procurement Agency (BBG) organises a series of "innovation platforms" in collaboration with enterprises, where public procurers and suppliers are able to exchange experiences. In 2013, two events were organised focusing on innovative interior lighting and outdoor lighting respectively. The PPPI Service Center is complemented and supported by PPPI centres of competence which have different thematic/sectorial focuses:

- General competence centre 'PCP' (Pre-Commercial Procurement):
Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
- General competence centre 'PPI' (Public Procurement of innovative solutions):
Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws)
- Sectorial competence centre 'Smart Mobility':
AustriaTech⁴⁸
- Sectorial competence centre 'Energy':
Austrian Energy Agency⁴⁹

Regional good practice initiative 'WienWin'

WienWin is an initiative designed to create a systematic exchange of information between the public authorities and companies owned by the City of Vienna on the one hand, and innovative companies, based in Vienna, on the other hand.

See <http://www.wienwin.at>

Contact persons:

Andreas ZACHARASIEWICZ, BMVIT

Bernd ZIMMER, BMWFW

Commitment 19: Establish a European Creative Industries Alliance. Set up a European Design Leadership Board.

"In 2011 the Commission will establish a European Creative Industries Alliance to develop new forms of support for these industries and promote the wider use of creativity by other sectors.

In 2011, the Commission will set up a European Design Leadership Board, which will be invited to make proposals within a year to enhance the role of design in innovation policy, for example through EU and/or national programmes, and a 'European Design Excellence' label."

The Commission reports in its 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010 – 2014', the European Creative Industries Alliance (ECIA) "is an open platform that brings together policy-makers

⁴⁸ Website: AustriaTech

⁴⁹ Website: Austrian Energy Agency

and business support practitioners from 28 partner organisations and 12 countries.”⁵⁰ It was established as a three-year initiative, which was set up in December 2012. “The final policy roadmap and concrete recommendations of the ECIA will be delivered at the end of 2014.”⁵¹

Furthermore the Commission set up the announced European Design Leadership Board in 2011. “The objective of the board was to make proposals on how to improve the integration of design and user-driven innovation into innovation policy and support. This group presented its recommendations in September 2012 at the European Design Innovation Summit in Helsinki.”⁵²

In Austria the Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economy subsumed under the umbrella ‘evolve’⁵³ all federal achievements of strengthening Austria’s creative industries.

Using a set of mutually coordinated measures, evolve addresses both enterprises from the creative industries and companies from other sectors which recognise the innovative power of creative achievements and use them for their own development. Such enterprises are supported by evolve all over Austria, across the sectors and throughout all stages of development an enterprise typically goes through.

The range of services by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, funded within the framework of evolve and implemented by such facilities as ‘aws Kreativwirtschaft’⁵⁴ and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber’s ‘creativ wirtschaft austria’⁵⁵, are aimed at exploiting the creative industries’ vast innovative potential to the full, and at maintaining and expanding Austria’s innovative development, which is excellent by comparison in Europe.

Through ‘aws Kreativwirtschaft’ and ‘creativ wirtschaft austria’, evolve bolsters up Austria’s creative industries using demand-oriented monetary funding, a wide range of services, including education and further training, consultation and networking, as well as measures for raising awareness as to the value and the potential of creative achievements.

In 2014 evolve was evaluated by a team of external experts. Beside the synergetic effects the experts highlighted the ‘holistic approach’ of evolve. This approach takes ‘promotion’ not as a single financial grant but as a modular system with complementary measures like services, training and awareness raising.

Therefore the evolve-programme will be continued and on October 1, 2014 the ‘Kreativwirtschaft-voucher’ was reissued.

Contact person: Josef MANDL, BMFWF

⁵⁰ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010 – 2014, (2014), p.50

⁵¹ ibid., p.51

⁵² ibid., p.52

⁵³ Website: [evolve](#)

⁵⁴ aws-weblink: [Kreativwirtschaft](#)

⁵⁵ Website: [creativ wirtschaft austria](#)

Commitment 20: Promote open access; support smart research information services

"The Commission will promote open access to the results of publicly funded research. It will aim to make open access to publications the general principle for projects funded by the EU research Framework Programmes. The Commission will also support the development of smart research information services that are fully searchable and allow results from research projects to be easily accessed."

As a result of this commitment "in July 2012 the Commission adopted the Communication 'Towards better access to scientific information: boosting the benefits of public investments in research'. It was accompanied by Recommendation to Member States on access to and preservation of scientific information. In Horizon 2020 (see commitment 6) the Commission has made open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications the default setting. A novelty in Horizon 2020 is the Open Research Data Pilot which aims to improve and maximise access to and re-use of research data generated by projects."⁵⁶

Austria does not have a national coordinated OA policy or initiatives organised centrally. There are individual institutions and scientists who are proactively promoting Open Access publishing. The 'Universities Austria'(UNIKO) signed the 'Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge' in the Sciences and Humanities in 2004, and an Open Access working group was formed after the publication of the Recommendations from the EU Working Group on Open Access in 2008. The results from this working group form the January 2010 recommendations from Universities Austria (UNIKO) regarding Open Access policies at universities. The working group recommended active support for a transition to the Open Access paradigm by means of a Green Road strategy - aware that use of existing repositories or the creation of new ones would require additional funding resources (including third-party ones).

Most target agreements between the Ministry of Science and Research and the universities as well as the Austrian Academy of Science now include (soft) measures with regard to OA.

The University of Graz adopted the first OA policy of an Austrian university in 2013.

The University of Vienna is also a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Scientific Knowledge.

The University of Vienna supports the call by policymakers for open access to academic publications. It cooperates with national and international institutions and plays an active part in related discussions (<http://www.univie.ac.at/rektorenteam/ug2002/developmentplan.pdf>).

Open Access is one the key priorities of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the main funding for basic research in Austria.

Open Access was enshrined as a topic of the future at the national level as the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development (RFTE) articulated Open Access in their Strategy 2020, that all public research results in Austria shall be freely accessible on the Internet by 2020.

