Welcome to
International Innovation

LAST YEAR MARKED the EU Framework Programme’s 30th birthday, with good reason to celebrate. The Programme has helped strengthen Europe’s role in science, enhanced links between the public and private sectors and increased cross-border collaboration. In addition to nurturing excellent science, it has succeeded in promoting partnerships between the EU and industry, thus boosting competitiveness. Three decades of development have seen the Programme grow in scope, scale and support. Today, it is a ubiquitous and pivotal element of research policy in Europe, represented by its flagship initiative, Horizon 2020.

Since Framework Programme 1 (FPI), which offered €3.3 billion, budgets have increased 21-fold. Horizon 2020 is the biggest ever EU research and innovation programme, with nearly €80 billion available over its seven-year period, enough to fund all US cancer research for the next 13 years. However, competition for funding is tight, and applicants must impress. For example, since 2007, the European Research Council – the first pan-European funding body for frontier research – has selected just 4,500 projects for funding from more than 43,000 applications.

This special edition of International Innovation showcases a selection of researchers who have earned support from the EU Framework Programme. Whether deriving novel pharmaceutical treatments from ocean-dwelling plants and animals, or refining mining process to reduce their environmental impact, the scientists in this issue are responding to and solving societal challenges. We also present contributions from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, which is operating daily at the interface between policy and science, and the European Science Foundation, a leading scientific evaluator. Join us in celebrating the science and policy advances that are shaping Europe’s future and securing its position on the global research stage.

Here at International Innovation, we showcase the latest and greatest in scientific developments from across the research and policy landscape. Feel free to register to receive our newsletter or visit www.internationalinnovation.com to browse our most recent editions.

For now…enjoy the issue!

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July 2015

PUBLISHED BY
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