

<p>Letter from the Chair</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Letter from the Chair</p> <p>Dear EURADIA Partners and Allies,</p>
<p>DIAMAP project update</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Public and private investment in R&D and innovation are considered to be essential not only for helping economies to stabilise and get out of crisis periods, but also to address the challenge of non-communicable disease epidemics. This is the message from the report printed on page 4 of this Newsletter and its importance for diabetes research in particular should be highlighted.</p>
<p>European Commission FP7: News on calls for funding of diabetes research</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The economic crisis is being felt in every quarter – including that of (public and private) research funding where cuts and reductions are almost inevitable. This has been reported in the UK* and no doubt it is a similar situation worldwide.</p>
<p>Research investment key to European economy growth</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>In the case of diabetes such cutting of funding is a short-term solution that will only exacerbate a long-term problem. The diabetes epidemic is predicted to increase significantly and future generations are unlikely to be able to cope with the social and economic burden of increasing numbers of chronically ill. The challenge is being considered right now at the European level by DIAMAP (www.DIAMAP.eu), but such initiatives will have no effect if infrastructure and research expertise have not been maintained and are not in place to carry out necessary work on research towards future goals in improving health.</p>
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Philippe A. Halban
Chairman EURADIA

*Slump forces medical charities to cut back life-saving research. *Independent* 23 March 2009 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/slump-forces-medical-charities-to-cut-back-lifesaving-research-1651719.html>

DIAMAP

Road Map for Diabetes Research in Europe

The DIAMAP project database is continuing to grow. We are undertaking a large-scale email contact of diabetes researchers to encourage participation in the survey. Entering your details on line onto the DIAMAP website will ensure that your field of diabetes research is represented. Once the database is completed and DIAMAP has used the information for reporting, an abbreviated version of the data will be available in the public domain. This will be of great use for anyone searching for research collaborations or technology transfer. Likewise the funding survey requires input from European and national organisations that provide funding for diabetes research.



DIAMAP Meeting in Germany, November 2008. From left: Peter Nilsson, Cliff Bailey, Mina Mitrakou, Sarah Hills, Michelle Cissell, Thomas Mandrup-Poulsen, Antonio Cerriello, Patrik Rorsman, Francesco Bandello, Hans-Peter Hammes, Paola Fioretto, Markku Laakso, Michael Knip, Alexandra Kautzky-Willer, Veikko Koivisto, Michael Stumvoll, Philippe Halban (Coordinator), Didac Mauricio, Emmanuel Van Obberghen, David Kerr, Juleen Zierath, Krzysztof Strojek, Nick Wareham, Andrew Boulton, Knut Borch-Johnson, Ivan Tkac, Anselm Gitt, Regina Sautter, Giovanni Pacini, Jan Skrha, Yannick Le Marchand-Brustel, Steve Hitchins

Thanks to the efforts of the expert groups (Focussed Sub-Groups, composition listed on the website) the future maps of different fields of diabetes research are developing for eventual dissemination at the end of the project in 2010. We invite you to read the DIAMAP website to keep informed of the project progress. The third DIAMAP newsletter is now available online: <http://www.diamap.eu/>

St Vincent 20th Anniversary, Glasgow, Scotland 21-23 November 2009

The Congress will provide an opportunity to review the Declaration's achievements and continuing challenges.

<http://www.worlddiabetescongress.org/stvincent2009/about-st-vincent>

European Commission Seventh Framework Programme (FP7):

Calls for applications in the field of diabetes

It would appear that diabetes will not feature in the next call for applications (Call 4, summer of 2009) of the FP7 Programme, but it is important to understand the reasons for this. The FP7 budget cannot accommodate calls in all focus areas for each call for applications. For example, the previous call did not cover cancer (one of the very few disease areas specifically mentioned alongside diabetes and obesity in FP7). Call 4 will not feature diabetes but it is highly probable that diabetes will feature in a significant fashion in the 5th call for applications. Furthermore and independently of this decision, the Commission looks forward to using information from the ongoing DIAMAP roadmap project to guide selection of focus areas in diabetes for subsequent calls. This offers a unique opportunity for the expert research community to contribute towards future calls in diabetes that has been missing in the past. Taken together, the news is thus quite positive. It is clear that diabetes continues to be a focus area of FP7 and that there will be opportunities to apply for grants in the future. (*Diabetologia*, April issue) and EASD E-Newsletter.

FP7 and other agency funding calls

Diabetes research can be funded from calls in a number of different areas, not limited to 'Health', e.g. information technology. It is worthwhile checking the open calls to see if there is a call that may be appropriate for your project or network.