Nevertheless, Austrian institutions are participating in a number of multi-stakeholder dialogues at national, European and/or international level to foster open access to and preservation of scientific information, e.g.:

- at the end of November 2012, the 'OA Network Austria' (OANA) was established at the initiative of the UNIKO and the Austrian Science Fund;

⁵⁶ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010 – 2014, (2014), p.54f

- the University of Vienna is the Austrian contact point of 'OpenAIRE' (<http://www.openaire.at/>);
- Vienna University Library is a member of SPARC Europe and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR);
- the FWF is a member/partner of following international Open Access Networks:
 - Science Europe Working Group Open Access to Scientific Publications
 - Science Europe Working Group
 - Funders Board of Europe PubMedCentral
 - Global Research Council
 - Knowledge Exchange
 - OAPEN
- furthermore, the FWF has been financially contributed to the following initiatives:
 - OAPEN: <http://www.oapen.org/peerreview?page=fwf>
 - DOAJ: <http://www.doaj.org/members>
 - OA Book Conference: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/open-access-monographs-in-the-humanities-and-social-sciences-01-jul-2013>
- contribution of the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT):
 - <http://list.scape-project.eu/confluence/display/AORW/Austrian+Open+Research+Wiki>
- Open Knowledge Foundation Austria (<http://okfn.at>) - this is an NGO Platform which has the aim to raise the awareness of Open Science. This Group is part of the OANA Network.

Contact persons:

Peter SEITZ, BMWWF

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT

Commitment 21: Facilitate collaborative research and knowledge transfer

"The Commission will facilitate effective collaborative research and knowledge transfer within the research Framework Programmes and beyond. It will work with stakeholders to develop a set of model consortium agreements with options ranging from traditional approaches to protect IP through to more open ones. Mechanisms are also needed to further strengthen knowledge transfer offices in public research organisations, in particular through trans-national collaboration."

The 'Final Report' of the Commissions' 'Knowledge Transfer Study 2010-2012' (published 2013) stated that Austria implemented 93% of the 2008 European Commission's 'Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of practice for universities and other public research organisations'.⁵⁷ Austria was the country with the highest implementation rate within the Member States.

⁵⁷ *ibid.*, p.9

The National Contact Point (NCP-IP)

in the Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economy (BMWF) has organised themed events with public research organisations. The BMWF has also given support to anchoring the IP Recommendation in the performance agreements of the universities to ensure that knowledge transfer is a strategic mission of universities and other public research organisations.

The Project 'Intellectual Property Agreement Guide' (IPAG) was launched in 2013.

A set of intellectual property agreements was made available helping the most appropriate model contract to be selected. Its use is voluntary. The model contracts were developed by all relevant stakeholders including SME's, industry and public research organisations and universities.

The commitment to the EU Strategy 'Europe 2020', the national RTI-strategy 'Strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation - Becoming an Innovation Leader' (2011) and the 'Austrian National Reform Plan 2014' stress the importance of the transfer of knowledge to companies as well as the increased use of the scientific research base.

Last not least the current Austrian Federal Government work programme for 2013-2018 states under the research chapter the willingness to safeguard knowledge transfer, increase cooperation between science and business and develop and implement a national strategy for intellectual property.

The new Programme 'Knowledge Transfer Centres and Exploitation of IPR', financed by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, started in 2014 and fosters active cooperation between excellent universities and research institutes as the sources of knowledge on the one hand and innovative companies which exploit it on the other hand. This cooperation should therefore be further strengthened to meet the growing need for innovative products and services. Only the swift and efficient translation of inventive talent into marketable products safeguards competitive advantages, value creation, jobs and thus prosperity.

The programme aims at activating innovation potential at universities by leveraging existing potential for exploitation and at using inter-organisational synergies as well as at creating optimised exploitation processes in business and society.

The three modules of the programme are:

- Knowledge Transfer Centres - Regional and Thematic Centres
- Patent Funding
- Prototype Funding.

Contact person: Daniela KOPRIVA-URBAS, BMWF

Commitment 22: Develop a European knowledge market for patents and licencing

"By the end of 2011, working closely with Member States and stakeholders, the Commission will make proposals to develop a European knowledge market for patents and licensing. This should build on Member State experience in trading platforms that match supply and demand, market places to enable financial investments in intangible assets, and other ideas for breathing new life into neglected intellectual property, such as patent pools and innovation brokering."

The Commission reports⁵⁸ about a Staff Working Document 'Towards enhanced patent valorisation for growth and jobs'⁵⁹ which "...presents the major obstacles that European companies, mainly SMEs, face in exploiting patents, especially 'dormant patents'. While describing current initiatives aiming at addressing issues in this area in Member States and at the level of the EU, the document also outlines short-, medium- and long-term options which could be undertaken in the Union to tap the potential for economic growth by better exploiting patents."⁶⁰

"In order to gather insights on how to address the barriers identified, two Expert Groups were created:

- Expert group on IP valuation...
- Expert group on Patent valorisation..."⁶¹

"A pilot project was also launched in 2013 to assess the feasibility of an IP market place to raise the exploitation of patents from the demand-side and it will deliver its results at the end of 2014."⁶²

There is no clear contact point yet on national level.

Contact person: n.n.

Commitment 23: Safeguard against the use of IPRs for anti-competitive purposes

"The Commission will examine the role of Competition Policy in safeguarding against the use of intellectual property rights for anti-competitive purposes. It will analyse the implications of collaborative IPR agreements as part of its review of the application of its anti-trust rules to horizontal agreements between competing companies."

This Commitment primarily addresses the Commission.

According to the Commissions' 2014 report 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014' "The Commission adopted the Guidelines on horizontal agreements in 2010. The revised chapter on standardisation agreements provides guidance on how industry should structure their

⁵⁸ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014, (2014), p.58f

⁵⁹ see [Commission SWD Towards enhanced patent valorisation for growth and jobs](#)

⁶⁰ European Commission, State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014, (2014)., p.58

⁶¹ *ibid.*, p.59

⁶² *ibid.*, p.59

standard setting agreements in order to avoid the risk of infringing EU competition law. ... In relation to the misuse of intellectual property rights in this context, for example the so called patent ambush, the line is to, to the extent possible, minimise the risk for that type of behaviour by building in safeguards in the standard setting process. These rules now apply to national competition authorities, the Commission, companies and national courts."⁶³

There is no clear contact point yet on national level.

Contact person: n.n.

Commitment 24 and 25: Improve the use of structural funds for research and innovation

"Starting in 2010: Member States should considerably improve their use of existing Structural Funds for research & innovation projects, helping people to acquire the necessary skills, improving the performance of national systems and implementing smart specialisation strategies and trans-national projects. This should also apply to the pre-accession funding for EU candidate countries. The Commission stands ready to assist and will use its regional research and cluster initiatives to support this change and establish a "smart specialisation platform" by 2012, including further support for the emergence of world class clusters. Further details are in an accompanying Communication."

