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Université Paris-Sud 11

Pierre & Marie Curie University

Université de Strasbourg

Utrecht University

University Zurich

What European research universities expect from Horizon 2020?

ACA European policy seminar
30 January 2014

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What is LERU?

- League of European Research Universities, an association of **21 European research-intensive universities**;
- Committed to the values of **high quality teaching**;
- Within an environment of **internationally competitive research**.



Purpose

- **Influence policy at European Union (EU) and Member State (MS) level**
 - EU (EC, EP, ECo, ERC, EIT, ...)
 - MS (prime ministers, ministers of research, ministers of finance)
- **Develop best practices**
 - Between 21 members
 - Institutional reflection, exchange of experience, collaborative actions
- **Relevance for all Research-Intensive Universities**
 - EU
 - Global



Members

Belgium: KU Leuven

Finland: University of Helsinki

France: Pierre and Marie Curie University, Université Paris-Sud,
University of Strasbourg

Germany: University of Freiburg, Universität Heidelberg,
LMU München

Italy: University of Milan

The Netherlands: University of Amsterdam, Universiteit Leiden,
Utrecht University

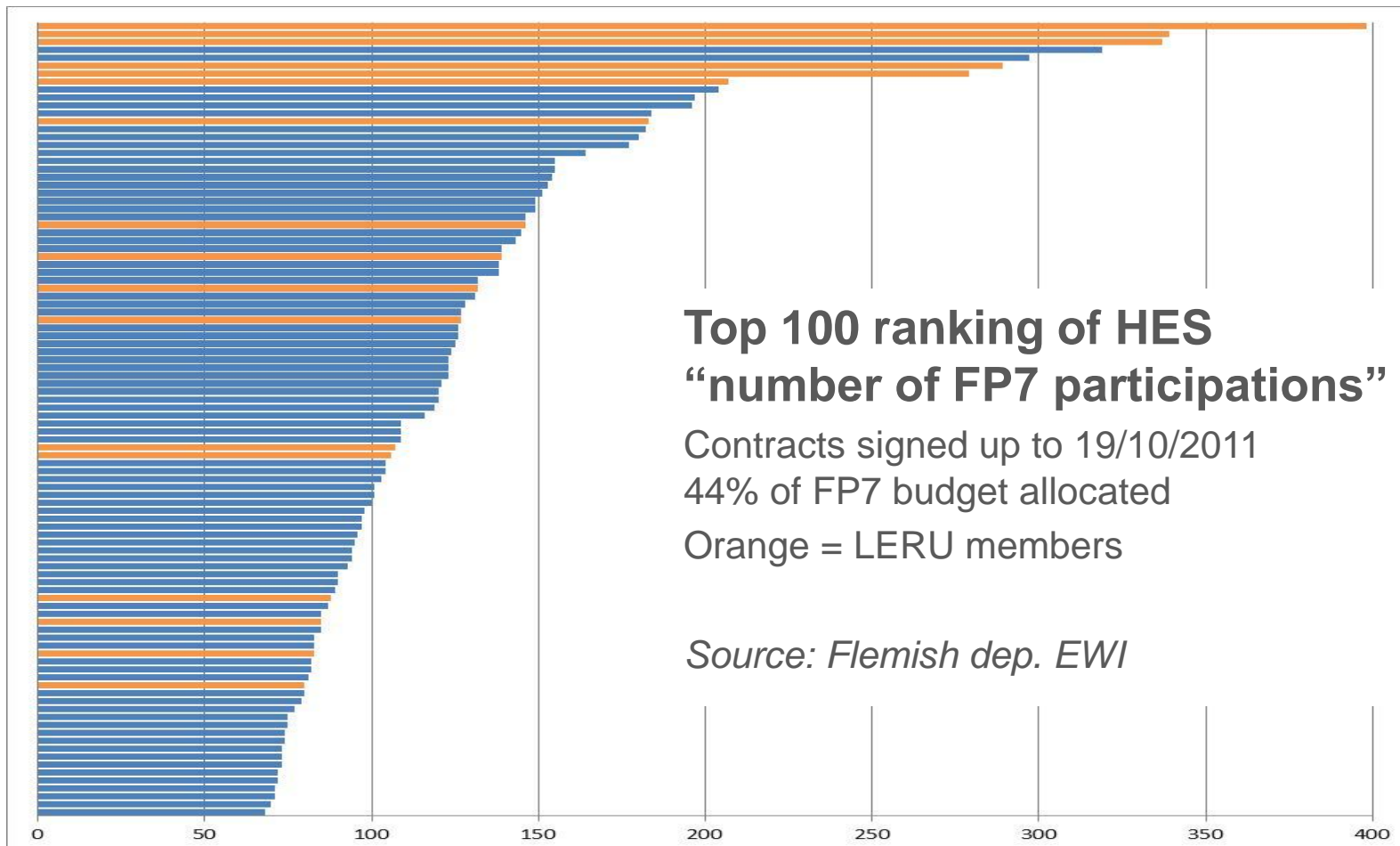
Spain: Universitat de Barcelona

Sweden: Lund University

Switzerland: Université de Genève, University of Zurich

United Kingdom: University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh,
Imperial College London, University College London,
University of Oxford

LERU members and FP7



LERU and the design of H2020

- June 2010: **LERU advice paper ‘Towards an effective 8th FP for research’**
- November 2011: publication of the EC proposals for Horizon 2020
- January 2012: publication of **LERU’s feedback on the EC proposals** for H2020
- January 2012: LERU sent **proposals for amendments to the H2020 rapporteurs** in the ITRE committee (EP)
- June 2012: LERU published its **views on the preliminary reports of the ITRE rapporteurs.**
- Next to this LERU representatives had several **bilateral meetings** with EC officials, members of the European Parliament etc.
- LERU also spoke up for the **EU research budget** in het light of the MFF and annual budget negotiations (November 2012)

LERU's expectations (I)

Research funding!

- **Different types of funding:**
 - Curiosity driven, frontier research and mobility schemes: Pillar 1 'Excellence Science', in particular ERC and MSCA
 - Collaborative research: pillar 2 'industrial leadership' and pillar 3 'Societal Challenges'
 - EIT
 - Also important to LERU members, in particular their technology transfer activities: access to risk finance
- EU R&I funding possibly more important because of national budget cuts

LERU's expectations (II)

Simplification!

Steps in the right direction:

- Supportive IT tools: common portal to find grants, simpler online application and a dedicated help-desk
- No more time-sheets for those fully employed on EU grants
- A simplified and universal reimbursement mechanism with 100% of direct project costs potentially funded

Worries:

- Time to grant: will universities (with many H2020 projects) have enough time to negotiate consortium agreements with other partners?
- Will project officers interpret the new rules in a harmonised way?

LERU's expectations (III)

Important new feathers for LERU!

- Broader topics, less 'steering': more funding for crazy ideas?
- More transparency in topic setting and in project evaluation (?)
- Increased focus on gender
- Open access to publications and pilot on open access to data
- Integration of social sciences and humanities in all Horizon 2020 challenges
- Widening participation
- Science with and for society

LERU's plans regarding H2020

To monitor and evaluate:

- Simplification and harmonised interpretation of the rules
- Work programmes: broad topics with an integration of SSH research, including the involvement and membership of the expert groups and functioning of the evaluation panels
- Developments regarding gender and open access
- Annual budget negotiations

To stimulate:

- SSH researchers to look for funding in less obvious calls and take the lead in forming consortia
- Our members in engaging in teaming and twinning projects
- A wider engagement in science with and for society

Questions?

www.leru.org

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