

Digital Agenda

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for Europe



Researchers: increased ICT research funding

Europe's underinvestment in ICT related research and development threatens the European manufacturing and service sectors (mainly automobile, consumer appliances, health and medical). The investment gap is mainly due to weak R&D spending (less than €5.5 billion per year), excessive red tape and market fragmentation.

In the Digital Agenda, the Commission has committed to leverage more private investment through the strategic use of pre-commercial procurement. The Commission will also support six ICT-based public-private partnerships in the EU's seventh framework programme for research (FP7) with total EU funding of €1 billion and leveraging around €2 billion of private spending. It will also maintain the pace of yearly increases of the ICT R&D budget, at least until 2013. The Digital Agenda invites EU Member States to double annual total public spending on ICT R&D by 2020 to €11 billion.

The Digital Agenda for Europe also includes measures to cut back on excessive paperwork so that young researchers and SMEs have lighter and faster access to EU research funds in ICT starting in 2011 and to reinforce coordination and pooling of resources with Member States and industry.

Want to know more? Check http://europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda

Any comments or questions? Send an e-mail to INFISO-DIGITAL-AGENDA@ec.europa.eu