WELCOME TO THE JOINT SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EDITION OF WHEB’S MONTHLY REPORT! THIS TIME, WE ARE WRITING ABOUT EU DESIGN DAYS AT MAD IN BRUSSELS, THE HORIZON 2020 ENERGY INFO DAYS 2017 AND THE ERRIN OPENING SCIENCE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

BREAKOUT SESSION WITH JOSHUA HART (PDR) ON “HOW TO INTRODUCE MODIFICATIONS TO CITIZENS’ HOMES IN A NON-INVASIVE WAY?”, EU DESIGN DAYS 2017, BRUSSELS.

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OUR NEWS ROUNDUP FEATURES STORIES ON ERRIN BLUE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS WORKING GROUPS, EU INDUSTRIAL INFO DAYS 2017, INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT “CITIES OF THE FUTURE” AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION INVESTMENTS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMMES.

WE DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREIN USEFUL.

WE WELCOME ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE – PLEASE CONTACT US AT: amk5@aber.ac.uk, abd@aber.ac.uk OR cam72@aber.ac.uk.

WITH OUR BEST REGARDS,

THE WHEB TEAM

N. B. The opinions expressed in these articles reflect those of external speakers and individuals, and not those of WHEB staff.
On 19th and 20th September, MAD Brussels hosted an outstanding venue known as the EU Design Days that brought together the practitioners, designers, researchers and policymakers to present and discuss their ideas about transformation of smart cities and regions, through design and innovation. This year’s edition focused on how people could improve the practice by looking at the future. EU Design Days is an initiative from ERRIN’s Design and Creativity Working Group.

A close cooperation between the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), 15 committed ERRIN regions, Dutch Design Foundation (DDF), the Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA), the city of Eindhoven, Brussels Fashion and Design Platform – MAD, Architempo and renown keynote speakers, has resulted in an innovative bottom-up format that provided each participant with a valuable experience. Ultimately those impressions have nurtured inspiration and stimulated innovation, which attempted to benefit the participants as well as their regions, institutions and businesses in the future.

In the opening session moderated by Bart Ahsmann, a president of BEDA, the discussion focused on strategic and forward-looking tools for ‘the Next Step’ edition of the Design Days. European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), Watify & BEDA revealed some key insights regarding social innovation opportunities supported by technology and design that were presented by three speakers specialised in different areas: European Innovation Policy (Said El Khadraoui—policy analyst from European Commission), Digital Entrepreneurship (Tim Daniels—project manager for Brainport Development) and Innovation Driven by Design (Paivi Tahkokallio—vice-president of BEDA). Presentations were therefore followed by a panel discussion led by Tim Vermeulen on how social and digital innovation can contribute to the future of the city and designscapes, presented by Francesco Molinari. After opening drinks and pre-conference networking opportunities, the first day of the venue was concluded by a Pecha Kucha session, where eight different EU Design...
Days cities, regions and organisations showed how they use design and design-thinking methods to improve the quality of life in their cities and regions. The focus areas for this session was health, mobility, government structure, living, economics and education. The Pecha Kucha participants spoke about transformative design for urban potentialities (City Factory, AT), alternating the concept of the street (Municipality of Eindhoven, NL), urban acupuncture (Association Captain Ludd (FR), a triple-helix design environment (Kolding, DK), design for government (Aalto University, FI), printed electronics and smart textiles as interfaces (Bauhaus-Universitat Waimar, DE), international building exhibitions: an instrument for urban development (Region Stuttgart, DE) and playful education (Grendel Games, NL).

The second day of the EU Design Days gave participants even more opportunities to get involved in the creative projects and come out with unique ideas on the platform. After a warm welcome by Saskia van Stein, Gijs Ockeloen from Reforming Studio delivered his speech about a new approach to health-care, in which he explained how the accelerating evolution of technology obsoletes current professions, including design and architecture. Ockeloen stated: “If ‘smart cities and regions’ are what we are after, we should not attempt to create them with the present professional approach, tools and mindset”. He therefore discussed how inevitable changes in current healthcare provision system will be a major driver for change in the way we design our living environment. The driver may be technology, but the change will be socio-cultural.

