



CLEPA Position on Horizon 2020

The automotive industry is the largest industrial sector in Europe employing 12 million people. CLEPA, the automotive suppliers association, consists of more than 3000 member companies. These include both large international companies as well as a high number of SME's. Automotive suppliers account for approximately 75% of the vehicle industry's final product value and are responsible for approximately 50% of the research and development in this sector.

CLEPA and its members are firmly committed to stay in the lead by further investing in safety, environmental protection and societal responsibility. Moreover, CLEPA recognises the importance of the European Research Framework Programme in this quest and is therefore highly motivated to support and work with the European institutions to ensure that the new Common Framework for Research and Innovation will meet these demands.

Budget: The significance of the road transport sector for the prosperity and competitiveness of the European Union should be well and proportionally reflected in the new framework for RDI. The EU automotive industry is investing yearly over 30 billion Euros in RDI activities, making the sector the largest private RDI investor in absolute terms. It is a major contributor to the EU economy, generating turnover of 551 billion euro, which represents around 6.9% of the Europe's gross domestic product (GDP). Against this backdrop, the EU should allocate at least 5.5 billion euro to road transport from the expected total budget of 80 billion euro of the Horizon 2020 framework.

Research sectors: Automotive suppliers invest large amounts of capital to bring to the market an increasing diversity of products, with ever shorter development and product cycles. In addition, regulatory requirements and customer expectations have made it increasingly important to develop new technologies and systems, for higher comfort, environmental and safety performance.

Furthermore, the industry faces increasing competition from other regions of the world in technologies that have traditionally been dominated by the Europeans. Funding of RDI activities should therefore be focused on maintaining and strengthening this competitive advantage, in the following areas:

1. Decarbonisation of road transport, including advanced ICE power-trains;
2. Advanced lightweight materials;
3. Safety;
4. Intelligent transport systems;
5. Advanced Manufacturing-engineering technologies.

Beneficiaries: All companies in the supply chain should be eligible for EU support. The key aspect to fund an activity should be the European dimension of the activity and not the type and size of company.

SMEs need to participate in EU projects. This will help them integrate in global market schemes and support their role in the supply chain. Participation of SMEs in national and regional level funding schemes for technology development is an excellent complement but not a substitute for involvement at EU level.

Annex I

Rules for participation

- To raise the level of industry participation, simplifying the rules for participation is essential, especially;
 - Shorter time-to-grant
 - Lower administrative burden with respect to proposal preparation and project reporting
- Full support for a 'single' funding rate of 100% direct + 20% indirect costs for real R&D tasks, provided that:
 - management tasks are fully funded
 - the definition of eligible costs does not change
- Always use the "maximum" level of reimbursement
- No discrimination of innovation against research
- Possibility for projects of significant size in terms of budget to be able to reach significant results and market potential

Work program / Content

- Full support for the continuation of the industry-led EGVI PPP instead of a Joint Technology Initiative (JTI).
- Recommend to implement a rotation plan for the representatives in the industrial advisory board for the governance of the EGVI PPP.
- PPP should focus on "energy efficient vehicles"
- Other important topics outside the EGVI such as safety also need high level focus & budget
- Room for bottom up projects