- **DG-Research** <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>
- **DG-SANCO Health and Consumer Protection (Public Health)**
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/ami/ami_036831_en.htm
- **Executive Agency for Health and Consumers** <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/>
- **Enterprise and Industry**
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals/index_en.htm
- **European Science Foundation** <http://www.esf.org/activities/calls.html>
- **European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes**
<http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org/Programmes.html>
- **IDF Bridges** <http://www.idfbridges.org/>
- **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation** http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=103206

Research investment key to European economy growth

'Higher, more effective and efficient investments in education, research and innovation are a key factor for the sustainable long-term growth of a competitive European economy and should remain a high priority, also in the context of the current global economic downturn,' reads one of the recommendations adopted by EU research ministers at the Competitiveness Council meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 5 and 6 March.

In the recommendation, the ministers also highlight the importance of reaching the goal of investing 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) in research and development (R&D), and call on Member States to encourage the private sector to invest more in research. Read entire article ...

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=30549

Reports show EU on right track, but R&D investment stagnating

The results of the recently published *European Innovation Scoreboard 2008* and *Science, Technology and Competitiveness key figures report 2008/2009* indicate substantial improvements in certain areas but show R&D (research and development) intensity in the EU27 is stagnating. Both reports were presented in Brussels by EC Vice President G Verheugen and Commissioner for Science and Research J Potocnik.

Public and private investment in R&D and innovation are considered to be essential for helping economies to stabilise and get out of crisis periods. Yet the intensity of research investment (the amount invested in R&D compared to GDP) has not increased in recent years, and remains at around 1.84%. Commissioner Potocnik emphasised that European businesses in particular must step up to the plate.

Read entire article ...

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_LANG=EN&N_RCN=30383

also read ... http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/publication_en.cfm

US Economic Stimulus Package - Advancing Science and Technology

Highlights included:

- The bill provides \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), for basic research in fundamental science and engineering.
- The bill allocates \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for expanding jobs related to research into diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease. NIH also gets \$1.5 billion to renovate university research facilities and help them compete for biomedical research grants.

Read entire article ...

<http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/moneymatters/a/ecstimhitech.htm>

Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU “Europe without barriers”

Research and Development Priorities

The main priority chosen for the field of research and development is entitled “*European Research Area without barriers*”. The priority derives from an inherited agenda, but brings a new perspective. The priority also reflects the motto of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU “Europe without barriers” and the key area of interest of the Czech Republic “A competitive and open Europe”. The priorities are in context of the Lisbon Strategy in terms of interconnection with the European Union politics concerning research and development.

Research and Development Priority “European Research Area without barriers”

The creation of the European Research Area (ERA) is one of the instruments of implementation of the Lisbon Strategy. In terms of research in Europe, the following areas are considered the most important in reducing barriers inside ERA and in increasing competitiveness:

1. research infrastructures on international level,
2. flow of competent researchers including mobility,
3. high-level research institutes, including such disciplines as nanotechnology,
4. knowledge sharing,
5. coordinated programmes and priorities (implementation and evaluation of public research investment at European level), and
6. wide opening of the ERA to the world – international cooperation.

The main area of interest “Major research infrastructures”

Research infrastructures (RI, at the European level the so-called ESFRI) are the backbone of European research and development. RI presence has an impact on competitiveness and the overall development of the area, in which the RI are located. It will raise questions of which projects to fund and where to locate them. The priority of the Czech Republic will focus on the discussion on the ESFRI Roadmap implementation and on the development of Europe in terms of regional distribution of research and development infrastructures. (Adapted from the original article on the Czech Presidency website.) Read entire article ...

http://cordis.europa.eu/czech-republic/presidency/priorities_en.html

News from the EU

European Elections 4-7 June 2009

Website of the European Parliament with a selection of articles about the up coming elections and various related issues.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/headlines/default.htm?language=EN>

United in diversity: Rules for the European Parliamentary elections

The first week of June should see millions of people exercise their right to vote for Members of the European Parliament. The EU does not have a single electoral law for these elections and many details are decided at a national level. Nevertheless, a basic set of rules has been established, which ensures that all MEPs are elected by universal suffrage in free elections by secret ballot, on the basis of proportional representation.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/headlines/product.htm?language=EN&ref=20090302STO50552&secondRef=0>

ERAWATCH

ERAWATCH provides information on national and regional research policies, actors, organisations and programmes. ERAWATCH supports evidence based policy making in Europe and to contribute to the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA). ERAWATCH is targeted at all those interested and active in research policy making in Europe: decision makers, policy analysts, and researchers.

<http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm>

Glowing report prompts new, more strategic focus in JRC

A new, independent review of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) describes the organisation as 'an indispensable source of knowledge and expertise in support of the political agenda of the EU' that also plays an instrumental role in 'responding to crisis situations threatening the security of European citizens'.
Read more ...