In the afternoon session, four game changers presented their innovative patents, including for instance a health care diagnostic tool invented by a concept designer from Berlin Kilian Krug, who believes that visual thinking is a key skill for mastering the challenges of the 21st century and that working visually should be thought from an early age. Krug discussed this concept on his ADA application for mobile phones which is meant to be used in emergency rooms, including general practitioners. On the other hand, Paul Buros, a co-founder of the NGO Captain Ludd that deploys pedagogical
and urban interventions, talked about learning methods through painting, for example - emerging thoughts and daily stories in a classroom in order to develop creativity in children. The third game changer, Pirjo Kaarianen, a designer from Aalto University presented her concepts regarding biomaterials—From wood to textile - how we can explore them, create, test and renew for the future. The last speaker, Janine Dasbeck, a graduate from the Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts in Kiel, Germany presented a sustainable solution for agriculture by inventing her soil sensitive tool that shows a possible future for farmers. It allows them to observe their soil in order to maintain high quality and improve the fertility of the soil.

The last part of the day was constituted by the four parallel breakout sessions supported by Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB), among which Joshua Hart from PDR moderated a workshop titled “How to introduce modifications to citizens’ homes in a non-invasive way?”. PDR is a lead partner of the Design for Innovation project that aims to integrate design into innovation, support programs for SMEs and enable governments to develop Design Action Plan Participants worked in four groups and focused on discovering ideas that could help to facilitate living on affected people at their homes.
European Commission outlines its initiatives for developing international partnerships and Quebec presents the international dimension of its new Research and Innovation Strategy at the ERRIN Opening Science working group meeting.

In September the Copenhagen EU office organised an event on behalf of the ERRIN Opening Science working group which is co-chaired by WHEB. The event focused on international cooperation in research and innovation.

The focal point of the event was the strategic support of international cooperation on research and innovation with the opening part concentrating on the framework conditions for international cooperation. This event followed from the May 2017 Commission Communication on ‘Harnessing Globalisation’ which highlighted the importance of innovation and leading innovators in developing global value chains. In June 2015 Commissioner Moedas had launched the three strategic priorities for EU’s research and innovation policy with international cooperation a key element of the ‘Open to the World’ priority.

Michael Arentoft, Senior Expert in the unit of Strategy for International Cooperation in DG R&I, European Commission, welcomed the focus on framework conditions of international cooperation as this is not addressed very often. The aim is to support EU researchers and the Commission’s strategy from 2012 outlines the objectives for international research cooperation which are to improve excellence, to tackle global challenges more effectively and to support science diplomacy.

The Commission aims to improve the framework conditions within a vision of a ‘Global Research Area’. This involves encouraging researchers around the world to engage with European researchers and examining the potential of creating a European Research Science Cloud. So far the Commission has signed 20 cooperation and research agreements with external partners. The vision is to focus on key research areas and bring different scientific disciplines to work together. There is also a focus on bringing in innovators into the research ecosystem.

Horizon2020 is seen as a key element for international cooperation and the 2018-20 work programmes will have specific topics which will require international cooperation. Last year the Commission set up a new service facility in order to stimulate awareness raising, support for NCPs and organise research and innovation events in third countries. The service also analyses engagement with European partners and sets up partnering platforms.

The Commission has set up three such European Innovation Centres in Brazil, USA and China in order to reinforce the support of European research organisations on the ground in third countries in order to get the local insights. These innovation centres are part of an ambition to promote Europe as a powerhouse for research and innovation. The European Innovation Centres entail economies of scale e.g. by having common approaches to the local authorities.
The Horizon 2020 Energy Info Days 2017 took place on 23-25th October at the European Commission’s Charlemagne building and focused on presenting the new funding opportunities offered by the Work Programme 2018-2020. This year’s edition has structured the content across three different days, each one presenting the funding priorities, as well as offering different possibilities to network.

