



HEADLINES

EU/Innovation: Major differences in R&D spending across Europe

On 8 September, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Communities, presented new figures for R&D spending for the EU 27. In 2007, R&D spending in the EU accounted for 229 million Euros, corresponding to 1.85% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The amount is stable in comparison with figures of 2006. The statistics reveal clear discrepancies in R&D spending across the EU as well as differences in employment figures of people working in the R&D sector. For example, Sweden and Finland spent 3.60% and 3.47% respectively, whereas 10 other EU Member States spent less than 1% of GDP on research. The number of researchers of total employment equalled to 2.1% in Finland and only 0.4% in Cyprus. The data also reveal the importance of the role of the business sector in supporting R&D. Between 2004 and 2006, 39% of EU companies with more than 10 employees were involved in innovation policy.

ESBA Opinion

Despite the increase of R&D spending in some countries, the EU is far from reaching the 'magical' threshold of 3% GDP R&D spending, as agreed by Member States in 2002. Europe is lagging behind the US, which spent on average 2.67% of its GDP on R&D. In the very near future, the EU will need to step up its efforts and invest heavily in research in order for Europe to move towards a strong, knowledge-based economy.

To access the statistical data provided by Eurostat, please click [here](#).

IN BRIEF

EU/European Commission: review of innovation policy

On 2 September, the European Commission published a communication, reviewing Community innovation Policy. The communication acknowledges successes such as the Small Business Act and the partnership approach between the EU and the Member States, which has caused an increase in innovation and a narrowed innovation gap between the EU and the US and Japan, whilst at the same time recognising the need for further improvements. Key challenges referred to in the document include the creation of appropriate framework conditions for a positive development of innovation, an improvement of market uptake of the fruits of innovation, more financial support for research and innovation and further development of synergies between players within the innovation process.

To read the commission communication, please click [here](#)

PUBLICATIONS

World Bank: “Doing business 2010: Reforming through difficult times”

The report assesses the ease of doing business in a wide range of countries based on a set of specified indicators affecting 10 areas of everyday business: starting a business, enforcing contracts, employing workers, getting credit, closing a business, registering property, protecting investors, dealing with construction permits, paying taxes and trading cross borders. The 10 indicators are updated, and the countries ranked according to the analysis of economic outcomes.

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To read more about the World Bank publication "Doing Business 2010", please click [here](#).

OECD: "Education at a glance 2009: OECD Indicators"

The OECD publication "Education at a glance 2009: OECD indicators" provides a set of internationally comparable data on education and training. The collected data are based on a large number of indicators, such as target groups, participation in education, money invested in the promotion of education and the results achieved. In addition, the publication presents the first results of the OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) on teacher practices, teacher appraisals & feedback and on the social benefits of education.

To read more about the OECD publication, please click [here](#).

CONSULTATIONS

ONGOING:

Online consultation on Administrative Burdens Reduction

Ongoing

The European Commission has launched an online consultation on the reduction of administrative burdens. Inspired by examples of Best Practice in Belgium and the Netherlands, the consultation invites entrepreneurs to identify unnecessary red tape in order to help the EU improve the quality of its legislation. The consultation is part of the Action Programme to reduce admin burdens on businesses in the EU by 25% in 2012.

To access the online consultation, please click [here](#).

COMING UP

10 September - 30 November: The European Commission is organizing capacity building seminars in several European Union Member States to help SMEs to gain maximum benefits from the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme (ECAP).

To learn more about the event, please click:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3524&tpa_id=201&lang=en

18 September 2009 - 9 February 2010: DG Enterprise and Industry will visit several European Union Member States to present the New Toys Safety Directive (2009/48/EC). The Roadshow, organized by the Toy Industry of Europe, is aimed at SMEs, importers and all economic actors in the toy industry.

To read more about the event, please click:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3547&tpa_id=201&lang=en

1 – 2 October: The second International CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy will take place in Osterund, Sweden. Discussions will be held between researchers from different parts of the world, policy makers and academics.

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To learn more about the conference, please click:

http://socek.se/ciriec_research_2009

5-6 October: The European Commission is organising the next Charter conference "From the European Charter for Small Enterprises to the Small Business Act" in Stockholm, Sweden, focussing on the exchange of best practices.

To read more about the conference, please click:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/charter/conf2009/

8 - 9 October: The European Commission is organizing the European Tourism Day and the European Tourism Forum in Brussels. Local and regional authorities, policy officers and leader projects will meet to discuss on the actual situation of tourism and to suggest improvements.

To read more about the event, please click:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemshortdetail.cfm?item_id=3546&lang=en&tpa_id=136

14 October: DG Enterprise and Industry will organize the 'World Standards Day Conference 2009'. The event, instigated by the international standardisation organisations, ISO, IEC and ITU, will this year focus on the draft report on 'EXPRESS' (Expert Panel for the Review of the European Standardisation System).

To read more about EXPRESS, please click:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/review_of_standardisation/index_en.htm