

**Nutzerausschuß  
Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin GmbH**

To whom it may be of concern,

Berlin, 13.07.2014

We, as the elected user committee of Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin, want to express our deepest concerns about the new European Commission Framework Program “HORIZON 2020”, for defining and financing new research directions in Europe. The new program is supposed to replace the previous framework program FP7, under which the transnational access projects “NMI3-II”, “CALYPSO” and “BIOSTRUCT-X” were financed. “CALYPSO” and “BIOSTRUCT-X” have the purpose of supporting free access of European top scientists to large scale neutron and X-ray research facilities within Europe. In “HORIZON 2020” funding of transnational / transeuropean activities at such large scale facilities becomes significantly more difficult and funding on the basis of scientific merit will be drastically effected in many areas of basic research.

Financial support for transnational access for top scientists within Europe, visiting and working at large scale facilities, is of utmost importance for the European science community, in particular for young researchers at early stages in their career, such as MSc students, PhD students and postdocs, who actually perform the research on site. Lack of this funding will have a strong negative impact on scientific excellence of the large scale research facilities as well as on the overall quality of research in Europe. Access to the highly specialized experiments and equipment at X-ray and neutron sources that is provided often only at one source in Europe, needs to be supported, to allow for scientific quality. Also the strongly multinational character of these sources will be endangered and as such intereuropean scientific exchange will be hindered significantly. In addition, we find that this new program is especially disadvantageous to young scientists, also when group leaders (senior postdocs and assistant professors), as especially their funding is scarce. This would lead to significant drawbacks for young scientists and their scientific carrier, in particular in view of their strong overseas competitors.

For these reasons we strongly encourage changes in “HORIZON 2020” in order to include a sufficient support on travel and access for visits at European large scale research facilities.

User Committee of Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin,

M. B. Casu      C. Helm      Y. Roske      C. Schmitz-Antoniak      C. Papp  
(Chair)      (Vice Chair)