Monday started with a welcome speech from the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, the Directorate-General for Energy, and the Executive Agencies INEA and EASME. In policy context, the specialists highlighted climate engagement with global cities as the engines of progress; secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for all Europeans (known as Energy Union); clear business model for the proposal; Smart Cities and Communities; strategic partnership between European cities and industry; development in common solutions with integrated approaches; collaboration with the Lighthouse projects that reflects real engagement and not only a statistical participation. European Commission announced that €270 million co-funding has been provided so far emphasized the importance of Copernicus programme where the access for participants is full, free and open for Horizon2020 projects. Therefore, INEA’s representative Anita Kucharska introduced the audience to the proposal selection process, regarding Smart Cities and Communities funding. She pointed out that evaluation shall be against excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of implementation. Moreover, candidates should establish cooperation with minimum 2 lighthouse cities and have 5 followers. Their proposals should be simple to digest, including language, relevant summary tables, graphs, images and page limit must be respected (150 pages). Budget construction should be reasonable, allocated and justified with an innovative component. As call conditions and text for 2018-19 have changed a lot,
participants are advised to go through it carefully. Total budget available is estimated for €43 million. Opening and closing dates are as followed: 5th December 2017 and 5th April 2018. Afterwards, thematic sessions focused on renewable energy, the decarbonisation of fossil fuels as well as cross-cutting issues.

Day II put its main focus on integrated innovative solutions for Positive Energy Blocks/Districts. Projects considered the interaction and integration between the buildings, the users, and the larger energy system, as well as implications of increased electro-mobility, its impact on the energy system and its integration in planning. “Smart citizen-centred energy systems” pursue two goals: support and test with R&I actions some of the solutions proposed for the future electricity market in the legislative package “Clean energy for all Europeans”, such as innovative grid flexibility services or enhanced regional cooperation; and for the first time under Horizon 2020—design and demonstrate integrated innovative approaches for the decarbonisation of local energy systems on islands or on the mainlands. The main goal has been set again on energy efficiency.

The third and the last day covered energy efficiency in buildings, services, consumers, industry, public authorities and financing. Special sessions have addressed transformation of the energy sector through digitalisation. In Energy Efficiency Buildings Calls 2018-19, speakers reminded the audience about the importance of working in synergy with Article 7 of the EED and pointed out that inspections on heating and air-conditioning systems have been updated (Articles 14 and 15) and administrative burden reduced.
On 19 October WHEB attended an ERRIN Opening Science Working Group meeting discussing the Lamy Report ‘LAB-FAB-APP – investing in the European future we want’ which considers how to maximise the impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes, and also the relationship of this report to the development of the forthcoming FP9 programme. The meeting started with a presentation from Edward Ricketts, a Policy Analyst in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

The Lamy Report was produced by a High Level Group, chaired by Pascal Lamy, and was published in July 2017. The report focuses on how the EU can maximise the impact of its research and innovation programmes. It is a forward looking report but the available Horizon 2020 evaluation findings were considered as part of its work. The report has eleven recommendations and actions.

The report highlights that Europe’s competitiveness is increasingly defined by its investment and performance in research and innovation. Europe has a strong science base but has not been so successful at achieving growth from science and has an innovation deficit compared to other countries. With the rate of technological development there is an urgent need to tackle this issue. The new FP9 programme must maintain and maximise the strengths of H2020. The report recommends that the FP9 budget should be doubled. FP9 needs to be open to international partners – the number of international partners has dropped in H2020 compared to FP7 – but international involvement needs to be based on ‘excellence’.

The recommendation on international co-operation includes a specific reference to Brexit with a comment that ‘...full and continued engagement with the UK within the post-2020 EU research and innovation programme remains an obvious win-win for the UK and the EU.

The report’s cross-cutting themes include a focus on individual innovators, the need to position investment in areas of the greatest added value, rationalisation to reduce the number of programmes and instruments, the development of ‘missions’ – linking global challenges to research and innovation and further simplification.

Universities are mentioned as a major asset for Europe but they need to be better partners in research and innovation. The report comments that ‘Universities need to be more entrepreneurial and need to modernise’ – this view has not been welcomed by some university groups. The report also proposes a ‘European University’ label for the promotion of open science –this has been received with scepticism by universities.

Horizon 2020

In relation to Horizon 2020 the report states that the programme has a strong value
as it is a very rigorous competitive process that also strengthens national systems and it supports EU Added Value as it funds activities that would not otherwise happen. The interim evaluation of H2020 indicated that there had been 75,000 applicants with 100,000 proposals requesting 173 billion euro. Less than 1 in 4 high quality proposals could be funded with an overall success rate of 11.6%, 11,000 grants were awarded totalling around 20 billion euro.

