

# Towards FP9. The key role of frontier research for a more competitive and innovative Europe

Polo Congressuale “Le Benedettine”, Piazza S. Paolo a Ripa D'Arno, 16 – Pisa  
6 April 2018

*“Fundamental research helps society as a whole, as well as individual firms, to keep options, possible scenarios and choices open, to maintain a good capability for top-level scientific expertise, to develop conditions favourable to scientific and technological breakthroughs, to ensure training at the highest possible level and also to guarantee access to, and free circulation of, the most valuable information”. PETIT, J. European Review, 12(2), 2004.*

*“...truly innovative ideas are more likely to originate from blue sky, frontier research than from pre-determined approaches”. Beyond the horizon: LERU’s view on FP9, Advice Paper, June 2017.*

## CONCEPT

As the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is taking shape, the discussion around the role of frontier research, its funding scheme and the relationship with innovative research are among the most pressing topics within academic communities in EU Member States.

The **Conference “Towards FP9. The key role of frontier research for a more competitive and innovative Europe”** brings together in Pisa key European and national policymakers, scientists, the innovation community and the industry to reflect on the objectives of the post-Horizon 2020 R&I Programme. The angle chosen by the University of Pisa, the conference organiser, is the importance of ensuring adequate support to frontier research as the foundation for ground-breaking achievements and innovation, thus contributing significantly to the well-being of our society.

The event will present the state of play of the debate on FP9 with the contribution of key actors from EU, national and regional institutions.

The event aims at promoting a balanced view of the advantages and disadvantages of keeping frontier research and innovation in separate silos, engaging academia, institutions and industry in a discussion on the opportunities mechanisms to maximise the impact of transformative research on society and human’s wellbeing.

Besides promoting a partnering attitude between research and industry, the conference will also try to provide young scientists from the Tuscan R&I system with a vision and inspiration on how to go the extra mile towards scientific innovative results, by presenting visionary examples of blue-sky research in key innovative areas.

## INFO

For further information, visit the Conference [webpage](#) or contact:

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## AGENDA

**09:00** *Registration*

**09:30** *Welcome and opening speeches*

**Paolo Maria Mancarella**, Rector, University of Pisa

**Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, President of the European Research Council ERC (video message)

**9:45** *Lecture*

**Mark Bishop**, Professor of Cognitive Computing, Goldsmiths University of London

**10:00** *Session I - Towards FP9: Shaping the future*

**Renzo Tomellini**, Head of Unit, Horizon 2020 Policy, DG RTD, European Commission

**Fabio Donato**, R&I Adviser at the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU

**Mark Bishop**, Professor of Cognitive Computing, Goldsmiths University of London

**Monica Barni**, Vice President and Delegate to Culture, University and Research, Tuscany Region

*Moderated by* **Maryline Fiaschi**, Managing Director, Science|Business

**11:00** *Coffee break*

**11:30** *Session II – Breaking the silos between frontier research and innovation*

**Lisandro Benedetti-Cecchi**, Vice Rector for the European and International Research, University of Pisa

**Marco Mancini**, Head of Department for Higher Education and Research, Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research

**Leonard Prins**, Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Padova

**Bernd Stowasser**, Head of Public Private Partnerships – External Innovation & Science Policy, Sanofi Germany

**Marco Falzetti**, Director, Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea, APRE

*Moderated by* **Marilyne Fiaschi**, Managing Director, Science|Business

**12:30** *Questions and contributions from the audience*

**13:00** *Concluding remarks*

**Fabio Donato**, R&I Adviser at the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU

**13:15** *Lunch buffet*