"Member States should initiate the preparation of post 2013 Structural Fund programmes with an increased focus on innovation and smart specialisation. Future regulations governing the operation of the European Regional Development Fund should further commit substantial financial resources to support innovation initiatives within the regions of the European Union."

Referring to the agenda of post 2013 Structural Funds:

As a short term commitment, Austria will fulfil the ERDF⁶⁴ ex-ante-conditionality (RIS3 framework) with the Federal Government STI-Strategy. At the same time, all nine regions share a well-established culture of multi-annual strategic priority-setting with stakeholder-involvement and periodic re-assessment where S3 plays a growing role. Altogether, Austria places longer termed and broad attention to the concept of smart specialisation.

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 will be set out in a Partnership Agreement to be approved by the Austrian authorities and the European Commission.

The main challenges for Austria are related to innovation, the labour market, social inclusion and education, and the reduction of CO2 emissions together with other measures of environmental protection under the following priorities:

- supporting innovation, smart specialisation and the business environment for SMEs;
- exploiting the labour market potential of older people, women, migrants and people at risk of social exclusion, and improving education outcomes;
- promoting energy efficiency and reducing CO2 intensity;
- equality between men and women including in reconciliation of work and private life;

⁶³ *ibid.*, p.59

⁶⁴ see weblink [ERDF / EFRE](#) on [ÖROK - Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning](#)

- active and healthy ageing;
- active inclusion with a view to improving employability;
- reducing early school leaving promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education;
- enhancing equal access to lifelong learning, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce;
- social innovations in labour market, education and social policies in order to address social challenges within the regions.⁶⁵

Concerning 'Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialization' (RIS3), Austria is a player and partner of the Commission from the very beginning. The experts group report 'The role of Universities and Research Organisations as drivers for Smart Specialisation at regional level' (2014) highlights Austria as an exemplary 'Smart Scheme for RIS3':

"The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research is encouraging universities to take a proactive role in the knowledge triangle in order to mobilise and underpin universities' role as 'lead institutions' in regional smart specialisation strategies. As part of the universities' three year performance contracts the ministry has invited Austrian universities to position themselves in their region with the help of a 'location concept' (Standortkonzept) in order to integrate their regional role into the internationalisation strategy for research. With the help of the location concept the university is able to highlight its position within a critical network of excellence with strategic partners in industry, business and academia in a self-selected area of close collaboration and will also be able to attract private and public funding including EU cohesion funding. The location concepts also help raise awareness among local authorities on the importance and impact of universities in regional development.

Altogether 15 out of 22 universities are participating in the process that involves self-assessment, identification of key partners/networks, target setting and monitoring by mid-2014. The ministry plays an active role in the process: it negotiates with the HEIs, monitors the implementation of the strategies, and provides feedback on the strategic outcomes and where necessary brokers between the players in higher education and research sector at the regional and national level. No additional funding has been allocated for HEIs for the process, but the outcomes may impact on national funding allocation in future."⁶⁶

Moreover, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW) in cooperation with 'Joanneum Research' developed a brochure 'RIS3 Key'⁶⁷, which is in the meantime attached to the European Commission's RIS3-Guide and translated into several European languages.

Currently e.g. Austria participates in the 'EU Strategy for the Danube Region' (EUSDR), first launched in 2011, in which RIS3 plays a major role. The last workshop in Brussels in April 2014 was to focus the joint attention of policy makers on a limited number of concrete steps to be taken towards a more efficient and effective governance of trans-national projects in the field of R&I, and to take those conclusions for the definition of a possible roadmap linked to the start-up of 2014-2020 ESIF programmes.

Contact person: Armin MAHR, BMWFW

⁶⁵ European Commission, Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020 / Country factsheet Austria, 2014, p.2

⁶⁶ European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, The role of Universities and Research Organisations as drivers for Smart Specialisation at regional level, 2014, p.31f

⁶⁷ See on [ERA Portal Austria](#) : [Knowledge & Innovation-driven Regional Growth and Smart Specialisation](#)

Commitment 26: Launch a Social Innovation pilot; promote social innovation in European Social Fund

"The Commission will launch a European Social Innovation pilot which will provide expertise and a networked 'virtual hub' for social entrepreneurs and the public and third sectors.

It will promote social innovation through the European Social Fund (ESF) building on the significant investments in social innovation which the ESF has made over the last ten years, all along the innovation cycle. This will be complemented by support to innovative social experiments to be developed in the framework of the European Platform against Poverty.

Social innovation should become a mainstream focus in the next generation of European Social Fund programmes. Member States are encouraged to already step up efforts to promote social innovation through the ESF."

Innovation is a basic principle as well as a horizontal objective within ESF-OP Employment 2007-2013. Measures co-financed by ESF follow this principle in Austria. Therefore 2,5% of the budget was subject for innovative measures.

Some examples for social innovation projects through the ESF in Austria (ESF priority 3b: Integration of marginalised groups into the labour market):

- developing a mode (clearing) able to be transferred on 'demand-oriented minimum collateral';
- establishing a helpdesk and care facility 'ABBE' in conjunction with the implementation of 'demand-oriented minimum collateral';
- implementation of the one-stop-shop principle for persons entitled to be granted asylum;
- methods to identify skills and language acquisition of migrants and integrative support.

The upcoming ESF-OP 2014-2020 will even more focus on innovation: it will attract new target groups as well as develop and test innovative measures.

The upgrading of the employment capacities, securing the job site and strengthening the social solidarity by integrating marginal groups will be one aspect of future social innovations within the ESF Programme 2014-2020.

According to press releases⁶⁸ on the annual event 'OE1-Open-Innovation Forum' in October 2014, the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development is working on a recommendation about 'social innovation', the aws is thinking about a start-up promotional programme for 'social entrepreneurs' and the FFG is more and more including social aspects of innovations in its programmes.

Contact persons:

Bibiana KLINGSEISEN, BMASK

Matthias REITER-PÁZMÁNDY, BMWFW

⁶⁸ see on ORF: <http://science.orf.at/stories/1747934/>

Commitment 27: Support a research programme on public sector and social innovation; pilot a European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard

"Starting in 2011, the Commission will support a substantial research programme on public sector and social innovation, looking at issues such as measurement and evaluation, financing and other barriers to scaling up and development. As an immediate step, it will pilot a European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard as a basis for further work to benchmark public sector innovation. It will explore with Member States whether it is appropriate to bring together new learning experiences and networks for public sector leaders at European level."

