

Half-Time Highway Industry Involvement

Many issues concerning the involvement of industry in Research and Innovation programmes were grouped into 3 main topics:

SMEs:

- how can we encourage greater engagement of SMEs?
- what roles should they play?

Innovation:

- how should RTD programmes be extended to encompass industrial innovation?

Finance:

- How could alternative forms of financing be used best in addition to Framework Programme grants.

Industry Involvement: SMEs

If 60% (?) of EU GDP derives from the activities of SMEs, why should we aim for only 15% involvement?

FP programmes inc. FP7 were not designed for SMEs, so many features inhibit SME participation - not just bureaucracy, even the selected research topics. Is FP the right vehicle to stimulate innovation?

Rather than trying to bolt SMEs onto existing FP programmes, programmes should be *designed for* SMEs taking account of:

- the wide variety of types of SMEs (research performers, research consumers, etc.)
- their different needs (especially their common need for money)
- the role each might play in particular R&I areas.

Could start by putting together:

- SME-specific areas of existing programmes, e.g. Capacities
- EUROSTARS
- Spearhead budgets?
- ...

Industry Involvement: Innovation



To ensure actual innovation derives from R&D, it is not sufficient simply to fund innovation actions. Need to couple the research & user/industry communities from the start and throughout the process so as to achieve mutual understanding and cross-fertilization (match-making) that will facilitate project development aimed at innovation creation e.g. through ETPs /NTPs

Programmes should be designed to bridge the different value chains of societal challenges, research, and industrial product development.

Need better integration of EU & MS programmes including the use of Structural Funds destined for innovation, since much of 'Cohesion' supported activity is local, and national support for innovation beyond RTD.

Interfaces between R&I actions need thought (it is not a simple handover).

Innovation should be addressed more thoroughly in evaluation:

- innovation impact expectations clear in WP
- clarity of criteria with respect to innovation
- evaluators competent to judge innovation aspects.

Industry Involvement: Finance

Given the EU2020 Strategy, the issue is how we support *innovation*.

Different stages of innovation require different forms of financing which may depend on their different types and levels of risk, e.g.,

- early stage RTD: grant
- development: co-financing (or for industries with 5-10 year development and late RoI: grant)
- bringing to market: loan or equity for a company; loan for a project

Need an approach which better *integrates*:

- all of these *and* extended RSFFs that also cover SMEs, pre-competitive procurement, Cohesion funds, ...
- and also integrates EU and national support (e.g. effective 'common pots', JTIs, ...)