



ENRF Briefing Note - FP9 - Innovation in Europe

With the upcoming proposal on the next European research Framework Programme (FP9) approaching, it is important to see how the European Institutions are preparing to define the role of research and innovation in the future of the EU. In this context, the EU Council Conclusions [on the European Open Science Cloud](#) and '[Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU](#)' give an interesting overview on the aim of the Bulgarian Presidency in one of its last actions, just before the country's first Presidency ends. The Council Conclusions are due in early-to-mid-June.

The two draft documents raise the importance of openness of research data and open science, as preconditions for an optimal knowledge sharing. However, to achieve a concrete improvement in the way research is performed in Europe, it is crucial that policy-makers devote a deeper attention on concrete ways that can support innovation. As remarked by the European Commissioner for Digital Single Market and Vice President of the European Commission, Andrus Ansip, "[Europe is a global scientific powerhouse](#)". Europe has all the necessary tools to shape a prosperous future for research and innovation with 1.8 million researchers working in universities and research centres as well as in world-leading manufacturing industries; and a suite of increasingly inter-connected research infra-structures. The potential impact of Europe on research is significant, as it produces around 30% of the world's scientific publications - with just 7% of the world's population and 24% of global GDP. However, Europe suffers from a growth deficit that lies in its innovation deficit, as it does not capitalise enough on the knowledge it has and produces.

In this sense, effective sharing of datasets is considered of utmost importance at EU level, and the European Commission intends to support the pooling of the EU data resources and to facilitate their use for research and health policy. In particular, with its recent [Communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market; empowering citizens and building a healthier society](#); the Commission has clarified its intention to step up coordination between authorities across the EU to implement the secure exchange of genomic and other health data in order to advance research in personalised healthcare delivery. Coordination and networked research are key concepts of the draft Conclusions that acknowledge how openness of research data could further increase the efficient use of public funding while making data accessible, reusable and interoperable, increasing the innovation potential.

Conclusion

To make FP9 and the future of EU research a success, European leaders are asked to be more ambitious and focus on how to support innovation by engaging frontline in its co-design. This is particularly important in healthcare, where digitalisation is changing the ways to deliver better health outcomes. Following its predecessor, the FP9 will include many opportunities that offer nurses to concretely engage and provide their inputs. Building on [ENS4care](#), nursing researchers could take up a leading role within the new FP9 to boost nursing research, focussing on empowering citizens' deploying digital tools and securing access and sharing of their personal health and social data, supporting frontline nurses delivering high quality and safe continuity of care in different sectors and mainly the primary care sector, towards prevention. Moreover, for the ENRF it will be crucial to inform EU policy-makers with nursing evidence gained from good practices deployed in practice. To contribute to the health and social care ecosystem ongoing changes throughout the EU, nursing research can take up its leading position.

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