There are areas for improvement as the programme is underfunded, it needs to provide more support for market-creating innovation, it needs to have more outreach to civil society, it needs to embed social sciences, it should involve greater international co-operation, it needs to have a better gender balance and it should provide better feedback to applicants.

Towards FP9

The economic case for research and innovation is very important as there is pressure on the budget so research and innovation needs to present a strong case about its links to economic growth. EU Added Value will be an important dimension for FP9. Rationalisation of programmes is also a theme for the future – there is a target to reduce the number of programmes/ instruments by one-third.

What next?

The next steps must be viewed within the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) debate, which will be challenging.

The Lamy report provides some guiding principles for FP9 and the EU has stated it will implement all the recommendations of the report. FP9 will also be aligned with the core values outlined by Commissioner Moedas of ‘Openness, Excellence and Impact’ as well as the policy priorities of ‘Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World’.

The latest evaluation of Horizon 2020 should be published in early December and the official EU response to the Lamy report will be published later in December. In December 2017 the consultation for FP9 will open and will run until March 2018. There will be a survey with open questions and position papers will be welcomed.

In May 2018 the next MFF will be proposed and in June 2018 FP9 will be proposed. Two years of negotiations will follow with agreement in 2020, with a new Commission and new European Parliament in place. FP9 will be launched in 2021.

Questions

In the question and answer session there was some discussion around the position of the UK and it was stated that UK responses to the FP9 consultation will be treated the same as others, the UK has significant strengths in science and innovation and it is important UK views are considered. There was also some discussion around the research budget and the EU recognises that basic research also requires support not just innovation.
**Energy WG Meeting on Energy Efficient Buildings**

On 2nd October in VLEVA, Brussels, ERRIN’s Energy Working Group conducted its first meeting after the summer break, which focused on energy efficiency in buildings. After a warm welcome by Pirita Lindholm, ERRIN director, Karlis Goldstein delivered an overview of the CE4AE package and EPBD perspectives. He brought up questions regarding the use of electric vehicles, energy poverty, a need for creation of the central info point, as well as a discussion of potential solutions for energy efficiency. Adoption of a final agreement is forecast for 18th December 2017. Following speakers presented ideas on topics such as the energy performance in European Buildings, tackling the challenge of smart city refurbishment and energy efficiency in buildings, Helsinki H2020 Lighthouse Project—mySMARTLife, the case of the Swedish Region Vastra Gotaland and Scottish energy efficiency programme. The meeting concluded with a wrap up delivered by the Energy WG Leaders.
“Cities of the future” took place on 26th and 27th October at WILTCHER’S Steigenberger hotel in Brussels and the event brought together over 400 European and Turkish researchers and companies for networking and collaboration. Therefore, it provided the unique opportunity to connect not only with Turkish and European participants, but also with highly qualified research-performing SMEs. The brokerage event was an excellent platform to expand one’s network and create new partnerships for the upcoming calls in Horizon 2020. 4 concurrent thematic workshops were organised including “Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities” and “Energy Efficient Buildings” where participants had the opportunity to learn more about specific Horizon2020 calls and present their ideas. Day 1 focused primarily on general information regarding the new work programme, whilst day 2 was strictly dedicated for presentations of project ideas, delivered by the participants.

Industrial Innovation Info Days 2017 took place at the EU Commission’s Charlemagne Building and Centre Albert Borschette in Brussels on 3rd and 4th October. The aim was to build the basis for the future of Industrial Research in Europe, inform relevant Industrial Technologies providers and users about EU activities in the field as well as to enhance the cooperation among Industrial stakeholders. Mornings were dedicated to plenary sessions with key notes by high level speakers for the future of the industrial pillar under Horizon 2020, while panel sessions in the afternoons focused on the main upcoming challenges for the next work programme on Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology. Participants were given the opportunity to present new project ideas during brokerage sessions.