Since 2011 the European Commission has been piloting the European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard (EPSIS) as a first basis to benchmark public sector innovation in Europe. The ultimate ambition of this initiative is to capture and present public sector innovation in a similar way to countries' innovation performance in the Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS) and thereby encourage and facilitate innovation activity across the public sector. The 2013 pilot EPSIS was the first EU wide attempt to better understand and to analyse innovation in the public sector. It was developed based on the experience of earlier national and regional projects, tested widely and discussed with a number of key relevant experts. The EPSIS has been further developed in 2014.

Representative for the Austrian efforts in public sector innovation are five projects which were awarded with the 'Best Practice Certificate' by the 'European Public Sector Award 2013' (EPSA 2013)⁶⁹ and one innovation, which gained a first prize at the 'UN Public Service Award' (2014)⁷⁰:

European Public Service Award 2013 (awarding every second year):

- EDM - Elektronisches Datenmanagement Umwelt, BMLFUW
(EDM - Electronic Data Management Environment, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water management)
- USP – Österreichisches Unternehmensservice Portal, BMF
(Austrian Business Service Portal, Federal Ministry of Finance)
- Oberösterreichische Wintersportwoche, Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Familienreferat
(Upper Austrian Winter Sports Week, Federal State Government of Upper Austria)
- Verbesserung der Verwaltungsqualität – Zusammenführung der Bezirke Judenburg und Knittelfeld zum neuen Bezirk Murtal, Bezirkshauptmannschaft Murtal
(Improvement of administration – merger of the districts Judenburg and Knittelfeld, District Office of Murtal)
- Wiener Charta. Zukunft Gemeinsam Leben, Stadt Wien
(The Vienna Charta. Shaping the future together., City of Vienna)

The UN Public Service Award 2014 :

- data.gv.at – Offene Daten Österreichs, Bundeskanzleramt
(data.gv.at – Open Data Austria, Federal Chancellery)

Contact person: Michael KALLINGER, BKA

⁶⁹ Website: [EPSA 2013](#)

⁷⁰ Website: [UN Public Service Awards](#)

Commitment 29: Pilot and present proposals for European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)

"The Council, Parliament, Member States, industry and other stakeholders are invited to support the innovation partnership concept and to indicate the specific commitments they will undertake to make the concept work. The Commission invites all key stakeholders to commit themselves to pooling efforts and resources to achieve the partnership's intended objectives.

The Commission would welcome views and ideas on the areas being considered for future partnerships and other possible candidates that meet the success criteria.

As a first concrete step, the Commission has start preparations in the pilot partnership on active and healthy ageing in 2011. Taking into account the views of Parliament and Council and input from other stakeholders, it will present an assessment of the experiences in this pilot in summer 2011, and present proposals for further partnerships in autumn 2011."

European Innovation Partnerships are a challenge-driven mechanism across the entire research and innovation chain. EIPs bring together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional level in order to:

- step up research and development efforts
- coordinate investments in demonstration and pilots
- anticipate and fast-track any necessary regulation and standards
- mobilise 'demand', in particular through better coordinated public procurement, to ensure that any breakthroughs are quickly brought to market.

Rather than taking the above steps independently, the aim of the EIPs is to design and implement them in parallel to cut lead times.

On a European Level there are currently 5 EIPs on track:

- EIP on 'Active and Healthy Aging' as the EIP-pilot, launched 2011
- EIP on 'Water', June 2012
- EIP on 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability', June 2012
- EIP on 'Raw Materials', October 2012
- EIP on 'Smart Cities and Communities', March 2013

As well as the Austrian Government gives support to the Austrian applicants for the 'KIC on Raw Materials' (see Commitment 9), Austria is actively participating in the EIP on 'Raw Materials' by:

- contribution to the steering of the EIP by Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner⁷¹ as a member of HLSG;
- establishment of a national mirror group at the level of the Austrian Resources Alliance;
- active participation of Austrian stakeholders in the design of the Strategic Implementation Plan;
- organizing a launch event for the presentation and promotion of the EIP on Raw Materials in Nov. 2013 (Enquete on Resources 2013) by BMWFW and EUMICON⁷²;
- consultation of stakeholders by BMWFW, advertising and direct participation in the EIP 'call for commitment';
- results of the call: 4 of 80 projects with Austrian lead, 20 projects with Austrian participation, 42 Austrian partners involved;
- BMWFW consults stakeholders on technical applications of H2020 tenders;

⁷¹ BMWFW - Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft / Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

⁷² Website: EUMICON – [European Mineral Resources Confederation](#)

- BMWFW consulted FFG concerning call 'Critical Raw Materials' in the research program 'factories of the future' (program owner BMVIT); call 'Critical Raw Materials' is to be understood as national R & D contribution to the implementation of technology-related EIP objectives;
- BMWFW provides budget for the enforcement of the 'Deposit Law'; implementation of the program for the enforcement of the deposit law is to be understood as national R & D contribution to the implementation of applied EIP objectives;
- Contribution to the implementation of the non-technological measures of EIP by CD Labs (Anthropogenic resources, lithium batteries, optimization and biomass use in the recycling of heavy metals), 'Mineral Resources Strategy' of BMWFW and 'Resource Efficiency Action Plan' of the BMLFUW.

Another EIP with particular engagement on the part of Austria is the EIP on 'Smart Cities and Communities' with the lead responsibility in Austria on part of BMVIT.

The EIP on 'Smart Cities and Communities' is a partnership across the areas of energy, transport, information and communication. It aims at catalysing progress in areas where energy production, distribution and use, mobility and transport, information and communication technologies (ICT) are linked and offer new interdisciplinary opportunities to address cities' needs⁷³. This will enable innovative, integrated and efficient technologies to roll out and enter the market more easily, while placing cities at the centre of innovation.⁷⁴

Experts from the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) are members of the European Commission's 'High-Level Steering Group' (HLSG):

- a day after the official launch event in Brussels, November 26, 2013, the 'EIP on Smart Cities and Communities' was presented at the 'Smart Cities Week' in Vienna
- in October 2013 the HLSG published an implementation plan, describing the agendas referring to three industrial key industries (verticals) and eleven enabling structures (horizontal)⁷⁵
- in January 2014 the implementation phase started
- on June 16, 2014 the Invitation for Commitments was closed: more than 350 commitments were submitted by around 2500 partners from all over Europe.

