

### III. VILNIUS INNOVATION FORUM DECLARATION

#### Main Principles for Shaping European Innovation Policy

Adopted by Vilnius Innovation Forum "Innovation Drift" on 4-6 December 2013

The participants of the first Vilnius Innovation Forum 2013. "Innovation Drift" have agreed upon/concluded the declaration "Main principles for shaping European innovation policy", which reads as follows:

1. Emphasises the importance of Member States continueing to increase investments in research and innovation. Europe will never be able to compete, and continue to be an attractive partner for research and innovation, unless our investments are at par with the most innovative countries around the world.
2. Emphasises that European countries have to continue to put joint effort into creating a common European Innovation Ecosystem, and recognizes first and foremost that united and coordinated European, regional and local innovation policies and adequate R&D funding can contribute to the Europe`s sustainable development and competitiveness. This, in the light of the new financial perspective and smart specialization approach. Horizon 2020 is the most important instrument for coordinated action at EU-level. It acknowledges that investment, both public and private, in research and innovation fuels productivity and growth and is a key for job creation, and also that research is the basis for future innovation.
3. Stresses the importance of collaboration between European countries, especially increasing synergies between different regional, national and EU research and innovation policy areas. Sees the promotion of groupings and SME networks as platforms for collaboration, growth and competitiveness. Encourages the Commission to use Horizon 2020 as a pro-active instrument to facilitate cooperation outside Europe.
4. Encourages the promotion of entrepreneurship, establishing innovative start-up and spinoff companies in European countries; recognizes SME`s as a future engine of economic growth and the principle sources of new employment and welcomes the efforts in supporting further internationalisation and growth of SMEs.
5. Recognizes the need to continue the support under Horizon 2020 to Public-private partnerships (PPPs) as vehicles to encourage the further collaboration and synergies between industry and academia, effective and efficient use of public funds for R&D and the development of public-private partnerships.
6. Underlines that the "2010 Innovation Union flagship" initiative provides a number of valuable instruments which, combined with financing programmes, such as Horizon 2020 and Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME), can contribute to the competitiveness and innovation and increase international cooperation.
7. Underlines the need to implement and develop Horizon 2020 as a program aimed at addressing global societal challenges. Open innovation, demand and user-driven approaches in innovation policies, including green and sustainable innovation and the reinforcement of pre-commercial procurement, as well as the achievement of innovative solutions, are all examples of important features of an innovation policy with a challenge approach.
8. Stresses the importance of bridging the gap between research and market by helping innovative enterprises develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products and services and speeding up the process from ideas to markets, commercialization of R&D.

9. Underlines the importance of creativity, non-technological innovation and improved standards for industrial competitiveness, and emphasizes the creation of cross synergies between the cultural and creative industries and the traditional industries.
10. Stresses the importance of delivering simplification, both in terms of a reduced administrative burden in all public R&D programs, and in terms of a smart and coherent portfolio of instruments, which is readily accessible, easy to understand, and well adapted to the needs of businesses in Europe, especially SMEs.