International Brokerage Event “Cities of the Future” 2017
Commission to invest €30 billion in new solutions for societal challenges and breakthrough innovation

The EU Commission announced on 27th October how it will spend €30 billion of the EU research and innovation funding programme Horizon 2020 during 2018-2020, including €2.7 billion to kick-start a European Innovation Council. Over the next 3 years, the Commission will seek greater impact of its research funding by focusing on fewer, but critical topics such as migration, security, climate, clean energy and digital economy. Horizon 2020 will also be more geared towards boosting breakthrough, market-creating innovation. The 2018-2020 Work Programme will focus efforts on fewer topics with bigger budgets, directly supporting the Commission’s political priorities: A low-carbon, climate resilient future: €3.3 billion; Circular Economy: €1 billion; Digitising and transforming European industry and services: €1.7 billion; Security Union: €1 billion; Migration: €200 million and €2.2 billion will be earmarked for clean energy projects. To read more, click here for a press release from the European Commission.

€2.7 billion expected for Erasmus+ in 2018

According to the European Commission’s press release from 25th October, for 2018, funds available for Erasmus+ are expected to increase by more than €200 million euro, a rise of 8% compared to 2017. In 2018, Erasmus+ will continue to help implement the Commission’s policy priorities, notably the goals set out in the recent initiatives "A renewed agenda for Higher Education" and "School development and excellent teaching for a great start in life". The overall aim of these initiatives is to help Member States provide high quality, inclusive and future-oriented education for all young people. In 2018, for learners in the field of vocational education and training, increased focus will be placed on long-duration mobility (ErasmusPro), in line with the Commission's Communication on "Investing in Europe's Youth" of 7 December 2016. In parallel, the Commission published the Erasmus+ Programme Guide in all official EU languages. The Programme Guide is the key document that provides applicants with full details of all opportunities available in the 2018 Call for proposals for Erasmus+. Click here to find our more.
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<td>20-25/11/2017</td>
<td>ERRIN H2020 Project Development Week</td>
<td>Schuman Area, Brussels.</td>
<td>Each session will focus on the calls of the 2018-2020 Work Programs and will follow a societal challenge approach. The major topics that will be covered are health, energy, ICT, smart cities, water, transport, opening science, blue innovative growth, health, and will look at integrating also the SSH dimension.</td>
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<td>28/11/2017</td>
<td>European Tourism Day</td>
<td>Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels</td>
<td>The objective of the conference will be to exchange views on existing and new challenges and opportunities of EU tourism and engage in a discussion about priorities for tourism under the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework from 2020 onwards.</td>
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<td>29/11/2017</td>
<td>NEREUS 10 Years Anniversary</td>
<td>Representation of Hesse to the European Union, 21 Rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels</td>
<td>The official ceremony held in Brussels will be a unique opportunity to listen to voices from civil society pitching how they use space-based products in their daily lives and get inspired by high-level keynote speakers. During the evening, you will also have the opportunity to discover innovative services showcased by companies based in NEREUS member regions.</td>
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<td>05/12/2017</td>
<td>Tourism WG Meeting</td>
<td>Friuli Venezia Giulia Liaison Office, Rue du Commerce 49</td>
<td>This discussion will be of interest to experienced policy experts from the network. We expect the event to stimulate a lively dialogue and also contribute to the creation of a positive image of the network and the Tourism WG to the European Parliament and the European Commission.</td>
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<td>07/12/2017</td>
<td>Estonian Presidency Conference: Embedding Digital into Societal Challenges</td>
<td>Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels</td>
<td>The conference fuels the debate on integrating digital into societal challenges and aims to give messages to the discussions on European research and innovation policy in the lead-up to the next EU Framework Programme.</td>
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<td>08/12/2017</td>
<td>Information Day on Horizon 2020 &quot;Health, demographic change and wellbeing&quot;</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>The Work Programme for Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 1: Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing over the next 3 years (2018-2020) will be presented. Participants will be informed about the topics, deadlines and process of the next calls for proposals.</td>
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<td>13/12/2017</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 Transport Info day</td>
<td>European Commission's Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi 170</td>
<td>The info day will take place in the morning of 13 December 2017 in Brussels. It will address potential applicants to the Horizon 2020 'Smart, green and integrated transport' calls for funding under the 2018 – 2020 Horizon 2020 Work Programme, with the focus on funding opportunities in 2018.</td>
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**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**  http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/index_en.htm

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter_en.htm

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