Contact persons:

Georg PANHOLZER, BMWFW

Martin SCHMID, BMWFW

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT

⁷³ see on ERA Portal Austria: [Smart Cities and Communities - European Innovation Partnership](#)

⁷⁴ see website of the 'Climate and Energy Fund' [Smart Cities - Intelligent Cities in Europe](#)

⁷⁵ see on European Commission > EIP > Smart Cities and Communities: [EIP SCC - Strategic Implementation Plan](#)

Commitment 30: Put in place integrated policies to attract global talent

"By 2012, the European Union and its Member States should put into place integrated policies to ensure that the best academics, researchers and innovators reside and work in Europe and to attract a sufficient number of highly skilled third country nationals to stay in Europe."

According to Deloitte's 'Researchers' Report 2014'⁷⁶ and according to the feedback of the main Austrian stakeholders, Austria took a set of measures to attract and retain 'leading' national, EU and third country researchers:

- ASCINA (Austrian Scientists in North America Initiative)
- Office of Science and Technology Austria (OSTA)
- ASCINA Awards, BMWFW
- Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals, 2011 and 2013
- Researcher Career Grants, BMVIT/FFG, as part of the Talents programme
- Scientific Visa Directive, 2005
- The Austrian Job Exchange for Research, Development and Innovation
- EURAXESS Austria

National initiatives:

In order to facilitate immigration of foreign researchers and scientists, as well as of other qualified immigrants, Austria introduced a criteria based immigration scheme by implementing the residence title 'Red-White-Red Card' in July 2011. The 'Red-White-Red Card' scheme aims at a flexible immigration of qualified third-country workers and their families who wish to settle in Austria according to personal and labour market criteria.

The most important requirements are qualification, work experience, age, language skills, job offer according to the qualification and minimum remuneration.

In order to achieve a sustained successful development of the Austrian economy, it has been a key issue for Austria to provide young and qualified people from abroad with an attractive study and employment location. Therefore third-country nationals who have pursued and successfully completed a Diploma or Master's programme at an Austrian university and fill a position suiting their level of qualification can switch to a 'Red-White-Red Card' under facilitated conditions, as there is no labour market test nor an examination according to the points system.

Furthermore, holders of a residence permit 'Student' who have successfully completed their studies in Austria can obtain a confirmation to be able to reside in Austria for a further six months to search for employment. This provides graduates, who find themselves in a decisive orientation phase with the opportunity to find a job corresponding to their level of education after graduation and to subsequently build the foundation of a successful integration into the Austrian labour market.

As a special target group, researchers may also obtain a residence permit 'Researchers', which can be issued for a duration of up to two years and enables – like the 'Red-White-Red Card' – subsequently the permanent settlement in Austria (cf. Directive 2005/71/EC).

⁷⁶ Deloitte, Researchers' Report 2014 – Country Profile Austria (2014), p.19f

Family members of 'Red-White-Red Card' holders as well as family members of holders of a residence permit 'Researcher' enjoy free access to the labour market.

In order to specifically address qualified immigrants, a migration portal (www.migration.gv.at) has been created to inform third-country nationals about essential requirements of immigration to Austria and subsequently on living and working in Austria.

Researcher Career Grants – as part of the Talents programme (BMVIT/FFG)

Researchers Career Grants aim to attract researchers from abroad to conduct application-oriented research in Austria. The funding includes:

- The journey to Austria for job interviews in the field of research, development and innovation for researchers living abroad (*Interview Grant*);
- Relocation costs when taking up a post in the field of research, development and innovation (*Relocation Grant*);
- The professional integration of a qualified partner when a researcher living abroad relocates to Austria (*Dual Career Grant*).

Initiatives at European level:

With the aim of further enhancing the attractiveness of the European Union for researchers and international students, a recast of the Directive 2005/71/EC (Researcher directive) and the Directive 2004/114/EC (Student directive) is currently under negotiation.

EURAXESS Austria

EURAXESS Austria <http://www.euraxess.at/> provides access to current and comprehensive information on all questions essential to the mobility of researchers and their families. This website is part of the EU-initiative 'EURAXESS - Researchers in Motion' <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>.

Information on following areas is available:

- Research funding
- Research job vacancies
- Legal issues (visa, work permits, entry and residency conditions, social security, tax issues)
- Administrative and cultural issues (housing, language courses, child-care, etc.)
- Austrian research landscape (wide scope of research institutions and activities across Austria)
- Women in science (promotion of women, strategic information, activities, databases)
- Access to EURAXESS websites of other countries
- Contact details of EURAXESS Service Centres

In order to improve the welcoming culture for qualified migrants in the near future, Austrian authorities envisage to convert the welcome desks of the Austrian Integration Fund into initial contact points for migrants all over the country and to install 'integration representatives' with Austrian Embassies in priority partnership countries.

Contact person: Julia TSCHELAUT, BMWFW

Commitment 31: Propose common EU/Member States priorities and approaches for scientific cooperation with third countries

"The European Union and its Member States must treat scientific cooperation with third countries as an issue of common concern and develop common approaches. This should contribute to global approaches and solutions to societal challenges and to the establishment of a level-playing field (removing barriers to market access, facilitating standardisation, IPR protection, access to procurement etc.).

In 2012 together with the ERA Framework, the Commission will propose common EU / Member States priorities in S&T as a basis for coordinated positions or joint initiatives vis-a-vis third countries, building on the work of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation. In the meantime, the EU and Member States should act in a concerted manner when engaging in S&T agreements and activities with third countries. The potential scope for 'umbrella' agreements between the EU and Member States with third countries will be explored."

The Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union asks for common approaches, coordinated positions and joint initiatives vis-à-vis third countries, building on the work of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation: a review on the various integrated policies in place and measures aimed at attracting and retaining 'leading' national, EU and third country researchers.

Austrian strategies in this respect are e.g. the Work Program of the Austrian Federal Government 2013-2018 the White Paper on the steering of research, technology and innovation in Austria by the Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development. The Austrian RTD Strategy 'Becoming an Innovation Leader – Realising Potentials, Increasing Dynamics, Creating the Future' is part of the Researchers' Report 2014, Country Profile: Austria.

Furthermore, Austria's international RTI strategy 'Beyond Europe' and EURAXESS Austria www.euraxess.at provide information on the following subject areas:

- instruments to be established and measures to be taken to drive internationalisation of Austrian RTI;
- target regions for increased international RTI cooperation;
- research funding;
- research job opportunities;
- legal issues (visa, work permits, entry and residence conditions, social security, tax issues);
- administrative and cultural issues (housing, language courses, childcare, etc.);
- the Austrian research landscape;
- women in science;
- potential research partners;
- access to other countries' EURAXESS portals, and contact details of EURAXESS Services Centres.

