



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### MEMO

Brussels, 2 May 2014

## Have your say on Future and Emerging Technologies!

**Do you have a great idea for a new technology that is not possible yet? Do you think it can become realistic by putting Europe's best minds on the task? [Share your view](#) and the European Commission – via the [Future and Emerging Technologies \(FET\) programme @fet\\_eu #FET\\_eu](#) – can make it happen. The consultation is open till 15 June 2014.**

The aim of the public consultation launched today is to identify promising and potentially game-changing directions for future research in any technological domain.

Vice-President of the European Commission [@NeelieKroesEU](#), responsible for the [Digital Agenda](#), said: "*From protecting the environment to curing disease - the choices and investments we make today will make a difference to the jobs and lives we enjoy tomorrow. Researchers and entrepreneurs, innovators, creators or interested bystanders – whoever you are, I hope you will take this opportunity to take part in determining Europe's future*".

The consultation is organised as a series of discussions, in which contributors can suggest ideas for a new [FET Proactive initiative](#) or discuss the [9 research topics identified in the previous consultation](#) to determine whether they are still relevant today.

The ideas collected via the public consultation will contribute to future FET work programmes, notably the next one (2016-17). This participative process has already been used to draft the [current work programme \(2014-15\)](#).

### Background

€2,7 billion will be invested in [Future and Emerging Technologies \(FET\)](#) under the new research programme [Horizon 2020 #H2020](#) (2014-2020). This represents a nearly threefold increase in budget compared to the previous research programme, FP7. FET actions are part of the [Excellent science](#) pillar of Horizon 2020.

The objective of FET is to foster radical new technologies by exploring novel and high-risk ideas building on scientific foundations. By providing flexible support to goal-oriented and interdisciplinary collaborative research, and by adopting innovative research practices, FET research seizes the opportunities that will deliver long-term benefit for our society and economy.

[FET Proactive initiatives](#) aim to mobilise interdisciplinary communities around promising long-term technological visions. They build up the necessary base of knowledge and know-how for kick-starting a future technology line that will benefit Europe's future industries and citizens in the decades to come. FET Proactive initiatives complement [FET Open](#) scheme, which funds small-scale projects on future technology, and [FET Flagships](#), which are large-scale initiatives to tackle ambitious interdisciplinary science and technology goals.

FET previously launched an [online consultation \(2012-13\)](#) to identify research topics for the [current work programme](#). Around 160 ideas were submitted. The European Commission did an exhaustive analysis and produced an informal clustering of these ideas into broad topics. [9 topics](#) were identified as candidates for a FET Proactive initiative. Three are included in the current programme, namely Global Systems Science; Knowing, Doing, Being; and Quantum Simulation.

See [examples of FET projects](#).

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