

RCUK response to the development of EIC

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Context

- Dowling Review
- UK performance
- Formation of UKRI
- Specific response to EIC

Dowling Review

- *Complexity – simplification*
- *Changing behaviour – incentive and reward*
- *Covering the patch – the innovation landscape*
- *Encouraging risk – scale, scope and direction*
- *Understanding the question – listening to users*
- *Presenting the answers – listening to users*

RCUK response to Dowling

- Simple principles better presented
 - User driven programmes
 - Knowledge exchange – HEI support
- People
 - CASE, KTP, KE fellows etc.
- Increasing scale
- Capital investment to create platforms
- UKRI; Opportunities of efficiency savings knock on to reduced complexity

UK innovation performance

- UK hugely successful at innovation
- Second in the latest Global Innovation Index
- One of the most attractive countries in the OECD for international business R&D investment.
- New national innovation plan soon to be published
- Still need to improve; the government is already taking steps to strengthen the research and innovation landscape

Filling the gaps: Nurse

- a lack of strategic join-up between the disciplines and between the research base and policy-makers;
- a fragmented approach to investment, that lacks the capability to address multi- and inter-disciplinary research as effectively as we might; and
- historic weakness at commercialisation, with a need for a smoother pathway for innovation

Formation of UKRI

- Single, overarching and protective funding body, arm's length from government providing a strong voice for the research and innovation community
- More consistent mechanisms to shape a national research and innovation strategy
- Strong central infrastructure and analytical capability

Innovation and UKRI

- Maintained innovation funding through Innovate UK, and the R&D Tax Credit is benefitting record numbers of businesses
- Continuing to grow the Catapult network, where the very best of the UK's businesses, scientists, clinicians and engineers work side-by-side
- Developing a wider range of financial instruments to support innovative firms and better target public support.

Formation of UKRI

- Span discovery through to commercialization, including the Research Councils, Innovate UK and a new Council – Research England.
- Innovate UK continues to focus on business-led innovation. Will also have a clearer remit to help drive innovation from within the research base
- Research Councils have an important place in the innovation system supporting the development of high impact programmes and providing a key interface to the academic community,
- UKRI will develop a common, researcher driven and user informed research and innovation strategy

RCUK Key messages for EIC

- Use a broad and open definition of innovation, using a circular rather than a linear model of innovation,
- Support all forms of innovation and all actors, including non-technological innovation;
- Understand the full landscape including outside of DGRTD

Disruptive innovation

‘An EIC could play a role in supporting disruptive innovation. It is however important to recognize the importance of supporting continuous innovation, which makes an important contribution to market and job creation and has its firm place in supporting economic growth in Europe.’

Fragmentation

- Strong support of simplification and streamlining
- Large number of instruments which would benefit from rationalisation
- Includes beyond Horizon 2020, within and outside of EU e.g. COSME, ESIF, and Eurostars.

Rationale and design

- Feeding the future; research is part of the system - need for new knowledge and potential for economic and societal benefit
 - balance of funding is essential
 - resources for creating an EIC should come in the first instance from streamlining existing innovation instruments
- Consider complementarities with other EU initiatives (such as ESIF and EFSI) before the EIC's creation, rather than developing synergy guidance as an afterthought.
- Appropriate balance of both bottom-up and top-down mechanisms.
 - a targeted approach can be particularly useful in the case of large scale collaborative projects, but an open and responsive element will encourage the best innovators to come forward irrespective of their discipline.
- Mentoring and encouraging entrepreneurs.
 - to achieve the goal of supporting job creation and economic growth.

Governance and evaluation

- The European Research Council may serve as a useful example: the ERC Scientific Council acts independently and is comprised of members who are connected to, and generally respected by, the community they represent.
- Favour an open process for nominations to the Council, whilst leaving open the opportunity for cross-over membership from other bodies with a view to avoiding duplication and ensuring that the important contributions of excellent research to the innovation process are understood.
- Project evaluation and selection; developing an agile process
- Careful selection of evaluators of the right profile

Remaining questions?

In addition to the points raised above, a number of open questions remain. In particular, RCUK would welcome consideration of the following questions:

- How can an EIC complement and add value to existing national policy and practice in Member States, including the distribution of EFSI?
- What will be the role of Member States both at the design and operations stages of an EIC?
- How will success of an EIC be evaluated?