Under the framework of the RTI Strategy of the Austrian Federal Government ('Becoming an Innovation Leader – Realising Potentials, Increasing Dynamics, Creating the Future'), the strategic recommendations of the working group on International Cooperation involving all major RTI players in Austria, will be implemented in due course (budgets permitting). The main thrust of activities will be directed towards better coordination of national activities in the international field as well as to facilitate up-to-date international services (science attaché network etc.). Bilateral agreements are an important tool for Austria's international RTI cooperation and a number of new agreements (European third countries, Latin America) have been concluded and more are currently under negotiation. In general, international partners are welcome to participate in Austrian research programmes, the programmes of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) being a case in fact.

Having in mind the strong participation of Austrian institutions in the European Framework Programme 7's INCO-programme, Austria will continue to actively participate in INCO-Activities and Calls in H2020 and will contribute to the work of SFIC.

Austria has started being active in international joint RTD-Calls and has conducted one joint call with China in Nanomaterials and one joint call with Russia in the frame of an ERA_NET+ in the RTD-fields Transport, Energy, ICT and production.

Austria was an active participant in awareness-raising activities such as the EU Tours of India and China, as well as in the events in the framework of Destination Europe.

Considering the importance of strategic European macro-regional activities, Austria has pioneered the first regional process in the Western Balkan Countries, and is now actively involved in implementing measures and activities in the context of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region e.g. through participation in the Danube INCO-NET project.

Austria will also be engaged in the preparatory work for the macro-regional strategy on the Alpine Region where the Council in its conclusions from December 19/20 2013 has asked the European Commission to elaborate a strategy by June 2015.

Contact persons:

Heribert BUCHBAUER, BMWFW

Brigitte WEISS, BMVIT

Commitment 32: Roll out global research infrastructures

"The European Union should step up its cooperation on the roll-out of the global research infrastructures. By 2012, agreement should be reached with international partners on the development of research infrastructures which owing to cost and/or complexity can only be developed on a global scale."

In 2014 the Commission reports in 'State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010 – 2014':

"In 2013, the G8 Science Ministers agreed on proposing some new areas for collaboration among G8 members, including Global Research infrastructures and adopted a framework for cooperation which describes the principles and reference terms. ...

A new mandate for the Group of Senior Officials (GSO) was also approved, enabling them to promote this framework and exchange information on potential future research infrastructures that may present opportunities for international collaboration. ...

The GSO has been invited by the G8 Science Ministers to report on progress in 2015."⁷⁷

Concerning this Commitment there are no new findings available.

Contact person: Daniel WESELKA, BMWFW

⁷⁷ *ibid.*, p.83

Commitment 33: Member States R&I Systems

"Member States are invited to carry out self-assessments based on the policy features identified in Annex 1 and identify key challenges and critical reforms as part of their National Reform Programmes. The Commission will support this process through exchanges of best practice, peer reviews and developing the evidence base. It will also apply them to its own research and innovation initiatives. Progress will be monitored in the framework of the integrated economic coordination ('European semester')."

A communication (1209/14) of the 'European Research Area and Innovation Committee' (ERAC), dated June 2, 2014, titled 'ERAC opinion on National Reform Programmes 2014' describes and analyses the current reporting and monitoring of research and innovation measures and policies.⁷⁸

In a nutshell:

Member States are required to submit in April each year (as part of the 'European Semester') updated National Reform Programmes (NRPs), including in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy a report in this regard of the main policy developments and their prospective outcome.

In particular the Member States are required to

- report in detail reform measures that address each of the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)
- report progress in reaching their national Europe 2020 targets
- report measures addressing
 - 'Annual Growth Survey' priorities
 - 'Euro Plus Pact' commitments
 - the reform of the national research systems in line with the European Research Area.

These are the measures that cover commitments of the 'Innovation Union'.

Nevertheless ERAC assesses that on the one hand the Member States put a lot of effort in delivering above mentioned reports, on the other hand the reports of the Member States differ in detail as well as in extent concerning measures and policies in research and innovation.

The increasing reporting burden of Member States concurrently incomparable reports because of various reporting exercises demand a re-design and streamlining of the reporting structures.

For Austria the Austrian Government ordered a study about the impact of Austria's measures and policies concerning research and innovation on employment and economic growth. The results will be used for Austria's next NRP.

Contact persons:

Martin SCHMID, BMWFW

Andreas ZACHARASIEWICZ, BMVIT

⁷⁸ see on ERA-Portal Austria: [ERAC opinion on NRPs 2014 \(ERAC1209/14\)](#)

Commitment 34: Develop an Innovation Headline Indicator and monitor progress using Innovation Union Scoreboard

"The Commission proposes to launch the necessary work for the development of a new indicator measuring the share of fast-growing innovative companies in the economy. This will require the full cooperation of Member States and international partners. Subject to these commitments, the Commission will submit the necessary proposals and take urgent action to develop this indicator within the next two years, working with the OECD, as appropriate, so that it can become, over time a new headline indicator allowing as part of the EU 2020 strategy to benchmark the EU's performance against its main trading partners. Starting immediately, the Commission will monitor overall progress on innovation performance using the Research and Innovation Union Scoreboard."

Austria sees the new innovation output indicator critically. Therefore Austria has prepared an Austrian position paper concerning this indicator including an abridged English version (see below). This position paper was transmitted to the Commission in October 2013 and has been discussed with the Commission:

"Austria has been supporting the development of the new output-based indicator on fast-growing innovative enterprises. However, the current proposal by European Commission for an EU Innovation Indicator has been critically reviewed by Austrian innovation experts.

Several structural issues, affecting the reliability and policy usability of this indicator have been detected:

- Patent applications represent preliminary work. It is therefore questionable to use them as indicator for innovation output. They do not offer information about the actual implementation of innovative activities or market success of the patented process.
- Despite of its objective, the current indicator offers a too narrow account of the innovation dimensions within an economy. The identification of innovative activities is based on a standardised statistical classification system (NACE). The chosen measures are biased towards the detection of so called structural up-grading, i.e. the relative gain in importance of certain sectors, statistically classified as innovative. It is not directly possible to measure improvements of the innovation performance within a sector (sectoral up-grading). Due to their statistical ex-ante classification as being non-innovative, certain sectors and its firms are excluded from being influential for the indicators score.
- The sub-indicator for measuring the competitiveness of service exports has structural flaws as it consists of the relation between innovative service exports and total service exports. Countries with a large tourist-sector are discriminated as this sector is generally classified as non-innovative, whereas coastal countries might be privileged as the maritime sector counts as innovative.

