

EU Commissioner Carlos Moedas

His Vision—His Priorities

The European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas has set out his vision and priorities in his role for the European Commission.

Commissioner Moedas has set out three strategic priorities to tackle some of the challenges that countries in the EU are currently facing. These three priorities are Open Innovation, Open Science and Openness to the World.



Carlos Moedas

EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation.

Open Innovation

In terms of Open Innovation, the Commissioner believes that more factors are needed in this innovation process. These factors would come from researchers, entrepreneurs, users, governments and society. The Commissioner believes that by creating the right ecosystems, increasing investment and getting more companies and regions to collaborate using their knowledge, this will go some way to the idea of open innovation.

To do this, he wants to develop several 'European Fund of Funds' to invest in the innovative European companies of tomorrow. There's also the introduction of a "seal of excellence" for applicants of the Horizon 2020 programme that are deemed to be excellent but can't secure funding, allowing them to access Structural Funds.

There is an acknowledgement that Horizon 2020 has made huge strides to support innovation, so the European Innovation Council has been pitched to help support promising innovators. At present, there is a Call for Ideas, with responses due to be published in June.

Open Science

Commissioner Moedas believes the ultimate goal of the European Commission is to promote excellence, not only through the European Research Council but across the entire Horizon 2020 programme.

The Commission announced the launch of a cloud that would be used for research data, called the 'European Open Science Cloud'. The aim is to create a trusted environment to host and process data to support EU science.

Open to the World

Last June, Carlos Moedas talked about the importance of engaging in more science diplomacy and collaboration.

In fact, at the end of 2015, the European Commission and the Brazilian government made great strides in strengthening mutual research cooperation in ocean observation and biofuels. As a result, both launched a call in the area of biofuels, aimed at exploiting the synergies between Brazil and Europe in the form of expertise and resources related to biofuels. The European call is funded through Horizon 2020.

There is currently a public consultation on a new research and innovation initiative for sustainable food production and improved water management in the Mediterranean region. Both EU and non-EU Mediterranean states will be involved in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA). The hope is to strengthen international cooperation in research and innovation to address the critical food and water-related challenges faced by the region.

The current proposal is aimed at establishing PRIMA as a public partnership under Horizon 2020.

Open Science Policy Platform

At a EU Conference in Amsterdam at the beginning of April, Carlos Moedas outlined his vision for a common EU approach to Open Science.



He announced the launch of the ‘Open Science Policy Platform’, with the aim of advising the Commission on policy actions.

The launch of the ‘Open Science Policy Platform’ came off the back of a consultation process, which outlined five areas for actions. These five areas were:

- **Fostering Open Science** by sharing best practices, and increasing those inputting knowledge into an open science environment.
- **Removing barriers** for Open Science with a review of curricular and training
- **Developing research** infrastructures to improve data hosting, access and governance and implementing data-sharing principles
- **Mainstreaming open access** to results to include research

into different ways of distributing knowledge *Embedding Open Science* in society by ensuring it becomes important in making science responsive to the expectations of society and its economy

Sources of Information

- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-16-1225_en.htm

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