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=30357

Books and reports

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Caring for People with Chronic Conditions: A Health System Perspective. Download from:

http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/2007/20081110_2

Managing chronic conditions: Experience in eight countries. Download from:

http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/20081212_1

Books and reports (cont.)

Research and Markets: Diabetes Drug Discoveries 2009: What the Future Holds

This strategic report puts the spotlight on current and future drugs that will be used in the treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, providing industry and investors with a comprehensive overview of the market in the medium term. The report contains an analysis of diabetes prevalence and trends worldwide, plus current treatment options. http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/494987/diabetes_drug_disc

We are more intelligent together: EU citizens value science and call for more cooperation at European level

According to a new qualitative study regarding the image of science and the perceptions and attitudes on the European research policy of the EU citizens, science is highly valued and intimately linked to the idea of progress. However, science also gives rise to some fears and reservations – mostly of possible misuse by mankind. The study also reveals support for a more coordinated European research policy and the need to pool human and financial resources to do research on issues of common interest such health, environment or energy. These comments come from group discussions that were carried out in the 27 European Union member states during summer 2008 and which included men and women aged 17 to 60 years, drawn from a mix of social groups. Read entire article ...

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/15&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Pharmaceutical Forum: Moving from agreed principles to good practice and positive change across Europe - Can the Pharmaceutical Forum deliver for Patients?

This was THE question in a major European Conference co-organised by the European Commission and the European Patients' Forum in Brussels - the answer was a resounding "yes"!

The Pharmaceutical Forum was a 3-year process involving the Commission, the Member States and representatives from other stakeholders to explore the future of pharmaceuticals in terms of "information to patients", pricing and reimbursement and relative effectiveness. A number of very important principles and practical tools in each of these areas were developed during that period that creates **a new dynamic between equity of access, cost containment and reward for innovation**. Read more about the Pharmaceutical Forum <http://ec.europa.eu/pharmaforum/>

Diary dates 2009

Note: <http://www.brusselsagenda.eu> portal designed to flag EU Affairs events of all kinds, anyone can sign-up, upload and publish for free on line. Users can search events by location, EU policies and type of event.

30-31 March Healthcare Biotech Forum, Rome, Italy
<http://www.e-unlimited.com/events/p200292/overview.asp>

1-4 April 3rd International Congress on Prediabetes and the Metabolic Syndrome, Nice, France
<http://www2.kenes.com/Prediabetes/pages/home.aspx>

6 April Diabetes, Insulin & Alzheimer's disease. Fondation Ipsen, Paris, France
<http://www.ipсен.com/?page=fondation&content=events>

16-17 April Biofine 2009, Freiburg, Germany
<http://www.sp2.uk.com/biofine/europe/drug-discovery-programme.shtml>

18-21 April 6th Alexandria Diabetes Days, Alexandria, Egypt <http://www.idf.org/events/index.cfm?id=331>

21 April Time for a European Patent? Mission of Norway to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.sciencebusiness.net/bridges/policy/globalpatent2009.php>

21-23 April Science beyond Fiction (European Commission), Prague, Czech Republic
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/fet/2009/hotel_travel/index_en.htm

28-29 April Researchers in Europe conference, Prague, Czech Republic
http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.document&EV_LANG=EN&EV_RCN=30420

27 May ESTOOLS Stem Cell Science, Rome, Italy
<http://www.estools.eu/estools/events/2009-annual-meeting-in-rome>

6-9 May 17th European Congress on Obesity (ECO 2009) Amsterdam, The Netherlands
<http://www.easoobesity.org/eco2009/>

20-24 May 6th Metabolic Syndrome, Type II Diabetes and Atherosclerosis Congress Berlin, Germany
http://www.msdacongress.com/congress_2009/index.html

25-27 May Fourth BetaCellTherapy Training Course, Ghent, Belgium
<http://www.betacelltherapy.org/events.php?n=168&id=168&nid=88&ax=v>

5-9 June ADA 2009 69th Scientific Sessions, New Orleans, USA
http://professional.diabetes.org/Congress_Display.aspx?TYP=9&CID=57909

18-21 June 2nd International Brussels Pancreatic Islet Symposium, Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.idf.org/events/index.cfm?id=335>

2-5 Sept 35th ISPAD Annual Meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia http://www.ispad2009.com/html/en/index_html

25-26 Sept Federation of Nurses in Diabetes, Vienna Austria
<http://www.fend.org/conference/conf.html>

29 Sept- 2 Oct European Association for the Study of Diabetes, Vienna, Austria
<http://www.easd.org>

21-23 Nov St Vincent 20th Anniversary Meeting, Glasgow, UK
<http://www.idf.org/events/index.cfm?id=337>