Overall, the economic structure seems to have an over-proportional impact on a country's performance according to the indicator. In addition to the structural flaws in the sub-indicators, the overall objective to provide an easy-to-use, comparable measure for innovation has not been reached yet. Interpreting the results for every country still requires further in-depth reviews, and no conclusions for innovation policies could be directly drawn from this draft indicator.

Austria therefore recommends a further re-design of this indicator, addressing the relevant issues mentioned above, to allow for a comprehensible, reliable and broad-based view on the innovation performance of the member states."

Concerning the Innovation Union Scoreboard, Austria places great importance on the constant refinement of IUS indicators, both with an internal European and an external worldwide vision to give a realistic account of the EU's and member states' competitiveness in a global context.

Austria's dual vocational education system has proven highly resilient and supportive to youth employment during the crisis. Similar to Germany, Austria also offers post-secondary (ISCED 4a) training in several sectors that is equivalent to tertiary (ISCED 5) grades in other countries. The European Commission has been acknowledging this fact in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy by counting equivalent ISCED 4a grades into the national tertiary education goal. Austria would therefore propose to bring IUS in line with the EU 2020 discourse by adapting indicator 1.1.2 (Percentage population aged 30-40 having completed tertiary education "or equivalent") and including equivalent ISCED 4a grades.

Contact persons:

Armin MAHR, BMWFW

Josef MANDL, BMWFW

Andreas ZACHARASIEWICZ, BMVIT

Bibliography & Web-links

(Complementary to the footnotes)

Basic literature

- European Commission, (2010), *Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative "Innovation Union"* (text only). Retrieved from "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents": http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/innovation-union-communication_en.pdf
- European Commission, (2010), *Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative "Innovation Union"* (put into graphs). Retrieved from "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents": http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/innovation-union-communication-brochure_en.pdf
- European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents": http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2013/state_of_the_innovation_union_report_2013.pdf
- European Commission – DG Enterprise & Industry, (2014), *Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Enterprise & Industry >> Industrial Innovation Policy": http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/ius/ius-2014_en.pdf
- European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *Research and innovation performance in the EU – Innovation Union progress at country level 2014*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents": http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/state-of-the-union/2014/iuc_progress_report_2014.pdf

Comprehensive position papers

- Austrian Federal Government, (2008), *Government programme 2008-2013 "Together for Austria" / Regierungsprogramm 2008-2013 "Gemeinsam für Österreich"* (German). Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <http://www.austria.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=32965>
- Austrian Federal Government, (2011), *Becoming an Innovation Leader - Strategy for research, technology and innovation of the Austrian Federal Government*. Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at/DocView.axd?CobId=53771>
- Austrian Federal Chancellery, (2013), *National Reform Programme 2013*. Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <https://www.bka.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=49942>
- Working Group 7b (Europe) of the RTI Task Force, (2013), *Austrian EU Action Plan*. Retrieved from "ERA Portal Austria": <http://era.qv.at/directory/159>
- Austrian Federal Government, (2013), *Work programme of the Austrian Federal Government 2013-2018 "Austria. A story of success."* Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <http://www.bka.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=53588>
- Austrian Federal Chancellery, (2014), *National Reform Programme 2014*. Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <https://www.bka.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=56730>
- Working Group 4 (Research Infrastructure) of the RTI Task Force, (2014), *Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2014-2020 / Österreichischer Forschungsinfrastruktur Aktionsplan 2014-2020* (German). Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at/DocView.axd?CobId=54964>
- BMWFW & BMVIT – Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy & Federal Ministry of Traffic, Innovation and Technology, (2014), *Austrian Research and Technology Report 2014*. Retrieved from "Federal Ministry of Traffic, Innovation and Technology": http://www.bmvit.gv.at/en/service/publications/downloads/downloads_ftb/ftb_2014_en.pdf

Commitment 1

- BMWFW – Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, (2009), *National Action Plan for Researchers*. Retrieved from "EURAXESS": http://www.euraxess.at/fileadmin/oad_zentrale/euraxess/Austrian_National_Action_Plan_for_Researchers.pdf
- European Commission, (2012), *MORE2 – Country Profile Remuneration Austria*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Euraxess > Research Policies": http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/more2/country_files_more2/2013_07_05_country_profile_AT.pdf
- Deloitte, (2014), *Researchers' Report 2014 - Country Profile Austria*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Euraxess > Research Policies": http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/country_files/Austria_Country_Profile_RR2014_FINAL.pdf
- Deloitte, (2014), *Researchers' Report 2014 – Scorecards*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Euraxess > Research Policies": http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Researchers%20Report%202014_SCORECARDS_FINAL.pdf
- Deloitte, (2014), *Researchers' Report 2014 – A selection of good practices*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Euraxess > Research Policies": http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Researchers%20Report_2014_GOOD%20PRACTICES_FINAL.pdf

Commitment 2

- U-Multiranks' ranking "Research and Research Linkages" (2014):
[http://www.umultirank.org/#!/readymade?trackType=illustrative&siteMode=undefined&ranking=6&sortCol=sortValues\[0\]&sortOrder=asc§ion=illustrativeRanking](http://www.umultirank.org/#!/readymade?trackType=illustrative&siteMode=undefined&ranking=6&sortCol=sortValues[0]&sortOrder=asc§ion=illustrativeRanking)
- U-Multiranks' ranking "Economic Involvement" (2014):
[http://www.umultirank.org/#!/readymade?trackType=illustrative&siteMode=undefined&ranking=7&sortCol=sortValues\[0\]&sortOrder=asc§ion=illustrativeSelectRanking](http://www.umultirank.org/#!/readymade?trackType=illustrative&siteMode=undefined&ranking=7&sortCol=sortValues[0]&sortOrder=asc§ion=illustrativeSelectRanking)
- U-Multiranks' ranking "Business Studies Programmes" (2014):
<http://www.umultirank.org/#!/readymade?trackType=illustrative&siteMode=undefined&ranking=8&sortCol=overallPerformance&sortOrder=desc§ion=illustrativeRanking>

Commitment 3

- The e-skill initiative of the European Commission *e-Competence Framework 3.0*:
<http://www.ecompetences.eu/>

