

Horizon 2020: We all invest, who gets the return?

30 November 2011



At the same time as the European Commission presented its Research and Innovation Framework programme – Horizon 2020, Health Action International (HAI) Europe and Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) organized an expert conference to examine how this proposal will invest 80 billion Euros of taxpayers' money in economically and socially sustainable innovation models. The present financial crisis calls for bold experimentation with new innovation models that guarantee more openness, easier accessibility and higher result-oriented efficiency.

Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in Economics at the University of Sussex, underlined the role of the State as a catalyst of innovation. She argued that **research models should avoid socializing the risks of investment while privatizing the profits** of innovation by ensuring the public receives return on its investment.

Peter Gøtzsche, Director of the The Nordic Cochrane Centre, spoke about the need to strengthen and open up the European Union's (EU) health research. **"Data sharing would lead to tremendous benefits for patients, progress in science, and much more rational use of healthcare resources** based on evidence we can trust," he said.

Glyn Moody, open source technology expert, used the example of the IT sector to underline how open access and citizen based research can indeed be good business both financially and socially.

Katrina Pehudoff, HAI Europe, urged: "The time to act is now and Horizon 2020 offers an excellent opportunity for the EU to explore new models of innovation that ensure EU-funded medical research results in affordable and accessible medicines. **This is yet to be achieved in today's release of the Horizon 2020 proposal.**"

David Hammerstein, TACD, explained: "Tax money should be spent in the public interest, not to create intellectual property only for the benefit of private companies. The Horizon 2020 should include socially-fair rules on **the management of intellectual property rights, research results and technology transfer to assure affordability, accessibility and transparency.**"

Ends

The recordings from the conference are available here:

<http://www.greenmediabox.eu/archive/2011/11/30/horizon2020>

Link to TACD/HAI Europe Executive Summary of *EU Policy Opportunities in Biomedical Innovation & the Public Good*: <http://tacd-ip.org/archives/507>

For further information, please contact David Hammerstein of TACD (+32474472763, David.hammerstein@tacd.org) or Katrina Pehudoff of HAI Europe (Katrina@haieurope.org)

Supported [in part] by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.

PRESS RELEASE

Overtoom 60/II
1054 HK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 20 683 3684
Fax: +31 20 685 5002

info@haieurope.org
www.haieurope.org



Executive
Agency for
Health and
Consumers

This document arises from the HAI Europe's Operating Grant 2011, which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health programme. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author, who is solely responsible for its content. The Executive Agency for Health & Consumers is not responsible for any use of the information herein.