

**Source: European Commission  
Communication COM(2010) 546  
Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union**

<b>(Legislative) Actions planned</b>	<b>Scheduled date</b>
<b>Promoting excellence in education and skills development</b>	
The Commission will present proposals for an independent multi-dimensional international ranking system to benchmark university performance and for the reform and modernisation of higher education.	2011
The Commission will support business-academia collaborations through the creation of "Knowledge Alliances" between education and business to develop new curricula addressing innovation skills gaps.	2011
The Commission will present a proposal for an integrated framework for the development and promotion of e-skills for innovation and competitiveness, based on partnerships with stakeholders.	2011
Member States are requested to train enough researchers to meet their national R&D targets and to promote attractive employment conditions in public research institutions, including gender and dual career considerations	End of 2011
The Commission will present a proposal for a European Research Area framework supporting measures to remove obstacles to mobility and cross-border cooperation, improving doctoral and employment conditions and access to research results and infrastructure (to be in force by end 2014).	2012
Member States and the Commission should complete 60% of the priority European research infrastructures currently identified by the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) by 2015.	2015
<b>Enhancing access to finance</b>	
The Commission will conduct a mid-term review of the State aid research and development and innovation framework.	2011
The Commission will present proposals for the alignment of future EU research and innovation programmes to Europe 2020 objectives and the Innovation Union and for streamlining access to funding instruments through a better balance between a control-based and a trust-based system.	2011
The Commission will ensure the creation of a regulatory framework for Venture Capital funds established in any Member State to function and invest freely in the EU. Elimination of any tax treatment unfavourable to cross-border activities	2012
The Commission will present a proposal for the promotion of innovative projects and firms through improved financial instruments to attract a major increase in private finance and to close the market gaps in investing in research and innovation (investment in knowledge transfer and start ups, venture capital and loans for fast growing firms, risk-sharing finance for investments in R&D and innovation projects).	2014
The Commission will strengthen cross-border matching of innovative firms with suitable investors under the leadership of a person appointed by the Commission. The Commission will especially focus on the particular financing problems faced by innovative SMEs.	not stated
The Commission will improve access and involvement of SMEs in future EU research and innovation programmes by using partnerships with Member State agencies and the experience of the Eureka Eurostars initiative.	not stated
The Commission will strengthen the science base for policy making through the Commission's Joint Research Centre and the creation of a "European Forum on Forward Looking Activities."	not stated
<b>Promoting the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)</b>	
The EIT is requested to present its Strategic Innovation Agenda to expand its activities and to map out its long term development within the Innovation Union.	2011
The EIT should introduce the "EIT degree" as an internationally recognised label of excellence.	2011

<b>Creating a single innovation market</b>	
The Commission will present a Communication and a legislative proposal on standardisation to speed up and modernise standard-setting and improve the interoperability of innovation.	2011
The Commission will present an Eco-innovation action plan building on the Innovation Union for achieving environmental objectives through innovation.	2011
Member States and the EU should screen the regulatory framework in key areas (eco-innovation, European Innovation Partnerships).	2011
Member States and regions should set aside dedicated budgets for pre-commercial procurements and public procurements of innovative products and services to create procurement markets across the EU starting from at least €10 billion a year.	2011
The Commission will present proposals for the development of a European knowledge market for patents and licensing, building on Member State experience in trading platforms and market places.	2011
The European Parliament and Council are requested to adopt the proposals on the EU patent, its linguistic regime and the unified system of dispute settlement to enable the delivery of the first EU patents in 2014.	2014
The Commission will promote open access to the results of publicly funded research and open access to publications as general principle for projects funded by the EU research Framework Programmes.	not stated
The Commission will facilitate and support effective collaborative research and knowledge transfer, e.g. by strengthening knowledge transfer offices in public research organizations.	not stated
The Commission will examine the role of Competition Policy and anti-trust rules in safeguarding against the use of intellectual property rights for anti-competitive purposes.	not stated
<b>Creative sector and innovation</b>	
The Commission will set up a European Design Leadership Board and European Creative Industries Alliance to enhance the role of design and creativity in innovation policy.	2011
<b>“Smart specialisation”</b>	
Member States should improve their use of existing Structural Funds for research & innovation projects, helping people to acquire the necessary skills, improving the performance of national systems and implementing smart specialisation strategies and trans-national projects.	soon
The Commission will establish a "smart specialisation platform".	2012
Member States should initiate the preparation of post 2013 Structural Fund programmes with an increased focus on innovation and smart specialisation.	2014
<b>“Social innovations”</b>	
The Commission will support a research programme on public sector and social innovation to identify and remove barriers.	2011
The Commission will launch a European Social Innovation pilot which will provide expertise and a networked 'virtual hub' for social entrepreneurs and the public and third sectors. The Commission will promote social innovation through the European Social Fund (ESF).	not stated
The Commission will examine - after consulting the social partners - how the knowledge economy can be spread to all occupational levels and all sectors.	not stated
<b>European Innovation Partnerships</b>	
The Commission will start the preparations to launch a pilot partnership on active and healthy ageing.	2011
The Commission will present proposals for further partnerships.	2011

<b>Global dimension of innovation</b>	
The European Union and its Member States should present integrated policies to ensure that leading academics, researchers and innovators reside and work in Europe and to attract a sufficient number of highly skilled third country nationals to stay in Europe.	2012
The EU should reach an agreement with international partners on the development of research infrastructures which owing to cost, complexity and/or interoperability requirements can only be developed on a global scale.	2012
Based on common approaches, the European Union and its Member States should foster scientific cooperation with third countries to contribute to global approaches and solutions to societal challenges and to establish a level-playing field.	not stated
<b>Reforming research and innovation systems</b>	
Member States are invited to review their national and regional research and innovation systems using the self assessment tool provided in Annex 1 to identify key challenges and critical reforms as part of their National Reform Programmes.	not stated
<b>Measuring progress</b>	
The Commission will monitor the overall progress on innovation performance using the Research and Innovation Union scoreboard (see Annex II).	soon
The Commission will present proposals for the development of a new indicator measuring the share of fast-growing innovative companies in the economy following preliminary work of Member States and international partners.	2013