Commitment 4

- European Commission - DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *ERA Progress Report 2014 - Communication*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Research & Innovation > ERA":
http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/era_progress_report2014/era_progress_report_2014_communication.pdf
- European Commission - DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *ERA Progress Report 2014 - Facts & Figures*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Research & Innovation > ERA":
http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/pdf/era_progress_report2014/era_facts&figures_2014.pdf
- European Commission - DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *ERA Progress Report 2014 - Country Fiches: Austria (et al)*. Retrieved from "ERA Portal Austria": <http://era.gv.at/object/document/1449>
- European Commission - JRC Science and Policy Reports / Alexander CUNTZ, (2014), *ERAWATCH Country Reports 2013: Austria*. Retrieved from "European Commission > ERAWATCH":
http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/export/sites/default/galleries/generic_files/file_0509.pdf
- ERA-Portal Austria:
<http://era.gv.at/>
- ERA-Website of the European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

Commitment 5

- Working Group 4 (Research Infrastructure) of the RTI Task Force, (2014), *Austrian Research Infrastructure Action Plan 2014-2020 / Österreichischer Forschungsinfrastruktur Aktionsplan 2014-2020 (German)*. Retrieved from "Federal Chancellery": <http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at/DocView.axd?CobId=54964>
- Further information about European research infrastructure is available on the *ESFRI-Website* of the European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=home

Commitment 6

- Further information about HORIZON 2020 is available on *The HORIZON 2020-Website of the European Commission*:
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>
- ERA Portal Austria:
<http://era.gv.at/directory/94>
- The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)*:
<https://www.ffg.at/Europa/H2020> (German)

Commitment 7

- Further information about support for SMEs is available on *EASME-Website* of the European Commission:
<http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/executive-agency-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-easme>
- Austrian Research Promotion Agency *FFG – Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft*:
www.ffg.at
- the Austrian federal economic development and financing bank *aws – Austria Wirtschaftsservice*:
www.awsq.at

Commitment 9

Further information about the KICs and current or upcoming calls is available on EIT - European Institute of Innovation and Technologies:
<http://eit.europa.eu/>

Commitment 10

Further information about CoSME (the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) is available on COSME-Website of the ECs' DG Enterprise & Industry:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/cosme/index_en.htm
(for HORIZON 2020 see above Commitment 6)

Commitment 11

Regulation (EU) N° 345/2013 ('EuVECA') of the European Parliament and the Council. (April 17, 2013). Retrieved from EUR-Lex: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32013R0345>

BMWFJ – Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (today: BMWFW – Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy), (2013), *Wirtschaftsbericht Österreich 2013* (German). Retrieved from "Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy":

<http://www.bmwf.gv.at/Wirtschaftspolitik/Wirtschaftspolitik/Documents/Wirtschaftsbericht%20%C3%96sterreich%202013.pdf>

BMFWF – Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, (2014), *Wirtschaftsbericht Österreich 2014* (German). Retrieved from "Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy":

<http://www.bmwf.gv.at/Wirtschaftspolitik/Wirtschaftspolitik/Documents/Wirtschaftsbericht%20%C3%96sterreich%202014.pdf>

Further information about EuVECA is available on ESMA – European Securities and Markets Authority:
<http://www.esma.europa.eu/>

Commitment 12

The "Enterprise Europe Network" of the ECs' "Competitiveness and Innovation Programme" (CIP):
<http://www.enterpriseeuropenetwork.at/>

Austrian finance platforms and finance support for start-ups and SMEs (no claim to be complete!):

aws: www.awsg.at

aws Austrian Business Angel Fonds: <http://www.awsg.at/Content.Node/risikokapital/business-angel-fonds/76717.php>

aws equity finder: <https://equityfinder.at/>

aws i2 Business Angel: <https://i2.awsg.at>

Pioneers: www.pioneers.io

Junge Wirtschaft: www.jungewirtschaft.at

Aussenwirtschaft Austria: <https://www.wko.at/Content.Node/service/aussenwirtschaft/Aussenwirtschaft---Channelstartseite.html>

Commitment 13

Further information about the „General block exemption Regulation“ available on the European Commissions' website *Competition – State Aid*:
http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/block.html

Commitment 14

Roadmap of the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent Court:
<http://unified-patent-court.org/images/documents/roadmap-201409.pdf>

Commitment 17

Further information about public procurements of innovative products and services in Austria: on the website of the BMWFW - Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economy:
<http://www.bmwf.gv.at/Innovation/InnovationsUndTechnologiepolitik/Seiten/Beschaffung.aspx>

Commitment 19

Further information about the European creative industries initiatives available on ECIA – EUROPEAN Creative Industries ALLIANCE:

<http://www.eciapplatform.eu/>

EDIP – European Design Innovation Platform:

<http://designforeurope.eu/>

SEE – Sharing Experience Europe Platform:

<http://www.seeplatform.eu/>

Commitment 21

European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *Boosting Open Innovation and Knowledge Transfer in the European Union / Independent Expert Group Report on Open Innovation and Knowledge Transfer*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents":

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/b1_studies-b5_web-publication_mainreport-kt_oi.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

Further information about the Austrian NCP-IP and knowledge transfer:

<http://era.gv.at/directory/16>

<http://era.gv.at/directory/137>

Commitment 22

European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *Final Report from the Expert Group on Intellectual Property Valuation*. Retrieved from: "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents":

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/KI-01-14-460-EN-N-IP_valuation_Expert_Group.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

Commitments 24 & 25

European Commission, (2014), *Cohesion Policy and Austria 2014-2020 – Country Factsheet*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Regional Policy > Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 > Documentation":

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/cohesion-policy-achievement-and-future-investment/factsheet/austria_en.pdf

Further information on *Cohesion Policy* is available on the European Commissions' website "Regional Policy":

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm

the European Commission's website "European Social Fund":

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>

Commitment 26

Further information about the EC support on *Social Innovation* is available on The European Commissions' website 'Social Innovation Europe':

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/socialinnovationeurope/>

Commitment 27

European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, (2014), *Powering European Public Sector Innovation: Towards A New Architecture / Report of the Expert Group on Public Sector Innovation*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Innovation Union > Key Documents":

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/psi_eg_exec_summary.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

European Commission – DG Enterprise & Industry, (2013), *European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard 2013 - A pilot exercise*. Retrieved from "European Commission > Enterprise & Industry > > Public Sector Innovation":

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/epsis-2013_en.pdf

Further information about *public service innovation in Austria* is available on the website of the Austrian Federal Chancellery:

<https://www.oeffentlicherdienst.gv.at/verwaltungsinnovation/index.html>

Commitment 29

Further information about EIPs is available on the European Commissions' website "EIP ON RAW MATERIALS":

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/raw-materials/en>

the European Commissions' website "EIP Smart Cities and Communities":

http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/index_en.htm

Further information about "Smart Cities" initiatives in Austria is available on

<http://www.smartcities.at/>